



Bethlehem Herald

Monthly Newsletter of the
Bethlehem Moravian Church



Volume 18, February 2018



"Choose God's Love"

Submitted by:

Sis. Diana Yarde

*God shows His love for us in
that while we were still sinners,*

Christ died for us. Romans 5:8.

Love is a word that has been misused, overused and corrupted. It is often used in derogative ways – for example: lustful relationships. Though there are different kinds of love, the most important is **Agape Love** – the love of God for man and man for God.

Gods' love is unfailing, compassionate, everlasting and unconditional, and these are only a few. His love is extended to everyone despite their religion or their lifestyle – those things do no matter to God, the person matters to God, and therefore what matters is that we love Him, love one another, and accept Him as our Lord and Saviour, and each other as brothers and sisters. His love is a free gift – it is not bought with a price because Jesus already paid the price at Calvary.

Now it's fast approaching the season of Lent which starts this year on February 14th as Ash Wednesday, and continues for forty (40) days



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excluding Sundays. This date is also celebrated around the world as Valentine's Day; a day when many people express their love and appreciation in different ways; gifts, wine or dinner.

**Ash
Wednesday
bears greater
significance** –
it is a day to
cleanse the

WILL YOUR FAITH SURVIVE THIS YEAR?



World View

vs

Church's View

- Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday – ***what will you do?***
- Easter falls on April 1st, ***what will you think?***
- Every day we are being challenged, ***what will you say?***

Provincial Theme 2018:

*"Advance the Kingdom...
Live As Kingdom
Citizens"*

soul in preparation of Lent. The Lenten period reflects when Jesus fasted and suffered in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights before starting His Ministry (*Matthew 4:1-11*). It represents a period of time when Jesus was being tempted by the devil.

Let us choose God’s Love. Jesus has, time and again, proved His love to us that sometimes my heart burns when I read of the pain He went through for us, all the suffering, the scars, the blood tears to save us. Yet we live our lives as though none of this matters. So I ask myself how Jesus can love us – sinners, who think lightly of all that He suffered to redeem us. It is because we are His and He knows our weaknesses, and He has the power to cleanse, heal and forgive, if we only invite Him in.

As followers of Christ, let us commit to prepare for Ministry. Let us cleanse our minds of all that does not please God, not only for this period, but we can use this time to start if we have not. Let us reflect on Jesus’ Life, His Suffering, His Death, and His Resurrection, knowing that we were all there when they crucified Him – it was for us ALL that He suffered and died, and rose again. **Why not choose God’s love today?**

Prayer:

Father God, as we embark on this Lenten season, let us focus our minds and hearts on your abiding and unconditional love; the love that took You to the Cross and kept You there until ‘it was finished’. Strip us Lord of all that does not please You, renew and refresh us and cause our souls to burn and yearn for the joy that lies ahead when we surrender to You - for You are our strength and shield. In Jesus’ name we prayer - Amen.



LENT

The word “**Lent**” means ‘*Spring*’. Lent is a time of reflection, repentance, and preparation. It is a time to weed out bad habits and to plant, water and allow good habits to take root and grow. It is a time when we often pause from distracting, harmful things and, with the **Holy Spirit’s** leading, we slowly determine what is safe to add back to our lives. In so doing, we are led to finish our spiritual journey to Easter in a different, better place, spiritually, than we were on **Ash Wednesday**.

WORD SEARCH
‘About Ash Wednesday’

Ash Wednesday - 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays, is the beginning of **Lent**. The name is associated with a custom in the early Roman Catholic Church of making the sign of the cross on the foreheads of penitents using the ashes of palms brought to Church on the Palm Sunday of the preceding year.

G N I H S A W T O O F
G O O D F R I D A Y M
A B S T A I N N O G A
L S Y S T E R O D N U
O E A A K S E I E I N
V H D F S Y Y T C V D
E C S L U A A C N I Y
E N E E S D R E A G T
E A N N E O P R T S H
L R D T J 4 Q R N M U
P B E G I V E U E L R
R M W C R O S S P A S
U L H O L Y W E E K D
P A S S O V E R R Z A
W P A L M S U N D A Y
R E T S A E S A Y N O

PURPLE PASSOVER PALM BRANCHES ASH WEDNESDAY ALMSGIVING PRAYER FAST LENT	GIVE HOLY WEEK MAUNDY THURSDAY GOOD FRIDAY EASTER PALM SUNDAY FOOT WASHING	JESUS RESURRECTION REPENTANCE CROSS LOVE 40 DAYS SAY NO ABSTAIN
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The AGAPE Factor : 12 Ways to Love

by Ray Pritchard

Instructions on how to apply a message like this:

1. Read and memorise the passage (Romans 12:9-16) this week
2. Pray over it verse by verse, asking God to work these qualities into your life
3. Pick one or two areas where you know you need to grow, and write down where you need to begin
4. If that seems too difficult, just pick one and make it your goal to put into practice this week
5. As you think and as you pray, ask the Lord to bring special people to your mind

It is one thing to talk about love. It is something else to put it into practice.

