

St. Paul's Moravian Church

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The Rev. Dr. William T. Andrews, Pastor

“Count it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let that steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” – James 1:2-4

Dear Friends,

The Book of James gives us advice when we are going through trying times. It says, “Count it all joy”. James tells us that even in the face of difficulty, we can respond with joy as we rest in the knowledge that God is producing something good. This doesn't mean we won't feel overwhelmed, sad, helpless or even lost. But in spite of these feelings, we can find joy. Our steadfast faith makes us complete, even though COVID-19 has up-ended our familiar lives. God is with us always, and we trust God will provide what we need for whatever comes our way as individuals, families and as a church. Count it all joy!!! When we view life through a lens of gratitude, even if it's just identifying one thing from the day for which we are thankful, we become more like the stewards God created us to be. For followers of Jesus it means:

Focusing on how God is at work in both the good and the bad
Recognizing the abundant ways God is blessing us through it all
Responding to God with joy and generosity of our own

As we consider God's blessings, we acknowledge His immense goodness towards us and the constant presence of the Holy Spirit working in St. Paul's Moravian Church and in our lives. God endows each of us with personal gifts, talents and material possessions. Our stewardship is acknowledging that God is the source of each gift that we have received and each possession we have accumulated. It is often the stewardship season within the church's calendar that reminds us that these gifts are not our own - that we have a trusteeship over them and not an ownership. Thus, stewardship means to give a portion back to God, as a direct way of expressing our thanksgiving to Him for these gifts.

At St. Paul's Moravian Church our stewardship can be witnessed as we participate in the Annual Pledge Campaign to help us meet our 2021 budget. This year our Campaign is centered on the theme of **Restoration**. We have faced many challenges as a result of COVID-19 and we must all work together to restore our finances and establish our fellowship and mission as we settle in on what will be our “new normal” as a church in the year to come.

Before completing and mailing the enclosed 2021 Pledge Card and Time and Talent Information Form to the Church Office, please give the matter of your Christian Stewardship commitment serious and prayerful consideration. Your financial commitment should be a spiritual expression of gratitude and love to God for all you have received.

Please join us in worship via Zoom on Pledge Sunday on October 25, 2020, when we will acknowledge our 2021 commitments in an act of stewardship and discipleship. If you cannot join us on the 25th, we would be grateful to receive your pledge at your earliest convenience.

In Christ's Service,
St. Paul's Board of Trustees