



Bethlehem Herald

Monthly Newsletter of the
Bethlehem Moravian Church



Volume 17, January 2018



'New Life In Christ'

Submitted by:

Sis. Joyce Walters

"For I am about to do a brand-new thing. See I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness for my people to come home. I will create rivers for them in the desert"

Isaiah 43:19

This section pictures a new exodus for a people once oppressed. The Israelites were slaves before the exodus. They cried to God, He heard their cry and delivered them. A new exodus would take place through a new wilderness. The past miracles were nothing compared with what God would do for His people in the future.

A New Year, a new thing "I will do a brand-new thing". **What would you ask?** Some might ask



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for a new home, a new car, a husband and a job. Some would ask for a solution to their problems, healing for the broken hearts, restored family relationships. Some might even respond and say "My life is empty. I have no real purpose for living. I need something to fill the vacuum in my life, something real to give me a reason for living."

A new thing brought a distinctive feature in the apostle Paul's life. Those who knew Paul (then Saul) may have assumed that he had it all together, his education and his religious life. He did have a great enthusiasm to please God. He spent



much time searching for Christians to imprison. Until one day he discovered a reality that changed his life. **He had an encounter with Jesus Christ.** As he committed his life to Him, he discovered that Jesus Christ was **REAL.**

Paul describes the transformation in 2 Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

What this verse points out is that those who become Christians become new persons. There is a distinctive transformation. They are not the same anymore – there is a turning away from the old life (*going, going, gone*). A new life has begun!

“The indwelling presence of Jesus Christ made Paul’s life genuine. “For to me to live in Christ”, he said (Philippians 1:21). He had a purpose for living. Just as you trust in God to save you, trust Him too for each day’s challenge(s). Live in vital union with Christ (Colossians 2:6).

God is ready to do a new thing for us this year, but He has to have our co-operation. God already knows every day of our New Year and our next year. He knows the joys and stresses ahead, and He is willing to lead us safely through them. Will you let Him? He knows the steep mountains we will have to climb, and He is willing climb with us. Why not invite Him?

He will not only deliver us out of our difficulties – “but will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

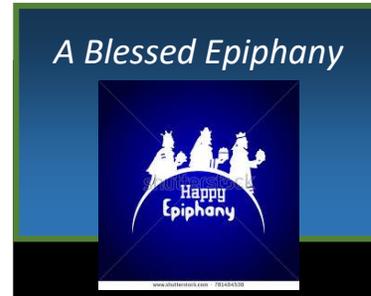
Remember He is the Lord, Our Redeemer, the Holy One, therefore He will make good every Word He has spoken.

Let us choose to walk with Him in this New Year we have been granted. As we walk with Him throughout 2018, may we learn in a deeper way the person Jesus Christ wants us to be in our daily living.

Though human leaders have much to offer, we must keep our eyes fixed on Christ, our ultimate leader. Unlike any human leaders He will never change. Christ has been and will always be the same forever. In a changing world we can trust our unchanging Lord. Hebrews 13:8 – **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.**

PRAYER/REFLECTION:

Lord, we are so grateful that we do not have to rely on ourselves. Thank you for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit that we can dedicate our lives to your glory. Help us to shed the old and embrace the New Thing. New Life in Christ – the Lord’s promise of victory to us, in Jesus’ name we pray. AMEN.



WORD SEARCH

‘Happy New Year’

B I B L E P L A N J M
 G F I R E W O R K S J
 R T C B O E V E C F A
 C A U G D Q E L N M U
 O S N I G O D E D I A
 M T T N K S X C L L R
 M I D N I G H T E Y Y
 I N O I T U L O S E R
 T J W N F R I E N D S
 G O N G R E T I N G S
 E P I P H A N Y A R P

FIREWORKS	COUNTDOWN	BEGINNING
FAMILY	PRAY	FRIENDS
RESOLUTION	NEW	GOD
MIDNIGHT	GREETINGS	RECOMMIT
OLD	REFLECT	BIBLE PLAN
EPIPHANY	CANDLES	TOAST



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOPS

LET FEAR GIVE WAY TO HOPE

When Christ was born in Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago, it was a time of hopes and fears. Christmas 2017 is also a time of hopes and fears.

As we reflect on the Christmas narrative in the New Testament and as we reflect on our experiences of Christmases past, we come to the realization that Christmas is about more than a little baby born in Bethlehem. For Christians, it focuses on the action in that ancient City of David, but it is connected to many cities around the world and speaks to every city, hamlet and village in our world today.

Let us recall some of the fears and hopes that would have existed at that first Christmas. Mary and Joseph though upright, God-fearing people, must have feared that people would question their integrity as someone put it, "Will folks understand? Will they know that what is done is of God? What will they think of us now? What will they think of my judgment in bringing Mary here in this place under these circumstances?" But they also had hope. Hope in what God had promised because they knew the truth of what was unfolding in their lives as part of God's plan for them and for the world.

The Wise men had fears, too. Fears, that they had lost their way. Had they been misled by the star they were following. Would they be laughed out of Herod's court as fools on a silly expedition? But they also had hopes that they would find the baby born King of the Jews and would be able to present their gifts and worship him.

King Herod also had fears when the Wise Men turned up at his palace. Is it really true that someone has been born who will supplant me? What is this threat to my rule of which these people are telling me? Before the wise men appeared, Herod had hoped to maintain the security of his present position. After they had brought their shocking message of a new King of the Jews being born, he hoped in a strategy of killing all first born boys that would keep him in power.

