MT PARAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

10308 Liberty Road
Randallstown, MD 21133

Pastor: Edward A. Terry
Clerk of Session: Elder Mitzi Ecker
Our Mission Statement

We the people of Mt. Paran Presbyterian Church seek to be centered in and proclaim the Word of God as revealed to us through His Son Jesus Christ. We faithfully strive to follow the Scripture and to be true to the historic principles of our reformed traditions.

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Pastor’s Annual Report:  Pastor Ed Terry

The Lord continued to bless Mt Paran in 2019.  It is truly a blessing to have Pastors Anita Johnson and Donna Lea as Associate Pastors.  Pastor Anita and Pastor Donna both bring talent, energy, and ideas for ministry at Mt Paran!  Pastor Anita has also done a tremendous job of improving all aspects of our church’s electronic communication which include MailChimp, Mt Paran’s Monthly Newsletter, Web Page, Facebook, & Twitter reach out to all members in our church family and to people in our community.  Pastor Donna also heads up our prayer ministry.  In addition Pastor Anita and Pastor Donna took over responsibility for our mid-week Worship Services.

In addition to Pastor Anita and Pastor Donna, the Lord continued to really bless Mt Paran in 2019.  I have listed just a few reasons for all of us to really thank and praise The Lord for blessing us, protecting us, providing for us, and using us in 2019.

Leadership

• We are blessed to have competent Elders & Deacons that are dedicated to serving The Lord and the Mt Paran family.  Our Elders are spiritual leaders and competent preachers and teachers. Our Deacons are compassionate and serve you and The Lord with joy.
• We Ordained two new Elders in 2019.
• We Ordained one new Deacon in 2019.
• We Installed one Deacon who had served previously

Member Involvement

• Our congregation continued to grow in 2019 and we are a diverse congregation in all aspects (age, race, nationality, education, and financial) and we have maintained our loving, caring, family atmosphere despite of our growth
• We received 27 new members in 2019.
  o  9 of the 27 were by Profession of Faith (2 of those 9 was an adults)
  o  15 of the 27 were by Reaffirmation of Faith
  o  3 of the 27 was by Letter of Transfer
• We baptized 6 individuals in 2019.  (1 of the 9 was an Adult and 1 of the 9 was a Teenager)
• The entire Congregation was involved in hosting The National CWF / CMF / CYF Rally in September
• Our Youth Ministry is active and includes Children’s Church, SMORES, Youth Groups, Youth Choir, Sunday School, & Vacation Bible School.
  o We started a Senior High Bible Study on Sunday Morning.
  o 8 Senior High Students attended The Triennium at Purdue University
  o 13 Middle School Students attended Summer Camp at Massanetta Springs
• We started an Adult Choir
• Attendance at our Sunday Morning Adult Bible Discussion increased
• Membership increased in our Christian Women Fellowship & in our Christian Men Fellowship

Mission Partnerships

• We continued our Missionary partnership with Ron Metzger (Western Caribbean) and with Kurt & Johanna Metzger (Papua New Guinea) and with The Night of Peace Shelter
• We were blessed to have Missionaries Ron & Jane visit with us in October

Community Outreach

• We provided Thanksgiving Baskets to 10 needy families in our community
• We assisted 2 families of Deployed National Guard Soldiers through The Partners In Care Partnership
• We conducted quarterly worship services at three Nursing Homes in our community. (Future Care and Blue Point Nursing Home, Forest Haven)
• Our Youth Choir & Adult Choir participated in a fund raising concert for The Night of Peace Shelter in our community

Benevolences

• Benevolent giving increased by 6.2% over 2018
• 31.5% of our offerings went to helping other people
• The Emergency Fund was used to help 9 individuals / families
• The Deacon’s Fund was used to help 10 individuals / families
Capital Improvements in 2019:

- Complete renovation of the Men’s & Women’s Bathrooms in The Fellowship Hall
- All the lighting in the Fellowship Hall & the Historic Church Building was converted to energy savings lighting
- Repaired the water leak around the chimney in the Historic Church Building
- Installed shelving in the kitchen
- Repaired the side door to The Fellowship Hall

Every one of you should be very proud to be a part of the Mt Paran family and to be included in the wonderful things God is doing at Mt Paran. While we have lots of reasons to celebrate and to be proud however we need to honestly look at some of the major challenges we as a congregation face in 2020:

- We need to continue to our spiritual journey. To meet this challenge of spiritual growth attendance at Sunday Worship, Sunday Bible Discussion Groups (Adult & Youth), Friday Night Bible Studies, & Mid-Week Worship must become a top priority for all members. To meet this challenge more of us need to view our commitment to The Lord as being much more than attending worship on Sunday morning.

