

SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

(Built by Slaves – 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

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

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Saturday, December 31, 2022

New Year's Eve

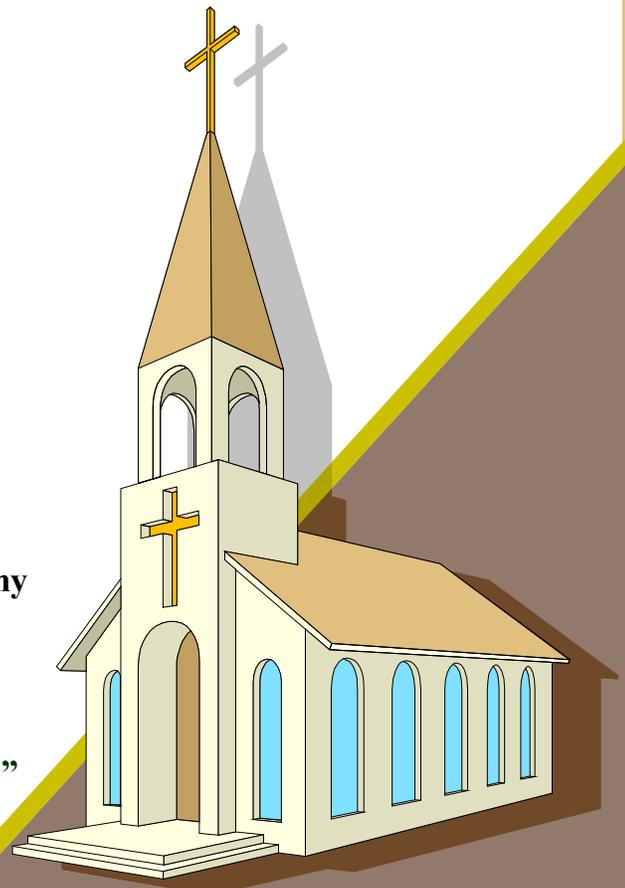
10:30 p.m.

Welcome: Welcome to all as we share in this time of reflection and thanksgiving. May God's assuring presence minister to us in this hour to propel us into the new year with new hope and purpose. Welcome.

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

WATCHWORD: Thus said the Lord, "I will encamp at my house as a guard."
(Zechariah 9:8)

Provincial Theme 2022: "Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T."
Seek & Submit; Hear & Heed; Imagination & Insight;
Focus & Function; Total Transformation



ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship

Reading of the Daily Text – December 31, 2022

Hymn 465 – “*Now thank We All Our God*”

Litany for New Year & Anniversaries (p. 200, Liturgy Book / leaflet / projected)

Welcome & Greetings

Worship in Offerings:

Offertory Sentence: *I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us. (Isaiah 63:7)*

Offertory Hymn: 23 – “*When All Thy Mercies, O My God*”

Prayer of Dedication of Offerings

Choral Response – *Doxology*

MINISTRY OF THE WORD:

First Scripture Reading: Exodus 15:22 – 27

Choir Anthem – “*Lead Me, Lord*”

Second Scripture Reading: Hebrews 12:1 – 15

Hymn of Preparation: 215 – “*We Have Not Known Thee As We Ought*”

Sermon – – *Rev. Ezra Parris*

Hymn of Response: 367 – “*We Have This Hope*”

Prayer of Commitment & Rededication

Hymn of Affirmation: 233 – “*Jesus, Master, Whose I Am*”

Ringling in the New Year

Reading of the Daily Text – January 1, 2023

Hymn 621 – “*Standing at the Portal*”

Benediction

Organ Postlude



Visit our Website at <http://sharonmoravian.info>; Visit our Facebook Page and subscribe to our YouTube Channel. These are means by which we can connect to our brothers and sisters, and get the word out on what's happening in the church. Like us; Follow us; Re-post us.