Fast forward to Christmas 2017! Even as we think of the family of Mary and Joseph we are rightly led to think of Christmas as a time for families to be together and to share the joys of being family. It is a wonderful time for us to pause and experience the security of home and the love and unity of family.

As we hear again the story of Mary and Joseph being turned away even from the inn because there was no room for them, as we hear of Jesus having nowhere to lay his head, let us give thought to the many persons in Caribbean who have to seek lodging this Christmas as a result of the two devastating hurricanes which have visited many of our islands; let us spare a thought for families which have been dispersed as a result of these catastrophes; let us think of those who have lost so much and those who have lost everything material. Can they have anything to hope in? Yes, Jesus is the hope of the world. Therefore, let us open our hearts and our homes to some of them this Christmas even as they live in fear of what the future will hold for them. Let us share with them and with all the world that Jesus is truly the hope of the world; he can overcome all our fears and troubles not just in a spiritual sense, but in temporal existence as well.

Finally, we cannot escape that message of the angels, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men. As we approach this Christmas the world holds its breath in fear as the leaders of the United States of America and the Republic of North Korea threaten each other with what could inevitably lead to nuclear war. Let us hope that God will speak good sense to the actors on the world stage so that peace will reign and people will not live in fear but in hope.

A happy and blessed Christmas to all!

Ref. PEC 399/17; December 27, 2017

This Month in Moravian History

John Andrew Buckley,

the first Moravian minister from Antigua

Over 160 years ago this month the first man of African descent was ordained in the Moravian Church. On January 3, 1856 John Buckley was ordained a Deacon of the Unitas Fratrum.

John Andrew Buckley was born on October 20, 1818 in St. John's, Antigua, as the son of John and Hannah Buckley. On December 14, 1841 he married Charity Ann Martin; together they had eleven children. Buckley became a teacher and assistant preacher in Greenbay, Antigua. The missionaries were very content with Buckley's work. Moravian bishop G.W. Westerby reported to the Mission Board: "Our out-post, Greenbay, is for the most part under his charge, and during the past half-year the work has advanced rapidly." (Letter Nov. 28, 1851). Buckley himself enjoyed his work. In 1852 he wrote: "As to myself, the longer I am engaged in the work, the more I feel the constraining power of the love of Christ, so that I desire to be spent in the service of Him who loved me, and gave Himself for me."

Bro. Buckley was a popular preacher. The chapel at Greenbay soon became too small for the number of visitors attending his services. So in 1855 Buckley raised enough money within six months to add another wing to the Greenbay chapel. Around this time the missionaries began considering to ordain him. In those years the administration for the worldwide Moravian Church (Unity Elders' Conference) resided in Berthelsdorf near Herrnhut, Germany. Bro. Westerby applied for permission from the Unity Elders in 1854 for Buckley's ordination.

18th and 19th century Moravians believed that Christ could indicate his approval of important decisions by means of the lot; for ordination and entrance into missionary service of the church

approval by the lot was needed. In Buckley's case the lot responded negatively. When the Unity Elders attempted a year later, the lot once again said "no". Finally, in September of 1855, an affirmative lot was drawn and Bro. Westerby was given permission to ordain Buckley.

On January 3, 1856 Buckley was ordained. His wife, Charity Ann, was received as an acolyte the night before. He served the Moravian Church for many more years in Greenbay. In later years Buckley seems to have had higher expectations than the members of his congregation were able to meet. He wrote in 1866: "Concerning the spiritual state of the congregation, it is to be regretted that there is so little decided piety manifested, especially among the better-instructed, namely the young, who have received a religious education in our schools. (...) They are unwilling to join the Church, from fear of its discipline." Buckley not only cared about the spiritual state of his members, he also thought it was important for them to meet their financial obligations toward the mission, which was not always easy in times of drought or unemployment. When a severe hurricane hit the island in August of 1871 more than 100 people were given shelter in the schoolroom of the Church for two weeks.

John Andrew Buckley died on December 31, 1884 in Greenbay, after retiring in 1879. Charity Ann lived until 1906, when she died on October 18th in St. John's. Although Bro. Buckley was the first male Antiguan to be ordained in the Moravian Church, two Caribbean women had this honour before him. In January of 1746 Rebecca and Maria, both from St. Thomas, were ordained as Deaconesses of the Moravian Church in Marienborn, Germany.

Source: Periodical Accounts; Minutes of the Unity Elders Conference; Register of Missionaries on Antigua). Compiled by Paul Pencker and Lanie Graf (Moravian Archives) in cooperation with Markus Gill (Moravian Church Utrecht, Netherlands). Moravian Archives, 41 W. Locust St., Bethlehem, PA 18018. To subscribe this History Update, visit our website: www.moravianchurcharchives.org.

