

# The Epistle

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Moravian Church  
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**WATCHWORD FOR 2018**  
*"His greatness will reach to the  
end of the earth." Micah 5:4 (NIV)*



## SEPTEMBER 2018

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School will resume for students age 4 and above on September 9, 2019 at 8:45 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served. Join us as we seek to grow in our love and knowledge of God!

### SNAK & YAK

Join us on September 2 for a Snak & Yak after worship. We are grateful to Elder Jackie Borden for sponsoring this event. If you would like to sponsor a Snak & Yak please contact an Elder.

### DEDICATION SUNDAY AT ST. PAUL'S

Join us for Dedication Sunday on September 23. The families and staff of the Christian Children's Center have been invited to join us for worship. We will honor the staff for their service.

### KID'S CLUB NEWS

Kid's Club resumes on September 21 at 6:30. Please pray for this powerful outreach ministry of our church! The Kid's Club staff will gather for fellowship and planning after worship on September 9. If you would like to be a part of Kid's Club, speak to Pastor Bill, there's room for you!

### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES

We extend our Christian sympathies to the family of brother Seafus Craft who entered the more immediate presence of the Savior on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Seafus was a founding member of St. Paul's. A celebration of life was held at St. Paul's at which Pastor Gordon Sommers presided. An interment service is being held at Cheltenham Cemetery on August 31 at 11 AM. We are grateful to all those who supported the family through their assistance with the many responsibilities. Sister Sandra Craft asks us to keep the family in our prayers.

### A REPORT FROM PASTOR BILL

"Pastor, how was your vacation?" The question forced me to bring together the threads of two weeks away from work and ministry. I learned (once again) how blessed I am by a generous and loving congregation and a sacrificially supportive wife.

I structured my days so that each included at least some time in: study, physical activity/exercise, nature, healthy eating and sleep. This reminded me of the importance of attending to the fundamentals of the Christian life.

I unloaded a lot of stress as I turned my focus from ministry and work to rest, reflection and renewal. I reflected on God's call to continue serving as a Pastor. I thought about my relationship with God, my family and others.

I had time to think! What a luxury and powerful source of inspiration and wisdom.

As I return to my Church family and ministry I do so with renewed strength and commitment. I missed you all and am glad to be back home. The Savior is calling me to continue serving as a Pastor, and with His help I plan to follow. You have blessed me with the gift of a Sabbath. May God bless you for that gift. Thank you! In Christ, Pastor Bill

### WOMEN'S RETREAT WAS GREAT!

The following reports have been received: Our first St. Paul's Women's Retreat was a wonderful success! Rain gave way to absolutely gorgeous weather and I loved seeing the look on the ladies faces when they saw the mountain view for the first time! God's creation is so wonderful. Seeing it made our studies even more meaningful. We enjoyed studying Gods word, growing in our relationship with God and one another. Walking on the Appalachian Trail was a treat for all of us. No bear sighting on the trail

(thank goodness) but near our house, which I get so excited about especially when the sighting is from the safety of a car! I hope we can continue to have retreats at my mountain home! -Blessings, Audrey

Six women gathered at the Haynie's home in the Blue Ridge Mountains for a Women's retreat the first weekend of August. While it rained heavily our first night on the mountain, making visibility poor those arriving in the dark, the weather the rest of the weekend was glorious. Our studies focused on growing in relationship with God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. As we grew in our knowledge of God, we enjoyed sweet fellowship with one another and we got to know one another better. We had awesome opportunities to enjoy God's beautiful creation. We took a short hike on the Appalachian Trail and we enjoyed a bear sighting! On Saturday night, we watched "I Can Only Imagine". The meals were delicious, and we dined outside on the deck as often as possible. After worship on Sunday morning, the women lingered enjoying lunch and conversations with one another before the drive home. The women hope to continue to grow in relationship with one another as we spur one another on in our walk with Christ. Gail

### **MEN'S RETREAT**

All men are invited to attend the Men's Retreat on September 28 – 30. The retreat is a time away from the stresses and cares of "normal" life that allows us to decompress and focus on the things that really matter: food, fun and faith! If you are interested in attending please contact Jeff Haynie or Pastor Bill.

### **TRUSTEES CORNER**

The Trustees have been working on replacing the air conditioning system in the sanctuary. This is a complicated project and will require significant funding. We are grateful for the congregation's patience during this period. The cracked window in the hallway has been replaced!

Planning has begun for the Church Yard Sale which will be held on October 13. We would appreciate your help with set-up, crowd control, grilling, and food sales. Baked goods donations will be gratefully accepted! Thank you for supporting St. Paul's!

