

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

Call to Remembrance!



Rev. Algernon Lewis

The church is not calibrated for the cell phone generation says Scott Cormode. Our basic practices of the church were formed in a previous era that had different assumptions. However, an opportunity was presented to the church to reposition itself to be organizationally, and contextually appropriate. When the pandemic descended upon the church, there was a demand to pivot. It was generally agreed that no one had the playbook even though some were better poised to act than others. Four years down the road, we are all in a better position. We have learnt how to respond in crisis and survive or have we? This article intends to reinforce what should have been learnt emerging from the COVID-19 shuttering of sanctuaries.

As I attend worship and lead worship, I wonder if we have properly reflected on the lessons so that we can position our congregations for the next crisis or to operate in the new normal. Without adequate reflection and action, our well-practiced and familiar habits will return without notice. This means that our experiences, though potent, were not formative. The lessons shared are not meant to be exhaustive. The lessons include awareness, agility/adaptability, community connection, accessibility, and the sovereignty of God.

Awareness – COVID-19 infections and deaths are still with us. An important lesson is to be aware of the context in which we offer ministry. That awareness enables us to measure how ministry is done. Too often, our responses are not equal to the context. Healthcare professionals have been saying that we must learn to live with COVID-19 as we have learnt to live with the common cold. Being aware helps us to remain active in ministry meeting needs based on context and not on our feelings. Being aware should move us beyond fear into meaningful action for the cause of Christ.

Continued on Page 2

July, 2023

Call to Remembrance

Pgs 1—3

Becoming a listening presence

Pg 3&4

40th Anniversary of Ordination

Pg 5

250th Anniversary Celebration

Pg 5

Birthdays, Anniversaries and Ordinations

Pg 6

50th Anniversary of Ordination

Pg 6

Summer Assignment

Pg 6

Bible Study-Stay in the Word

Pg 7

Rental of Moravian Multipurpose Complex

Pg 8

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.

Mailing Address

Moravian Church - EWI Province
Cashew Hill, P.O. Box 504
St. John's, Antigua
Office: moravianchewip@gmail.com
Chairman: moravianchurchewip@gmail.com
WEB ADDRESS : [//www.moravians.net](http://www.moravians.net)

Agility/Adaptability – Most congregations recognized the need for flexibility and adaptability to the changing circumstances. New technologies were employed to deliver worship services online. Virtual meetings became the norm because we had no other option. The sacraments were adapted to fit the needs of the moment. Funerals, weddings, and other ceremonies were all reinterpreted based on what was permissible. In some cases, adapted ceremonies had to be further adjusted at the last minute because new information came to hand. We learnt how to be agile, and this ability needs to remain close at hand.

Community connection –The lockdowns emphasized the necessity of fostering a sense of community and connection among church members. This brings us back to the fundamentals of what it means to be church – a community of faith. Jesus came to build community. Churches had to utilize various online platforms and social media to connect members to each other as well as to the wider community while practicing physical distancing.

Community goes beyond membership to our neighbours. Jesus called us to go to where people are and represent him there. Some congregations responded to the call and found themselves where the needs were located. The needs varied and so did the offerings. Baby food and clothes as well as soup kitchens and pantries came to life. It became obvious to some that to be a church in community is to meet the needs of the community. Churches were now embracing the opportunity to give back after being accustomed to receiving. We cannot lose that posture of connecting with community to serve people. We must be located where the needs are even when we know that the physical resources are limited.

Innovation – This word enjoys popular usage but does not always mean the same thing. The term is used here to speak of the practice of tweaking existing practices for greater efficiency and effectiveness. The drive-in service was one such innovation. Members enjoyed the worship service from their vehicles. They saw each other even though they did not inter-

act fully. Our Synod was held using the virtual/hybrid model where each Conference gathered in place while Synod Officers, advisors, and members of the Provincial Board met at the headquarters from where the Synod was streamed. We innovated to get it all done. There was much concern about voting during Synod. However, the technology delivered beautifully. The innovation mindset asks, “How might we do this better?” I hope that congregations are still innovating in other areas of ministry.

There is need for innovation around youth ministry and faith formation. It seemed that youth were particularly difficult to reach during the pandemic. The days of getting young people to turn out for youth fellowship might have been strangled by the pandemic. Yet still, the need for youth ministry is greater than ever before. How might we do youth fellowship better needs to occupy the minds of ministry leaders. It might require new learning to capture the hearts and minds of young people.

