

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, PORT MARIA, ST. MARY

E-EMMANUEL

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May 19, 2013

EDITORIAL: A TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Today is a day of celebration! As a church, we celebrate and give God thanks for 185 years of Christian witness in the Port Maria environ. Over those years, our name has borne truth that God has been with us through "thick and thin." And ... it is no coincidence that today we also celebrate Pentecost—a reminder that the Holy Spirit is here with us.

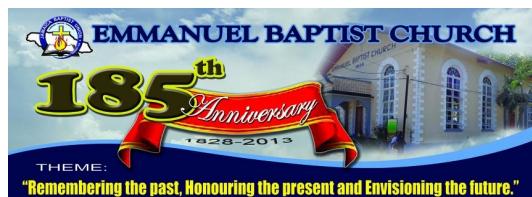
In celebration of our Christian witness over these 185 years, we must continue with great fervour, the Mission work of Christ Jesus. We must invite the Holy Spirit to rain afresh on us; to pour the enabling power of God on us to give us the unction and courage to move beyond the walls of the church building—yes move out of our comfort zone—and go into the wider community, to preach the gospel of salvation so that lives can be transformed. This is truly what we must celebrate—the transformed lives of the people around us.

May the Pentecostal fire of the Holy Spirit inflame our entire being to go forth and proclaim God's love and His joy, even as we seek to celebrate this significant milestone in our Christian witness.

*Dahlia Palmer, Chairperson
Communications Committee*

OUR HERITAGE: A BRIEF MOMENT IN HISTORY ...

The Baptist church in Port Maria (now Emmanuel Baptist) was organized by the Rev. Joseph Burton before the abolition of slavery in Jamaica—yes, our church was constituted during the period of slavery. That era was one of hardship in several ways: work was laborious; work hours were long; wages were minimal; minimal wages meant difficulties in purchasing food and clothing as well as challenges in constructing proper shelter. Yet it was in that period of hardship that our fore-parents came together—travelling far distances to attend revival meetings—to build the church. It is within this context that these men and women of God who formed the Baptist church, extended their faith and begun the process of erecting this structure where we now worship. The building has withstood many storms and this speaks to the strength of its structure. As we reflect on this moment in our church history, may it challenge us as Christians as to how our lives should be—strong, unmovable and unshakeable. And, let us always, in memory of the hard work of our fore-parents, show respect for the place where we gather for worship.



MAY REMINDERS

- | | |
|------|----------------------------------|
| May | Child's & Family Month |
| 19th | Anniversary Service (4 p.m.) |
| 19th | Pentecost Sunday |
| 23rd | Labour Day |
| 31st | Sex Talk (Family month activity) |

Get involved in the family month activities scheduled for May and June. Take as many family members to these activities!

HUG A CHILD DURING CHILD'S MONTH!!



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

the sick and shut-in members of the church and in our surrounding communities. Here is a list of our sick and shut-in members: Port Maria Class: Sis. Audrey Maxwell; Sis. Emma Scarlette-Grant; Sis. Ionie Thomas; Trinity Class: Sis. Inez Graham; Sis. Percess Scott; Valerie Melbourne; Sis. Loretta Reid; Mason Hall Class: Bro. Thomas Bennett; Sis. Gwendolyn Byfield; Stennett Street Class: Bro. Archibald Henry Galina Class: Sis. Daphne Reid; Sis. Violet Daley; Sis. Edwards; Cox Street Class: Sis. Georgina Peart; Bro. Lucan Scott; Sis. Adassa Reddie.

May Birthdays: God's unfailing love will always be yours!



Lurline
Edwards
1st



Karlane
McLean
5th



Joycelyn
Barnett
15th



Shanae
Campbell
16th



Olivene
McPherson
17th



Emmanuel
Baptist
18th



Vivene
Irvin
18th



Jovan
Thompson
19th



Valrie
Johnson
20th



Pauline
Smith
22nd



Margaret
McFarquhar
24th



Shakira
Sinclair
24th



Gwendolyn
Robinson
28th



Lucan
Scott
28th



Carol
Levers
29th



Louise
Plummer
30th

Thought: "... if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ."

