

YOUTH CONNECT

ISSUE 2 VOL 1 / JUNE 2021



Photo: All Saints' Parish
Church Praise Team



“A vibrant and engaging ministry that fosters the spiritual development, formation and support of youth for service in the church and to all God’s people.”

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Photo: All Saints' Praise Team Youth Splash

Editorial

Our previous and first Issue of Youth Connect was a success. We thank you for your support, feedback and rave reviews. We connected the young and young at heart through the various topics and activities; therefore, we met our goal for the magazine.

In Issue 1, we highlighted St. Ann's Youth Group with their 'Youth and Year of Creation.' That article was fun to read. The information and pictures they shared about their bird rescue trip were so cool and captivating. In this Issue, we will feature the All Saints' Praise Team. We'll take a closer look into the history of the group and learn about the works of our talented youth.

Additionally, we have some personal insights from our young people. They took the time to reflect and share their various experiences about what it is like living in a pandemic. It is brave for them to share their personal stories, so we are truly thankful for their participation and transparency.

Our counsellors also put together a striking topic for this Issue. They share some valuable and thought-provoking

information on the various communication styles. What a fitting topic it is to have because an essential part of connecting is through communication.

There are plenty of informative pages to capture your attention. As expected, we have our fun activity pages, which focuses on the theme of Pentecost. We also have more Feature Friday Profiles to highlight, as well as some upcoming events flyers!

We congratulate all of our youth graduates! You did it, even though it was not a typical school year. You should be undoubtedly proud of yourself. Continue to work hard and do your best!

Thank you once again for your continued support. I hope you enjoy this Issue of Youth Connect. Do have a safe and fun-filled summer! God's blessings, always.



Ms Keisha Vaing

Diocesan Youth Coordinator



The Structure of the Anglican Church

The Bishop presides over diocese, assisted by the Diocesan Committee and councils of priests and lay people.

A Diocese is a group of parishes and missions.

Parishes & Missions are headed by a Priest-in-charge who presides over the parish or mission and is appointed by the bishop to represent him.

Church Committee consists of members of parish/mission elected at Annual Meeting of the Parish or Mission. The function of the Church Committee is to administer the finance, provide for the upkeep of church building and other property, pay insurance, provide for the needy and the poor, pay salaries to employees of the parish, make sure assessment is paid and to assist the priest in his/her ministry.

Lay People are also ministers of the Church. They take part in church services, participate in its teaching mission and give for the work of the Church.

Parishes and Mission elect lay delegates to the **Biennial Diocesan Synod** preside over by bishop who, along with the lay delegates and clergy and conduct the Church's business of the Diocese regarding policies, properties and the way forward for the mission and ministry.

Here is a list of Parishes and Missions along with their location in the Diocese of Belize:

Parishes

- The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Baptist- *Belize City*
- All Saints' Parish Church- *Belize City*
- St. Andrew's Church- *San Ignacio*
- St. Ann's Church- *Belmopan*
- Christ the King Church- *Dangriga*
- St. John's Memorial Church- *Placencia*
- St. Mary's Church- *Belize City*
- St. Paul's By The Sea Anglican Church- *Corozal*
- St. Peter's Church- *Orange Walk*

Missions

- St. Agnes- *Mahogany Heights*
- St. Augustine- *Gales Point*
- Christ the Good Shepherd- *Ladyville*
- Church of the Annunciation/ Iglesia De La Anunciacion- *Santa Elena*
- St. Francis- *Burrell Boom*
- St. George's- *Gracie Rock*
- St. Hilda's- *Georgeville*
- St. Jerome- *Hopkins*
- St. Joseph Church- *Punta Gorda*
- St. Luke's- *Lemonal*
- St. Mark's- *Hattieville*
- St. Matthew's- *Pomona*
- St. Michael's- *Mango Creek*
- St. Monica's- *Hope Creek*
- Santa Cruz- *Selena*
- Santa Trinidad- *Frank's Eddy*
- St. Philip's- *Willows Bank*
- St. Stephen's- *Monkey River & Flower's Bank*
- St. Thomas- *Double Head Cabbage*



Church in The Province of The West Indies - Youth



The Provincial Youth Commission (PYC) consists of representatives from the eight (8) dioceses in the Province. The duty of the commission are as follows:

1. To receive the reports of the Diocesan Youth Directors, review programs and make recommendations with a view to the improvement of work with youth in the Province
2. To undertake any assignment which the Provincial Synod from time to time may delegate to it
3. To prepare and review the Annual Budget of the Provincial Youth Department

PYC Vision: *"The Provincial Youth Commission will be an instrument creating the environment for dynamic youth ministry."*

Tenets of Mission are the *Five Marks of Mission* for the Church:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers.
3. To respond to human need in loving service.
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Core Values: PYC's core values are drawn from Paul's exhortation found in Galatians 5:22:

- **Love-** giving individual personal care and compassion for others, demonstrating sensitivity to the needs of people; showing respect to God, for order and system. for the rights and privileges of others and self; extending goodwill.
- **Joy-** expressing thankfulness, contentment and gladness through the way we approach this world and the next; practising the art of appreciation in all dimensions of our life, giving thanks and praise.