Accessibility –There were congregations that were accessible during the lockdown that have since resolved to be offline. The rationale is that the people must come to the building if they want to be in church. There are good reasons behind either side of the argument. Members throughout the Province enjoyed the fact that they had options for church on Sunday. Some chose and stuck with their choice while others partook of all the offerings of worship each Sunday. They chose from what was available and they still do. With all the competing commitments, some members are not able to attend worship as regularly as they would like. However, presenting the option to join online keeps them connected. To my mind, worship planners and leaders need to be intentional in how they execute the service so those who watch online feel that they missed something by being absent.

This conversation about accessibility must also reference production quality. In the early days of the online church, members were happy to connect and tolerated low quality content. However, the desire to be accessible to a wider audience must be matched by a desire for higher quality content. For those con-

Continued on page 3

Call to Remembrance cont'd from Page 2

gregations that are stuck with lower quality productions, they might need to find other ways of being accessible to their neighbours.

Accessibility also speaks to financial stewardship. Some congregations struggled financially as members were not present in the sanctuary to bring their tithes and offerings. The offering baskets were not accessible to the membership. There were some congregations that encouraged their members to pay their tithes and offerings through the bank and that worked well for them. There was no need for anyone to check those tithes and offerings. The bank did the work. Tithes and offerings were paid through direct transfer from one account to another. Online banking is a challenge for some congregations where the membership does not bank online. Nonetheless, this option should be placed before the membership to encourage members to use this option. Studies show that people spend more when they do not use cash. Being more accessible is part of the mission of the church and we should embrace all its facets.

Sovereignty of God –The church belongs to God. Though on the day to day it is led by people, it is God's church. There were many days that it seemed that all would be lost – income low, morale low, insecurity about the future among other things. Yet the church is still here. We do well to consistently ask God for the next steps and move forward in faith. There were some who found it difficult to embrace the new ways of being church. However, God is calling all of us to not look back but to look ahead for what God will do next. The church is called to journey with God to a place God has prepared. Unless we move with God, we will miss God.

So let us call to remembrance how God sustained and brought us to this point and commit to continue to follow faithfully. As we remember what we did, and how God led, let us move forward with confidence. This is a good time to ensure that our old ways have not returned but that we have learnt and adjusted our practice of ministry based on the current realities.

Becoming a listening presence.

How to foster belonging by lending an ear
by Cat Moore

“To be heard is so close to being loved, that for the average person they are almost indistinguishable.” - Dr. Augsburg

In an age of loneliness and despair, religious disaffiliation, persistent inequity, and polarization, wouldn't it be amazing for Christians to know themselves and be known as “amazing listeners”? This is a key facet of the *imago dei* that the world is literally dying to experience, and by “the world,” I mean me, and I mean everyone you know. And it's a great practical starting place for us to focus our energies. (I won't jump the gun, but you should know how much exuberance I'm restraining right now—because listening, far from being a dry skill or obligation, is the most world-expanding, exciting, personally transformative thing I've ever done. And it's what I hope we all discover!)

So, to back up one step for a moment: the most basic human and spiritual need is to belong. The good news that Jesus brought is that *we do*. You belong. I belong. We all belong. He came and said as much with his words and his silences, his big and little actions. He affirmed our inherent worth and permanent irreplaceability in his family. He invited us to identify ourselves as people who live out of that fact, and to proclaim that belonging to everyone we meet. But how? Well, we've seen a parade of attempts over the centuries. Some deserve a heart emoji, others the green sick face emoji. But I want to suggest looking to Jesus' example: it starts with listening. Listening to God, to himself, to those around him, and to his context. Out of that matrix of listening he discerned how to act.

If I've learned one thing in my personal journey with loneliness (I completed a 25-year loneliness streak, making me an authority!)



Continued on Page 4

Becoming a listening presence cont'd from page 3

and my professional career helping others to establish the conditions for belonging, it's that for all its humble presentation, listening rules. It is the first step towards believing that we belong, and to helping others experience belonging as well.

The bad news, (which maybe isn't news at all), is that we generally haven't felt very heard. And when we haven't felt heard, or seen the centrality of listening modeled and incentivized in our institutions and communities, it makes it difficult to individually organize our lives to become listening presences in the world. But take heart!

