

The Epistle

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Moravian Church
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NOVEMBER 2017

NOVEMBER SUNDAYS

- **All Saints Sunday**, November 5. We will remember those who have gone before us in the faith. **Appreciation Potluck and Shoebox Packing Party** after worship. We will honor Sister Kendra Miller for her years of service as our Administrative Assistant. Join us following the worship for light refreshments and snacks as we prepare the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.
Remember: Daylight Savings ends Nov. 5!
- **Shoebox Dedication**, November 19. we dedicate the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes and send them off as a blessing in Jesus' name.
- **Thanks-giving Service** November 26. Join us as we share our reasons for giving thanks to God.

A SEASON FOR SERVING!

- **Deck the Halls!** You are invited to join the Sacristans on Saturday December 2 at 9AM as we decorate the church for Advent! Contact Brother Larry Sinn to let him know you are coming.
- **Light the Advent Wreath** (Sundays, December 3-24). We provide the script; you provide the people! Look for the signup sheet at church.



KIDS CLUB NOVEMBER 17, 6:30 PM

Tell your friends and neighbors that St. Paul's Kid's Club is an exciting way for kids grades K-6 to hear messages about God's Word, sing, do a craft and even have a snack! We are grateful to those who will pray regularly for our Kid's Club. If you would like to participate, contact Pastor Bill.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

St. Paul's joins with other churches in Upper Marlboro to provide Thanksgiving baskets through The Upper Marlboro Food Bank. Can you help us provide **canned cranberries for 70 food baskets?** Please bring your food donations to church with you on **Sunday, November 5th**. We must deliver the cranberries by November 9th.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

St. Paul's is a proud participant in the Upper Marlboro Community Thanksgiving Service. This year the community event will be at Union United Methodist on Monday, November 20 at 7:00 pm to give thanks to God for all His blessings. A highlight of the service is the performance by the massed choirs of the many churches sharing in the service! Join us as we give thanks to God!

TRUSTEES CORNER

We are grateful to Yvonne Maddox and the Stewardship team for their presentation during October. If you have not returned your 2017 Pledge Card please do so today. We look forward to what God will do as we work together. As you give your time, talents and treasure, may you know the "joy of sharing!"

MORAVIAN STARS

It is a Moravian tradition to light our homes with stars during the Advent season. We offer 21" and 12" illuminated **Moravian Stars**, for a donation of \$25 and \$20, respectively. You may purchase stars after worship or through the church office. These stars make excellent gifts!



MARLBORO CHURCHES FOOD BANK

The Scouts will hold their annual food drive on November 11th. All the food that the local scouts collect will be donated to Marlboro Churches Food Bank. Look for the Scouts to be out and about in Marlton collecting food on Saturday, November 11th. They will set up for their Scouting for Food activity at the Marlton Golf Club. Marlboro Churches Food Bank needs your help – we need to transport the food that the scouts collect on November 11th from Marlton Golf Club to Trinity Church in the afternoon. We should begin around noon. If you can help, please let Sister Trudy Smith know.

Please bring your food donations to church with you on Sunday November 5th. These are our staple items: pasta noodles, rice, spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables, canned beans, canned protein, jelly, cereal, macaroni & cheese.

For November our volunteer schedule is:

Truck Unloading will be Wed, November 8th. (Scheduled for between 11:30 am and 3:30 pm, but they sometimes come early) ****See note below****

Sorting Thu, November 9th @ 7pm

Bagging Fri, November 10th @ 8am

Distribution Sat, November 11th @ 7am

We really need help on Wednesday, November 8th unloading the truck. We know have free produce delivered on Wednesday along with our regular food order. Hand trucks are provided. The delivery driver unloads the delivery truck and we only have to cart the boxes using the hand trucks from the driveway up a ramp and inside the fellowship hall at Trinity. It goes pretty fast and we are usually have everything inside in a half hour to forty-five minutes with 3 volunteers.

***** 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.



CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS

When the season begins to change and the leaves change colors and fall, it gives us a deeper appreciation for the world around us. God created a beautiful place for us to live and worship -- and for that we are thankful. The children are thankful for their families that provide for them, the wonderful things they learn at St. Paul's, and all the staff that help them grow. This month represents a time of appreciation and no matter what circumstance we find ourselves we must remember to "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever" (1 Chronicles 16:34).

This month the children will be exploring the practice of being thankful. They will also learn how wonderful it is to give to others who are less unfortunate. We will be arranging a food drive to help feed those in need. Additionally, they will learn about the importance of hibernation and how it relates to an activity they do every day – sleep! Finally, they will continue to understand God's vision of what it means to be a part of a family that loves and helps each other.

We have several openings in our 2-3 year Panda class. If you know anyone with children who are fully potty-learned, please refer them to us. They can call to arrange a tour at 301-627-4202.

Remember to give thanks to God for all he has done in your life!

~*Mr. Christopher Antoine, Director*

WHAT IS THE UNITY PRAYER WATCH?