Reading of the Daily Text – December 31, 2022

Watchword: Thus said the Lord, “I will encamp at my house as a guard.”
(*Zechariah 9:8*)

See the Lord, your keeper,
stand omnipotently near.
Now he holds you by the hand,
and banishes your fear;
shadows with his wings your head,
guards from all impending harms;
round you and beneath are spread
the everlasting arms. (729)

Doctrinal Text: If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? (*Romans 8:31 – 32*)

He will be in you, before and behind and beside you;
all that you need he has pledged by his blood to provide you;
thus he sends you —
prove that his promise is true:
strong in the strength of his Spirit! (639*)

Prayer: Lord, your promises are sure. You guide us and guard us, protect us and save us, but best of all, you love us into eternity. As this year ends, walk with us into a new beginning, dear Lord. *Amen.*

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Moravian Church In America, IBOC. Moravian Daily Texts 2022 North American Edition: A Devotional Guide for Every Day (p. 391). Interprovincial Board of Communication, Moravian Church in America. Kindle Edition.



Opening Hymn: 465 –

Now thank we all our God,
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mother's arms,
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever-joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven;
The one, eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.



NEW YEAR AND ANNIVERSARIES

All standing.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits.

Who forgives your iniquity, who heals your diseases,

Who satisfies you with good as long as you live, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home.**

**Under the shadow of thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.**

Isaac Watts (1674– 1748)

All seated.

Let us pray:

God of mercy, as we mark this moment, we confess our weaknesses, failures and transgressions:

*Our broken vows,
Our slackness and misuse of time and opportunity,
Our selfishness and our love of ease,
Our unkindness and indifference,
Our self-indulgence and our pleasures taken at the expense of others,
Our moments when we have not been true to ourselves,
Our lack of faith in your providence.*

For these sins of commission and omission, have mercy upon us.

Lord Jesus Christ, we remember in your presence our losses and griefs, our hopes and treasures which the departing year has carried away, the disappointments we have known, the friends who are no longer with us and whose steps we shall hear no more. We pray for grace to cherish the spirit which brings good out of evil, and which prevents adversities and sorrows from embittering our hearts. Give us comfort and a deep sense of your goodness in every circumstance of life, and when, despite our good intentions, we fail, be our strength and stay.

Lord God Father, hear us as we pray.

Let us pray as our Saviour has taught us:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
The power and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.*

God will supply every need of ours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Tune: DISMISSAL – # 491

**Thanks we give and adoration
For the Gospel's joyful sound;
May the fruits of your salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
May your presence, may your presence,
With us evermore, be found.**

John Fawcett (1742–1817)

Lord Jesus, you are the same yesterday, today, and forever: your throne is established in righteousness, your compassion fails not, and your love endures from generation to generation. Lift the light of your countenance upon us, for we are exiles as our ancestors were. We thank you for all the ways by which you have led us in the past. Give us courage to set our faces toward the future. *Amen.*

Let us give thanks for all God's mercies.

For your grace given to us in days that are gone,
For the blessings of life, seen and unseen,
For the joy and peace of communion with you,
We give you thanks, gracious God.

For the sacraments of love and service which have made us conscious of your presence in our common life,
For the deeds we have been able to accomplish in the strength which you supply,
For the kindness of associates, the love of friends, and the fellowship of kindred souls,
We give you thanks, loving God.

For the disciplines which have enriched our living,

For your wisdom and gracious providence which we have recognized when you have denied our foolish requests,

For the faith which has guided us in days of trial,

We give you thanks, gracious God.

All standing.