Romans 12:9-16 seems at first glance to be an unconnected series of staccato commands, a “rag bag” of miscellaneous exhortations, but a closer examination reveals that these verses flesh out what love looks like in the Christian life. The theme of the passage is not hard to find: *Love must govern all our relationships*. John Stott calls this Paul’s “recipe for love” and notes that it seems to have twelve “ingredients”.

#1. LOVE MUST BE SINCERE.

“Let love be Genuine” (v. 9a).

Let love BE genuine. The word “genuine” literally means “without hypocrisy.” It originally referred to an actor who played a certain role on stage. It came to mean anyone who acts contrary to his own true feelings. It particularly applies to those who put forth the appearance of virtue that they do not actually possess.

#2. LOVE MUST BE DISCERNING.

“Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good”

(v. 9b).

Love hates evil! Think about that for a second. Often we think of love as an ‘ooey-gooney’ emotion that causes us to lose our sense of right and wrong, but that is far from true Christian love. We cannot love evil and love God at the same time. Here’s another way to put it. *Don’t ever get over being shocked by evil.* Here’s a good test. When was the last time you blushed when something risqué appeared on TV? Some hardly notice it or we laugh at it. Sometimes we say, “Love is blind.” God says, “No, love needs clear vision.” Our love needs discernment or else we will end up loving things we ought not to love—and entering into relationships that are not good for us.

While love is supreme, it is never enough.

- ❖ Not every relationship is a good relationship.
- ❖ Not every choice is a good choice.
- ❖ Not every friendship is good for us.
- ❖ Not every job is a wise career move.
- ❖ Not every roommate is a healthy choice.
- ❖ Not every purchase is a wise use of our money.

There are really two parts to making wise choices: *First, you must know what is right.* This is crucial because we live in a world where many people evidently have lost all sense of right and wrong. Everything appears to them as shades of gray. *Second, you must have the courage to choose what you know to be right.*

#3. LOVE MUST DISPLAY TENDER AFFECTION.

“Love one another with brotherly affection” (v. 10a).

Paul uses two words that speak of the love of family members for each other. One of them is a word you already know – *philadelphia*. It comes from two Greek words that have been joined together: *philos*, which means tender affection, fondness, devotion,” and *adelphos*, usually translated “brother,” but it literally means “one born of the same womb.” So the word *philadelphia* literally means “tender affection owed to those born from the same womb.” All Christians have been “born of the same womb” through the new birth. Everyone who is saved is saved

the same way. God does not have three different plans of salvation. Jesus said, **“You must be born again”** (John 3:3). **To be born again means to receive new life through personal faith in Jesus Christ. It means to be “born from God’s womb”.** **Everyone who belongs to Jesus belongs to me.** And we owe all of them tender affection and brotherly love. We are to love all true believers everywhere all the time. God’s kingdom embraces all true believers no matter who they are or what church they happen to attend.

#4. LOVE MUST HONOR OTHERS.

“Outdo one another in showing honor” (v. 10b).

The Greek word actually has a sense of competition about it, so the translation “outdo one another” is very accurate. We hear much about quotas, preferential treatment and affirmative action. In the Christian context, it means that we **take affirmative action to make sure that others receive preferential treatment before we do.** This obviously goes so much against our human nature that it is not possible without the infusion of God’s Holy Spirit in our hearts.



#5. LOVE MUST BE ENTHUSIASTIC.

“Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord” (v. 11).

Paul is challenging us to put as much effort into our Christianity as we do into our work. The Amplified Bible catches the meaning very well: **“Never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavor; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord.”** The phrase “be aglow and burning with the Spirit” refers to a boiling pot. Serve the Lord with zeal and boiling intensity. The world will not be moved by half-hearted disciples who “sort of” serve the Lord.

#6. LOVE MUST BE PATIENT.

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer” (v. 12).

Behind these three phrases lies **the hope of our Lord’s return**. While we wait for Jesus to return from heaven, we must be patient in hard times, constantly praying, and rejoicing in the hope of better days to come.

