

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AND INVOLVEMENT

- † **Today:** Blood Pressure Clinic after worship.
- † **This Week:**
- † **Office Hours:** Mondays & Fridays: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. (D.C. Moore Centre.)
- † **Tues.:** Women's Fellowship at 6:30 p.m.
- † **Wed.:** Church Membership Class at 5:30 p.m.
 - † Carol Singing at Sharon at 7:30 p.m.
- † **Fri.:** New Generation Ministries at 6:30 p.m.
 - † Church Choir Rehearsal at 8:00 p.m.
- † **Sat.:** Christmas Eve – Prayer Meeting at 6:30 a.m.
- † **Next Sun.:** **CHRISTMAS DAY.**
 - † Divine Worship at 5:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

AVAILABLE:

- † **Offering Envelopes for 2016**— We invite each member of the congregation to receive a box of envelopes and thereby seek to faithfully support the work of the church. Please request that a box be provided for you if none has been provided as yet.
- † **Missionary Collection Boxes**— If you had a box last year, please collect it from the Vestry. If you desire a box for the first time, please inquire at the vestry after worship or at the Church Office.
- † On order from the Church Office, **copies of Sunday sermons** on CD — \$2.00.
- † **Greeting Cards** (\$2.00) and **Prints** (\$20.00) of a painting of Sharon Church from the Church Office.
- † **Books** by Rev. Neilson Waithe: Understanding the Caribbean Worker— \$25.00; Provocation—\$20.
- † The Book, 'Created in Their Image: *Evangelical Protestantism in Antigua and Barbados 1834-1914*' written by Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts. The cost is \$50.00.

Prayer Needs:

Our Shut-ins: Eunice Applewhaite, Aileen Bowen, Claudia Boyce, Genetha Bryan, Eugene Clarke, Royle Deane, Carl Forde, Clement Harper, Grace Lashley, Erla Reid, Carol St. John.



The Sick / Recovering: Gretel Smith, Ernesta Marshall-Jemmott, Howard and Beverly Arthur (Canada), Kelvin Carter.

Thanks to our readers, ushers, contributors to the Basket of Hope, our floral donors/arrangers, our sound technicians and visual aids technicians

Today: Brian Maynard & Resa Williams



Advanced: Marissa Boyce & Deborah Greenidge (19th), Sidaine Pilgrim & Brandon Taylor (20th), Maureen Chase, Krystal Eversley & Aaliyah Beckles (21st), Christian Mason (22nd), Elroy Carter & Edwin Lawrence (23rd), Veronica Leacock (24th)



Congratulations to Bro. Philip & Sis. Maria Williams who are celebrating their 12th Wedding Anniversary today.

MORAVIAN BIRTHDAY SONG

With Thy presence, Lord, our Head and Saviour, Bless them all we humbly pray; Our dear heavenly Father's love and favour Be their comfort every day. May the Holy Ghost in each proceeding, Favour them with his most gracious leading; Thus shall they be truly blessed, Both in labour and in rest.

Thought for the Day

What shall I give for Christmas
To Him who gave Himself for me?
To Him I give my life, my love,
For time and for eternity. — Anon —

GIVE YOUR ALL TO CHRIST; HE GAVE HIS ALL FOR YOU.

Visit our Website at <http://sharon.moravians.net> or
<http://sharonmoravian.info>

**PROVINCIAL THEME 2016:**

Fulfilling the Mandate – “Advance the Kingdom”



Take a cell-phone moment: Take the time now to set your phone to silent or turn it off. Help us to maintain our worship focus.

**SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH**

(Built by Slaves - 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

Email:

sharonmoravian@caribsurf.com

Church Office/Pastor's Study Tel: 425-4011

Church Vestry Tel: 425-0164



Sunday, December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m.

Welcome: With the enthusiasm that characterizes this advent season, we welcome one and all to worship today. May God, who has richly blessed us in Christ, warm and inspire every heart today. Welcome.