Sincerely,  
Board of Trustees

### **CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS**



The children are enjoying summer at St. Paul's from screams of excitement at the Brandywine pool to hushed curiosity watching a puppet show in the Fellowship Hall about accepting diversity. They learned about beaches, space, the ocean, dragons, kings, and queens, and many other interesting things so far. Our teachers love creating an atmosphere where learning is fun and engaging to the children. At the same time, we teach about God and Jesus with our daily bible lessons and stories. We understand that with Jesus all things are possible – something we want to instill in all our children.

As the school year rolls around the corner, we are beginning a new curriculum for our Pre-K programs. Creative Curriculum helps us balance all the needs of children, social-emotional, language and literacy, physical, and cognitive, while creating strong partnerships with families. The teachers are excited to start the school year implementing new lesson plans, activities, and materials for the children while they play and learn. Additionally, we are starting the process of accreditation to help us meet the standards set by the state of Maryland. Please lend us your support and encouragement as we go through this process.

We have started fall registrations for our School Age and Pre-K programs. This includes children ages 2 – 12. If you know anyone who is interested in high quality child care in a Christian environment please have them call us to schedule an appointment at 301-627-4202. They can also learn more on our website at [stpaulsccc.org](http://stpaulsccc.org).

*"And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good." - 2 Thessalonians 3:13*

*Mr. Christopher Antoine, Director*

### **THANK YOU!**

\*During ShaShana's recuperation from surgery some able volunteers have stepped forward to serve in the church office. We are grateful to: Pat Jones, Kay Jung, and Roberta Haines for their service. We are especially grateful to Kendra Miller for producing the bulletin for our Sunday services.

\*We are very grateful to sister Paula FitzGerald for serving as organist on August 19 and 26 while sister Barbara Masters has taken some well-deserved vacation time.

## OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL Classes will resume in September.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Tuesdays, 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM, led by Sister Dorothy Thomas. We are studying 1st and 2nd Corinthians. All ladies are invited to study with us.

BIBLE STUDY: SPIRITUAL GIFTS. You have been created and invited by God to participate in his kingdom work. Yet, you have probably also experienced feelings of uncertainty about how to serve God, about what gifts you have to use, and about God's purpose for your life.

In these studies, R. Paul Stevens helps you to recognize your spiritual gifts and the gifts of others. And he leads you to consider how to practically use these gifts to glorify God in your relationships, your work and your world. There is room for you in this class. Join us Sundays at 8:45 AM.

PRAYER & HEALING SERVICE You are invited to join us as we pray for one another on September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM at the church.

MEN'S GROUP will not meet in September because of the Men's Retreat. See the article elsewhere.

MEN'S BREAKFAST All men are invited to attend, Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM. at the Marlboro Grille in Upper Marlboro. There is a place for you!

GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL BOOK GROUP: Are you interested in experiencing exciting growth in your spiritual life within a small group setting? Join our Good and Beautiful Book Group! We are beginning our fifth book this summer, A Spiritual Formation Workbook, by author James Bryan Smith. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 10 (chapter 2) and will take place at St. Paul's at 7:00 pm. For more info, see Diane Rausch.

### MARLBORO CHURCHES FOOD BANK

In August the food bank gave out 110 bags to 34 families. We are packing 140 bags for our September distribution.

If you have donations of school supplies we will be giving out school supplies at our September distribution.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE FOOD DELIVERY: We are trying something new with the food delivery. Volunteers will gather at 1 pm to move food inside the hall and produce into the

Clagett building at Trinity Church. We hope this will help us with the serious problem we have had regarding lack of volunteers for unloading.

Food Bank volunteer activities for September are:  
Truck Unloading will be Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM

Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM set up food at Trinity Episcopal

Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 8 AM bag food at Trinity Episcopal – volunteers are especially needed for the Friday morning bagging

Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 AM distribute food at Trinity Episcopal

\*\*\*\*\* NOTE - We have set up a text service so volunteers will get a text with the time when the truck is expected. Volunteers should register at <https://www.remind.com/join/upperm>. They will be emailed a code. To complete registration, they must go back to the website and type in their code and name.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF SYNOD 2018

From the Church and Society Committee:

Immigration: The Moravian Church should call for the humane treatment of any person coming across our borders, legally or illegally, and to immediately reunite families that have been separated.

Reducing Violence and Promoting Responsible Weapon Ownership

Called on civil authorities to take immediate effective action to reduce violence and the opportunities for violence among the populace and to provide for and fund adequate mental health facilities where those who are judged to be a danger to themselves and/or others may receive prompt care,

Rejected violence as a problem-solving method, and the idea that the only way to reduce violence is with more violence,

Those owning and using weapons for legitimate purposes to act at all times with the highest standards of safety in storage, transport, handling and use of such weapons.