#7. LOVE MUST BE GENEROUS.

“Contribute to the needs of the saints” (v. 13a).

The word translated “contribute” is the verb form of the word *koinonia*, to share with others. On one level it means sharing in the hurts and heartaches of others. On another level, it means opening our pocketbook and giving so that the poor believers will have their needs met. Here is a true measure of your Christian faith. What are you doing to meet the needs of those who have less than you? We can extend this to supporting God’s work around the world. **Do you give “off the top” or “off the bottom” of your paycheck?** Your answer says something important about the state of your soul.

#8. LOVE MUST PURSUE HOSPITALITY.

“Seek to show hospitality” (v. 13b).

The Greek word for hospitality is *philoxenia*, a compound made up of two other Greek words –*philos*, which means “kind affection” or “love” and *xenos*, which means “stranger” or “foreigner.” Literally, *philoxenia* means “one who loves strangers.” Hospitality means “showing kindness to strangers.” This command shows up in various places in the New Testament because hospitality was a central mark of the early church. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (*Romans 5:8*). While we were estranged from God, He sent His Son to the earth. And we who were once strangers and aliens on the earth have now been brought near to God by the blood of Jesus Christ (*Ephesians 2:11-13*). **We are now as near to God as His own Son is, for through the blood of Jesus we are brought into His family.** Because He loved us when we were strangers, we are strangers no more. That same

thing happens today when we show hospitality to others. We are only doing for others what God did for us.

#9. LOVE MUST BE KIND.

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them” (v. 14).

There are two parts to this that we must consider:

1. **What happens to us.**
2. **How we respond.**

We will be persecuted. We will be hated, mistreated, misunderstood, lied about, gossiped about, and there will be those who go beyond this to hurt us deeply, leaving scars that last for a lifetime. Sometimes the attacks come from those closest to us, sometimes from within our own family, often from our circle of very close friends, and sometimes from people we thought were our best friends. There is no escaping this reality, and to deny it is like denying the sun comes up in the east and sets in the west. Sooner or later people we loved and trusted will let us down, and some of them will turn on us. We cannot predict how or when it will happen or who it will be, but it will happen, and what will we do then?

How do you bless someone when you would rather curse them? Here’s a simple way to do that. **When faced with someone who has mistreated you, ask God to do for them what you want God to do for you.** Seek the blessing for them that you want God to do for you. Think of it this way: The greater the hurt, the greater the potential blessing that will come when we bless those who curse us. Remember that your enemy is a gift from God to you. Though you don’t know it and often can’t see it, the person who has hurt you so deeply is a gift from God to you. To say that is not to excuse evil or to condone mistreatment. It is to say exactly what Joseph meant when he said to his brothers, **“You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good”** (*Genesis 50:20*). If we did not need them, he would not send them. Therefore, we thank God who knows best, and we love our enemies the best way we can. **Often God raises up an enemy to see if we really want to be like Jesus.** He will keep our enemies alive and well as long as we need them.

#10. LOVE MUST SHOW SYMPATHY.

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep” (v. 15).

Love gets involved. It doesn’t stand stoically on the sidelines while others go through a hard time. Many of us probably find it easier to weep with someone else than to rejoice with them. It is a good thing when we can laugh with our friends, and then weep with them later.

Continued on page 5

This Month in Moravian History

“Wedding In Tibet”

In time for Valentine’s Day, the Moravian Archives chose to celebrate the unique Moravian love story of Wilhelm and Maria Heyde, two of the earliest Moravian missionaries to Western Tibet during the 19th century. Known affectionately as “**Papa and Mama Heyde**” they served the Lord in Asia for 50 years, laying the groundwork for future mission work, revising a Tibetan-English language dictionary and preparing translations of the New Testament and other Christian literature.

Their happiness at first seemed unlikely. Although born to missionary parents in Suriname, Maria Elisabeth Hartmann was leading a satisfied life as a popular teacher in the Moravian community of Gnadenfrei when she was asked to consider an arranged marriage to Wilhelm Heyde, one of three missionaries serving in Western Tibet.

Maria naturally hesitated at first. Besides having no practical experience as a pioneer, Heyde was unknown to her and twelve years her senior. In addition, he expected *another* woman to join him in Asia, one who had in the meantime married and accepted a call to Labrador.

After much indecision, Maria finally used the Moravian practice of the lot to decide her fate. When the lot answered “**yes**” to joining Heyde, Maria accepted this decision as God’s will. She departed from London in the spring of 1859, with four other Moravian “brides”.