Adapted: Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, Pa., Issue 3, January 2006

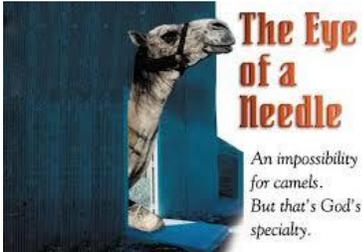
Fun Corner

'A FAMILIAR GAME'

THIS MONTH - THE LETTER "E"

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR BIBLE

CHOOSE YOUR OWN FROM THE BIBLE USING "E"

A N I M A L	EAGLE (Job 39:27-30)	EAGLE – References to Eagles in the Bible show its inhabiting the dizziest cliffs for nesting, its keen sight, its swiftness, its longevity, its remarkable care in training its young, even its habit of congregating to feed on the slain (see Job 39:27-30).
P E R S O N	ELIJAH AND ELISHA (I Kings 19:21 and 2 Kings 2:6-7)	ELIJAH AND ELISHA —The account of Elijah and Elisha – a story of mentorship demonstrating the role of the protégé and the mentor. Elisha was willing to let go of his occupation, his family, and the life he had built thus far in order to follow after a man offering his mentorship. Why no, relentlessly pursue Jesus as your mentor?
P L A C E	EMMAUS (Luke 24:13-35)	EMMAUS —Emmaus is the town through which Jesus and his disciples travelled to leave Jerusalem. It is also the place where Jesus appeared, after his death and resurrection, before two of his disciples while they were walking on the road
T H I N G	EYE OF A NEEDLE GATE PASSAGE (Mark 10:25)	This gate was designed in such a way that it could be readily used by pedestrians but not by bandits on their camels. The only way a camel could get through this "Eye of the Needle" was to be unloaded and crawl through on its knees 

A LITTLE BIBLE TRIVIA

Last week's Answer: The shortest-Book (by number of words) in the New Testament is "3 John".

DO YOU HAVE A RECIPE YOU WANT TO SHARE?

Double Layered Pumpkin Cheesecake



"A great alternative to pumpkin pie, especially for cheesecake fans. Serve topped with whipped cream."

Ingredients

(4 h 10 m; 8 servings; 426 calories)

- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 1 (9 inch) prepared graham cracker crust
- 1/2 cup pumpkin puree
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 pinch ground cloves
- 1 pinch ground nutmeg
- 1/2 cup frozen whipped topping, thawed

Directions/Method

(Prep 30 m; Cook 40 m: Ready In 4 h 10 m)

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).
2. In a large bowl, combine cream cheese, sugar and vanilla. Beat until smooth. Blend in eggs one at a time. Remove 1 cup of batter and spread into bottom of crust; set aside.
3. Add pumpkin, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg to the remaining batter and stir gently until well blended. Carefully spread over the batter in the crust.
4. Bake in preheated oven for 35 to 40 minutes, or until center is almost set. Allow to cool, then refrigerate for 3 hours or overnight. Cover with whipped topping before serving.

http://allrecipes.com/recipe/13477/double-layer-pumpkin-cheesecake/?internalSource=similar_recipe_banner&referringId=9297&referringContentType=recipe&clickId=simslot_1

2017 Highlights - Bethlehem Barbados Conference

January

☀️ **Annual Week of Prayer** again held engaging the **auxiliary groups of the Church** under the theme: **“Transformation” - “Transforming our Minds/our Lives...”**.

- On Monday - **Private Prayer & Worship “Personal Devotion”**;
- On Tuesday - **Men’s Fellowship “through Acts of Service”**;
- On Wednesday – **Joint (Elders’ & Stewards’) Boards “through Selfless Thinking”**;
- On Thursday - **Women’s Fellowship “through Christian Relationships through the Spoken Word”**; and
- On Friday - **Sunday School & Youth Fellowship “through Words of Affirmation”**.



☀️ Our Pastoral leader, **Delroy R. Burley** was **Ordained Deacons in the Moravian Church** on **Sunday, January 22nd**, at **Sharon Moravian Church** at **6:00 pm**. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Lewis was the presiding Bishop. Bishop Stanley G. Clarke from

the Jamaica and Cayman Islands Province delivered the sermon. As a congregation we extended **Best Wishes** and our **prayers for God’s continued guidance** to him. Bus transportation was organised for the membership.

☀️ **Weekly Bible Study** was held focussing on the **Book of Isaiah**. **Corporate Prayer and Fasting** was undertaken every fourth Wednesday.

☀️ Members enrolled in the **Moravian Lay Academy Programme** – which started January 9th – every **Monday at 6:00 pm** at **Calvary Moravian** - **“Introduction of the Old Testament”**.

February

☀️ **Installation of Church Officers** on Sunday, February 5th, 2017 for all Board Members.

☀️ **Joint Congregational Retreat (Bethlehem and St. Philip Fellowship)** on Saturday, February 4th, 2017 at the Cuthbert Pilgrim Memorial Hall from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm, where Church shared and participated well.

☀️ **Appreciation Service** for **Sis. Cynthia Walcott** on Sunday, February 12th at 10:00 am.

☀️ **Mid-Week Mid-Day Services @ 12:15 pm** and **Mid-Week Evening Services @ 7:30 pm** continued this year every Wednesday during the **Lenten Season** - under the theme **“God’s Love is Immeasurable”**.

☀️ Our members contributed **“Reflections”** which were compiled in a **Joint Lenten Devotional** based on the **Daily WatchWords**, and widely distributed.