~Romans 8:9b

EMPOWERED & EQUIPPED TO EVANGELIZE

As Christians, we must long for God's church to be extended and His Word spread mightily across our communities. For that to happen, we the people of God must be empowered by the Holy Spirit; we must be equipped through the teachings and trainings as offered through Bible Study and other sessions, so that we can evangelize souls for Christ. Evangelizing is not so much about employing varied strategies; to a greater extent, we must be focused on knowing and presenting the redemptive Word of God to persons who need to hear it. We must actively participate in the proclamation of the gospel—not only within the walls of the church but within communities; we must take the gospel to the people as mandated by God. Having been empowered and equipped, let us now go forth and evangelize. Let us participate in God's Mission movement to:

*Go into all the world, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost
(Matt 28:19a)*

FAMILY MONTH ACTIVITIES:

Theme: Love Embraces All

We invite you to share in the family life activities scheduled for May - June 2013. The activities are geared to inform but they will also have a competitive edge. Each group has been assigned a colour which you must wear to the activities.

The group with the highest points will win a prize in June!!

Wearing your colour will help to earn points for your group!

Children: wear green—it symbolizes growth and development

Youths: wear red—it is a symbol of energy and strength

Singles: wear yellow—it is a symbol of joy and happiness

Couples: wear blue—it reflects a calm and serene spirit

The first activity entitled "Sex Talk" is scheduled for Friday, May 31, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Sex Talk

there's a session for everyone



- for children
- for YOUTH
- For singles (never married)
- For singles (divorced/widowed)
- for couples

FRIDAY
MAY 31, 2013
6:30 p.m.

Don't forget your colour!

We welcome your ideas and suggestions

E-mail us at: emmanuel_baptist_1828@yahoo.com

Write us at: PO Box 64, Pt. Maria, St. Mary

Visit our website at: www.emmanuelbaptist-jm.org

Follow us on facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelBaptistjm>

Family Feature

We focus on persons who once attended Emmanuel. We ask them to share their fond memories of Emmanuel and to say what impact—people or programme—had on them while they were here.

MEAGAN CUNNINGHAM:

Let me start off by saying congratulations to Emmanuel Baptist Church on 185 years of bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to Port Maria and its surrounding areas.



Growing up, it was a must that we attended church especially Sunday school. I looked forward to this because I got to be with my friends and also to learn about the greatest man who ever lived - "Jesus". Along with reading the Bible and having morning devotions early in the morning, Sunday school was learning those Bible verses.

As I transitioned into living in another country, I can honestly say that life was different. Not having the immediate support of my parents was hard, but I managed to carry the knowledge of how they brought me up and also how Sunday school prepared me for the outside world. Sunday school is very important to any child growing up; it teaches us about the Bible and also how to tithe. Living in the United States has presented many challenges for me. There where instances where I felt defeated, and I wanted to give up but the knowledge of knowing about Jesus Christ, through the Sunday School, has prevented me from making horrible decisions. Through these experiences, I have the greatest testimony that of allowing Christ to lead the way and live in my life.

With Christ, I am able to live my dream of pursuing my Education. I have successfully completed an Associate of Arts Degree in Business Administration (where I graduated with honors) and my Bachelors of Arts in Healthcare Administration. I have decided to pursue a career in healthcare, and for the last 5 years I have been working with seniors. I will continue my studies until I have achieved my full potential and to follow in the Educational achievements my mother has set for me to follow in. I am currently a Memory Care Program Director in an Alzheimer's disease facility. Part of my job is to create a monthly activities calendar for my residents. I get to have devotions with them once a week, read the Bible to them and have discussions with them. I work closely with Pastors to come out to our facilities and meet the needs of our residents spiritually. This I believe stemmed from my time at Emmanuel and being involved in the Sunday School.



As I close, I continue to carry out and live what I have learnt during my Sunday school years at Emmanuel. In my life daily, I continue with my favorite Bible verse where I personalize it. "I Meagan can do all things through Christ who strengthens me", (Philippians 4:13). Again , continue the Christian witnessing so that souls can be saved. God bless you all.