



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

THE FAMILY NEWS

George Town Charge

Volume 74, May 2011

Mission Statement: The George Town Charge exists to love God, love others and make disciples.

Minister:

Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle

Office & Mailing Address:

48 Harbour Drive, George Town
P.O. Box 494
Grand Cayman KY1-1106

Web Site:

www. <http://cayman.com.ky/org/elmslie>

Council Web Site:

www.unitedchurch.org.ky

Office Hours:

Mondays - Fridays

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Phone: 345-949-7923

Fax: 345-949-1723

E-mail: elmslie@candw.ky

Council E-mail: cicucjci@candw.ky

Office Staff:

John Macmillan, Administrator

Ray McLeod, Youth Director

Diana Bodden, Office Assistant

Service Times

Sundays:

Elmslie Memorial United

48 Harbour Drive, George Town
10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

George Hicks Memorial United

44 South Sound Road
9:00 a.m.

Rev. George Hicks (Part 1)

by Michael Bowerman

When the name **George Hicks** is called here in Cayman, most people immediately think of the high school of that name. Some, perhaps, might know of the little church located almost opposite Walkers Road as it joins South Sound.

What many may not realise, however – unless they were living on the island more than 40 years ago - is that both of these were named after a minister who served the George Town Charge longer than any other. Mr. Hicks, as he was better known, was the Presbyterian minister from 1936 to 1961 and, like many better-educated “expatriates” of the period, was closely involved with government and society beyond his responsibilities as a minister. It was in the area of education he was best known as he recruited many of the teachers of the time and also served as the inspector of schools. It was during his term as minister that the Cayman High School was started by the church in 1949. He was greatly instrumental in this. In fact, while waiting for the appointed headmaster, **Rev. John Gray**, to arrive, he opened the school and served several months as interim head. Cayman High was later taken over by Government and at the end of the 1970s split to form a senior and a junior high school which were to be named after Mr. Gray and Mr. Hicks.

His ancestry can be traced back to the Pilgrim Fathers when **Robert Hicks** landed at the Plymouth Colony from England in 1620 followed by his brother **Thomas** in about 1623.

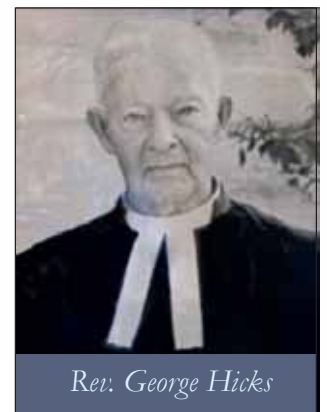
George is the eighth generation down from Thomas.

However, it was about his father that most is known. A lawyer, a newspaper man and an educationist in Illinois, **George Hicks Sr.** signed up with the Unionist 96th Illinois Volunteer Regiment at the outbreak of the Civil War in 1862 and became first a captain and later a major and colonel. From all reports, he had remarkable success during the war.

In 1875, he moved to Jamaica for health reasons. He had a sister who had come as a missionary and who later married the Hon. Thomas Oughton, Jamaica's Attorney General. Colonel Hicks became a naturalised Jamaican and was very involved with education in Jamaica, becoming Inspector of Schools into his seventy ninth year, as well as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

In 1886, he married Suzette Walder whose Swiss parents worked as Moravian missionaries in Manchester. Suzette was a highly educated, talented lady who, among other things, started up the Bethlehem Teachers' College in St. Elizabeth. They had three children. The oldest, born September 29th, 1888, was named George Oughton Walder Hicks. He was to serve and later die in Grand Cayman. Two daughters, Lily and Eda, were to follow.

The Hicks family lived in Half Way Tree in Kingston, next door to a Scottish family with whom they became close friends, the Balfours. It was one of their daughters that Mr. Hicks was to marry.



Rev. George Hicks



... to be continued

From the Pastor's Desk

“Let's Stay Together” a Success

On Monday, April 4th, close to 80 persons gathered in the Margaritaville restaurant for the final session of the “Let's Stay Together” marriage enrichment series. Many of the couples felt they gained a lot from coming and feel other couples would benefit from a similar programme in the future. One couple who had been married for over thirty-five years travelled from North Side each of the eight weeks to catch the sessions and said it was well worth the effort. The programme made use of the Alpha Marriage Course material which is used by many churches around the world. With the genuine need in Cayman for more stable unions, “Let's Stay Together” could become a valuable service that our church can offer to our community.

Alpha's Coming Again

Speaking of Alpha, after two successful courses conducted last year beginning in May and September, we are gearing up for another Alpha series starting on May 10th. Alpha is an opportunity to find out more about the basics of the Christian faith. Each evening begins with a meal and in a relaxed, non-threatening setting you have an opportunity to discuss any question you might have and to learn more about topics such as “Who is Jesus?”, “Why did Jesus die?”, “Why and how do I pray?” and “Does God heal today?”. Alpha runs on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for ten weeks. Anyone can benefit from Alpha whether you are not a Christian or have been one for a long time. So, sign up for Alpha and bring a friend or relative from your home or work. You can also support Alpha by praying for its success, by providing a meal one of the evenings, by taking and displaying one of the posters in your office or by making a contribution to cover the cost of the meals.