After spending more than three months sailing around Africa and two months crossing India, the couple met on November 10th at opposite ends of a wooden bridge high in the Himalaya Mountains outside the Mission post of Kyelang. Lacking courage to pass over the rushing water, Maria faltered. Wilhelm crossed the bridge and carried Maria in his arms to the other side. Eight days later they married.

In *Hochzeit in Tibet* [Wedding in Tibet], a novel which recounts this fascinating story of her grandparents, Ruth Schiel describes her grandmother’s feelings after crossing the bridge:

“All the fear, the uncertainty, the endless months of anxiety which ate away at her, fell away like chains from

a prisoner. She, who once feared condemnation to a life of drudgery, had now been granted a lifetime of love.”

This moment of redemption, and the consequent love that followed, grew out of the couple’s love and faith in God - not their own feelings and whims.

Their love was born, and endured, because they loved God before they loved each other.

*(Sources: Hochzeit in Tibet by Ruth Schiel. [Berlin: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 1986]; Dienerblätter of Wilhelm and Maria Heyde; Obituary of Wilhelm Heyde in “Missions-Blatt der Brüdergemeine” 1907, pages 325-333.)
Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, Pa. Issue 4, February 2006*



The Agape Factor : 12 Ways to Love

(cont’d from Page 4)

#11. LOVE MUST LIVE IN HARMONY.

“Live in harmony with one another” (v. 16a).

The Greek literally reads, “Think the same things toward each other.” This does not imply total agreement. After all, if two people totally agree on everything, one of them is unnecessary! **The word harmony implies a beautiful symphony, a collection of instruments playing on the same page at the same time. They do not sound alike and they do not play the same notes.** So it is in the body of Christ. We do not all look alike or act alike or sound alike. The church—both local and worldwide—is enriched by a variety of different opinions. But there is harmony amid the cacophony of sounds when we understand that the things that unite us are greater than the things that divide us.

#12. LOVE MUST SHOW HUMILITY.

“Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited” (v. 16b).

We can say it more directly. Don’t be a snob! The word translated “conceited” means “wise in your own thinking.” Don’t think you are too good to hang out with people who are not in your social class. One translation says, “Make real friends with the poor.” Say what you will about Jesus, but he was no snob. He associated with tax collectors, prostitutes and drunkards. And he reserved his harshest words for the Pharisees who robbed widows’ homes and claimed to be serving God. **Jesus was and is a true “friend of sinners”.** He welcomed everyone who wanted to be with Him.

Extract: <https://www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/the-agape-factor-12-ways-to-love/>

Fun Corner

'A FAMILIAR GAME'

THIS MONTH - THE LETTER "F"

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR BIBLE

CHOOSE YOUR OWN FROM THE BIBLE USING "F"

A N I M A L	FOWL (Leviticus 11:19-23; III Kings 4:23; Genesis 1, 20 & 21; Genesis 15:11)	FOWL – This word when used in the Bible has often referred to any that flies in the air. It also stands for all the fatted birds that may be found among the delicacies of a King's table. At times, it also means birds of prey
P E R S O N	FORTUNATUS (1 Corinthians 16:17)	FORTUNATUS – This name means 'Fortunate'. A disciple of Corinth who visited Paul at Ephesus, and returned with Stephanas and Achaicus, the bearers of the Apostle's first letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 16:17). He refreshed Paul's spirit by their coming.
P L A C E	FIRMAMENT (Genesis 1:7)	FIRMAMENT – This word means "expansion". It denotes the space or expanse like an arch appearing immediately above us. It formed a division between the waters above and the waters below (Gen. 1:7). It is spoken of in Genesis as having "windows" and "doors" (Gen. 7:11, Isa. 24:18; Mal 3:10) through which the rain and snow might descend.
T H I N G	FOOD (Exodus 16:3; Numbers 11:5)	FOOD – Regarding food of the Israelites in Egypt (Ex. 16:3; Num. 11:5). In the wilderness their ordinary food was miraculously supplied in the manna. They had also quails (Ex. 16:11-13; Numbers 11:31). The Jews were also forbidden to use as food anything that had been consecrated to idols (Ex. 34:15); or animals that had died of disease or had been torn by wild beast (Ex. 22:31; Lev. 22:8).

A LITTLE BIBLE TRIVIA

Did You Know : What is the last word in the Old Testament? (Have a read and see.)

