



Meadowbrook Focus

Newsletter of the Meadowbrook United Church

Lent/Easter eEdition

April 2014

www.meadunited.org

Our Mission



"As followers of Christ, the "Meadowbrook United Church exists to glorify God and to live out God's purpose for salvation by reflecting the unconditional love of God through dynamic Christian worship, mutual care & support, active community engagement and proactive servant leadership, working towards peace and harmony in community".

Special Occasions



13 April 2014

Palm Sunday

18 April 2014

Good Friday

21 April 2014

Easter Monday

23 May 2014

Labour Day

5-12 July 2014

Visit from Woods Presbyterian
Church Youth (Maryland,
USA)

Mark Your Calendar



18 April 2014

Youth Cantata

Meadowbrook United Church

1 June 2014

Feast of Music

Jamaica Pegasus Hotel

July 2014

Convocation

Montego Bay Convention
Centre

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From the Ministers' desks



*Rev Norman Francis –
Minister of the MUC*

Can you believe it? In another couple of weeks we'll all be observing Easter – the oldest and most important observance of the Christian calendar. Easter reminds us that good is stronger than evil, that light is stronger than darkness and that life is stronger than death! We must never get tired in proclaiming this truth – it is the foundation of our Christian faith!

As I thought about this, my mind leapt forward to the courtroom scene in which Jesus stands before Pilate in his hall of judgment in the early hours of Good Friday. In what has been described as more of an interview than a trial, an interesting exchange develops between Jesus and this Roman ruler. In response to Jesus' statement that *"everyone on the side of truth listens to me"* (John 18:37), Pilate replies by asking, *"What is truth?"* (18:38).

For many years I simply thought that Pilate, in raising this question was being cynical; that he was simply demonstrating that his patience with Jesus had worn thin. But on further reflection on this question, I have now come to the conclusion that this question, far from being asked with sarcasm, was probably raised by Pilate in a genuine effort to come to grips with an understanding of the truth.

In our modern era in which so many brands and varieties of truth are being purveyed within the Christian tradition, one always needs to be asking the question: "What is truth?" Is it simply whatever I believe it to be? Is it always the side taken by the majority? Or is truth a reality that rises above our private notions of what is real and certain?

How then can I know the truth in a situation where opposing views are bandied about as the truth? How do we begin to resolve this impasse? First, I believe we must be prepared to concede that none of us possess a monopoly on the truth, and that we must therefore be prepared to listen to and respect the beliefs of others, even when we don't agree with them. And we must always be willing to challenge ourselves to test what we believe; to ask the tough questions of the things we've uncritically accepted as truth simply because that's what we've *always* believed. That can be pretty scary, but in the end we'll have a faith that is our very own and not that of someone else who tells us what we ought to believe. There's no substitute for that!

May God lead us into all truth this Easter as we reflect on the measurelessness of God's love as revealed in Jesus Christ, whose death and resurrection we celebrate. Now, *that's* truth!

Rev Norman O. Francis



*Rev Nevroy Francis –
Associate Minister of the
MUC*

Easter Joy

*Jesus our Lord was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification.
(Romans 4: 24-25 RSV).*

We do not celebrate Easter to the extent that we celebrate Christmas. If there were no resurrection, then Christ was born, lived, and died in vain. There would be no New Testament, no church, no Christianity and no hope.

- **The resurrection means the assurance of forgiveness.** One writer has pointed out that the very first appearance of the Risen Christ was to Peter.

Christ appeared to Peter that He might forgive Peter for denying Him 3 times. He paid the debt and opened up the way to the Father. We can be forgiven as surely as Simon Peter was forgiven.

- **The resurrection gives us bright hope.** John Masfield, the late poet laureate of Great Britain, wrote a poem titled “The Widow in the Bye Street” in which a young convicted criminal was to be hanged publicly. His mother was in the crowd of onlookers. The rope came down and did its work. The mother muttered over and over about “broken things too broke to mend”. That is the essence of despair. The disciples despaired like that. Remember the two on the way to Emmaus? They said to the stranger who walked with them, “We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel” (St. Luke 24:21). Oh, what high hopes they had! They really thought the Messiah had come in Jesus. “We had hoped,” they said. Those disciples saw the death of Christ as broken things “too broke to mend.”

