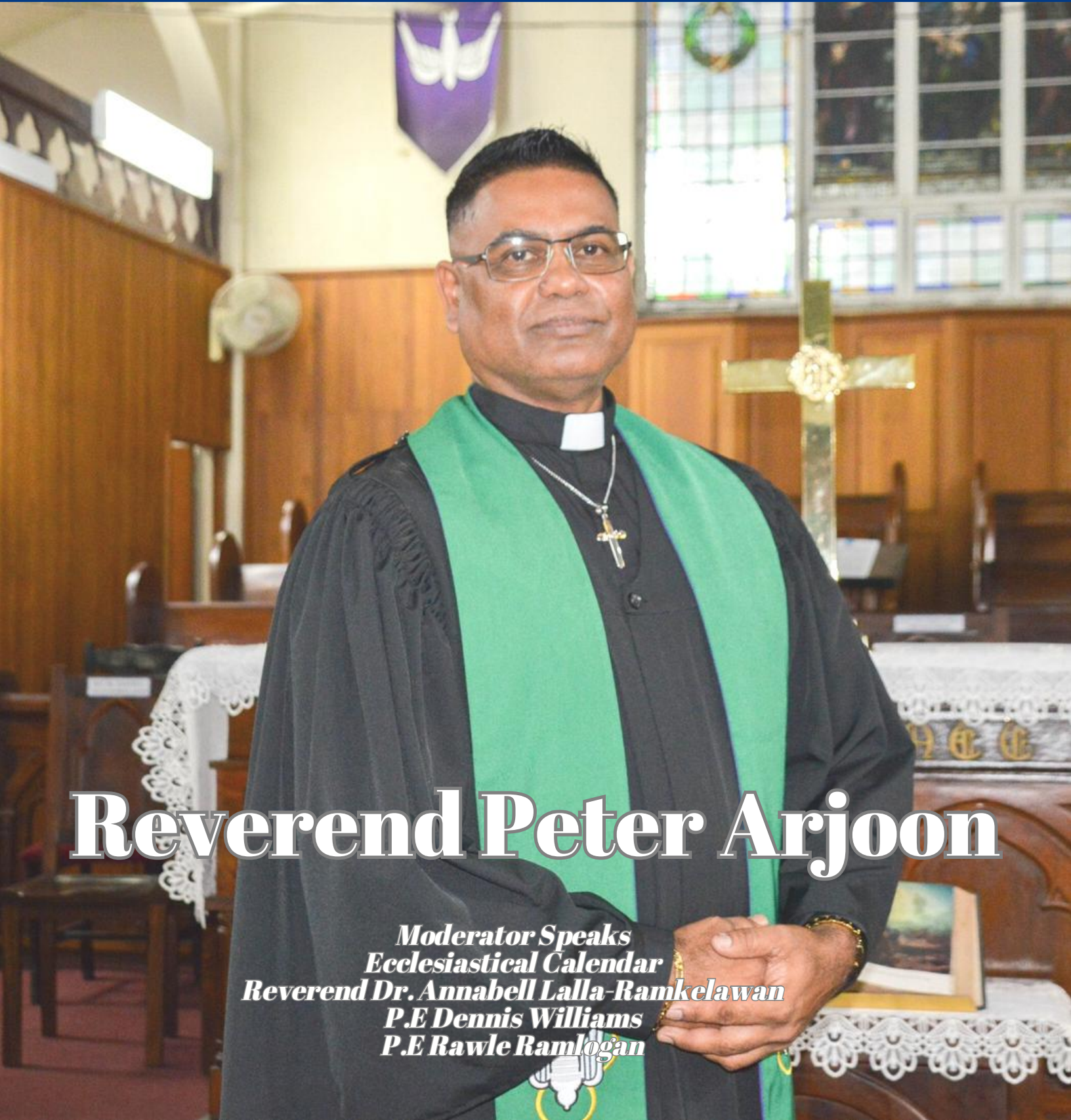


The Trinidad PRESBYTERIAN

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October 2023

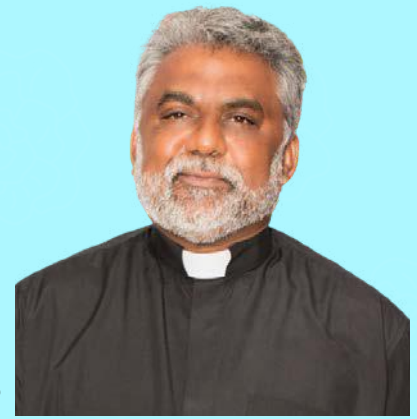


Reverend Peter Arjoon

*Moderator Speaks
Ecclesiastical Calendar
Reverend Dr. Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan
P.E Dennis Williams
P.E Rawle Ramlogan*

THE MODERATOR SPEAKS

PCTT MODERATOR, THE RIGHT REVEREND DANIEL CHANCE



OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS STEWARDS

Many definitions can be found regarding the word "STEWARDSHIP." However, for the believer in Christ to be a steward of God's manifold blessings takes into account the presentation of one's life to God along with all the gifts and talents which have been entrusted to us. As the Bible shares with us in Romans 12:5-8: *"so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly."* (NIV)

It is quite true that the gifts to which St. Paul refers in his letter to the Romans are deeply entrenched in the lives of the members of the body of Christ. In the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago, we are blessed with many talents. We witness it within the different ministries in the Church. As beneficiaries of all that which we have received from God, how can we bring all our resources together to edify, to build up and so serve all of God's people?

Once again, I use this space to challenge and admonish all members of the body of Christ (the Church) to regard yourselves as stewards. Most of us think of stewardship only in terms of money. However, no one can ever consider themselves as being capable of giving more than God has given to them in Christ Jesus. We need to recognize that God holds us accountable for what He has entrusted to us. Let us, therefore, conduct our own life review as we reflect upon the questions:

"What have I received from my God?"

"Am I using that which God has blessed me in life to assist the people of God as the church is being built up in the world?"

"Am I using the gifts from God only for selfish purposes?"

Members, the source of all giving cannot be confined to our purses, wallets or the material things which we have accumulated over the years. Rather, it is to be found deep within the human heart. As stewards and caretakers of all of God's manifold gifts, let us all re-dedicate our lives and all the blessings which we have received from our God, back to Him. As it is written in God's Word, so we are always being challenged to be more, to give more to the honour and glory of God: 2 Cor. 8:5 states:

"And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God, also to us." (NIV)



Moments
OF INSPIRATION
MONDAYS | 8:30 A.M. |



EDITORIAL

MENTAL HEALTH

World Mental Health Day is celebrated on 10 October. The theme for 2023, set by the World Foundation of Mental Health, is 'Mental health is a universal human right'. World Mental Health Day is about raising awareness of mental health and influencing positive change for everyone's mental health. It's also a chance to talk about mental health, how we take care of it and how important it is to get help if one is struggling. Those with mental health struggles often face misunderstanding and harsh judgment that may cause them to hide their illness and avoid seeking help. As the Mental Health Foundation observes, "by failing to treat people with mental health problems with dignity, we make it more difficult to ensure that everyone takes steps to safeguard their wellbeing and to seek help, as it can lead to self-stigma, low confidence, low self-esteem, withdrawal and social isolation."

'Mental health' is a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community. It is an integral component of health and well-being that underpins our individual and collective abilities to make decisions, build relationships and shape the world we live in. Mental health is a basic human right. It is crucial to personal, community and socio-economic development (WHO).

Throughout our lives, protective factors which include our individual social and emotional skills and attributes as well as positive social interactions, quality education, decent work, safe neighbourhoods, among others, assist in strengthening resilience for mental health.

Mental health risks can be found in society at different degrees. Most people do not develop a mental health condition despite exposure to a risk factor and many people with no known risk factor develop a mental health condition.

Reshaping the determinants of mental health often requires action beyond the health sector. Thus, promotion and prevention programmes should involve all aspects of daily life e.g. education, labour, justice, transport, environment, housing, and welfare sectors. The health sector can contribute significantly by promoting preventative measures within the health services. Another priority is promoting child and adolescent mental health through policies and laws that promote and protect mental health, implement school-based programmes and improving the quality of community and online environments. Among the most effective promotion strategies for countries at all income levels is school-based social and emotional learning programmes.



Promoting and protecting mental health at work is a growing area of interest and can be supported through legislation and regulation, organizational policies, manager training and interventions for workers.

WHO's "World mental health report: transforming mental health for all" calls on all countries to accelerate implementation of the action plan. It argues that all countries can achieve meaningful progress towards better mental health for their populations by focusing on three "paths to transformation":

- deepen the value given to mental health by individuals, communities, and governments; and matching that value with commitment, engagement and investment by all stakeholders, across all sectors,
- reshape the physical, social, and economic characteristics of environments – in homes, schools, workplaces, and the wider community – to better protect mental health and prevent mental health conditions; and
- strengthen mental health care so that the full spectrum of mental health needs is met through a community-based network of accessible, affordable, and quality services and supports.

Reference: World Foundation of Mental Health.

LICENSING OF ORDINAND PETER ARJOON

Submitted by Ashford Tamby

The sweltering heat on Sunday 3rd September, 2023, could not keep the crowds away for the licensing service of Ordinand Peter Arjoon. Reverend Manan Deo led the service which was held at the Lengua Presbyterian Church.

The combined choirs of Lengua and Barrackpore Union assisted by the talented Mrs. Pandora Mitchell graced the congregation with their songs. Chairman of the South-Eastern Presbytery, Mr. Ashford Tamby, welcomed all members while Ordinand Arjoon was the preacher.

