A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF PEC - EWI PROVINCE

The Information

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."²⁹ "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Matthew 14: 28 - 30

December, 2014





A Spirit of Expectation, Anticipation, Preparation and Longing - Advent

Few people know of the origin and beautiful traditions of Advent. And even fewer have observed this meaningful and powerful celebration intended as a season of remembrance



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis Chairman of PEC

and tribute marking the coming of Christ. The Lighting of the Candles, and many other significant and meaningful traditions, bring tender and new definition to the heart of the Christmas Season.

The time before Christmas is Advent, a season of preparation for Christmas. Christians prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus by remembering the longing of the Jews for a Messiah. In Advent, we're reminded of how much we ourselves also need a Savior, and we look forward to our Savior's second coming even as we prepare to celebrate his first coming at Christmas. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word adventus, which means "coming" or "visit." In the season with this name, we keep in mind both "advents" of Christ, the first in Bethlehem and the second yet to come.

Is Advent really important to us as Christians? I rather like the season, for it brings a sense of expectation and anticipation. I have come to love this season that has been generally ignored, for two reasons. First, I have found that observing Advent enriched my celebration of Christmas. Taking four weeks to focus on the hope of Christ's coming made me much more joyful when I finally got to celebrate it. The more I got in touch with my need for a Savior, the more I rejoiced at the Savior's birth.

VISION STATEMENT

A Church - Transformed, United, Victorious in Christ

MISSION STATEMENT

By the grace of God, we seek to be faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ; without distinction, we use all that we possess to call all peoples to the truth of the Gospel through worship, evangelism, discipleship and service.

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Continue on Page 2

A Spirit of expectation, anticipation, preparation and longing Advent Merry Christmas from the Pgs Provincial Family Pastoral Letter to the Congregations of the Moravian Unity Pg 4 Come Celebrate the Child XI Constant Spirit of expectation, anticipation, preparation and in preparation and longing Advent Pg 5 Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts Pg 7 Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts Pg 7 The weather man and the lost purse Pg 9 Rental of Moravian Multipurpose complex Pg 10

Fulfilling the Mandate - Step out in Faith

A Spirit of expectation, anticipation, preparation and longing-Advent Cont'd from Page 1

Second, I have found in Advent, a solution to the problem of secular Christmas versus spiritual Christmas. We recognize that Christmas is most of all, a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It's a holiday that focuses on the meaning of the Incarnation. Yet, given the secular traditions of Christmas, we spend most of our time preparing, not for a celebration of the birth of Jesus, but for fulfilling the demands of the season. We have to buy lots of presents for lots of people and make sure they are all wrapped and delivered. We have parties to attend and parties to host. We have relatives who come to visit or, alternatively, we are the relatives who go elsewhere to visit. This requires lots of planning, not to mention the energy required to get things in place.

The season of *Advent* brings us the magnificent vision of life and hope for the future given to us by Christ. *Advent* is our time to become more involved, more caught up in the *meaning* and the possibilities of life as a Christian community. Thus we are preparing not only for Christmas but also for Christ's Second Coming.

The vision of life that Advent gives us is twofold; it looks back to the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem, and it looks to the future when Christ will come again. In the interval between these two events we find meaning for our lives as Christians.

In Advent, we celebrate Christ becoming human. We view his life and experience his presence as a human being in our history. Christ came to show us what life can and should be. He gave us true and valid principles by which we can live true and valid lives. But Jesus knew that the human heart could not live in isolation. He formed the Church around the concept of a people held together by love. In that community we discover unlimited possibilities and meaning. Alone we can do nothing. Together we find real meaning.

When Christ left this earth, he did not abandon us. He remains with us in his Spirit, the Church, the sacraments, the Scriptures and each other. He lives in community with us and keeps his vision of life before us.

When Christ comes again, his presence will no longer be

hidden behind the signs and symbols or the words of the Scripture. His presence among us will be revealed in all its fullness: a presence that will never end; a presence that will perfect and complete our community.

In the double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power.

As the church celebrates God's in-breaking into history in the Incarnation, and anticipates a future consummation to that history for which "all creation is groaning awaiting its redemption." It also confesses its own responsibility as a people, commissioned to love the Lord your God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself.

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by the Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard the cries of oppressed slaves and brought deliverance.

Part of the expectation also anticipates a judgment on sin and a calling of the world to accountability before God. We long for God to come and set the world right. Yet, as the prophet Amos warned, the expectation of a coming judgment at the "Day of the Lord" may not be the day of light that we might want, because the penetrating light of God's judgment on sin will shine just as brightly on God's people.

