

The Epistle

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Moravian Church
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WATCHWORD FOR 2019

“I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.”
Psalm 104:33

MARCH 2019

LENT: MARCH 6 – APRIL 18

Lent is an opportunity for you to discover something new in your faith! The stress and distraction of making a life can smother our faith and deaden our hearts. Over the course of these weeks you can join us as we seek to know Jesus better. Would you like something new to happen to you? Are you willing for God to have access in your heart and life? God can do anything in you! St. Paul's offers you several opportunities to grow spiritually during Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us March 6th at 7 p.m. as we gather to seek God. As we pray and sing, we will reflect on our spiritual health and open ourselves to God's help for a better way and better life. We will receive ashes as a sign that without God we are lost and as a reminder that through faith we belong to Jesus Christ.

LEADERS FOR 2019

BOARD OF ELDERS

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|---|---|
| Pat Jones Vice-President, Secretary Diane Rausch | Tim Smith Alice Labeodan John Ruiz Sue Weiffenbach |
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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| Monique Abbitt President, Vice President, Juli Moses Secretary | Yvonne Maddox, Harry Borden Mike Coombs Bob Rausch Joseph Labeodan |
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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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| Chair, Liz Sinn, Secretary | Brittany Moses Dion Zanfordino Kendra Miller |
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LENTEN SUPPERS

Join us on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm starting on March 13th for a community event. We will share a simple meal together then enjoy some guided conversation focusing on a story from the Bible that highlights one of the meals of Jesus and how that connects with our experience. Everyone is welcome to attend this event designed for church family and the community. Feel free to invite a friend to join you. You don't have to attend every week. Just let us know you're coming so we make enough for everybody. Can you host a meal or prepare food or dessert? Sign-up for the date of your choice at the Opportunity Table today.

MARLBORO CHURCHES FOOD BANK

We gave out 102 bags to 31 families in February. We need jelly this month and we are packing 100 bags.

Food Bank volunteer activities for March are:

- Wednesday, March 6th, 1 PM Truck Unloading at Trinity Episcopal
- Thursday, March 7th, 7 PM set up food at Trinity Episcopal
- Friday, March 8th, 8 AM bag food at Trinity Episcopal – volunteers are especially needed for the Friday morning bagging
- Saturday, March 9th, 7 AM distribute food at Trinity Episcopal

Bring food donations to church with you by Sunday, March 3rd. These are our staple items: pasta noodles, rice, spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables, canned beans, canned protein, jelly, cereal, macaroni & cheese.

CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS



“In like a lion, out like a lamb” are the words used to describe the fantastic weather changes that occur in March. We have already seen high winds over the past week and the children are enjoying the magnificent weather God has created for them. As winter exits and spring enters like bunnies hopping all around our community, we enjoy the blessings of life. We cherish every moment bestowed on us from God. The preschoolers will learn about God’s creation with their Tree study. Important questions will be asked such as “What are the characteristics of the trees in our community?” and “What food comes from trees?” They will use their interest in trees to explore science and social studies while continuing to use skills in literacy, math, technology, and the arts to gain knowledge about trees.

As the weather warms, it is great to remember the importance of exercising both in young children and ourselves. Children need to practice what we call gross motor movements because it is directly tied to their success in school and being healthy. Hopping, skipping, running, jumping are great skills to teach children. At St. Paul’s, we teach all our children about health, fitness, and eating right daily. We are continuing our registration for the summer program. Please refer anyone who is interested in having their child stay busy with weekly field and swimming trips and learning about God and other important topics. We still have a few openings for children ages 2-5. Visit our website at stpaulsccc.org or call us to schedule an appointment at 301-627-4202.

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: - Ecclesiastes 3:1
Mr. Christopher Antoine, Director

SNACK AND YAK

The Board of Elders is excited to announce that they will continue to sponsor the SNACK AND YAK in 2019. Snak and Yaks are a wonderful way to get to know our church family better. Please join us March 6th for our Snack and Yak after service. We are grateful to Elder Diane Rausch for sponsoring the Snak & Yak this month.

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 Timothy. All ladies are invited to study with us.

"GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL" STUDY GROUP Are you interested in deepening your spiritual development during 2019? If yes, please join our GAB Study Group and continue your spiritual journey with us! We are reading and discussing together our 6th book by James Bryan Smith, "The Magnificent Journey: Living Deep in the Kingdom." We began our GAB Group journey together in 2016 and would welcome new members at any time. Our 2019 meetings will take place at St. Paul's on the following dates: March 11 (chapter 3), April 11 (chapter 4).

For more info, please see Diane Rausch.

PRAYER & HEALING SERVICE You are invited to join us as we pray for one another on March 1, at 7:30 PM at the church.

MEN’S BREAKFAST All men are invited to attend, Saturday March 16 at 8 AM. at the Marlboro Grille in Upper Marlboro. There is a place for you!