God will supply every need of ours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY – # 409

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and corner-stone,
Chosen of the Lord and Precious,
Binding all the church in one.
Holy Zion's help forever
And her confidence alone.**

John M. Neale Tr. (1818 – 1866)



Welcome & Greetings



Worship in Offerings:

Offertory Sentence: *I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us. (Isaiah 63:7)*

Offertory Hymn: 23 –

**When all Thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love and praise.**

**Unnumbered comforts to my soul
Thy tender care bestowed,
Before my infant heart conceived
From Whom those comforts flowed.**

**When in the slippery paths of youth
With heedless steps I ran,**

**Thine arm unseen conveyed me safe,
And led me up to man.**

**Through hidden dangers, toils, and deaths,
It gently cleared my way;
And through the pleasing snares of vice,
More to be feared than they.**

**When worn with sickness, oft hast Thou
With health renewed my face;
And, when in sins and sorrows sunk,
Revived my soul with grace.**

**Ten thousand thousand precious gifts
My daily thanks employ;
Nor is the least a cheerful heart
That tastes those gifts with joy.**

**Through every period of my life
Thy goodness I'll pursue
And after death, in heaven with thee,
The glorious theme renew.**



Prayer of Dedication of Offerings



Choral Response – *Doxology*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**



MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Scripture Reading: Exodus 15:22 – 27

22. So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.
23. And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.
24. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?
25. And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,
26. And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.
27. And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.



Choir Anthem – *“Lead Me, Lord”*



New Testament Reading: Hebrews 12:1 – 15

1. Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
2. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
3. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.
4. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

5. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:
6. For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.
7. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?
8. But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.
9. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?
10. For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.
11. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.
12. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;
13. And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.
14. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:
15. Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;



Hymn of Preparation: 215 –

**We have not known thee as we ought,
 Nor learned thy wisdom, grace and power;
 The things of earth have filled our thought,
 And trifles of the passing hour.
 Lord, give us light thy truth to see,
 And make us wise in knowing thee.**

We have not feared thee as we ought,
Nor bowed beneath thy awful eye,
Nor guarded deed and word and thought,
Remembering that our God was nigh.
Lord, give us faith to know thee near,
And grant the grace of holy fear.

We have not loved thee as we ought,
Nor cared that we are loved by thee;
Thy presence we have coldly sought,
And feebly longed thy face to see.
Lord, give a pure and loving heart
To feel and own the love thou art.

We have not served thee as we ought;
Alas, the duties left undone,
The work with little fervour wrought,
The battles lost or scarcely won!
Lord, give the zeal, and give the might,
For thee to toil, for thee to fight.

When shall we know thee as we ought,
And fear and love, and serve aright?
When shall we, out of trial brought,
Be perfect in the land of light?
Lord, may we day by day prepare
To see thy face, and serve thee there.



Sermon -- *Rev. Ezra Parris*



Hymn of Response: 367 –

We have this Hope, though in the midst of turmoil
Here, in our Land and those beyond the seas,
That by our faith, through fervent prayer, and steadfast,
Our God of peace will bring us through, at last;
For He will not forsake us, no, he'll never!
This universe is in His full control,
His word is true, His love is everlasting,
He is our strength-unfailing, He's our guide, our all.

**We have this Hope, though troubles seem unending,
And say – fresh fears consuming our minds –
That our dear Lord, our Saviour and Redeemer,
Will give us refuge from the storms of life.
His arms are strong, e'er ready to enfold us,
We need no other for our sure repose,
Safe and secure are we, while in His keeping,
He is our strength-unfailing, He's our guide, our all.**

**We have a Hope, though clouds obscure our sunshine,
And nights are long, and sorrows linger on –
That our dear Lord, with tender love and mercy,
Will give us comfort till the morning comes.
He will not have us comfortless – oh never!
We are all precious in his Holy sight;
So, let us thank Him, praise Him, now, and ever,
He is our strength-unfailing, He's our guide, our all.**



Prayer of Commitment & Rededication



Hymn of Affirmation: 233 –

**Jesus, Master, whose I am,
Purchased thine alone to be,
By thy blood, O spotless Lamb,
Shed so willingly for me,
Let my heart be all thine own,
Let me live to thee alone.**

**Other lords have long held sway;
Now thy name alone to bear,
Thy dear voice alone obey,
Is my daily, hourly prayer.
Whom have I in heaven but thee?
Nothing else my joy can be.**

**Jesus, Master, I am thine;
Keep me faithful, keep me near;
Let thy presence in me shine**

All my homeward way to cheer:
Jesus, at thy feet I fall,
O be thou my all in all!



