



UCJCI UPDATE

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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Congregational Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian

PORTMORE AT 40.

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Portmore United Church

OUR VISION: "Touching lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ."



Rt. Rev. L. Christopher Mason.

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PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Dr. Clinton Smith**
- **Rev. Astor Carlyle and his family.**

The Portmore United Church family invites all to "Come join the grand celebration' of their Fortieth (40th) Anniversary, at a special thanksgiving service to be held on Sunday, July 9, 2017 starting at 4: 00 p.m.

Portmore United Church which was congregated on July 7, 1977, is located at the corner of Bridgeport Road and Eberlie Drive in Portmore.

A roster of specially invited guests including former clergy, religious, civic and political leaders will pay tribute

to the Portmore United Congregation.

A specially- assembled **40-voice choir and other performers** will participate in giving God thanks for his faithfulness to the church's mission.

Three (3) community-based organizations will be given special recognition for their contribution to the development of Portmore.

Liturgist will be the Rt. Rev. L. Christopher Mason, Portmore's Minister, and the sermon will be delivered by **Rev. Norbert Stephens**, UCJCI's General Secretary,

The Rt. Rev. L Christopher Mason, also Moderator of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, extends a warm welcome to all to "**Come, give thanks and praise for 40 years of Portmore United Church.**"

Portmore United Church was planted in the then new St. Catherine community by the Webster United Church of Half Way Tree Kingston 10, under the leadership of its Minister, **Rev. John Dunlop.**

The new congregation was led then, by the **Rev. Dr. Gordon Evans.**

Over the years , the congregation has grown and developed, guided by its stated Mission:

"to enable persons in Portmore and the wider community to respond to God as revealed in Christ, in faith, hope and love and to create a supportive and caring environment that fosters fellowship and spiritual growth."



70:

Rev. Dr. Leroy Walters
Mrs. Elaine Commissiong

July 5

Rev. Dr. Cephas Stern
Rev Clifton Bailey

July 7

Ms. Lorraine Howell
July 11.

CAMP NEWS

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Remember to sign up** for Camps.
- The Camp forms are available at the Regional Offices.
- **Encourage persons to sign up** as Camp Leaders.

The camp dates are:

- a. **Children's Camp** -
July 8-15, 2017
- b. **Junior Camp** -
July 15 - 22, 2017
- c. **Pacesetter Teens**
(also known as Teens 1)
July 22 - 29, 2017
- d. **Discovery Teens**
(also known as Teens 2)
July 29 - Aug 5, 2017
- e. **Youth Camp** -
August 5 - 12, 2017
- f. **Young Adults Conference** -
August 17 - 20, 2017

CHURCH PLANTING

As the United Church pursues its on-going strategy to effect, spiritual, numerical and financial growth, General Secretary, Rev. Norbert Stephens in his Synod Report, noted that:

"It bears repeating that church growth is the result of deliberate and concerted effort of the whole community of faith."

"When we pursue the vision of a needs-meeting church, through deliberate discipleship evidenced through a commitment to prayer and discernment, faithful proclamation and embodiment of the Word, our passion to care for and advocate for one another and for those on the margins of life, we will continue to experience and sustain the growth trend of our congregations.

In addition, he has challenged all congregations to make deliberate effort at **Church Planting**.

"I wish to reiterate at this Synod ", he said, "that we should encourage the **planting of at least one (1) congregation per year** and have each planting recognized at the annual Synodical gathering (Convocation/Synod) as a tangible sign of our commitment to renewal and growth".

WORK BEING DONE

Within this context, encouragement must be extended to the **New Harbour Church Planting initiative** which has met upon a significant challenge as the Church has been unable to secure the desired access to the gift of land.

The Synod is however pleased to note the progress being made at **Esher in the North Eastern Region and in Spot Valley, in the Western Region**.

BUILDING ON CURRENT GROWTH

Over the past two years, figures gleaned from over the three Regions in Jamaica have indicated some growth. It is felt that **Church Planting** should be a natural outgrowth of the process.

CWM AT FORTY!



The Council for World Mission (CWM) celebrates its 40th Anniversary Sunday July 16th;

dubbed '**CWM Sunday**', at the **St. Paul's United Church**, Montego Bay. Preacher, will be **Rev. Barbara Bridges**, CWM Board Member.

All who have benefitted from CWM programmes including 'TIM', 'Face to Face', 'A New Face', among others, and including CWM'S various training programmes are invited to attend! ■

Historic Day for World Churches



The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) has formally joined an ecumenical statement with Roman Catholics, Lutherans and Methodists aiming to overcome divisions between Protestants and Roman Catholics from the time of the Protestant Reformation.

"Today is a historic day," said Jerry Pillay, president of the WCRC, at a ceremony on 5 July in the eastern German town of Wittenberg, where Martin Luther lived and worked. "The documents we are signing today are significant and symbolic of the road we are to travel."

Please visit <http://wrcr.ch/> for more details