Northern Presbytery held its Annual Retreat on Saturday September 13, 2008 at St. Augustine Girls’ High School. The theme of the retreat/workshop was Conflict Management/Resolution skills. The facilitator was Mr Ronald Ramcharan, who is skilled in this area.

The workshop began with a short worship session which was conducted by Rev Emmanuel Ramdeen. This was followed by opening remarks from the Chairman of Northern Presbytery, Mr Hatim Gardner. Mr Gardner thanked participants for attending the worship for which many had been requesting over the past few years. Participation included Rev Cyril Paul, Rev Bruce Kramer, Rev Emmanuel Ramdeen, Rev Arthur Yorke, Deaconess Indira Roopan, Deaconess Lisa Dharamjit, Student Minister Kimberly Ramlochan, members of Northern Presbytery and members of various congregations of the Northern Presbytery.

The workshop was conducted in an interactive, participatory style, which included group discussion and feedback. Everyone felt comfortable in the setting created by Mr Ramcharan, and safe enough to discuss troubling issues. Each participant received a folder with the relevant handouts for easy reference and future use.

Topics discussed included the following:

- Conflict: its causes, escalation, styles, circle of conflict, controlling anger, communication, values and conflict resolution spectrum (continued on page 2)
The Trinidad Presbyterian

The Trinidad Presbyterian: Communications Committee

STATUTORY DATE OF MEETING: THIRD TUESDAY 10:00 AM
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 92, Paradise Hill, San Fernando
EMAIL: pctt1868@gmail.com or pctt@tstt.net.tt
DISCLAIMER: The editorial committee may not agree with the views expressed by the writers...

COLLECTION OF TP NEWS: All Clerks of Sessions are required to communicate with Synod’s Office regarding the collection of their monthly TP News for their Pastoral Regions.

Editorial: Celebrating with each other

In our last issue of the Trinidad Presbyterian (September 2008 Vol. CV No 9) the Moderator of our church, in his column, raised a number of issues.

As a people we live in a Multi-Religious, Multi-Racial, Multi-Cultural Literate Society. Many of our Presbyterian families have their roots mainly from Muslim and Hindu Indentured Immigrants.

How do we as Presbyterians treat our fellow Brothers and Sisters of different faiths? Many of us feel that we are different and that we should have very little to do with these other religions and their religious observances.

Perhaps as the Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Elvis Elahie has suggested our education has not taught us to understand and appreciate other people’s religion.

As a Church, therefore, we need to move out from our comfort zone, from within the four walls of our thoughts and look outside from the box.

The I.R.O. has been making an effort to expose all religions and religious observances to the National community. It is now the Responsibility of all our Religious Leaders to lead all their members to an understanding and tolerance of other world religions. It has become necessary to encourage our Presbyterian flock to become aware of other religions and their beliefs.

It is noticeable among our student population that whenever religious celebrations are done by others from different faiths from their own, that they tend to turn up their noses and shy away from these observances regarding them as heathen or uncivilized.

Our National Anthem states that “Every creed and race find an equal place.”

The process of learning, understanding and accepting people of other religions who are different from us must begin and begin anew.

“Let it begin with me.”

Save baby Jessie

Jeremy Joshua Boodram the Secretary of the Trinity Gasparillo Presbyterian Church of the Marabella/Bonne Aventure Pastoral Region and his wife Shilmar (Gasparillo) Presbyterian Church of the Marabella/Bonne Aventure Pastoral Region are making an appeal to the readers and subscribers of the Trinidad Presbyterian Newsletter to help save the life of their first born Baby Jesse just 2½ months old.

Baby Jesse is in need of an Emergency Heart Surgery to correct Coarctation of the Aorta a congenial heart defect (two holes in the heart). The estimated cost of this surgery is approximately $45,000.00 U.S. Or $286,000.00TT at the Jackson Memorial Foundation. It is our prayer that God will inspire and motivate you to give generously.

Contributions can be made to the following Account # 110215383331 at any branch of Republic Bank Limited.

Mrs. Indra Debysingh, Clerk Of Session

Northern Presbytery’s Retreat

Conflict Management/Resolution Skills Workshop (continued from page 1)

The group agreed that one of the main causes of conflict is communication or lack of it. Mr. Ramcharan emphasized that listening plays a great role in conflict resolution. He added that in resolving conflicts, one has to be extremely impartial and cannot take sides. Hence the reason for an unbiased third party in conflict resolution.

- Mediation: introduction, elements of, and benefits
  There are many benefits in Mediation. Mr. Ramcharan reported that the Mediation Centres which have been functioning in Trinidad and Tobago have successfully resolved many conflicts.

- The concept of Restorative Justice: Restorative (pronounced re-sto-rative) Justice is basically “giving people another chance.” Restorative Justice is more focused on needs: the victim, the needs of communities, the needs of offenders. Thus instead of punishing the person for some wrong-doing, conferences are held with all concerned parties in order to air views and discuss issues with the intention of coming to a resolution which is not punitive, but one which will help the offender realize his/her mistakes and take corrective action.