So, we celebrate with gladness the great promise in the Advent, yet knowing that there is also a somber tone as the theme of threat is added to the theme of promise. This is reflected in some of the Scripture readings for Advent, in which there is a strong prophetic tone of accountability and judgment on sin. But this is also faithful to the role of the Coming King who comes to rule, save, and judge the world.

A Spirit of expectation, anticipation, preparation and longing-Advent Cont'd from Page 2

Because of the themes of threat and promise, Advent is a time of preparation that is marked by prayer. While Lent is characterized by fasting and a spirit of penitence, Advent's prayers ought to be prayers of humble devotion and commitment; prayers of submission; prayers for deliverance; prayers from those walking in darkness that are awaiting and anticipating a great light (Isa 9).

The spirit of Advent is expressed well in the parable of the bridesmaids who are anxiously awaiting the coming of the Bridegroom (Matt 25:1-13). There is profound joy at the Bridegroom's expected coming. And yet a warning of the need for preparation echoes through the parable. But even then, the prayer of Advent is still:

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free; From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King, Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone; By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

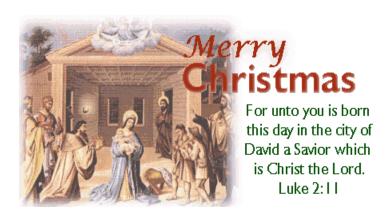
I challenge you to remember that this Advent is our time to become more involved, more caught up in the *meaning* and the possibilities of life as a Christian community.



A Blessed,
Peaceful and
Spirit-filled Christmas
to You.
May the Love of
God enfold you.
I encourage you to bless
Somebody as God blesses you.
MERRY CHRISTMAS
from
The Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis and Family,
The Staff at the Provincial Headquarters
and
the Entire Members of the PEC







I present to you the Pastoral letter emanating from the Unity Bishop's Conference which was held in Mwanza, Tanzania from July 3 – 11, 2014.

UNITYBISHOPS'CONFERENCE
JULY 3-11, 2014
MWANZA, TANZANIA
A Pastoral Letter to the Congregations of the
Moravian Unity

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

"Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised" (Psalm 48:1). Seventeen representatives of the 49 bishops serving the worldwide Moravian Church greet you from this 4th septennial Unity conference of bishops. We rejoice in your expressions of faith, love, and hope clearly evident in all regions of the Unity. We feel very blessed here with a daily celebration of vibrant and colourful worship. The generous hospitality of each Moravian congregation we visited in Mwanza is matched only by the enthusiasm and skill of the young people singing and dancing for God's glory.

We are keenly aware of vast differences in the sociopolitical environments affecting our congregations and ministries. Many provinces report reviews of Moravian identity
as well as desires to reclaim the formative mission focus of
our church. Challenges include discerning who determines
identity and for what era and context. While we celebrate
the great diversity in practice throughout the Unity, we sincerely believe those who choose not to adhere to certain basic elements of what it means to be Moravian— as described
in the Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum—may not continue to self-identify as Moravians. We are truly blessed to
be part of the Unity and are mindful of the sense of sacrifice
that comes with this responsibility.

We acknowledge humbly that all of us are, at times, stretched because of the diversity throughout the Unity, yet choose to remain committed to shared identify and ministry within the broad umbrella of the Unity. In light of recent developments in some regions of the Unity we reaffirm our statement in the pastoral letter of 2007, consistent with the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living" "We agreed that marriage is between one man and one woman, and we agreed that in our pastoral care we must offer the love of Christ to all God's people."

Evangelism remains a primary passion. We celebrate the growth taking place in various regions of the Unity embracing 1.3 million members. Noted methods of growth include biological, immigration, conversion, and petitions from small or large groups of Christians in areas like Burundi and Uganda. We commend those involved in exchange programs at various levels and encourage their con-

tinuation. We believe the short-term or long-term exchange of ministers and other church workers will help strengthen the Unity. Along these lines, we place great value in youth convocations and exchanges involving multiple provinces.

Meeting for this week in Mwanza, we are aware of our privileged position in being able to listen and learn from each other. We are strengthening the bond between is. This is invaluable in our roles in conflict resolution and in our prayers for the church. We are grateful for the partnership we are invited to share with administrators in the various provinces where we live and serve, offering our full support of the doctrine of conferential authority. Quoting a piece of German doggerel recalled by Bishop Kenneth Hamilton which may describe one of the fundamental functions of a bishop: *Der Bischof ist ein Mann/Der ordinieren kann* ("The bishop is one hwo is allowed to ordain").Quoting another Moravian bishop, Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf (1727):

Herrnhut's (that is, the whole Bretheren's Unity) time remains unbroken
As the workings of Your hand
Walk in our church as token
And our love will be its bond,
Till we're finished and expectant
Of as good salt of the earth here
Being usefully spread out there (abroad in all the world).