Ordinand Arjoon based his message on the readings from 2 Chronicles 34:29-33 and Luke 5: 1-11. He stressed that as God's people, we need God's spirit to always guide us in order for us to undertake any work that he has directed us to take. When Jesus calls us to serve him, what do we often do? We often make many excuses when Jesus calls us to follow him. Following Jesus involves giving up some things and changing others, and that is usually very difficult for us. We must be willing to respond to Jesus' call and follow him unhesitatingly. We need to make time for Jesus in our busy schedules, we need to live lives that are pleasing to God.

Secretary of the Presbytery, Mrs. Rumonia Drepaulsingh, presented Ordinand Arjoon for licensing which was performed by the Reverend Keron Khellawan, Vice-Chairman of the Presbytery. The Moderator, Rt. Reverend Daniel Chance brought greetings on behalf of the Synod and pronounced the Benediction. The South-Eastern Presbytery wishes God's continued blessings upon Ordinand Peter Arjoon as he continues this journey. May God bless him and his family!



REVEREND PETER ARJOON ORDAINED

PCTT Communications

Reverend Peter Arjoon was ordained on Sunday 10th September 2023 at a ceremony conducted by The Right Reverend Daniel Chance, Moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) at a service held at the Susamachar Presbyterian Church.

In his remarks the General Secretary of Synod, Mr. Terrence Warde, informed those gathered that Reverend Arjoon would be the 107th Minister to serve the PCTT which was established 155 years ago in 1868. He becomes the fifth PCTT Minister to be Ordained in the last 3 years and the first ever Ordained Minister from the Barrackpore Pastoral Region. Reverend Arjoon hails from the Lengua Village, he is married with two daughters.

Bringing the message on the day was Reverend Ria Thompson-Jimdar, she declared it, "a good day, to be Ordained. She lamented the challenges ahead, from the bad roads to the high temperatures, from the advancements in technology to the increasingly more self-centred societal norms.

She reminded the gathering that Reverend Arjoon is ordained to serve Christ, no matter the landscape or environment, time or season. The Christ in him will equip him to succeed in his ministry.

She admonished him to preach the Word of God and only the Word of God, not his opinion. She prayed that his ministry would bear much fruit according to God's will.

The Act on ordination symbolizes that Reverend Arjoon has entered into a covenant relationship with God

and the people of God. This was presided over by The Right Reverend Daniel Chance, Moderator of the Synod of the PCTT.

Reverend Arjoon vowed to direct his attention to pastoral care, acting in the spirit of faithfulness, kindness and love. He promised to carry out his ministry for all of God's people and to build up the body of Christ even in the midst of a broken and hurting world.

Before enrolling at the St. Andrews Theological College in 2016, Reverend Arjoon was employed in the Steel Manufacturing Industry for over 3 decades where he served as an Accountant for over 25 years.

In his response, Reverend Arjoon thanked all who had contributed to his journey up to this juncture especially his wife and extended family.

Reverend Arjoon will be assigned to the Tableland Pastoral Region.





KNOW YOUR FAITH

PRESBYTERIANS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD HAVE A WIDE VARIETY OF STYLES OF WORSHIP.

**REVEREND ADRIAN SIEUNARINE,
PRINCIPAL, ST ANDREW'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE**

On the evening before All Saints Day in 1517, Martin Luther posted ninety-five arguments against the Church's sale of indulgences (payments for the forgiveness of sins) on what was the community notice board on a church door. Luther's action had the strength of political protection as well as the new printing press for the rapid spread of what would come to be known as the "protest" against ecclesiastical corruption and the desire to reform the Church. John Calvin reformed the Church in Geneva from 1536 and reintroduced the governance of the church by elders ('presbyters').

The "Protestant" or "Reformed" church was born.

What does it mean to be Protestant/ Reformed today? The answer would be different for everyone because the Reformed church appreciates the rights of individuals to read the Bible and interpret it themselves for their own faith journeys. Consequently, Reformed churches vary in beliefs and practices.

The famous statement "*ecclesia reformata semper reformanda*" (The Church Reformed, always reforming) is used by Reformed church bodies as well as the Roman Catholic Church to express that reform is not an event to be commemorated but an ongoing work.

We are called to remember that God is Sovereign. We can neither contain nor control the infinity of divinity in our creeds, statements, arguments, or worship. St. Augustine in *Contra Faustum* XVII:3 reminds us "to believe what you please, and not to believe what you please, is to believe yourselves, and not the gospel." We are called back to rediscover how the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, will redeem us and reinterpret our lives and faith for the eternal plan of purifying and empowering his body on earth, the Church, so that we would always be fit for the holy purposes of God.



ST. ANDREW'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

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boardofdirectors@satc.edu.tt

JOB VACANCY

PRINCIPAL

St. Andrew's Theological College (SATC) invites applications from suitably qualified persons for the position of Principal.

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Scan the QR Code or visit our website www.satc.edu.tt for further details on:

- ✓ How to Apply
- ✓ Qualifications / Experience
- ✓ Key Competencies
- ✓ Leadership Standards
- ✓ Duties / Responsibilities



Scan QR Code!



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
BOARD OF YOUTH AFFAIRS



SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION AWARENESS WORKSHOP

Koinonia - Building an Inclusive Community

Saturday 7th October, 2023.

Time: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Venue: Naparima Girls' High School

CONTRIBUTION: \$50

Refreshments, lunch and Certificates of Participation will be provided.

For more information:

Contact Mr. Alex Tamby, Chairman (B.O.Y.A.) - 323 3538

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace. 1 Peter 4:10

A TRIBUTE TO DENNIS WILLIAMS

Submitted by Harry Partap

THE Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago has lost one of its dedicated Presiding Elders (PE) whose work in some of the rural pastoral districts has won praise from the faithful.

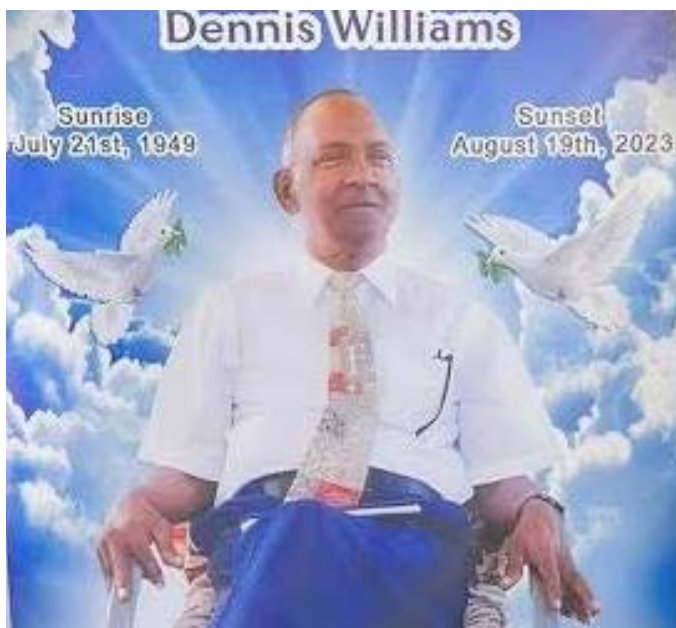
Dennis Williams, 74, passed away at a New York hospital in mid August, 2023. At that time, Dennis was assigned as a P E in the Tableland Pastoral Region as well as assisting in the Nariva/Mayaro Pastoral Region. He has served on the editorial committee of *The Trinidad Presbyterian*. Dennis approached his assignments with the zeal of the early missionaries who were always ready to conduct prayer-meetings; prayer vigils; hospital visits; wake-night services or to bury the dead. He answered calls to duty whether those calls came day or night. Dennis never turned down a request for his pastoral services regardless from which ever part of the country it came.

Dennis was never too busy to listen to the distress of others or to offer advice. In several instances, he would go out of his way to bring relief to those in need. His approach was so much like the current Presbyterian Moderator, the Rt. Reverend Daniel Chance whose concern and care for those on the margins of society influenced his work on the church's Board of Social Responsibility (BOSR). They, like others, have made the Presbyterian Church a noble institution.

Dennis was born in the quiet agricultural district of Ecclesville near Rio Claro in 1949, into a staunch Presbyterian family. He attended the Ecclesville Presbyterian School, the then Rio Claro Central Secondary School and Tagore Centenary College, Craguish, Princes Town. After leaving college, he began teaching at a private secondary school in Rio Claro before joining the staff at the Rio Claro Presbyterian School. Dennis graduated from Corinth Teachers' College. He was attached to the Princes Town Junior Secondary School where he taught Spanish. He retired from the Teaching Service at 60.

As an active member of the Ecclesville Presbyterian Church, Dennis served as Sunday School teacher, on the Local Board, and as an Elder. His potential as a preacher was identified by Canadian missionary, Reverend Charles Kitney, who encouraged him to take up part-time studies at the St. Andrew's Theological College, San Fernando. Reverend Kitney was reputed to have told Dennis, "I want you to be a minister of the Word." Dennis told us that this declaration by Reverend Kitney influenced his decision to read for the Presiding Elder's Order of the church.

Dennis had a jovial disposition which was reflected in his interaction with both old and young. He once told us of an incident while praying with an aged bed-ridden man in his home district that while in deep prayer an owl, known for its notorious legend, flew over the house making a shrieking sound. He said the man interrupted the prayer session and shouted to the owl, "Wait nuh, you hurry or what?"



