

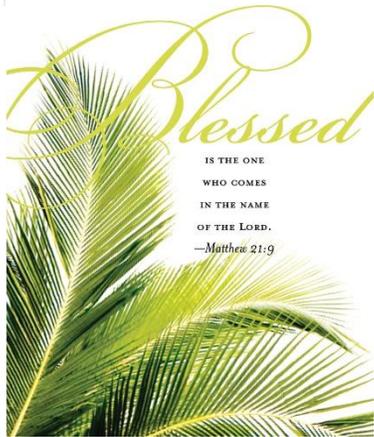


Bethlehem Herald

Monthly Newsletter of the
Bethlehem Moravian Church



Volume 7, April 2017



IS THE ONE
WHO COMES
IN THE NAME
OF THE LORD.
—Matthew 21:9

Faith & Love

(Submitted by:

Sis. Verve Alleyne)

*“On the next day much people
that were come to the feast,
when they heard that Jesus was
coming to Jerusalem, Took*

*branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna:
Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. And Jesus,
when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, Fear not, daughter
of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt. These things
understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then
remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done
these things unto him.” (John 12:12-16 KJV)*

When Jesus travelled to Jerusalem – He knew His mission was almost over. From age 12 in the Temple He knew He **‘must be about His Father’s business’** and that his journey to this moment in time had started. He knew all that awaited Him at the close of His mission. Could you have put that thought aside and gone about your daily *acts of love and faithfulness*, like Jesus? He had spent many months travelling through town and village – preaching, healing, meeting needs, and preparing His disciples – still knowing that He would be betrayed, denied, rejected, and put to death!



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When Jesus sent two of His disciples to a nearby village for a specific donkey He knew it would be there and would meet His specification. He also knew that in riding it into Jerusalem He would be fulfilling an Old Testament prophecy (*Zechariah 9: 9-10*), and that the people who knew that prophecy would acknowledge Him as The Promised One. Their understanding of ‘The Promised One’ was **The Messiah** (*from a Hebrew word “mashiah” meaning ‘the anointed one’, and Christ derived from the Greek word ‘Christos’ meaning ‘anointed one’!*)



Today, Moravian churches worship and minister in nearly 30 Nations, and number over 700,000 believers.

In our Province - **the East West Indies (EWI) Province** - there are over 15,000 members, with Barbados accounting for just under 3,000 of these.

Our Province enjoys the benefits of ‘Observer’ status on the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church. Our current **representative is Rev. Errol Connor.**

Jesus knew the crowd would swell the air with praises of Him – shouting, singing, rejoicing (*Matt 12:9*):

Hosanna, to the Son of David!

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!

They spread their cloaks in front of Him and greeted Him with palm branches; a reception fit for a King! That He was, but not the type they had been expecting nor the type for which they had been looking. So Jesus also knew they did not understand the kingdom He represented, and that they would soon be singing another tune – one that would pierce any mother's heart!

The Kingdom of God is not a type of this world, not a type of our limited understanding.

Luke 17:20-21 - And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Jesus, as King, did not bring armies to 'do battle'. Instead He brought a **message of repentance**. You see, this kingdom is more a Spiritual Kingdom, and to begin to grasp the concept we need to "**Use the Keys**" as our Provincial theme challenges: the **Key of Jesus** and the gift of Salvation that is wrapped up into His mission; the **Key of Knowledge** of the Word of God – the Bible (*For it is written...*); and the **Key of the Holy Spirit** promised by Almighty God to assist us in every possible way, through faith. What we really need to 'zero in' on about this Spiritual Kingdom is what Jesus spoke about the most in His Parables, *i.e.* "**How do we respond?**"

- **The Parable of the Sower** (*Matt. 13:3-9*) – what kind of soil will we be for the seed God is sowing?
- **The Parable of the Weeds** (*Matt. 13:24-30, 41*) – He wants His plants to bear fruit – will we?
- **The Parable of the Mustard Seed and of Yeast** (*Matt. 13:31-33*) – starts small, but there is a growth process, with great potential to become large!
- **Hidden Treasures** (*Matt. 13:44-46*) – hidden, but its value is there; great joy when it becomes evident.
- **The Net which caught 'Good Fish' and 'Bad Fish'** (*Matt. 13: 47-50*) – with the same message God reaches out to all, we exist together - for a time, but eventually there will come the judgement!