☀️ Bethlehem held its **Church Leaders’ Meeting** on Thursday, February 23rd at 7:30 pm

March

☀️ The theme for the **Season of Lent** was **“..and lead us not into temptation.”** Group assignments were:

- **March 1st – Elders Board “Surrender our will” - 1 Corinthians 10:5-13;**
- **March 8th – Men’s Fellowship Teach us patience - Romans 8:24-30;**
- **March 15th – Women’s Fellowship “Show us how to be humble” - Matthew 18:1-4;**
- **March 22nd – Stewards Board “Help us to show love” - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; and**
- **April 5th – Sunday School and Youth Fellowship “Teach us how to serve you while serving others” - Matthew 25: 31-40.**

☀️ **A few members participated in Conference’s Church Leaders’ Retreat** which took place on Saturday, **March 4th** at Sharon from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm under **the Provincial Theme: “Advance the Kingdom – Use the Keys”**.

☀️ **Unity Sunday** was celebrated on **March 5th** in all Moravian Churches as we celebrated our **560th anniversary of the founding of the Moravian Church**.

☀️ Bethlehem joined in **Conference’s Annual March of Witness** on Unity Sunday (**March 5th**) followed by the Rally and Drama presentations at Clifton Hill Moravian Church in St. Thomas at 3:30 pm. Wearing Purple shirts and carrying the Church’s banner, Bethlehem joined Group 2 (which included Sharon, Dunscombe, St. Philip, Fulnec, and Clifton Hill) to march from the Christian Mission Church, Sugar Hill, St. Joseph to Mayers Corner to link with Group 1 at Mayers Corner for the march to the host-Church.

☀️ Bethlehem and St. Philip Fellowship joined together for a **5-minute dramatization** the work of the **Board of World Missions**, sharing on **work in Cuba, in Tanzania** among Orphans, and at Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre **in the Holy Land**.

2017 Highlights - Bethlehem Barbados Conference cont'd

☀️Bethlehem's Sunday School Department participated well at the **Annual Conference Spelling 'B' and Quizz Competition** held at Sharon.

☀️Our young men and women (and the young-at heart) participated and enjoyed the **Rudolph Holder Memorial Tape Ball T20 Cricket Tournament** which started in March consisting of two zones – the **Rev. Dufferin Culpepper** and the **Rev. Romeo Challenger** Zones, with two Shields to be won - the **Rev. Holder Shield** (which was restricted to the Moravian Teams), and the **Moravian Memorial T-20 Cricket Shield** (which was contested by all teams, including those joining from other denominations). Bethlehem was part of a combined team - the **B-C-C-F Combined T-20 Cricket Team** (*Bethlehem, Centenary, Clifton Hill and Fulnec*).

April

☀️During the **Holy Week** period readings from the Gospels in the **Passion Week and Eastertide Book** were led by the wider congregation and auxiliary groups.

- Monday, April 10th - **Men's Fellowship**,
- Tuesday, April 11th - **Sunday School and Youth Fellowship**,
- Wednesday, April 12th - **Choir and Women's Fellowship**;
- Thursday, April 13th – **the Joint Board with the Steering Committee at St. Philip Fellowship**;
- Friday, April 14th - **Youth & Wider Congregation**,
- Saturday, April 15th – **Private Reflection** recommended; and
- Sunday, April 16th - **Youth & Wider Congregation**.

☀️**Liturgical Dance classes** continued throughout the year with short breaks between major performances. The Bethlehem Dancers performed at the **Mission Month Services in September**, **Harvest Programme in November**, and for the **Candle Light Service in December**.

☀️Bethlehem participated in the **Annual Fun & Fellowship/Sports Day** which took place at the Briar Hall Sports Pavilion, Briar Hall in Christ Church on Saturday, April 1st, participating in the **Parade, Athletics, and Tug-O-War segments**. The **Parade & Tug-O-War Teams** both copped 1st Place, and

overall Bethlehem climbed **another rung to finish Third (3rd) in the Conference**. Congratulations to them all - the young ladies and lads who have continued to come out, and to compete, and by so doing added value to the overall team effort!



☀️**Palm Sunday Service on Sunday, April 9**, started this year with a community march from the Church through Mahogany Road and back for **10:00 am**.

☀️**Youth Convention** on Sunday, **April 23rd at Codrington College** in St. John. The **B-C-C-F Combined Team** (*which includes Bethlehem*) joined in a post-lunch Friendly Cricket Match against Calvary.

☀️Our Annual **'Bring and Buy' Cake Sale** was held on **Easter Sunday** -

May

☀️**Child Month** was celebrated in May.

☀️**"Mothering Sunday" Service** was led by the **Men's Fellowship**. Gifts were presented to the Mothers and God-mothers.

Mothers (and children) participated in Conference's **Mothers' Day "A Salute to Mothers" Concert** held at Calvary on **Sunday, May 14th** raising funds for the upcoming **Synod**. Talent performances and the modelling segments from our ladies were well received.

☀️**"Down the Rabbit Hole" – A Family Fun-Day & Fair** was held on the Church Grounds on **Saturday, May 27th** from 11:00 am.

☀️**Moravian Music Sunday** was celebrated across the Conference on Sunday, May 21st.

June

☀️The **Fathers' Day** was celebrated, the Service was led by the Women's Fellowship. Gifts were presented to the Men and Fathers.

☀️Bethlehem participated in the **Evangelistic Week of Services – June 26th to 30th** at Gracehill Moravian, under the theme: **"Using the Keys – Locking and Unlocking"** (leading worship on the Thursday night). The Speaker was **Rev. Belinda Manswell Daniel** from Tobago.

☀️**Build a Block Card** drive was put in motion to aid in raising funds for the Church's (Extension) Bathroom Project to take it to ring-beam and beyond.