Participants were given the opportunity to role play a situation so that they will understand the process. Participants agreed that this is what we need in our Church to resolve conflicts - restorative justice.

At the end of the workshop, Mr. Ramcharan was presented with a gift by Deaconess Indira Roopan, Treasurer of Northern Presbytery. The Closing Prayer was said by Rev. Arthur Yorke. The members of Northern Presbytery will like to sincerely thank Mr. Ramcharan for giving of his time and talent to conduct this workshop for us.

Stitara Gardner

“The group met, prayed, and discussed the importance of keeping the peace with one another.” 2 Corinthians 12:18-21

The Moderator Speaks - Make All Things New!

O n behalf of the Synod of the Presbyterinan Church of Trinidad and Tobago I take this opportunity to invite all Presbyterians, those who have been influenced in one way or the other by an aspect of Presbyterianism and the wider community to be part of our Bien- nial Convention on October 25th 2008 at the Centre of Excellence from 8:30 a.m. – 130 p.m.

Last year when we engaged the process for the incorporation of the PCTT we were shocked at our depleted membership that will mutually encourage Presbyterians in terms of systems and structure but a be a visible sign of our presence not just in terms of systems and structure but a membership that will mutually encourage Presbyterians throughout the country.

Come and let us decide to begin to “Make All Things New!”

The Rt. Rev. Elvis Elahie

The Trinidad Presbyterian Newsletter to help save the life of their first born Baby Jesse just 2½ months old.

Contributions can be made to the following Account # 110215383331 at any branch of Republic Bank Limited.

Mrs. Indra Debysingh, Clerk Of Session

“Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.” John 3:20-21

We also look forward to sharing this time of worship and fellowship with the con- gregations of the Church of Scotland in Trinidad, with whom we have entered into a covenant relationship.

Come and listen to Rev. Nicole Ashwood, Secretary for Education in Mission, Carib- bean and North America Council for Mis- sion (Canacom), will be our guest speaker. She is a young and free spirited individual who engages what is real and relevant.

We shall be lead in singing by a group of dedicated Presbyterians as we sing hymns and choruses both old and new.

Come and celebrate the Agape Feast. At this time in our Church’s history we need to embrace unity, visible and invisible.

The Rt. Rev. Elvis Elahie
San Juan Pres Youth Group Outreach Program

On August 9th twenty-five (25) members of the San Juan Youth Group together with their Elders and parents journeyed to the “SMILE” Children’s home located at the foothills of the Central Range in a little village called Poona. This institution caters for abandoned and homeless children of ages three to seventeen years. Forty-one (41) children were given a delicious lunch and snacks. In addition to the meal, school supplies, which included school bags, stationery, as well as Children’s Bibles, were donated to the home.

The youths interacted and played with the eager hearts that were so happy and joyful that their reaction tempted the youths to make a return visit later in the year.

Mrs. Shirley Ogeer

A field trip to S.A.T.C. (St. Andrew’s Theological College) and Susamachar Presbyterian Church was undertaken by the Presbyterian R.I. Class of Northeastern College in Sangre Grande, on Wednesday, July 2nd 2008. The group of eleven (11) Presbyterian students of forms 1 – 3, was chaperoned by Ms. Kathleen Kassiram. The R.I. Teacher and Lisa Marajdeen, a member of the N.E.C. Staff. The teaching of R.I. at the school is an outreach project of the Local Board of the Morton Memorial Presbyterian Church.

The outing began at St. Andrew’s Theological College, Paradise Pasture, San Fernando. The class was greeted by Rev. Dr. Randall Sammah, who pointed out S.A.T.C., the Chapel, dormitory, Library and Archives, and explained that the Library contained not only religious literature, but historical books and works on Comparative religion, relevant topics to the Church. Special thanks for the scrumptious snack foods!

After the party got the grand tour, Rev. Daniel Teelucksingh chatted informally with the students. Again, the children were interested by the topics discussed and were able to engage in meaningful conversation with Rev. Teelucksingh.

To conclude their excursion, the group moved from an educational and enjoyable morning at our Church’s most impressive institutions to a visit to the gulf City Mall. Thanks are in order to everyone who assisted in making this field trip a success. Thank you for your willing accommodation of the class. Special thanks for the scrumptious snack foods!

The Trinidad Presbyterian

A benediction often crystallizes the good news for us. This is especially true of the benediction in the letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews 13:20) in which Jesus’ atoning sacrifice and present work in us are both declared. Likewise in Jude (v 24) God is not only praised and glorified but the reader is taught God is the one who keeps us from stumbling and God works in us so that we can have a closer communion with Him.

The next time you pronounce or hear the benediction do not just get ready to leave the building, but get ready to think of the implications of such words like grace, love, fellowship, unity, encouragement. PCTT
Music for the PCTT National Convention 2008

The Music Committee for our National Convention 2008 has spent much time pondering our purpose and clarifying our goals for the Convention and beyond. We discussed our experiences of Conventions past, brainstormed, and discussed our ideas with others, created a shared vision that directs all of our decisions. We believe that the coming together of the Presbyterian Church on October 25th, 2008 can be enhanced through music in the following ways:

(a) By placing emphasis on praise and worship, rather than performance: “I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live, I will praise my God as long as I have breath.”

