

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

Administrative Assistant Office Hours:
 Tuesday – Friday, 9.30AM – 2.30PM
Pastor's day off Fridays

MARCH 2020

PULPIT EXCHANGE

On Sunday, March 1st, the pastors of the Maryland/DC Moravian churches will exchange pulpits. Pastor Bill will preach at Trinity Moravian and the Rev. Joseph Nicholas will preach at St. Paul's. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know another Moravian pastor.

POTLUCK

Come and join us for a Potluck on March 1st after worship. This will be a time for good food and good fellowship with our church family. We are grateful to Elder Sharon Hawkins for sponsoring and coordinating the Potluck. We will honor the Elders for their service on this day

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

On Sunday, March 8, Daylight Savings Time begins. Remember to set your clocks AHEAD one hour before bed on the 7th!

LEADERS FOR 2020 BOARD OF ELDERS

| | |
|--|---|
| Roberta Haines, Vice-President Sue Weiffenbach, Secretary | Alice Labeodan Sharon Hawkins Diane Rausch |
| BOARD OF TRUSTEES | |
| Monique Abbitt, President Bob Rausch, Vice President | Mike Coombs Joseph Labeodan Dennis Swartzel Theresa Fisher |
| BOARD OF GOVERNORS | |
| Sarah Kruzan, Chair Kendra Miller, Secretary | Brittany Moses Elaine Swartzel |



WATCHWORD FOR 2020

"Children and grandchildren must learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God"
1 Timothy 5:4 (NASB)

LENT: FEBRUARY 26 – APRIL 4

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.



LENTEN SUPPERS

Join us on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm starting on March 4th for a community event. We will share a simple meal together then enjoy some guided conversation focusing on the prayers of Jesus. 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 are packing 110 bags this month. We placed our full order with the Capitol Area Food Bank, so there are no special requests this month and we will have the truck delivery on Wednesday, March 11th.

Please bring your food bank donations to church by Sunday, March 8th.

Food Bank volunteer activities for March are:

- Truck Unloading will be Wednesday, March 11th, 1 PM at Trinity Episcopal – **volunteers are especially needed for the truck unloading**
- Thursday, March 12th, 7 PM set up food at Trinity Episcopal
- Friday, March 13th, 8 AM bag food at Trinity Episcopal – **volunteers are especially needed for the Friday morning bagging**
- Saturday, March 14th, 7 AM distribute food at Trinity Episcopal

OPPORTUNITIES

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM, led by Sister Kay Jung. We are studying Timothy. All ladies are invited to study with us.

Adult Bible Class: The group is studying, "Discipleship, the Growing Christian's Lifestyle". We meet on Sundays at 8:45 AM. We would love to have you join us!

PRAYER & HEALING SERVICE: You are invited to join us as we pray for one another on March 6th, at 7:30 PM at the church.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: All men are invited to attend, Saturday March 21st at 8 AM. There is a place for you!

GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL BOOK GROUP: The Good and Beautiful Book Group is continuing its spiritual journey! We are now reading "The Kingdom and the Cross" by James B. Smith. Our next meeting will be held on March 10th at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to join us. For more information, see Diane Rausch.

CORRECTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The communicant membership of the congregation as of January 1, 2020 was accidentally omitted from the 2019 Annual Report. The report should have included a line which reads,

"January 1, 2020 123" We apologize for this omission and any confusion it may have caused

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Easter Egg Hunt needs your help! The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 4 at 10AM. We request donations of the regular size plastic eggs and individually wrapped **non-chocolate** candies (Starburst, Jolly rancher, Tootsie rolls, small Skittles, for example). Please place your items in the box located in the narthex. Volunteers are needed to help with the activities. Please contact Trudy Smith or Pastor Bill if you have any questions.

PASTOR'S PRAYER CHALLENGE HUDDLE

There will be a brief huddle for Pastor's Prayer Challenge participants on March 29th after worship. We will gather at the front of the sanctuary after worship to check in with each other. If you would like to join the Prayer Challenge you are welcome to gather with us.

COMPASSION CORNER

Our Karen will be 12 years old on February 22, she lives in Columbia.