Please be assured of our prayers for you and for the faithful mission and ministry of the church in the world. We encourage all regions in the Unity to consider, in 2015, the observance of the 600th anniversary of the martyrdom of John Hus

"I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"

John 16:33(NRSV)

With every blessing, Alinikisa Chevo, Tanzania, Southwest Stanley G. Clarke, Jamaica and Cayman Islands C. Hopteon Clennon, America Samuel Gray, America, South Peter Green, Alaska Humbert Hessen, European Continental Augustine Joemath, South Africa John Kent, Suriname Peter Kransy, Czech Kingsley Lewis, Eastern West Indies Evelio Romero Marmol, Honduras Tshimanga Mukadi Moise, Congo Lusekelo B. Mwakafwila, Tanzania, South Conrad Nguvumali, Tanzania, Rukwa Isaac Nicodemo, Tanzania, West Volker Schulz, European Continental William Webster, Nicaragua



Hymn of the Month for December, 2014 Mikie Roberts (Rev.) Chair, Provincial Hymnal Committee.



With the arrival of December, the last month of the year, our liturgical focus shifts to the Advent and Christmas seasons. As a result, the hymn for the month of December



is I heard the bells on Christmas day which was written by the 19th century American poet, Henry Wordsworth Longfellow. It is said that this Christmas carol was originally a poem which Longfellow penned on Christmas day in 1863. The name of the tune to which this carol is to be sung is Waltham. In addition to the words that are presented below, I have also

included the music with the text.

It is said that Longfellow wrote this hymn during a difficult period of his life. His wife had not too long died accidentally in a fire. Additionally, he had received news about the terrible wounding of his eldest son, who had enlisted in the Union Army during the American Civil War (without his father's blessing). The central message of this hymn is also the centre piece of the angels' message at the birth of Jesus Christ. In Luke 2: 14 the angels proclaimed "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Therefore, the bells which we hear especially during this Christmas seasons, are to be seen as sounding forth peace and not war. However, even as we listen to and embrace the message of peace through the Christmas bells, we do so struggling to reconcile the existence of peace and the reality of deadly conflicts. If we're not careful, we can find ourselves believing that as we assess all that is taking place that "there is no peace on earth." What was true of Longfellow's 19th century world is true of ours today in the 21st century – war abounds. Yet, in singing this hymn, might we hear again the Good News which is at the heart of this Christmas season; finally, there is "peace on earth and good will to all." Though there remain wars and conflicts, within and without, the bells of Christmas proclaims a message of eternal peace. Below are the words for this hymn:

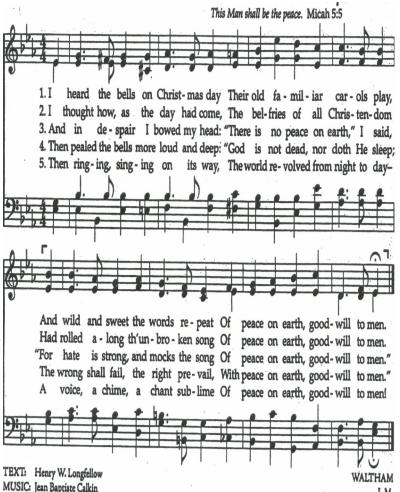
> I heard the bells on Christmas day Their old familiar carols play, And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come, The belfries of all Christendom Had rolled along th'unbroken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With peace on earth, good will to men."

Then ringing, singing on its way, The world revolved from night to day-A voice, a chime, a chant sublime, Of peace on earth, good will to men!



God's Life-Giving Yes By Rev. Dr. Errol Connor

Her name is Dorothy Antonette Cannonier. Her husband died in 1991. One of her seven children died in infancy. The six remaining children are all grown and doing



well. Her Children, family and friends gathered to celebrate her 70th anniversary of life on November 8, 2014. Among those present were Rev. Dr. Charles Peters, Rev. Alicia Ross-Floyd and Rev. Dr. Errol L. Connor. All paid sincere compliments to Sis. Cannonier. The particulars of Sis. Cannonier's life's journey suggest that this birthday celebration was

one made in heaven. It was special from start to finish, and as I sat there two passages of Scripture came to mind: Psalm 16:11- "You have showed me the path of life..." and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Rejoice always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances..."