(Answer next issue)

DO YOU HAVE A RECIPE YOU WANT TO SHARE?

GENTLEMEN, ...

...IF YOU WANT TO
SURPRISE YOUR
SPECIAL SOMEONE
WITH A MEAL THIS
MONTH,

TRY

Spinach Parmesan Pasta

There are only
five ingredients
needed to make
this a healthy-
looking,
delicious-tasting
pasta.



You probably already have all the ingredients you need in your kitchen! Some Butter, Garlic, Spinach, Pasta, and Parmesan Cheese. That's it! These five ingredients come together to create a tasty pasta dish and takes just 15 minutes. **TRY IT!**

YIELD: SERVES UP TO 4
PREP. TIME: 5 MINUTES

COOK TIME: 10 MINUTES
TOTAL TIME: 15 MINUTES

Ingredients

- 8 oz uncooked Pasta
- 3 tablespoons of Butter
- 2 cloves Garlic, minced
- 5-6 cups Spinach
- ½ cup of grated Parmesan Cheese
- Salt, and freshly ground Black Pepper to taste

Directions/Method

1. Add Pasta to a large pot of boiling salted water and cook until *al dente*.
2. Drain the Pasta, reserving ½ cup of Pasta water. Set Pasta aside.
3. Using the same pot, melt the butter over medium heat. Add garlic and cook for 2-3 minutes.
4. Add in the Pasta and the Spinach. Gently toss and cook until Spinach leaves are showing wilted. If the Pasta starts to dry out, add in some of the reserved Pasta Water. Stir in ¼ cup of Parmesan Cheese and toss until combined.
5. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper, Garnish with additional Parmesan Cheese and serve (immediately).
6. Add other vegetables or some Chicken, as desired.

<https://www.twopeasandtheirpod.com/5-ingredient-spinach-parmesan-pasta/>



From the Pastor's Desk

Rev. Delroy Burley

This Season of Lent

"Change Something!"

*Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all
your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with
mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.*

*Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and
merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast
love, and relents from punishing.*

*Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and
leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a
drink-offering for the Lord, your God?*

Joel 2: 12-14

As we begin to observe this Season of repentance and reflection, please let us regularly reflect on ourselves and our commitment to God during this Lenten Season.

We are at that time of the year again when we are invited to test our inner freedom and to question the notion: *I can make a change or leave it behind*. I encourage anyone who might be struggling spiritually, emotionally and physically to make a change in their life or leave it behind. No matter the vice – whether pornography, alcohol consumption or addiction, complaining, gossiping, anger, gambling, marital issues, hatred - and the list can go on and on.

Ask yourself: **'What sort of habits makes me hard to live with?'** Lent is about demonstrating or regaining self-control, especially in those areas that not only damage us, but others as well. We do not admire those whose appetites or habits lead them by the nose, or by the lust of the flesh, or otherwise. *A pure heart create for me, O God. Put a steadfast spirit within me (Psalm 51:10).*

A story of a young man's struggle goes something like this: "I have always been a faithful

churchgoer. But I went through some really rough periods in spite of the fact that I was regularly attending Church. My whole life was disintegrating. People did not know about it, but my marriage had just about dissipated. My wife and I really felt we did not love each other anymore.

This experience was only four years ago. My four daughters, who were coming into the teenaged years, had already seen three or four personalities of their father. They were not sure which one was really their father. My daughters were confused and perhaps were wondering which one to trust whether their father on the television (TV), their father at church, or the father they saw at home!!

It was at the time when my children needed the strong guidance of their father, that I realised I had lost a lot of their respect for me. In addition, I felt my career and business life had lost its meaning.

I NEEDED A CHANGE!!

I had always been taught God is a source of help in times of trouble. Here, I was, needing His help in my life TODAY...NOW!

So I began to cry out to God, *Lord, if there is a way to put my marriage back together, bring my family back together, and to put my career back together, please do it*. I knew it would take some real miracle(s)...and miracles I believe happened. But I also knew they did not "just happen." They came only as I committed my life to Jesus again, and I came to know Him not only as my Saviour, but as Lord of my life. There is such a big difference at this point.

As I came to know Jesus as Lord through the Holy Spirit dwelling in me, my life changed. And God put my marriage back together. My wife and I love each other now more than we ever thought we could. And I have four



bright eyed teenaged girls who love their father and who know he is just one guy all the time. And boy! Those are miracles!

I believe strongly in the Church. But I have learned that after I have gone to Church I still have not won the battle. The most important thing in life for me is being a Christian and having not only my own personal relationship with Jesus but also having a daily avenue of communication with God through the Holy Spirit. This new understanding has brought miracles into my life.'

