

The Epistle



Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul's Moravian Church, *March, 2012*

Spring Training

Spring training has begun! Baseball teams are working hard to get in shape to win in the coming season. They are paying attention to the fundamentals of the game and to building their speed and strength. They know they will soon be put to the test and want to do their best to meet the challenge.



Our outdoor sign tells us Lent is spring training for Christians. Can you think why that is? Lent calls Christians back to the fundamentals

of the faith. During Lent we examine our souls, confess our sins and repent. We also spend more time in study of the Bible and worship more frequently. We build our spiritual strength by fasting (giving up something), serving others and spending more time in prayer. Christians know they will soon be put to the spiritual test and want to do their best to meet the challenge.

Which brings us to the "*Not a Fan*" program. We are saturating St. Paul's in the large group setting (Sunday morning), small group setting (Sunday School, Wednesday night) and as individuals (*Not a Fan Journals*). Through this program our team can grow spiritually and God can transform us into the people He desires. The challenge of ministering in the Name of Jesus to twenty first people in our community is upon us. Last year's plays and level of commitment will not help us meet that challenge. Are you taking spring training seriously, or are you sitting it out? God has you on the St. Paul's team for a reason and part of that is because He wants a deeper intimacy and love with you. Spring training is in full swing at St. Paul's! Get in on the action while you can.

"Coach" Andrews

Sundays in March, 2012

Sunday, March 4, we begin the month by gathering around the communion table to celebrate the Lord's Supper as a church family. It is most appropriate to receive communion during the season of Lent.

Sunday, March 11, we continue to explore the themes of the "*Not a Fan*" program. This is your opportunity to take your faith to a deeper level!

Sunday, March 18, Lent is a season that asks us to slow down and listen, to wait for God's Spirit to flow over us and in us.

Sunday, March 25, Spring is a time when the earth is renewed. Worship is a time when the soul is renewed.

A Call to Pray

Superb organization and inspired leadership are absolutely necessary for any Church that wants to serve Jesus Christ. But until the element of fervent, committed prayer is added they are like a car with an empty tank – useless and going nowhere! We call on the entire St. Paul's community to join in prayer for these specific needs of our congregation:

Church Goals – we have three great goals to accomplish, now we need to put them into practice. Each goal has a leader and now we need to recruit faithful people to pursue them. Pray for God's guidance and power as we move forward.

New Leader Process – ask for God's guidance as our Boards discern what a new leader will do for the church and Children's Center. And ask God to prepare the person He has in mind for the position.

Initiatives – pray that God will bless these attempts to serve Him in new ways. Plans for the New Sabbath and the Summer Family Institute are being made. Without God's help they will fail. Humbly seek the Master's blessing.

~ Education and Learning Community ~

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes for children aged three (and potty trained) through high school start each week at 8:45 A.M. sharp! If your child hasn't attended regularly lately, this is an excellent time to get back in the habit. Our teachers are ready and eager to shape the hearts of our children.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Time: 8:45 A.M.

The 6-week Lenten term begins Sunday, February 26: *“Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus”* by Kyle Idleman, is designed for both seasoned practitioners as well as beginners to the Christian faith. Themes covered are: Fan or follower?, The open invitation, Choosing intimacy, the comfortable cross, and Is Jesus enough? Followers' Journals are available for purchase in the church narthex. For more information, contact Pastor Bill

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY I

Tuesdays, 10:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.

Ladies who have free time in the mornings are invited for “Spiritual Food” and good Fellowship every Tuesday morning. The group is studying the *Book of Mark*. If I have aroused your interest I hope you will meet me in St. Paul's Church Library on Tuesdays, at 10:30 A.M. God Bless! *Sister Dorothy Thomas*

WOMENS BIBLE STUDY II

Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, is on hiatus until after Lent. We'll see you at the Lenten studies on Wednesday nights!!