May 2023. Presiding Elder Mr. Dennis Williams presenting Mrs. Charlotte Tara Tamby with award for long and dedicated service!

THE ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR

Submitted by Reverend Dr Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan



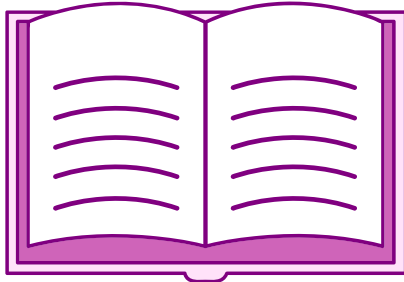
In our September issue we looked at the Ecclesiastical Calendar/Liturgical Calendar and its place in the celebrations that mark the church's year. As stated in our last article, the Ecclesiastical Calendar/Liturgical Calendar/ Church Calendar does not begin on January 1st, it begins on the first Sunday in Advent which is calculated four Sundays before Christmas. In this issue we will begin a brief look at the various Christian celebrations and their meaning. We will begin with Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany:

Let us now take a brief look at the various Christian celebrations and their meaning.

ADVENT: This word comes from the Latin verb *advenio*, "to come" in the Christian Year Advent refers to the coming of Jesus Christ. Advent, however, has a double meaning: it looks forward and backward. It reminds us of the coming of Christ as the child of Bethlehem and his coming again to judge in power and victory. The Advent message challenges us to fulfil the exhortation of John the Baptist, "Prepare the way of the Lord" (Matthew 3:3). These words of John the Baptist are a call for self-examination: are we ready to receive the Christ? Thus, the Spirit of Advent is repentance and self-examination.

The traditional colour for advent is purple, which may be traced to the translation of the Latin word *violaceus* in English *Violet*. In common use, purple and violet are considered the same.

The Latin word, however, was used to describe a blue-purple. Some congregations use the blue, the colour for royalty, for advent. The one advantage to using blue rather than purple is that it distinguishes Advent from the more penitential season of Lent in which Purple is also used.



CHRISTMAS: This is the most popular Christian festival. The removal of Christmas from the liturgical calendar would create a vacuum in our religious and cultural life. The Christmas message is basically the meaning of the word *Incarnation* which comes from the Latin *caro* "flesh" and *Immanuel* "God with us". The season of Christmas begins on December 25th and concludes twelve days later, on January 6th, the day of the Epiphany of the Lord. The liturgical colour for the Christmastide is white.

EPIPHANY: This is one of the oldest Christian festivals. Its name is derived from the Greek word *epiphania* "manifestation" or "showing forth". Epiphany reminds us of the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. On this day, we think of Jesus manifesting himself to the Gentiles. The Baptism of Jesus is observed on the Sunday following Epiphany. Originally, the feast day of Epiphany drew together four events in the life of Christ: his birth, the visit of the Magi, his baptism, and his first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana. However, over the years the visit of the Magi has come to dominate the celebration of Epiphany. He is the one who is "born king of the Jews" (Matthew 2:2). He is "my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). In turning water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. Jesus "revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him" (John 2:11b). Since Epiphany always falls on a weekday it is celebrated on the Sunday preceding the actual day. The Sunday after Epiphany is celebrated as the Baptism of the Lord and provides the transition to Ordinary time.



RESOURCES

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REVEREND DR ANNABELL LALLA-RAMKELAWAN RETIRES AFTER A COLOURFUL HISTORY OF SERVICE

SUBMITTED BY HARRY PARTAP

Reverend Dr Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan retired from active service in the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago in September, 2023, after serving with distinction for the past 41 years and 9 months. Cloaked in a spiritual career, punctuated with academic excellence and servant leadership, Reverend Dr. Lalla-Ramkelawan had the privilege of guiding the church as Moderator for four years. It was a remarkable achievement at the time for a woman who rose from a Deaconess to a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in a male-dominated church environment.

Reverend Dr. Lalla-Ramkelawan was one of five children of Stephen Dukhedin Lalla and his wife, Sylvia. She grew up in Siparia attending the Siparia Presbyterian Primary School and the Akashbani Presbyterian Church. She later graduated from the St John's College. She, along with her siblings, were baptised by Reverend Kenneth Kalloo at the village church. As a young girl, she was active in the church participating in the choir and the various church groups, including being a Sunday School teacher. She also served as the Youth Representative on the Local Board.

She participated in Youth Camps and training programmes for Sunday School teachers. While attending a Youth Camp she was attracted to an advertisement for the Deaconess Order of the Presbyterian Church. She followed this up and after discussions with her minister, Reverend Dr. Daniel Teelucksingh, and the support of both the Local Board and the Official Board of the Pastoral Region, she began studies for the Deaconess Order at the St. Andrew's Theological College (SATC) in San Fernando. She was commissioned as a Deaconess on 05 December, 1982.

She was fortunate to serve her first appointment as a Deaconess with Reverend Dr. Teelucksingh in the Couva/Claxton Bay Pastoral Region. While serving as Deaconess, she began studies for the Ordained Ministry and eventually graduated from SATC in 1990 with a Licentiate in Theology (L.Th). On 18 November, 1990, she was ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament.

Reverend Dr. Lalla-Ramkelawan was the first Deaconess to move on to the Ordained Ministry and the second locally trained female Ordained Minister graduating from SATC. She served as Moderator of Synod from 2015 to 2019, acquiring an encyclopaedic knowledge of the church's constitution and policies. While performing pastoral duties in eight regions during her career, Reverend Dr. Lalla-Ramkelawan continued her studies. She graduated from the Western Theological Seminary in the USA in 2012 with a Master in Theology (M.Th).

Encouraged by her husband, Basil Ramkelawan, she enrolled in the doctoral programme at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas and received her Doctor in Ministry (DM) in 2022. Her doctoral studies focussed on *Proclaim and Worship*. Her seminal thesis, *Sacramental Mystery or Magic* is an in-depth study of the Sacraments in the context of the Trinidad and Tobago society.

Apart from three formal degree programmes, Reverend Dr Lalla-Ramkelawan pursued many short-term courses in Social Work, Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation, Computer Literacy, Dispute Resolution and Pension/Trustee Management. She also served as chaplain at Presbyterian Secondary and Primary Schools and the Maximum-Security Prison in Port of Spain. Reverend Dr. Lalla-Ramkelawan represented the church at nine regional and international religious organisations including the World Council of Churches (WCC), the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) and the Caribbean and North America Area Council for Mission (CANACOM). She serves on the Executive Committee of WCRC and is a past secretary of CANACOM.

Reverend Dr. Lalla-Ramkelawan has contributed to several publications and served as chair of the Editorial Committee of *The Trinidad Presbyterian*. She also served on the Faculty of SATC. Looking back at her several pastorates, Reverend Dr Lalla-Ramkelawan noted that each was "unique and sometimes challenging."

May God continue to guide her as takes her next step.



THE FAMILY CAN

CRISIS IN THE FAMILY: THE BREAKDOWN IN FAMILY LIFE - PART 8 - LIFE: FORGIVE, FORGET, REMEMBER.

A MONTHLY THOUGHT TO HELP IMPROVE THE FAMILY - HILTON R SIBOO: CONTACT: 788-2685)

In this Part 8, these three words provide explanations to the continuing question being considered, 'Has the crisis in the family resulted in the breakdown in family life or has the breakdown in family life resulted in the crises of the family?'

Have you ever been asked to forgive a family member? To reach this frontier of 'forgiveness' something had to be given by one person and not well received by another. But is forgiveness simply saying, "I am sorry" Is 'I am sorry...forgive me' a manipulated deceit for our indulgence, benefit, selfishness, ascribed victimhood, even denied perpetrating intended to demean, correct, discipline? Can this, therefore, not be mistaken as wanting to control, or violate the other's 'rights' when given to another within the family whether parent, child, siblings or spouse?

Far too often little attention was given to the why, when, and where for the intended purpose of forgiveness. Starting from the premise that as humans, we prefer to help than hurt, is it not that our words and actions, our attitudes and behaviours, when interpreted, are done with suspicion, our own bias or desires or personal agenda?

We are all familiar with the **forgive-forget** spectrum with these words usually bandied together when deliberations, challenges and conflicts are considered towards reconciliation. Is it expected that to forgive we should forget which follows with forgiving? But whose choice is that... the forgiver or the forgiven? Forgiveness starts with self, can be done in silence and manifested through the intensity of real love. Yet, we often hear the statement, 'I can forgive but I cannot or will not forget you...ever!'. Is this 'toting' a bag of burdens through life?

Do we have a right to be forgiven? Maybe yes, but to forget or to remember by the one who **forgives** is not the forgiven's call, desire or consequence. Here is the word remember. Can there be the wisdom to remember so there will not be the recurring 'I am sorry, forgive me' for similar words and actions?

Do you have anyone to forgive in your family? What about beginning with yourself, is your remorse sincere? On knowing you have trespassed, is it not your responsibility to forgive? We cannot plead, insist, demand, set conditions for forgiving. We are required to listen to anyone asking for forgiveness, being sincere and not manipulative. Forgiveness is like the grace of God or what the criminal received on the cross.

When "forgiving" is not done, there results crises, chaos, and challenges. Can the family adjust and resolve these if they cannot understand the cause which contributes to the breakdown of family? As we attempt to comprehend the drivers, triggers of human dispositions that result in stability and instability of the family, I suggest we liberate ourselves, change our attitudes, behaviours, and thoughts to strengthen rather than weaken the foundations of the family? Within the family, forgiving can be the most difficult choice to make, but should divisions, unresolved anger and hatred pervade each moment of our life?

