

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

EASTER EGG HUNT HELP

St. Paul's will host its Easter Egg Hunt on April 13th at 10am. We would like 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 Pastor Bill if you have any questions.



CELEBRATE EASTER

Join us on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will gather at 7:00 am in imitation of the first Easter when the disciples rushed to the tomb and found it empty. A delicious breakfast will follow. At 10:00 am we will celebrate the triumph of Christ in word and song. Join us as we confess our faith in Jesus, our Redeemer and King!

HOLY WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

April 14, 10 AM **Palm Sunday Service**
April 15, 16, 17 PM **Readings for Holy Week**
April 18, 7 PM **Holy Communion**
April 19, 7 PM **Good Friday Service**
April 21, 7 AM **Easter Morning Service**
April 21, **Easter Breakfast**
April 21, 10:00 AM **Easter Service**

FELLOWSHIP SUPPERS

Join us on April 3 and 10 at 6:00 pm for a simple meal together and some guided conversation focusing on a story from the Bible and how that connects with our experience. Everyone is welcome to attend. Feel free to invite a friend to join you.

PASTOR'S BIBLE
CHALLENGE HUDDLE:
APRIL 14 AFTER WORSHIP

WEDDING BLESSINGS

We joyfully announce that Sister Marjorie Mothersille was married to Brother Kermit Irons in our Sanctuary on March 23rd. May God bless them richly in their new life together.

The week from Palm Sunday to Easter is called Holy Week. Christians hold these days as special and set aside time for spiritual practices that deepen and renew their faith. Worship on the two Sundays is especially important. Moravians turn to the Bible and the story of Christ's passion in our Readings for Holy Week services. We gather for worship at 7am on Easter to remember the women who discovered the empty tomb at day break. On Thursday we remember the Last supper in Holy Communion. All loves must be fed and encouraged if they are to grow. Faith is a kind of love-for Jesus. How will you keep this week, and how will you make it holy?

EASTER BREAKFAST COORDINATOR

Our Easter Breakfast is on April 21 after the Easter morning worship. We are seeking someone to coordinate the Breakfast. If you are interested in serving as coordinator, please contact Pastor Bill

MARLBORO CHURCHES FOOD BANK

We gave out 109 bags to 33 families in March. We are packing 100 bags again this month.

Food Bank volunteer activities for April are:

- Truck Unloading will be Wednesday, April 10th, 1 PM at Trinity Episcopal
- Thursday, April 11th, 7 PM set up food at Trinity Episcopal
- Friday, April 12th, 8 AM bag food at Trinity Episcopal – volunteers are especially needed for the Friday morning bagging
- Saturday, April 13th, 7 AM distribute food at Trinity Episcopal

Bring food donations to church with you by Sunday, April 7th. These are our staple items: pasta noodles, rice, spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables, canned beans, canned protein, jelly, cereal, macaroni & cheese.

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. Sunday School resumes on January 8th.

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 "The Magnificent Journey: Living Deep in the Kingdom." by James Bryan Smith, we began our GAB Group journey together in 2016 and would welcome new members at any time. Our next meetings will take place at St. Paul's on the following dates: April 1, 24 (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 April 5, at 7:30 PM at the church.

MEN'S BREAKFAST All men are invited to attend, Saturday, April 20 at 8 AM. at the Marlboro Grille in Upper Marlboro. There is a place for you!

CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS

Can you believe it? We are already three months into the New Year. I thank God for



guiding us through the beginning and pray that he will allow us to accomplish our yearly goals. At the center, we have many goals; the main one being to achieve accreditation. We will work diligently to accomplish this goal which showcases the quality we provide to families in our community.

Month of the Young Child is here again where we celebrate all children and families. We have many activities planned for both with the hopes of increasing our parent engagement. Ms. Taja along with the Pre-K staff has helped create some of the events we will be celebrating including Career Day, where parents will talk to children about their profession and the children will be able to dress up. Other fun activities we will be doing include Movie Monday, Wacky Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Dinosaur Hunt. We encourage the parents to volunteer their time and energy throughout the month. We will end with our annual Parent's Breakfast on Friday, April 26 from 6:30 – 8:00 am. You are invited to come, eat, and enjoy our hospitality.

We will also be celebrating the sacrifice Jesus made for us when he died and rose from the grave. The staff will teach the children about this important event in our history and how it relates to them personally. The goal is to strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ and help them grow spiritually.

Summer registration is in full force – if you know anyone who is looking for an all-day summer experience, please have them contact us. We still have openings for children ages 2-5. Visit our website at stpaulsccc.org or call us to schedule a tour at 301-627-4202.

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." - John 11:25-26

Mr. Christopher Antoine, Director

WELCOME LITTLE ONE

On Saturday, March 16th, Joy Lynn Ruiz gave birth to a baby boy. John announced his name, Justus James Philip Ruiz. Our newest Moravian and her family are all doing well. We can't wait to meet him!

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

We are pleased to report the successful completion of the 9-week course of the Financial Peace University. Leader John Ruiz reports the following:

- 4 credit cards cut up.
- 1 credit card completely paid off.
- One participant became debt free.
- About \$ 1000.00 of total debt paid off.