2017 Highlights - Bethlehem Barbados Conference cont'd

July

☀️ **Annual Convention Service** commemorating the martyrdom of **John Hus** on **Sunday, July 2nd**. Bethlehem and St. Philip Fellowship joined together and participated in a drama for the evening Programme of Convention which took the form of a Rally.

☀️ Bethlehem again celebrated **Outdoor Worship and Fellowship Day** on **June 11th**, at the **Silver Sands Beach Park**, where together we shared a common Meal, and enjoyed Fellowship, Fun, Exploring and peaceful Relaxation.



☀️ Members of the **Laity led worship across the Barbados Conference** in July. Some of our members at Bethlehem shared God's Word in other congregations; and air *via* the Radio Broadcast – **“Moravian Voice”**.

August

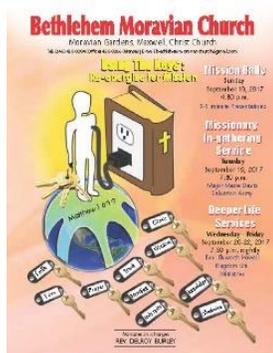
☀️ Bethlehem celebrated **53 years of Ministry** this year - **August 13th**.

☀️ In preparation for our **Missionary activities** (both spiritual and financial aspects) - a **Corporate Prayer & Fast** was held on **August 23rd & September 13th**, at **noon-time** (*for persons who do not travel at night*) and again at **7:30 pm**.

☀️ Bethlehem's men participated in Conference's **All-Male Synod-Fundraising Moravian Concert on Sunday, August 27** at Sharon.

September

☀️ A **‘Meet & Greet & Share’ District Walk-Through** on **September 2**, from 9:00 am throughout our neighbouring communities, moving from house to house distributing information about the Moravian Church, Bethlehem, the upcoming Missionary Services, and tracts and other Christian literature for children and adults. Three groups of three (male, female and youth) participated. It was very well received and the youth were particularly enthused by the welcoming responses received.



☀️ The **Mission theme** was extended to all Services in **September: “Energise for Mission – Use the Keys”**. **Mission Rally** was conducted on **September 10th** by Sis. Kerryann Doughty and our speakers were drawn from our sister congregations in the Conference, and the auxiliary groups of Bethlehem.

☀️ **Major Marie Davis** of the Wotton Salvation Army in Wotton, Christ Church was the speaker for our **In-gathering Service/Missionary Meeting** on **September 19th**, and **Rev. Elsworth Howell**, Minister-in-charge of Kingdom Life Ministries in St. Peter shared for the three nights of **Deeper Life Services** (**September 20th, 21st & 22nd**). Note books and bookmarks were prepared as memorabilia of the theme and Services.

☀️ **Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer Meetings** starting at 12:00 pm were added to the Church's Week of Activities, after the results of a Poll undertaken by the Elders' Board were analysed. Mid-Day Bible Study and Prayer Meeting Sessions continued every Wednesday thereafter.

☀️ Bethlehem joined with the St. Philip Fellowship to host a **‘Workshop on ‘Preaching’ every Saturday** during the month of September from 10:30 am to 12 noon at the CPM Hall, aimed at guiding the membership in preparation for the Lenten and Advent Devotionals, and for 3-5 minutes Presentations at Group meetings, etc

☀️ **‘Back to School’ Service** was held on Sunday, September 10th. Presentations were made to children, organised by the Sunday School Department.

☀️ A few members walked for **Conference's Sponsored Walk/Walkathon on Saturday, September 30th** (from Sharon to Folkestone in Holetown) which started at 5:30 a.m.

October

☀️ The **“Bethlehem Herald”** celebrated its 1st Anniversary of Ministry for its monthly newsletter, with a year-in-review splash of cover pages. On request, copies are made available for persons without an e-mail address as it continues its monthly e-circulation.

☀️ During **Women's Fellowship Month**, the Fellowship at Bethlehem performed well in the various Conference-organised competitions.

Continued on Page 10



From the Pastor's Desk

Rev. Delroy Burley

Where Should You Go When You Get Discouraged?

*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,
as the manner of some is.... Hebrews 10:25*

The month of January is the start of the New calendar Year. A time when we evaluate the past and make plans for the future. We take time to consider meticulously, the missed opportunities of our past and look forward to the future with new strategies. As a body of Christ, cheerfully we receive this opportunity, to wish all our families and friends in their endeavour both locally and abroad a happy and prosperous New Year - 2018!

In my reflection, I want you to reflect with me as I have observed that many people tend to skip Church and stay away from other believers when they get discouraged. Maybe you know someone who has done this. Maybe you have even done it yourself at a time in your life when you felt discouraged or depressed.

There are a myriad of reasons why people stay away from Church when they are discouraged. Perhaps they are embarrassed that their faith is not working as fast as they think it should. Perhaps they are ashamed that they are still struggling with problems they think should have been conquered long ago. They do not want anyone to know they are still wrestling with the same old problems, so they disappear from sight. They are of the opinion that people within the church are not as Christ-like as one ought to think and are no better than those who are on the outside. Perhaps they are hurt or bruised by something someone said or did - someone in the Church who has a prominent position. Perhaps Church has become too repetitive that they do not feel the joy of fellowship.

