

The Epistle

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Moravian Church
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Administrative Assistant Office Hours:

Tuesday – Friday, 9.30AM – 2.30PM

Pastor's day off Fridays



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)

FEBRUARY 2020

LEADERS FOR 2020

BOARD OF ELDERS

Diane Rausch
Alice Labeodan

Sue Weiffenbach
Sharon Hawkins
Roberta Haines

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monique Abbitt
Mike Coombs
Bob Rausch

Joseph Labeodan
Dennis Swartzel
Theresa Fisher

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sarah Kruzan - Chair
Kendra Miller
Secretary

Brittany Moses
Elaine Swartzel

WITH GRATITUDE

We gratefully acknowledge the service of those who have completed their terms of office on the Boards of the church: Governors: Dian Zanfordino, Liz Sinn; Elders, Pat Jones and John Ruiz, and Trustees Juli Moses, Yvonne Maddox and Harry Borden. Well done, good and faithful servants!

**Ash Wednesday
Worship Service
February 26th at 7 PM**

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

We invite you to join us on February 2nd as we celebrate the Installation of our new Board members. We will celebrate this blessed occasion through worship and with God's Word.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The annual Church Council of St. Paul's was held after worship on January 26, 2020. Thirty six people attended the meeting which was preceded by a delicious meal, provided by Joy-Lynn and John Ruiz. A budget for 2020 was adopted and reports from the many ministries and organizations of the church were gratefully received. Appreciation was expressed to the following leaders for their service: Elders Pat Jones, Tim Smith and John Ruiz, Trustees Yvonne Maddox, Juli Jacobs-Moses and Harry Borden, and Governors Liz Sinn and Dion Zanfordino. The Council unanimously elected Governor Elaine Swartzel, Trustees Theresa Fisher and Dennis Swartzel, and Elders Sharon Hawkins, and Roberta Haines to serve as officers of the church. The Council expressed its appreciation for our church staff: Barbara Masters, Terry Smallwood, Sabrina May and Marissa King. After a report detailing another year of strong financial giving and stewardship a vote of thanks was given to Cam Weiffenbach for another year of dedicated service as Treasurer.

In his "State of the Church" message Pastor Bill pointed out the strong participation in the Bible Challenge during 2019. He also announced a Prayer Challenge for 2020 and that we will focus on prayer as a congregation in the coming year. He highlighted the importance of asking the right questions and invited us to avoid the temptation to obsess about questions such as, "How do we get new people in the church (who will honor our traditions)?" or "How do we address our shrinking congregation that is in decline?" A more healthy question for us to explore is, "What questions are people outside our church asking?" He directed our attention to the St. Paul's mission statement which

says in part, "...to lead people to an active relationship with Christ..."

The Trustees joyfully reported that the HVAC project will be completed before May 1, 2020! Trustee Yvonne Maddox suggested that thanks to outside sources of income and growth in the church investments a capital campaign to fund the project is not contemplated in the near future.

Thanks to all those who participated in this meeting! May God bless us as we move confidently together into 2020!

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 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us February 26 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.

CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS



In the month of February, we will celebrate Black History month. Being that we have a large African American community, it is important to showcase the many talents and achievements of the African American culture.

Teaching about cultural history has been linked by many different studies to improve both academics and social skills in children. This is why we have been working hard to understand the culture of all our families and incorporate them in our classrooms. As Jesus says, "Love thy neighbor as thyself", it is important to understand each other, each culture, and in turn show them the same love that you show yourself and your loved ones. Each year, we look into how we can better serve the children in our center. How can we teach them about Jesus, about the world, and about their community? This year, we are looking towards the church for their guidance, skills, and knowledge. We are looking for church members who are interested in speaking, or teaching a lesson to the Pre-K or B/A children for 15- 30 minutes. This could be something you do for your career, or can be a hobby you perfected over the years. If you are interested in sharing your experiences with the children and teaching them please get in contact with me through email at stpaulsccc@gmail.com or call at 301-627-4202.

We are going to open our registrations for the summer program in March. If you know anyone who is looking for a fun and engaging summer program where the children learn and have fun while understanding the importance of Jesus, please have them call us. We also 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.

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." - **1 Peter 4:8**

Mr. Christopher Antoine, Director

SNACK AND YAK

Snak and Yaks are a wonderful way to get to know our church family better! Please join us Sunday, February 2nd after service for a Snack and Yak. We are grateful to Elder Pat Jones for sponsoring the Snak and Yak.

ANNIVERSARY OFFERING

On January 26th we celebrated our congregations 49th anniversary. A special offering was received that day in the amount of \$ 997.00. Thank you to all who have had a part in this great outpouring of faith!

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 February 7th, at 7:30 PM at the church.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: All men are invited to attend, Saturday February 15th 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 Tuesday February 4th at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to join us. For more information, see Diane Rausch.