So the question to you is **how will you respond?**

- ❖ Jesus came to earth to procure our salvation; reconciling us to God (*Rom. 5:10; 1 John 4:10; 1 Pet. 3:18*) – how do we respond?
- ❖ Jesus walked, talked, and lived to set an example for us to follow (*1 Pet. 2:20-22*) – how do we respond?
- ❖ Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins (our condemnation); and to grant eternal life (*Rom. 8:1; John 17:3*) – how do we respond?

Through faith in God and love for Him, we can enter into the Kingdom of God, through faithfulness and love we can bear fruit.

Will you respond?

Prayer: *Loving Lord, thank you for the price you paid for my sake. Help me to respond in Faith and in Love, and thereby bear fruit. AMEN.*



THIS MONTH IN MORAVIAN HISTORY AT BETHLEHEM

✚	<u>1963</u> April 4 th	Formation of the Women's Fellowship at Bethlehem
✚	<u>1965</u> April 11 th	(Palm Sunday) Choir presented "Olivet to Calvary"

Provincial Theme 2017 "Advance the Kingdom Use the Keys" ...

There are many keys, but ONE Door.

By studying the many keys to the Kingdom, we will be brought to the knowledge that keys are accessible, available and ought to be fully utilised.

Suggested Areas of Study:

THE KEY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

(*Luke 4*).

The Key of Holy Spirit open doors for victorious living. We have victory over:

1. The physical
2. Temptations
3. Desires of the Flesh
4. The demonic

It is the Holy Spirit which:

1. Admonishes
2. Equips
3. Empowers
4. Convicts
5. Affirms
6. Comforts



**'The Easter
Morning Sunrise
Service'**

In the early morning of Easter Sunday 1732 the young men of Herrnhut, Germany, gathered in the cemetery on the hill overlooking their Moravian community to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. It was the first Moravian sunrise service - 285 years ago this year. The next year the service was held for the entire congregation. The Easter morning sunrise service has become one of the characteristic liturgical traditions in the Moravian Church.

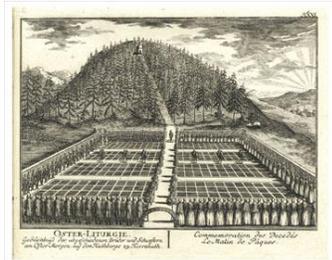
The first sunrise service seems to have been initiated by a group of single brothers. The Herrnhut diary states:

"We agreed among our band [group] of young men that this Easter morning we were to go up the Hutberg early before the rise of the sun. This happened ... early before 4 o'clock. After we had spent 1 ½ hours with singing we returned to have a prayer meeting, during which we sang several hymns and read the third chapter of Peter's first letter." Zinzendorf appears to have been present that morning. In a letter to his cousin Ludwig von Castell he wrote: "This morning we had the nicest celebration among our graves".

In later years Zinzendorf attributed the origins of the Easter sunrise service to an example from the Greek Orthodox Church. Whether or not the first group of single brothers were aware of this tradition in 1732 is questionable. It seems more likely that the young men in Herrnhut followed local tradition. Until this day it is customary that young people in the Oberlausitz, the region where Herrnhut is located, stay up the night before Easter, and go round singing or making noises with firecrackers. The young men in Herrnhut apparently combined their Easter night watch with visiting the graves, the same manner the

women in the Bible had done. Since the God's Acre, or cemetery, in Herrnhut had been laid out the previous fall, 1732 was the first year Easter could be celebrated there.

The typical liturgical form for the Moravian sunrise service was established during the 1740s and 1750s. The brass choir woke the congregation prior to the first part of the liturgical service, which was held in the church. The liturgy did not consist of reading the Easter accounts from the Bible, but rather took the form of a creed. During the service the congregation proceeded to the local **God's Acre**, where the second part of the liturgy was read while the sun rose over the graves as a symbol of the resurrection.



