

# The Epistle

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Moravian Church  
8505 Heathermore Blvd. Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

**Phone:** 301-627-4200

[www.spmoravian.org](http://www.spmoravian.org) [spmoravian@gmail.com](mailto:spmoravian@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** St. Paul's Moravian Church

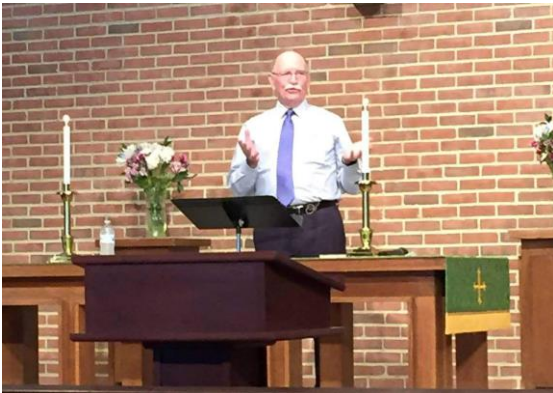
**Rev. Bill Andrews' e-mail:** [stpaulspastor@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulspastor@gmail.com)

**Summer Office Hours:** Tuesday - Friday, 10 AM - 3PM



## OCTOBER 2017

### PASTOR STEVE VISITS ST. PAUL'S



Pastor Steve Nicholas came to fill the pulpit once more, and delivered his sermon titled "Fifty Years of Ministry Lessons". We had a wonderful visit with him during a potluck Snak-N-Yak following the service.



### Jessica Perez, Joy Lynn and Jubilee Ruiz JUBILEE RUIZ BAPTISM

Join St. Paul's on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> as we welcome Jubilee Ruiz into the body of Christ through baptism. John and Joy Lynn Ruiz along with her Godparents James and Jessica Winn will join in the baptism.

### FALL YARDSALE

WOW! The fall yard sale was one of our biggest fundraisers yet! We had over 70 participants and made over \$1700 in profit from fees and concessions. With John Ruiz, Harry Borden and Yvonne Maddox heading up and the many others that made it work, we enjoyed a successful day.

### MEN'S RETREAT

The Men's Retreat is an annual highlight of programming for men at St. Paul's. It is a weekend away in the Shenandoah mountains with time to think, breathe, pray and play. It is for all men who want to get closer to God, closer to their brothers and to just be with the guys! The retreat will be held from Friday night, October 6 to Sunday, October 8.

### TRUNK OR TREAT

**Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8 :30 PM**

Join us for Kid's Club! 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 Trunk or Treat! Children are welcome and you are invited to play a part. Can you decorate the trunk of your vehicle to make this special for the kids? Please sign up in the narthex or contact the church office. We look forward to seeing you there!

In November, we will meet on the 17th and the theme will be giving thanks to God.

In December, we will meet on the 15th and we will celebrate the birth of Christ!

We hope you are praying for Kid's Club: for the staff, the children and their parents. It is so important to keep lifting up this important ministry before the Lord. Without His blessing, we are powerless!

## STEWARDSHIP: The Joy of Sharing

There are moments in our life when we start realizing the true meaning of life and its impact on others. One such feeling is found in the “joy of sharing.” At times, we realize that gaining or acquiring some ‘gain’ gives less pleasure than ‘parting away and giving it to a destitute/someone who really is in need.’ It gives us pleasure and sometimes may be hard to explain. But one good thing is that one is never loss by sharing, whether it is about sharing their talents, their time or their “touchable” treasures. Generosity is about kindness, helpfulness, unselfishness, sacrifice, giving, service, and love. You probably could think of other values, but we all know that Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” When we do “good” for others, we receive great happiness and joy. When we share something we somehow connect to others in many different ways. It’s a God-like trait. Personally, it seems that we connect to “God” the very moment of sharing.

The St. Paul’s Board of Trustees will be working within the congregation and community to highlight the theme “The Joy of Sharing” as the focus for its 2017 Stewardship Program. The Board decided that it would be important for us to be reminded of the three basic core principles of good Christian stewardship: giving of one’s time, ones talents and ones treasures.

On October 15, 2017, the worship service will share the message of community participation, and all members are invited to “bring- a- neighbor” to church. In addition, members of the various community groups will be in attendance. On Sunday, October 22, those in our church community with special talents have been asked to participate during the service; and on Sunday, October 29, which is designated as Stewardship Sunday, everyone will be invited to present their pledge cards for the upcoming year, during a time of prayer and dedication.

We look forward to having you in church every Sunday, and hope that you will be present to enjoy the special activities planned for the October worship services.



## CHILDREN’S CENTER NEWS

We are thankful to God for all that he gives us here at the Children’s Center. We have been lucky to have great staff that provides a fun and spiritual environment for the children who attend our program.