The great news is that we're all wired with the capacity to become listening presences in ever-widening and deepening ways that transform the contexts we're in. We can start by looking to Jesus' listening model: what mechanics and poetics does he use as a listening presence? What practices, thoughts, feelings, behaviors typify someone who listens? I'd encourage us to do a curiosity reading of the Gospels through this "listening lens" to see what we discover. From there, we can begin together as friends, groups, teams, churches to practice listening skills with each other and those in our spheres of influence and continue to troubleshoot the obstacles to listening. The three main obstacles I observe are: hurry, assumptions, and agendas.

Jesus reminds us to listen more than he reminds us to do anything else in the New Testament. Usually we take this to mean "to him." Yes, of course. But more than just paying attention to the *content* of what he's saying and more than just making a clear request for obedience, he's uplifting the importance of listening itself. Listening, over time, at increasing depths, and to wide-ranges of experience, shapes us into listeners.

And listeners become listening presences that create spaces for others to become listeners as well. We listen first.

For as long as it takes for someone to feel heard, seen, known, cared about, and understood.

The time, attention, understanding, and care he extended to everyone around him is seen throughout the Gospels from the woman at the well to the man hanging next to him on the cross; from his disciples to his Father; from the temple to the hillside to the sea. He was always listening, listening, listening. He could hear people's hearts beyond their words. He could help them hear their own hidden thoughts, fears and needs. People came to Jesus, opened up to Jesus with their most vulnerable experiences, and responded to him because he actually *listened* to them. It is a transformative space the Holy Spirit inhabits for the listener and the one being heard. Listening is not magic, but it is *holy*.

Listening Practices: for home, public spaces, school, work, and church

Where do we start? Where we are, as we are. I hope you'll find at least one practice that resonates with you from the list of below, or even better, be inspired to come up with your own!

Practice 1: The Empty Seat (this creates physical space and time)

Whenever in a public space, leave an empty seat available near you, pay attention to other patrons looking for somewhere to sit, and simply invite them to sit. Easy. You'd be shocked how rare it is for someone to do this.

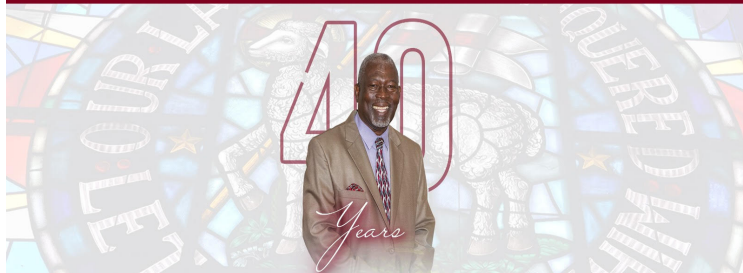
Practice 2: The Pause (this creates verbal and emotional space)

In conversation with the barista, the customer behind you, etc., pause for a beat after they share to show them that you're actually listening. This gives you a chance to process what they're saying and to respond instead of react. This speaks volumes about your sincerity.

Reprinted: <https://faithlead.org/blog/becoming-a-listening-presence/>

THE MEMORIAL MORAVIAN CHURCH

Invites you to a service of Thanksgiving and Celebration.



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Winston Montgomery Jarvis

For the 40th Anniversary of Ordination

*On Sunday 16th July 2023
4.00p.m. at the
Memorial Moravian Church St Thomas VI
To God be the glory!*



Gracehill Moravian Church

Schedule of Events

July 22
Community Fair
&
Homecoming
Meet & Greet

July 23
Celebration Service

Schedule of Events

July 28
Gospel Concert

July 29
Banquet

July 30
Evangelistic
Service

PROCLAIMING GOD'S FAVOUR;
PURSUING GOD'S POWER,
PROGRESSING BY FAITH



Children's Activity Corner

**The Psalm tells us more about the Lord.
What did it tell us?**

Write all of the 1's in order.

