

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



Rev. Algernon Lewis
Chairman of PEC

Renewing our Purpose

We are here again, looking towards the end of one calendar year and the beginning of another. Liturgically, the year begins on the first Sunday of Advent which falls on December 3, 2023. For us in the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province, even though the liturgical year begins in December, any new programmes begin in the new calendar year. With all the competing interests and activities, it is a good time for us to focus on the things that are central to who we are. We are the church, the called-out people of God, and we should pursue God's mission in the world.

Pursuing God's mission in the world brings the second phase of our Provincial theme into focus: Renewing our Purpose. Remaining focused on purpose is difficult to do when the realities of life

unfold. Mission drift is a phenomenon experienced by many organizations as they exist in any context. The church is particularly susceptible to this temptation as it seeks to be all things to all people. In time, the focus shifts and original purpose is overshadowed. This is our time to pause and look again at our purpose and how we might better fulfill that purpose in this season. This article will point us back to the Mission Statement of the Province, to remind us how to maintain our purpose.

It is useful to state the Mission Statement here:

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 people to the truth of the gospel through worship, evangelism, discipleship, and service.

Four actions are listed as to the purpose of the church – worship, evangelism, discipleship, and service.

Worship

The Westminster Shorter Catechism begins with this question: "What is the chief end of man?" (prts.edu)

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November, 2023

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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.

Mailing Address

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

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

Renewing our Purpose continued from page 1

And the answer: “Man’s chief end of to glorify God and enjoy him forever” (prts.edu). This was the confirmation manual used in the earlier period in some denominations to nurture the faith of the young. It suggests that the most fitting response to God, our Creator, was worship (Isaiah 43:21). In worship we ascribe worth to the object of our worship, God. Archbishop William Temple defines worship as: “the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by his holiness; the nourishment of mind with his truth; the purifying of imagination by his beauty; the opening of the heart to his love; the surrender of will to his purpose—all this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable” (goodreads.com)

Worship is not one thing; it is many things. It involves the conscience, the mind, the imagination, the heart, and the will. Worship is a lifestyle. We worship well, when our lives respond to who God is and not just where we are. One purpose of the church is to worship well. To worship well speaks of being consistently mindful and who God is and redirecting our lives to reflect that.

Evangelism

One of the reasons why the Moravian Church exists outside of Europe is the evangelistic zeal of our spiritual forebears. They took the Great Commission of Matthew 28: 19-20 seriously and literally. To evangelize is to share the message of Jesus Christ with the hope of conversion. The missionaries were largely successful in their evangelism efforts and founded churches for the evangelized to worship God together.

Recent interpreters of Scripture have suggested that some of that zeal was misplaced as it was more about cultural supremacy than passion for Christ. Notwithstanding, they did the work and conversation came along with cultural and mental changes.

Evangelism remains one of those practices with which our church has had a checkered relationship. We have done well with mass evangelistic services and open-air services. However, personal evangelism seems to present a challenge as many are afraid to simply share their faith. A member of a denomination which has “evangelical” in its title humorously remarked that the “e” is silent. For many people, the “e” is silent. We need to be reminded that evangelism does not usually require a full explanation of the Bible or our faith. Evangelism entail being willing to share one’s experience of God and allow the Holy Spirit to do the convicting and convincing.

I read a recent Facebook meme which showed that most non-members who attend church do so at the personal invitation of a friend or a family member. The purpose of evangelism is fulfilled as we share our experience of God or invite another to worship with us. It is less intimidating than it seems. Try it! Let us live into this purpose of the church.

Discipleship

Discipleship necessarily follows evangelism. Evangelism brings one to faith but discipleship nurtures one in the faith. One might argue that this practice has been largely neglected. Maybe it was taken for granted that once faith comes then growth would come from Sunday morning experiences. The years have taught us differently. Discipleship is a lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus. It must be intentional, or it will not happen. The Great Commission of Matthew 28:20 specifically mentions teaching while Ephesians 4:12 speaks of equipping the saints for the work of ministry.

