



A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF PEC EWI PROVINCE

The Information

To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. (Ephesians 4:12-13)

Shift

May, 2024



Rev. Ezra Parris
Superintendent
Moravian Church Barbados
Conference

This next phase of the Newsletter will feature the various Conferences and share information that might not otherwise be known in the Province. This purpose is not just to increase our awareness of each other, but to strengthen the bonds within the Province.

Tobago was featured in the March edition of the Newsletter, Trinidad was featured in the April edition. We now feature the Barbados Conference and provide insight into their actions to answer the question, "Why are we here?"

The other 3 Conferences will follow as the months progress, keeping us all connected and informed.

We extend a warm invitation to all who see the value of the Newsletter and have the required skills and passion, to join its production. Your unique perspectives and contributions are not just welcomed, but highly valued. Together, we can create a Newsletter that truly reflects the diversity and richness of our Province, strengthening our sense of community!

Let us continue to quiz ourselves and our ministries to hear again what God has called us to and be ready to grow, hold, or fold where needed. Let us be open for how God will use this Newsletter to challenge, inspire, and inform this Province and beyond, as we SHIFT.

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Vision Statement

A Church - Transformed,
United,
Victorious in Christ

Mission Statement

By the grace of God, we seek to be faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ; without distinction, we use all that we possess to call all peoples to the truth of the Gospel through worship, Evangelist discipleship and service.

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SHIFT: Reclaiming our identity, Renewing our Purpose, and Re-igniting our Passion

A letter written by Chairman Bishop Edwin Greider, in 1929 Re: Candidates for Ministry

Dear Bro,

There is a matter of vital importance to our Church in these W.I. Islands, which we wish to bring to your particular notice. It is the supply of candidates for our W.I. ministry. There are today, on our ministerial staff, 24 ordained men, 10 from abroad and 14 West Indians. Of the men from abroad, 5 are 60 years of age or more, 2-3 are about 50, and 3 may be called young men. Of the W.I. brethren. It is evident that there is great likelihood of a need for men in the very near future, while 2 are needed now. Where are they to come from? The places of Europeans or Americans may be supplied for the time being by the Mission Board; but where are the W. Indians to supply other vacancies, and gradually to take over a larger number of pastorates? We have no candidates at all:

It is true that our college was closed during the war, and since then has not been reopened, but the reason for this you know. Why is it however, that there has been little response to the inquiries and invitations of P.E.C. concerning possible candidates for the ministry, for whom the board was prepared to make special arrangements? There was some response from Antigua and Barbados, but nothing came of it is not one reason this, that our Conferences and our individual ministers have not interested themselves sufficiently in this matter? They have not laid it before the congregations as they might and should have done. There is no one, who can press home the need of candidates, neither the honour of the ministry and office as the pastors of congregations. There is no one who can have better knowledge of suitable and promising candidates than our ministers. There is no one who can better encourage and help on such candidates than our pastors.

PEC therefore appeals to you, brethren, at this time, to seek out and encourage suitable lads, who have the character, ability and inclination to prepare for the ministry of the Church. They should come from pious homes where godly parents give their children to God. They should be made clearly to understand that we regard the ministry as the highest of all callings. He who enters it, is greatly privileged; but he must not look for ease, social position or money as its rewards. Youth usually attracted by these allurements are of no use to the Moravian ministry. Our candidates must be taught what Jesus said: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me."

We are unable to tell you at this time what will be the ultimate arrangements about our Theological Seminary; but the Board proposes to establish now, say 3 scholarships, to be competed for, in order to help promising lads to begin preparatory work in their own islands, e.g. at a Grammar School. Besides, we are in communication with one American university, which will receive students from our province on favourable terms.

Therefore, brethren, be up and doing. If you care for the future of our Church, and wish to see the continued development of our W.I. ministry, bestir yourself in this matter of securing suitable candidates.

If you have such, bring the fact to the notice of your Superintendent and Conference, who will communicate with P.E.C. and further information will then be given.

Commending this letter to your thoughtful consideration, and with best wishes for yourself and your work, We are your brethren of the P.E.C and in their name

Chairman

A TOUCH OF BARBADOS

When Moravian Missionaries arrived in Barbados, it was with a zeal and a deep conviction that it was all ordained by Almighty God. The conditions they met and the experiences they had often challenged that conviction, yet they connected with their listeners and expressed themselves in a manner that drew many to Jesus Christ. Their legacy was strong, and many, down to today, have learned and followed their example, and have made great contributions to the people of Barbados. Following are some of the areas of work and witness built upon that legacy.