The hymns that will be used were carefully chosen to reflect the general theme, and all of the special parts of the Convention programme. However, the desired effect cannot be realized if many persons do not know the hymns that will be used. Choir practices being held in North, Central, South West and South East Trinidad are concentrating on the worship songs which will be used. It is hoped that music leaders from all churches will attend practices and take music back to their congregations. In addition, packages containing a CD and music sheet will be distributed to churches by the end of August. Please contact your area representative for details (see below). You can attend practice at the venue that is most convenient to you and we will all join together to form one large choir on Convention Day.

(b) By encouraging participation: You don’t have to be an established chorister to be a part of the Convention Choir. All are welcome. Don’t be insecure; we are concentrating on the worship experience, not performance. Can we achieve a shared vision that directs all of our decisions. We believe that the coming together of the Presbyterian Church on October 25th, 2008 can be enhanced through music in the following ways:

(c) Beyond the Convention: How many of us can remember the anthem sung at the last Convention? The hymns used? The messages conveyed in music? We feel that the effort made to prepare for a Convention must have a lasting impact on the Presbyterian Church long after the Convention is over. Many of the new hymns chosen can be found in the new Book of Praise and we hope that they will become favourites used in worship which will always evoke memories of the Convention of 2008. We also hope that the relationships formed between members of the various churches who practice together, will bring the Presbyterian Church close together.

We hope to see you soon at any choir practice convenient to you. Contact your area representative for information.

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James N Sammy, Music Committee

Available at the Synod Office, Paradise Hill, S’Fdo

Good News New Testament
with Psalms and Proverbs
Confirmation Certificates
Baptism Certificates (New)
Mission & Restructuring Document
DVDs Convention 2006
The Book of Praise – Word
$25
$20 / per 10
$27 / per 10
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$100

AVAILABLE FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
* Hymns for Children
* Basic Guide to Christian Education
* Basic Guide – Easter/ Pentecost/ Advent
$6
$15
$10

Contribution: The Agape (Love Feast)

Certain Jewish religious groups shared in regular fellowships designed to strengthen their organization. Similarly, persons converted to Christianity, appreciating the value of such gatherings, continued this practice and, the name ‘agape’ or ‘love feast’ was subsequently given to their fellowship meals. New Testament references include Acts 2 which says: “they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the breaking of bread and prayers…in their homes…and they shared food with glad and generous hearts.” The Book of Jude and II Peter also make mention of your meals”, “fellowship meals” (NEB), or “love feasts” (RSV).

The classic reference to the Lord’s Supper, I Corinthians Chapter II, mentions not only the Supper, but also a communal dinner (agape), suggesting that both were observed on the same occasion. After New Testament times, the Lord’s Supper was separated from the Love feast. The latter gradually lost its place in regular Christian worship, while the Lord’s Supper retained its prominence as a vital component in Christian spirituality.

New Testament references to the Love feasts hold the answer to this. The authors of I Corinthians, Peter and Jude alluded to undesirable practices which had begun to ‘corrupt’ the love feast. There were division among the members noticeable at the love feast; drunkenness and selfishness rather than community caring were among the ‘blemishes’ on these fellowship meals. (Jude verse 12 ‘shameless carousing’). Were there difficulties in purifying the love feast/agape hence the need to separate and protect the uniqueness of the Lord’s Supper? Today the agape/love feast is not commonly included in worship neither in the Presbyterian Church nor in several other Churches. When celebrated, the bread and drink are blessed as with the elements in Holy Communion.

The objective remains the same as for the New Testament love feast. It was a medium for promoting and strengthening fellowship and unity among members, it was designed to remove social barriers among members, and used as an occasion to demonstrate caring and concern for the less fortunate in the Church. Certainly, these are not lost, they remain as fundamentals for Christian fellowship.

The best in the agape is absorbed in our celebration of the Lord’s Supper, a feast to celebrate the love of God and to lead us to extend this love to others.

Rev. Daniel Teelucksingh
The blessedness of fellowship

Lord, I will be glad in God my Saviour.” (Habakkuk 3:17 – 18).

in the pen and no cattle in the stalls: yet will I rejoice in the
there are no grapes in the vines; though the olive crop fails
Chronicles 29:11 and “Though the fig tree does not bud, and
kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.” (1
power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for
Mr. Basdeo B. Rampersad, as Worship Leader, in his
2008 at 10:30a.m. at the Iere Memorial Presbyterian Church,
The Association of Retired Presbyterian Teachers held its
BLESSEDNESS OF FELLOWSHIP. He congratulated the As-
the treasurer. Mr. Rudolph Sitahal the secretary supplied the
were Mr. Ikey Mack, Mr. Jit Ganessingh and Mrs. Rhea Jahoor
by Mrs. Leemoy Rampersadsingh and the Second, Psalm 133,
choruses. The First Scripture Lesson John 10:7-16 was read
The Trinidad Presbyterian

Sangre Chiquito observes 117th Anniversary giving thanks

O
n Sunday 7th September, 2008 scores of worshippers, well-wishes and friends wended their way up to the hill to the little white church to join with the Sangre Chiquito congregation to celebrate its 117th Anniversary with a thanksgiving service.