Then Easter came, and suddenly they saw something they never suspected. That is what God can do with our despair. Easter gives us hope beyond the grave, of glory, of our own resurrection.

Resurrection means forgiveness, hope and victory over sin, evil and death. ***Victory – that is what Easter is all about.*** Good Friday turned into bright Easter morning with life and joy and a crown, not a cross; with laughter and victory, not pain.

One of the great themes of Christian theology is *Christus Victor*, “Christ is the Victor!” You see, God does not save us from suffering and death. He saves us through suffering and death – His own. He gives us strength, courage and grace. ***Easter means that we have a future – a bright future in Christ.*** Therefore, lift up your hearts with faith, for your redemption draweth nigh! For now in Christ risen, the hope of glory!

Rev Nevroy Francis

Highlights from Harvest Ingathering 2014



Harvest is a time of gathering and giving back of the best of what God has blessed us with.

The Harvest Ingathering service was held on **23 February 2014**.

The 2014 Harvest Committee Members were:

John Allen (chair), Edna McLean, Marcia Carara, Maxine Chung, Orette Staple, Persis Clarke, Robert Thomas, Sarah Palmer and Daphne Nelson, who headed the ingathering by birth months.

As at 9 March 2014, the gross proceeds from the Harvest Ingathering activities for 2014 was \$1,360,000. These proceeds will be used to carry out the activities of the church including outreach.



What are the different Management teams within MUC?



There are 6 Management Teams led by Elders. Their role is to provide oversight and practical support to all Mission Action Teams (MAT) under the respective programme areas of the church.

These are:

- **Youth**
The main objective is to encourage wider participation of young persons in the life and witness of the church and to encourage growth.
- **Finance, Property & Administration (FPA)**
This team supervises all the financial, administrative and property affairs of the church.
- **Education, Fellowship & Care (EFC)**
EFC seeks to promote Christian nurturing and discipleship by managing the church's educational programmes. It also organizes programmes to enhance fellowship among members.
- **Interchurch & Social Services (ISS)**
To promote goodwill and fellowship and collaboration with the community and partners of the church.
- **Communication & Technology (C&T)**
To improve and enhance internal and external communications in order to enrich the worship experience.
- **Stewardship, Evangelism & Worship (SEW)**
To enhance the worship experience of those attending service, and develop and promote an inspiring, enriching and spiritually fulfilling worship experience for all services.

Health Corner



Try this quick healthy and economical alternative to the usual sweet and extra spicy commercial Easter Buns.

Quick Healthy Raisin Bread

by Carol Burgher

SIEVE TOGETHER

8 oz all purpose flour

1 tsp baking soda

½ tsp salt (optional)

1 tsp mixed spice (nutmeg/cinnamon/cloves)

ADD

4 oz oats*

4 oz raisins

4 oz mixed peel

BLEND TOGETHER

1 egg

2 oz melted butter or margarine OR

2 tsp oil

2 oz sugar

1 TBspn molasses

1 cup milk

⅓ cup orange juice

METHOD

Make a well in centre of the dry ingredients and add milk mixture. Stir until just combined.

Place in a greased and floured loaf tin and bake at 350°F until done; takes approximately 45 minutes.

* Variation:

Use grated coconut, pumpkin or carrot instead of oats.

Serves 8 – 10 persons; can be eaten by itself or with cheese.



Poem: The Still Small Voice



by Maisie E. Gore

I walked the earth in all its beauty
Savouring all its pleasures
Bearing all its pains and bruises
Learning life's lessons
Sharing life's burdens
Longing for life's successes
Searching along life's way for guidance
I turned a corner one day

Knowing that I was lost but must go on
Listening for the still small voice
Saying "Come to me all you who are heavily
laden
For my burden is light"
So now I walk the earth in all its beauty
Keeping close to Him who is whispering in
my ear

