

# The Epistle

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Moravian Church  
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## NOVEMBER 2019

### NOVEMBER SUNDAYS

- **All Saints Sunday**, November 3. We will remember those who have gone before us in the faith. Come and join us for an All Saints Potluck after worship.
- **Holy Communion** will be November 10.
- **Shoebox Packing Party**, November 10 We will pack shoeboxes and enjoy a light luncheon together.
- **Shoebox Dedication**, November 24. Join us as we dedicate the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.
- **Community Thanks-giving Service**, November 25 we share our reasons for giving thanks to God.

### A SEASON FOR SERVING!

- **Deck the Halls!** You are invited to join the Sacristans on Saturday November 30 at 9AM as we decorate the church for Advent! Contact Brother Larry Sinn to let him know you are coming.
- **Light the Advent Wreath** (Sundays, December 1 - 22). We provide the script; you provide the people! Sign up today!



### KIDS CLUB - NOVEMBER 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 Thanksgiving Meal! We are grateful to those who will pray regularly for our Kid's Club. If you would like to participate, contact Pastor Bill.

### INA BOLTON MEMORIAL SERVICE

You are invited to a memorial service in memory of longtime member Ina Bolton on November 2, at 3 PM. Join us as we say goodbye to a dear and faithful friend. An opportunity for fellowship will follow the worship.

### THANKSGIVING BASKETS

St. Paul's joins with other churches in Upper Marlboro to provide Thanksgiving baskets through The Upper Marlboro Food Bank. Can you help us provide **canned vegetables for 60 food baskets?** **Please bring your canned vegetables (any kind) to St. Paul's no later than Thursday, November 7th.**

### COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

St. Paul's is a proud participant in the Upper Marlboro Community Thanksgiving Service. The service will take place on Monday, November 25 at 7:30 pm at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. Let us give thanks to God for all His blessings! A highlight of the service is the performance by the massed choirs of the many churches sharing in the service! Join us as we give thanks to God!

### TRUSTEES CORNER

The Trustees were so encouraged by the tremendous support the congregation gave to the annual St. Paul's Fall yard sale on October 5<sup>th</sup> ! It was a beautiful day and a very successful yard sale. We are also grateful to all those who have responded to our Stewardship Program by submitting their pledge cards for 2020. There is still time if you have not yet participated in this important part of the Lord's work at St. Paul's.

## SHOE BOX TIME ~ 2019

The Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts—filled with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items—and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, has collected and delivered more than 168 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 160 countries and territories. In 2019, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another 11 million children in countries like Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda and Ukraine. More than 10.6 million shoebox gifts were collected worldwide in 2018, with more than 8.8 million collected in the U.S.

### Process:

Anyone can pack a shoebox. Individuals, families, churches and groups fill empty shoeboxes with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys, such as dolls or soccer balls. During National Collection Week (Nov. 18 – 25, 2019), Samaritan's Purse will collect the gift-filled shoeboxes at nearly 5,000 drop-off locations in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Learn how to pack a shoebox, view gift suggestions, and get other information at [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ). Participants 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 [samaritanspurse.org/buildonline](http://samaritanspurse.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, North Carolina; Dallas/Fort Worth; Denver; Chicago; and Fullerton, California.

### Scope:

Shoebox gifts are collected in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Australia, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Finland, Spain, New Zealand and Japan.

Nearly 500,000 volunteers worldwide—with more than 150,000 of those in the U.S.—are involved in collecting, shipping and distributing shoebox gifts. Eternal Impact

Delivered into the hands of children through local churches, every shoebox gift is an opportunity to share about Jesus Christ and God's love. Since 2010, more than 14 million children who have received a shoebox gift have participated in The Greatest Journey—a 12-lesson discipleship program. Children learn from trained, local volunteers what it means to follow Jesus and share their faith with friends and family.

**Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Packing Party after the worship service on Sunday, November 10, 2019.** Watch the bulletin for more information. All gift boxes must be delivered to St. Paul's by Sunday November 24, 2019. Look for more information in the church bulletin or check out

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>.

If you would like to assist in delivering the shoeboxes to a Drop Off Center on Sunday, November 24, 2019, please 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.



## MORAVIAN STARS

It is a Moravian tradition to light our homes with stars during the Advent season. We offer 21" and 12" illuminated **Moravian Stars**, for a donation of \$25 and \$20, respectively. You may purchase stars after worship or through the church office. These stars make excellent gifts!