Worship & Congregational Life

The Barbados Conference is made up of eleven (11) congregations, which are administered in five (5) pastorates. Sharon is the oldest congregation and is celebrating the 225th Anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the first church building. Faith is the newest congregation, having been granted congregational status in 2018. That congregation marked the 5th Anniversary of the opening of the church building on November 26, 2023 and celebrated with the opening of its office block, consisting of the office, a meeting room and a kitchenette.



Faith Moravian Church — Barbados

The Conference is seeking to rebuild, following the loss of momentum during the COVID-19 years. The comparatively low numbers in attendance at some of our congregations and the age distribution of

those who attend, speak to the impact of the Pandemic. Yet pastors are reporting a gradual return to the activities of our congregational life.

In addition to the weekly worship services, congregations maintain their Harvests and Mission Festivals whether during the Sunday morning hour or an evening during the week as in the pre-COVID years. Congregations meet for times of study, prayer and fellowship, some of which are online, where there are sometimes higher attendances than for such meetings in the sanctuary. The Conference holds a quarterly Saturday morning prayer meeting, called "The Conference at Prayer."

Barbados Moravian Women's Fellowship Island Council's Annual Culinary, Art & Craft Exhibition



Worthy of special note is the Moravian Women's Fellowship Island Council which has been doing a wonderful job of coordinating the ministry of the Women's Fellowships in the Conference, and assisting the fellowships in maintaining their vitality. The Island Council hosts a number of activities across the year to bring the fellowships together, including those held during Women's Fellowship Month in October, such as the Culinary, Art & Craft Exhibition and the Candle Light Service. The Council completed its sixty-fifth (65) year in 2023.



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Music

The Music Academy

The Music Academy of Barbados was conceptualized when plans were being made for the Anniversary celebration of the Moravian Church Barbados Conference in 1990. The Academy officially began in 1989 with one campus at Calvary, to which instructors and students journeyed on different days. Later, campuses were opened at Bethlehem, Sharon and Mount Tabor for growth of the academy and for the convenience of instructors and students alike.

The emphasis was on producing a cadre of musicians for the Conference, the main instrument being the piano. Although most of the instructors are now deceased, one can testify that as a result of them imparting their knowledge and talents, some of the churches have indeed benefitted in the long run. They have also made a significant mark in the music history of the Moravian Church in Barbados. We thank God for their stewardship.



Music Academy In Session
at Sharon

Besides the traditional musical instruments used in our churches, there has been the additions of keyboards and drum-sets. Mention must be made of the Calvary Steel Orchestra whose members have been committed and consistent over the years.

The Moravian Disciples

The Moravian Disciples was founded in April 1996 with a membership of twelve persons. The group was formally initiated on January 18, 1997, when it held its inaugural concert. This concert continued to be held annually, blessing the hearts of many. The Disciples have been on regional and extra- regional tours, for

concerts and mission projects, sharing the gospel through music. Its membership currently stands at twenty-four (24).

The Chorale's mission is to "Win Souls for Christ" mainly through its music ministry. It places an emphasis on originality and creativity and has a repertoire of over 150 original songs written and composed by members. Its music includes



The Moravian Disciples

Contemporary and Caribbean rhythms, ranging from Reggae and calypso, to traditional church harmonies and chants. They have also done extensive work in dramatic presentations.

The Moravian Disciples has achieved much over the years. Its achievements include: 1999 production of a cassette tape titled "Celebrate"; Finalist in the Gospel fest CBC Singing Competition in the Chorale Category; 2008 "Chorale of the year" Flame Gospel Artists National Awards; Semi-Finalist – National Independence Festival of Creative Arts.

The Moramus Singers of Barbados

The Moramus Singers of Barbados was established in 1999 when the Rev. Mikie Roberts was called to the Moravian Church—Barbados Conference as Minister of Music. The foundation of the Choir was the Moravian Combined Choir whose membership was drawn primarily from the Moravian Churches on the island. To such were added those who for the love of music wanted to be a part of the Choir. The name, Moramus is an amalgamation of two words, Moravian and Music.

