

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

FEBRUARY 2019

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The annual Church Council of St. Paul's was held after worship on January 27, 2019. Forty two people attended the meeting which was preceded by a birthday cake for the church and refreshments, provided by sister Yvonne Maddox. A budget for 2019 was adopted and reports from the many ministries and organizations of the church were received with gratitude. Elections for church officer were held and the appreciation of the congregation was expressed to Elders Roberta Haines and Dennis Swartzel, Trustees Yvonne Maddox, John Ruiz and Horace Russell, and Governors Elaine Swartzel and Tanya Scott for their faithful service. The Council unanimously welcomed Governors Sarah Kruzan and Kendra Miller, Trustees Joseph Labeodan, Robert Rausch and Yvonne Maddox, and Elders Alice Labeodan, Susan Weiffenbach and John Ruiz 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 rising 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 commended the Elders, Trustees and Governors for their hard work in 2018, particularly in their efforts to address the creative ideas that came out of the 2018 Church Council. He pointed to the challenges and the assets that are before us and called us to

move forward together to continue to put the mission of our church into practice. He encouraged us to be more in the Bible this year, to rely on the help of the Spirit through prayer and to look beyond our human resources and efforts to rely on God's provision and guidance. He also challenged St. Paul's to consider what ministries we can "declutter," that no longer serve a meaningful and healthy role in our life together.

The Trustees have clearly communicated that the HVAC system serving the sanctuary must be replaced before the spring. Trustee Yvonne Maddox gave information about the project and described the effort we will undertake to finance it. She called on the congregation to give their strong support to this necessary appeal.

Thanks to all those who participated in this meeting! May God bless us as we move together into 2019!

**Ash Wednesday
Worship Service
March 6th at 7 PM**

WITH GRATITUDE

We gratefully acknowledge the service of those who have completed their terms of office on the Boards of the church: Governors Tanya Scott and Elaine Swartzel, Elders Yvonne Maddox, and Horace Russell, and Trustees Roberta Haines, John Ruiz and Dennis Swartzel. Well done, good and faithful servants!

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

We invite you to join us on February 3rd as we celebrate the Installation of our new Board members. We will celebrate this blessed occasion through worship and with God's Word.

SNACK AND YAK

Snack and Yaks are a wonderful way to get to know our church family better! Please join us Sunday, February 3rd after service for a Snack and Yak. We are grateful to Elder Sue Weiffenbach for sponsoring the Snack and Yak.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us March 6 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.

ANNIVERSARY OFFERING

On January 27th we celebrated our congregations 48th anniversary. A special offering was received that day in the amount of \$ 997.00. Pastor Bill challenged the congregation to use these funds to purchase an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for our church. The cost of it is \$ 1700.00. Can you help us reach our goal? Please mark your check "AED". We can do it!

GABRIEL LABEODAN

We have received word that Gabriel has begun basic training and is doing well. You are encouraged to send him a brief note, not a card or postcard, as a way to encourage him. Please keep him in your prayers as he completes this stressful and demanding training.

E4, SPC

Labeodan-Ayotunde, Abiola

Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion

34th Infantry Regiment

165th BDE 3rd Platoon

Death Dealers

11950 Golden Arrow Road

Columbia, SC 29207

CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS



Entering February, we are celebrating the achievements of African Americans throughout history. Teaching children culture is one of the most important things we can do for them. They learn about their heritage along with gaining

pride for themselves for who they are and what they can accomplish. As Corinthian 1:16-17 states "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible ... all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together." We want our children to know that their culture and those of others are equally important as God created all of us.

This month the children will explore Black History and Chinese New Year. They will also continue learning about clothes and its importance in everyday life. We also plan to hold a few Valentine's Day parties to embrace love and support of one another and most importantly eat candy. Finally, we will the before and after program will start their Pen Pal missionary program. The goal is to extend it to others in the community and eventually globally.

Again, I would like to express my gratitude for donations to the children and staff for furniture. We have raised \$1,357 in combination of donations and fundraisers. This money helps us provide a safe and secure place for our children to live and learn while helping us achieve our accreditation goals. Once we revamp the classrooms and staff lounge, we would love you to join us in celebration with a tour of the areas.

We are starting our registration for the summer program. 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 opening for children ages 2-5. Visit our website at stpaulsccc.org, or call us to schedule an appointment at 301-627-4202.

"The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand." - Psalm 37:23-24

Mr. Christopher Antoine, Director

EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE?

If you need pastoral care while Pastor Bill is recovering please contact Elder Pat Jones or the church office.

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" (GAB) 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 kicking off the new year with 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 initial 2019 GAB Group meetings will take place at St. Paul's on the following dates: February 6 (chapter 1), February 27 (chapter 2), March 13 (chapter 3), April 1 (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 February 8th, at 7:30 PM at the church.

MEN'S BREAKFAST All men are invited to attend, Saturday February 16th at 8 AM. There is a place for you!

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 22, 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 feature a Movie and Popcorn! We are grateful to those who will pray regularly for our Kid's Club. If you would like to participate, contact Pastor Bill.

MARLBORO CHURCHES FOOD BANK

We gave out 11 bags to 4 furloughed families in January. Furloughed families do not have to register for the food bank. These families can return in February for more food. We will increase the number of food bags we prepare if the shutdown is still in place.

We gave out 131 bags to 42 families in January. We were short volunteers for Thursday's food set up last month. If you can help on February 7th @ 7 PM we'd appreciate it. Additionally, bag packers are always welcome for the Friday morning bagging on February 8th @ 8 AM.

Food Bank volunteer activities for February are:
Truck Unloading will be Wednesday, February 6th,
1 PM at Trinity Episcopal
Thursday, February 7th, 7 PM set up food at Trinity
Episcopal
Friday, February 8th, 8 AM bag food at Trinity
Episcopal – volunteers are especially needed for the
Friday morning bagging
Saturday, February 9th, 7 AM distribute food at
Trinity Episcopal

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

At this time, we do not know what foods we will be short in February. We'll let you know as soon as possible.

PASTOR'S BIBLE CHALLENGE

Most Christians I know wish they knew the Bible better. For many there is a spiritual hunger, an inner thirst to know God more deeply through His Word. There are many who have followed Jesus for decades who have never read the Bible "cover to cover" and wish they could.

Your opportunity is here! Join the Pastor's Bible Challenge for 2019. Beginning January 1, we will consistently and systematically read the Bible throughout the year.

There are several ways you can participate:

- Cover to Cover Join Pastor Bill in reading the entire Bible over the course of 2019. Go to Biblegateway.com to find a selection of plans to

help you.

- A Chapter a Day Start with the Gospel of Matthew and read through the New Testament one or two chapters each day.

- Verse a Day - Use the Moravian Daily Text (printed or online) and read one or two verses each day.

Each quarter we will check in and monitor our progress. Sign up at the Opportunity Table or email Pastor Bill. Let 2019 be the year you took a step forward and went deeper with the Word of God.

There will be a brief huddle for Pastor's Bible Challenge participants after worship this morning. We will gather at the front of the sanctuary after worship to share our progress with each other. If you would like to join the Bible Challenge you are welcome to gather with us today. Registration forms are available at the Opportunity Table.

kid's club

For children Kindergarten through sixth grade

Friday, February 22nd
6:30-8:30pm

Movie
and popcorn
for snack time.

For more information contact the church
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