## UNITY PRAYER WATCH DECEMBER 1

Members of the 18 Moravian Provinces spread all over the globe take a turn to pray for each other's needs and for God's protection and blessing on our work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our Province is assigned the month of December and St. Paul's has the responsibility to pray on the 1<sup>st</sup>. We share these 24 hours with the Graceham, Faith and Trinity congregations, so we are only responsible for six hours. You can be a part of this important work by signing up for a 20-minute slot. We have 18 slots to cover. Materials are available to inform and guide your prayers. Sign up in the Narthex! God bless you as you pray.

## OPPORTUNITIES

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY Tuesdays**, 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM, led by Sister Kay Jung -- Ladies who are able to gather in the mornings are invited for "Spiritual Food" and good Fellowship. The group is studying Timothy.

**PRAYER & HEALING SERVICE** You are invited to join us as we pray for one another on **November 1**, at 7:30 PM

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** All men are invited to attend the Men's Breakfast on Saturday **November 16** at 8:00 AM. Join us at the Marlboro Grill in the town of Upper Marlboro.

**PASTOR'S BIBLE  
CHALLENGE HUDDLE  
NOVEMBER 17  
AFTER WORSHIP**



To the St. Paul's church family,

The Marlton Elementary school family thanks you for your donations. The items will be put to great use and our students will benefit from your kindness. Thank you for sharing some sunshine with us as we are extremely grateful and appreciative.

Best Cartel (Marlton Principal)

## MARLBORO CHURCHES FOOD BANK

November will be a big month for the Food Bank. We will give away the Thanksgiving baskets on Saturday, November 9th starting at 7 AM. We will also host breakfast for the food bank clients on Saturday. The breakfast team starts at 5:30 AM.

St. Paul's is donating 60 cans of vegetables for the Thanksgiving baskets. Please bring your canned vegetables (any kind) to St. Paul's no later than Thursday, November 7th. We will pack the non-perishable food for the Thanksgiving basket on Thursday, November 7th @ 7 PM at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Food Bank volunteer activities for November 2019 are all held at Trinity Episcopal Church:

Truck Unloading Wed 11/6 at 1 pm

Sorting Thu 11/7 @ 7 pm

Bagging Fri 11/8 @ 8 am

Distribution Sat 11/9 7 am

Thank you, St. Paul's, for all you do for the Food Bank!!



## POINSETTIA FUND

**Poinsettias** beautify our Sanctuary for Christmas Eve services. You are invited to support this project by donating towards the cost of the plants. Your gift of any amount will help others worship the Savior. Please return this form with your donation by December 15, 2019. All donors will be recognized in the bulletin on Christmas Eve.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of/ In memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to St. Paul's Moravian Church**

## COMPASSION CORNER

One of our children, Gumalo Kashie Lie or Shie Lee as she is called at home turned 6 years old on October 26, 2019. We sent her a gift of \$50 and wished her the best birthday ever.

We got letters from each of the children thanking us for our care, support, and love. I was able to respond to each of them, assuring them we pray for them and love them.

I got a message from Compassion International letting me know that monetary Christmas gifts should be sent by October 31, 2019. I will get right on this.

If you would like to join me in sending them a few sentences each month just let me know.

Thank you and blessings, Kay Jung

## THANK YOU

*St. Paul's Moravian Congregation,*

*Thank you for your thoughts and prayers that were for my husband who had heart surgery earlier this week.*

*Thank you to my family, Cam and Sue Weiffenbach who shared their concern.*

*Prayer indeed works.*

*The family of Dick Hoffman*

## WOMEN'S RETREAT REPORT

The Women's Second Annual Retreat was held in September 2019. Seven women came together in beautiful Wintergreen, VA. We studied from the book; Women & Identity; it was very inspirational and relevant. It was a great time of fun, food, fellowship, bible study, worship and sharing. The setting was beautiful, even with the fog we had. It dissipated long enough to do one of our Saturday sessions out on the deck with God's glorious mountains as our backdrop. We look forward to another wonderful retreat next year.

## MEN'S RETREAT REPORT

Seven men participated in the Men's Retreat in the Shenandoah Mountains September 27 - 29. The retreat theme was "Words," and we considered how Scripture gives us good guidance as we form and use our words. Topics included: Truth & Lies, Blessings & Curses, Faith & Unbelief and Slow and Fast. There is always lively debate and spirited conversation at the Men's Retreat. What stood out this year were the thoughtful comments and personal sharing that was evidence of the Holy Spirit at work beneath the "wordy" surface! A special thank you to Audrey and Jeff Haynie for generously hosting the retreat in their mountain home, and thanks to Fred Mayes, our breakfast chef, for another year of creative and delicious morning banquets.



The westward view from the deck at Wintergreen.

## CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS



Looking outside and watching the leaves change colors from green to yellow, red, and brown, we are reminded that God has created a spectacular place for us to live and love. Similar to the leaves, our

children are slowly growing learning new skills such as understanding their own emotions, learning how to identify shapes and colors, forming strong relationships with each other, and singing songs of Jesus. As change happens all around us, we teach our children to accept it and be open to new experiences. "For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9

During November, we do our best to give back to our community and teach our children to do the same. We will create and send cards to the veterans in our area as a thank you for keeping our country safe. We also plan to help the church by donating food towards the food bank just in time for Thanksgiving so families who are less fortunate can enjoy a delicious feast. Finally, we are participating in Operation Christmas Child where the children practice evangelism by spreading the word of God through gifts to children around the world.

We are raising funds again to help support our programs with our spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Please be on the lookout for flyers posted by the Children's Center for more details.

We have full time openings for children ages 2-5 in our Pre-K program. If you know anyone who needs high quality child, have them call us at 301-627-4202 for a tour. More information can be found on our website at [stpaulsccc.org](http://stpaulsccc.org).

*"Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor."* - Proverbs 21:21

**Mr. Christopher Antoine, Director**



### SAVE THE DATE!

ST. PAUL'S MORAVIAN CHURCH

Invites You to Our Second Annual

## MARLBORO COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROL SING!

Sunday, December 15, 2019

4:00 pm

ST. PAUL'S MORAVIAN CHURCH

8505 Heathermore Boulevard  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

*Come As You Are! Sing With Us! Christmas Cookies & Punch!*

Info: 301-627-4200 [www.spmoravian.org](http://www.spmoravian.org)



We are grateful to sister Gail Andrews for arranging this beautiful Fall arrangement for our Sanctuary.

### WEDDING BELLS!

Congratulations to Katie (Bishop) and Ryan Taffee who were united in Christian marriage on October 19. A beautiful dockside ceremony was held at the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, MD. May God bless their union richly!

## TREASURER'S CORNER

For the current fiscal year, we continue to run a deficit. A comparison of revenue and expenses for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 through October, respectively, is set forth below:

Year	Revenue	Expenses	Balance
2018	\$256,740*	\$264,636	-\$ 7,896
2019	\$256,168	\$268,516	-\$12,348

\*Includes \$14,300 from investments deposited into operating account. Revenue without the \$14,300 was \$242,440.

Each Sunday, the amount of general offering for the previous Sunday is reported under the heading "Offering and Attendance." About 75% of our annual budget revenue is from general offerings. As a benchmark, general offerings should be about \$4,360 per week. The general offerings received in October are set forth below:

Date	General Offerings
Oct. 06	\$6,764.00
Oct. 13	\$1,964.00
Oct. 20	\$2,842.50
Oct. 27	\$3,657.00

For the 2019 fiscal year ending October 27, 2019, the total general offerings received and counted were \$176,202.06. The amount projected was \$182,000.00.

Current fiscal year benevolences by St. Paul's and its members total \$16,554.23. Donations to the Marlboro Food Bank through October total \$7,320.00, of which \$850.00 was donated in memory of Ina Bolton, former food bank coordinator.

*"The Little Shop with a Big Heart" MORA*

VIAN MISSION GIFT SHOP

2 CHURCH SQUARE

LITITZ, PA 17543

717-626-9027



To our Moravian Brothers and Sisters,

We, again, extend a warm welcome from Lititz Moravian Congregation to all and invite you to visit our historic town and Church Square. Our quaint Moravian Mission Gift Shop is now open Thursday, Friday and Saturday for the autumn and Christmas season from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. We will happily open for appointments by calling the shop at 717-626-9027 and leave a message. Someone will get back to you to arrange your visit. Also, you may send us an email request at [moravianshop@gmail.com](mailto:moravianshop@gmail.com).

Our all-volunteer team will be happy to help you find a special gift, an interesting book or even something for yourself! We supply a variety of Moravian Stars with the best prices. We have many Moravian themed items, our own church member-made beeswax candles, specialty candles, books, Moravian Music CD's and stars. We have lots of Stars!

Our mission is the same today as it was 27 years ago when the Shop began: 100% of our profits, after expenses, go to help others both locally and worldwide. Please stop in if you are planning a trip our way and let the shop volunteer know you are a fellow brother or sister. We would love to see you at our "Little Shop with a Big Heart." Thank you.

Moravian Mission Gift Shop Team.

## TRUNK OR TREAT THANK YOU!

More than 40 children participated in the Trunk or Treat event sponsored by the Kid's Club on October 25. The weather was perfect and with the help of the staff of the Christian Children's Center and volunteers from the congregation and others the children enjoyed a "Spooktacular" time of collecting treats. We are grateful to those who donated candy as well. And thank you to those whose regular gifts to the Kid's Club ministry enable us to fund this ministry. God is at work!