At 4:30p.m. Mr. George Balch and the Guest Speaker, Intern Minister Mr. Anthony Rampersad took their places on the chancel. By this time invited guests and the rest of the wor-
shippers were ushered to their seats.

Mr. Daniel Motilal, our Choir leader and Organist called the congregation to prayer with the introit – “Thank You Lord.” This was followed by the call to Worship, the programme continued with the singing of hymns, prayers and the mes-

In his sermon, Mr. Anthony Rampersad reminded the people that they must give God thanks for the work of the Presbyte-
rian Church in Sangre Chiquito. They must remember with
gratitude the missionaries and other Church Workers for
their labours in this part of God’s vineyard. He touched on
the labours of Martin Luther and John Calvin who have left
us a great heritage in the Reformation.

In getting back to the Scripture passage, He pointed out that
the Israelites wandered for forty years in the wilderness be-
cause they had no leader to lead them on. They disobeyed
God. They were very ungrateful for what God had done for
them. They ignored the many gifts they had received from
God. He warned that we are asked to assume respon-
sibility in the church we must consider that it is a privilege to
serve, and must not pass the buck.

The Israelites were not prepared to lead, so God had to find a
leader for them. He gave them Moses. The Israelites were
being continually reminded of their past experience of slav-
ey in Egypt and how God had delivered them from bond-
age. They were reminded that they must be thankful to God for
the gracious favours they received. God fed them with
manna and provided water for them from a flinty rock; their
feet did not ache, nor were their clothes worn out.

Mr. Rampersad concluded his message to his listeners in
these words taken from the Scripture passage read; “When
you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the Lord
your God for the good land which he has given you… And
you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives
you power to get wealth the he may establish His covenant
which He swore to your fathers as it is this day.” (Deut. 8: 10
& 18).

Mr. George Balch
Dear Rev. Paul,

A friend suggested that I write to your Counselling Column for some guidance on an area where I need some help. I have trouble saying “NO” to requests to take on additional responsibilities. You’ve heard the advice about giving assignments to the busiest people because you know the jobs will get done. Well that’s me. I have meetings almost every night of the week. I’m involved in so many organizations I can hardly keep track of them. Every time I decide to cut back someone begs me to take on another project and I have real trouble saying “NO” without offending others?

Sgd. “Can’t say NO”.

Dear “Can’t say ”NO”

Thanks for writing to the “Counselling Column.”

Make a list of all the activities you are involved in every night of the week. Are you leaving any time for yourself and your family? How does your family feel about all these extra activities you are involved in? Are you involved in any hobbies? Are you spending your evenings the way you really want to or is your life spinning out of control? Your answers to these questions should be helpful to you for starters. Are you allowing sufficient time for yourself and your family? Are you accepting all these activities to keep away from your home and family?

Now how can you turn down requests without jeopardizing personal or professional relationships? Consider the following steps:

Step One
Say, “I will like to have some time to think about it.” If you have a history of collapsing under pressure only to lament later “What did I get myself into?” then vow you would not spontaneously agree to any additional time-consuming responsibilities. Negotiators know some people make concessions they would not ordinarily consent to when pressed to give an immediate answer. Do not let yourself be caught off guard. Give yourself time so you can clearly headreadly evaluate the needs being met. This step can ensure that you think twice before adding obligations so you no longer cave in under coercion.

Step Two
Say “NO” and help to solve the problem through other means. Let them know that you are not available and recommend someone who could do a good job. You can offer your expertise and help produce the desired results even if you are personally involved in the event itself.

Step Three
You can say “NO” to a specific request, if you know it is going to require a lot from you and you know that you do not have the time. However, you can offer to do something else for the same cause. E.g. “I cannot accept the chairmanship of that committee at this time, however I will be willing to help with the monthly newsletter.” This is something you can do at home in your spare time and would not require you to give up another evening which you can share with your family.

Step Four
Say “NO” graciously and without guilt. Since you have been giving a lot, you have the right to say “NO” without feeling bad about it. “I am flattered by your request. However, I have promised to do some evening activities with my wife and children.” If people persist, use words to keep the conversation constructive. You can say, “I know you want volunteers to help run the organization, and I want to honour the commitment I’ve made to my wife and children. In this way you acknowledge their feelings while asserting your needs.

Declining with “I’m sorry but there’s no way I can take this on,” or “you have to understand how overloaded I’ve been these last few years” - would only cause estrangement.

Rev. Cyril Paul.
If you have a question you would like answered in this column, write to: Rev. Cyril Paul, 53 First Street, Barataria.