ONLINE LEARNING COMMUNITY

You are invited to join an on-line discussion group focused around the *Moravian Daily Texts*. You can receive the Daily Texts for free by email by subscribing at http://www.moravian.org/daily_texts/. To find the discussion group go to:

<http://groups.google.com/group/st-pauls-daily-text-discussion-group?hl=en>. Join the conversation today!

~ Moravian Women's Fellowship ~

The Sisters of St. Paul's Moravian Women's Fellowship will meet on Sunday, March 4, immediately following worship. All women of the church are invited to attend!

What's Happening at the Children's Center . . .

This past month, the children enjoyed making *Stone Soup* and sharing it with their families. This is an annual event that the children ask about and look forward to very early in the season! We thank all of our wonderful parents for coming and supporting the Center.

We hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful mild winter weather. The children love going outside each day to enjoy the beauty God has given us. The time outside is great for helping to develop their large motor skills.

Our school-age children once again made Valentines for the Veterans at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in Mechanicsville, Maryland. The vets were very excited to receive them. We thank all the wonderful men and women who sacrifice for us each and every day to protect our country. We pray for God to continue to keep them safe.

We have two openings in our full-time program for children ages 3 to 5. If interested, please call 301-627-4202.

Please continue to read to and with your child.

Be of good courage; and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord. Psalm 31:24

~ Virginia Anthony, Director

Men's Breakfast

Men! Join us for a great **breakfast** on Saturday, March 17, at 8 am at the church if we have a cook, at Marlboro Grille if we do not! Take an hour out of your busy schedule to spend some quality time enjoying good food and relaxing with friendly conversation about things that matter to you: family, faith and football! See you there.

Men's Group

If you're ready to step up and go deeper in your faith, we've got a great opportunity for you. **We're going to try something new this month:** We will return to the church immediately following the Men's Breakfast, on Saturday, March 17, at 9:00 am and gather to study the Word, hear each other's stories and pray together. It doesn't matter how religious you are, you are welcome. Save the date and bring your Bible! Contact Pastor Bill if you want to know more.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

We are gearing up for our **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** for children of the church, Children's Center and community. This year it will take place on Saturday, April 7, 10:30 AM. The Egg Hunt, a long-standing tradition at St. Paul's, is a wonderful outreach event and has brought in as many as 200 children and parents on a bright sunny day!! With this in mind, we need all the help we can get!

Sister Tamara Brooks is our Egg Hunt Coordinator and the organizational team has already met with Pastor Bill, committees are forming, and all are anxious for any ideas you might have for food, recreation, crafts, games, singing, etc. A **sign-up sheet** has been posted for you to indicate where you might help with this year's Egg Hunt! There's a job for everyone!



We are now accepting **donations of plastic eggs and the jelly beans** to fill them (no chocolates, please!). Please bring all donations to the church and place in the marked box.

🌀 Easter Breakfast 🌀

The Board of Elders is grateful to Sister Lisa Andrews for stepping up and volunteering to coordinate the Easter Breakfast for Sunday, April 8. Now LISA is looking for a **team**

of volunteers to help her. You can help with set up (Saturday afternoon), cooking and serving **BREAKFAST** on Easter Sunday, and cleaning up afterwards. The meal is usually attended by 30-50 people and is served immediately following the Easter Morning Service. Interested parties should please contact Pastor Bill, 301-627-4200 or stpaulspastor@gmail.com



Holy Week at St. Paul's

Sunday, April 1, 10:00 AM

Palm Sunday Service

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, April 2-4,

7:30 PM **Readings for Holy Week**

Thursday, April 5, 6:30 PM

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

Friday, April 6, 7:30 PM

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Saturday, April 7, 10:30 AM

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 8, 7:00 AM

Easter Morning Service

Sunday, April 8, 7:45 AM

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 8, 10:00 AM

Traditional Easter Service

Calling Tenebrae Readers:

Pastor Bill is seeking 2-3 people who can assist him with reading during the **Good Friday Tenebrae Service** on April 6 at 7:30 PM. If you can help, please contact him directly at stpaulspastor@gmail.com. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Leadership Task Force

The Joint Board has assigned a group of people the task of creating a job description for the person who will follow Pastor John. This group is gathering information and thinking creatively about how to meet the needs of the church and the Christian Children's Center. To date, they have met with two focus groups with great success: Center parents and Church parents. They look forward to future opportunities for "fact-finding".