- **Peace-** exhibiting calm and serenity in times of trouble; controlling one's temper and the temptation to react to the meanness in others; promotion of harmonious community by our attitude and actions.
- **Patience-** exercising sustained endurance and perseverance; forbearance towards the faults or infirmities of others; the habit of awaiting events or outcomes without complaint.
- **Kindness-** the orientation to give care to others; acting in the interest of or for the well-being and comfort of others; demonstrating compassion and empathy.
- **Goodness-** committing to personal excellence and virtue; taking responsibility for own actions; overcoming the tendency to blame others for difficulties; being aware of and responsible for the development of one's gifts and uniqueness toward the common good.
- **Faithfulness-** living up to the commitments that are a part of our belief; our Christian stewardship and devotion.
- **Gentleness-** demonstrating awareness and conviction that being considerate is a Christ-like virtue; maintaining open-mindedness and tolerance to the differences among people.
- **Self-Control-** the ability to practice self-discipline in the various aspects of living; exemplifying high standards of deportment and comportment.

The Provincial Youth Commission convenes every year to discuss current works, programs and to formulate plans and ideas. A diocese hosts the group of Youth Directors for the duration of the meetings. This year, due to the pandemic, the commission met virtually via Zoom. The sessions were from March 8 through to March 11 and were very productive. Representatives reflected on how the pandemic affected the youth ministry and how the ministry can rebound from the challenges of the pandemic.

Though technology is fantastic, and members were delighted to see and hear each other's voice on the computer screen, it did not compare to meeting face-to-face. When the group convenes together, they get to explore snippets of each others diocese and country. They share in cultural experiences such as eating local food, sightseeing, worshipping and engaging with locals. It also helps to build rapport between members of the commission.

The last face-to-face meeting was in March of 2019 at Nassau, Bahamas.



Photo from the Courtesy Call on the Governor-General of Bahamas

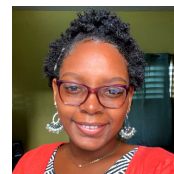
The Members of the Provincial Youth Commission and their respective Diocese are listed to the right of the page:



Diocese of Barbados
Mrs. Deon Connell



Diocese of Belize
Ms. Keisha Laing



Diocese of Guyana
Mr. Raymond Cummings



Diocese of Jamaica & the Cayman Islands
Fr. Craig Maers



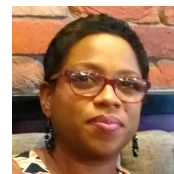
Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba
Ms. Leandra Lewis



Diocese of The Bahamas & The Turks & Caicos
Mrs. Tiffany Hall-Sweeting



Diocese of Trinidad & Tobago
Ms. Sharon Lamy



Diocese of Windward Islands
Mrs. Sheree-Ann Mark



There are four basic communication styles: passive, aggressive, passive-aggressive and assertive.

It's critical to understand each communication style and why individuals use them. Which are you?

Counsellor's Chat

"Types of Communication Style"

Passive communicators (born of low self-esteem) are often nonchalant, yielding to others. Passive communicators usually fail to assert their feelings or needs, allowing others to express themselves. They often display a lack of eye contact, poor body posture and an inability to say "no." Passive communicators also act in a way that states "people never consider my feelings." But passive communicators are also easy to get along with as they follow others and "go with the flow."

A passive communicator sounds like: "It really doesn't matter me that much." "I just want peace."

Aggressive communicators (*born of low self-esteem and powerlessness*) speak in a loud and demanding voice, maintain intense eye contact and dominate or control others by blaming, intimidating, criticizing, threatening or attacking them, among other traits. Aggressive communicators often issue commands, ask questions rudely and fail to listen to others. They cannot participate in resolving conflicts because they demand others to give them what they want.

An aggressive communicator sounds like: "It's always your fault!" "I don't care. I'm never wrong"

Passive-Aggressive communicators (*born of resentment and an extreme sense of powerlessness*) appear passive on the surface, but within may feel powerless or stuck, building up a resentment that leads to seething or acting out in subtle, indirect or secret ways. These communicators will mumble to themselves rather than accost a person or issue. They struggle with recognizing their anger, use facial expressions that don't correlate with how they feel and even deny there is a problem.

A passive-aggressive communicator sounds like: "That's fine with me" -then mutters that your idea sucks.

Assertive communicators can express their own needs, desires, ideas and feelings, while also considering the needs of others. They aim for both sides to win in a situation, balancing one's rights with the rights of others. One of the keys to assertive communication is using "I" statements. It indicates ownership of feelings and behaviors without blaming the other person.

An assertive communicator sounds like: "I don't like that idea because it is unfair." "I feel sad when you all do not include me."



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All About All Saints' Praise Team

When was the Praise Team created, and why?

We created the PT in 2011, just around the time of our Patronal. One of our first songs was:

"I sing a song of the Saints of God", which we sang for our Patronal service that year.

The PT was created as a Youth Arm of the Church.

The idea was to give the youth in the Church something constructive to do and create a place for them in the Church.

What was the initial starting number of the group?

The original members were 14 young people; ages 11-14

How many members are in the group now? Who are they?

There are now officially 20 members in the group presently.

Sopranos: Caitlyn & Cheyenne Williams, Eiesha and Elia Pech, Deanni Laing
Leah Dakers (online from CA), Naomi Leslie, Chelsea Bevans, Eli Pech

Altos: Analiese Young (Producer/IT) -Online from Newfoundland, Rachel Theus, Roselyn Pech, Kalifa Jones, Kelsie Neal

Bass: Alston McKenzie, Grayson Cadle, Keshawn Jones

Tenors: Chris Williams-Online from AK, Kadeem Vaughan, Eanne Daley

Is there an age requirement to be in the Praise Team? What is the current age range of your members?