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Over the years, the Moramus Singers has acquired a reputation for presenting high quality classical and religious music to the Barbadian public. The Choir has toured the islands of Tobago and St. Lucia, and the Canadian cities of Toronto and Ottawa. Concerts include *"An Evening with Mozart"—A presentation of selections by the famous composer W.A. Mozart;* and *Psalmus Cantare — An Evening of Psalms, featuring major works by George Frederick Handel and Felix Mendelsohn.*



The Moramus Singers of Barbados
Palm Sunday 2023

Another significant achievement of the Choir was the production of a CD *"Deo Gloria"* commemorating the 240th Anniversary of the arrival of the first Moravian Missionaries to Barbados.

The Choir, now under the direction of Mr. D. Roger Worrell (Dip. ABRSM, LRSM) has performed at concerts in other churches on the island. The Choir's two major annual productions are the Advent Sunday *"Christingle"* programme and the Palm Sunday Passion Concert.

Education

The Moravians and Schools

The Moravian Missionaries who arrived in Barbados came to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to the slaves on the estates and all who would listen to them. Despite illness and death of the missionaries, natural disasters such as hurricanes, revolts and unrest, the work expanded.

Evangelism and education were viewed as equally important, thus schools were established for both children and adults. The beginnings were infant day schools at Sharon and Mount Tabor. So great was the hunger for education that the schools became seriously



The Buxton School Building

overcrowded soon after they were opened. The Moravian Missionaries persisted nonetheless and assisted by the able, Moravians and friends overseas, and the Mission Board, they did all in their power to educate those in their care. That some spirit continues today with the Grace Hill Moravian Preschool.

There is also, the Calvary Institute, functioning under the motto, *"Continuing the Mission to Educate and Liberate"*. Courses are wide and varied and include languages, technology, garment making, mathematics and music. Then there is the Calvary Moravian Education Foundation which gives grants to students at the different levels of the education system.

The Grace Hill Moravian Preschool

The Grace Hill Moravian Preschool was opened in September 2000. It was the meeting of the desire of Moravians to be engaged again in general education and the opportunity presented by the Government's return of school buildings to the churches, as they were building their own schools.

The Preschool began with nine (9) students and three (3) staff members. Enrollment increased steadily and consistently, and with the first few years was in excess of 100 pupils. Such growth reflected the unaddressed need for preschool education at the time, and the populous catchment area in which the Grace Hill

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Church and Preschool are located. Additionally, the Preschool is situated on a number of bus routes to central and North-Eastern areas of the island.

The Preschool follows the regulations of the Ministry of Education and the Barbados Child Care Board (since there are children under three years of age attending the school). School activities include: music, sports, and educational tours. Being a Christian school, the staff seeks to lay a foundation of biblical principles. All staff members must complete training in Early Childhood Education at the Erdiston Teachers College.



Children at Play — Grace Hill Moravian Preschool

The School is administered by a Board of Management in place. The Mission statement, *"We aim through God's grace to give our best and by precept and example to give guidance to all children under our care"* gives focus and direction to all. The motto *"We Are All God's Children. Love One Another. Aim High"* resounds in every aspect of the administration and teachings of the school. The Parent Teachers Association helps in maintaining a positive image of the school and contributes significantly to the finances.

Graduates of the school have performed well educationally at the primary and secondary, some attaining Barbados Scholarships and Exhibitions. They have entered various fields of endeavour, positioning themselves to contribute well to the development of Barbados.

Ministries, Outreach and Missions

Our congregations are committed to various mission projects both locally and outside of Barbados. Our efforts include: Leading devotions at some of our government schools; Worship services for inmates at the Dodds Prison; The provision of supplies to government-run District Hospitals; Contributions to the Grace Hill Moravian Preschool; Contributions to the HIV/AIDS Food Bank, the Barbados Vagrants and Homeless Society and others; The weekly *Moravian Voice* Radio Programme.

In addition, the Mount Tabor congregation supports mission work in Cuba by paying a year's salary and travel expenses for one pastor.

The Calvary congregation operates a feeding programme. The ministry was started in March 1996 in response to the needs of the people in the surrounding districts and shut-in members of the church. A staff of five prepared meals in the kitchen of the school room annexed to the church and catered to fifty people. The Feeding Programme has expanded and now consistently provides a hot meal to an average of one hundred people each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. During the COVID-19 pandemic, numbers doubled to a high of serving 150 persons per feeding.



Meal Preparation — Calvary's Feeding Programme

All operations concerning the daily feeding are carried out by a staff and volunteers serving as cooks, servers, and cleaners. This ministry runs throughout the year except in the summer, when the space is used to cater to children for the summer programme, and during a two-week period after Christmas.