What sort of habits makes you hard to live with? Whatever we are struggling with, let us commit it to Jesus and He will make a way where there seems no other way out for us.

Prayer

Deliverer God, we call on Your name out of the anguish of our own hearts. We need Your help. In fact, we need Your miracles. We are weak and we are struggling. The Devil is trying very hard to take hold of us. We need the guidance of Your Holy Spirit to help channel us through these mucky waters. We ask this in Your name, Jesus, Amen.

SONG

"Create In Me A Clean Heart"

*Create in me a clean heart, O God
and renew a right Spirit within me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God
and renew a right Spirit within me.*

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord
Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
And renew a right Spirit within me.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God
and renew a right Spirit within me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God
and renew a right Spirit within me.*

LIFE WILL
ONLY CHANGE
WHEN YOU
BECOME MORE
COMMITTED TO
YOUR DREAMS
THAN YOU
ARE TO YOUR
COMFORT ZONE.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS TO NOTE

This Season, as a Church, let us embark on our journey through Lent in deep reflection, striving to be faithful stewards of God's treasure.

References to guide your preparation are:

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 4:2
- ❖ Matthew 25:14-30
- ❖ Luke 19:12-27

Theme: "Stewardship of Treasure"	
Sub-Theme	Day/Date, Time and Organisation
"Tithing as Acknowledgment of Ownership"	Wednesday, February 14 th at 7:30 p.m. Elders Board
"Tithing as a Christian Witness"	Wednesday, February 21 st at 7:30 p.m. Stewards Board
"Tithing as an Expression of Gratitude"	Wednesday, February 28 th at 7:30 p.m. Men's Fellowship
"Tithing as a Token of Consecration and Symbol of Dedication"	Wednesday, March 7 th at 7:30 p.m. Women's Fellowship
"Tithing as Evidence of Trust"	Wednesday, March 14 th at 7:30 p.m. Choir
"Tithing as an Adventure in Blessings"	Wednesday, March 21 st at 7:30 p.m. Wider Congregation

Greetings, Information & News : From Home & Abroad

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PROVINCE

Condolences

- Condolences are extended to Bro. Anselm Richards, member of PEC, on the death of his sister, Inez "Evelyn" Richards Foster in Trinidad and Tobago. She passed into the nearer presence of God on Sunday, January 21st, 2018. The Funeral Service was held on Tuesday, January 30th, 2018 at the Belle Garden Pentecostal Church in Tobago at 1.30 pm.

Unity Prayer Day Offering 2018

- **Sunday March 4, 2018 is Unity Sunday.** A special offering will be taken in all Moravian Churches world-wide, to purchase a piece of land for a church office, the first to be owned by the Moravian Church in Peru. The Moravian Church Peru is one of the newest mission areas in the worldwide Unity.
- The Unity Prayer Day Offering 2018 will therefore support the witness of the Moravian Church in Peru and will help to further the mission of the Moravian Church in Peru.
- Monies received shall be sent no later than the end of June 2018 to the Unity Office [Unity Board Administrator].
- For further information, please mail the UBA: boytler@ebu.de

Provincial Elders' Conference Meetings

PEC meetings for 2018 are as follows:

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

Please bear the members of PEC in prayer.

Ministerial Staff on Furlough

- The Rev. Hilton Joseph, Superintendent of the Moravian Church St. Kitts Conference and Pastor of the Zion Moravian Congregation in St. Kitts, has been granted four (4) months' furlough from January 29th to April 29th, 2018.

Bishops in the Worldwide Unity "A few Firsts"

- On Thursday, September 28, 2017, at the Synod of the Cuba Mission Province, **the Rev. Armando Rushindo** was elected to be the **first Cuban Bishop of the Worldwide Moravian Unity.**
- Bishop Rushindo was Consecrated in Havana, Cuba on Saturday January 20, 2018, by Bishops Sam Gray (USA), Stanley Clarke (Jamaica) and Volker Schulz (Switzerland, European Continental Province).
- Bishop Armando Rushindo was **Consecrated the 365th Bishop of the Moravian Unity (303rd in the Renewed Moravian Church).**
- The Rev. Tania Sanchez was elected as the new president of the Provincial Board of the Cuba Mission Province.
- The Guyana Province of the Moravian Church **elected its first Bishop at the close of our 2nd Biennial Provincial Synod** which was in session from 26th to 29th November 2017, under the theme "*Fulfilling the Mission, Advancing the Kingdom in the 21st Century*".
- Delegates of Synod unanimously elected **the Rev. Brinmore Phaul.** He has the distinction of being **the first Guyanese to be Consecrated as a Bishop in the Worldwide Unity of the Moravian Church.**