The task force asks you to pray that God would give them wisdom and insight as they continue to do their work. They would also welcome YOUR insights and suggestions toward this effort. Please feel free to contact any of the following members of the task force: **Butch Aurich, Marcia BarenBregge, Roberta Haines, Jeff Haynie, Willie Miller, Chuck Staiger or Pastor Bill** with your comments.

St. Paul's Adopts Goals

The following goals have been adopted by the Joint Board, with assigned conveners for each goal:

#1 **To communicate to the people in the five-mile radius around the church that St. Paul's is a Christian Church** -- *Butch Aurich*

#2 **Identify ways to "connect" with people so they will come to faith in Christ** -- *Sallie Bankett*

#3 **To encourage the congregation to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ** -- *Fred Mayes*

If you would like to help make these goals a reality, please contact one of the three conveners. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Prayer and Healing Service

The next **Prayer and Healing Service** will be held at the church on the **FIRST Friday, March 2, 2012, at 7:30 PM.**

The Prayer and Healing Service in **April** will be held on the **SECOND Friday, April 13, 2012, at 7:30 PM**

since Good Friday falls on the first Friday!

All are welcome!

Marlboro Churches Food Bank

At the February distribution we gave out 178 bags to 123 families made up of 233 adults and 189 children! We had 2 new families sign up. Thank you to the group of volunteers who helped transfer food that had been stored at St. Paul's from the Scouts' Food Drive, to Trinity Episcopal's storage on February 4th. You made a big job go smoothly and quickly!

The Friday morning bagging has been a little light on volunteers. If you are available, that group could really use your help Friday, March 9th at 8 AM. Please continue your prayers for the food bank families.

Peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, tuna and meat meals are all high on the list of items we need to pack the bags in February. If you have any of these items, please bring them to church for the Food Bank.

Food Bank volunteers, the schedule for March is:

**Sort Food on Thursday March 8,
7:00 PM at Trinity Episcopal**

**Pack Bags on Friday, March 9,
8 AM at Trinity Episcopal**

**Distribute Bags to clients on Saturday, March 10,
7 AM at Trinity Episcopal**

Please come out and help with the food bank activities in January. Please continue your prayers for the food bank families. To help with packing and distribution, call **Sister Trudy Smith**, 301-627-8039. To offer your help and support to **Sister Jacquie Payne-Borden**, cooking and serving breakfast on April 14, please contact her at 301-952-6472.

Can You Lift?!

Sister Sandy Casey is looking for a few strong backs (with feet and arms attached ☺) to help her new co-worker move into the



area. Did you meet **Bruce Edwards** at church on Sunday (2/26)? Can you help him get settled in his new home? He's gathering his wife and family from Chicago and they will be moving into their house in Waldorf on Saturday, March 10. Please contact Sandy if you and/or someone you know can help move boxes, a few mattresses, and some other heavy pieces for just a couple of hours. Sandra.casey@navy.mil. Thank you!

Special Messages. . .

Dear St. Paul's,

Thank you for your prayers, your cards, your calls and your presence at our Mother's funeral, and your love. It would have pleased her to know how many cared about her passing, that she was part of a caring community, not just an anonymous elderly person living out her final hours here.

As Pastor Bill can probably attest, she was never an anonymous presence her entire life. We are all so grateful to Pastor Bill for conducting her funeral. Everyone agreed that it seemed as though he really knew her. It was so comforting.

More than words can say, we thank you all.