There is no age limit to being in the PT. As long as a young person is willing, can sing and is able to participate.

Ages in PT presently range from 7-26.

What style or genre of music does the PT sings/performs?

We sing multiple types of music. These include: Modern Gospel, Hymns, Inspirational music, Pop (mostly religious), Belizean cultural songs (mostly Christmas based), Classical, Christmas music (ancient and modern, including cantatas) and Other types of "religious" music

Please state some of the events where the Praise Team has performed

The PT has participated in a wide range of events, including:

1. Concerts: In Concert Halls, Churches, Parks
2. Diocesan and Parish events: Synod, Family Day, Special Services, Funerals etc.
3. Interchurch Ministry: Singing at other Churches throughout the Anglican Diocese of Belize and for other denominations as well
4. Singing for National Day Celebration Ceremony in Belmopan.
5. Singing for National Day Celebration Concerts with Frankie Reneau at Bliss Institute
6. Singing for charity events for different community groups



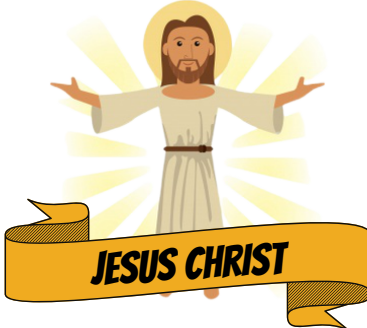
What are some notable work done by the praise team in addition to singing?

1. The Praise Team has been instrumental in Vacation Bible School at All Saints Church for several years.
2. We have also participated in distributing food to homeless people at the Salvation Army, homeless shelters and the Court House Plaza with the Outreach Committee of our Church.
3. We have taken charge of a stall at our annual Bazaar for several years to help with Church finances.
4. We also contribute financially to the upkeep of our Church by donating at least 10% of all monies we make to our Church.
5. We have done numerous fundraising events, including; Dinners, bake sales, Barbecues, Yearly Caye Trip to Goff's Caye, Chetumal Trips, etc for the enjoyment of our congregation and community, and to raise funds for our needs as a group and help our Church financially.
6. Individual PT members have also taken part in working with Mission groups from abroad.
7. Participating with the Outreach Committee in giving gifts to hospitalized children on Christmas Eve (as well as carolling at the KMHM on Christmas Eve)
8. Participating in the Provincial Youth Gathering (PYG) for the entire Anglican Diocese in the province of the West Indies in Grenada in 2016. The PT raised monies to support the three members who participated.



*Interview Questions
were answered by:*

Mrs Althea Young & Dr Julia Hall
(Praise Team Directors & Facilitators)



VIRTUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**July 5th- July 9th, 2021
9:00 a.m. GMT-6**



**View on Facebook or YouTube
at**

Anglican Diocese of Belize 
Youth Ministry Anglican
Diocese of Belize 

Arts & Craft Packages will be available for pickup during the week of
June 28th- July 2nd, 2021, at the following locations:

Anglican Diocese of Belize Office- South Street Belize City, Christ The King Church
Office- Dangriga Town, St. Ann's Church Office- Belmopan, St. Paul's By The Sea-
Corozal, St. Peter's Church- Orange Walk and Church of the Annunciation- Santa Elena
(Arts & Craft packages are limited in supply, so get them early!)



Did you Know?

David is the second most mentioned name in the bible. Jesus is the first.



100 million copies of the Bible are printed each year.



Memory Verse

Matthew 28: 19- "Therefore, go and make disciples in all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit."



Fun Facts

Noah's Ark had more than just 2 of each animal.
*See Genesis 7:2-3



Methuselah is the oldest person in the Bible. He was 969 years old.
*See Genesis 5:27



Psalms 119 is the longest chapter in the bible with 176 verses.



Journal Reflections

How can you better use your faith and values in your life?

What are deeds or work that you do to live out your Christian faith?

Which fruit(s) of the spirit do you think you need to work on?



Jesus Heals the Leper

Jesus came down from a mountain after teaching the crowds of people that followed him. Then a man with leprosy came forward. Jesus' disciples and those around him were anxious. They were afraid of getting sick, too.

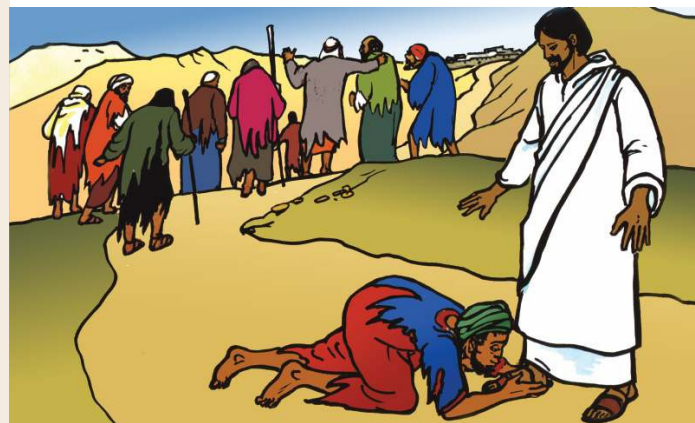
The leper said, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean."