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Three congregations—Calvary, Bethlehem and Sharon—livestream their weekly worship services and special services on YouTube and Facebook, giving witness and maintaining a Moravian presence in that space. The total number of YouTube subscribers across the three channels was 3,388 of which 2,280 are subscribed on Calvary's channel. The Bethlehem and Faith Pastorate leads the way in the production of online devotional content — Mid-week Spiritual Nuggets, Advent Devotions, Lenten Devotions and Daily Text Readings.

The Moravian Voice radio programme has been on the air for over thirty-three (33) years, since Wednesday, July 18, 1990. Congregations continue to fund this programme on a monthly basis. A review of the ministry was conducted 2022 and changes made in order to reach a wider audience. The effort has paid off, given the reports of people other than Moravians informing that they tune into the programme on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. on Life 97.5 FM. (The radio station maintains a livestream on the internet, so people off island can also tune in).

A Moravian Father: James Young Edgehill

James Young Edgehill was born in Barbados in 1821 to Thomas and Elizabeth Edgehill. At the age of twenty-six (26), he joined the Sharon Congregation and by 1852 was appointed an Assistant Missionary.

On December 3, 1853, he was ordained at the Spring Garden Moravian Church in Antigua, becoming the first Barbadian to be ordained a Moravian Minister. In the same year, he was called to serve at the Clifton Hill Moravian Church. A year later was sent to Calvary Moravian Church after the Cholera epidemic which had reduced the congregation there. The early missionaries who served at Calvary were all from Europe. Edgehill became the first Barbadian to serve there. His ministry at Calvary was considered a great blessing for that church.

After serving Calvary, Rev. Edgehill succeeded Bro. Zippel at Mount Tabor. From 1860-1864 he served the congregation at Mount Tabor through one of the most challenging times in his career. He had to wrestle with the physical needs of the sick and infirmed and the low attendance at the school, due to hard times. He collected food and clothing for his flock and founded the Mutual Improvement Association for young men. He worked tirelessly to improve the social advancements for the laboring classes through education.



Minister, Journalist,
Author, Social Worker
and Educator; First
Ordained Barbadian
Moravian Minister

Rev. Edgehill was also the first Barbadian Superintendent of the Moravian Church in Barbados (1864-1896) and was one of four Barbadian missionaries who served the Barbados Mission during the Moravians' first 150 years in the West Indies. Rev. Edgehill spent his life serving the Moravian Church in Barbados and beyond. He died in 1897 and was buried in the churchyard at St. Michael's Cathedral next to his wife.



The Moravian Church in Barbados has had its fair share of challenges over the centuries and we thank God for the occasions which tested and strengthened us; by which we arrived at the faith and endurance needed to persevere and overcome.

We pray for the strength, wisdom and vision to continue to do the Master's will.

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Moravian Ministers and Missionaries Who Served in Barbados in the Past 50 Years

(As compiled by Rev. Dorothea Rhode)

Minister	Years of Service
Peter M. Gubi jr.	1956-1960, 1967-1968, 1968-1976
Lloyd W. Kitson	1964-1967
John Knight	1967-1971
Alwin Frank Barker	1971-1975
Fitzgerald Downes	1971-1987
Kingsley A. Lewis	1973-1980
Sherwin Alleyne	1975-1976
Charles Edwards	1976-1977
Rudolph Holder	1977-1986, 1993-2000
Dufferin Culpepper	1982-1989
James Marlon	1985-1986
Joseph Nicholas	1986-1989
Romeo B. Challenger	1986-1993
Matthew Crooks	1990-2000
Roslyn Hamblin	1987-1993, 1996, 2007-Present
Neilson Waithe	1989-1997, 2006-2007
Vera Waithe	1998-Present
Willard J. Prout	1990-1993
Winelle Kirton-Roberts	1997-2006
Winston Jones	1995-1996, 2008-2016
Mikie Roberts	1999-2006
Errol Connor	1993-1998
Rudolph Gibbs	1993-2001
Andrew Roberts	1997-2019
Dorothea Rohde	1998-2016
Alban St. Hill	2000-2003
Movelle Kellman	2000-2022
Joyce Walters	
Nasel Ephraim	2001-2008
Ezra Parris	2002-Present
Julie Joefield-Parris	2002-Present
Cicely Athill-Horsford	2003-Present
Jeremy Francis	2005-2008
Glenvil Gregory	2006
Adrian Smith	2013-Present
Delroy Burley	2016-Present
David Ince	2018-Present