Do not let other believers discourage you. Do not describe every believer in the same way because of one; two or even more believers have done you wrong. You can still find the best in the worst of us. You can still find believers who put God first, and would ask **what would Jesus do**, and so would have your back and your best interest at heart. Do not let embarrassment or discouragement keep you away from fellowship as

God would have you – with other believers. You can draw on the strength of fellow-believers. You can benefit from their testimony. You need that encouragement and it does help to hear someone else say, “*You can do it! You can make it!*”!

That is why Hebrews 10:25 says, ‘not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is...’. The words that are used to describe ‘someone’ in this verse suggested someone who is extremely discouraged, defeated, and depressed. Maybe he/she feels depressed because it looks like everyone is succeeding except him/her. Or maybe this is someone who is simply weary from fighting very long battles. Regardless of the reason why, this word describes a person who feels left out, down, depressed, and far behind everyone else.

The moment people begin to feel like they are failing or falling short of everyone else is often the moment when Satan tells them, *Oh, just stay home from church today. You do not need to go down there with all those rejoicing people. You know that you do not feel like being with them today, so why not just stay home by yourself? You do not need them. You can just read the Bible at home.*

Satan knows that if he can get you to fall out of fellowship with other believers at the very moment when you need fellowship and encouragement the most, then he can probably keep you down and defeated. Yes, it is true that you can read the Bible at home by yourself, and you should read the Bible while at home, and by yourself. But fellowship with other believers is essential for everyone, and that includes you. You receive encouragement from other believers that you cannot get anywhere else.

That is why Church is the last place the devil wants you to go when you are feeling low. He knows if you go to Church, you will be touched by the Presence of the Lord; you will get encouraged by other believers; and in the end, you will crawl out of that hole the enemy has put you in and rise up to a place of heavenly victory.

The devil works overtime to try to tempt us to skip Church, stay home, and do something else instead. But, friend, why isolate yourself when you are in the greatest need of encouragement?

Hebrews 10:25 could be translated:

When you are feeling down and depressed, like a failure who is falling behind everyone else, that is not the time to stay away from other believers, as some are in the habit of doing....

2017 Highlights - Bethlehem Barbados Conference cont'd

November

☀Members attended the joint **Workshop on Preaching** and received their Certificates in December. Persons who were unable to attend all sessions and complete the assignment received special recognition.

December

☀The Advent Star and other decorations **adorned** the Church for the entire **Advent & Christmas Season, into the New Year.**

☀Members contributed **"Reflections"** for a **Joint Advent to Epiphany Devotionals** based on the **Daily WatchWords.**

☀The Choir presented a **Candle Light programme** which also featured performances from the youth of the congregation on Sunday, December 10th.

☀**Christmas Sunrise Service and Breakfast** on Monday, **December 25th.**

☀Bethlehem again **distributed Christmas Hampers** to our Shut-Ins, and to other persons from the community in need.

☀We recognise the **passing of Sis. Marva Williams and the late Rev. Tyrone Lewis** (a former Minister).

Greetings Information & News : From Home & Abroad

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PROVINCE

- The PEC will meet in Antigua from January 25 to 28, 2018.
- The Superintendents' Conference will convene January 29 to 30, 2018.

Please bear the members of PEC and the Superintendents of the various Conferences in prayer.

Other meetings for 2018 are as follows:

- Barbados Conference : April 5 to 8
- Tobago Conference : July 5 to 8
- St. Kitts Conference : October 18 to 21

Sis. Judy Ganz, the former Executive Director of the American Board of World Mission retired at the end of December 2017. Bro. Justin Rabbach takes up this post. We in the Eastern West Indies Province, thank them and wish them both well.

Adapted: The Information Newsletter (January 2018 Issue)

Instead of letting the devil and your flesh get the best of you in moments of weakness, here is my suggestion: In addition to praying and reading the Word at home when you are feeling down and out, go find another believer or a group of believers who can build you up in faith and encourage you in the Lord. After fellowshiping with people of faith, you will feel recharged to go back and face those challenges and those missed opportunities with a winning attitude!

LET THIS BE YOUR CONFESSION

As you journey in life this year, I want you to declare that Satan does not have the power to keep you down and depressed! When life comes against you and the devil tries to tell you that you have no hope of ever getting out of your problems, run to people of faith so you can be encouraged. Do not fall out of fellowship, and do not stay away from Church. Remain faithful in your Church attendance, and you will receive encouragement every time you get in God's presence and rub shoulders with the people of God. Declare this by faith, in Jesus' name!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

1. When you get discouraged, where do you go for help, strength, and encouragement?
2. Has the devil successfully tempted you to stay away from other believers?
3. How can you get more involved with a faith community that can give you needed encouragement to help you win the battles this year you have been waging last year?

Hebrews 10:25.

PRAYER

Lord, we need you to help us push our flesh and our feelings aside when we are tempted to be down and depressed. Your Word promises that we will be encouraged if we fellowship with the saints, so we ask You to help us shove our lying emotions out of the way, get out of our house, and stop focusing on our defeat. Give us the strength of will to go, and to attach ourselves to a band of believers who will encourage us to stand up, stand tall, and fight like someone who has the armour and the power of God working in our life. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Resource: Rick Renner

"IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT IS DONE."

Nelson Mandela

Greetings Information & News: From Home & Abroad

NEWS FROM THE FIELD – YWAM

(EXTRACT)

SIS. ANDREA PITT, TRAINING DIRECTOR

Greetings family, friends, supports, and well-wishers! As this year comes to a close I want to share with you all that God has done through my life, and the various areas the Ministry has impacted the lives of many in this Nation, Jamaica, and several other nations.

