



A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF PEC - EWI PROVINCE

The Information

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Matthew 4 vs. 4

December, 2019



Rev. Algernon Lewis
Chairman of PEC

Advent

Advent signals the beginning of the church year and it also signals the end of the calendar year. As Advent arrives, so does the Moravian Star or the Advent Star. The star reminds us of the star that signaled the Magi to the place where Jesus and his parents were. The star also reminds us of the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus.

Advent and Christmas are very important celebrations in the life of the church. Personally, this is my favourite season on the church calendar. I like the music of Advent and Christmas. I like the decorations that fill homes and sanctuaries alike. I like the extra effort people make to care for the other, to host fellowship gathering, the general aura of the season and yes, the gifts that abound (both giving and receiving). The truth is, I like Advent for all the wrong reasons.

The trappings of the season may be the "system's" attempt to hijack and domesticate Advent and Christmas so that we do not focus on the real meaning of Advent and Christmas. Take a look at the gospel texts appointed for Advent in the lectionary. For the first Sunday, the gospel reading pointed to the End (with a capital E) with the expectation of Jesus' return. On the second Sunday, the reading focused on Jesus through John who came before him with a note of judgment. On the third Sunday, the reading tells of the imprisoning of John for the gospel and also speaks of the work that Jesus was doing in the neighbourhood. On the fourth Sunday, the gospel reading tells of the actual birth of Jesus and the significance of his name – he will save his people from their sin. . These narratives all have End-time (eschatological) overtones. We must balance that message of the "End" with the message of the gospel text of Christmas Day, John 1:1-14, which speaks of the actual coming of Jesus. The Message translation renders John 1:14 beautifully when it reads, "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood..."

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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, evangelism, discipleship and service.

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"Advance the Kingdom" ~ Live as Kingdom Citizens

From these texts, we recognize that the Advent message calls us to a relationship with God through Christ; they challenge us to set our houses in order; they caution us about the cost of heeding the Advent message and carry us to celebrate Jesus in the neighbourhood. Heeding the Advent message requires preparation. We must prepare ourselves for the coming of the King, Jesus. This calls us to open our hearts to his presence. His presence offers us hope in our situations and help in our struggles. The Advent message will bring peace in our homes and hearts. Jesus himself is our Peace. When the King of peace dwells with us, we will practice forgiveness with one another. This will indicate fruits worthy of repentance. Naturally, if we are at peace, we will pursue friendships and fellowship with each other. It was the Psalmist who affirmed, "how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1). This "dwelling together" will cause us to establish partnership with Christ and each other. Here we join with Christ to accomplish the work of salvation. For this Advent let us allow God's word to speak, sharing the full breadth of what Advent means.

In this period of waiting for Jesus to return (the already but not yet), we have the awesome task to participate in the message of Advent. The hymn-writer says – *He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong; to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light, whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.* How do we get the person who has come to believe that the universe, including God, is set against them to overthrow that believe for the message of Immanuel – the God who stays with us even in the valley? The poor, the weak, the needy all need to know that because Jesus has moved into the neighbourhood, they can look towards the End with hope in Jesus. People need to know that condemnation is not the last word but that they are precious in Jesus's sight. Yes, there is the message of judgment which has to be heard alongside the message of redemption.

As we celebrate Advent and Christmas this year, can we give a greater place to people in our community who are really struggling to find Jesus in their

neighbourhood? Can we go out of our way to reach out to someone or a family who is just barely getting-by to see how we might show them what it looks like for Jesus to come near? Some of those families and individuals may be in the pew ahead of you or live on the street over from you. Can we see Advent as a time to be missional, to look away from personal happiness to being Jesus' hand extended? Maybe it is time to pay it forward – pay for someone who is coming behind you (at the supermarket or wherever the Spirit prompts you to do it).

If we can be missional for Advent and Christmas, it can become a lifestyle rather than a seasonal habit. If we begin the liturgical year and the calendar year in the mode of looking out for others, we may do more good for the kingdom of God than simply inviting someone to church. Let us use the opportunities the Triune God gives us to be on mission.

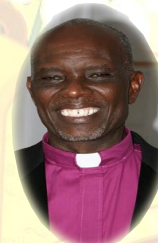
It is said that we live in a post-church world where people no longer plan their time around the church's calendar. Although that may be the case, we have this commission from Jesus to go and preach the gospel – preach in season and out of season. We are also to preach in all the ways we can to ensure that the essential message of the season is not lost in decorations, gift-giving, and music. There must be an unmistakable call for people to hear the message that Jesus came before to open the way of salvation and that he will return in fullness for those who choose to walk in that way.