Jesus felt pity for the leper. He reached out his hand to touch him and said, "I do choose. Be made clean!"

Immediately, the man's skin changed and he was healed. The leprosy was gone!

Jesus told the man to go and show himself to a priest for inspection so that he would be allowed back into the community.

He also warned him not to say anything to anyone, but the man couldn't keep the story of this miracle to himself. He told everyone about the miracle. People started to come from all over to seek out Jesus to be healed, as well.



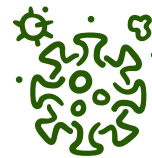
Leprosy is a chronic, progressive bacterial infection caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium leprae*. It primarily affects the nerves of the extremities, the skin, the lining of the nose, and the upper respiratory tract. **Leprosy** is also known as Hansen's disease.

It was very contagious, so anyone with leprosy was sent away from the communities to live in isolation.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What did Jesus do to make the leper feel loved while everyone else was afraid of getting sick?
- In what ways is the story of the leper like our life now with the coronavirus?

LIVING IN A PANDEMIC



What has been most challenging about your school experience during the pandemic?

In my opinion, the most challenging thing about my school experience during the pandemic was the sudden change in the learning environment. We had barely started the semester, and in the blink of an eye, I was at home, in Belize, and expected to carry out homework and classes. The pandemic changed many things for me; before, I would dodge online courses because I knew I lacked the self-discipline necessary to complete the work on my lonesome. But, the pandemic caused me no choice; I adapted quickly to online learning because of the situation. Another challenge was the time difference. There were many days I had to be up early in the morning, which also caused a decrease in motivation. A struggle I had in common with many other students was difficulty concentrating. I had no quiet areas where I could do my classwork. It was tough being around a kitchen table trying to write an essay while my family members were noisily cooking in the background. This pandemic tested your limits, not only regarding school, but in general. We all had to change our behaviors and adapt. It allowed us to create new limits; and to use our human ability, which is to adapt and thrive. The challenges we experienced, in the beginning, became our norm and we are now better prepared for the future.



Caitlyn Williams,
24
recent graduate of
Memorial University
of Newfoundland

What is the greatest lesson you've learned from living through the pandemic?

I believe the pandemic has major impacts on the work, school, and personal lives of individuals. For me, adjusting to online school in just a short period was overwhelming, and being away from my friends was not the best. I've had challenges adapting to a completely different lifestyle just as everyone else. However, while the safety measures required me to be at home and prevented me from carrying out my usual extracurricular activities, they also allowed me to focus on other things and taught me self motivation and discipline. These characteristics revealed a few opportunities which I plan to fulfil to the best of my abilities. When it comes to friends and family, technology today has helped with communication, and some relationships have gotten stronger during this time. While we may not meet in person, we still make time for each other whether it's to study together, watch a movie or simply to talk. I am incredibly grateful for my friends who have always found the time to maintain our friendship despite these circumstances. Of course, the family has also played a vital role in my experience at home. I feel that my relationship with my immediate family is special and I am extremely appreciative of that. My parents continue to work hard to support this family, and my siblings and I always find things to do together. To conclude, I believe living in a pandemic has taught me many things including the importance of nurturing relationships and being supportive of friends and family.



Abigail A. Thurton
16
3rd Form Science
Saint Catherine
Academy

How has living through the pandemic strengthen or weaken your relationship with God?

For me, living through the pandemic is difficult. It has made me realize that anything can happen to us when we least expect it. Listening to the news and hearing about all the deaths from Covid-19 made me see that God has blessed us every day we wake up. Living through this pandemic strengthened my relationship with God because I now see the difficult times that many people go through. I never knew what it was like for people to have or know what it felt like to help others in need. We would have to struggle in helping those in need. We could only attend to a limited amount of people, and we had to put some people before the others. I now know that we all need to help one another, not only in difficult times like these but in any given chance we get.



Ian Vasquez
13
1st form student
Corozal
Community
College

LIVING IN A PANDEMIC



How did you manage to cope with the stress and changes of living in a pandemic?

As a freshman at university, my first school year is a bit rough, mainly because I have to adjust to the online courses, which I hadn't done before. The constant late nights and workload are stressful and at some points overwhelming, especially during the week of finals. There are days I feel disconnected from everything and days where I am super emotional. I told my mother about it and she reminds me to pray because whatever I can't handle God will help to ease the burden. My father also tells me to not allow an institution to stress me out and that I have to put my well-being first. So now, I cope with managing my stress by praying, writing down my tasks to get done, organising, and, the main one, making time for myself. Self-care is important. It doesn't necessarily mean a spa day. It could just be me relaxing, watching my favourite show, meditating, and my favourite, sleeping in.



Kristy Laing,
17
Student at the
University of
Belize

What has being a student during a pandemic taught you?

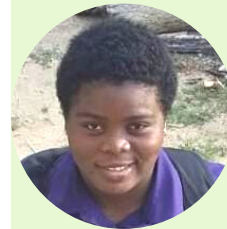
In my own experience, being a student in this pandemic has been a struggle. Having to deal with distractions and others things keeps me from doing my work. I've learned how vital social interactions are, like seeing my teachers and classmates faces to face, interacting with them, and just being in their presence. Due to being home and having more time to think, I have learned how to connect with God and get closer to him. Lastly, this pandemic has taught me how to be self-sufficient in learning by myself and being self-motivated in doing my school work.