~ The Whole Nell Errico Family

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8020 Croom Station Road
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
February 18, 2012

Dear St. Paul's Church Family:

There are no words to fully express our appreciation for your support and love for us during this very difficult time. We thank you so much for your many acts of kindness at the passing of my mother, Mrs. Thomasine Thompson: Pastor Bill's letter to Mom's church, attendances at the wake and funeral, the floral arrangements, cards of condolences and words of comfort. As most of you know, Mom had been ill, off and on, for several years, and in a coma for the past 11 months. St. Paul's has always been a source of strength for us over the 35 years Charles and I have been members of this great body, and your support over the past year has helped to sustain us.

While the loss of Mom saddens us, your encouragement and the continued blessings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ will see us through.

In Christ love,

Yvonne and Charles Maddox

Represent St. Paul's at Synod!

The **Moravian Church Eastern District Synod** will convene June 20-23, 2012, in Bethlehem, PA. Sister Pat Jones will attend as a delegate of St. Paul's, along with Pastor Bill. If anyone else would like to participate in this "all expenses paid" Synod, please contact Pastor Bill right away!

2012 JOINT BOARD

We are pleased to announce the organization of all three of our church boards. Following their first meetings since Church Council, officers have been selected. (Numbers) indicate the number of years remaining on a board.



Board of Elders

LtoR: Horace Russell (3), Sallie Bankett, Secretary (2), Butch Aurich (1), Pat Jones (3), Rev. Bill Andrews, Chair, Stan FitzGerald, Vice-Chair (2).

Not pictured: Roberta Haines (1)



Board of Trustees

LtoR: Chuck Staiger (church interior) (2), Harry Borden (church exterior) (3), Juli Moses, Secretary (3), Larry Sinn, Chair and Stewardship (2), Charlie Nance (church exterior) (3), and Willie Miller (yard sale) (1).

Not pictured: Dan Bankett (church interior)(1)

Children's Center Board of Governors



LtoR: Margaret Watkins (3), Fred Mayes (1), Virginia Anthony, Director, Erin Wenger, Secretary (1), Marcia BarenBregge, Chair (2).

Not pictured: Joy-Lynn Butler-Ruiz (2)

Sabbath Initiative

Interest is building in the Sabbath Initiative as we try to find new ways to put an ancient tradition into practice in the 21st century. You are welcome to join us on Sunday, March 25, after worship as we explore what God means when He tells us to "rest." There is no cost for this event and it is open to all age groups because we all face this issue. For more information contact Pastor Bill. If you think you're too busy to attend, think again!



Iranian Pastor on Death Row

Please remember in your prayers **Yousef Nadarkhani**, who is a Christian pastor imprisoned in Iran, awaiting a decision on his death sentence for refusing to recant his faith, and whose mistreatment amounts to physical and psychological torture. Yousef was arrested in 2009 on charges that he questioned obligatory religion classes in Iranian schools. He has been given three chances to recant Christianity, but refused to do so. Yousef is a husband and father of two young children.

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them,, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Hebrews 13:3



EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Dedication: _____

Easter is on April 8, so we will be ordering Easter flowers very soon. If you wish to order a plant, please complete this order form and place it, along with your payment (make checks payable to St. Paul's, earmarked "Easter Flowers") in the offering plate or in the church office by April 10th, in order to assure your choice of plant.

(Indicate # of plants desired and color)

Easter Lilies (5-7 blooms) _____ @ \$10.00 = _____

Hydrangeas (3 blooms) _____ **Lavender/Blue** @ \$16.00 = _____

Tulips (6" pot) _____ **Red** _____ **Pink** _____ **Yellow** @ \$10.00 = _____

Hyacinths (6" pot) _____ **White** _____ **Pink** _____ **Blue** @ \$10.00 = _____

Daffodils (6" pot) _____ **Yellow** @ \$10.00 = _____

Total Due: _____



St. Paul's Moravian Church's

Annual Easter Egg Hunt!



Saturday, April 7, 2012

10:30 AM - 12:00 Noon

for children ages 2-12

Refreshments will be served!
Wonderful stories will be told!

Games
Face Painting
Sack Races
Rain or Shine!!!



Bring your own basket or sack for gathering eggs!