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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - 2019



During this holy season, we celebrate, among other things, the birth of the Crowned Prince of Peace, the Risen and Exalted Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, King of kings and Lord of lords, a descendent of the house of David.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined” (Isa. 9:2, NKJV).

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have three reasons to celebrate.

1. Deliverance from the oppressor has come.

The yoke, the staff and the rod of suffering have been broken.

“For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor as in the day of Midian” (Isa. 9:4).

2. The destruction of the enemy’s gear of battle is imminent – the emblems of warfare will not scare us.

“For every warrior’s sandals from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel of fire” (Isa. 9:5).

3. The birthday of the true Prince of Peace has come.

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called, Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end” (Isa. 9:6-7a).

Dwellers in dark places have seen a great light – the reality of true life and joy (Isa. 9:2, Ps. 23:4).

Immanuel, God is with us!

Let us celebrate life and light and joy and peace in the Lord.

Life and light and joy are found

In the presence of the Lord;

Life, with richest blessings crowned,

Light from many fountains poured:

Life and light and holy joy

None can darken or destroy.

(C. E. Mudie, 1872).

Joy and Peace

Kingsley O’R Lewis & Conrad Spencer, Episcopi Fratrum

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The First Moravian Female Pastors Seminar

By Rev. Dr. Cicely Athill-Horsford

The Moravian Church in Tanzania with its seven Provinces and other new works held a seminar for Female Pastors and Evangelists (August 20 – 26, 2019) under the theme: **“FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY”** (2 Timothy 4:5). I was invited to lead in the Bible Study. There were 180 women gathered in Mbeya. They sang and dance; they study and worship. They march in the streets as they launched “Thursday in Black” demonstrating against rape and violence.

Areas covered were:

- ♦ Women in Ministry
- ♦ Treatment Adherence and Faith Healing in the Context of HIV and AIDS in Africa (World Council of Churches)
- ♦ Customs and Practices of the Moravian Church
- ♦ The History of the Moravian Church
- ♦ Daily Bible Study

The Bible Study - 2 Timothy 4: 1 – 8

Focus was

- 1) Preach the Word
- 2) Fulfill your Ministry
- 3) Be diligent and faithful.

Our work must be such that it will stand the scrutiny of Christ. Our lives must be such that they will welcome the appearance of the King; and Our service must be such that it will demonstrate the reality of our citizenship of the Kingdom of God.

For the Pastors and Evangelists, and for that matter all believers, the duties are clearly spelt out in the passage;

You must be urgent – (it is literally a matter of life and death).

You must be persistent ;

You must convict.

You must rebuke.

You must exhort.

Your duty of conviction, of rebuke and of encouragement, must be carried out with unwearied patience.

It was a tremendous experience in Tanzania with women eager and diligent to fulfill their Ministry.



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Call Advisory

The PEC Makes the following Announcements:

1. The Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis has accepted a call to serve as the Pastor of the Memorial Moravian Church in St. Thomas, Virgin Island Conference effective January 1, 2020.

Consequently, Bro. Jarvis' Interim Pastoral assignment has been extended to December 31, 2019.