Chag Youth Workshop: Improving Membership By Improving Worship

On Saturday August 23rd the youths of the Chaguanas Pastoral Region converged at Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Longdenville, with a central purpose. This day marked the first Regional Youth Leadership Workshop aimed at solving a problem long since plaguing the Presbyterian Church: improvement of membership. In order to address this problem, the style of Presbyterian worship and any means by which worship could be improved to make it more receptive to more people were discussed.

The event was organized and co-ordinated by the Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church Youth Group. In attendance were both youths and adults from the region’s churches: Curupia, Felecity, Las Lomas, Robinson Memorial and St. Charles. The workshop commenced with a word of prayer and a praise and workshop session led by the youths of Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church. The officiating minister, Rev. Emmanuel Ramdeen, gave an inspirational talk acknowledging the role of youths as the future leaders of the Presbyterian Church and sharing characteristics of what a good leader should strive for.

Diving into the workshop aspect, a unique approach was taken at problem solving as various activities took place that would be both entertaining as well as productive. Each church was broken up into different groups, which allowed all youths from the region to inter-mingle and become better acquainted. All groups were placed in a separate group. After ice-breakers and team-building activities, the first activity of the afternoon was problem identification, where groups were given their chance to voice their own concerns about the Presbyterian Church with respect to worship or any other matters they considered pressing. They were then given an allotted time to present the problems they identified.

After problems were identified, the second phase of the workshop took place where the youths were asked to find solutions for the very problems they identified and this was followed by another session of presentations along with questions top those presenting. This session proved to be very productive and the youths seemed energetic and interested even relieved to finally have a forum to have their concerns and suggestions heard and addressed. Ideas, suggestions and solutions were all written on large sheets of paper and Bristol board.

Following the second phase of the exercise, the major concerns were identified along with the solutions which were then prioritized. These included vibrant praise and worship sessions using a variety of music/instruments; focus on content of sermon with adult bible study where congregation members can be educated on the bible and questions can be addressed; the role of the elders in shaping the youths of our churches and increased youth activities. All findings will be summarized subsequently and a detailed report will be presented to the relevant bodies.

To break the monotony of a traditional problem-solving workshop, each youth group was asked to present a chosen item, using any creative form. The youths were very creative in their presentations with plays, poems, dances, songs and instrumental pieces all comprising the day’s activities, proving that creativity is alive and well in the Presbyterian Church.

Overall the workshop was productive, informative, interactive and entertaining. We would like to sincerely thank all those who supported this workshop: Reverend Emmanuel Ramdeen, Session of the Chaguanas Pastoral Region, the Local Board of the various churches in the region and of course the youths who attended and participated.

While we acknowledge there are issues to be addressed in our Presbyterian Church, the solutions in fact come from within our church and among our members. We need to give a voice to all members, with all opinions and suggestions having equal weight. This is one chance to take place we may allow a forum for ideas to be heard but more importantly we must have the courage to put into effect some, if not all these suggestions, in such a way that will not compromise the very essence of being a Presbyterian. We strongly believe that this workshop significantly contributed to providing the foundation necessary to address the concern of diminishing membership in the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad and Tobago. It is therefore a step in the right direction.

The age of change is upon us prompting pertinent questions: will we be left behind? Or will we embrace change and move with the times? Jesus was an agent of change in his own right, however mankind took many years before his own message of love and peace were embraced. How many generations are we going to wait before we do something? It has to start somewhere; it has to start sometime. What better place than here? What better time than now?

Atiss Kanhai & Krystal Ramoutar
Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church.

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.”

James 3:13

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Philippians 2:3-4
Simon the son of Jona was fishing at the Sea of Galilee when Jesus called him to be his disciple. He went.

He was the man who tried to walk on water to meet Jesus. He was the man who was believed took the sword and cut off the soldier’s ear to defend his friend Jesus. Simon was the man who said, “I know not the Galilean” when he denied Jesus to save himself. Maybe God planned it that way. He was the man who said on the day of Pentecost, these men are not drunk.

When Jesus asked his disciples, ‘who do you say that I am?’ he was the man who said ‘you are the Christ, the son of the living God’. Jesus then said, Simon, you will be called Cephas, you will be Petros, the rock on whom I will build my church. (Read Peter’s confession in St. Mathew 16:13-20).

Jesus saw the rock-like qualities of Simon and called him ‘the rock’. After Jesus’ death he became the rock of Christianity on which the church was built. He was regarded as the leader of the disciples. He was a rock for Christ. He was a hard and faithful rock.

As you study and learn at school and you plan for your future life of work, career, profession and vocation, give a thought of becoming like Simon Peter, a petros for Christ. To be a follower or a disciple of Jesus is never easy.

A little boy when asked what he wanted to be when he grew up said ‘a man’. Boys and girls, Jesus is calling you to become a man or a woman who will be a petros, a rock, for him and for God.

Jesus calls you to become living rocks and living stones not just a pebble or a stone or just a grain of sand or dirt? Jesus needs rocks on which to continue building the church and he can help you become a rock – a rock of faith, service and love.