October is Fire Prevention Month which will be our major theme for the center. We will teach the children fire safety, preventative techniques, and talk about fire drills to keep them safe. On October 13, we will have firefighters from the Croom Rd. Fire Department come and speak with the children while showing them the tools they need to fight fires. Providing hands-on experiences for the children helps solidify the knowledge they gain in the classroom.

Now is a great time to check the date on your smoke alarms (they should be replaced every 10 years), place fire extinguishers at every level of your home, and install carbon monoxide alarms on each floor and near bedrooms.

We are working with Kids Club to promote Trunk or Treat. If you are interested in volunteering, or just have children who want to participate please contact Trudy Smith. It will be on October 20, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

We still have a few openings in our 2-5 year old Pre-K and our Before/After Care program. If interested, please call for an appointment at 301-627-4202. We look forward to hearing from you.

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. - Psalm 46:1*

**Mr. Christopher Antoine, Director**

## MARLBORO CHURCHES FOOD BANK

St. Paul’s will host the Food Bank breakfast at the October distribution. Please help with the breakfast service on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, we start at 5:30 AM. Breakfast is served until 9 AM.

Please bring your food donations to church with you on Sunday, October 8th. These are our staple items: pasta noodles, rice, spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables, canned beans, canned protein, jelly, cereal, macaroni & cheese.

<b>Cook Breakfast &amp; Food Distribution Saturday, October 14 Beginning at 5:30 AM</b>
---

For October, our volunteer schedule is:

- Truck Unloading, Wed, October 11<sup>th</sup>. (11:30 am to 3:30 pm, sometimes earlier)
- Sorting Thu, October 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm
- Bagging Fri, October 13<sup>th</sup> @ 8am
- Distribution Sat, October 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7am

We really need help on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> unloading the truck. Hand trucks are provided. The delivery driver unloads the delivery truck and we must cart the boxes using the hand trucks from the driveway up a ramp and inside the fellowship hall at Trinity. It goes fast and we usually have everything inside in a half hour to forty-five minutes with 3 volunteers.

### 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 October 6, at 7:30 PM

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** All men are invited to attend, Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 8 AM. at the Marlboro Grille in Upper Marlboro. There is a place for you!

**R.E.A.L WOMEN** We are planning an outing to Tanger Outlet National Harbor on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Car-poolers will leave St. Paul's parking lot at 9:15 AM and we should arrive at the Outlet between 9:45 and 10. We will enjoy the shopping at the Outlets and then have lunch at a really great restaurant nearby. Hope you can join us for this fun trip!

### OCTOBER 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 [samaritanaspurse.org/buildonline](http://samaritanaspurse.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 calendars 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.