Remember, the family is not just a group or gathering without a common purpose. Never let it ever be that the family can NOT adjust and adapt as changes occur.

Don't loose faith. Hold strong. Believe, The Family Can

Encounteringthe Archives of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago

They called, they came, they encountered the Central Archives of the PCTT. Who were they... the 'Sonshine' Presbyterian Church Women's [PCW] Group of the Vistabella Presbyterian Church.

This month, we review the encounter of these visiting members: Monica Sinanan-Braithwaite, Vidya Amarsingh, Ermine Dinnoo, Rosemarie Ali, Sonabai Boodram, Vashti Sampath, Dolin Ragoo, Margarita Paul-Abraham, her husband, Nivian, and six-year-old granddaughter, Ashley.

Previously, this PCW had heard of the Archives from the Archivist who worship with them and others as CAPCTT volunteer, Sharon Basarath. They visited on Thursday July 27, 2023, shortly after 10:00 a.m. So absorbed were they by the experience and information that they did not realize it was approaching midday.

During their interactive and conversational encounter, they were made aware of and the history and contents of the CPCTT Archives - the Repository, the Museum and the Archival Library, the role it plays in the life of the PCTT and how it can relate and interact with its Boards and Committees, the Pastoral Regions, the congregations and the life of individuals and families across the world, Presbyterians or not.

As information of the contents was shared briefly, they were awed to discover the information and data-spread of the history of the PCTT since 1868. These included: the PCW Annual Study Booklet and documents of the WMS and the BOW, The Trinidad Presbyterian since 1904, the SATC 1892, the primary and secondary schools, and other institutions and associates of the PCTT. They were also intrigued by the museum artefacts and collection of images, photographs and more. Further, shared was the role that the CAPCTT continue to play in better providing information and understanding of groups, churches, congregations and activities, and their personal family and in the lives of extended families and relatives trans-generationally - info that can in the future trace family of origin and scattering across the PCTT and Trinidad and Tobago, a bit of which they excitedly shared.

As to how groups like their PCW can assist, they were introduced to the idea of an Archives in every church where the congregational records would be stored and made accessible for research study and knowledge of its members. This Congregational or Church Archives would be connected and associated to the CAPCTT.

From this encounter, the 'Sonshine' PCW Group left with a new sense of awareness and knowledge considering future visit. The staff of the CArchivesPCTT expresses our satisfaction.

An encounter with the Archives is an encounter with ... yourself. Hoping to be there for your Encounter with the Archives of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago..

Archivist: Reverend Ken K Kalloo, Asst Archivist: Hilton R Bill Siboo 788-2685

Contact: 652-4829 [Synod Office] and 653-4166 [SATC Library], or Visit in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

A TRIBUTE TO PRESIDING ELDER RAWLE RAMLOGAN – 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Submitted by Elder Trisha Rooplal- Beharry, Brothers' Presbyterian Church

On Sunday August 27th 2023, at the Riversdale Presbyterian Church, the Riversdale Pastoral Region gathered to celebrate with Presiding Elder Rawle Ramlogan 25 years of dedicated service as a Presiding Elder (PE). Members of each church of the region filled the pews for this joyful occasion.

The celebration began at 4:00 p.m. with our Minister, Reverend Radica Samuel Moonoo, and the Rt. Reverend Daniel Chance, Moderator of Synod, in attendance. This tribute was significant in the spiritual life of P.E. Rawle Ramlogan as a faithful servant who laboured in the vineyard. His dedication to duty and his spiritual knowledge and experience have inspired us. He is always willing when it comes to visitation, wake and funeral services, outreach projects, and other church events. He reflects servant leadership.

This tribute was made more special as P.E. Rawle Ramlogan was honoured with songs and poems from members of the region as they paid tribute to his dedication and commitment. He was also presented with a plaque from the region.

As Genesis 12:2 says, "... I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing." Just like Abraham, P.E. Rawle Ramlogan has been an example for many in the region to follow and is indeed famous at Riversdale and is a blessing to our region.

A Legend

by Ramnarine Garib, Brothers' Presbyterian Church.

Does the name Presiding Elder Rawle Ramlogan ring a bell?

Here's a story I'm about to tell,
a simple man of a humble background,
honourable and kind, preaching the gospel around.

Born in that beautiful paradise called Brasso Venado
surrounded by plantations of coffee and cocoa,
as a young man, sweating under the sun
ensuring that his day's work was properly done.

At the tender age of 10, he came to live in the Kelly Junction Village.

Assisting his loved ones, to him it was a great privilege.

My story continues, this is no fairytale,
a servant of God, he attends the Presbyterian church in Riversdale.

Thus, serving the Lord, he did with utmost love and devotion.

Working with his fellowmen, he showed much compassion.

His job as a postman, saw him riding many a mile;
cool, calm and collected, there was always a smile.

Riding his bike, with a friendly word, mail was efficiently delivered,
ensuring his area was fully covered.

Becoming a Presiding Elder marks twenty- five years,
soft spoken, kind words and dedication, show how much he cares.

Preaching the sermons, from the depths of Christianity,
touching hearts and souls, awakening the bowels of humanity.

His sermons are inspiring, he preaches with a passion
holding the congregation spellbound at every session.

A job well done in the South - West region

P E Mr. Rawle Ramlogan, you're a legend.

We thank and honour you with lots of love.

May the Almighty shower his blessings from above.

From the members of Brothers Church, you are always in our prayers

Thank you for those twenty- five years.



COUNSELLING COLUMN

VICTORIA AVIAN RAJKUMAR (B.ED., M.ED., CERT. GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING)

HOW CAN I NURTURE THE MENTAL HEALTH OF MY CHILDREN AND TEENS?

2 Corinthians 12:9 states: "My grace is sufficient for you, my power is made perfect in weakness."

On October 10, annually, the world marks "World Mental Health Day", a time to raise awareness and promote mental well-being for people of all ages, including Christian children and teens. As a parent, guardian, or youth leader, it's essential to foster a supportive environment that addresses the unique challenges young individuals face while nurturing their spiritual growth. Here are some tips to help Christian children and teens prioritize their mental health during this special month and beyond:

- **1. Encourage Open Communication:** Create an atmosphere where children and teens feel comfortable discussing their feelings, worries, and questions. Encourage them to share their thoughts about faith and how it relates to their mental well-being.
- **2. Emphasize Prayer and Scripture:** Teach young ones the power of prayer and the comfort of turning to Scripture for guidance. Helping them establish a daily routine of prayer and Bible reading can provide stability and peace in times of stress or uncertainty.
- **3. Promote Healthy Relationships:** Emphasize the importance of positive friendships and peer support within the church community. Encourage them to engage in Sunday School, Youth Group or other events to build strong, faith-based connections.
- **4. Educate about Mental Health:** Equip children and teens with basic knowledge about mental health conditions, emphasizing that seeking help for emotional struggles is a sign of strength, not weakness. Share stories of biblical figures who faced mental or emotional challenges, highlighting their resilience and faith, for example, Job, Moses, Joseph, Paul and even Jesus experienced some level of struggle with their mental health.
- **5. Prioritize Self-Care:** Teach self-care practices that align with Christian values. Encourage activities like journaling, nature walks, or creating art that can be both relaxing and spiritually enriching.
- **6. Model Healthy Coping Strategies:** Be a role model by demonstrating healthy ways to cope with stress and adversity. Let them see how you turn to prayer, community support, and self-care during challenging times.
- **7. Address Bullying and Peer Pressure:** Discuss the importance of standing up against bullying and peer pressure. Emphasize that it's okay to be different and to follow their faith even when it's not the popular choice.
- **8. Set Realistic Expectations:** Help children and teens set realistic academic, social, and spiritual goals. Encourage them to focus on progress rather than perfection, reminding them of God's love and grace.
- **9. Promote Physical Well-Being:** A healthy body supports a healthy mind. Encourage regular exercise, a balanced diet, and adequate sleep to boost mood and overall well-being.
- **10. Seek Professional Help When Needed:** Emphasize that seeking professional help for mental health concerns is a responsible and courageous step. Assure them that God works through therapists and counselors, too.
- **11. Encourage Acts of Service:** Engage children and teens in acts of service to others, fostering a sense of purpose and fulfillment. Acts of kindness align with Christian values can improve mental well-being.
- **12. Foster a Supportive Church Community:** Encourage active participation in church activities and volunteering. Feeling connected to a supportive faith community can provide a sense of belonging and purpose.

Mental Health Month is a reminder that mental well-being is a vital aspect of a person's overall health, including Christian children and teens. By integrating these tips into their lives, we can help them navigate the challenges they face while strengthening their faith and resilience. Remember that nurturing mental health is a lifelong journey, and our support can make a significant difference in their lives.