SERVING AT THE VETERAN'S VILLAGE, LAS VEGAS

The doors were opened for me to be a part of a team to serve the Veterans in their village in Las Vegas. This was a great experience, meeting veterans and sharing love of Christ in practical ways as we painted their apartment doors, prayed with them and had great conversations, while listening to their stories.

SERVING THE DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING SCHOOL

This year, we have new leaders and new staff joining us to serve our Schools and it was a joy to walk with this group through the various areas of learning that are required as they step out to lead and shepherd students that come to us from around the world.

Each day we began with worship and a devotion allowing God to share His heart and give us His perspective for the day's proceedings. At the end of our training session, each staff received a certificate of participation, and was challenged to put into practice all that they learnt and experienced.

In September, we welcomed five students into our community for our Discipleship Training School. This School's theme is "Passion and Pursuit". Topics such as "Hearing the voice of God; The Identity in Christ; Intimacy with God and many more were taught. They are now in West Africa on outreach for the next two months. Please pray for them and their staff.

FEEDING THE HOMELESS

We believe every person must be given an opportunity to experience the love of Christ. This is why we feed those who are homeless. As we serve them a hot meal, we also sit and eat alongside of them, and listen to their stories. We share what we do in the nations and prayer with them and encourage them with the truth of God's character. Some have responded in positive ways and are eager to join us on an outreach.

HOMES OF HOPE

Over the last year we have been able to partner with six different teams to **build homes for needy families in our local communities**. The testimonies

stand out from a backdrop of poverty, often times amidst villages of poor in shacks and dilapidated roofs, a beautifully coloured solidly made home stands out like an exclamation mark. **People ask, "how did you get this house? Their answer: Jesus gave it to me!** We want to continue hearing these testimonies in the years ahead, as we seek to continue being God's hand and feet to the poor and helpless across Jamaica. Would you pray about coming with a team to help?

ANDREA'S PERSONAL PRAISE REPORT

I have been praying well over five years for a personal vehicle. I give Him praise for what He has done! One of the things I said to the Lord, "when You supply this vehicle, I would like the first years' insurance and fitness paid. I shared the need again for a vehicle in my last newsletter. Two weeks after it went out, I got a call from a Christian business person here in Jamaica and I quote "would you like to come and pick up your vehicle today?" October 10th.

God did more than I asked for, the vehicle came with the first year's insurance and fitness paid and a full tank of fuel! Barbados is not to be left out, A Christian person in my nation contributed to the insurance for the vehicle. Toyota Land Cruiser.

Don't worry about anything, instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all he has done. "Philippians 4:6 *New Living Translation*."

None of us on staff with YOUTH WITH A MISSION receive a Salary, but are supported by Churches, family and friends who understand and believe in what we are doing. If you desire to partner with me you can send donations to the address listed below. Make cheques payable to 'Youth With A Mission'. Please do not write my name on the cheque but write a separate note stating it is for me and I will receive it.

Youth With A Mission PO. Box 3000 Garden Valley TX 75771 USA	YWAM Project Funding Box 57100 RPO E. Hastings Vancouver BC V5K 5G6 CANADA
Youth With A Mission Thickett Plantation St. Philip BARBADOS	

You can also give online through this link below:
<https://ywamtyler.org/funddonation/>

Extract: Andrew's News Vol. 6, Issue 8 (Dec. 2017)

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.

✓ **Memorial decorations** in honour of loved ones are welcomed. Contact any member of the Elders Board.

✓ **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 new date for the 32nd Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies Province to be held in Barbados is July 5 to 11, 2019.**

As we continue to make preparations, members and friends of the Moravian Church are invited to support the weekly contribution of \$1.00 towards those costs for which the Barbados 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. You are invited to send ideas and articles 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	246-428-6069
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
Sis. Michelle L. Williams	246-428-7462/ 246-430-0900
Sis. Gloria Layne	246-428-7545

❖ **Barbados, its Leaders and its Citizens**

❖ **People & Regions affected by natural & man-made disasters, or grappling with the loss of loved ones.**

Financial Status



Target: \$ 9,000 monthly

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

Special Envelopes (JANUARY):

INITIAL OFFERING - Your contribution towards the cost of your package of envelopes.

Please give to God what He truly deserves

Income for December 2017	\$
Envelopes	3,272.00
Loose Offering	1,482.00
Sunday School	26.25
Christmas	1,056.25
Other Monies raised December 2017	
Rental – CPM Hall	1,000.00
Donations to Gas	5.88
Sub-Total	6,842.38
Other funds collected	
Donations	275.00
'Quota Arrears' to Conference	363.00
"Youth With A Mission" Outreach	62.00
"Synod Walk-Up" to Conference	41.00
Sub-Total	741.00
TOTAL	7,583.38

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 assisted with our

Advent 2017 activities:

- dressing and undressing of Sanctuary and grounds;
- inputs to the Advent Devotional and to defraying printing cost;
- contributions to our Christmas Hamper, and preparation for our Shut-Ins, and Sick/Recovering, and persons less-fortunate; and
- support of our Candle Light Programme (performances - readings, dance, instrumentals, and singing).