**Then return to the top and write all of the 2's in order.
Then return to the top and write all of the 3's in order.**

1 For	2 has	3 length	1 a	2 just	3 of
1 thousand	2 gone	3 our	1 years	2 by	3 days
1 in	2 or	3 is	1 Your	2 like	3 seventy
1 sight	2 a	3 years	1 are	2 watch	3 or
1 like	2 in	3 eighty	1 a	2 the	3 if
1 day	2 night	3 we	1 that	2 The	3 have

“ _____

_____, _____

_____, _____

_____ the strength.”

SHIFT: RECLAIMING OUR IDENTITY, RENEWING OUR PURPOSE, AND RE-IGNITING OUR PASSION

Birthday Celebrants

July 16– 31

Bro. Kirk Barker	21
Bro. Dion Christopher	23
Sis. Earleen Simmons	25
Sis. Monique Richards	26
Bro. Andrew Roberts	28
Bro. Rudolph Roberts	28
Sis. Althea Jarvis	29
Sis. Elisa Hodge	29

August 1– 15

Sis. Marleen Browne	01
Sis. Belinda Manswell-Daniel	04

Wedding Anniversary Celebrants

July 16-31 & August 01-15

Bro. Erflin Browne & Sis. Marleen Browne	19
Bro. Moise Jean & Sis. Yvonne Jean	20
Bro. Devon Mannix & Sis. Stacey Herbert Mannix	21
Bro. Rowan Simmons & Sis. Earleen Clarke-Simmons	24
Bro. Mikie Roberts & Sis. Winelle Kirton-Roberts	24
Bro. Walton Frederick & Sis. Angella Frederick	26

Bro. Matthew Crooks & Sis. Jasmine Crooks	13
---	----

Ordination Anniversaries

Bro. Conrad Spencer	July 11, 1982
Bro. David Ince	July 11, 2021

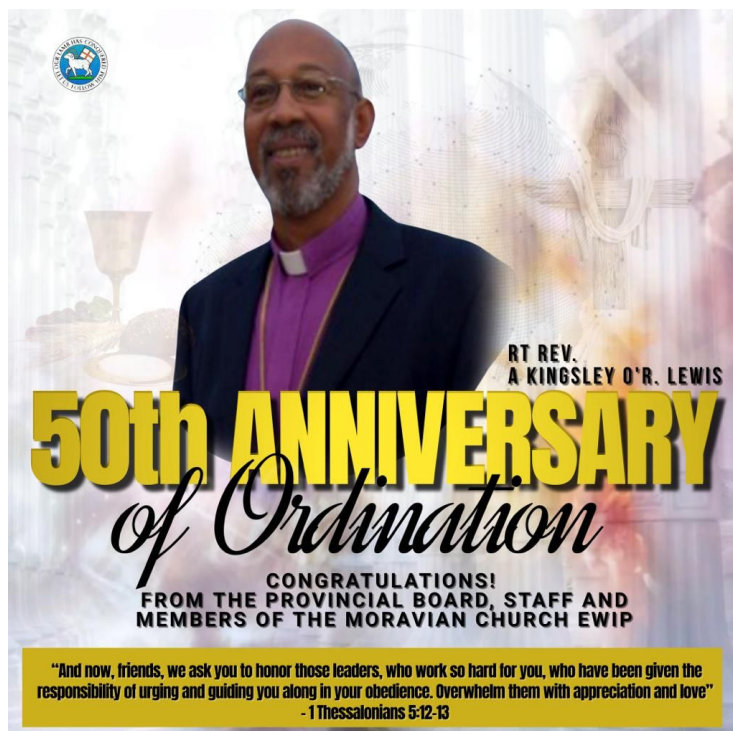
Ordination Anniversaries

July 15– August 15

Bro. Kingsley Lewis	July 15, 1973
Bro. Cortroy Jarvis	July 17, 1983
Bro. Algernon Lewis	July 19, 1995
Bro. Andrew Roberts	July 20, 1998
Sis. Roslyn Hamblin	July 21, 1985
Bro. Walton Frederick	July 22, 1984
Sis. Esther Moore-Roberts	July 22, 1990
Sis. Anique Elmes-Matthew	July 23, 2000
Bro. Elroy Christopher	July 24, 1983
Sis. Adelyn Mgonela	July 28, 2002
Bro. Rowan Simmons	July 30, 2000
Bro. Hilton Joseph	July 30, 2000
Bro. Devon Mannix	July 30, 2006

Bro. Neilson Waithe	August 08, 1982
Bro. Selvin McMillan	August 11, 1974
Bro. Frank Alvin Barker	August 15, 1963
Bro. Matthew Crooks	August 16, 1993

SHIFT: RECLAIMING OUR IDENTITY, RENEWING OUR PURPOSE, AND RE-IGNITING OUR PASSION



Summer Assignment

Student Pastor Chioma Henry has completed her first year of theological college in Jamaica and is on summer assignment in the Barbados Conference. Let us pray that she has a formative and meaningful experience.