Extract: The Information Newsletter (January 2018 Issue)

Congratulations

- The Eastern West Indies Province offers congratulations to **Mrs. Cleatus Karen Jones**, the wife of the Rev. Winston Jones, who **graduated from the University of the West Indies with a (B.Ed) Bachelor of Education in Educational Leadership and Management with First Class Honours.**
- The Graduation took place on November 3rd, 2017 at the Mona Campus.

Extract: PEC 07/18 dd January 19, 2018

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 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.** The Barbados Conference will continue to make preparations for this event. Members and friends of the Moravian Church are asked to support the 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. 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 Williams	246-428-7462/430-0900
Sis. Gloria Layne	246-428-7545
Sis. Valrie Quintyne	246-428-1102

❖ **Barbados, its Leaders and its Citizens, and People within the Region and Province**

❖ **Persons grappling with the loss of a loved one.**

Financial Status

Target: \$ 9,000 monthly

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

Special Envelopes (January/February/March):

- **INITIAL OFFERING** (*towards defraying cost of envelopes*)
- **ASH WEDNESDAY OFFERING**
- **UNITY SUNDAY OFFERING** (*to purchase land in Peru*)

Please give to God what He truly deserves

<u>Income for January 2018</u>	<u>\$</u>
Envelopes	4,172.00
Loose Offering	961.00
Sunday School	18.50
Old Year's Night	195.00
Week of Prayer	109.95
Initial	98.00
<u>Other Monies raised January 2018</u>	
Rental of/Donation to CPM Hall	950.00
Donations to Gas	5.88
Sub-Total	6,510.33
<u>Other funds collected</u>	
'Quota Arrears' to Conference	153.00
'Honoraria'	25.00
"Youth With A Mission" Outreach	69.00
"Synod Walk-Up" to Conference	57.00
'Moravian Voice' Radio Programme	20.00
Sub-Total	324.00
TOTAL	6,834.33

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 the various members of the auxiliary groups who all participated well in the Universal Prayer Services held at the opening of the New Year.
- ✓ To all who participated in the Church Council discussions, plans and promises for 2018; the Ushers, Technicians, Recording Secretary, Group Leaders, Board members and Sub-Committees of the Boards, and persons who assisted with the hospitality arrangements for the day's meeting.
- ✓ To the children and persons who assist with the Children's Chat schedule – an initiative geared specifically to the youth of the congregation.



Mark Your Calendar - FEBRUARY

- ☐ **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) : Wednesdays @ noon
 - **Evening Bible Study** (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednesdays): Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm
 - **Pastor's Office Hours** : Fridays, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm (by appointment)
- ☐ **Lenten Devotionals** (*Reflections on the WatchWord*)
The St. Philip and Bethlehem congregations, together with the Calvary/Gracehill pastorate, are planning to jointly produce meditations throughout the period of Lent. **Please prepare your** short meditation reflective of the season (100-250 words in length). Contributions to defraying printing costs are welcomed.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ **Women's Fellowship Meetings** every second Tuesday @ 6:00 pm.
- ☐ **Dance Ministry** currently on recess.
- ☐ **Shut-In Communion** will be administered on Tuesday, February 6th starting from 10:00 am.
- ☐ **Congregational Retreat** on Saturday, February 3rd starting at 10:00 am. Theme: **"Living As Kingdom Citizens – Working Together As A Team"**
- ☐ **Our LoveFeast Service** on Sunday, February 11th at 10:00 am.
- ☐ **Annual Church Council** resumes on Sunday, February 18th. Service will start at 9:00 am. A reminder that outstanding financials are also due.
- ☐ **Our Flea Market Sale** on Saturday, February 24th from 10 am to 4 pm. Please support with items.
- ☐ **Elders' Board Meeting** on Tuesday, February 27th 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 faithfully support the completion of the Church's Bathroom Project.
- ☐ The **Caribbean Moravian Praise (CPM) Hymnal** and the **Liturgy Book, companion to the New Hymnal**, are in use. Cost: \$70.00 (contact the Treasurer). The Old Hymnal has been phased out.

- ☐ **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.