Mark Your Calendar - JANUARY

- Bethlehem's Hours of Worship:**
 - **Sunday School** : Sundays @ 9:00 am
 - **Divine Worship** : Sundays @ 10:00 am
 - **Mid-Day Bible Study** (1st, 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays) : @ noon (resumes January 10th, 2018)
 - **Evening Bible Study** (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednesdays): @ 7:30 pm (resumes January 10th, 2018)
 - **Prayer Meeting and Fasting** (4th Wednesdays) will resume on Wednesday, January 31st.
 - **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** with Cleaning and Preparing the Sanctuary.
 - The **Women's Fellowship** with Readings and Prayer.
- Universal Prayer Week** : January 2nd to 5th @ 7:30 p.m. led by the auxiliary groups
Tuesday: Elders' Board - "**Seeking God's Peace**",
Wednesday: Stewards - "**Finding God's Assurance to Serve**",
Thursday: Men's Fellowship "**Mending our Lives to Serve Christ**"; and
Friday: Women's Fellowship - "**An Attitude of Contentment**"
- Women's Fellowship Meetings** every second Tuesday @ 6:00 pm.
- Dance Ministry: Liturgical Dance Classes** continue on Saturdays @ 3:30 pm. All are invited.
- Shut-In Communion** will be administered on Tuesday, January 9th starting from 10:00 am.
Joint Board Meeting – Thursday, January 11th @ 7:30 p.m.
- Annual Church Council Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2018. **Service on that day will commence at 9:00 am.**
- Elders' Board Meeting** on Tuesday, January 30th, 2018 at 7:30 pm.

Reminder

- Cost to complete the **Bathroom Project is \$47,800** – contributions in cash, material or labour are welcomed. **Build a Block cards are available** – We invite each member of the congregation to receive a **Card** and thereby seek to faithfully support the completion of the Church's Bathroom Project.
- The Liturgy Book, companion to the Caribbean Moravian Praise (CPM) Hymnal**, is available. If

you have purchased a Hymnal and have not yet received your copy of the Liturgy Book, please contact the Treasurer. If you have not yet ordered your **Caribbean Moravian Praise Hymnal and Liturgy Book**, please place your order today.

- Membership/Confirmation Class** for persons (adults and teens) interested in becoming full members. Registration forms are available. Contact any member of the Elders' Board or make arrangements at the Church Office.
- Annual Reports** - All groups and committees are reminded to submit Financials as a part of their **Annual Report for the 2017 Year-In-Review** via e-mail to bethlehemmoravianchurch@gmail.com and as a hard copy to the Minister.

Announcements

- Sunday School Teachers' Workshop** — Saturday, January 6th @ Sharon.
- The **Moravian Voice Broadcast** airs on LIFE 97.5 FM every **Wednesday @ 8:00 pm**. Tune in.
- Conference Youth Workshop** — Saturday, January 13th
- Moravian Disciples' Concert** — Saturday, January 20th at 6:00 pm at the Derrick Smith School and Vocational Centre. Shuttle service will be available from Sharon Moravian Church.
- Moravian Church, Barbados Conference, 'At Prayer'** — Saturday, January 27th.
- Harvest Festival at Centenary** – Sun., January 28th

BIRTHDAYS - JANUARY

- 01 – Sis. Odessa Haynes
- 02 – Bro. David Ince
- 13 – Bro. Omar Yarde
- 13 – Bro. Victor Nelson
- 15 – Sis. Lena Edwards
- 16 – Sis. Jasmine King
- 17 – Bro. Winston Holford
- 25 – Sis. Clauzel Forde
- 26 – Sis. Diana Yarde
- 27 – Sis. Margaret Harris



ANNIVERSARIES - JANUARY

- 30 – Bro. Lionel & Sis. Eleanor Hollingsworth

Upcoming in the New Year:

- Divine Worship on Sunday, January 21, 2018 will begin at 9:00 am and not 10:00 am to facilitate Church Council.
- Lay Academy Training starts February from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Calvary (Mondays : 13 weeks) – *Introduction to the New Testament*. The second course starts in September – *Introduction to Christian Counselling*. Cost: \$50 per course.

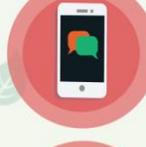
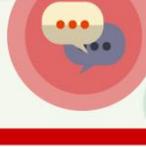
Meeting Etiquette



Do

- **Listen**
Listen actively to what the speakers have to say.
- **Drink**
Bringing a coffee or other (non-alcoholic) drinks into a meeting is acceptable.
- **Take notes**
Taking notes helps you concentrate and process the information better.
- **Be prepared**
Read the agenda beforehand and write down what you want to address during the meeting.
- **Ask questions**
Jot down questions that occur to you during the meeting and make sure to ask them at the appropriate time.

Don't

- **Talk constantly**
Constant chatter, even if it's whispered can be extremely distracting for the speaker. You will also miss crucial information.
- **Eat**
No smelly or crunchy (loud) food. Depending on the meeting, ask beforehand if you can eat during the meeting.
- **Check your phone**
Turn your phone off or put it on silent WITHOUT vibration on. Looking at the phone while someone is talking is extremely rude.
- **Be late**
Being on time shows respect. Coming in late will distract the participants and disrupt the flow of the meeting.
- **Interrupt**
While someone is talking, don't interrupt them. Wait until they have finished before you raise your own concerns.

Extending to you a prayer for God's continued guidance and protection throughout the New Year!

"Supporting the work of Ministry"

"Advance the Kingdom : Live as Kingdom Citizens"