Memory Verse: On this rock I will build my church. Mathew 16:18

Song: The wise man builds his house upon the rock.

Activities: Make a rock paper weight to remind you of Simon the Galilean fisherman. Call your paperweight Peter. First, choose a stone; then place it on a paper cut-out of a fish. You can add by building a model of a church on the rock or put a smaller stone giving it your name.

Prayer: Lord, make me a rock like Simon Peter on whom you will build your church. Amen.

So until next month dear children, Uncle Bill says, be good and be a rock as God goes with you and gives you strength.

Make a rock paper weight to remind you of Simon the Petros – the ROCK.

Activities:
1. First, choose a stone.
2. Then place it on a paper cut-out of a fish.
3. You can add by building a model of a church on the rock or put a smaller stone giving it your name.

Prayer:
Lord, make me a rock like Simon Peter on whom you will build your church. Amen.

So until next month dear children, Uncle Bill says, be good and be a rock as God goes with you and gives you strength.

A MONTHLY THOUGHT TO HELP IMPROVE YOUR FAMILY
Hilton R. Siboo

The Trinidad Presbyterian

The Trinidad Presbyterian

TP Comics: God must have a sense of humour...

www.mankindtoons.com

Online Presbyterians: Look out for the PCTT & TP Groups on Facebook!

e-TP (1.8mb): http://www.zorce.com/trinidad-presbyterian/TP-OCT-08.pdf

W e continue to celebrate 2008 as ‘our year of the family’. So far, we have looked at many reasons for celebrating the family which includes - calendaring family events and activities. We have also focused on thoughts that we need to help develop and sustain a family friendly environment. We have already noted that this environment is called the home. Home is where the heart is and where love is and where the family can be supportive of one another.

Our thought this month is: Celebrate life with your family.

Let’s look at birth: The family can celebrate life and the family usually does so with the birth of a new member. The birth of a baby finds everyone wanting to see the baby, wanting to touch or hold he baby, to say who he or she resembles, to suggest a name, to recall the birth of others babies who may now be toddlers, teenagers and even adults. A birth usually changes the circumstances and the personal, social, emotional and economic arrangements within nuclear-types families and also within the variations of extended families.

Birth, the coming of a new life, brings exhilaration and joy, expectation and hope and fulfillment. It is usually accompa-

ied by celebrations. On the other hand a birth, a new life may bring despair, disappointments and conflicts which instead of strengthening a family creates weakness. Of these, family members, parents, siblings, relatives even family friends must be mindful, if we are to truly celebrate a new life, a new birth.

To celebrate life, a new birth is to be accepted as the gift of life that our creator God has bestowed on families for its continuance and the preservation of humanity. And as I say humanity, we each have to help turn that new life we celebrate into a truly human and divine person or our celebration may be in vain. To celebrate life, it is expected that the child might have the benefit of family life, and that society may rest on a firm foundation.

The family can … celebrate life in 2008

Give thanks then, have a safe, peaceful and really good year.

A MONTHLY THOUGHT TO HELP IMPROVE YOUR FAMILY
Hilton R. Siboo

The Trinidad Presbyterian
A poem entitled “On Listening to Chopin” which is included in Jit Ganessingh’s book of poems “Scents of Roses” will be used in Polish Schools as assured by Ms. Martha Rzeznik of the Department of Culture and Tourism.

While in Poland recently, Ms. Rzeznik translated the poem in the Polish language and gave the first reading to several Trinidadians on tour in Warsaw. The poem was written on Ganessingh’s first visit to Poland in 1985, when he visited the Chopin Monument in Lazienki Palace Grounds and attended a Chopin Concert.

Frederic Chopin, born in 1810, is one of Poland’s great heroes and its greatest composers. In his music he expressed a variety of moods. He wrote several waltzes, nocturnes, mazurkas, etudes, preludes, polonaises and scherzos. He died in 1849 (39 years old).


A retired school Principal and world-traveller, Ganessingh was awarded a National Award, MOM (Medal of Merit) in 2002 for Community Service in the sphere of Literacy activities. He recently toured Germany, Poland and other Eastern European countries including Hungary and Slovenia.

Basdeo Rampersad

“Surely Allah enjoins the doing of justice and the doing of good (to others) and the giving to the kindred, and He forbids indecency and evil and rebellion; He admonishes you that you may be mindful.”

(Holy Qur’an: 16:90)
San Juan Pres celebrates 107th with Harvest & Thanksgiving Service

The service began with a singspiration, led by Rev Ramdeen. This was followed by the introit from the Psalter and the call to worship by Chairman of Northern Presbytery and Elder of the church, Mr Hatim Gardner. During the service all of the church groups had the opportunity to participate. Mrs Wima Olivierie of the P.C.W. did the responsive reading; the scripture lessons were read by members of the Youth Group; Ms Margaret Ackbarali and Mr Robert Peters; the Prayer of Thanksgiving was said by a member of the Sunday School, Ms Josabeth Edwards; and the Pastoral Prayer was offered by Mr Jason Ogeer. During the service, the Choir rendered beautiful anthems.