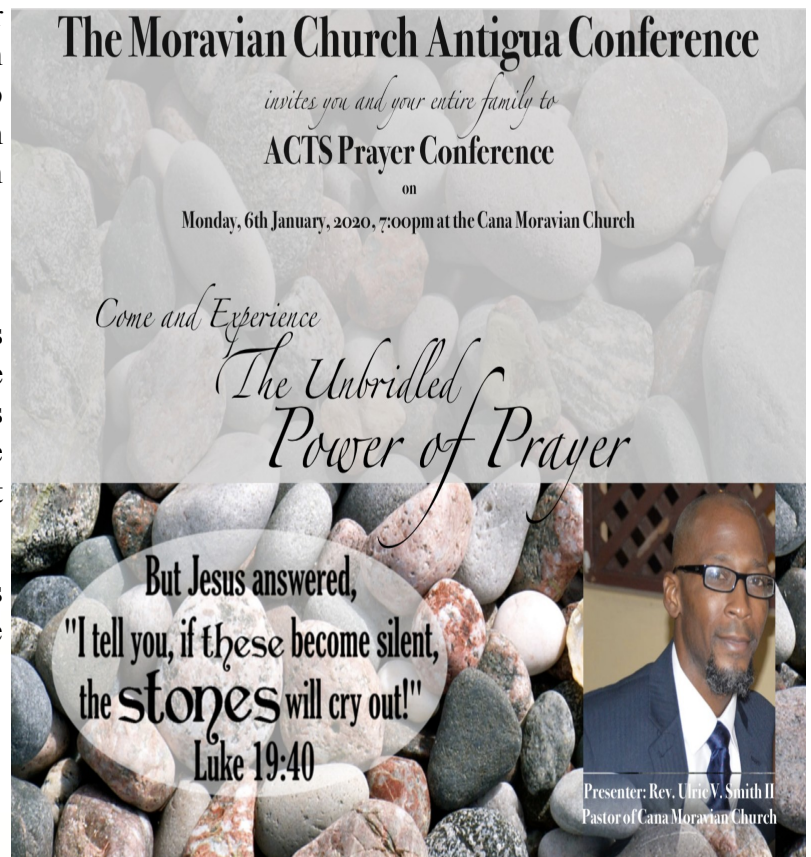
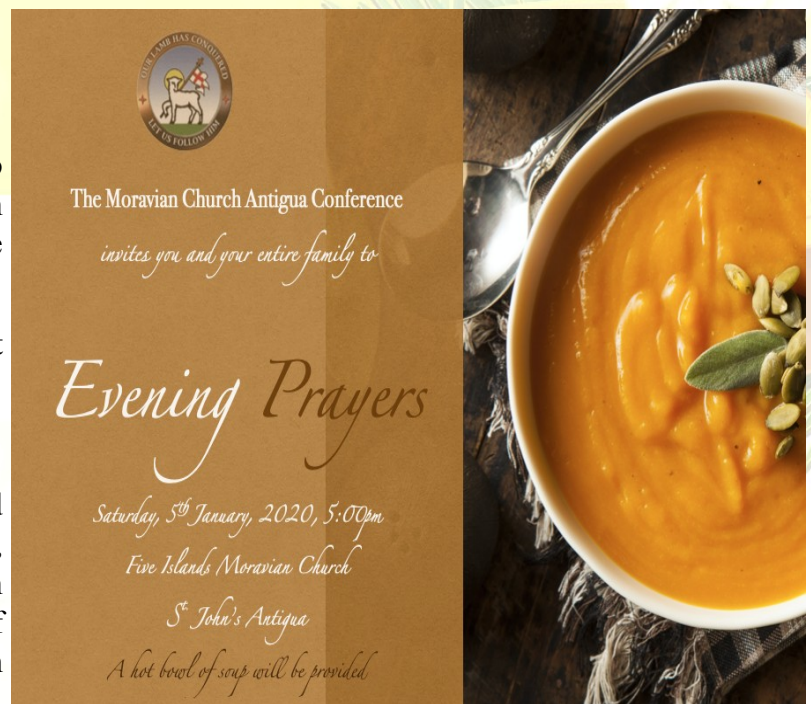
2. The Rev. Dr. Dion Christopher has been seconded to the Moravian Church in North America, Southern Province for five (5) years and has been appointed to serve as the pastor of the Prince of Peace Moravian Church. This call takes effect from March 1, 2020.

3. The Rev. Dr. Jeremy Francis has been called to serve as the pastor of the Friedensberg Moravian Church in Frederiksted, St. Croix. This call takes effect from March 1, 2020.

4. The Rev. Georgette John-Cotton has reapplied for the pastoral ministry of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province and has been called to serve as the pastor of the Gracehill Moravian Church in Antigua. This call takes effect on March 1, 2020.

5. The Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts who is currently on furlough, has been seconded to the European Continental Province for two (2) years and has been called into the ministry of the Moravian Church in Switzerland. Her secondment takes effect from December 1, 2019.

Please keep our brothers and sisters and their families in prayer as they continue to walk in obedience to the call of God on their lives.



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**Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts -
Speaker at the Fellowship day in
Hamburg, Germany**

The Moravian congregation in Hamburg held a Fellowship day on November 9 and 10, 2019. In the focus was the Caribbean, the area where the first Moravian missionaries landed almost 300 years ago. Today, the congregations in several Caribbean islands belong to the "Eastern West Indies Province" with 16,000 members. The resource person was Sis. Winelle Kirton-Roberts. She ministered until recently as pastor in the "Memorial Moravian Church" in Charlotte Amalie on the island of St. Thomas. She was accompanied by her daughter Tsalom. In the first of two units she spoke about the Moravian Churches in the Caribbean, in the second especially about the identity of the Afro-Caribbeans.