Discipleship is foundational to what all church groups are supposed to do. As a Board member we learn more about the rules and regulations of the church and make decisions based on biblical principles. These experiences are to be transformative. Choirs are not just there to sing. They need times of prayer and spiritual nurture so that their ministry is more meaningful and impactful. Worship teams have the same mandate as they also lead others in worship. Men’s, women’s, youth, adults, singles, and other groups must plan programmes towards the spiritual growth of the members. This is the process of discipleship. Fitting disciples to be better versions of themselves must be foundational or the group has missed the purpose of its existence. Church is always about following the way of Jesus rather than following last year’s patterns or our feelings.

The current reality, in my view, requires that we spend more time teaching. Every preaching moment should aim at exegesis that lays the truth of the text before the hearers. Members should come away knowing something more so that both mind and heart are affected by the word. The information age requires that our members have more than basic knowledge about their faith to withstand the poacher waiting to snatch them away. The church has a responsibility to help its members to understand how to live meaningfully in this context.

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TRINITY MORAVIAN – IN CELEBRATION OF THIRTY YEARS



The Eastern West Indies Provincial family rejoices with the Trinity Moravian Church in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, on your thirtieth year of being intentionally engaged in the mission of God. This is a joyous occasion because it means that the risk that was taken to plant a seed in the British Virgin Islands was not a mistake, but an act of God. It also means that those who laboured before you, were faithful to the call of God. At thirty, you get to look back and course correct for the journey ahead.

Trinity, you are among the youngest in the province. However, do not see this as a disadvantage but as a strength. As a young congregation, you are still developing a culture of ministry and understanding the call of God for you in a space where there is no other Moravian congregation.

As a young congregation, study those who have gone before you and listen to the voice of God as the Holy Spirit orders your steps and your growth patterns. As a young congregation in a changing world, you can learn how best to reach this world with the message of the gospel and reap souls for the kingdom.

As a young congregation in a changing world where people are walking away from church, you get to witness meaningfully to the power of the gospel and the change Jesus makes in the lives of Christ-followers.

God has set you in place on a hill, to be a shining example. You are called to be examples of what it means to be rooted in love, united in Christ, and faithful in mission. That will not happen because you want it to happen. It will happen because you surrender the controls to God and let God dwell richly in your hearts (Col. 3:15). With God dwelling in your hearts, you can grow more like Jesus who is the head of the church (Eph. 4:15). These are exciting days to be in the church and learn new ways of being in the church to those who have lost faith in the church.

Congratulations on behalf of the Provincial Board and the Provincial family. May the joy of what God has promised in the future propel you to stretch forward with resolve and determination. Stay rooted in love, united in Christ, and faithful in mission.

An Historical Reflection of the Tortola Moravian Fellowship / Trinity Moravian Church by Sis. Eideen A. Smith

In 1990, while at Sunny Isle Shopping Center in St. Croix, Sis Eideen Smith met Pastor Conrad Spencer (now Bishop) whom she had not seen for some years. In conversation, he learned that she and other Moravians were living on Tortola. He shared with the Executive Board of the Moravian Church Virgin Islands Conference about the starting a ministry in the British Virgin Islands, and we are today.

A delegation to include Pastors Charles Peters, Ralph Prince, Samuel Jacobs, and Leon Matthias began meetings with persons on Tortola. Meetings were initially held on Saturdays. Then services were held at the home of Sister Eunice and Brother Douglas Johnston on Sundays. The first persons to attend these Sunday morning cottage services were Brother and Sister Winston and Icilda Potter and their two children - Aliston and Danielle; Brother and Sister Douglas and Eunice Johnston and their daughter Janeen; Sister Eideen Smith and her son, Keegan St. Jean; and Bro Joseph Williams.

As word got around, other Moravians living on Tortola showed interest. A service was held in the Methodist Church Hall on Main Street on Sunday, November 15, 1993.

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An Historical Reflection of the Tortola Moravian Fellowship / Trinity Moravian Church continued from page 3

This marked the Fellowship's official launch. Its mission was to evangelize and expand the growth of the Moravian Church and to witness to God's people in the British Virgin Islands. Also, the Fellowship Steering Committee was formed and comprised of the following: Sis. Icilda Potter Treasurer, Br. Joseph Williams Assistant Treasurer, Sis. Eideen Smith Recording Secretary.