HELP WANTED: NURSERY ATTENDANT

We need an adult Nursery Attendant for Sunday mornings immediately, from approximately 9:45-11:15 AM. This is a paid opportunity. Please contact the church office immediately if you know of someone who loves children and can work every Sunday. 301-627-4200

KIDS CLUB – FEBRUARY 21, 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! This month's Kid's Club will focus on *love*, especially Jesus' love for us! We are grateful to those who will pray for Kid's Club. If you would like to participate, contact Pastor Bill.

COMPASSION CORNER

A letter of encouragement was sent to each of the 4 children with edits to those who will have birthdays soon.

Hilarius will be 13 years old on January 21, 2020. He lives in Bangladesh.

Karen will be 12 years old on February 22, 2020. She lives in Columbia

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

Our little one, **Kashie** will be 7 years old October 26, 2020. She lives in the Philippines. We received the following from Compassion International:

"Dear Friends,

As you may have seen in the news, the Philippines has endured multiple natural disasters within the last few weeks, leaving a wake of devastating destruction. The nightmare began with Typhoon Phanfone on December 24, killing over 50 people and destroying anything in its path. It was followed by the eruption of the Taal Volcano just weeks later, with the looming fear of a follow-up eruption expected to be even greater than the first. Over 300 earthquakes have been recorded since the volcano's eruption on January 12, and thousands are fleeing their homes in search of safety.

Because of your sponsorship of Gumalo Kashie Lie, I know your heart is breaking just like ours for everyone affected by these disasters. If your sponsored child is affected, we will notify you as soon as possible.

In the midst of these crises, we ask you to pray with us for children and their families affected by the multiple disasters and the ongoing threats of more to come. Please join us in praying for:

Children and family members who have been injured or displaced.

Comfort for those who have lost loved ones.

Church staff and emergency workers as they reach out to those affected by this disaster.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Gumalo and the families of the Philippines. May God bless you beyond measure for your faithfulness to His children."

Respectfully submitted, Kay Jung

MARLBORO CHURCHES FOOD BANK

We are packing 80 bags this month. We were not able to purchase food from the Capital Area Food Bank this month, so there will not be a truck unloading in February. Things will be back to normal for the March distribution.

Please bring your food bank donations to church by Sunday, February 2nd. Here are some of the items we will need: any type of canned vegetables, but especially canned peas, beans, meat meals, baked goods/desserts.

Food Bank volunteer activities for February are:

No truck unloading for February

- Thursday, February 6th, 7 PM set up food at Trinity Episcopal
- Friday, February 7th, 8 AM bag food at Trinity Episcopal – **volunteers are especially needed for the Friday morning bagging**
- Saturday, February 8th, 7 AM distribute food at Trinity Episcopal

BOXTOPS FOR MARLTON ELEMENTARY

Join St. Paul's in supporting Marlton Elementary School thru the Box Tops for Education Program. There



are many products on their website that you can choose. (<http://www.boxtops4education.com/>) There is a donation basket on the opportunity table in the narthex or contact the church office.



MORAVIAN OPEN DOOR, INC.
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM
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www.moravianhouse.org

St. Paul's Moravian Church, Inc.
8505 Heathermore Blvd.
Upper Marlboro CH 20772

January 6, 2020

Executive Director
Susan Attzs-Mendoza

Board of Directors

Frank Johnson
President

John Egerion
Vice-President

Harold Gerstenlauer
Treasurer

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Secretary

Erica Peart
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Blondel Jones-Grant
Eastern Dist. Rep.

Rev. David Bennett
ex-officio

David Barwig
Hyacinth Grant
Whitfield Nicholas
Maxine Powell
Lenore Ritter
Robert (Tony) Weida

To the congregation of St. Paul's Moravian Church, Inc.,

Thank you for your generous contributions of \$285.00 and \$40.00 to Moravian Open Door. Your gifts were received on January 2, 2020.

This gift, along with others, enables MOD to continue its service to older homeless individuals by providing transitional housing, breakfast and nutrition education, counseling, and other direct services to restore dignity and re-build lives. MOD is a community that rejoices when a resident is finally able to move to a private apartment or other appropriate accommodation, no longer homeless.

Your generosity keeps the mission and vision of MOD alive. On behalf of our clients, staff and Board of Directors, again, thanks for your contribution, prayers, and support.

Frank Johnson
President, Board of Directors

Susan Attzs-Mendoza
Executive Director

Moravian Open Door (MOD) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. MOD's facility, Moravian House, was established by the Eastern District of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church as an outreach ministry to the homeless community of New York City. Since 1987, it has provided transitional, residential housing, serving men and women over the age of 50, with a capacity of 40 beds. The director, social worker, and facility manager assist clients in regaining their independence, finally moving to appropriate permanent housing.