Announcements

- ☐ **The Moravian Voice Broadcast** airs on LIFE 97.5 FM every **Wednesday @ 8:00 pm**. Tune in.
- ☐ **Evangelism Explosion Training** on Mondays at 5:30 pm. Interested persons are invited.
- ☐ **Lay Academy Programme:** – classes for 2018 will be held at Calvary Moravian Church, as follows:
 - **"Introduction to the New Testament"** Starting February 5th, and every Monday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (will run for 13 weeks)
 - **"Introduction to Christian Counselling"** starting September 3rd, and every Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (will run for a shorter period). Cost per course is \$50.00. Lay Preachers, members of our Boards, Groups and Organisations are all encouraged to share in this period of study.
- ☐ **Harvest Festivals:**
 - **Fulnec** - Sunday, February 4th at 3:30 p.m.
 - **Calvary** - Sunday, February 11th at 3:30 p.m.
 - **Duncombe** - Sunday, February 18th at 3:30 p.m.
 - **Clifton Hill** - Sunday, February 25th at 3:30 p.m.
- ☐ The St. Philip Congregation **Valentine's Tea Party** - Saturday, 10th @ Cuthbert Pilgrim Memorial Hall from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- ☐ The **Men's Prayer Breakfast** at Sharon Moravian Church, St Thomas on **Saturday, February 10th, 2018 at 7:30 a.m.**; Contribution is \$20:00. The speaker will be Bro. Toney Olton and his topic is **"Men; if you lead, they will follow"**. Spouses are welcome.
- ☐ The **Women's Prayer Breakfast** at the 'Hastings Room, The Savannah Beach Hotel on **Saturday, February 17th at 7:30 am**. Contribution: \$60.00. The guest speaker will be **Sis. Nkwa Daniel** under the theme: **"Living as Kingdom Citizens by enlisting in the Kingdom"**.

BIRTHDAYS - FEBRUARY

- 10 – Sis. Tara Holder
- 12 – Sis. Charlene Forde
- 14 – Sis. Enid Harris
- 15 – Bro. Shane Alleyne
- 20 – Sis. Kirsten Edwards

ANNIVERSARIES - FEBRUARY

- 17 – Bro. Lisle & **Sis. Joyce Walcott**
- 20 – Bro. Wayne & **Sis. Desma Linton**



Truths/Tips...Something For Every Age

HOW TO USE THE MORAVIAN DAILY TEXT

The strength of the Daily Texts lies in presenting the Scripture unhindered by illustration. The texts are left to stand alone, and to speak to each reader in his or her life. This also allows the Daily Texts to be adaptable to different patterns of devotion and study.

Contents For Each Day:

1. **Scripture Lessons:** At the top of each page of ongoing study. Not related to the printed texts. Monday through Saturday are part of a plan to read through the Psalms in one year and the rest of the Bible in two. Sundays and special days are the assigned lessons for that day of the Church year from the Moravian Revised Common Lectionary, also common to many denominations.
2. **WatchWord for the Day:** From the Old Testament, the first printed text. It is to be a 'WatchWord' to accompany you throughout the day. Usually a promise, encouragement, admonition, or comfort.
3. **Hymn Verses:** Broken down by meter and usually related to the WatchWord or theme for the day. It is a devotional response or commentary on the text. Can be used for prayers.
4. **Doctrinal Text:** From the New Testament. Usually contains some point of Christian doctrine to expand on the watchword.
5. **Prayer:** A response to God of praise, confession, thanksgiving, or intercession in light of the texts and hymn verses.

Every Sunday, and some Church holidays, the Daily Texts page will include the WatchWord for the Week/Holiday. Like the daily WatchWord, the weekly/holiday text is to accompany the reader throughout the week or holiday, and is related to the events of the Church year. These differ every year based upon the lectionary cycle.

Devotions: The printed texts, hymn verses, and prayers are the heart of the Devotional guide. Their purpose is to help the reader get more closely in touch with God, and to meditate upon the Word of God. When reading the texts, hymns and prayers, feel the encouragement found in them. Hear any words or correction for your life; ponder the great message of faith; meditate upon the hymn verses and prayers; feel God's presence surrounding you in faith; and in silence, hear God's Word speaking to you.

These texts can also be the centre of a daily spiritual diary where you keep a journal of your daily meditations and their meaning in your life.

Extract: Moravian Daily Texts 2018 – A Devotional Guide for Every Day

BETHLEHEM MORAVIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

*"Growing in Spirit, Living as Disciples, and
Serving God's World"*

"Supporting the work of Ministry"

"Advance the Kingdom: Use the Keys"