

THIS CHRISTMAS- MINISTRY BEYOND THE SURFACE



Campers participated in the delivery of meals from 'Meals on Wheels' as part of their Camp ministry experience. (Pencil sketch used to preserve dignity)

The reading from the Gospel of Luke this Sunday brings the **Magnificat** to our attention. Luke's Gospel, in general underscores **God's preferential care** towards the humble, the hungry, and the deprived, and God's verdict upon the self-indulgent. Mary's Song invites us to reflect on the **surprising inversion in God's actions**; 'He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly', He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty'.

Advent and Christmas call us towards the infant Christ in a Manger, **indeed a place of humility**. We note that the first hearers of the News – the Shepherds were the **marginalized** of the society and that they responded eagerly to News of the Christ Child. We are not told of their gift, but could it be that **they gave to Jesus gifts beyond the majesty of the Magi?** Could it be that the commonality of being impoverished made the Shepherds offer the greatest gift - that of **love and presence** with the family in the Manger?

By nature, we tend to be **embarrassed** when we encounter the poor and we want to disappear from their eyes or we sometimes wish they would disappear from our eyes. **Especially in an opulent society**, it is very easy to forget that poverty finds its rank among us. We tend to blame the poor for their poverty and speak of the ways in which the poor waste their time, talent and substance, hence their abject situation.

In the Cayman Islands poverty is real for some families even at this Christmas time. The tendency of some of those in need is to at times **shade their reality in order to preserve what is left of their dignity**. This is so because sometimes persons in need are often left to feel abashed by their condition, hence the pretense that all is well.

As Church, we must be mindful of a tendency to have a **'token'** approach towards the poor. We may be giving just enough to appear caring, but **we sometimes do not wish to be touched** or moved by the needs around us. This Christmas, let us invite the unlikely to our table, **spend some time** with the mean and lowly, **embrace** the sick, **walk** with the lonely, **share** with those who possess nothing or very little. Let us become more mindful and aware of ministries with and for those we tend not to see in our midst. Let us **go beyond the surface** this Christmas. Blessings and Peace this Christmas.



CAYMAN ISLANDS
REGIONAL MISSION
COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE!

December 20, 2018

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The Magnificat

And Mary said, **"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of His servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name. His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, according to the promise He made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**

Luke 1: 46-55

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 23 –Cantata –JGMC– 10:00 am
December 23 Christmas Musical Morning Service – Elmslie Memorial -10:00 am
December 24, Christmas Eve Service – JGMC and Elmslie Memorial – 7:00 pm
December 25 – Services in Congregations except South Sound and Robert Young.
December 31 - Watch Night Services-except at WPMUC, Gun Bay, Robert Young and South Sound

KNOW YOUR UCJCI CONSTITUTION

5. The Sacrament

Baptism

While the operations of Divine Grace cannot be limited by us, means of grace were instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ by which we are united to God and through which God works in us. The United Church believes that the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are two such means of grace.

Inasmuch as the uniting Churches have historically administered the Sacrament of Baptism through various forms, to both infants and adults, but with a fundamental agreement as to the meaning of baptism; the United Church shall administer baptism to infants as well as adults with water by either immersion or sprinkling in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Sacrament of Baptism shall be administered by an ordained minister, or by one who has received authority thereto by the Church.

Members of the Savannah United Church Choir shared the gift of music at the Crighton's Property on Sunday, December 16, 2018.



United Church members, Olga Gourzong, Olive Miller and Marissa Crawford enjoying the Savannah Newlands Seniors' Christmas Party at Pedro St. James. Picture compliments – Cayman Compass Dec.20,2018



December 2018
THEME: ADVOCACY

December 23- Rt. Rev. L. C Mason
December 30- Rev. Dr. Y. Noble-Bloomfield
 Every Sunday at 7:45am on Radio Cayman

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