

# The Epistle

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Moravian Church  
8505 Heathermore Blvd. Upper Marlboro, MD 20772  
**Phone:** 301-627-4200  
www.spmoravian.org spmoravian@gmail.com  
**Facebook:** St. Paul's Moravian Church  
**Rev. Bill Andrews' e-mail:** stpaulspastor@gmail.com  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday – Friday, 10AM - 3PM

**WATCHWORD FOR 2018**  
*"His greatness will reach to the end of the earth." Micah 5:4 (NIV)*



**OCTOBER 2018**

## **PASTOR APPRECIATION LOVEFEAST**

On October 21 we will have a lovefeast honoring Pastor Bill and Sister Gail for their service to St. Paul's. One of the powerful messages of a Moravian Lovefeast is the emphasis on the fellowship and family nature of the Body of Christ. Plan to attend that day to renew your ties to the St. Paul's family.

## **THE YARD SALE NEEDS YOU!**

The Yard Sale will be held on October 13. Your help is needed with set up, clean up, Snack Shop, Sweet Shop any time between the hours of 8 AM and 2PM. Sign up in the narthex today or for more information contact Trustee John Ruiz.

## **THE MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE**

Join us on October 21st for a tour of the Museum of the Bible in DC. After lunch we will tour DC's newest "world class museum." Learn about how the Bible came to be and how it has changed the world! Check out the Opportunity Table for more info.

## **KID'S CLUB TRUNK OR TREAT**

Last year our Trunk or Treat program was a great success due to the great support from the congregation! If you would like to decorate a trunk on October 26, or if you would like to donate candy please contact Pastor Bill or a member of the Kid's Club Staff.

## **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

On Sunday, October 28 our focus will turn to the important Christian value of stewardship. How can we live in ways that honor God, our neighbor, and the creation God has made? How can we make a difference through our habits and choices? Join us as we learn how to deepen our walk with the Lord.

## **YARD SALE!**

The Yard Sale will be held on October 13 from 8 AM to 2 PM. Our yard will be full of vendors and buyers and it is a wonderful opportunity to meet our neighbors! Help is needed with set up and clean up, and with our food and beverage sales. We depend on our people to make it a success – can we count on you?

## **TRUSTEES CORNER**

The Board of Trustees continues to work on replacing the Air Conditioning system for the Sanctuary. This is an enormous project and will carry a large price tag! They are also coordinating the Yard Sale on October 13. If you can serve an hour or two in any capacity, please sign up at the Opportunity Table.

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Operation Christmas Child is celebrating its 25th 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.

## CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS



Fall has officially arrived and the children are enjoying the respite from the hot and rainy summer months. They will be able to play outside more often now that the weather is accommodating. Gross motor and physical activities are extremely important for a child's development. In fact, the Maryland Department of Education lists it as one of the most important predictors of kindergarten readiness. If you have children, young or old, make sure to get them outside as much as possible.

We have been blessed to start a new curriculum this school year called Creative Curriculum, one of the few approved by the state of Maryland. This curriculum features exploration and discovery as a way of learning, enabling children to develop confidence, **creativity**, and lifelong critical thinking skills. This month, the children are continuing the theme of "Beginning the Year" where they are focusing on what happens at school, who works here, and how to make friends.

October is Fire Prevention month and we want to make sure everyone is safe and prepared. Check and service your smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, and carbon monoxide alarms. Do you have an emergency plan in the event of a fire? If not, make one today!

We have full time openings for children ages 2-5 for our Pre-K program. If you know anyone who needs high quality child, have them call us at 301-627-4202 for a tour. More information can be found on our website at [stpaulsccc.org](http://stpaulsccc.org).

*"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."* 2 Peter 3:9

**Mr. Christopher Antoine, Director**

## OPPORTUNITIES

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Classes for children aged three (and potty trained) through high school start each week at 8:45 A.M. sharp! Our teachers are ready and eager to shape the hearts of our children.

**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.

This study will help you to recognize your spiritual gifts and the gifts of others. You will consider how to practically use these gifts to glorify God in your relationships, your work and your world. There is room for you. Join us Sundays at 8:45 AM.

**PRAYER & HEALING SERVICE** You are invited to join us as we pray for one another on October 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM at the church.