Members of the 18 Moravian Provinces spread all over the globe take a turn to pray for each other's needs and for God's protection and blessing on our work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our Province is assigned the month of December and St. Paul's has the responsibility to pray on the 18th. We share these 24 hours with the Faith and Trinity congregations, so we are only responsible for eight hours. You can be a part of this important work by signing up for a 20-minute slot. We have 24 slots to cover. Materials are available to inform and guide your prayers. Sign up in the Narthex! God bless you as you pray.

OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL Classes are at 8:45 AM for children aged three through ninth grade.

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.

PAUL: BIBLE STUDY The apostle Paul led a dramatic and fascinating life from his conversion on the road to Damascus to his imprisonments to his speeches in the public square. His letters shaped the believers in the early church just as they do today. In this study, we will survey both the highlights of his life and the core teachings in his writings. 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 November 3rd at 7:30 PM.

MEN'S BREAKFAST All men are invited to attend, Saturday, November 18th at 8 AM. at the Marlboro Grille in Upper Marlboro. There is a place for you!

R.E.A.L WOMEN

November 2017 ~ SHOE BOX TIME

A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' Name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child.

That impact is evident in the lives of the millions of children around the world who have received a shoebox gift, heard the Good News of Jesus Christ, and graduated from The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship classes. But it also is shown in the generations of families who have grown up packing shoeboxes and are now teaching their own children to give through Operation Christmas Child.

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 shoebox on your own or you may contribute items to pack. Please place any gift items in the collection bin in the narthex.

You can donate \$9 per shoebox gift online through Follow Your Box and receive a tracking label to discover its destination. Participants who prefer the



convenience of online shopping can browse samaritanspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child's specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement.

Shoebox gifts are prepared for overseas shipment at eight major processing centers across the U.S.—Atlanta; Baltimore/Washington; Boone, North Carolina; Charlotte; Dallas/Fort Worth; Denver; Minneapolis; and Southern California.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend a Packing Party after the worship service on Sunday, November 5, 2017. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Collection week is November 13-November 20, 2017. All gift boxes must be delivered to St. Paul's by **Sunday November 19, 2017.** Look for more information in the church bulletin or check out

If you would like to assist in delivering the shoeboxes to a Drop Off Center, contact Gail Andrews.

GIFT IDEAS

TOYS: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS: toothbrush, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

OTHER: T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

DO NOT INCLUDE: Candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

POINSETTIA FUND

Poinsettias beautify our Sanctuary for Christmas Eve services. You are invited to support this project by donating towards the cost of the plants. Your gift of any amount will help others worship the Savior. Please return this order form with your donation by December 17, 2017. All donors will be recognized in the bulletin on Christmas Eve.

Your Name: _____

In honor of/ In memory of:

Make checks payable to St. Paul's Moravian Church

PASTOR APPRECIATION LOVEFEAST

On October 22 the congregation expressed its appreciation for our first family, through a lovefeast in their honor and a generous gift. Elders Kay Jung and Roberta Haines, and Trustee John Ruiz presented lovely cards during the service. A gift card was presented in the hopes that Pastor Bill will purchase more camping equipment and preach about it again in the future! The sentiments expressed and the thoughtful gift were warmly received by Sister Gail and Pastor Bill, who testified to their joy in serving a church that is so loving.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT

The Joint Board would like your honest responses to a survey of the health of our congregation. Your input will help us gain a fuller and more accurate picture of St. Paul's. Your responses will also shape the report we send to the Northern Province in our Annual Report. The survey is available by email and a limited number of paper copies in the narthex. Contact Pastor Bill for more information.

THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES

About a dozen people participated in the first session of our conversation about the Moravian Unity document on "The Role of the Moravian Unity" on October 29. The conversation was lively and heart-felt. The next session will take place after worship on November 12. You are welcome to participate whether you attended the first session or not. Copies of the document may be downloaded from the Northern Province website (MCNP.org). Please read sections one and two before the session.



Fall Decorations: Thank you, sister Gail for a beautiful job!

"The Little Shop with a Big Heart"

MORAVIAN MISSION GIFT SHOP

2 CHURCH SQUARE

LITITZ, PA 17543

717-626-9027



NEWSLETTER AND/OR SUNDAY BULLETINS:

To our Moravian Brothers and Sisters,

We extend a warm welcome from Lititz Moravian Congregation to all and invite you to visit our historic town and Church Square. Our quaint Moravian Mission Gift Shop is open Thursday, Friday and Saturdays for the autumn and Christmas season from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. We will happily open for appointments by calling the shop at 717-626-9027 and leave a message. Someone will get back to you to arrange your visit.

Our all-volunteer team will be happy to help you find a special gift, an interesting book or even something for yourself!

We have many Moravian themed items, as well as Lititz themed items. Candles, books, Moravian Music CD's and stars. We have lots of Stars!

Our mission is the same today as it was 25 years ago when the Shop began: 100% of our profits go to help others both local and worldwide. Please stop in if you are planning a trip our way and let the shop volunteer know you are a fellow brother or sister. We would love to see you at our "Little Shop with a Big Heart." Thank you.

Moravian Mission Gift Shop Team.

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