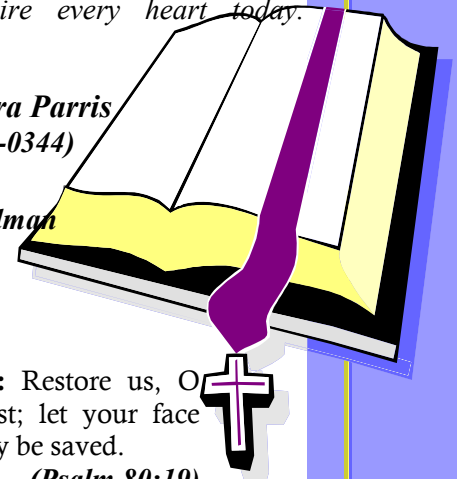
Pastor: Rev. Ezra Parris
(Manse: 246-425-0344)

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Movelle Kellman

Organist:
Bro. Carl Ifill

WATCHWORD: Restore us, O Lord God of host; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

(Psalm 80:19)



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Organ Prelude

Introit

Call to Worship (Psalm 95:1 – 3)

L: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

C: *For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods.*

Hymn 43 – “O how shall I receive thee” (44)

Litany – Fourth Sunday of Advent (*projected/leaflet*)

Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Greeting Song: 594 – “Let us share true peace” (x4)

Choruses

Youth Hymn 68 – “Away In A Manger” (669)

Worship in Tithes & Offerings. Offertory Sentence: *Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.*

(1 Peter 4:10 NRSV)

Tithes/Offertory Hymn: 39 – “A great and mighty wonder”

Prayer of Dedication of Offerings

Choral Response – “Give Thanks”

Ministry of the Word:

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7: 10 – 16

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 1: 18 – 25

Church Choir Anthem – “Light A Single Candle”

Sermon – – Rev. Ezra Parris

Prayer of Commitment & Intercession

Closing Hymn: 143 – “O come, O come Immanuel” (129)

The Benediction

Organ Postlude

GREETING SONG —

*Let us share true peace with one another
Shake another hand, shake another hand
Let us show our love for each other
Shake another hand, shake another hand
Let us show true unity, equality, solidarity
Shake another hand, shake hands with me.*



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. Groups and Organizations are requested to prepare their reports for 2016 and submit such to the Pastoral team by Saturday, December 31, 2016.
2. Thanks to all who have supported our Missionary fundraising effort for 2016. Thus far we have raised \$20,379.80. Funds raised will go towards local missions, and to missionary endeavours across the region and the world through the various mission organizations of the Moravian Church.
3. 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 at least \$1.00 towards those costs for which the Conference will be responsible. This contribution will be collected on the First Sunday of each month. Envelopes are available.
4. Flowers are needed for our church! You will find on the wall next to the main door to the church, a roster in the shape of flower. You may sign up to indicate that you would (1) cover the cost to obtain flowers for the arrangements or (2) provide the complete arrangements, for a particular Sunday(s). Feel free to join with others to provide the flowers to celebrate your birthday(s) etc.
5. Sunday Morning Bus Route to Sharon: Quarry Road (8:30 a.m.), Redman's Village (8:35), Padmore Village (8:45), Melrose, Edge Hill Terrace (8:50), Canewood, Jackson Tenantry (9:00 a.m.), Sharon (9:05).
6. **Bus Fund** — Contributions for the up-keep of the Bus can be made making use of brown envelopes which are available from the vestry.
7. Remember the “Basket of Hope” ministry wherein you have opportunity to make contributions of non-perishable food items, which are distributed to those in need. Contributions can be made every Sunday, during the offertory hymn.
8. Moravian Radio Programme: “Moravian Voice” on LIFE 97.5 FM, Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.

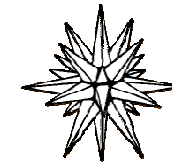


NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

- 9. Provincial Theme 2016: Fulfilling the Mandate — Advance the Kingdom!** The theme emphasizes the mandate of Developing God’s Church – Teaching, Reprimanding and Empowering God’s people. The foundation texts are Acts 1:8, Matthew 28: 16-20; Romans 15:20; 2 Timothy 4:2.

In the Month of December 2016:

- † Sharon Lighting & Carol Singing — Wednesdays of Advent at 7:30 p.m.
- † Women's Fellowship Carolling/Christian Kindness — 20th & 21st
- † Worship on Christmas Day — Sunday, 25th at 5:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
- † Watch-Night Service — Saturday, 31st, 10:30 p.m.



A Brief History of the Moravian Advent Star –

In 1850, the first Moravian Advent Star was made by Boarding School students in Niesky, Germany. Today, the Herrnhut (or Moravian) star custom is very popular as a Christmas decoration in both Moravian and non-Moravian communities, hanging them over the pulpit in church and in halls and on porches at home. This 26-point white star is illuminated with a bright bulb from within.

The Moravian star signifies three things: the “numberless” stars created by God, the star that guided the Wise Men, and the reference to Christ in the New Testament as “the bright and morning star.”