

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AND INVOLVEMENT

- † **Today:** CHRISTMAS EVE
- † **This Week:**
- † **Office Hours:** Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. (D.C. Moore Centre.)
- † **Mon:** Christmas Day – Worship at 5:00 a.m.
- † **Tues.:** Public Holiday – Boxing Day.
- † **Wed.:** Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
- † **Thurs.:** **Talk/Discussion** on the topic, “Moving Forward After Loss” at 7:00 p.m. at the D. C. Moore Centre.
- † **Fri.:** New Generation Ministries at 6:30 p.m.
 - † Church Choir Rehearsal at 8:00 p.m.
- † **Sat.:** Prayer Meeting at 6:30 a.m.
- † **Next Sun.: NEW YEAR’S EVE**
 - † Christian Education Hour: Adults – 8:00 a.m., Youth — 9:30 a.m.
 - † Divine Worship at 9:30 a.m.
 - † Watchnight Service at 10:30 p.m.

AVAILABLE:

- † **Offering Envelopes for 2017** — 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.
- † **Sharon Burgundy Shirts:** Polos — \$30 / T-Shirts — \$15
- † 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, Genetha Bryan, Royle Deane, Carl Forde, Clement Harper, Grace Lashley, Erla Reid, Carol St. John.



The Sick/Recovering: Patricia Maynard, Cynthia Walrond

Thanks to our readers, ushers, contributors to the Basket of Hope, our floral donors/arrangers, our sound technicians and visual aids technicians. Flowers today were donated by Sis. Cora Cumberbatch and Sis. Patricia Brathwaite-Marshall.

Today: Veronica Leacock



Advanced: Roseanne Eversley (25th), Fabian Bartlett, Shamia Corbin & Merville Franklyn (27th), Curtis Drakes, Joan Lewis & Chanel Rock-Waithe (28th), Steven King & Edwin Sandiford (29th)



Congratulations to Bro. Stephen & Sis. Donna Greaves who will celebrate their 13th Wedding Anniversary on December 26, 2017; Bro. Bertram & Sis. Norma Nicholls who will celebrate their 48th Wedding Anniversary on December 27, 2017; Bro. Terry & Sis. Norma Meek who will celebrate their 28th Wedding Anniversary on December 27, 2017.

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

May the grace that we encounter
At this time of Christmas cheer
Not be true just in this season
But remain throughout the year. – *Sper.*

TAKE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS WITH YOU EVERY DAY.

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



PROVINCIAL THEME 2017:
Advance the Kingdom – Use the Keys.



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.



Worship



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 24, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve

9:30 a.m.

Welcome: All glory be to God on high. With grateful hearts we declare our joy in knowing God and the grace of Christ our Saviour. As we gather for worship, may the light of the Star of David continue to brighten our way. Welcome.

Pastor: Rev. Ezra Parris
(Manse: 246-546-0344)

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Movelle Kellman

Organist:
Bro. Carl Ifill

WATCHWORD: The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. (Luke 1:49)

ORDER OF WORSHIP**Organ Prelude**

Introit

Call to Worship (Luke 2: 11, 14)

L: “For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

C: “*Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!*”

Opening Hymn: 45 (CMP) – “*Come, raise your voices...* ”Litany – Fourth Sunday of Advent (*Leaflet/pg 96 Liturgy Book*)

Welcome, Celebrations & Announcements

Greeting Song: 594 – “*Let Us Share True Peace*” (x4)

Worship in Tithes & Offerings: Offertory Sentence: “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*”

(John 3:16)Tithes/Offertory Hymn: 69 (CMP) – “*As with gladness ...* ” (61)

Prayer of Dedication of Offerings

Choral Response – “*Give Thanks*”**Ministry of the Word:**

First Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1 – 11, 16

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26 – 38

Hymn of Preparation: 43 (CMP) – “*O how shall I ...* ” (44)**Sermon – – Rev. Ezra Parris**

Prayer of Commitment & Intercession

Closing Hymn: 143 (CMP) – “*O Come, O come, Immanuel*”(129)**The Benediction & Organ Postlude****In the Month of January 2018:**

- † **Sharon Prayer & Fasting** — Monday, 1st, 6:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
- † **Sharon/Dunscombe Renewal & Prayer Services** — Tuesday 2nd - Friday 5th at 7:30 p.m.
- † **Sunday School Teachers’ Workshop** — Saturday, 6th at Sharon.
- † **Conference Youth Workshop** — Saturday, 13th
- † **Moravian Disciples Concert** — Saturday 20th
- † **Moravian Church Barbados Conference at Prayer** — Saturday, 27th
- † **Annual Church Council** — Sunday, 28th
- † **Harvest Festival at Centenary** — Sunday, 28th
- † **Superintendents Conference** — 28th to 31st in Antigua.

**NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS**

1. Please note that the **telephone number at the manse** has been changed to **246-546-0344**. We had some disappointments with the previous service and decided to change. The Office number remains the same: 246-425-4011.
2. You are invited to a **Talk/Discussion on the topic, “Moving Forward After Loss”** on Thursday, December 28, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the D. C. Moore Centre. The presenter will be Dr. Abel St. Amour, a clinical psychologist from Florida USA. He is the author of the book, “*Beyond the Mission; a guide for pastoral counseling on Traumatic stress in missionary relief workers.*” All are invited.
3. Groups and Organizations are requested to prepare their **reports for 2017** and submit such to the Pastoral team by Saturday, December 31, 2017.
4. The PEC in consultation with the Superintendents across the Province has decided to postpone the **32nd Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province** for one (1) year, until July 5 to 11, 2019. This is to allow those Conferences in the North which were affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria to recover. The full announcement from the PEC can be found on the Notice Board. The Barbados Conference therefore has a bit more time to prepare for the Synod and we ask members and friends of the Moravian Church to continue with their weekly contributions 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.
5. Our **Missionary ingathering for 2017** has to date realized \$17,409.90 towards our target of \$20,000. We say thanks to all who supported. Contributions can still be made until year end.
6. **Flowers are needed for our church!** You will find on the Notice Board 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.
7. **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).
8. **Bus Fund** – Contributions for the up-keep of the Bus can be made making use of brown envelopes which are available from the vestry.
9. Remember the “**Basket of Hope**” ministry wherein you have

**NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS**

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.

10. **Moravian Radio Programme:** “Moravian Voice” on LIFE 97.5 FM, Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.
11. **Provincial Theme 2017:** “*Advance the Kingdom: Use the Keys*” There are many keys but ONE door. By studying the many keys to the kingdom we will be brought to the knowledge that keys are accessible, available and ought to be fully utilized: **The Key of Jesus** (Philippians 2:1-11, Revelation 3:7-13); **The Key of the Word** (John 8:31-36, Psalm 1, Luke 4:4); **The Key of Knowledge** (Proverbs 3:5-12); **The Key of the Holy Spirit** (Luke 4).

45

Come raise your voices children;
A new-born babe is come.
He’s lying in a manger,
Far, far away from home!

He has no crib or blanket,
No cap or knitted shawl;
He has no shoes upon His feet,
He has no clothes at all.

His mom is sweet, fair, Mary,
And Joseph-brave, his dad,
His name is Jesus, Saviour,
And this should make you glad:

Because this Jesus, Saviour,
Is ’specially born today
To bring you love and joy and peace,
That’s what the scriptures say.

The scriptures, they say lots more
About this special boy,
Just turn the pages day by day,
And take your share of joy.

So, raise your voices children,
Sing praise to God above;
He sent this special gift to you,
He did it out of love!