The service was efficiently conducted by Reverend Emmanuel Ramdeen, who was also our guest preacher. His message was based on the theme “Abundant Grace”, Radio Heritage was carrying the service live to listeners throughout the country, Rev Emmanuel Ramdeen was decked in his ministerial gown, delicious scents were wafting in the breakfast area as members were busy putting the finishing touches… the occasion… our harvest and thanksgiving service to commemorate the 107th anniversary of our church!

The service was efficiently conducted by Reverend Emmanuel Ramdeen, who was also our guest preacher. His message was based on the theme “Abundant Grace”. Rev Ramdeen reminded us that we are all that we are by God’s Grace, and that His mercy and love are eternal and immeasurable. He emphasized that all we need to do as humans is to have faith in God. He observed that for some of us having faith played big dividends as evidenced by the tremendous participation. We at San Juan believe that ‘God gives us grace and glory; no good thing will the Lord withhold from those who do what is right’ (Psalm 84:11) Sitara Gardner

All applications should reach Synod’s Office by 31st October 2008.

The minimum requirements are:-
(1) Be a member of PCTT, Session preferably
(2) 5 CXC/GCE subjects including English and Mathematics.
(3) Experience and training in Valuation, Property Management, Facility Management or any other appropriate areas.
(4) Computer literacy in Microsoft Suite. Training in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) will be an advantage.
(5) Legal or Para Legal training.

For further information, please contact the General Secretary of Synod.

Synod Vacancy

JACK’S Tyre Traders Ltd

Goodyear Michelin

1 Yard Street, Chaguanas – 672-5225 (JACK)
Main Road, Point Fortin/ Point Couva – 679-5225

Dindial Ramlogan: 657-4409
South Eastern Presbytery: Cyril Harripaul 345-6881
Northern Presbytery: Tara Persaud – 673-0375; 706-2994
Derek Balwant: 646-0472; 706-9035
South Eastern Presbytery: Sandra Singh 762-6468; 656-1667

PCTT National Convention: Update

DATE: SATURDAY OCTOBER 25, 2008
TIME: 8:30 AM TO 1:00 PM
VENUE: CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE, MACOYA, TUNAPUNA
THEME: MAKING ALL THINGS NEW
GUEST SPEAKER: REV. NICOLE ASHWOOD- EDUCATION IN MISSION SECRETARY, CANACOM

A. REFRESHMENTS: Snacks ($10.00) and indian delicacies will be on sale at three strategically located booths. Hot and cold drinks will be available.

B. TRANSPORTATION: This Committee is requesting that all Secretaries of Local Boards submit to the persons mentioned below, by September 12, 2008, the number of persons from your church who will require transportation to the National Convention.

Northern Presbytery: Tara Persaud – 673-0375; 706-2994
Derek Balwant: 646-0472; 706-9035

South Eastern Presbytery: Cyril Harripaul 345-6881

C. MEDICAL BOOTH: An ambulance and medical personnel will be available in case of any emergency. Doctors and nurses are invited to volunteer their services.

D. MUSIC AND CHOIR: There will be a National Convention Choir. Please contact James Sammy 790-1537 or Hazel Kramer 665-4769 or 355-1743 for more information.

E. FLAGS FROM PASTORAL REGIONS: All Pastoral Regions are reminded to bring their flags to the Convention.

F. AGAPE CELEBRATION: This feast will be celebrated on that day.

G. OSHA: This Committee will ensure the safety of everyone at the Convention.

H. MODEL OF SYNOD’S PROPOSED OFFICE AT BALMAIN: This model will be on display.

I. MEETINGS WITH MODERATOR: The Moderator is planning meetings in order to ensure/generate/motivate participation and attendance at the Convention.

COME AND BE A PART OF THIS HISTORIC EVENT!
Sitara Gardner

J-Brand?
Memoriam: Micheal, Evelyn

**In Loving Memory of**
**Elder: Michael Peter Naidoo**
Sunrise: 30th August, 1944  Sunset: 19th Oct 2007  (Curepe Pres Church)

*It broke our hearts to lose you,*
*But you didn't go alone.*
*Part of us went with you,*
The day God took you home.
*For when on earth,* **He was the best.**

**Lovingly remembered by:**
**Dearest Wife:** Mona; **Precious Daughters:** Micaela and Marissa; **Dear Son-In-Law:** Ricky; **And Cherished Relatives and Friends**

"I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live."
*Psalm 116:1-2*

**In Loving Memory of**
**Evelyn Jaikaran**

Life has been good to us, for
having had a Grandmother like you.
You will always be remembered,
For your loving kindness,
your generosity, and your love
in *Curepe Pres Church*.
We know you are safe in Jesus' arms.