The sunrise service soon became an integral part of Moravian liturgical life in every congregation. In 1743 the Bethlehem congregation met at 4 o'clock in the morning. The next year the service included a visit to the graves:

*"The congregation arose at four o'clock in the morning and assembled in the Saal. Following the hymn *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bonds*, we all proceeded in pairs, with music playing, to the graves of our brethren, sang and played to the glory of our risen Lamb, and rejoiced that He lives and that we shall live with Him and that death has no power over us. From there we returned after sunrise to the Saal, singing as we went."*

*Published by Moravian Archives in Bethlehem
Adapted: (April 2007 Issue – No. 18)*





From the Pastor's Desk

Rev. Delroy Burley

'From a Child's Point of View!'

In the Devotional Guide "***Girlfriends in God***", Mary Southerland records this story: The boys and girls in Mrs. Stephens' fourth grade Sunday School class entered the room and quickly found their seats. The girls were dressed in frills and lace and chatting excitedly about the candy-filled baskets they had received that morning. The boys pulled at the unfamiliar ties around their necks and quickly discarded the sports coats they had obviously been forced to wear. The room was filled with excitement - for good reason. **It was Easter Sunday.**

Mrs. Stephens wanted to help her students understand that there is so much more to the Easter holiday than new clothes, chocolate bunnies, and egg hunts. It is more than family gatherings and tables filled with luscious food. Easter is about life.

...there is so much more to the Easter holiday than new clothes, chocolate bunnies, and egg hunts. It is more than family gatherings and tables filled with luscious food. Easter is about LIFE!

Easter celebrates the certainty of Jesus' death on the cross, the fact that He was buried, and the reality that He came out of that burial tomb to conquer death - so that we can have life - eternal life with Jesus in Heaven and abundant life with Him here and now.

Easter celebrates the certainty of Jesus' death on the cross, ...He was buried, ... He came out of that burial tomb to conquer death - so that we can have life - ETERNAL LIFE

....

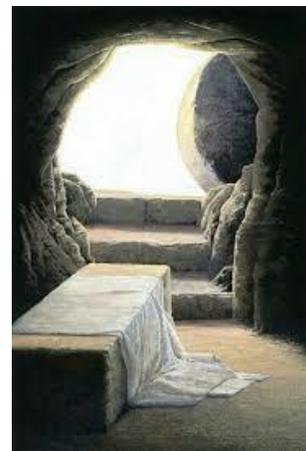
Mrs. Stephens came up with a plan. After sharing the Bible story of Jesus' resurrection, she gave each one of her students an empty plastic egg and said, "We are going to take a walk outside and I want each one of you to find one sign of life and put it in your plastic egg." As the children filed out of the room, Mrs. Stephens noticed Danny, a little Down

syndrome boy who had been coming to her class for some time. His bright smile and sunny disposition had immediately won her heart. In fact, when it came to Danny, she often thought he had taught her so much more about the unconditional love of God and the joy of simply being a child of God than she could ever teach him. When she heard the other children make fun of him, it broke her heart. She always corrected the children and tried to help them see just how special Danny was, but Danny seemed oblivious to their hurtful words and thought of each child as his "buddy."

The children soon returned from their walk, depositing their eggs on the teacher's desk as they made their way to their seats. Inside one student's egg was a butterfly. In another was an ant. Others had collected flowers, twigs, blades of grass, and leaves to fill their eggs. But one egg had nothing in it.

Everyone knew whose egg it was. Mrs. Stephens silenced the giggles with a look of warning. When she asked Danny why he had not put anything inside his egg to show signs of life, his face broke into a huge grin as he responded, "Because the tomb was empty!"

Danny understood the profound truth of Easter. **THE EMPTY TOMB IS THE ULTIMATE SIGN OF LIFE**



and a miracle like none other!