Joshua Tucker
4th form
student of
Anglican
Cathedral
College

What do you miss the most about the "normal way of life"?

The thing I miss the most about the "normal way of life" is moving around freely. With all that is going on: the masks, the curfew, the social distancing regulations, it has just all been so overwhelming. I miss the sense of freedom and peace of mind that we once had. Covid has made us all so tense and cautious.



Analia Zuniga:
19yrs. George
Town Technical
Highschool.

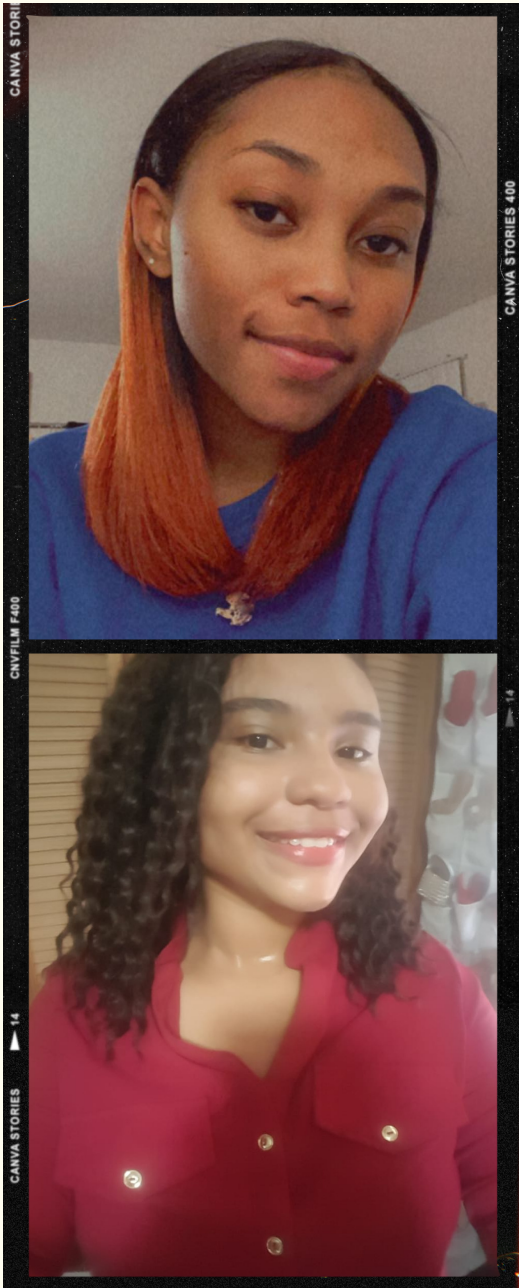
What I miss the most about "normal life" is going to school in person and also being able to interact with my friends. I also miss travelling around, visiting, buying and giving kisses to family members. I also miss spending time freely with friends. I want to do these things that I used to without worrying or stressing out about who possibly has covid, or if they wash their hands and have on a mask. Being social in a time of social distancing is hard.



Gale Palmerston:
14,
Stann Creek
Ecumenical
College

Feature Friday Youth

Rhea Ryes, 18



Kiersten Robateau, 17

A Sophomore in College at Binghamton University

While in Belize, Rhea was a faithful member of St. Mary's Church. She would attend church and Sunday School every Sunday. When Rhea became old enough, she helped with the teachings in Sunday school. Rhea would also teach Vacation Bible School every summer at Shiloh Seven Day Adventist church. During her high school years, she was involved in many activities such as the Mercy Outreach Club, basketball team, bird-watching club and Prefects. She was also president of the school's student council. Rhea is very interested in music; therefore, learned to play the steelpan, piano and guitar. Rhea also danced ballet for several years and received a brown belt in martial arts.

A student at Keiser University enrolled in the Biomedical Science Program (Pre Med)

Kiersten enjoys assisting with the work of the church knowing that she is honouring God. She assists with the reading of the Liturgy during the services. Her favourite talent is singing; therefore, she is a member of the church choir. Whenever she's at home in Belize, she enjoys singing with her grandparents. Kiersten is a member of the 2020 graduation class of St Catherine Academy. She was a Science major who maintained a GPA of 4.0 during her four years of high school. She ranked 4th overall in her graduating year.

Feature Friday Youth

**Roselyn
Anaika
Pech, 15**



**Triston Mark
Corey Garcia**

A junior at St. Catherine Academy High School majoring in Science

Roselyn has been a devoted member of All Saint' Parish since she was a little girl. Her involvement in the church first started with her participation in Sunday School classes. She later joined the All Saints' Praise Team where she sings alto in the choir. She also became a Sunday School teacher assistant and was very good in helping the younger children. Since January 2021 she has officially become the All Saints' Sunday School Teacher. She now plans, prepares and delivers weekly lessons to the children online via zoom. She prepares and delivers craft packages and treats to her Sunday School Students. She also assists with outreach programs and fundraising activities.

Outside of church she tutors students, assist peers with homework and also provides spiritual and emotional support to friends in need. Roselyn is also a prefect and a member of the Book Club, Robotic Club and the Interact Club in her school community.