**MEN'S GROUP** will meet on Wednesday, October 10 at 6:00 PM. We are studying "The Good and Beautiful Life." All men are welcome.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** All men are invited to attend, Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM. at the Marlboro Grille in Upper Marlboro. There is a place for you!

**GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL (GAB) BOOK GROUP** is enjoying reading, learning, and sharing together our fifth book, *A Spiritual Formation Workbook*, by James Bryan Smith. Our spiritual journey continues! It is not too late to join us - we welcome you at any time. Our future GAB meeting dates have been set: October 1, October 15, October 29, November 12, December 3 and December 10. All meetings take place at the church at 7:00 pm. For more info, see Diane Rausch.

## MARLBORO CHURCHES FOOD BANK

Please remember our staple items when you are getting together food donations for the Food Bank: spaghetti sauce, soup, canned vegetables, canned meat, canned tuna, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, cereal/breakfast food, corn bread mix, box mac n cheese, rice, pasta. Thank you for your help! We will be very busy from October through December. Please consider volunteering.

Food Bank volunteer activities for October are:  
Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM truck unloading  
Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM set up food at Trinity  
Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 8 AM bag food at Trinity – volunteers are especially needed for the Friday morning bagging  
Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 AM distribute food at Trinity

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE FOOD TRUCK UNLOADING: We are trying something new with the food truck delivery and unloading. Volunteers will gather at 1 pm to move food inside the buildings at Trinity Church. Please help if you can.

## **SYNOD REPORT – PART 2**

Synod approved the following resolutions:

1. Further discussion and Examination Regarding Identity, Purpose & Organization
  - a. The Synod IPO Committee reviewed and discussed a plan for reorganization of Provincial and District governance submitted by the IPO committee but voted 20/20 that the wider church would benefit from further conversation at congregational, regional, district, and provincial levels before submitting draft proposals to the 2022 NP Synod
  - b. Congregational and regional conversations to obtain feedback during 2019, led by district representatives, to provide corresponding recommendations for consideration at the regularly scheduled 2020 District Synods. These recommendations should be provided to all congregations in the Northern Province (NP) by December 2019 for review prior to the District Synod.
  - c. The PEC and District Boards will review, with prayerful consideration, the feedback and directives from the District Synods and will develop legislation for consideration at the 2022 Provincial Synod. Such draft legislation to be provided to all congregations in the (NP) by 2021 for review prior to the 2022 Provincial Synod.
  - d. Synod directed the PEC and the Board of Elders Canadian District to jointly seek legal counsel to assure compliance with Canadian law regarding any provincial reorganization and make any necessary accommodations in its recommendations to

the 2020 Canadian District Synod, and to any recommendations being submitted to the 2022 Provincial Synod.

- e. As a top priority in their schedules, members at Synod pledged to participate by helping the PEC and the District Boards, promote, attend and lead regional conversations.
2. Reports from the Bishops, Interprovincial Board of Communications and the Provincial Women’s Board
    - a. The Synod encouraged all congregations to uphold the Bishops, the Interprovincial Board of Communications and the ministry of the Provincial Women’s Board in prayer.
  3. Synod accepted the Report of the Provincial Elders’ Conference in its entirety.
  4. Interprovincial Commission on Music and Worship
    - a. Synod recommended that any potential Commission on Music and Worship consist of one rep. from the Moravian Music foundation, and one rep. from each Province. The PEC should appoint the representatives, including term limits, rotation and chairperson.
  5. Book of Order Revision Regarding Clergy Expectations
    - a. Synod adopted a Change to the Book of Order 202(e).3.2: “the ordained ministry is a position of power and trust which may be subject to abuse. Therefore, ordained ministers are careful to avoid even the appearance of using their office to influence or impact parishioners with regard to receiving gifts or personal favors or preferential consideration in the course of daily life or business. . .”

The ordained are aware that the power of their position may be misused for personal *gain and/or* sexual gratification. They avoid any sexual activity with those whom they serve.”
    - b. Synod directed the Provincial and District leaders to re-evaluate the training provided

for all ordained ministers with regard to clergy expectations and provide appropriate training as necessary.

- c. Encouraged all congregations to keep the districts and their ministries in prayer.

Submitted by Pat Jones and Pastor Bill