Prayer:

*Gracious God, you have given of yourself to and for the church. Enable us this day to understand the real significance of this day and what it means for our lives with you. Help us, we pray to truly reflect the church, for you sacrificed to save us - as a part of the church body, in the name of Jesus Christ, **Amen.***

Have a reflective "*National Heroes' Day*" this April 28th. If you were asked to name **all ten National Heroes of Barbados** – could you? What about the Martyrs and heroes of the Bible – can you name them too? **Who would you call an 'UNSUNG HERO/HEROINE OF THE BIBLE'?** Join with others, send in your Nominee and your reason (why) to: bethlehemherald@gmail.com titled "**Have Your Say!**"

Greetings, Information & News: From Home & Abroad

PART I:

MORAVIAN NEWS from the Region to Inspire Us

The **Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church** – an agency of the Moravian Church in North America devoted to supporting overseas mission. It was founded in 1949 and acts on behalf of our Northern, Southern and Alaskan Provinces.

EAST WEST INDIES Province:

Along with Costa Rica, Guyana, Honduras, Labrador, Nicaragua, and Tanzania, the **East West Indies (EWI) Province** has been affiliated to the **Board of World Mission (BWM)** and would have received support of personnel and funding from it in the early days. In more recent times we have become independent, but have maintained the affiliation. Our Synod of 2003 resolved to pursue an Observer status with BWM – attending its meetings and reviewing its reports. There are two meetings held yearly – one in March in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and the other in October in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Mutual Benefits for BWM and EWI:

Whilst the EWI Province has no vote on the Board, we have a voice and are able to share in their discussions, learn how they do mission, and receive reports from their mission fields. This has value for us in terms of developing programmes to meet our own needs. It also allows for cross-cultural exchange and cross-fertilisation of ideas. BWM in turn are able to learn of our functioning in the EWI Province. Through this emerging relationship, the BWM and the EWI Province consult on ways that the two can work together to strengthen God's mission in the Caribbean.

The work of BWM:

One of the most popular areas of our mission is the **Moravian Volunteer Response**, working to provide disaster relief, as well as work crews, following disasters. This was done after hurricanes in the EWI Province, both for hurricane and earthquake in Haiti, and for earthquake in Nepal, India. Then BWM had a programme called the '**Annie B. Mission**' and there is **New Work** in the Moravian Church across the world.

BWM also has the '**Likewise Ministries**', our Church's response to '**Go and Do Likewise**' (Luke 10:36-37) in living out the Gospel as we care for and love those affected by HIV/AIDS and raise awareness among our members about HIV and AIDS.

Through this particular programme, we have provided funds for **medical care in Honduras**, **care of orphans in Tanzania**, and **education on HIV/AIDS and on domestic violence in Guyana**.

Work in TANZANIA among the Orphans:

From the turn of the century HIV/AIDS had become a pandemic in Tanzania. Working through the Sikonge Moravian Hospital, a comprehensive approach to the AIDS epidemic, including prevention, treatment, and the care of the ever increasing number of orphans, began. In 2002, four ladies from the **Sikonge**

Moravian Church organised a **community-based orphan assistance programme**. The

objective was to keep these children in their extended families where they were living. This was to be done by providing the caregivers, usually the grandparents, the material support necessary – such as extra food supplies, clothing, uniforms and other school supplies,

medical care, and personal care items such as soap and bed sheets. The women enrolled 34 orphans in the first four weeks and distributed supplies to the caregivers. By 2008, the programme was providing for more than 3,000 children, and included funding their secondary education as well.

With the expansion of the programme, however the demands were soon larger than the budget and so BWM challenged congregations in North America to sponsor the orphan care through a new initiative called '**Adopt A Village**'. This initiative had two goals: funding the orphan care, and providing an opportunity for churches in North America to form a relationship with a village in Tanzania.

Rehabilitation Centre in THE HOLY LAND:

The **Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre** in Ramallah is a mission undertaking of the Moravian Church worldwide. Between 1960 and 1980 it focussed on treating patients with leprosy. With the eradication of leprosy, the focus shifted. Since 1981, it turned its attention to the intellectually disabled. It is now a **Day Care Centre** engaged in social and educational work among intellectually-challenged persons of all ages and both genders. 70 students who come from extremely poor social and economic backgrounds are enrolled in different programmes to meet their intellectual needs. The Centre also provides services to around 100 people with intellectual disabilities in the surrounding areas through its Community Work Programme. (*More next issue*).