Serving One Another

Alpha provides one opportunity for us to serve others and that culture of serving one another and serving our community is something I want to continue to encourage among us. In this regard let me thank all those who served our community by participating in the Chamber of Commerce clean-up campaign a few weekends ago. Let me also continue to urge everyone and especially all our home groups to be on the lookout for community service projects you can do as you extend God's love to our community. Another way you can serve others is to welcome guests who come to church. Have you noticed any new faces at church lately? What have you done to make them feel welcomed and want to return? Over the last few weeks we welcomed seven new persons into membership (one at George Hicks and six at Elmslie). Let us do all we can to make them an active part of the church family. For each of them it all began with a first visit when they felt at home enough to want to become members. You can help each person's quest to transition from just visiting to becoming a member. Some people have in the past invited guests to lunch after church or to a home group and you can do the same. We welcome others because God has told us to be people of hospitality but also because we are patterning a life of service that Christ lived. Christ said he did not come “...to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” That is the attitude we too should have. Is there some area of the church's life in which God might be calling you to serve? Is there someone who needs encouragement who you can call or visit?



Rev. Dave Hazle

Continued on page 3

United Church Sports Day

by Ray McLeod, Youth Director

At the recently held sports day, our children and young people racked up an impressive 196 points to finish first, yet again, with a clear 47 points more than the team that finished second. What a day it was! Nearly 100 Elmslie supporters, officials and athletes descended on the grounds of the Old Man Bay football field (North Side) in a red flood, filling every aspect of the event with strong representation and a vociferous clamour of support. In spite of the many excellent performances by the other teams that participated, there was no parting the red sea that was Elmslie as our team was determined to put on an excellent showing of their own. In the end, our athletes, netball, football and tug-o-war teams were too much to overcome and the victory shout was sounded long before the final event, even amidst the knell that was sounded for the other teams.



Jennelle and Raje receive the winning trophy

Our dominance however is not to be mistaken as a brute show of power. Far from it. Rather, it was a clinical expression of grace and dignity. Our kids conducted themselves well and demonstrated good sportsmanship and humility in the events we won and much maturity and class in the events we lost. As such, we came away winners in the character that was displayed as well as in terms of points amassed.

The efforts of our children and youth were well supported by the many youth workers and volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scene. The kids were fed breakfast before the sports day and lunch throughout the day. One person even marveled that the strength showed by the undefeated tug-o-war teams was the result of the solid food they were fed by **Miss Francella** and **Aunt Jan** on Friday nights! The person who said that was on to something. I could call the names of all who helped, but I don't think it would be their style. Their help and contribution was an act of the relentless love and commitment that they have for our children and young people and it is heart moving to watch.

There is one name, however, that should be mentioned and that is Nelly (**Jennelle M^oLaughlin**). Nelly was entrusted with the responsibility of organizing Elmslie's team and she did a fantastic job! As team captain, she ensured that every single event was covered and she did it in fine style. Well done, Nelly!

And so our children and young people have done well in winning the sports day and in representing the church. This should be motivation for every single member and adherent of the church to rally behind and around them in giving them all the support and encouragement they need to feel at home and loved in church and also to feel hopeful and excited about serving the LORD. All are welcomed to serve this very special group in our church family.

**Some Quotable Quotes about the Cross
and Resurrection of Christ** (Anonymous unless stated)

**“Crucified, laid behind the stone,
You lived and died, rejected and alone;
Like a rose trampled on the ground,
You took the fall and thought off me, above all.”** (Lenny LeBlanc and Paul Baloche)

“It was our sin, not the nails, that held Jesus to the cross.”

“The cross does not make me realize how I feel about my sin but how God feels about my sin.”

“Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned he stood;
Sealed my pardon with his blood;
Hallelujah! What a Saviour!” (Philip Bliss)

**“Upon that cross of Jesus mine eyes at times can see
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears, two wonders I confess –
The wonders of redeeming love, and my unworthiness.”** (Elizabeth Cecelia Clephane)

**“Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows his head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;
‘Finished!’ the vict’ry cry.**

**This, the pow’r of the cross:
Son of God – slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!**

We stand forgiven at the cross.” (Stuart Townend and Keith Getty)

“We live and die; Christ died and lives” (John Stott).