She is very talented and enjoys reading, writing, crafting, gardening and her biggest passion is helping those in need. She is always looking for new knowledge that will allow her to better assist others. In her spare time she loves to learn new computer skills and new languages. She loves preparing videos and is fluent in Spanish, Mandarin and French. She is a firm believer of Women Empowerment and tries her best to be an exemplary role model to her beautiful sisters and younger brother. She encourages all youths to chase their dreams and keep their faith in the Lord for his timing is always right.

A second-year student of Edward P. Yorke High School

Triston is a humble and hardworking young man. He has been a dedicated member of the Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist. He has given his time to the church and the service of the Lord by being an acolyte at the Cathedral. Triston enjoys playing video games and has a great passion for drawing.

Feature Friday Youth

Analia Zuniga, 19

Recent Graduate of George Town Technical High School

Analia is a graduate of Christ the King Anglican school who has not forgotten her alma mater or church family. Since the reopening of churches after lockdown, she has been assisting the church in several ways. She helps with the pantry program and also set-up the projector for the service. She also set up and manages the handwashing/registration desk. She travels with Rev Barbara to all services on a Sunday to assist with these tasks at the various mission churches. Analia believes that helping others is a way of showing people God's love and that it is better to show than tell. Her hobbies include reading, listening to music and swimming.

Ryan Shamar Hamilton, 17

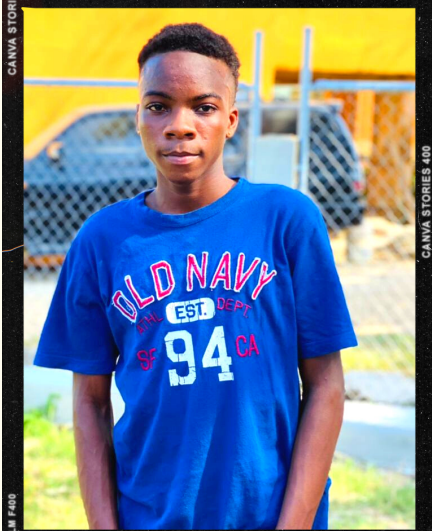
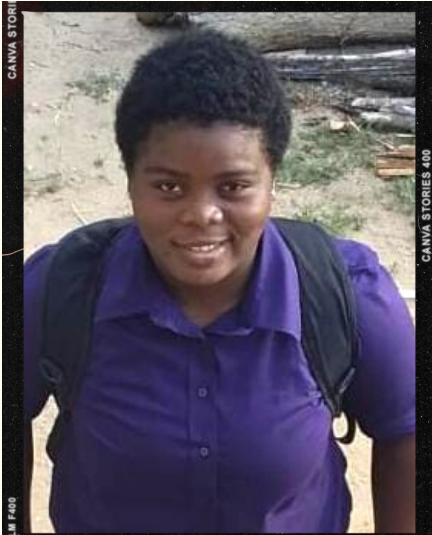
A fourth form student of Wesley College

Ryan is a youth member of St. John's Sunday School. He loves to share positive messages from God and encourages others to believe in God. He assists and enjoys when Sunday School gives away gifts. Ryan believes that school contributes to his education by offering better learning. In his spare time, Ryan takes pleasure in playing basketball and football, as well as playing video games and listening to music. He also enjoys drawing and sketching.

Gale Palmerston, 14

A first form student at Stann Creek Ecumenical College

Gale is a very devoted member of her church. She is always willing to assist. Gale is the projector operator for the Sunday service, for the congregation to follow along. She is also a frequent reader of the lessons in the services. In addition, Gale is the Sunday School assistant. Previously, she served as a proud member of the Police Youth Cadet. When she is not serving in church, or learning in school, Gale enjoys reading, watching tv and experimenting with food.



DIOCESAN YOUTH SERVICE

SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021
8:00 AM GMT-6

View on Facebook at The Anglican Diocese of Belize



ALL ABOUT Choices



Ever think about the everyday choices we make? Why do we dress the way we do? Why do we talk and act the way we do? Why do we hang around the people we hang with? I want you to ask yourself three questions:



- 1.) Who makes my choices?
- 2.) How am I making my choices?
- 3.) Why am I making them?

Who Makes Our Choices? Who or what pressures us to do what we do? Wear what we wear... Talk how we talk... If we are honest with ourselves, we would say that the culture around us has a huge say in what we do, what we wear, how we act, and how we talk. And when I say culture, I'm talking about social media, movie stars, recording artist, athletes, where we live, the school we go to, and the friends we hang out with. I'm talking about technology, books, and whatever social class people put us in. Maybe your parents make all the choices for you. Either because they are afraid that you are going you'll make the wrong choice, or because they want to "protect you"! Maybe your friends make your decisions for you because they are the closest family you have, and you're afraid you will lose them too! Maybe money makes your choices because you don't have any, and you are tired of living broke! Or, you have a lot of "stuff" and that's what drives you. Those are a few examples of what could be making your choices.

Let's look at how we are making our choices. How are we making our choices? How can music influence the choices you make? How does it influence how we act, talk, and what we wear? Most of you have probably heard the phrase "YOLO" (You Only Live Once). A lot of people adopted this "motto" and started to live life like there was no tomorrow because of a popular song. Now, what happens when you live like there is no tomorrow? Then all of a sudden, tomorrow comes. You've been spending all your money and telling people what's on your mind because you 'know' they deserve it. Maybe you started gravitating towards drugs and alcohol. You're skipping school and sleeping in. What happens then? What happens when someone disrespects you and you're like "YOLO"! What happens when you are tempted to steal knowing the police is near, knowing they have people watching you, knowing they have cameras...but you're like "YOLO"! What happens when your boyfriend or girlfriend is pressuring you to have sex, and you're like "YOLO". Then a month later someone is pregnant! These are some example of the culture around us can influence our choices.