ACKNOWLEDGE
CELEBRATE
SUPPORT
APPRECIATE
RECOGNIZE
AWARD
VALIDATE
HONOUR

Greetings, Information & News: From Home & Abroad



INTER-SCHOOL & INTER-VARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF BARBADOS

(Registered Charity: #065-95)

*Do our students know enough...
if they do not know CHRIST?*

Last month, the **Inter-School & Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Barbados** observed **IS/IVCF Week (March 12-18, 2017)**, and marked the organisation's **fifty-eighth (58th) year of Ministry**.

IS/IVCF exists to share the life-changing message of the Gospel with students and educational institutions in Barbados. The Ministry is active on the following campuses:

- ✓ 44 Government Primary Schools
- ✓ 15 Government Secondary Schools; and
- ✓ 3 tertiary institutions

Operating under the motto **“To Know Christ and to Make Him Known”**, the IS/IVCF activities include **Bible Study, Prayer, Personal Evangelism, and Christian Fellowship**. The programme in the various educational institutions are guided by Christian teachers, called Sponsors, who volunteer their time and other resources to enable and encourage students to live for Christ and to share the Christian faith with their peers.

Sponsors are ably supported by IS/IVCF's Office (*now located in the complex of the First Baptist Church on Constitution Road, St. Michael*), and also supported by Field Staff who are responsible for visiting educational institutions and providing those services and resources that are necessary to maintain dynamic campus ministries. Over the years, many dedicated friends and supporters have also rendered valuable assistance. Among these are the:

- ✓ visiting **Seed International** teams from Canada who for the past 18 years have been sharing the Gospel message with thousands of primary school students;
- ✓ the **Power Kids Programme on CITA**; and those contributing towards staff support, or lending time and skills to ensure that the ministry thrives.

When one considers the surveys indicate that 85% of believers in Christ acknowledged Jesus as

Saviour between the ages of 8 and 18 years of age, the IS/IVCF is faced with the challenge our Lord identified when He said – “The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few...” (Luke 10:2)

We are therefore updating the Macedonian call (*Acts 16:9*) and inviting you to **“come over and help us”**, as we continue to focus on the goal of shaping our country's future – one student at a time! We encourage your support through your prayers, finances, and continual voluntary service. May God bless you!

Contact Staff Worker : Rev. Carson Atherley (Tel: 246-264-0199) to offer your support.

Mailing Address: Inter-School & Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, P.O. Box 831E, Bridgetown, Barbados

Telephone: (246) 436-2425 | E-Mail: iscfbim@yahoo.com

Board Secretary: Mrs. Kellie Herbert

(Extract: A Message in celebration of 58th Anniversary of Ministry)

Celebrations



BIRTHDAYS - APRIL

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 02 – Bro. Terrence Edwards | 04 – Bro. Cecil Forde |
| 02 – Sis. Pamela Roach | 16 – Bro. Kevin Yarde |

ANNIVERSARIES - APRIL

- 04 – Bro. Ricardo & Sis. Diana Yarde



Congratulations

- To the **Sunday School Department** - who brought home **2nd Place** in last month's **Conference Spelling 'B' and Quizz Competition**.
- To the **B-C-C-F Combined T-20 Cricket Team** (*Bethlehem, Centenary, Clifton Hill and Fulnec*) who defeated Sharon last month in the Zone competition.
- To the **Parade, Athletics and Tug-O-War Teams** who performed admirably at this year's **Annual Fun & Fellowship Day** held at Briar Hall Sports Complex on Saturday, April 1, 2017. **The Parade & Tug-O-War Teams both copped 1st Place**, and **overall Bethlehem climbed another rung to finish Third (3rd) in the Conference**. Congratulations!!

Best Wishes

- As a congregation we extend **Best Wishes** and our **prayers for God's guidance** to Bro. David Ince who was assigned to serve as Lay Pastor to the Fulnec Moravian Church while Rev. Andrew Roberts proceeded on furlough. Supervising Minister is Rev. Vera Waithe.