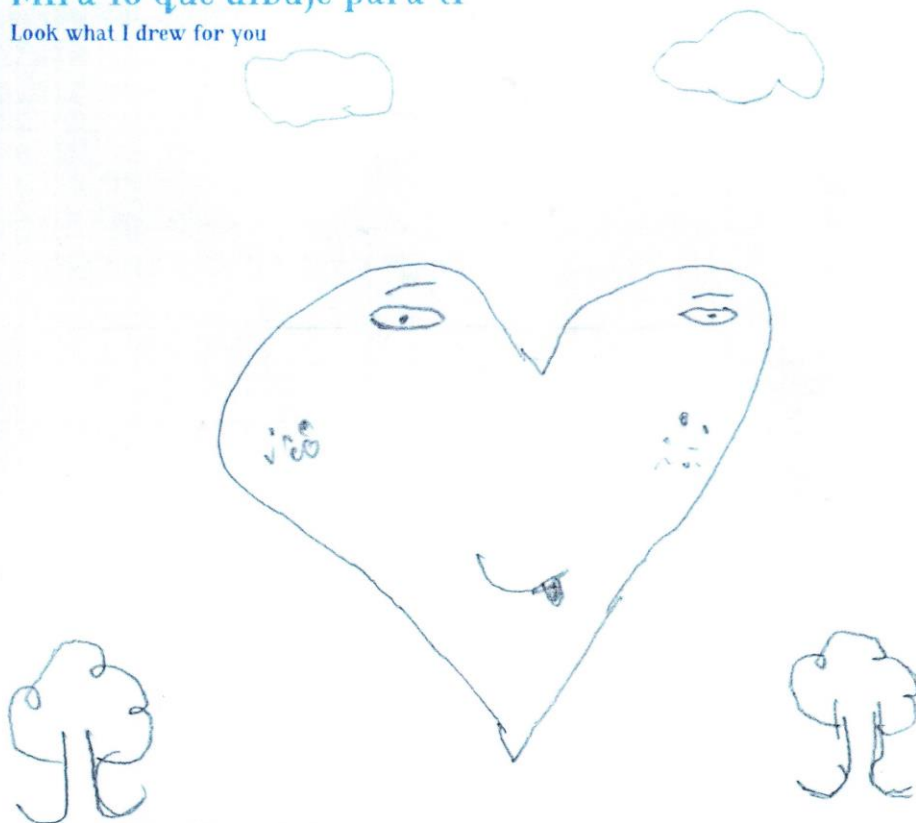


### Traducción / translation

Hello, dear friends - St. Paul's Moravian Church - This is your kid, Erick Fernando Acosta, writing you. I am very happy to be writing you and telling you new things. I tell you I am on a soccer team - and we are now on eighth-for-finals games. I am the goalie. Last year, we won the cup in the town level. We will play again on September. I like to go to CDC - for I am able to play with my classmates, and I learn bible verses and choirs. I tell you we are 1 month away from kids' day and Independence Day Parade. Do you go to any church? I go to a church. I ask you to send me a prayer - so I may listen to it. I now send you a bible verse in this letter: ""In the beginning, God created heavens and earth."" Genesis 1:1. Kindly - your friend. Please, pray for my family. Erick Acosta. \*\*\*

### Mira lo que dibujé para ti

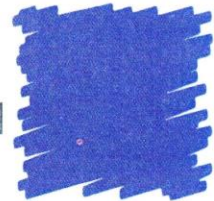
Look what I drew for you





05276018-01162594-C0024781197-S

05276018-01162594



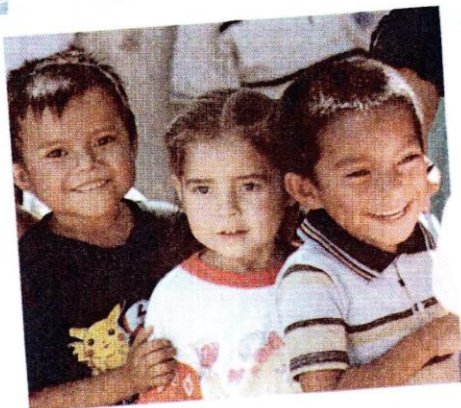
## Compartiendo algo especial o agradecimiento

SHARING SOMETHING SPECIAL WITH MY SPONSOR

28 agosto 2014  
dia/day mes/month año/year

Hola querido Friends les escribo su niño Erick Fernando Acosta estoy muy feliz de escribirle y contarle cosas nuevas le cuento que estoy en un equipo de futbol y pasamos a octavo de finales yo soy el portero y el año pasado ganamos la copa a nivel municipal y volveremos a jugar en septiembre y me gusta ir al C.D.I porque puedo jugar con mis compañeros y aprender versículos bíblicos y coros, le cuento que estamos a un mes del día del niño y las fiestas patrias ¿asiste a alguna iglesia? yo asisto a una iglesia le pido que me mande una oracion para escucharla, y yo aqui le mando un versiculo:  
En el principio Dios creo los cielos y la tierra genesis 1:1 Atentamente su amigo  
Ore por mi familia.

Erick Acosta



## The Grand Bargain, or Grace?

It's easy for us to read this story and hear a message of equality, justice, and fairness. We deal with these issues in the work world every day. Those who do more deserve a greater reward, right?

Jesus brings that calculation into his kingdom and turns it on its head! Those who figure on their accomplishments, attendance, ideas, and merit to secure their place in God's good graces are shocked—like the first group of laborers hired! Jesus will have nothing to do with the Grand Bargain: “You do something good, like walking for cancer, giving money to church, or being nice to a difficult relative/neighbor, and God is in your debt.”

The landowner doesn't reward any laborers on the basis of their performance. It is from the grace in his heart that the reward is calculated. And so it will be in heaven. We can never put Jesus in our debt. He willingly went to the cross in our place and endured hell for us. Our offenses and the record of our sin are much worse than we are prepared to admit, and greater than our goodness. Only humility and repentance can break open the fountains of God's free grace!

So, dear worshiper, as you come near to the kingdom of heaven today, what will you do? Will you stubbornly follow the Grand Bargain, and work yourself to death trying to put God in your debt? Or will you throw your efforts away by faith, and trust that when Jesus died on the cross, he died for you, and that every offense, rebellion, idol, and sin on your record has been wiped clean forever?

One way leads to pride and to slavery. One way leads to the death of pride and to freedom. Choose wisely!

*Bill Andrews, pastor, St. Paul's Moravian Church,  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland*

---

## The Moravian Church

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 24, 2017



Cover: Weinberg (vineyard). Copyright © rekin64/Stock/Thinkstock. Used by permission.  
Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our Web site at [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org).  
Copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.