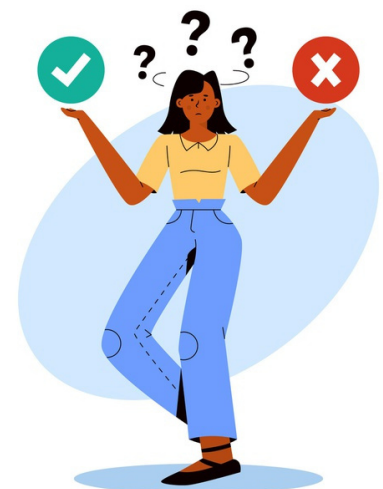
The idea is to be **aware** of what is influencing you and how you make the choices you do. What is the "why" behind our choices? Again, if we are honest – music, money, friends, movies, sports shape the choices we make for two reasons: **Acceptance and fear!** Pretty much any choice we make hinges on those two things. We dress like our friends because we FEAR that we will look different, and we want to be ACCEPTED by our friends. We want to fit in! We chase money or "stuff" because we FEAR that we won't live a good life and have good things. We fear that we won't be ACCEPTED if we don't have a lot of money or "stuff". We flirt and "mess around" because we FEAR that we are not good enough for someone to love us, and we want to be ACCEPTED. We get drunk at parties and do drugs because of peer pressure and we FEAR that people will label us "goody-goodies", and "goody-goodies" are not ACCEPTED by the circles we run in.

Here is what Romans 12:1-2 has to say about choices. ***Romans 12:1-2 (MSG) "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you"***

Let me give you a choice to make. Live free following Jesus! Or, be enslaved to FEAR and ACCEPTANCE Who's going to make that choice for you? How are you going to make that choice? Why will you make that choice? I hope this message has challenged you to think about the choices you make. I hope you're inspired to ask God to show you the source of your choices, how you make them, and why you make them.

Reflective questions:

- How do things like music, media, celebrities, sports, etc. influence the choices you make?
- How/why do you allow your friends to influence the choices you make?
- What does "the renewing of your mind" in Romans 12:2 mean to you and how can your mind be renewed?



ACTIVITY PAGE

Print this page and have fun!

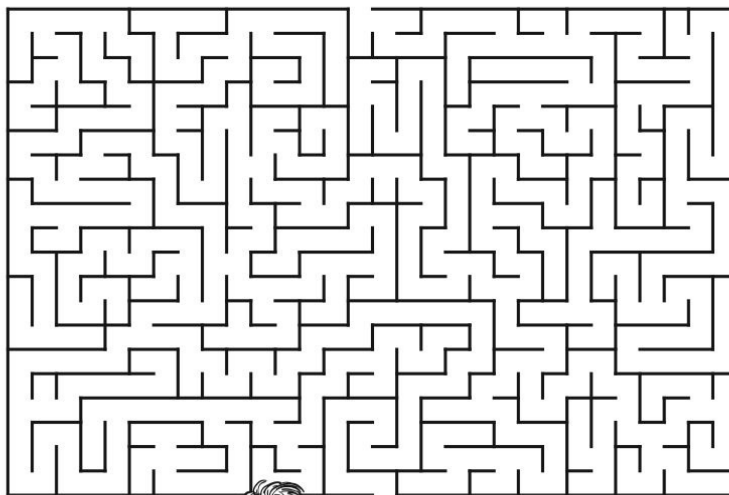


© Crafting The Word Of God

"I AM" THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Follow Jesus, the Light of the World

START



FINISH



ACROSS

5. Make something to be full
6. To be totally surprised
7. Something that is pure and good, such as God's Word
10. The day the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles
11. Means of communication used by the people of a particular country
12. A destructive burning

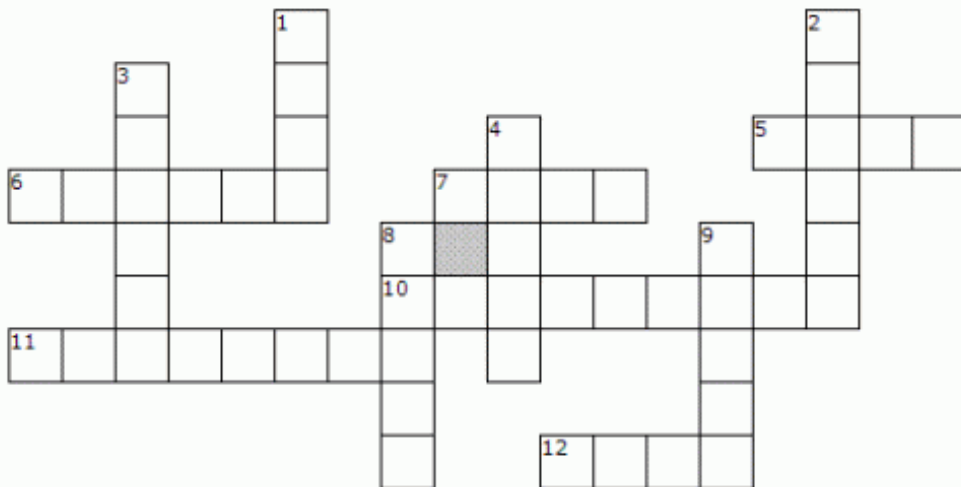
DOWN

1. Blowing air, especially that which would move the leaves on a tree
2. A being that cannot be seen, like a ghost
3. The place where God lives
4. Something that can be heard
8. To say words, to use the voice
9. A building which people live in