Helping Hands - Our Mission Fields

✓ **Church Quota and Arrears** – In an effort to help lower our debt to the Conference, it would be prudent for us to pay an additional \$500 each month towards our quota arrears, while maintaining our monthly quota payments. As a result, to aid in achieving this target, each member is encouraged to contribute towards this amount on the 4th Sunday of each month. Any amount donated will be appreciated.

✓ **Greetings/Birthdays/Anniversary Cards** – Strengthen our fellowship in Christ as we welcome visitors and help celebrate special occasions in the life of members and visitors. You can make a contribution of any amount to Sis. Diana Yarde or Sis. Anthea Barrow.

✓ **The 32nd Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies Province** is scheduled to be held in Barbados from July 6-14, 2018. The Barbados Conference has begun to make preparations for this event, including fundraising. Members and friends of the Moravian Church are asked to make a weekly contribution of \$1.00 towards those costs for which the Conference will be responsible. This contribution will be collected on 3rd Sundays.

✓ **The Cuthbert Pilgrim Memorial (CPM) Hall** is available for rentals – Conferences/Seminars, Meetings, Wedding Receptions, Graduations, etc. Just off the Maxwell Coast Road, minutes away from the Airport, it is situated within a quiet residential area, with ample parking available. To view/book, contact CPM Hall Manager, Sis. Eudora Mascoll (246-428-4784) or Assistant, Sis. Desma Linton (246-428-2962).

✓ **Bethlehem's Beautification Project** (Church and Grounds) is an on-going project. Lend your support.

✓ **This Newsletter - The Bethlehem Herald** is a monthly publication. Send ideas and articles are to <bethlehemmoravianchurch@gmail.com>

Remember In Prayer



❖ Our Sick & Shut-In/Recovering:

Shut-in Communion/Visitation – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays

NAMES	CONTACT NUMBERS
Sis. Boothe Chase	246-428-6068
Sis. Mavis Chase	246-428-6258
Sis. Emily Forde	St. Philip Family Care 246-622-1897
Sis. Gracie Maynard	246-428-3678
Sis. Dorothy Waite	246-428-2877
Sis. Marjorie Worrell	246-437-1805
Sis. Odessa Haynes	246-426-8663

- ❖ Persons grappling with the **loss of a loved one.**
- ❖ The work of the **Board of World Missions.**
- ❖ The continued ministry of **IS/IVCF** to our students
- ❖ **Sis. Andrea Pitt**, 'Youth With A Mission' Program
- ❖ **Chairman of the Unity**, Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis
- ❖ **The Jamaica Province** and the entire **Moravian Church** in this crisis.

Financial Status

Target: \$ 9,000 monthly

Bethlehem's monthly Quota to Conference: \$4,796.67

Quota Arrears: \$67,922.45

Special Envelopes this month (APRIL):

PALM SUNDAY, GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER

Please give to God what He truly deserves

<u>Income for March 2017</u>	\$
Initial	10.00
Envelopes	4,186.00
Loose Offering	1,062.10
Sunday School	47.15
Lenten Services	405.10
Sub-Total	5,710.35
<u>Other Monies raised March 2017</u>	\$
CPM Hall - Rental	1,020.00
Donations to:	
- Plumbing Repairs at Manse	1,500.00
- Defraying cost of Lenten Booklet	66.15
<u>Other funds collected</u>	
'Quota Arrears' to Conference	238.00
'Caribbean Moravian Praise' Hymnal	210.00
'Youth With A Mission' Outreach	94.00
'Unity' to Conference	120.00
'Theological' to Conference	135.00
'Surviving Spouse' to Conference	20.00
'Moravian Text Books' to Conference	125.00
2018 Synod 'Walk-Up' to Conference	82.00
TOTAL	9,320.50

Walk-Up Offerings (Sundays):

1 st	BMC Building Fund	2 nd	"Youth With A Mission"
3 rd	32 nd Provincial Synod	4 th	BMC Quota Arrears

Thank You to all persons who:

- attended and shared at the **Conference Church Leaders' Retreat** held Saturday, March 4 at Sharon. The ideas shared during the afternoon session are to be compiled and circulated by Conference; and
- came out in celebration of **Unity Sunday's Annual March of Witness**, carried our Church's banner through the Clifton Hill's surrounding communities in St. Joseph and St. Thomas; and fellowshipped at the **Rally**. Special mention must be made of our members (*Bethlehem & St. Philip Fellowship who joined as a Pastorate on the day*) and presented a dramatization for the Rally of the work being done through the **Board of World Mission** – it was very well received. (*Short excerpt on page 5*)

Mark Your Calendar - APRIL

- Bethlehem's Hours of Worship:**
 - **Sunday School** : Sundays @ 9:00 am
 - **Divine Worship** : Sundays @ 10:00 am
 - **Lenten Mid-Day Services** comes to an end this month (Apr. 5th). **Holy Week Services** follow nightly during 2nd week of April. One week's break and **Prayer Meeting** resumes Wednesday, April 26 @ 7:30 pm. **Bible Study** resumes in May.
 - **Pastor's Office Hours** : Fridays, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm (*by appointment*)
- Assisting with the Worship experience this month:
 - **The Men's Fellowship** will be assisting with Cleaning and Preparing the Sanctuary.
 - **The Youth & Wider Congregation** will be assisting with Readings and Prayer
- Contributions to defraying the cost of printing the 2017 Lenten Devotionals** should be paid in to the Treasurer, Sis. Desma Linton.
- Moravian Daily TextBooks** are still available. Please secure your copy for yourself or as a gift.
- St. Philip Moravian Fellowship's Harvest Festival** at Bethlehem on **April 2**, at 3:30 pm
- The Barbados Conference** will participate in the **Unity Prayer Watch** from 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, **April 6 until** 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, **April 8**.
- Palm Sunday Service** with community march from Church through Mahogany Road and back starting at **10:00 am on Sunday, April 9, 2017**.
- Joint Maundy Thursday Service** with the St. Philip Fellowship on **April 13 at 7:30 pm at Bethlehem**
- Good Friday Service at 10:00 am on April 14**
- Two (2) Services – An **Easter Sunrise Service at 5:00 am and Divine Worship at 10:00 am** on April 16.
- Please place your orders and make your contributions to this year's **Easter Bake Sale**.
- Men's Fellowship Forum:** Presentation on **"Radical Hospitality"** Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 4:00 pm
Presenter: Rev. Delroy Burley.
- Board of Elders' meet on (Tues) April 25 at 7:30 pm**
- Joint Board Meeting on (Thurs) April 27 at 7:30 pm**
- Order your personal copy of the new **"Caribbean Moravian Praise"** Hymnal - COST: \$70.00
- Church Membership/Confirmation Class** for adults and teens. Those who are interested in becoming full members of this Church are invited to register. Registration forms are available from the Church Office.

- Dance Ministry:** Rehearsals have resumed – 6:00 pm on Fridays at Bethlehem.

Other Reminders/Lenten Assignments

- The groups responsible for presenting the readings during the **Holy Week** period from the Gospels in the **Passion Week and Eastertide Book** are:

Date	Assigned
Mon., April 10	Men's Fellowship
Tues., April 11	Sunday School and Youth Fellowship
Wed., April 12	Choir and Women's Fellowship
Thurs., April 13	J. Board (Bethlehem, St. Philip F/ship)
Fri., April 14	Youth & Wider Congregation
Sat., April 15	Private Reflection
Sun., April 16	Youth & Wider Congregation