With no sanctuary of our own, a request was made to the Catholic Church for permission to use their sanctuary. Bishop Kingsley Lewis, then Chairman of the PEC, spoke with Bishop Reese of the Roman Catholic Church and permission was granted. Worship services were held at St. Williams Roman Catholic Church on Main Street, from 1993. The Fellowship later held services at the Treasure Isle Conference Room. Bible study and other meetings were held at the British Virgin Islands High School, since renamed the Elmore Stoutt High School.

During this time the fellowship was attached to and received support from the Memorial Moravian Church in St. Thomas. Superintendents (Rev. Dr. Charles Peters, Revd's Leon H. Matthias, Glenvil Gregory and Dion Christopher) supported the mission during their individual tenure. Also, VI pastors and lay leaders played their part in caring for the mission. Moreover, since there were no resident pastor, lead members of the Fellowship led services and brought the message. It was not always possible for those from St. Thomas to travel up. Additionally, the Fellowship was blessed to have persons from other denominations assisting with music on Sunday mornings: Carleen Douglas, Patsy Barker, Cedric Dawson, and Ian Nathaniel (formerly Moravians) who practiced us for Love Feasts and special occasions. Br. John Rodney has been our resident musician since 1999.

Confirmation classes were held and two adults, Sis. Harriet Mc Intosh and Sis. Claudia Blyden, were the first to be confirmed. Two babies were also baptized around that time.

The Fellowship continued to receive support from Superintendents of later years:

Rev. Errol Connor, Rev. Winston Chase, Rev. Winelle Kirton Roberts, and Rev. Eulencine Christopher. In time, elections held for the Steering Committee resulted in the following:

Sis. Icilda Potter Treasurer, Br. Joseph Williams Assistant Treasurer, Sis. Eideen Smith Secretary, Sis. Harriet Mc. Intosh Assistant Secretary and, Sis. Lucille Penn, and Br. Winston Potter as Members.

The first resident pastor was Rev. Anique Elmes-Matthew. She served from July 1, 1999 to August 31, 2006. During this time, services were held at Treasure Isle Hotel Conference Room and one child, Keegan St. Jean, was confirmed. Love Feasts were held each year at the Methodist Church. If they had Harvest on that Sunday, the High School tent was used for the Love Feast. The Voice of the Lamb radio broadcast and the Women's Ministry were started during the time of Rev. Elmes-Matthew. Also parcel of land was given to the Fellowship by Sis. Mary Francis, a member of Memorial Moravian Church on St. Thomas; however, family issues prevented immediate transfer to the Fellowship. Moreover, Fellowship began meeting at the St. George's Primary School after the proprietors of Treasure Isle Hotel decided to demolish the building.

Pastor Mike Roberts became our Interim Pastor for one year, September 2006 to June 2007, during which time the land struggle continued. After a long struggle, the legal documents for the land donated by Sis. Mary Francis was handed to the Fellowship on February 13, 2007. Sadly, Sis. Mary Francis died either that same night or the morning of February 14, 2007.

Our second resident pastor was Pastor Vankys Isaac. He served from July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2010. During this time the Fellowship began plans for the construction of the sanctuary. A building committee was formed to include Br. Winston Potter, Br. John Rodney, Br. Joseph Williams, Sis. Lucille Penn, Sis. Delacey Brown, and Sis. Marilyn Flaunders. Accordingly, on April 26, 2009 design drawings were presented to the congregation by Mr. Steve Augustine of SA Architecture, Planning and Development. In December of 2009 Architectural drawings were presented to Island Conference for approval, and in January of 2010 approval was given by the PEC for the construction of the building.

Rev. George Bedford took up pastoral duties in January 2011. At this time also, Sis Claudia Marchand took up the responsibility of Treasurer. The land was cleared, and on Saturday July 23, 2011, at 10:00 am, under the leadership of Rev. Bedford, the ground breaking ceremony took

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*An Historical Reflection of the Tortola Moravian Fellowship /
Trinity Moravian Church continued from page 4*

place for the erection of the first phase of the Tortola Moravian Church. Construction began on July 25, 2011, and on November 11, 2012 the first floor of the building was dedicated.