Matthew 11: 28 *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

THE BOARD OF MEN

LAITY SUNDAY PREACHING SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER 2023

THEME: 'PERSEVERE IN YOUR WITNESS AS PEOPLE OF GOD'

| 1 | SAN JUAN/SANTA CRUZ/WOODBROOK | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| | San Juan | 7:15 a.m. | Robert Ramsahai |
| | Santa Cruz | 9:00 a.m. | Terry Mohammed |
| | Woodbrook | 10:30 a.m. | Naresh Ragoonath |
| 2 | ARAMALAYA | | |
| | Tacarigua | 7:00 a.m. | Shawn Mahase |
| | Aramalaya | 7:45 a.m. | Elijah Motiram |
| | Warrenville | 9:00 a.m. | Shawn Mahase |
| | Kelly | 10:30 a.m. | Terrence Kalloo |
| | Tobago | | |
| 3 | ARIMA | | |
| | Arima | 7:00 a.m. | Dexter Rampersad |
| | Valencia | 8:45 a.m. | Rohan Rickhi |
| | San Carlos | 9:00 a.m. | Aryn Bailey |
| | St. Helena | 10:30 a.m. | Russel Gyan/Vinood Sooknanan |
| 4 | GUAICO | | |
| | Caratal | 6:30 a.m. | Clarence Bharath |
| | Cumuto | 6:45 a.m. | Reynold Parey |
| | Cunaripo | 8:00 a.m. | Daniel Motilal |
| | Morton Memorial | 9:30 a.m. | Kenrick Cumberbatch |
| | Jubilee | 8:30 a.m. | Sheldon Ramoutar |
| 5 | SANGRE CHIQUITO | | |
| | Sangre Chiquito | 7:00 a.m. | Daniel Haradan |
| | Plum Road | 8:30 a.m. | Ainsley Lutchmansingh |
| | Grosvenor | 7:00 a.m. | Russell Ramdass |
| | Fishing Pond | 9:00 a.m. | Daniel Haradan |
| | Plum Mitan | 10:00 a.m. | Ainsley Lutchmansingh |

61ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2023: PCTT YOUTUBE CHANNEL

LAITY SUNDAY PREACHING SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 6 | CUREPE/ST. JOSEPH | | |
| | Maracas | 7:00 a.m. | Dr. George Sammy |
| | St. Joseph | 8:30 a.m. | Anthony Sampath & Carlos Lackhan |
| | Curepe | 10:00 a.m. | St. Charles Men's Group |
| | Jubilee Memorial(Caroni) | 7:00 a.m. | St. Charles Men's Group |
| | Latchu Memorial (Bamboo) | 8:30 a.m. | Stephen Kassiram |
| 7 | CHAGUANAS | | |
| | Robinson Memorial Longdenville | 7:30 a.m. | Jesse Ramkaysingh |
| | St. Charles | 9:30 a.m. | Roy Umraw |
| | Las Lomas | 7:00 a.m. | Gary Samai |
| | Cunupia | 9:00 a.m. | Ashford Tamby |
| | Felicity | 8:00 a.m. | Roy Umraw |
| 8 | CHASE VILLAGE | | |
| | Waterloo | 7:00 a.m. | Sunil Ramkarran |
| | St. John (Bank Village) | 8:30 a.m. | Tyabali Khan |
| | Anugrah (Calcutta) | 8:30 a.m. | Alister Ramrattan |
| | Nistar | 10:00a.m. | Tyabali Khan |
| 9 | COUVA | | |
| | Mc Bean | 7:00 a.m. | Damien Surujbally |
| | Arunodai (Balmain) | 8:30 a.m. | Damien Surujbally |
| | Knox | 8:00 a.m. | Curtis Bipat |
| | Indian Trail | 9:30 a.m. | Darion Joseph |
| 10 | CLAXTON BAY | | |
| | Ebenezer | 7:30 a.m. | Glen Dwarika |
| | Mizpah | 9:00 a.m. | Balmain Men's Fellowship |
| | Bethel Carolina | 7:00 a.m. | Curtis Dindial |
| | Green Memorial California | 8:30 a.m. | Curtis Dindial |
| | Esperanza | 10:00 a.m. | Venoo Ramdhanie |
| 11 | MARABELLA\BONNE AVENTURE | | |
| | Marabella | 7:00 a.m. | Sean Seetaram |
| | Trinity Gasparillo | 8:30 a.m. | Roydon Rampersad |
| | Bonne Aventure | 7:00 a.m. | Jesse Pulwarty |
| | Mayo | 8:30 a.m. | Jesse Pulwarty |
| | Reform | 7:30 a.m. | Darrion Joseph |
| | Ben Lomond | 8:45 a.m. | Sean Seetaram |

LAITY SUNDAY PREACHING SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| 12 | SUSAMACHAR | | |
| | Susamachar | 7:00 a.m. | Garry Soomarah |
| | Vistabella | 8:30 a.m. | Vincent Ramoutar |
| | Susamachar | 5:00 p.m. | Terrence Mohammed |
| | Grant Lal Behari Corinth | 8:30 a.m. | Terrence Mohammed |
| | Golconda | 10:00 a.m. | Barry Balliram |
| 13 | LA ROMAINE/DEBE | | |
| | La Romaine Emmanuel | 7:00 a.m. | Roger Ali |
| | Canaan | 8:30 a.m. | Roger Ali |
| | Debe | 7:30 a.m. | Mikail Lochan |
| | Esperance | 9:00 a.m. | Susamachar Men's Fellowship |
| | St Agnes Hermitage | 10:30 a.m. | Ronald Mootoo |
| 14 | PENAL | | |
| | Penal | 7:00 a.m. | Alex Tamby |
| | Penal Rock | 9:00 a.m. | Alex Tamby |
| | Divine Rock | 9:30 a.m. | Randy Mangaroo |
| | Mendez | 8:00 a.m. | Andrew Neemai |
| 15 | SIPARIA | | |
| | Erin Road | 7:00 a.m. | Gerard DeGannes |
| | Akashbani Siparia | 8:00 a.m. | P.E. Aasha Mahabir |
| | San Francique | 10:00 a.m. | Paul Achaibar |
| | Quinam Mission Station | 9:00 a.m. | Moderator - Rt. Rev. Daniel Chance |
| 16 | OROPOUCHE | | |
| | Morning Star | 6:30 a.m. | Kenny Arjoon |
| | Eternal Light | 8:00 a.m. | David Battoo |
| | Rousillac | 9:30 a.m. | Brian Saney |
| 17 | POINT FORTIN/CEDROS | | |
| | Guapo | 6:30 a.m. | Mr. Lyndon Boodoo |
| | Salazar Trace | 8:30 a.m. | Jason Ali |
| | Point Fortin | 10:00 a.m. | Mr. Lyndon Boodoo |
| | Cedros | 7:00 a.m. | Ian Gobin |
| | Coromandel | 8:30 a.m. | Ian Gobin |
| | Point Coco | 10:00 a.m. | Jason Ali |
| 18 | DIAMOND | | |
| | Diamond | 7:15 a.m. | Christopher John |
| | Krist Mandli | 9:00 a.m. | Thakur Kanhai |
| | Lower Barrackpore | 7:15 a.m. | Thakur Kanhai |
| | Transfer | 9:00 a.m. | Robert Seerattan |

LAITY SUNDAY PREACHING SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|---|
| 19 | BARRACKPORE | | |
| | Barrackpore Union | 8:00 a.m. | Mickah Baksh |
| | Lengua | 9:00 a.m. | Reno Siloch |
| | Borde Narve | 7:00 a.m. | Reno Siloch |
| | Clarke Rochard | 7:00 a.m. | Nicholas Ramsaran |
| | Rochard Douglas | 9:00 a.m. | Nicholas Ramsaran |
| 20 | RIVERSDALE | | |
| | Morichal | 7:00 a.m. | P.E Rawle Ramlogan |
| | Brothers | 8:30 a.m. | Ricardo Cleghorn |
| | Riversdale | 9:30 a.m. | Nigel Mohammed |
| | Poonah | 8:00 a.m. | Andy Samaroo |
| 21 | TABAQUITE | | |
| | Piparo | 6:30 a.m. | Joel Maraj |
| | Jeffers {24 mile} | 8:00 a.m. | Nigel Mohammed |
| | Torrib Trace | 9:30 a.m. | Sookdeo Basdeo |
| | Star of Bethlehem Tabaquite | 9:30 a.m. | Stephen Hansraj/Stephen Mahabir |
| | Flanagin Town | 8:00 a.m. | Christopher Morgan |
| 22 | PRINCES TOWN | | |
| | St. Andrew's | 7:00 a.m. | Michael Cooper-Ochiengh |
| | Iere Village | 8:30 a.m. | Ellias Jaggai |
| | McDonald Jordan Hill | 7:30 a.m. | Wayne Maicoo |
| | St. Mary's | 9:30 a.m. | Michael Cooper-Ochiengh |
| 23 | TABLELAND | | |
| | St. James | 7:00 a.m. | Harry Partap |
| | St. Julien | 9:00 a.m. | Harry Partap |
| | Poole | 7:00 a.m. | Edmund Praigsingh |
| | New Century | 8:30 a.m. | Kurt Paul |
| 24 | NARIVA/ MAYARO | | |
| | Rio Claro | 7:00 a.m. | Sampath Raghunanan/ P.E Martin Sahadath |
| | Mafeking | 9:00 a.m. | Christian Dookhoo/ P.E Martin Sahadath |
| | Ecclesville | 7:00 a.m. | James Gajadhar |
| | Biche | 7:00 a.m. | Ronald Babooram |
| | Navet | 8:45 a.m. | Mohammed Khan |

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
THE BOARD OF MEN

AGRI FACTS COLUMN

STARTING YOUR OWN HERB GARDEN SUBMITTED BY RAYANNA BOODRAM

rayannaboodram@hotmail.com

Have you seen the prices of fresh herbs recently? As the weeks draw nearer to Christmas, the prices of Chive, Celery and even Shadon Beni are rising constantly in the market. In Trinidad, Tobago and the Caribbean we utilize herbs to add immense flavour to the cuisine by using them fresh or ground. Popular herbs that we use in abundance includes Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*) which has a mild, bitter flavor that greatly enhances the flavour of soups and stews, Mint (*Mentha*) which is one of the most aromatic and fragrant herbs, Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) which has a flavor and very intense clove-like aroma and Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*), both the fine leaf and broad leaf, known as Pudina. A typical ground Caribbean

seasoning blend includes Culantro/Shadon Beni, Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*), Thyme combined with Celery, Garlic and Hot peppers.