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PROVINCIAL ELDERS CONFERENCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Let us Celebrate



MAY

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 19 – Pentecost
- 24 - 27– PEC meeting Trinidad
- 30 - Staff Development session

JUNE

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

JULY

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

AUGUST

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 16-20 – PEC meeting Tobago
- 29 – Staff Development

SEPTEMBER

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 16 – Ministers Covenant Day
- 22 – Widows' Offering

OCTOBER

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 25-31 – PEC meeting Antigua
- 31 – Staff Development session

NOVEMBER

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

DECEMBER

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer



PEC Meeting & Project Eirene

The Provincial Board met in Trinidad from May 24 – 27, 2024. During that meeting, Project Eirene was launched. This project is aimed at helping students and youth in general to develop skills in conflict resolution and anger management.

Please continue to keep this project in prayer that the plans and purposes of God will be established.

Birthday Celebrants

May 16 – 30

Sis. Cleatus Bowers-Jones	21
Sis. Deborah Challenger	27
Sis. Camille James-Joefield	27
Bro. Daniel Mark	31



Birthday Celebrants

June 1–15

Sis. Stacey Herbert-Mannix	02
Bro. Nigel Daniel	05
Sis. Sharon McCarty Joseph	05
Bro. Charles Peters	07
Sis. Rena Warner-Francis	11

Wedding Anniversary Celebrants

May 16– 30

Bro. Edgar Gonsalves Barriero & Sis. Angela Frederick-Barriero	25
Bro. David Ince & Sis. Cherryann Ince	26



Wedding Anniversary Celebrants

June 1–15

Bro. Reuben Vessup & Sis. Ivy Vessup	01
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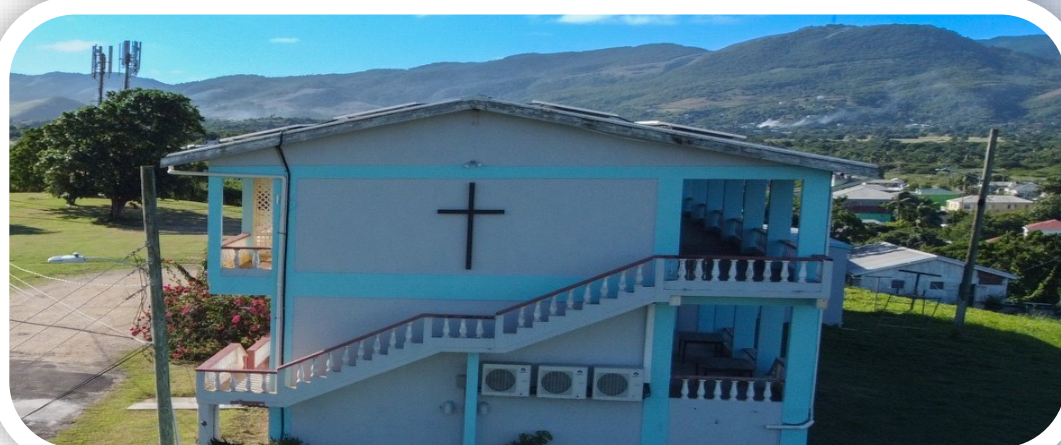


Ordination Anniversary Celebrants

Bro. Ralph Prince	May 31, 1992
Bro. Erflin Browne	June 03, 2001
Bro. Nigel Daniel	May 25, 2002
Bro. Vankys Isaac	June 02, 2002
Bro. Ulric V. Smith II	June 08, 2003
Sis. Bonnie E. B. W. Smith	June 08, 2010
Sis. Judy Winspeare Phillip	June 12, 2022

SHIFT: Reclaiming our identity, Renewing our Purpose, and Re-igniting our Passion

Moravian Multipurpose Complex



Conferences

Weddings

Banquets

Meetings

Dinners

Graduations

- ◆ Only ten minutes away from the stores, shops and banks in St. John's. Our International airport is also just ten minutes away.
- ◆ Our balcony provides a refreshing view of undulating hills and valleys.
- ◆ The Conference Center has a seating capacity for 200 persons.
- ◆ We are situated on a hill over-looking the picturesque out-skirts of the city of St. John's, Antigua.
- ◆ There are EIGHT LARGE APARTMENTS which are available for rental. Each room is self contained with kitchenette. The rooms are air-conditioned with available internet cable TV. All utilities are included with the exception of telephone.

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