COME LET US ADORE HIM

JOIN THE MORAVIANS IN GENEVA
SUNDAY DECEMBER 15, 2019
AT 15:00HRS

CHRISTMAS STORY IN WORD AND SONG



Location:
STARLING HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER GENEVA
BEIJING ROOM
ROUTE FRANCOISE PEYROT ,
3412 LE-GRAND-SACONNEX

Rev. Winelle Kirton-Roberts, PhD.
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Unity Prayer Watch 2020

The Unity Prayer Watch is a special service to the world, offered by the worldwide Moravian Church. The Eastern West Indies Province will participate in the Unity Prayer Watch from 12:00a.m April 03 - Midnight April 17, 2020. The Schedule is as follows:

Name of Conference/ Mission	From	To
Grenada Mission	12:00a.m. April 03	8:00a.m. April 03, 2020
St. Kitts	7:59a.m. April 03	8:00p.m. April 05, 2020
Trinidad	7:59p.m. April 05	8:00p.m. April 06, 2020
Virgin Islands	7:59p.m. April 06	8:00p.m. April 09, 2020
Barbados	7:59p.m. April 09	8:00p.m. April 12, 2020
Tobago	7:59p.m. April 12	Midnight April 14, 2020
Antigua	11:59p.m. April 14	Midnight April 17, 2020

Conferences are asked to observe the time allotted for our members to engage in the unbroken prayer chain. This prayer meeting began on August 13, 1727 when the Moravian Church had its Pentecost experience. The Church was so much on fire that the Prayer meeting lasted for 100 unbroken years.

Let us therefore encourage our members to be in prayer, as we continue to seek God's guidance and direction for our Church and indeed our lives.



Quote of the Day



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Birthday Celebrants for December

Bro. Ulric Smith	2
Sis. Eloise Stephen	2
Bro. Alban St. Hill	2
Sis. Liselle Roberts	8
Bro. Kevin St. Hill	8
Sis. Bonnie Williams-Smith	10
Sis. Cicely Athill-Horsford	12
Bro. Hilton Joseph	18
Bro. Vankys Isaac	18
Sis. Nasel Ephraim	18
Sis. Cecile Rossington	22
Sis. Maureen Lewis	23
Bro. Alvin Barker	25
Bro. Matthew Crooks	25
Sis. Olga Baird-Joefield	25



Wedding Anniversary Celebrants for December

Bro. Cortroy & Sis. Althea Jarvis	07
Sis. Alicia Ross-Floyd & Bro. Myron Floyd	08
Bro. Ulric & Sis Bonnie E. B. W. Smith	10
Bro. Winston & Sis. Karen Jones	13
Bro. Erwin & Sis. Onita Samuel-Warner	19
Bro. Algernon & Sis. Denise Smith-Lewis	20
Bro. Errol & Sis. Joycelyn Connor	22
Bro. Patmore & Sis. Jovanca Smith	27
Bro. Hilton & Sis. Sharon McCurdy-Joseph	29



PEC Meeting and Superintendents' Conference 2020

The PEC will meet in the Antigua Conference from January 27 - January 28, 2020.

- ♦ The Superintendent's Conference will convene on January 29 - January 30, 2020.

Please bear up the members of the PEC and the Superintendents of the various Conferences in prayer.

Other meetings for 2020 are as follows:

- ♦ April
- ♦ July and
- ♦ September



The Provincial Family extends heartiest congratulations to Rev Liselle Roberts of the Trinidad Conference on her graduation from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus with a Master of Arts (MA) in Cultural Studies.

The graduation was held on Saturday 26th October, 2019 at St. Augustine in Trinidad.



Joke of the Day

An older gentleman goes into a bar and hears the other patrons discussing the ups and downs of marriage.

"Next week my wife and I will celebrate our fiftieth anniversary," he tells them.

"That's great. What's your secret for a long and happy marriage," one asks.

"Well, you have to do nice things for your wife." "Such as?"

"Well, for our twenty fifth anniversary I took her to Italy."

"That is nice. What are you going to do for your fiftieth?"

"I'm going back to visit her."

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Moravian Multipurpose Complex



Conferences

Seminars

Weddings

Banquet

Meetings

Dinner

Graduations

Conference Center & Apartments



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 overlooking 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 and cable TV. All utilities are included with the exception of telephone.



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