Growing Herbs at home is quite easy and can save you lots of money as we enter the harsh months of rainy season where all crops are usually more expensive. The first step is to secure an area in your home with partial sunlight, both indoors and outdoors. For outdoors, you can choose to plant in the earth, containers or even create grow boxes. You can start herbs from seed or cuttings however, it is much easier to purchase the seedlings from a nearby Agri store. Ensure that the grow box/bed or container is has good drainage and filled with a moist rich soil mixture. If planting in the earth, create bed and use rich topsoil. Most herbs prefer a lot of sunlight so if you are growing indoors, such as in your kitchen, ensure that they get at least 6 hours of sunlight exposure daily.

Ensure that you keep the soil consistently moist, but not waterlogged. Fertilize every two weeks with an all-purpose fertilizer such as 12:24:12 to boost growth of your plants. You can harvest by simply cutting sprigs with a shears or pinching them off with your fingers. Ensure you thoroughly wash them before consuming them. If you are familiar with Hydroponics, herbs grow abundantly in Hydroponic systems. Remember to regularly cutback your herbs as it encourages new growth. I encourage you all to try planting your own herb garden. I promise you when you get started, there is no turning back!



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Applications are kindly solicited from members of The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) for the position:

General Secretary

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES:

Responsible for co-ordinating all activities of the Synod and Synodical Council of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago and The PCTT Organizational Structure.

REPORTS TO:

The Moderator of Synod; the Synod/Synodical Council.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- 1) Manage the day-to-day administration of Synod's office.
- 2) Function as the Secretary for all meetings of Synod/Synodical Council/Executive of Synodical Council
- 3) Manage all official correspondence in connection with the work of the Synod/Synodical Council/Executive of Synodical Council
- 4) Administer the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Plans
- 5) Ensure the preservation of the records which are Synod's property.
- 6) Ensure that the audited Annual Financial Statement of Synod is presented at the Annual General Meeting of Synod
- 7) Ensure that the legal interests of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago are pursued upon the advice of Synod/Synodical Council/Executive of Synodical Council.
- 8) Represent Synod at special observances in the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago as requested by the Moderator of Synod.
- 9) Undertake such assignments as requested by the Synod/Synodical Council/Executive of Synodical Council.
- 10) Function as an ex-officio Member of all Presbyteries, Standing Boards and Committees of Synod, except the Synod/Synodical Council/Executive of Synodical Council where he/she shall have full membership.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

- The applicant must be a current member of the Session in a Pastoral Region of the PCTT who has served in the Session for at least five (5) years.
- The applicant must possess at least a first degree from a recognized University, preferably in the Social Sciences (with studies in Management, Finance, Economics, Government or a combination) or have a suitable combination of experience and training in management for at least ten (10) years.

OTHER SKILLS:

- The applicant must have a proficient knowledge of Organizational, Administrative and Management Skills. The operations and dynamics of working in an ecclesiastical environment.
- The applicant must be able to carry out procedures for interfacing with the respective government agencies, insurance agencies, social organizations etc. with respect to the execution of services and other issues which relate to the PCTT.
- The applicant must be able to relate well with other persons and communicate effectively to all levels who share in the work of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago.
- The applicant must demonstrate an awareness of the proper functioning of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago.

For more Information visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/pctt-constitution-chapter-3-6>

Applications with resumes should be sent to:

The Synod Office of the PCTT, P.O. Box. 187, Paradise Hill, San Fernando. Telephone: 652-4829
or Email: vacancies@pctt.org.tt

APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 30TH 2023.

POOLE PRESBYTERIAN CELEBRATES FATHER'S DAY WITH THE MODERATOR

Submitted by Harold Chote- Chairman

The newly appointed Moderator, The Right Reverend Daniel Chance, celebrated Father's Day as well as communion with the members of the Poole Presbyterian Church. He delivered an inspirational sermon, which was well received by members of the congregation. The Moderator has a long history with Poole and by extension the Tableland Pastoral Region. All members were privileged to be a part of this memorable occasion. All fathers received gifts and light refreshments were served.



HAPPY 40TH ANNIVERSARY



40th Wedding Anniversary of Teddy and Lustra Ragoonanan.



HILLVIEW COLLEGE Vacancy - (Spanish) TIII



• **All applicants MUST be:**

- Assessed as teacher III/TVTIV
- Successfully interviewed by the Teaching Service Commission within a three (3) year period (for applicants who are not currently employed with the Ministry of Education)

Kindly apply to:

The Presbyterian Secondary Schools' Board of Education via:

Email : pssboe@pctt.org.tt

Submit a copy to: administration@hillviewcollege.edu.tt

Applicants are required to submit their Appointment/Assessment Letters, Placement on the Order of Merit list, Letter of Interview Results along with other applicable documents.

Deadline for applications: NOVEMBER 30TH 2023

Unsuitable applications will not be acknowledged

THE BOARD OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Submitted by Linda Sammy

The 2023-2025 Board of Social Responsibility (BOSR) was convened under the Synod and the Moderator, the Rt. Reverend. Daniel Chance and it was inaugurated on May 11, 2023. The current executive comprises: Mr. Ronald Mootoo, Chairman; Mr. Dennis Ghouralal, Deputy Chairman; Ms. Carol Bedasie, Treasurer; Ms. Linda Sammy, Secretary and Ms. Shirlyn Beharry, Assistant Secretary. The Board comprises representatives from each of the 24 Pastoral Regions, along with representatives of each of the 3 Presbyteries. It is responsible for engaging the attention of the Church and the wider community in areas of social responsibility; and for stimulating thought and comment on any social issue of importance. Its functions are carried out by various committees in key areas such as hampers, education supplies, electronic devices, and migrant support.

Immediately following its inauguration, the country was hit by heavy rains in June 2023 which caused many areas, especially in south Trinidad to suffer flooding. This brought with it damage to property and loss of belongings. The Hamper Committee responded to appeals from flood victims within affected pastoral regions for food, cleaning supplies, personal care products, clothes and linen. Congregations throughout the country contributed generously to the collection drive and continue to do so.

Preparation by parents for books and stationery for back to school began when school closed for the vacation.. The BOSR, with the financial support from Synod, congregations and well-wishers, was able to provide 5 children in each of our primary schools with stationery supplies, just in time for the start of the new school year.

It is important that the BOSR keeps a stock of essential items to be able to respond promptly as a need arises. Floods aside, persons and families within our communities are faced with all types of challenges and situations daily and are in need of food and clothing, among other requirements. As such, congregations are encouraged to work closely with their BOSR representative to continue collecting and contributing all year round.

For now, the collection/distribution point for the BOSR is at SATC on Paradise Hill, San Fernando. However, the BOSR recognizes that for persons living in central or north Trinidad, the lone southern point is not always convenient. This is an appeal for Pastoral Regions in the northern and South-Central Presbyteries to discuss with their respective sessions the availability of a secure space which can be provided to the BOSR as a point for collection, handling, storage and distribution of relief items. Suggested spaces may be a school, a church hall, a manse, etc. Please contact Synod's office should you be willing to assist. The BOSR is eager to work with you in organizing and managing your space.

We will continue to provide updates on the work of the Board. Meanwhile, we welcome each person's suggestions and ideas. We also encourage you continue to be your brother's keeper. Remain on the alert regarding the needs of persons in your congregations and communities and direct these to your BOSR representative for action by the Board.

“... Verily I say unto you, in as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Matt. 25:40.)



BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROJECT OF THE BOSR

Submitted by Linda Sammy

Each year, the Board of Social Responsibility (BOSR) assists 5 children from each of our 72 Presbyterian primary schools with back-to-school supplies for the beginning of the new school year in September. This year school re-opens on September 04th 2023, and the Education Committee coordinated by Mr. Denis Ghouralal took charge of this exercise. The BOSR, in conjunction with Synod, was able to prepare and distribute 360 packages containing stationery items.

Our Moderator of Synod, the Rt. Reverend Daniel Chance was hands-on with members of the Education Committee during the preparation of these packages. The BOSR thanks the Moderator and the Synod for their support in this annual initiative. We also sincerely thank all congregations and persons who responded to the Board's appeal and contributed generously to the purchase of these supplies.

We pray God's continued guidance and protection over our children as they return to school, and may he continue to shower their families and the homes to which they belong with his Grace. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make straight your path" (Proverbs 3: 3-6).



The BOSR supported by the Synod complete preparation of the Back to School packages

PCTT ONLINE GIVING PORTAL

<https://www.pctt.org.tt/give/>

WHY SHOULD YOU GIVE?

As Christ's ambassadors in this world, we all have a responsibility to support God's work and witness in this part of the vineyard. Let us therefore aim to give with a cheerful heart towards the mission of the Church so that changes will truly be possible.

HOW DOES ONLINE GIVING WORK?

Giving via our website is as simple as any online purchase using your Credit or Visa Debit Card.