Pastor Alicia Ross Floyd was our next resident pastor. She served the Fellowship from March 2013 to April 2016. During this time, in April of 2015, the Fellowship sought to renew its mission and an assessment was conducted by Bishop Samuel Gray. This marked another important transition point in the life of the Fellowship.

On April 29, 2016 Rev. Erflin Browne arrived as Pastor of the Fellowship and immediately set about the work of continuing to increase the membership and to complete the building. The Unity Sunday Offering for 2016 was dedicated to the work on Tortola. The second phase of the building started on Monday March 19, 2018 with Rev. Browne and his wife Pastor Marlene directly involved in the construction. Brother Alvin Nibbs and Brother John Rodney were also actively involved in the construction work with other members pitching in.

The fellowship applied for and gained congregational status at the 32nd Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province held in Barbados, July 2019. It was at this same time that permission was given for a name change from Tortola Moravian Fellowship to Trinity Moravian Church. Also, Sis. Marlene Browne applied for full-time ministry as the first candidate of the Trinity congregation. She was admitted to pursue studies at The United Theological College in Jamaica in 2020.

Several persons have joined the church over the past few years, most of whom came as visitors and remain as committed members.

According to information from Pastor Brown, the members of the Church remain committed and will continue to work to enhance the Kingdom of God. Rev Algernon Lewis (Chairman, PEC) and Rev. Dr. Errol L. Connor (Superintendent) have been serving as Interim Pastors of Trinity since March 1, 2023. There have been many bumps along the way but we have come this far by faith, and with God's help and guidance we are pressing forward.

Consecration

Bishop Dr. Conrad Spencer has been requested to consecrate the Rev. Liselle Roberts to the Presbytery of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province. The service of consecration will take place on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 5:00 pm at the Moriah Moravian Church in Tobago.

Please pray for Sis. Liselle Roberts as she continues steadfast in the call of God and the ministry of the Moravian Church.



Children's Activity Corner



Word scramble for Paul taught Lydia about Jesus

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circles and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

AGET

O			O
---	--	--	---

VRIRE

			O	
--	--	--	---	--

NAMOW

		O	O	
--	--	---	---	--

SILENT

		O			
--	--	---	--	--	--

SPWIROH

			O			
--	--	--	---	--	--	--

The Lord opened Lydia's heart to
Paul's _____.



Birthday Celebrants

Nov 16—30

Sis. Katrina Reece-Burley	17
Bro. Rowan Simmons	19
Sis. Myrtle Miller	21
Bro. Ezra Parris	21
Sis. Joyce Walters	24
Bro. Delroy Burley	24
Bro. Nevin Lewis	27



December 1—15

Bro. Alban St. Hill	02
Bro. Ulric Smith	02
Sis. Eloise Stephens	02
Bro. Kevin St. Hill	08
Sis. Liselle Roberts	08
Sis. Bonnie E.B. W. Smith	10
Sis. Cicely Athill-Horsford	12



Wedding Anniversary Celebrants

November 16—30

Bro. Alban St. Hill & Sis. Cynthia St. Hill	24
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December 1—15

Bro. Cortroy Jarvis & Sis. Pearline Jarvis	07
Sis. Alicia Ross-Floyd & Bro. Myron Floyd	08
Bro. Ulric Smith & Sis. Bonnie E.B.W. Smith	10
Sis. Judy Winspeare Philip & Bro. Sean Philip	12
Bro. Winston Jones & Sis. Cleatus Jones	13



Condolences

The Provincial family extends condolences to the Rev. Dr. Errol Connor on the passing of his aunt Mrs. Lilian Ruan of St. Kitts at the age of 87 years. Aunt Lilian said she was going home and so she did on the afternoon of Tuesday October 24th. The funeral service was held in St. Kitts on November 6th, 2023.

Let us remember Bro. Connor and his family in prayer.