**Lovingly remembered by:**
9 grandchildren,
25 great grand and
1 great-great grand.

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose."
*Philippians 2:1-2*

Memoriam: Rosey, Rudolph

**In Loving Memory of**
**Rosey Mootoo**

Member of the Canaan Presbyterian Church; Co-founded with her husband Roy, the Duncan Village Credit Union in 1954. Founded the Canaan Guides and Brownies; An avid supporter of scouting, she was a lay member of the 31st Trinidad Sea Scouts of Duncan Village. Teacher at Siparia, Hermitage, Bien Venue, Canaan and Freeport Presbyterian Schools. Rosey loved all things in creation. She exemplified the characteristics of a devout Christian, loving wife, mother and grandmother, community worker and humanitarian.

Rosey was loved and cherished by her **Husband** Roy; **Children** – Barry, Donna Marie Sharma and Donald; **Grandchildren** – Nicola, Colin, Rehanna, Shivanna, Marc and Michael, **Daughters & Son-in-law** – Audine, Yugdut and Pat; **Siblings, Sisters & Brothers in law**, **Nieces and Nephews**, **Relatives and Friends**.

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**Read the Bible in one year: Oct-Nov 2008 Guide**

**MEMORIAM: ROSEY MOOTOO**

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**Read the Bible in one year: Oct-Nov 2008 Guide**

**OCTOBER 2008**
1. Psalm 19.1-14
2. Philippians 1.1-30
3. Philippians 2.1-30
4. Philippians 3.1-21
5. Matthew 21.33-46
6. Exodus 32.1-35
7. Psalm 106.1-23
8. Psalm 106.24-48
9. Philippians 4.1-23
10. Matthew 22.1-14
11. Deut. 8.1-20
13. 2 Cor. 9.1-15
14. Exodus 33.1-23
15. Psalm 99.1-9
16. 1 Thess. 1.1-10
17. Matthew 22.15-33
18. 2 Timothy 4.1-13
19. Isaiah 45.1-25
20. 1 Thess. 2.1-16
21. Matthew 22.34-46
22. Leviticus 19.1-19
23. Deut. 6.1-9
24. Psalm 90.1-17
25. Psalm 78.21-39
26. Psalm 78.40-55
27. Psalm 78.56-72
28. John 15.18-16.4a
29. Matthew 23.1-12
30. Revelation 7.1-17
31. John 8.21-36

**NOVEMBER 2008**
1. Matthew 5.1-20
2. John 6.25-40
3. Matthew 5.21-32
4. Matthew 5.33-48
5. Joshua 24.1-15
6. Joshua 24.16-33
7. 1 Thess. 3.1-13
To be whom much is given, much more is expected.

This is the Biblical quotation which readily comes to mind as we, the members of the St. Agnes Presbyterian Church in the La Romaine/Debe pastoral region and indeed the community of Hermitage at large, heartily and proudly congratulate Mr. Jerome Russel Ali on his successes in the recent CXC Examinations.

Jerome, a regular communicant member of the aforementioned church and a student of the Naparima Boys College, gained an amazing and commendable nine (9) distinctions in the following subjects: Maths, English, Literature, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Spanish, Information Technology (self-taught) and Additional maths at the G.C.E Level.

May Almighty God shower His rich and abundant blessings upon Jerome as he continues to strive for excellence in all he does. Lena Baboolal-Subiah

On Sunday 31st August 2008 at 6:30 a.m., the Morning Star congregation held a Service of Appreciation for Rev. Ralph Umraw. Lay Pastor Reginald Amman officiated. Rev. Umraw served the Oropouche Pastoral Region for the last five years. He was thanked for his service by the Sunday School, the Youth Group, PCW, AOTS Men’s Fellowship, Prayer Group and The Local Board of Managers. Rev. Umraw never failed to pray for each group. All these groups contributed to a gift which was presented to Rev. Umraw. The Clerk of Session, Mr. Allan C Ramdeen, brought best wishes on behalf of Session. It was noted that it had been a long time since any minister stayed in the region for the full term. Rev. Umraw knew members by name; he would arrive early on Sunday mornings and walk from pew to pew greeting and chatting with worshippers. Rev. Umraw was also commended for his visitation programme and his wit.

In his response, Rev. Umraw informed those gathered that five years ago he had been given a choice between two regions, he chose Oropouche and had no regrets. He said he had made many permanent friends especially in Fyzabad. He thanked the Morning Star congregation for its support saying that he had never met such loving people. He claimed that visitation was the greatest medium through which we can spread God’s word. Rev. Umraw thanked the Clerk of Session for his organizational skills and the elders for the regular and peaceful Session meetings.

Re. Umraw promised to visit regularly especially the elderly in the congregation. He recalled the five communion classes he conducted over the years, the 5:30 a.m. Christmas Morning Services, as well as the shortest and most peaceful Congregational Meeting in the history of the church. The latter he attributed to the Congregational Report being circulated a week before the meeting.

In closing, Rev Umraw quoted from Paul’s letter to Titus ch.3 vs. 2: “Tell them not to speak evil of anyone, but to be peaceful and friendly, and always show a gentle attitude toward everyone.”

After the service the congregation participated in a fellowship breakfast.

Aasha Anna Mahabir