Ring in the New Year



Reading of the Daily Text – January 1, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas

Watchword for the Week: I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us. Isaiah 63:7

Watchword: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? Psalm 42:2

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you. (p28*)

Doctrinal Text: For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:8

Ask and it shall be given unto you,
seek and you shall find,
knock and the door shall be opened unto you—
Allelu, alleluia! (605**)

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the gift of curiosity, the hunger to know more of you, and the desire to grow deeper roots into the soil of your grace and love. We ask, Lord, and you respond. Amen.

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Moravian Church, IBOC. Moravian Daily Texts 2023 North American Edition: A Devotional Guide for Every Day (p. 13). IBOC Moravian Church in America. Kindle Edition.



Closing Hymn: 621 –

**Standing at the portal
Of the opening year,
Words of comfort meet us,
Hushing every fear,
Spoken through the silence
By our Father's voice,
Tender, strong and faithful,
Making us rejoice.
*Onward, then, and fear not,
Children of the day;
For his word shall never,
Never pass away.***

**I, the Lord, am with thee,
Be thou not afraid;
I will help and strengthen
Be thou not dismayed.
Yea, I will uphold thee
With my own right hand;
Thou art called and chosen
In my sight to stand.
*Onward, then, and fear not,
Children of the day;
For his word shall never,
Never pass away.***

**For the year before us,
O what rich supplies!
For the poor and needy
Living streams shall rise;
For the sad and sinful
Shall his grace abound;**

**For the faint and feeble
Perfect strength be found.
*Onward, then, and fear not,
Children of the day;
For his word shall never,
Never pass away.***

**He will never fail us,
He will not forsake;
His eternal covenant
He will never break.
Resting on the promise,
What have we to fear?
God is all-sufficient
For the coming year.
*Onward, then, and fear not,
Children of the day;
For his word shall never,
Never pass away.***



The Benediction



Organ Postlude



Welcome & Greetings

Welcome to all as we share in this time of reflection and thanksgiving. May God's assuring presence minister to us in this hour to propel us into the new year with new hope and purpose. Welcome.



Provincial Theme 2023:

“SHIFT: Reclaiming Our Identity, Renewing Our Purpose, and Re-Igniting Our Passion”



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT

- ✝ Tomorrow (Sunday): Divine Worship & Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.
- ✝ Next Week:
- ✝ Monday: Public Holiday.
- ✝ Tuesday – Friday: Prayer & Renewal Services — 7:30 p.m. online via Zoom. Meeting ID: 861 4335 8604 / Passcode: 244093.
- ✝ Saturday: Sunday School Teacher’s Workshop — Saturday, 7th, 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. via Zoom.



In The Month of January 2023:

- ✝ Sharon & Dunscombe Prayer & Renewal Services – Tuesday, 3rd to 6th
- ✝ Conference Sunday School Teacher’s Workshop — Saturday, 7th, 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. via Zoom. Topic: “*The Health & Wellness of our Sunday School Teachers.*” Presenter: Sis. Monique Richards from the Moravian Church in the Virgin Islands Conference.
- ✝ Annual Church Council – Sunday, 22nd
- ✝ Harvest at Centenary – Sunday, 22nd
- ✝ Moravian Church Barbados Conference at Prayer – Saturday, 28th
- ✝ Moravian Disciples Concert – Saturday 28th



Upcoming Fundraising Event:

✝ **Police Band Concert – Saturday February 11, 2023**



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. From the provincial board of administration (P.E.C):

- ✝ As we move into 2023, the Provincial Days of Prayer continue. For January 1, 2023, each Congregation is invited to set aside time for prayer. Beyond praying for ourselves – leaders, finances, church – let us pray for our neighbours, our territories, and the wider world. We are moving out into a post-COVID-19 world that may require different things from us. Let us pray that we hear clearly from God so that we can be the Church God has called us to be.
- ✝ The Provincial Family extends condolences to the family of the late Mrs. Andrea Charles-Browne who died on December 25, 2022. Sis. Charles-Browne served on the Provincial Board from 1996 – 2001 and was a

member of the Ebenezer (Estridge) Moravian Church in St. Kitts and the Battle Hill Community Moravian Church in Union, New Jersey, USA. The funeral service for Sis. Andrea Charles-Browne will take place on Friday, January 13, 2023 at Ebenezer Estridge Moravian Church in St. Kitts. Please remember in prayer, Sis. Andrea's husband, Dave and their children Daveda, Andrae, Phoenetia, Ezer, and Angelina.