Renewing our Purpose continued from page 2

Some people are looking for answers to the issues of the day, whether that is the trouble spots in the world or the changing moral values of our time. Just like Jesus took his disciples away to rest, to reflect, to teach them, the church must follow the way of Jesus and disciple its members. People need to know that the Bible is still relevant today.

Service

Service should be a low hanging fruit for the church because it involves caring for people around us. Truth be told, Caribbean people are very helpful. However, there is a growing fear or skepticism of service. No one wants to feel deceived after contributing to the needs of another.

Service takes different forms but all of it is directed at the other. Ushers serve and their ministry is important part of the congregation's work. Their service is in hospitality. Hospitality brought Paul into Lydia's house (Acts 16: 15) and Peter in Cornelius's house (Acts 10: 1ff) and facilitated to spread of the gospel. The Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25ff) served the man ambushed and beaten on the road. Kindness, hospitality, and generosity constituted his service to the man.

These stories are told to inform us of the way of Jesus and how we are called to serve our Neighbours. 1 Peter 4: 10 admonishes each of us to use our gift to serve others. Jesus calls us to look away from ourselves and realize that we have been blessed to be a blessing rather than being a hoarder. Each ministry group should be looking for the ways God is calling them to serve. There should be at least one project to benefit the community and testify to our desire to be of service to others. It is understandable that service organizations have deeper pockets. However, it seems their hearts (care and concern for others) are more sensitive than those of us who are the church. That is disturbing!

Conclusion

Looking ahead to the beginning of the liturgical year and the calendar year, let us be intentional to Renew Our Purpose. Let us, as the church, live into our purpose in the world. Let this be reflected in the budget and the conversations. Let worship, evangelism, discipleship, and service be front and center and dethrone anything else that compromises the mission of God.

ALL the words listed below **"DAY OF ATONEMENT"** are in the 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**.



- Who watched as Moses floated in the basket down the Nile? [Exodus 2:4](#)
- Who would have nothing to do with the author of 3 John? [3 John 1:9](#)
- In the book of Philemon, who is Paul's fellow prisoner? [Philemon 1:23](#)
- James used the example of which Old Testament figure to demonstrate how the prayers of a righteous man can have powerful results? [James 5:13-18](#)
- How does the author of 1 John often refer to his readers? [1 John 1](#)
- What does Solomon say about sin? [Ecclesiastes 7:20](#)
- Who pretended to be mad to avoid capture and death at the hands of an enemy king? [1 Samuel 21:13](#)
- Who was the priest of Bethel during the time of Amos? [Amos 7:10](#)
- Who was the grandson of Samuel? [1 Chronicles 6:33](#)
- Who was the high priest during the time of Zechariah? [Zechariah 6:10-11](#)
- Finish this proverb: "Where there is no vision, ..." [Proverbs 29:18](#)
- Finish this Proverb: "Labour not to be ..." [Proverbs 23:4](#)
- Complete this verse: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth.." [Isaiah 52:7](#)
- Complete this verse from Job: "...for the price of wisdom is ..." [Job 28:18](#)
- Who begins their book with: "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken..." [Isaiah 1:2](#)

Affliction,	Love,	Sincerity,
Atonement,	Oneness,	Sin-offering,
Awl,	Pharisees,	Sins,
Cleanse,	Physical,	Sow,
Destroy,	Plow,	Spiritual,
Empty,	Prayer,	Temples,
Food,	Reap,	Tenth day,
Forgiveness,	Release,	Vessel,
He-goat,	Remission,	Weak,
Jacob,	Rest,	Wickedness,
Jubilee,	Sabbath,	Work,
Judgement,	Sabbatical,	Yahshua
Leviticus,	Servant,	

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

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.

FASTING

Mystery Answer

1. His Sister Miriam
2. Diotrephes
3. Epaphras
4. Elijah
5. Children
6. That no one does not sin
7. David
8. Amaziah
9. Herman
10. Joshua
11. "...the people perish."
12. rich
13. good tidings
14. "...above rubies."
15. Isaiah

Answers to Bible Quiz