The bi-annual Convocation took place on 22nd April in the Cayman Prep and High School hall on Walkers Road. Members from all the churches were in attendance, ensuring a full hall.

The theme for the service was Disciples of Peace, and pointed to Jesus as the “Peace Speaker”. Rev. Tara Tyme Campbell, a previous minister at John Gray Memorial, was the guest speaker and used as her text, “Blessed are the peacemakers,” encouraging the congregation to be instruments of peace in the world. Also in attendance was the United Church’s General Secretary, Rev. Norbert Stephens, and the communion was led by the Moderator (and our minister), Rt. Rev. L. Christopher Mason.

During the service, the new Executive of Council was commissioned, and John Macmillan was recommissioned as a lay pastor, with responsibility for the Robert Young Memorial Church. There was also a potter who created a ‘monkey jar’ which was inspired by the worship service.

The children and young people had their own activities, and following the service, chairs were laid out in “peace circles” for lunch. Those attending were encouraged to take away a seedling to nurture and grow as the day also coincided with Earth Day.
In 2016, a duplex located on Woodland Drive in Lower Valley was gifted to the United Church and, after renovations, was dedicated on Saturday, 21st April, to the glory of God for the mission and ministry of the church.

The house has been let for an initial period of six months to Samaritan’s Purse which has been bringing children from countries such as Mongolia, Uganda and Bolivia for heart surgery provided on a charitable basis by Health City. Typically, two children come with their mothers and an interpreter and, to date, homes have been found among members of various churches. However, the Mission House will now provide accommodation, although help is still needed from the churches with food and transportation.

The Mission House and Samaritan’s Purse

Dedication of the new Mission House

Angela Martins, Chair of Council (second left), with the Samaritan’s Purse team of Theresa, Sheena and Debbie

Elmslie Offering

<table>
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<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>Month Giving</th>
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How You Might Pray for the Government

The Apostle Paul often addressed the importance of “being subject to governing authorities” - for example, in Romans 13:1 - but he also made it clear that it was the responsibility of God’s people to pray for them, too. He wrote in 1 Timothy 2:1-2, “I urge, ... first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority...” (our emphasis). We are often unsure as to how and what to pray, however.

With this in mind, The Family News reached out to Marco Archer, a member at Elmslie who also served as Minister of Finance in the last Government, to ask him how the church might pray for members of the Government.

This is what he replied:

“Firstly, the Government is ordained by God to be servants of God and for the good of the people. Therefore, the church should pray that members of the Government will understand their role and their place in the relationship between God who ordained them and the people they lead. Without a clear understanding of this truth the Government might become confused, arrogant and ineffective.

Therefore, the church ought to pray the following for the Government and its members:

1. That they will seek the Lord in prayer for wisdom to know and do what is right and proper, not only what is popular and pleasing to the people;
2. That they will be humble, with a servant's heart; that they would really want to serve and not be arrogant;
3. That they will have integrity and resist the temptation to be led astray;
4. That they will receive proper advice in dealing with the UK in matters affecting our financial services industry;
5. That they will be successful in their efforts to fight crime and keep us safe.
**Mission Trip Planned for Late October**

At the request of **Joan Page Bain**, our missionary nurse in Guichard, Haiti, the Global Missions Committee has given the green light for a short-term mission trip the week of 27th October to 3rd November.

Planning for this is just beginning but the hope is to take a team of people to minister in a variety of ways: in building work, among children, in the clinic, helping with church services and in leadership training – and in other ways according to the abilities and gifts offered. So, the committee is encouraging everyone to pray and consider joining the team – the more the better! Many of those who have been before, even those who were reluctant at first, have testified as to the great impact a mission trip has had on them and the way it has helped them grow in their spiritual lives.

The committee is particularly seeking someone who might offer to work on the logistics and arrangements. Please pray about this, and if you feel God prompting you, please let **Mike Bowerman** (925-4590 or bowerman@candw.ky) or a member of the committee know.

Details, including costs, have not as yet been ascertained but in the course of time these will be disseminated. The potential team will also be meeting regularly for prayer, leading up to the trip, when it begins to take shape.

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**The Olive Miller Award**

At the annual Convocation on 22nd April, an award in honour of **Mrs. Olive Miller** was created. A citation was read, acknowledging her achievements and legacy, listing the many ways she had contributed to the island but especially to the Church during her many years in Cayman. The first Olive Miller Inaugural Award was presented to **Madda Whittaker** for her outstanding commitment and dedication to the young people of the island, especially for her work in the youth programme, Sunday school and the Girls Brigade at Elmslie. It was appropriate for Ms. Olive herself to have presented this, having been Madda’s mentor and source of inspiration for many years.
The Bethesda Counselling Centre which is owned and operated by the Regional Mission Council is seeking to employ an experienced and competent receptionist/clerical officer. A detailed job description is available from the Council office and can be obtained by emailing rdgs@cicucjci.com. Applications should be submitted as soon as possible to the Regional Deputy General Secretary at the above email address.

**Receptionist/ Clerical Officer Needed**

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**Condoiences**

Sheila Ridgway, nee Lockwood, died on Thursday morning at her home in Thame, England after a long battle with Parkinson’s Disease. She will be remembered by many at the Cayman Island High School where she taught maths during the 1970s and by some at Elmslie where she was a member as well as being an officer in the Girls Brigade. She leaves her husband, Robert, and two daughter, Margaret and Anne, and their families.

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**Benevolent Fund Helps People in Need**

Elmslie Church recently started a drive to develop a benevolent fund. The purpose of this fund is to allow the church to be more responsive to sudden emergency needs in the community as well as among church members. Presently our resources tend to restrict the response to only the provision of food for a meal or two. While this has mostly worked in the past, there have been situations where the need is greater and have been outside the resources immediately available. A fund in hand allows us to better touch lives at their point of need. This is being achieved by a second offering at communion services - the service on the first Sunday of each month.

The Benevolent Fund has already helped pay the rent for a mother and her three children and another person has been supplied some needed clothing. As needs arise and are identified, consideration is given to provide assistance following a thorough check in order that funds are used carefully and wisely.

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**Birthday Celebration for Rev. Chris**

During a birthday celebration thrown in his honour on Saturday 19th May by congregants of Elmslie, Rev. Chris cuts his cake with help from others who also celebrate birthdays in May.

Rev. Chris on his birthday following the Sunday morning service at Elmslie, with congregants, Ellen McField, Rochelle Pryce and her daughter, Faith.