- We need to continue our journey to become financially sufficient to pay a full time pastor, organist and a church secretary in the next few years. To meet this challenge our Sunday Morning offerings need to increase substantially and we need to continue to grow numerically.

- We need to continue to grow numerically. While we received 27 new members in 2019 we moved 16 members to the inactive roll. To meet this challenge we all need to invite our friends, our neighbors, and our co-workers to come to worship with us.

- We need to continue our mission outreach at home and abroad. To meet this challenge we must find additional ways to reach out and minister to our community. We need to become more involved in evangelism and hands-on mission projects. To achieve this we need volunteers to step up and take leadership roles in organizing proposed projects like Soup Kitchens, Shelters,
Nursing Home Ministry, Heifer Project, etc. We need volunteers to lead and to go on Mission Trips.

- We need to continue to pray for The Lord to show us the best and most efficient use of the old church building.

We will never meet these challenges with our resources, our intelligence, and / or our energy. The only way we will continue to have an effective ministry at Mt Paran is to depend upon the unlimited power and resources of our Almighty Heavenly Father, the guidance of The Holy Spirit, and a close personal daily relationship with our Savior Jesus The Christ. Will join me in committing yourself to pray for Mt Paran each day in 2020? Will join me in committing yourself to being faithful, available, and teachable throughout 2020? Again I want to thank each of you for a great year and I give God all the credit and all the glory for richly blessing Mt Paran by bringing each one of you to Mt Paran! May we never forget that God places specific people, with specific talents, at specific places, at specific times, to do specific jobs for Him.

With that in mind may we all be quick to respond to God’s call by saying: “Here am I Lord use me in whatever way you choose.”

In Christ’s Service,

Pastor Edward A. Terry
Clerk's Annual Report: Clerk of Session, Elder Mitzi Ecker

STATISTICS:

- 27 New Members
- 16 Put on Inactive
- 3 Deaths
- 3 Affiliate Members
- 4 Children Baptized
- 2 Adults Baptized

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF DEC. 31, 2019= 268**

ORDINATIONS:

- Elder Beatrice Akum Muma, Elder Wallace Johnson, Deacon Phillip Youssa

INSTALLATION:

- Elder Bernard Mbah, Deacon Dwayne Cook

KEY STRENGTH:

Prayer is still the key strength of Mt. Paran. Scripture says to pray without ceasing and we do that. We have an on-going prayer list, emergency prayer notifications and Sunday worship prayer list. Our source of strength is evident in our smallest children's prayers up to our Senior Pastor Ed 's prayers. We will be celebrating our 305th anniversary in 2020. God has blessed us all of these years and we will continue to preach the Gospel that says the only way to Salvation is through Jesus Christ. AMEN.

In Christ’s Service,

Elder Mitzi Ecker, Clerk of Session
TRUSTS & INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS REPORT FOR 2019

MT. PARAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH   TRUSTS & INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS
2019 ANNUAL REPORT

I. SANDUSKY TRUST
   ◦ Interest Income Designation to go to Cemetery Account
   ◦ Lincoln Fund (Mutual Fund XXXX31)
   ◦ Balance 01-01-19 $42,957.20
   ◦ Balance 12-31-19 $50,627.38

II. FITE TRUST
    Interest Income Designation to go into Operating Budget Account
    U.S. Trust (Money Market XXXX79)
    Balance 12-01-18 $285,742.88
    Balance 11-30-19 $312,296.63

III. BBT
    Interest Income Reinvested
    Account XXXX3779-Manse Escrow
    Balance 0-01-19 $ 1805.75
    Balance 12-31-19 $ 1834.76
IV. GROWTH ACCOUNT

▪ Interest Income Reinvested
  Wells Fargo Advisors (Money Market XXXXX 97)

  Balance 01-01-19  $ 92,877.34
  Balance 12-31-19  $ 121,727.15

V. CEMETERY ACCOUNT

▪ Interest Income Reinvested (Cemetery Expenses Paid Out Of Account-35%)
  ◦ Wells Fargo Advisors (Money Market XXXXX25)
  ◦ Balance 01-01-19  $16,818.80
  ◦ Balance 12-31-19  $15,703.80

VI. INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

▪ Interest Income Reinvested
  ▪ Wells Fargo Advisors (Money Market XXXXX37)
  ▪ Balance 01-01-19  $ 204,897.45
  ▪ Balance 12-31-19  $ 261,068.52

VII. BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT

Interest Income reinvested
  Wells Fargo Advisors (Money Market XXXXX32)

  Balance 01-01-19  $ 155,458.04
  Balance 12-31-19  $195,277.21
VIII. **LAURA E. SCOTT MEMORIAL FUND**  
*Interest Income Reinvested*