Why are these passages significant? Well, Sis. Cannonier suffered a major stroke thirty (30) years ago; and from all accounts the doctors did not expect her to pull through but she did. As she came to herself and was able to speak, her words became a chorus of "Thank you, Jesus!" and "God is Good!" These are simple yet profound declarations that speak to the depth of her appreciation of God's love and care to this day. In fact, if you were to meet Sis. Cannonier the first words out of her mouth would be "Good Morning or Good Afternoon". However, the next few words will give you insight into the depth of her soul. It does not matter how often in a day you see her, you will hear her joyfully make one of the following exclamations: "God is love!" or "God is good!" or "Thank God for life! Life is important!"

Sis. Cannonier still bears signs of the stroke. She walks with a limp but those who notice her limp also notice that she walks with God. Like Jacob of old, it is fair to say, she held on to God; she wrestled through the night; and God has blessed her with an additional thirty years of morning light beyond the prognosis of the doctors.

Dorothy Cannonier is a member of the Nisky Moravian Church. She is a faithful worshipper and a joyful Christian. She loves the Lord with a simplicity and depth that we can both cherish and emulate. Thus, hats off to one who "knows the path of life; one who rejoices always and gives thanks in all circumstances"- Dorothy Cannonier!

The Pastor and members of the Nisky Congregation salute Sis. Cannonier on her seventy (70) years of life. All praise to God who turned the life that was forty into a life that is seventy and counting. We praise God even more since at Nisky "we live long and look good."

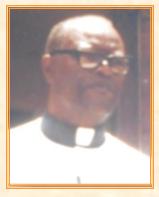
Hallelujah! Happy Seventieth! May God bless her with many more.





This monthly feature is to re-tell the stories of ordained Pastors who served in the Eastern West Indies Province in recent past. It is intended to inform us of the life and witness of these ministers and their spouses so that we can better appreciate the sacrifices they have made. Moreover, it is hoped that both the ordained and un-ordained will be inspired to continue our ministry diligently knowing that our labour will never be in vain in the Lord.

The following biography of Rev Alva Edison Cornelius John was submitted by his daughter Sis Joycelyn John.



Rev Alva Edison Cornelius John 24/12/1911-5/5/1983

The Rev. Alva Edison Cornelius John was born in Tobago on December 24 1911 to the late Rev. William and Mrs. Edith John. He was the grandson of the late Rev. Archie John. Like him, both his father and grandfather served as ministers of the Moravian Church.

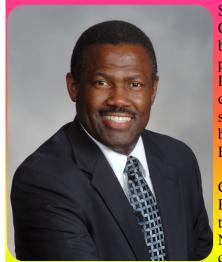
The young Alva John resided in Barbados for a part of his life, when his dad served as pastor of the Mt Tabor and Sharon congregations of the Moravian Church. He returned to Tobago with his father when he was called to serve the Montgomery Congregation. On his return, young Alva commenced his teaching career at the Spring Gardens Moravian School, a location where he also assisted at the Church where he served as lay preacher for a little over three decades. Alva John had a great love for the Lord Jesus, his family, the Caribbean people and gospel music. Alva's love for music led him to serve as Director of the church choir at Spring Gardens Moravian Church for many years.

In 1970 Alva Edison John retired from his position as Principal of the Montgomery Government School and he entered United Theological College in Jamaica. Upon completion of his course of study in 1973, he received and accepted a call to serve the Antigua Conference as Pastor of the Lebanon, Newfield and Potters congregations. He later returned and served the Tobago Conference from 1977 until he was called home to be with our Lord and Saviour in 1983, following a short illness. During his tenure in the Tobago Conference, he pastored at the Moriah, Spring Gardens and the Evangel fellowship at Mt Thomas. Today, we give God thanks for the Evangel fellowship which he started; since it has grown to be recognized as the Evangel Congregation.

The Rev. Alva E. C. John is survived by his widow Margaret John nee Cowie, who is the oldest surviving widow of our Moravian Ministers. He is also survived by his children Joycelyn, Anthony, Annette and Marilyn (adopted); and his grandchildren, including David, Christian, Kyle, Shanique, and Shae.

May he rest in peace.

CENTRAL CHOIR TOURS ANTIGUA



Sunday, December 28, will be the first of two concerts presented by Central Moravian Church Choir during their 8-day tour of Antigua. The celebration of Christmas music begins at 6:00 p.m. at Gracehill Moravian Church. This programme features classical pieces by Beethoven and Mozart, and contemporary pieces by composers such as Alice