We give thanks to God for this successful! We hope to offer the Financial Peace University, again in the future.

AED NEWS

We are pleased to report that the congregation has responded by raising more than enough money to fund an AED for the NARTHEX. The trustees are working diligently on the project. Thank you to all the donors.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Please join us for the St Paul's Spring Yard Sale on Sat, April 27, 2019 from 8 AM to 2 PM. We will need your help to make the Yard Sale a successful event for the Marlboro community. More details to follow. If you have questions or need further information, please contact either Monique Abbitt at mabbitt24@gmail.com or call Marissa King in the church office at 301-952-4200.

EASTER FLOWER FUND

You can help decorate our sanctuary with flowers for our Easter services. Your donation to the Easter Flower Fund provides beautiful spring blooms that bring joy to everyone. You may give in honor or memory of your loved one(s) which will be noted in the bulletin on Easter. Envelopes available in the narthex.

CALLING ALL MORAVIAN WOMEN

Ladies the 13th Moravian Women's Conference is scheduled for June 20-22, 2019, in Winston-Salem, N.C. The conference invites Moravian women to "Unleash the Power!" After seeing a brilliant 110-point Moravian star at a candle tea, a little girl asked, "Does Jesus work here?" She thought Jesus was nearby.

Peggy Dodson of the conference committee says that the committee prays that when women leave the conference, "each is refreshed, motivated and committed anew to being Christ's hands and feet in our communities and beyond and that *people will know Christ is nearby because we have unleashed His power at work within us.*"

The conference offers an opportunity for Moravian women to learn, worship, sing, and share ideas that strengthen faith and ties to the Moravian church. The keynote speaker and workshop leaders will inform and challenge each woman to confidently live into the plan God has for her. Rachel Held Evans, New York Times bestselling author of [A Year Of Biblical Womanhood](#), [Searching for Sunday](#) and [Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water](#), and [Loving the Bible Again](#). Other speakers will be the Rt. Rev. Kay Ward, the first female bishop of the Moravian Unity; the Rev. Christie Melby-Gibbons, executive director of Tricklebee Café, an emerging ministry in Milwaukee, Wis.; the Rev. Dr. Heather Hartung Vacek, VP for Academic Affairs, Dean of Faculty and Associate Professor of church history at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; and Sister Dena Grillo Fotuzi, a church leader and board member in the Moravian Church in Albania.

Registration is ongoing. There is still room for you. Register at moravianwomensconference.org. For additional information and fees, contact www.moravian.org/2019/01/conference

"Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us." Ephesian 3:20

MORE HIGHLIGHT FROM SYNOD

Lay Leadership Development

1. Licensed Ministers

There is increased need for pastoral leadership in local congregations, specifically in smaller and/or struggling congregations. Statistics: Ministers with a call: 77 ages 60 or above; 17 clergy ages 55-59 and there are only two approved candidates in the Northern Province Ordination Review Process, underscoring a future shortage of ordained Moravian clergy for Moravian churches

1. Synod directed the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC) to consider Licensed Ministers as an opportunity to address staffing for a specific length of service, to accept the two year Crossroads program as a satisfactory completion of a course of study and to accept individuals who complete Crossroads at Moravian Theological Seminary (MTS) as potential candidates for Licensed Ministers with additional guidelines to be determined by PEC.
 - a. PEC may grant license to a person for the purpose of ministry within a specific congregation, after satisfactory completion of a course of study and fulfillment of guidelines as determined by the PEC. License may include the privilege of administering the Sacraments

2. The Crossroads Program:

This is a program at MTS for laity interested in strengthening their knowledge and skills for service in local congregations, communities and the world. Courses are offered on site and on line. (16 courses/ \$240 each)

- a. Synod encourages each district and congregation to place a line item in their local budget or identify other sources of revenue, to encourage and financially assist their members to participate in this program.

- b. Anyone can take courses, not just those seeking licensure.

3. Lay Leadership Training Team

Lay leadership training is desired throughout the entire NP and there exists a need for qualified Lay Leadership trainers. Currently a number of Lay Leadership training workshops have been developed.

- a. Synod adopted a resolution that directs the PEC to create and develop a Provincial Lay Leadership Training Team (6 people – two from each district) to be trained, annually by the Director of Christian Education of the Eastern District and/or other qualified instructors trained in a variety of Lay Leadership skills.
- b. Trained members of the Lay Leadership Team shall be available to serve a congregation upon invitation or by the direction of the District or Provincial Board.

COMING IN MAY

May 2 National Day of Prayer service at St. Paul's. Join with Christians from our community as we pray for our nation and our world.

May 12 Mother's Day Lovefeast. We honor all mothers through the beauty of songs.

May 19 Moravian Music Sunday. We observe our rich heritage of Christ centered, biblically informed music that strengthens our love for the Saviors, Jesus Christ.

Spring Clean Up. The Trustees are planning a clean up/ work day for May. Your help will be needed and much appreciated. Details to follow.