✝ The Provincial Board announces the appointment of Rev. Nigel Daniel as the Superintendent of the Moravian Church, Tobago Conference, effecting January 1, 2023. Congratulations to Bro. Daniel on his appointment. Let us pray for Bro. Daniel and family as he continues to serve in this office. May the Spirit of God instruct him and teach him as he leads the people of God and witnesses to the enabling power of God.

2. We are thankful for your financial support. We are mindful that we are not in the easiest of times, economically.

✝ We are also grateful for the contribution of the Women's Fellowship which has been giving \$700 to our general fund, every month.

✝ We do need your ongoing support so that we can maintain our ministry, our facilities and paying property insurance. So we ask for your continued faithfulness in giving as you are able.

✝ Those who are not back out to church as yet are reminded that labelled envelopes can be dropped into the slot in the front door of the Manse.

✝ Generally, those who would give electronically can do so by direct deposit to our account at Scotiabank, Warrens – 40274. You can also give via SurePay at a walk-in kiosk or using your online account. At SurePay you can make payments anonymously to the Moravian Church (*Account No: 1765-1768-0000, Name: Sharon Moravian Church*), or if you need your donations recorded for tax purposes and you have a box of envelopes; make payments to the Moravian Church (*Account No: 1765-1768-0-[your 3-digit envelope number], Name: Your Name*). Visit www.sharonmoravian.info/giving-monetary for these details.

3. Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: "Moravian Voice" which has been moved to Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on the same station, Life 97.5 FM.

✝ Our radio broadcast ministry Moravian Voice has been on the air for some 32 years, since Wednesday, July 18, 1990. We rejoice that we have been able to offer this ministry and we are thankful to all our listenership and all who hosted and provided content over the years. We are thankful to our congregations which faithfully sponsored the programme.

- ✝ Over the past year, we conducted a review and have made changes in an effort to reach a wider audience.
- ✝ We invite you to tune in for inspiration and information to enable you in your Christian walk and service.
- ✝ Moravian Voice will also be available on Instagram (www.instagram.com/moravianvoice/) and the YouTube Channel of the Moravian Church Barbados Conference (<https://youtube.com/c/TheMoravianChurch-BarbadosConference>).
- ✝ You can email your comments and requests to: moravianvoice@gmail.com



PRAYER NEEDS:



1. Our Shut-ins: *Sis. Aileen Bowen, Bro. Royle Deane, Sis. Thora Moore*
2. The Sick/Recovering:
 - ✝ Of our congregation: *Sis. Ruth Bishop, Sis. Andilla Haynes, Sis. Marva Craigwell, Bro. Athelston Lawrence, Sis. Cynthia Eversley*
3. World Peace



AVAILABLE (Through the Church Office):

- ✝ Sharon Burgundy Shirts: Polos – \$30 / T-Shirts – \$15
- ✝ Copies of Sunday sermons on CD – \$2.00.
- ✝ Books:
 - 📖 Rev. Neilson Waithe: Understanding the Caribbean Worker– \$25; Provocation– \$20.
 - 📖 Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts: Created in Their Image: Evangelical Protestantism in Antigua and Barbados 1834-1914 – \$50.
 - 📖 Rev. Dr. Joseph Nicholas: Baptism Is a Gift of God: As Such It Is More Than Water– \$35.
- ✝ Greeting Cards (\$2.00) and Prints (\$20.00) of a painting of Sharon Church.