Filled with the Holy Spirit

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

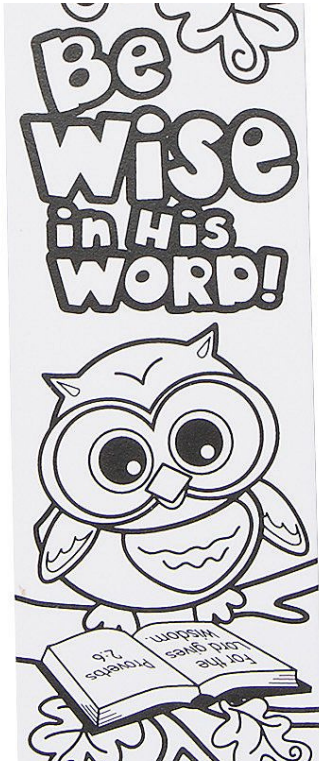
Based on Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)



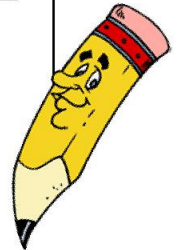
HEAVEN	SPIRIT	FIRE	HOLY
WIND	PENTECOST	LANGUAGE	SPEAK
SOUND	FILL	HOUSE	AMAZED

ACTIVITY PAGE

Print this page and have fun!



A 10 +33	B 16 -2	C 11 -11	D 6 +9	E 4 +8	F 90 -10	G 12 -5	H 45 +5	I 36 +2
J 75 -72	K 16 -8	L 14 +2	M 49 +5	N 20 -10	O 69 -21	P 52 +32	Q 76 +21	R 54 -23
	S 84 -12	T 41 +16	U 61 +14	V 95 -71	W 15 +15	X 8 -2	Y 30 +6	



"...if ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and..."

72 - 12 - 31 - 24 - 12 50 - 38 - 54 48 - 10 - 16 - 36 : 43 - 10 - 15 50 - 12 30 - 38 - 16 - 16

15 - 12 - 16 - 38 - 24 - 12 - 31 36 - 48 - 75 48 - 75 - 57 48 - 80 57 - 50 - 12

50 - 43 - 10 - 15 48 - 80 57 - 50 - 12 84 - 50 - 38 - 16 - 38 - 72 - 57 - 38 - 10 - 12 - 72.

(1 SAMUEL 7: 3)

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- SOUND JUDGMENT
- KINDNESS
- SELF CONTROL
- PEACE
- JOY
- GOODNESS
- RUACH
- LOVE
- GOD
- DISCIPLE
- PATIENCE
- FAITHFULNESS
- HOLY SPIRIT
- BIBLE
- FRUIT
- GENTLENESS
- YAHWEH
- RIGHTEOUSNESS



D R G J Z L Q B R P F S U Y A A K O O M
 L I Y R K C O B I B L E P E A M R P U O
 V G W M S S R V K L W F F E O Q F F I I
 S H G M E H A C E S V G A D A I H X D N
 V T A V L V G R T J G J I Z U C X F A T
 S E R G F W O F C Y F I T Q P I E X P G
 G O G Y C H W J J K R S H Z B E H N R O
 G U M B O U M O N T U O F F C Q X L K O
 E S Y E N Y J Y A V I U U D T X R B O D
 N N Z Z T E G Y P M T A L D E E U C L N
 T E X O R A Q D F L W Z N Q X J A U K E
 L S N M O A T X Y X R M E S K F C X N S
 E S H O L Y S P I R I T S Z J Q H O T S
 N Z B H I Z H M H B T N S I R T E G F F
 E K I N D N E S S F Z C L S H Y A O X Z
 S N B L R K X L F H R E F A O O J D U A
 S J S O U N D J U D G M E N T N M K P L
 J K D B Z U I A S V Q P A T I E N C E U
 N D I S C I P L E L L J Y O H H U B K Z
 O S U H M K O L J Z Y A H W E H Y D F W





**Church in The Province
of
The West Indies - Youth**

PROVINCIAL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND

Coming up in October!

**GET READY!
GET EXCITED!**

**More details to come.
Stay tuned!**

IN THE
Summer
TIME



BULLETIN

Get Crafty! Color, paint, create cool stuff! Just use your imagination.



Get Active!

Go for walks. Visit the park and play. Safely engage in sporting activities. Participate in experiencing new things (make sure it is safe). Volunteer if you can.

Journal!

Document your summer days by writing about your experiences. At the end of summer, you should have a book!



Rest!

Be sure to rest. Sleep in whenever you can. Sit in silence. Enjoy the breeze. Remember to take it slow some days.



Remember, we are still in a pandemic, so follow all Covid-19 protocols.



If you know a young person you'd want us to feature, or if you have an article for us to share, then send us an email or give us a call.



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Belize Anglican Diocesan Youth Commission

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