



The Epistle

March 2023

The Newsletter of
St. Paul's Moravian Church
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St. Paul's Moravian Church

Rev. Bill Andrews' e-mail:
stpaulspastor@gmail.com
Pastor's day off—Fridays

Administrative Assistant
Office Hours:
Tuesday-Friday,
9:30am-2:30pm

**Sunday Worship
Service 10am
In-Person and
Zoom**

WATCHWORD 2023
**He shall be great to the
ends of the earth.**
Micah 5:4

A HOLY SEASON

We began the season of Lent with our first in-person Ash Wednesday service since Covid! Praise the Lord. During Lent, both in the Sunday services and Wednesday Lenten services, we will be focusing on the theme of **forgive**. You are encouraged to read the book by that title written by Pastor Tim Keller.

On Sunday, March 5, St. Paul's will take part in a pulpit exchange by sending Pastor Bill to preach at Faith Moravian Church, while Pastor Jay Petrella of Graceham Moravian preaches at St. Paul's. It will also be Communion Sunday. All Wednesday Lenten services will be over zoom and will begin at 7PM. Use the *meetings* link on our website.

The Choir will be singing on both Palm Sunday and Easter! They will rehearse after worship on March 19 and 26. You are warmly invited to join us to add your voice to the joyful sound! Contact Barbara Masters.

Palm Sunday, April 2 will kick off Holy Week. We will have palms and sing the Hosanna! anthem. It will be a joyful service.

We will continue our tradition of gathering for Readings for Holy Week at 7pm on zoom on Monday - Wednesday. The Elders will lead us through the Bible readings that tell the story of Christ's sacrifice for us.

The Maundy Thursday service will originate from the Sanctuary and be carried over zoom.

On Easter, April 9, we will celebrate the resurrection of the Lord with gorgeous music, beautiful flowers, heartfelt worship and the voices of God's people! Plan to be part of this faithful expression of praise to our God!

2023 JOINT BOARD

Our elected boards have reorganized, and the following will be serving in the coming year:

Elders

Vice President - Yvonne Maddox

Secretary - Marissa King

Church Worship Coordinator - Pat Jones

Trustees

President - John Ruiz

Vice-President - Juli Jacobs Moses

Secretary - Marissa King

Interim Treasurer - Jeff Haynie

Governors

President - Sarah Kruzan

Secretary - Elaine Swartzel

We are grateful for their service!

CHURCH RETREAT

On a cold, gray Saturday morning in late February St. Paul's was touched by the fire of God's Spirit! About 40 people gathered in the Fellowship Hall and on zoom to work, talk and pray together as we sought the wisdom and direction of Jesus Christ for our Church. Thanks to the excellent leadership of the planning team, Theresa Fisher, Roberta Haines, Yvonne Maddox, John Ruiz and Pastor Bill, participants were able to collaborate and discern our way forward. The program was led by Roberta and Yvonne, the refreshments coordinated by Theresa, and the tech facilitated by John Ruiz.

For three hours we laughed and shared, remembering the good and the bad, and peered into the future of what God has for us. The enthusiasm and optimism of the group was contagious! We all came away with the sense that God is not done with St. Paul's and that the future is bright!

A committee will soon be formed to chart our course into the future. Is God calling you to be part of this group? If you are interested, please contact Pastor Bill.

CHURCH RETREAT

We had a great time this past Saturday (Feb 25th) at the SPMC Visioning Retreat! Participants munched on refreshments as we discussed our church's purpose and future and goals. Break-out groups were utilized to explore the engaging questions posed by committee members. Our focus was guided by God's hand to consider and unite on a blessed path. We are excited to move ahead and encourage fellowship, enlivening our sanctified ministry to rise to new heights after the pandemic. The attendees prayed, sang, and worshipped together. A touching endeavor and we hope to see you all next time.

Thanks and Appreciation to all of those who kept St Paul's going during these difficult times.

Submitted by: Theresa Fisher

TREASURER'S UPDATE

We finished the month of January with a small deficit of only \$300.!! Amen! However as of today we have a deficit of \$8000 for the month of February.

Thanks, **Jeff Haynie, Interim Treasurer**

FOOD BANK MINISTRY



Please donate jelly this month if you can! Remember you can bring donations anytime to church and place them in the Food Bank box. Thank you for all your help keeping the Food Bank going! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at tsmith9408@aol.com for information on becoming a volunteer. Please continue to pray for our food bank families and our food bank leadership.

Trudy Smith, St. Paul's Rep

CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS

While we are moving towards spring, we continue to learn about the beautiful world God created for us. A world filled with trees, animals, and the many other beauties among us. While the winter is mild, the children will learn about change and how not only the world around us changes, but so do they and those around them. During March, the children review one of our favorite themes "Lion and Lambs". They will conduct activities that explain the weather changes that the Earth goes through when Spring comes. They will also learn about special weather gifts like the rainbow and what it meant to Noah, the importance of apologizing and forgiveness, transportation, and how we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. At the end of the month, we will be celebrating Jesus' most precious gift to all people with Easter.

As for Easter, we are producing a play that will capture the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us. We are putting on a performance to show everything he did for us. The children are happy to practice songs and scenes and we look forward to sharing with the St. Paul's Community. We plan to have the play on Thursday, March 30 at 5:30pm. More details will be shared.

Even though we are about to start Spring, our summer registration will open in March. We have a fun-filled summer with field trips, activities, and games that the children will love. We also have available spots for our school age program. If you have a child interested in attending one of our fun, safe, and Christian-based programs, please call us at 301-627-4202 to schedule an appointment. More information can be found on our website at stpaulsccc.org.

"Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God." 1 Peter 1:21

Mr. Christopher Antoine, Director



Elizabeth	Sinn	3-2
Joy-Lynn	Ruiz	3-4
Catherine	Russell	3-4
Chaquita	Taylor	3-9
Doris	Walker	3-10
Sarah	Kruzan	3-15
Justus	Ruiz	3-18
Shea	Thomas	3-20
Brittany	Moses	3-28



NEW CHURCH SIGN



ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

We need your help!
Have you made your gift?

March 2023



The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. John 6:63

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			7:00pm Lenten Service			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10am Worship Service Holy Communion	9:30am Adult Bible Study 6:00pm Joint Board Mtg.	10:00am Board of Elders 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7:00pm GAB Group	7:00pm Lenten Service			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am Worship Service	9:30am Adult Bible Study	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7:00pm GAB Group	4:00pm Board of Governors Mtg. 7:00pm Lenten Service	7:30pm Board of Trustees Mtg.		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am Worship Service Choir Rehearsal	9:30am Adult Bible Study	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7:00pm GAB Group	Ash Wednesday 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10am Worship Service Choir Rehearsal	9:30am Adult Bible Study	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7:00pm GAB Group	7:00pm Lenten Service			