Announcements

- The Rev. Rudolph Holder Memorial Tape Ball T-20 Cricket Competition** continues on **Fridays at 7:00 pm** at Market Hill, St. George.
- The Moramus Singers** of Barbados presents a **Palm Sunday Concert on April 9 at Calvary. Ticket: \$25.**
- Local (Conference) Camps : Intermediaries** (14-17) from **April 6 to 9**, and **Juniors** (7-12) from **April 18 to 21, 2017.**
- 'Conference At Prayer'** on Saturday, **April 22, 2017 at 6:30 am at Dunscombe.**
- Calvary Moravian Brotherhood's invitation to a **3-hand Domino Competition on April 22, 2017 at Calvary** [6-person Team (*incl. Females*) and supporters].
- Annual Youth Convention** on Sunday, **April 23 at King George V Memorial Park, St. Philip.**
- The PEC** will meet in the Trinidad Conference from **April 23 to 25, 2017.**
- Lay Academy Prog.** is on break, **resuming April 24.**
- Island Conference **Women's Fellowship Retreat** from April 28 to 30, 2017.
- Vacancy: post of Supervisor for the Gracehill Moravian Pre-School.** Contact: Rev. Vera Waithe Superintendent (*B'dos Conf.*), (*Tel: 438-7388/424-9232*)

This Month (April) & Upcoming (May):

Rev. Rudolph Holder Memorial Shield T-20 Cricket Matches:

→ Apr. 7th: Cox Road vs Sharon → Apr. 21st: B.C.C.F. vs Cox Road
 → Apr. 28th: Calvary vs Sharon → Apr. 28th: Mt Tabor vs Dunamis
 → Semi-Finals: May 5th & 12th → Finals: May 19th

The Laws of Cricket 2000 Code (5th Edition) will apply.

"Down the Rabbit Hole" – Bethlehem's Family Fun Day & Fair

→ Saturday, May 27 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm (*more details later*)

ABOUT FASTING

In our secular culture, people tend to **FAST** for two reasons – *to dramatise a cause and to lose weight*. I am not saying that either fast is necessarily bad, but **neither is a spiritual discipline**. The purpose of the one is **manipulation** and of the other is **vanity**.

FASTING as a spiritual discipline, by contrast, centres on GOD. It must be God-initiated and God-ordained. John Wesley wrote, “Let it be done unto the Lord with our eyes singly fixed on Him. Let our intention herein be this, and this alone, to glorify our Father which is in heaven”. [Sermons on Several Occasions (Epworth Press, 1971), 301]. **Once we understand the central intention of fasting – to glorify GOD** – it is safe for us to look at its secondary benefits.

- ▶ Fasting reveals the things that control us. Pride, anger, bitterness, jealousy, fear – if there are within us, they will surface during fasting. This is a great help if we long to be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ. We can rejoice as our weaknesses are revealed, because we know that Christ can put these false masters in their place.
- ▶ Fasting helps us keep our human cravings and desires under control. It increases our concentration and our effectiveness in intercessory prayer. It can contribute to our physical wellbeing and aid us as we pray for guidance. In fasting, as in everything else, we can expect God to reward “those who earnestly seek Him” (*Hebrews 11:6*).
- ▶ Fasting does not have to be a solitary experience. If you have a group of people who are sufficiently disciplined and taught, there is great value in fasting together. As a community of faith, you can support one another. Properly understood, fasting is a discipline for all Christians.
- ▶ Fasting is a voluntary denial of a normal function for the sake of intense spiritual activity. In our culture:
 - we need times to **fast from the media**.
 - we need to **fast from gluttonous consumerism and to spend time among Christ’s favourites – the broken, the bruised, and the dispossessed – not to preach to them, but to learn from them**.
 - we need times to **fast from the telephone**, which can be an absolute taskmaster.
 - some people need to **fast from people**, and
 - **some need to fast from talking so much**.

If we ask GOD where we need balance, he will teach us. *It is amazing how His guidance can come through if we are open to it.*

Scripture says much about **FASTING**. Biblical characters who fasted included Moses, David, Elijah, Daniel, Paul and Jesus Christ. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught about *giving, praying and fasting* almost in the same breath. He assumed that people would **FAST** and instructed them on how to do it properly (*Matthew 6:1-8*). **Fasting can bring spiritual breakthroughs** that could never come in any other way. **It is a means of God’s grace and blessing that should not be neglected.**

Extract: Richard Foster in the Book “Practical Christianity”

“Supporting the work of Ministry”

“Advance the Kingdom: Use the Keys”