Now accepting donations of plastic eggs and jelly beans to fill them! (no chocolate, please)
Bring donations to the church and place in marked boxes in narthex. Thank you!!

St. Paul's Phone: (301)627-4200 Email: spmoravian@aol.com
8505 Heathermore Blvd., (Marlton) Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

St. Paul's Spring Community Yard Sale



Saturday, April 28, 2012
(Rain date: May 5)

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Hot dogs, Hamburgers, Sodas and
Baked Goods will be sold!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

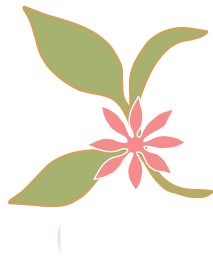


Can you grill or
Bring baked goodies?
Work the Concessions?
Help set up or clean up?
Direct traffic or
parking?



Call Willie Miller (301)868-4146, Coordinator
Ann Aurich, Reservations, 301-627-4200

St. Paul's Moravian Church, 8505 Heathermore Blvd., Marlton, www.spmoravian.org



Spring Fling Bonanza

April 14, 2012 9 am-3pm

At St. Paul's Moravian Church

8505 Heathermore Boulevard

Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

HOSTED BY **SEW CREATIVELY MINE STUDIO LLC**

A COMMUNITY EVENT!!

FREE ADMISSION!!!

Featuring over 30 vendors selling jewelry, handbags, skincare and makeup, cooking products, health and fitness, financial products, and more!!

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For more information go to

www.SewCreativelyMine.com/SpringFling

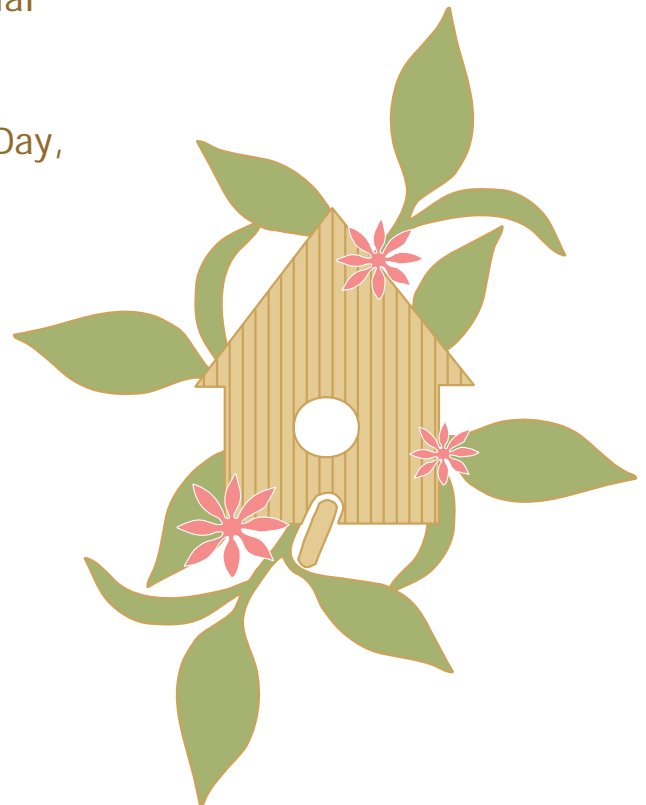
For event or vendor information

CONTACT:

Kendra Miller 240-354-1545

Rosa McAdams 202-423-5606

Sallie Bankett 301-802-7332



HOSTED BY SEW CREATIVELY MINE STUDIO LLC



St. Paul's

EPISTLE



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Church Office Hours

The **Church Office** is *generally* open:

Monday, 9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon, and Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM and 2:30-4:30 PM

Connecting . . .

St. Paul's Moravian Church

8505 Heathermore Blvd.

Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

301-627-4200 FAX: 301-627-4204

Church e-mail: spmoravian@aol.com

Church website: www.spmoravian.org

Rev. Bill Andrews' e-mail: stpaulspastor@gmail.com