BIBLE CHALLENGE HUDDLE

Pastor's Bible Challenge participants are invited to meet for a brief "huddle" after the worship service today. Join Pastor Bill at the front of the sanctuary so we can report our progress and encourage one another. If you wish to join the Pastor's Bible Challenge you can sign up at the huddle

MORAVIAN UNITY OFFERING

The 2019 Unity Offering has been designated for a church building in the Azam Province of India, in the Moravian Mission Area South Asia, which includes several areas in India and in Nepal.

March 1 is observed as the founding of the Unitas Fratrum and the first Sunday in March (March 3, 2019) is the Prayer Day for Unity Work and the Sunday when the Unity Offering is often received.

Please review the information on the next page.

UNITY OFFERING PRAYER 2019

The **Moravian Church in South Asia** is made up of growing communities across India and Nepal, energetic and excited to see the spread the Good News – from remote rural villages to major cities. In Assam, the work is based from Binnakandi with work continuing to develop in Latingkhal and Haflong.

Haflong is a Hill station around 130 km from Binnakandi, the journey takes 5 hours by road. The community originally built a bamboo church to meet in, however it has started to subside down the hillside. Over the last five years, the Church in Binnakandi have supported Haflong in raising funds to buy a new plot of land. The 2019 Unity Prayer Day offering will be committed to the building of a permanent Church and facilities that will enable the new congregation to focus on their mission to reach out, provide education and enrich the community.

THANK YOU

I am so grateful to all who have sent cards, prepared food and especially prayed for me during my recovery from surgery. I am happy to say I believe I am well enough to be at worship on March 3! Your love and support have meant so much to me as I have gone through the long process of returning to health. I am especially grateful to my wife, Gail, for her patience and constancy as she has lovingly tended me. The surgeon tells me I will be "my old self" after three months (May). I hope it will be sooner than that. I will be back in the church office on a limited basis starting the week of March 4. I am blessed to serve a church like St. Paul's! Thank you. Pastor Bill



ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE JOINT BOARD 2018

During 2018, the Lord blessed the endeavors of the Joint Board “to lead people to an active relationship with Christ by worshipping God, joining Christ’s family, nurturing one another, and serving the needs of all people.” (St. Paul’s Mission statement)

ELDERS

- Conducted 52 worship services
- Provided music by choir for nine months
- Presented weekly segments – Time for Children
- Provided seasonal decorations by Flower Committee
- Provided opportunities for floral remembrances by Flower Committee
- Continued effective small groups
 - Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study
 - Men’s Breakfast Group
 - Men’s group
 - Good and Beautiful (GAB) book - two groups
- Hosted Lenten suppers
- Conducted Holy week services
- Led a fellowship trip to Museum of the Bible
- Held monthly Snak-n-Yaks
- Created tri-fold brochure about St. Paul’s
- Distributed tri-fold brochure to visitors
- Created 3 banners to promote
 - Outdoor service and picnic
 - Fall yard sale
 - Christmas carol community sing
- Held annual outdoor church service and community picnic
- Held first annual Christmas carol community sing
- Presented Advent concert by choir
- Participated in National Day of Prayer at St. Thomas
- Participated in Thanksgiving service at St. Mary’s of the Assumption
- Created Opportunity Table
- Hosted monthly Kids’ Club
- Presented musical worship each week
- Acknowledged visitors
- Held love feasts
- Held annual Easter egg hunt

- New member inquiry sessions
- Welcomed five new members
- Invited CCC parents to worship services
- Updated all church use contracts
- Recognized all ministries of service
- Involved young people
 - Leaders of responsive scripture reading
 - Instrumental soloist
 - Vocal soloist
 - Kids Club volunteers
 - Sunday School assistant
 - Conducted weekly Sunday School program
 - Conducted weekly adult Bible classes

TRUSTEES

- Developed spot cleaning instructions for rug in Fellowship Hall
- Digitized church financial information beginning with 2009
- Evaluated security system alarms
- Developed procedural manuals for
 - Counters
 - Security and fire systems
- Replaced roof over Narthex and Administrative Wing
- Created sexual abuse policy
- Repaired church sign
- Installed new range and oven
- Replaced hall window
- Cleaned pew cushions
- Conducted a successful Fall yard sale
- Cleaned carpets in Fellowship Hall, Narthex, and Administrative Wing
- Repaired flashing on roof and installed new light fixture in Bell Tower
- Purchased LED lights for parking lot

GOVERNORS

- Implemented EXCELL 3
- Updated employee handbook
- Established salary scale
- Approved curriculum
- Installed security cameras
- Hired collection agency for delinquent tuition payments

- Held successful fund raiser for furniture
- Created staff lounge
- Represented by 2 staff members at NAEYC
- Purchased large screen television and DVD player for use by CCC and church
- CCC staff at annual kickoff service at church service
- CCC Christmas program and graduation ceremonies
- Dinners with parents
- At capacity for before and after care
 - Established wait list