Steps:

1. Visit our [Giving Portal](#).
2. Click **Give** under your selected ministry.
3. Enter donation amount and click **Give**.
4. From the Cart, you can either edit your donation, add multiple donations to a single order, or Proceed to Checkout.
5. When you are ready click **Checkout** which will take you to the secure WiPay Payment Portal to finish your transaction.



WHAT DOES YOUR GIVING SUPPORT?

It takes financial resources to accomplish the work God has called us to do. Your generous offerings enable the PCTT to fulfill its mission to Worship, Care and Serve. Our monetary gifts support the daily operations of the church, fuels all ministries and projects, and supports the many core and outreach ministries.

PREDESTINATION, LIMITED ATONEMENT AND THE DOCTRINE OF THE PCTT

Submitted by Presiding Elder George K. Sammy

INTRODUCTION

In the November, 2015, issue of The Trinidad Presbyterian, an article by my late brother, Elder Peter Sammy, of the Maracas Valley Presbyterian Church, compared the five main points of Calvinism with the Doctrine of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT). This present article re-engages in that discussion, focusing on the concepts of Predestination and Limited Atonement, to invite discussion of our beliefs among our members.

“TULIP”

Internationally, Presbyterianism is closely associated with Calvinist beliefs, the five most important of which form the acronym “TULIP”:
Total Depravity: human beings are all touched by sin (Ref 1), and we can only seek God through grace (Ref 2).

Unconditional Election: God has chosen some people (the Elect) for salvation (Ref 2), but not because of any person’s own worthiness (Ref 3) (this is closely related to predestination - Ref 4).

Limited Atonement: Christ’s Death atoned for the sins of the Elect (Ref 3), but not for the sins of others (which closely follows Unlimited Election).

Irresistible Grace: no person who is chosen among the Elect can reject Christ’s atonement (Ref 2) - if God wants a person in His family, that person WILL come to faith (Ref 5)

Preservation of the Saints: those who have been chosen by God are preserved by God and cannot lose their salvation (Ref 2). Jesus will not lose any who are given to Him by the Father (John 6:39).

A LITTLE HISTORY

The United Church of Canada (UCC) was founded in 1925, through the union of Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregationalist and some Independent Churches (Ref 6). Formation of this Union required negotiation on matters of doctrine, since the new United Church could not adopt the beliefs of both the Presbyterian and the Methodist Churches where these were contradictory. As a compromise, the question of predestination is not mentioned in the Basis of Union (Ref 7).

The PCTT was founded in 1868 as a Mission of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, Canada. We maintained our affiliation with the Presbyterian Church of Canada (PCC) until 1925, after which we became affiliated with the United Church of Canada.

DIFFERING BELIEFS

Before union, Presbyterian Churches in Canada subscribed to the Westminster Confession as their Secondary Standard, which meant acceptance of Predestination and Limited Atonement as church doctrine. The PCC’s belief in predestination would die out by 1950 (Ref 4), and their Catechism for Today, dated 2004, states that God wills salvation for all and excludes no one from the reach of divine love (Ref 8). Notwithstanding this later development, the Canadian Presbyterian belief in predestination was still very much in force at the time of Union; with the PCC reaffirming their acceptance of the Westminster Confession in 1925 (Ref 4).

Methodists reject Unconditional Election (and hence predestination) since they believe that Christ does not wish any person to perish (that is, to be denied eternal life) (Ref 2). They believe that God offers Grace freely to all people, and that God wishes all people to be righteous through His grace. Methodists also reject Limited Atonement based on their belief that Christ’s death on the cross atoned for the sins of all humanity and that atonement is freely available to all people who accept God’s gift of grace.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE PCTT

The Doctrine of the PCTT is very similar to the Doctrine of the United Church of Canada (its parent document). In both these documents:
oArticle VI, entitled “of the Grace of God”, contains the sentence “We believe that God, out of His great love for the world, has given His only begotten Son to be the Saviour of sinners, and in the Gospel freely offers His all-sufficient salvation to all persons” (Author’s emphasis); while

oArticle XX, entitled “of Christian Service and the Final Triumph”, contains the sentence, “We joyfully receive the word to make disciples of all nations, declaring unto them that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, and that He will have all persons saved and come to the knowledge of the truth” (Author’s emphasis).

These sentences seem to have entered UCC Doctrine (and hence PCTT Doctrine) from the beliefs of the Methodist Church.

CONCLUSION

The Doctrine of the PCTT disagrees with the concepts of the Unconditional Election/Predestination and Limited Atonement, since Articles VI and XX reflect the belief that God offers salvation to all and that God desires that all should be saved. Instead, our Doctrine is in harmony with John 3:16, reputedly the best-known of all Bible verses to Christians and non-Christians alike: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (King James Version).

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MR. ORLANDO NAGESSAR CELEBRATES 80TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY WITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Submitted by Mr. Mohan Bhagan

June 26th marked a significant milestone, the 80th Birth Anniversary in the life of Mr. Orlando Nagessar. To celebrate this auspicious occasion, a beautifully organized Thanksgiving Service was held at his home, Phase #2 Edinburgh Gardens, Chaguanas.

Resident minister of the Chaguanas Pastoral Region, Reverend Cynara Dube-Khan, conducted the service, she was graciously assisted by Reverend Dr. Daniel Teelucksingh and Presiding Elder, Mrs. Dianne Phillip Ramjattan. Reverend Dube- Khan, in her message, highlighted Mr. Nagessar's dedicated and sacrificial servant leadership service as a Presiding Elder, of the PCTT.

She also lauded him for faithfully and diligently serving the many Boards and Committees from the Local Board level to Synod.

In paying tribute to her dad, Ms. Orlene Nagesar spoke of his early upbringing in humble surroundings. However, through the medium of education and perseverance, and the opportunity afforded him by the PCTT, he elevated himself by serving as an educator par excellence as a teacher and Principal Primary. One of the highlights of his career was his stint in the political arena having served as Mayor of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation on two occasions (1999-2003) and (2010-2013) He also served as Deputy Mayor (2003-2010.)

The scriptures were chosen to teach that all believers are a united body through their faith in Christ and to emphasize the importance of unity, love, mutual support, and spiritual growth among the young members as they work together to fulfill their God given purposes in the world.

Reverend Dr. Daniel Teelucksingh, in his contribution, saluted Mr. Nagessar and all those who are blessed, including himself, to be in the 80th CLUB. He also gave some sound and realistic advice to those who were privileged by God's grace, to be in their eighties. "Watch your health," he said, "but don't deny yourself of the things you love. However, be moderate in your recreation and consumption habits."

Son, Oral, also highlighted some of the wonderful attributes of his illustrious dad, both as an educator and politician. The grandchildren: Noah, Jared, Elie and Sanjale, also expressed the joy they shared with grandpa and his generous pampering with gifts.

Honorary Elder of St. Charles Presbyterian Church, Mr. Rawlins Latchu, a member of the 80+ Club congratulated Mr. Nagessar on reaching the honorable milestone and wished him God's choicest blessings.

In his reply, Mr. Nagessar thanked Almighty God and all those who had an input in shaping his life and career.

He said that he was particularly blessed to have a lovely and caring life partner in Mrs. Shirley Nagessar, who stood by him in thick and thin, especially during his most challenging years.



SOUTH CENTRAL PRESBYTERY RETREAT

THEME: BUILDING STRONG CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS

SUBMITTED BY MS. JOY SAMMAH

On a brilliant sunny morning, shaded by massive tents, the South Central Presbytery gathered for its retreat at the Hajarysingh's Ranch in Penal on Saturday 9th September, 2023. Members were smartly adorned in our newly acquired and designed Presbytery polo shirts. We were warmly greeted by the Presbytery members of the Penal Pastoral Region who provided a delicious, filling breakfast for all to enjoy. The formal proceedings began promptly at 9:00 a.m. with a vibrant Praise & Worship and devotions led by Presiding Elder, Mr. Carlyle Mohan.

The South-Central Presbytery's Chairperson, Reverend Letra Jacob, graciously welcomed the large gathering. Immediately following, we heard from our Guest Speaker, Dr. Michael Dowlath, Head of CNTR, Oxbridge International School and former Principal of Naparima College. Dr. Dowlath spoke on the Presbytery's theme, beginning with Faith and Trust in our family life, emphasising regular prayer and fellowship and giving our full devotion to Jesus Christ.

To improve our communication, we must be good listeners. A thought-provoking point was made when he spoke about our secret idols, not those that may readily come to mind, but the modern day, technology-driven devices such as our smart phones and tablets which have become an addiction. A Question-and-Answer segment followed Dr. Dowlath's feature address.

After a short tea & coffee break, Ms. Camille Ramdial of Camilleon Consulting was there to provide a Team Building Exercise. Her session was based on Ephesians 4 & 6, selected verses.

The gathering, already seated in four groups, was asked to define one of the four words of the theme, "Building Strong Christian Relationships." It was an interactive session with each group pressing its views on one of the four words which formed the theme. She ended the session with the characteristics of High-Performing Teams.

A pre-catered lunch was served which was enjoyed by all. A short meeting followed during which some pertinent Presbytery information were discussed. The day's event ended with Deaconess Jenifa Sinanan saying the closing prayer.



THE DIAMOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH YOUTH GROUP “ACTIVITIES AUGUST” 2023

Submitted by Tairiq Mathura.