Quote of the Day

Success is not Final;
Failure is not Fatal:
It is the courage to
continue that counts.

Winston S. Churchill

ALL the words listed below are in this “**TRUE WORSHIP**” puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it. After you have found all the words, click the leftover letters to form the **Mystery Answer**

Be not idle,	Obedience,	Temple of Yahweh,
Blessing,	Peace,	Ten Command-
Burial into water,	Praise,	ments,
Clean foods,	Remission of sins,	True doctrine,
Eternal life,	Resurrection,	Unity,
Joy,	Revelation,	Virtue
Leviticus,	Servant,	
Longsuffering,	Serve Yahweh,	
Modesty in	Service,	
dress,	Study the Bible,	

T	G	N	I	R	E	F	F	U	S	G	N	O	L	R
E	N	O	I	T	C	E	R	R	U	S	E	R	E	E
N	H	E	W	H	A	Y	F	O	E	L	P	M	E	T
C	E	B	L	R	O	U	E	R	E	C	I	L	N	A
O	W	T	H	D	N	S	V	V	L	S	B	E	I	W
M	H	J	V	I	I	A	I	E	S	I	T	N	R	O
M	A	O	T	A	N	T	A	I	B	E	O	E	T	T
A	Y	Y	R	T	I	N	O	E	R	I	C	C	C	N
N	E	P	R	C	F	N	H	N	T	A	L	N	O	I
D	V	O	U	O	O	T	A	A	E	L	E	E	D	L
M	R	S	O	F	Y	L	L	P	Y	B	E	I	E	A
E	E	D	S	D	L	E	U	T	R	I	V	D	U	I
N	S	I	U	I	V	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	R	R
T	N	T	F	E	G	N	I	S	S	E	L	B	T	U
S	S	E	R	D	N	I	Y	T	S	E	D	O	M	B



- Which king in the Bible decreed, “No person, animal, herd, or flock is to taste anything. They are not to eat, or drink water. But every person and animal must be covered with sackcloth.”?
 - King of Samaria
 - King of Bashan
 - King of Nineveh
 - Burger King
- About how many people of Israel travelled in the exodus out of Egypt?
 - A couple hundred
 - About 300,000 men and women
 - About 600,000 men, besides women and children
 - 8,000,000,000
- In Mark’s Gospel, what does Jesus (the Son of Man) say people will see him doing in the end times?
 - Coming in the clouds with great power and glory
 - Hurling the final spear at Satan
 - Healing the sick and helping the poor
 - Sending thunder from Heaven saying “I told you so”
- In which direction does the Book of Genesis say God planted a garden?
 - In the north
 - In the east
 - A little bit west
 - Down a little bit, and to the right
- What was the riddle Samson told to the group of men at the feast?
 - A dog may die, but a cat may live on this alone.
 - Which season does a snowflake fade, but the grass can’t feel a drop?
 - Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet
 - What is black and white and red all over?
- Which character in the Bible said, “This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head.”?
 - King Saul
 - Jesse
 - David
 - Conan the Barbarian
- What two animals does David say he has already killed when explaining to King Saul that he is ready to fight Goliath?
 - Lion and bear
 - Bear and wild boar
 - Snake and scorpion
 - Dragon and unicorn
- In the Book of Job, when the angels came to present themselves before the Lord and Satan also came with them, what does the Lord say to Satan?
 - “Cursed be you!”
 - “Where have you come from?”
 - “At last, we meet again.”
 - “Sup.”

Moravian Multipurpose Complex

Conference Center & Apartments



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.

Brotherly Love

Mystery Answer

1. Ans C: *Jonah 3:6-8 (NASB)*
2. Ans C: *"Exodus 12:37-38 (ESV)*
3. Ans A: *Mark 13:26-27 (NIV)*
4. Ans: B *Genesis 2:6 (NIV)*
5. Ans: C *Judges 14:12-14 (NIV)*
6. Ans: C *I Samuel 17:45-47 (NIV)*
7. Ans: A *"I Samuel 17:33-37 (NIV)*
8. Ans: B *Job 1:6-7 (NIV)*

SHIFT: RECLAIMING OUR IDENTITY, RENEWING OUR PURPOSE, AND RE-IGNITING OUR PASSION