“If Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless, and you are still under condemnation for your sins... But the fact is that Christ has been raised from the dead. He has become the first of a great harvest of those who will be raised to life again... Christ was raised first; then when Christ comes back, all his people will be raised.” (Paul in 1 Corinthians 15: 17, 20 and 23 - NLT)

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Paul in Romans 10:9)

From the Pastor’s Desk (continued from page 2)

As we have been learning in our study in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus was a suffering servant and service must be the hallmark of people who follow Christ. Moreover, we must be willing to serve even when it hurts, even when it requires sacrifice. That is the kind of service that those on our mission team to Haiti are offering while they are there, and we commend them for their willingness to put aside their personal comfort to serve the people of Haiti. My prayer for each of us is that we will learn from the example of the suffering servant, the Lord Jesus, who made the ultimate sacrifice to serve us. May we find joy and fulfillment in serving others as Christ did.

Elmslie Offering			
March	Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Missions	\$ 3,970.95	\$14,505.91	\$ 13, 625.00
General	\$32,055.67	\$96,911.34	\$108,750.00

ELMSLIE DEBT MINISTRY
“Get Out of Debt”



Heavy Debt Load? – we can help

There are many in Cayman who have debt problems. During the present bad economic times this problem has only increased. I know from personal experience that there are many in our church that also have money worries. There is no agency in Cayman, Christian or otherwise, that offers any help.

The Get Out of Debt Ministry at Elmslie can help those with debt problems. I believe that this ministry is of both practical help and a witness opportunity. The help will **not** be by way of a monetary handout but practical advice on how to solve or mitigate the problem and equally important how to keep debt within manageable limits. This ministry is here to offer help for anyone in George Town or indeed in Cayman.

Often people have allowed debt to build up over time and are way behind with their repayments. The bank has written to them but they ignore the letters, either in ignorance or fear. There is no one to turn to for help and advice and they are too frightened to speak with the bank. Even if they do call the Bank, the response they get is far from helpful. Finally, court action is taken and soon it is too late. The earlier that help is sought the more chance there is of practical solutions. I hope that by Elmslie publicising this ministry within the church we can encourage those with problems to come forward.

Confidentiality will be assured

A dedicated telephone line has been set up in the church office. This will be answered only by those involved in this ministry. If there is no one to answer the telephone then the call will be picked up by voicemail. Only those involved in this ministry will be able to access the voicemail. The telephone will be manned on a regular basis. Confidential appointments will be made either in a private room in the church office or elsewhere if preferred.

There will be no charge for the advice or help. Do not be afraid to call 946 1731.

Richard Coles

Happy 50th Birthday, Rev. Dave!



Rev. Dave will be turning 50 on 10th May. Many congratulations and best wishes for the next fifty!

“Let’s Stay Together” - A Great Success

by Richard Trull

The Alpha Marriage Course, the weekly evening programme which Elmslie and Margaritaville partnered successfully together, was both good fun and we learned lots!

Thirty-eight couples signed up, including those recently married and those married over thirty years. Couples sat at candle-lit tables for two allowing for private conversation, and enjoyed a tempting, unique meal and soft music each Monday evening.

The videos presented by **Nicky and Cilla Lee** were excellent, featuring laughter and life lessons, with different couples who had taken the marriage course explaining candidly how it had made weak marriages strong and strong marriages stronger.

The exercises were relevant, enjoyable and not too long. Husbands and wives both said they were able to share together loving memories they hadn’t since they were courting!

The foods and drinks were tasty and the ambiance relaxing. The childcare facility at Elmslie helped make it just right for couples to enjoy a quiet evening out after a busy day.

Thanks go to Rev. Dave, the ‘Let’s Stay Together’ Team and Manager Chris at Margaritaville who made every evening something to look forward to and to fondly remember. Let’s hope that ‘Let’s Stay Together’ comes again. If it does, be sure to sign up early. You will be glad you did!

Special May Birthday

Happy Birthday to
Lorna Reid
who turns 55 on 6th May



Deaths

We offer our sympathy and prayers to
David Rennie (Head of the Maths Department at Cayman Prep and High School) who recently lost his wife, Antoinette, after a prolonged illness.

George Town Charge Elders

Elmslie:

Marco Archer	946-1207
Michael Bowerman	949-2232
Nicky Godfrey	949-0357
Gwen Hughes-Coward	947-1603
Janet Macmillan	949-2434
John Macmillan	949-2434
Ellen McField	926-2949
Lorna Reid	947-6616
Richard Trull	945-6067
Sue Trull	945-6067
Alan Turner	946-2258

George Hicks:

Clive Hinds	949-9387
Jennifer Smith	949-8025
Phil Thomas	949-6993

Team to Guichard



From left, back: Thomas Myles, Michael Bowerman, Dwight McFarland.
Front: Kayla Powell and Kristen Charlery



Earth Day Cleanup

Pictured left to right: Marco Archer, John Macmillan, Sharon Walmsley and Rev. Dave

Haiti Fundraising Lunch



HOW TO MAKE CHURCH BRILLIANT