News from the Community

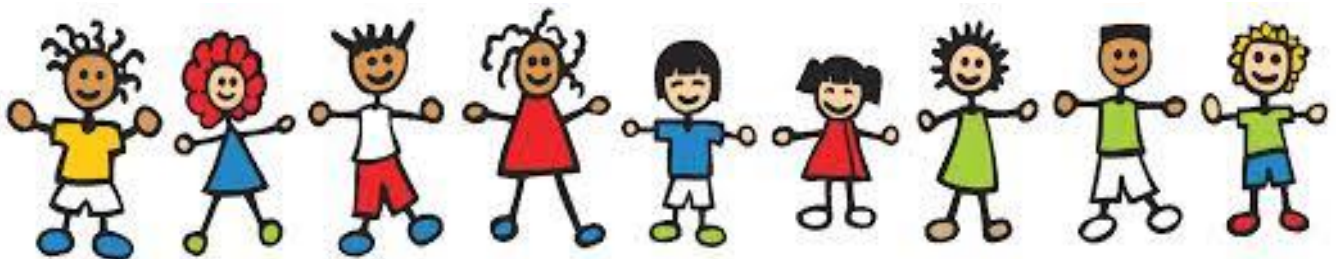


Coming September 2014...

...the opening of Meadowbrook Preparatory School Nursery

The nursery will cater for children 6 months to 3 years. The fees are affordable.

Register now!



Children's Corner: What is prayer?



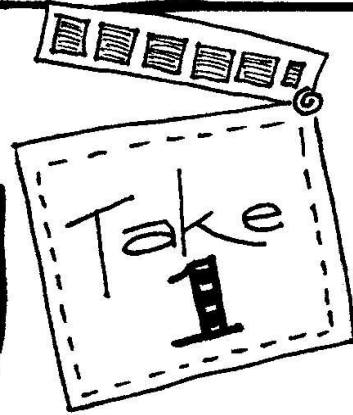
Prayer is talking to God the Father, through Jesus Christ the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. For example, The Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's prayer is what we call the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples when they asked Him to teach them how to pray.

When we talk to God, we don't have to talk to a bunch of people in between, and what we say NEVER gets mixed up or garbled.

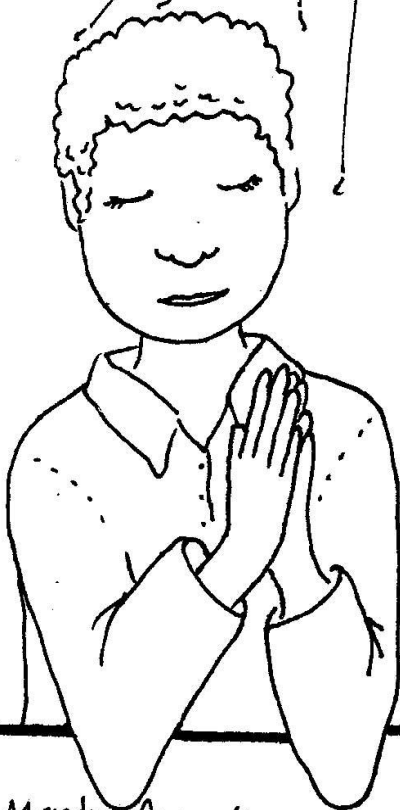
Fun activity: Print out the next page and colour in our friends who are praying.

How2pray



THE WHO...

Dear Father in heaven



Mandy Groce '11

ministry-to-children.com

Humour



A Husband and his wife

There was a husband and his wife who went shopping. The husband begged his wife not to buy any more new clothes.

She saw this dress in the window and decided to try it on. She liked it so much that she bought the dress in secret.

Couple of days later, the husband discovered the dress. Needless to say, he was very upset.

She explained to him that when she tried it on, it looked so good that Satan tempted her to buy it and she just couldn't resist it.

The husband asked: "Then why didn't you do what the Scripture says, and say get behind me Satan?"

The wife in great desperation responded: "But I did and he told me that it looked even better from the distance."

Logo Competition




Calling all aspiring artists

You are invited to enter our Meadowbrook's 55th anniversary logo competition. Entry forms with details are available from the Church's office, or can be accessed from our website at www.meadunited.org.

Closing date: 30 April 2014

The MUC Dance Ministry



**MEADOWBROOK UNITED
CHURCH
DANCE MINISTRY**

INVITES YOU TO
**JOIN THE
MOVEMENT**

WORSHIP | DANCE | MINISTRY

Junior Ministry: 5-12 years old
Rehearsals: Saturdays, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Senior Ministry: 13 years and over
Rehearsals: Sundays, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

@ Meadowbrook United Church
2 Flemington Drive, Kingston 19
Church Hall (Upstairs)

For further information contact
367-4604 | 505-2474