The Diamond Presbyterian Church Youth Group throughout the month of August 2023 engaged in a few activities. The group undertook two charitable events and planned a church outing. Coming out of the Lenten Period and into the planning stages of these projects, scriptures such as Proverbs 19:17 and Matthew 6:1-4 inspired us that this is what God taught us to do.

In addition, as in Matthew 6 where Jesus teaches about charity, he makes it clear not to be boastful in giving so that people may praise you but rather do it in private and such persons will be rewarded by our Father in Heaven. Therefore, let this article not be for show or praises but to uplift and encourage many others within our Presbyterian congregation to do charity within their own churches and communities.

Our first charitable project was to visit the J.C. MacDonald Home for the Aged. A member of the Youth Group, Faith Beharry, volunteered to visit the home on behalf of the group.

On Friday 18th August, 2023, Faith, accompanied by her parents, presented the staff with much needed food items, toiletries, and other groceries.

These were bought with contributions from the congregation. The staff and residents at the home expressed their gratitude for our efforts.

The second project which the Youth Group undertook was to provide Bookstore Vouchers to students-in-need within the church and the schools of our community. The group has seen the need for such action as the hardships of the recent Pandemic left families reeling and many students not being able to get a proper education because of financial struggles. With funds from the congregation and Youth Group, the vouchers were purchased. After being dedicated in church by our Minister, Reverend Stephen Harripersad, the distribution process commenced on Sunday 20th August 2023, to underprivileged students in our Sunday School and the Picton Presbyterian Primary School.

On Sunday 27th August 2023, the Youth Group, together with members of our church, went on what was labelled “The Southern Eruption Tour.” After the youths participated in church service on National Youth Sunday, our church members gathered and left the church’s compound via maxis at 10 a.m.

The Southern Eruption Tour included visits to the Rancho Quemado Cocoa Estate where the members were educated on cocoa harvesting, then to Erin Bouffe Volcanic Park where everyone got a tour of the mud volcanoes and learnt the history of the park. After a lengthy walk through the Volcanic Park, the members then proceeded to Los Iros Beach to enjoy the cool breeze and soak up the refreshing salt water. Lastly, before returning to the church’s compound, the group headed to Aunty Doll’s Chulha for a delightful, mud oven cooked dinner and a short lecture on cooking with chulhas. Despite being sun-burnt and sweat drenched, the day was fun-filled, incident free and everyone enjoyed each other’s fellowship.

The Youth Group thanks God for giving us the inspiration to give back to our community and providing the resources to do so. We also would like to thank our Local Board, the church’s secretary, Youth Coordinators, and all other members of our church for their unwavering support in anything the group does.



UWI PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECT (UWI PYC) AT GUILD FEST 2023

SUBMITTED BY LISANDRA SEECHARAN



From left to right: Deaconess Amber Seesahai-Payne, Gabriella Baldeosingh (Member), Rev. Cynara Dubé-Khan (Chaplain), Aryn Bailey (Treasurer), Stephanie Baldeosingh (President), Lisandra Seecharan (Vice President) and Rev. Bjorn Warde.

On the 6th of September, 2023, the UWI Presbyterian Youth Connect proudly and enthusiastically represented the club at the 2023 UWI Annual Guild Festival, for the first time as an officially registered group of the Guild! Bustling students were captivated by the vibrant greetings of Deaconess Amber Seesahai-Payne, Reverend Cynara Dubé-Khan, Reverend Bjorn Warde and the UWI PYC club members, encouraging them to curiously investigate the booth. Featured was the timeless game of "ring toss" where over 150 participants played for a chance to win from an eclectic mix of prizes, while being welcomed to join the group for prayer sessions, bible studies, outreach initiatives and fellowship. The music, laughter and lively atmosphere kept energy levels high as friendships were made, giving rise to the club membership increasing - by twice the initial member count.

The UWI PYC has been a part of the plethora of dynamic clubs within the University for decades. Members not only congregate to discuss issues both in and out of academics and learn to face these obstacles with the strength of fellowship and prayer, but also to rejoice in each other's achievements and form lifelong friendships. As young adults, it is vital to participate in a support group rooted in the Word of God to help navigate this riveting and fast-paced modern society, as "two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help them up..." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).

The group is now led by the radiant Reverend Cynara Dubé-Khan as Chaplain, from the late and dearly missed Reverend Anthony Rampersad, whose dedication to the club will never be forgotten.

The UWI PYC then invites all Presbyterian UWI students to join in comradeship with us as we face UWI life together!

CUREPE YOUTHS 'WEB' IN SUPPORT

Submitted by Adil Dattoo

The Curepe Presbyterian Church Youth Group continued in its efforts to forge and strengthen bonds amongst its members. The group encouraged the congregation to attend two evenings of family fun which were focused on the interests of the young people with screenings of 'Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse' and 'Spiderman: Across the Spiderverse'. Through the planning and innovation of the Church's multimedia team, attendees were treated to a real cinematic experience in the Lord's house in July, as well as a night under the stars in the church's courtyard in August. The members were also taken care of by the dedication of the events' planning committee as they decorated the hall with colourful balloons to match the theme of the nights' main attraction and set the tables with beautiful centrepieces that could only come from a garden nurtured by God's mighty hands.

Movie-goers were not left missing anything, as they were greeted by the popping of popcorn and were encouraged to enjoy pizza (Spiderman's favourite food), hot dogs and other refreshment provided by the many benevolent members who contributed to the nights' success. They were shaken and blown away as they were engrossed in the action on the screens before them. To further grip the attention and enjoyment, many parents and other adults joined in comradery to watch TKR's impressive victory over the Barbados Royals.

The nights were truly enjoyed by all, as every person in attendance left with a broad smile and the anticipation of more to come from the group.



CONGRATULATIONS MS. PIERRE!

Congratulations on achieving 50 years in the field of education

On behalf of thousands of past pupils and hundreds of colleagues in education I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Lynette Beharry-Pierre on achieving a golden milestone in the field of education. Ms. Beharry-Pierre started her career in October 1973 (Teachers' Month) through the Presbyterian School Board. Her career as an educator took her through Primary, Secondary and Tertiary.

She has not stopped teaching. Her mission has been seamless up to this day as she is still a practicing tutor.

She would like to thank the Presbyterian Church for blessing her with this wonderful opportunity. Mrs Lynette Beharry - Pierre is from the San Juan / Santa Cruz/ Woodbrook Pastoral region and worships at the Santa Cruz Presbyterian Church.

Congratulations Ms. Pierre!



“LIFE”

POEM BY ELIJAH MOTIERAM MBA

In the journey of life, I sit this Saturday morning in muse,
Reflecting on the choices we all choose,
Observing how we live and play our part,
And wonder why we humans act this art.

Especially Christians, I must confess,
In church, we come, our spirits to address,
Yet sometimes, simple greetings go astray,
Noses high, we judge, chastise, reproach, and lose our way.

We occupy our landmark pew with pride,
Ignoring next door those who may be hurting inside,
As leaders, we should lead with hearts that care,
Not just for titles, but the love Christ asked us share.

At work, we strive to climb the ladder tall,
But do we measure worth by others' who while fall while we have the ball?
Eroding contributions, we compete,
Forgetting empathy, a bond to beat.

Jealousy, a bitter seed, we sow,
Forgetting that each journey's pace is slow,
Instead of lifting others' dreams so bright,
We dim the stars, obscuring the hope of others from sight.

We speak ill words about our fellow man,
Yet stand in grief when death takes its own hand,
Such hypocrisy with boldness, a mask we wear,
While deep inside, we all crave love and care.

Let's turn the mirror inward and reflect,
Correct our ways, our kindness to perfect,
For life is short, and time will not delay,
To mend our hearts and walk a better Christlike way.

Let love be genuine, and judgments cease,
Embrace compassion, find true inner peace,
In church, at work, in every walk of life,
Let's strive to be a beacon, free from strife.

So, as I sit and watch, introspecting deep,
I pray we find the path we all should keep,
To build a world where love and truth reside,
And shine as one, with hearts and souls allied.



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IN LOVING MEMORY

Sylvia Ramlochan

SUNRISE: 09th March, 1929
SUNSET: 07th October, 2012

11th Death Anniversary
Riversdale Pres Church

Missed by daughter
- Joyce
Grandchildren
- Wendy and Jason
Grand daughter-in-law
- Shobha
Great grandson
- Timothy



Janet Maharaj Singh

SUNRISE: 07th January, 1948
SUNSET: 16th September, 2023

Will be lovingly remembered by:

-Her Husband Amar
-Her Siblings
-Family & Friends

Janet was a past employee of
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May her soul continue to Rest in Peace





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Read your Bible October

"Take Refuge in the LORD & Walk In His Ways"

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Psalm 25:1-9 | Philippians 1:3-14 | Philippians 1:15-21 | Matthew 9:2-8 | Colossians 2:16-23 | Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a | John 7:40-52 |
| Psalm 80:7-15 | 1 Peter 2:4-10 | 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 | John 11:45-57 | 1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14 | James 4:4-10 | Mark 2:18-22 |
| Psalm 23 | Jude 17-25 | Philippians 3:13-4:1 | John 6:25-35 | 3 John 9-12 | 1 Peter 5:1-5 | Matthew 14:1-12 |
| Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13) | Daniel 3:1-18 | Daniel 3:19-30 | Daniel 6:1-28 | Numbers 5:5-10 | Deuteronomy 9:25-10:5 | Proverbs 24:23-34 |
| Psalm 1 | Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25 | Deuteronomy 10:10-22 | | | | |

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