Care and Concern for Women and Girls

Affirmed the dignity and rights of women and girls everywhere; committed to confront and eliminate any means of discrimination against women and girls throughout all of society and directed PEC to

partner with congregations, the Board of World Missions and other relevant entities to continue to offer a ministry of healing and empowerment for women, girls and for those who love them everywhere.

#### Elimination of Racism:

##### Institutional, system, and Personal

Reaffirmed "A statement on Racism and the Church" approved by the 1998 Provincial Synods. (Available from Pastor Andrews or Pat Jones.) Required all pastors, licensed ministers and candidates for ordination to receive anti-racism training.

Called upon the PEC to guide all congregations to offer anti-racism training for their members through resources in their communities or resources prepared and/or recommended by the MCNP.

Called upon all members to be strengthened by faith in Jesus Christ to overcome fear and become informed about racism and its impact on all human lives; confess the sin of racism; speak and act in love for all people; and work in every aspect of life to eliminate institutional, systemic, and personal racism

##### Inclusion of Persons of All Gender Identities

Affirmed the dignity and rights of persons of all gender identities; reaffirmed open welcome to all people recognizing that persons of all gender identities are also under God's care and can be members of the church; encouraged pastors and church leaders to engage in training and education related to the understanding of and care for persons of all gender identities.

##### Awareness of Violence Against Women

The PEC will designate one Sunday each year to bring attention to the world-wide problem of violence against women; require continuing education for pastors and directors of Christian Education in identifying signs of abuse and in handling such cases in congregations; educate its congregations and members of their rights under existing legislation; and mandated training in pastoral care including training and regular refresher training to recognize and appropriately address violence against women and children.

##### Promoting Moravian Resources on Social Issues

Encouraged the PEC to share in continued dialogue with our ecumenical partners in important issues in our society

For more info contact Pat Jones or Pastor Bill.

### **A NOTE FROM LISA ANDREWS**

Thank you SO much for your prayers and cards and messages this year. I cannot tell you how meaningful and helpful that encouragement has been through good times and difficult times! I miss you all greatly and wish I had the time to come and share with each of you personally, but the following will have to suffice!

I have completed my first full year of seminary. YAY! I still have 2 long years to go, but I have seen God's leading and faithfulness in these first 3 semesters. My course work this year included Theology Survey, Old and New Testament Surveys, Psychopathology, Clinical Counseling Skills, and a class called Group Process to name a few. It has been an especially eye-opening year going deeper into the Bible and really looking at the whole narrative in my Old Testament and New Testament classes. My favorite, although also most difficult, class was Psychopathology. It is such an honor to learn under these professors bring so much wisdom and firsthand experience to their teaching about the variety of mental illnesses.

After being raised Moravian and attending small churches my whole life where I was instantly known as the pastor's daughter.... upon arriving at seminary, I thought to myself "I'd like to have the megachurch experience!" I tried it but after a few months found it did nothing for my heart or my relationship with the Lord. By Christmas 2017 I had begun attending a small Congregational church pastored by an alumna of Gordon Conwell where a few of my classmates attend. Their service begins each week by sharing the joys and concerns of the church and I immediately knew I was home. It's no St. Paul's, but if there's a next best thing - I've found it. I have slowly begun building relationships and making friends and will begin serving in children's ministry this school year. I was voted onto the Student Association and it has been a joy to serve the community, staff, faculty, and other students! I am the Student Association Treasurer for 2018-2019.

Please pray for: sustained energy as the new year begins. As a member of the Student Association I am responsible for shepherding new students into the community, but I am tired. I completed all my

work well this year but have not had adequate time to rest this summer - working as much as possible to save for the school year when I cannot work as often. Please pray for wisdom and discernment, both personally and with my various roles on campus and at church. I am fearing burnout this year. If you would also pray for sustained, life-giving relationships with the friends I have made both last year and in the coming year. Seminary can be an extremely lonely place with lots of people to talk to, but lacking true connection - not to mention the ordinary distractions of “life” and the stresses and demands of schoolwork, ministry, relationships.

Editor’s note: Lisa is most grateful for your prayers. She would also be grateful for your financial support. If God leads you in that direction you may use the “Spiritual Education Fund – Lisa” through the church. Every dollar you give will go directly to her educational needs. Thank you!

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Operation Christmas Child is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since 1993, Samaritan’s Purse has partnered with local churches around the world to deliver 157 million [Operation Christmas Child](#) shoebox gifts to children in need in 160 countries. Each one—packed full of fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items by a family or individual—is sent with prayer that the child who receives it will experience God’s love through their simple gifts. Please join us in this worthwhile project by packing a shoebox, giving your financial support and praying these gifts will bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to children all over our world. Once again, you may pack a complete shoebox on your own or you may contribute items to pack in boxes being prepared by our congregation. Please place any gift items in the collection bin in the narthex. Watch for more information in the bulletin and in next month's Epistle.