Hiarius turned 13 years old on January 21, 2020. He lives in Bangladesh.

Erick is 14 and his birthday is March 27, 2020. He lives in Honduras

Kashie will be 7 years old on October 26, 2020. She lives in the Philippines. We have not gotten any additional updates on her well-being since the initial e-mail from Compassion International notifying us of the typhoon and earthquake so I am counting on her being safe.

Since we are focusing on prayer as a congregation here are some of the things we are asked to pray for these children:

- to accept Jesus as Savior and to grow in Christ
- to trust Good in everything
- to excel in school
- for his/her Compassion program leaders
- for him/her and family to have good health and nutrition

These are just a few of their prayer requests; I will include more in next month article.

Respectfully submitted, Kay Jung.

TREASURER'S CORNER

Giving in 2020 has increased! During February we faced a broken main water line to the church. The cost of the unbudgeted repair was \$8,500 which is the reason for the large deficit. The revenue and expenses for January and February in fiscal years 2019 and 2020 are set forth in the table below:

| Period | Revenue | Expenses | Balance |
|--------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Jan-Feb 2019 | \$44,258 | \$50,343 | (\$6,085) |
| Jan-Feb 2020 | \$44,857 | \$58,861 | (\$14,004) |

About 75% of our annual budget revenue (excluding the revenue and expenses for installing the new sanctuary HVAC) is from the generous offerings we receive each Sunday. For 2020, the benchmark for general offerings should be about \$4,315 per week. Projected general offerings for February was \$17,108.00. The general offerings received are set forth below:

| Date | General Offerings |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Feb 2 | \$ 4,261.00 |
| Feb 9 | \$ 3,286.00 |
| Feb 16 | \$ 3,372.35 |
| Feb 23 | \$ 4,958.00 |
| TOTAL | \$15,877.35 |

The sanctuary HVAC has been replaced and is working! A \$40,000 first payment was made in mid-February. The sources for the payment were \$29,200 from the sale of investments before the market fell, \$3,300 from donations to the Sanctuary HVAC Fund, and \$7,500 from an Eastern District Larger Life Foundation grant. We are grateful to all those who have donated to the project. We encourage everyone to contribute to the HVAC Fund. Together we can make it happen! A final payment for the project will be made in March.

KIDS CLUB MINISTRY

Kid's Club resumes on March 20th! We are celebrating FOUR years of service and this outreach continues to grow and serve the community. Thank you for your support! Through games, crafts and storytelling we continue to lead children to Christ. If you would like to serve in this exciting ministry, please contact Pastor Bill. And pray about what children you can invite to attend!

SEND OUR KIDS TO CAMP

It was a joy last summer to hear the powerful report from two of our youth who returned with glowing reports of their week at Camp Hope! Jakiya and Julian Moses spoke about their life-changing experience at Junior High Conference. This year we want to send even more of our youth to Camp Hope. The Board of Elders invites you to help by contributing to a campership fund. Our goal is offer a campership of \$269.00 for each camper. Will you help send our youth to camp? Make your check out to the church and indicate that it is for "Campership". Thank you and God bless you!



50th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING

The Church Council decided to begin planning for the 50th anniversary of the congregation in 2021. Sister Kendra Miller agreed to organize an initial meeting of those who are willing to serve on a planning committee. An informational meeting will be held after worship on March 15. Everyone is invited to attend and to bring your ideas, suggestions and dreams. If you cannot attend that day feel free to contact Kendra at m-smiller613@gmail.com or 240-354-1545.

ELDERS CORNER

At the February meeting the Elders chose Roberta Haines as Vice-President and Sue Weiffenbach as Secretary of the Board. The Elders continue to search for a second attendant for the Church Nursery. They also made plans for worship during Lent and Elder leadership of those services. They approved a policy on marketing charitable events within our church, which is printed with this Epistle. They approved a fundraiser for Moravian Open Door during Lent and discussed the issue of providing hospitality for families after funerals in light of our diminished capacities. The Elders encourage everyone to take advantage of all the faith-building opportunities offered during the season of Lent!

CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS



As we move into March, we look at all the trials and tribulations we have encountered over the past few weeks and thank God for seeing us through. While the water main break has caused quite a few disruptions at our center, we were able to adapt and continue providing high quality services to all our children. We could not have done it without the invaluable patience and perseverance of the staff. We pray that any future disruptions will be easily managed and our staff will continue to work hard to serve the children that come into our center each and every day.

Spring is around the corner meaning it is a perfect time for the children to learn about nature including the trees surrounding us, the food they produce, animals that live in them, and so much more. This will be a great time for the children to enjoy being outside and building their large gross motor skills from activities such as riding bicycles, climbing equipment, and playing tag. We had our first professional speaker out last month author Bridgett Pelzer, who read a book about meeting President Obama. The children enjoyed the story and were inspired by the message of doing your best to achieve your dreams. If you're interested in speaking to the children, please contact us to arrange a time. Finally, we plan to start off the month strong with our Double Good popcorn fundraiser to raise funds to reach our accreditation goals.

We have officially opened our registrations for the summer program. We also have new openings for our before and after care program and a few for our Pre-K program. If you know anyone who is interested, please have them visit our website at stpaulsccc.org, or call us to schedule an appointment at 301-627-4202.

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” – Romans 12:12

Mr. Christopher Antoine, Director

JOINT BOARD RETREAT

The Governors, Trustees and Elders gathered for a retreat on February 22 at the church. They spent time reviewing the progress we made in 2019, and charted our course ahead in 2020. The number one goal for the year will be increasing the membership of St. Paul's. The Joint Board will need your input and help if we are to make progress on this goal! Everyone is asked to pray for God's guidance and help as we take steps forward in the year to come. A special "thank you" to those who provided snacks and lunch for the event!

THE PRAYER OF PRAYERS

Pastor Tim Keller describes the Lord's Prayer as "The Prayer of Prayers." During the Sundays of Lent we will take a fresh look at what Jesus himself taught about prayer. Most people report that they pray on a regular basis - they also report that they wish they prayed "better." You are invited to join us as our worship focuses on this powerful prayer. It is an opportunity for a change in perspective and fresh insights!



St. Paul's Moravian Church

Marketing Policy – Use of Church Resources for Marketing External Charitable Organizations and Events

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidance on the use of the written, electronic and verbal resources of St. Paul's Moravian Church in the marketing and promotion of charitable organizations and events in the community. A "charitable" organization is defined as an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Background

Many members of St. Paul's are involved with and support charitable organizations and their events in the community. St. Paul's receives requests to market and promote these organizations and their events throughout the year. The requested marketing and promotion may take many forms:

- Written: Posters, flyers, postcards, newsletters, church bulletins, church bulletin boards, etc.
- Electronic: Website, email, e-newsletters, e-calendars, text messages, social media, TV/radio, etc.
- Verbal: Public announcements during the worship service from the pulpit, from the pews, and personal conversations in the narthex and at other church gatherings, etc.

Policy

It is the general policy of St. Paul's Moravian Church to support charitable organizations and events in the community. Specifically, with regard to active marketing of these organizations and events using St. Paul's resources, the following policy guidance will apply:

- Written Marketing: St. Paul's will offer written marketing opportunities. Congregation members of St. Paul's should request permission beforehand, and upon approval, may provide hard-copy flyers, postcards, and brochures for the congregation to pick up in a specifically designated location in the narthex. This is the only location in which to place these promotional materials.
- Electronic Marketing: St. Paul's will not offer any electronic marketing opportunities. The church website, membership email list, social media accounts, etc. will not be used for promoting external charitable organizations and events. St. Paul's electronic resources will be used solely for St. Paul's - related business. Congregation members are encouraged to develop and use their own personal electronic resources for promoting specific charitable organizations and events.
- Verbal Marketing: St. Paul's Pastor and church leadership will not offer verbal announcements regarding external charitable organizations and events from the pulpit. Congregation members are free to make verbal announcements from the pews during the "joys and concerns" or "announcements" portion of the worship service, as well as personally converse with other members before and after the worship service, and at other church gatherings.