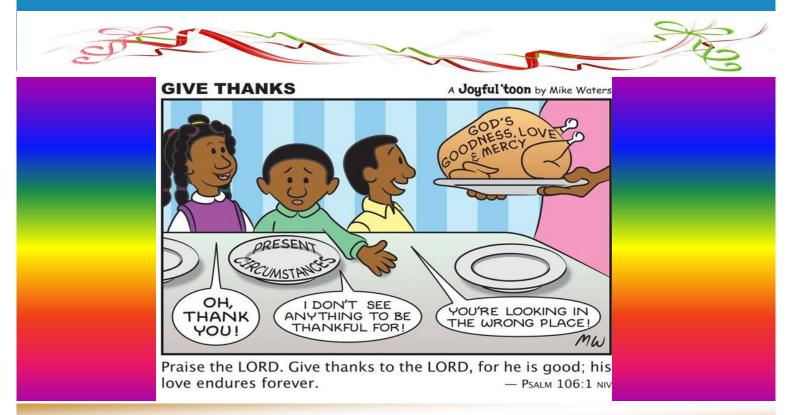
Parker and André J. Thomas. One of the solo pieces comes from the repertoire of the late Robert MacGimsey—his composition of "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" will be performed by mezzo-soprano Deborah Leyshon-Brandt

Central Moravian Church Choir, under the direction of Rebecca Kleintop Owens for the past 12 years, has toured Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic, Jamaica, New York and North Carolina. Over the years, the choir has produced four CDs. Central is the oldest and

largest congregation in the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in America, dating back to December 1741 when Count Zinzendorf gave the small mission community in Pennsylvania the name Bethlehem. Bishop Hopeton Clennon currently serves as Senior Pastor.



The second concert will be presented at Spring Gardens Moravian Church on Friday, January 2, at 6:00 p.m. This second performance by Central Choir will include compositions by Bach and Handel, along with several organ solo performances by Rebecca Owens as well as her own arrangement of a Moravian Music Medley. The concerts will include items by the Antigua Conference's Moravian Mass Choir and two steel bands.





Birthday Greetings for the month of December is extended to:

Bro. Alban St. Hill	02
Bro. Ulric Smith	02
Sis. Eloise Stephen	02
Sis. Liselle Roberts	08
Sis. Bonnie E.B.W.Smith	10
Sis. Cicely Athill-Horsford	12
Sis. Zenobia Lomax	13
Bro. Hilton Joseph	18
Sis. Nasel Ephraim	18
Bro. Vankys Isaac	18
Sis. Maureen Lewis	23
Bro. Alvin Barker	25
Bro. Matthew Crooks	25
Sis. Olga Baird-Joefield	25



Anniversary Greetings for the month of December is extended to:

Bro. Cortroy and Sis. Pearline Jarvis	07
Bro. Myron Floyd and Sis. Alicia Ross Floyd	08
Bro. Ulric and Sis. Bonnie E.B.W. Smith	10
Bro. Winston and Sis. Karen Jones	13
Bro. George and Sis. Zenaida Ramsay	18
Bro. Algernon and Sis. Denise Smith Lewis	20
Bro. Errol and Sis. Joycelyn Connor	22
Bro. Patmore and Sis. Jovanca Lewis-Smith	27
Bro.Hilton and Sis. Sharon McCardy Joseph	29
Bro. Samuel and Sis. Gwendolyn Jacobs	31



God sometimes removes a person from your life for your protection. Don't run after them." — Rick Warren



The Weather Man

film crew was on location deep in a desert. One day an Old Indian went up to the director and said, "Tomorrow rain.

The next day it rained. A week later, the Indian went up to the director and said, "Tomorrow storm." The next day there was a hailstorm. "This Indian is incredible," said the director. He told his secretary to hire the Indian to predict the weather. However, after several successful predictions, the old Indian didn't show up for two weeks.

Finally the director sent for him. "I have to shoot a big scene tomorrow," said the director, "and I'm depending on you. What will the weather be like?"

The Indian shrugged his shoulders. "Don't know," he said. "Radio is broken."

The Lost Purse

lady lost her handbag in the bustle of Christmas shopping. It was found by an honest little boy and returned to her. Looking in her purse, she commented, "Humm.... That's funny. When I lost my bag there was a \$20 bill in it. Now there are twenty \$1 bills."

The boy quickly replied, "That's right, lady. The last time I found a lady's purse, she didn't have any change for a reward."





Moravian Multipurpose Complex

- Conferences
- Meetings
- Seminars
- Weddings
- Banquet
- Dinner

Only ten minutes away from the stores, shops and banks in St. John's.

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The conference center has a seating capacity for 200 persons.

We are situated on a hill over-looking the picturesque outskirts of the city of St. John's, Antigua.

There are EIGHT LARGE APARTMENTS which are available for rental. Each room is self contained with kitchenette. The rooms are air-conditioned with Available internet and cable TV. All utilities are included with the exception of telephone.



Conference Center & Apartments



Contact us

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