Wells Fargo Advisors (Money Market XXXX 0571)

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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IX. **MISSION TRIPS**  
*Interest Income Reinvested*

Wells Fargo Advisors (Money Market XXX1242)

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X. **CHECKING ACCOUNT**  
Bank of America (Account XXXXX2970)

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<td>12-31-19</td>
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XI. **MT. PARAN EMERGENCY FUND**  
PNC Bank (Account XXXXX13)

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<td>$10,439.01</td>
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Worship Ministry: Elder Danielle Owusu, and Minister of Music & Liturgical Arts: Lady Terry

PURPOSE: Proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the Sacraments

CHAIRMAN: Daniele Owusu

Duties:

• Provide for the corporate worship in accordance with the Book of Order
• Plan the worship calendar
• Oversee the children’s participation in Worship and provide adults to teach and supervise.
• Provide Bibles, hymnals, paraments, bulletins, flowers, etc. for the worship services
• Procure and oversee the Lay Readers and Ushers.
• Oversee the choirs and liturgical dancers.
• Plan at least one special worship activity each quarter.
• Plan a laity service once each quarter.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Completed and facilitated the Ladies Retreat April 27, 2019
• Adult choir has been re-established
• Easter Son-Rise Service
• Thanks Giving Service
• Christmas Day service
• New Year’s Eve service
Mission Ministry: Elder Alison Cook

During 2019, the Mission Ministry was very active in our benevolent giving. We continued our long-time support of the Wycliffe Bible Ministry, and the Night of Peace Shelter. In addition, we supported our brothers and sisters and Christ through the US and other countries during times of intense need. In 2019, the Missions Ministry also supported our high school youth as they attended the 2019 Triennium.

It is our prayer that in 2020 and beyond, the Mission Ministry will expand Mt. Paran’s outreach into our neighboring communities, using our time and talents to reach and assist those in need of Christ’s blessings.

A list of our Benevolent Giving follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Info</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-24</td>
<td>Presby.- Per Capita- 2019</td>
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<td>1-24</td>
<td>Presbytery- Shared Ministries- 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-25</td>
<td>Grace Bible-Upward Basket.-Memorial</td>
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<td>2-12</td>
<td>Our Daily Bread</td>
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<td>2-26</td>
<td>Mt. Paran Emergency Fund</td>
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<td>3-14</td>
<td>Presbytery- Disaster- Alabama</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-21</td>
<td>Presbytery- Disaster- Nebraska Floods</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-21</td>
<td>Deacons' Fund</td>
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<td>5-20</td>
<td>Trinity Ads</td>
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<td>Pres- Triennium Balance</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>9-6</td>
<td>Pres- DR- Bahamas</td>
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<td>9-16</td>
<td>Pres- G.A.</td>
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<td>9-16</td>
<td>New Hope Village</td>
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<td>9-23</td>
<td>Jaff Bamenjo Ministry</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-6</td>
<td>Pres- DR- California Fires</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-3</td>
<td>Night of Peace Shelter</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-17</td>
<td>Pine Ridge Pres. Church Repairs</td>
<td>500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-18</td>
<td>Presbytery-Disaster-Tornados-Miss,La.</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
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**Total:** $36,117.23
Evangelism Ministry: Elder Bernard Mbah

As compared to 2018, 2019 recorded much progress in the ministry’s activities. This progress was achieved thanks to the collaborative actions of other sister ministries, CWF/CMF, some members of the congregation and our brothers of the Gideon’s who have become a partner of this ministry.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE MINISTRY: During the year, the membership of this ministry has fluctuated between 25 and 16 with Pastor Anita as our spiritual adviser.

SHEPHERD LIST: At the beginning of 2019, I was handed a list of 18 members to shepherd. On this list, I could only identify 12 members who were physically available. Some were never identified while other had relocated from this city.

IMPLEMENTATION OF 2019 GOALS

PLAN AND COORDINATE A NURSING HOME MINISTRY:

OUTDOOR
- Two outreach evangelical visits were organized in the course of the year out of the three initially planned owing to the CWF/CMF annual rally which cause us to plan two similar outreach visits on their behalf. We visited sections 1 and 2 of the FOREST HAVEN NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER 701 EDMONDSON AVENUE CATONSVILLE, MD 21228 on 6/9/2019 and sections 3 and 4 on 12/15/2019.
- Two visits were organized by the ministry on the request of CWF as a pre-rally evangelical outreach of Saturday 9/21/2019.
- We participated twice in the Randallstown FLEA market on 4/13/2019 and 6/1/2019.
- With authorization from the Nurture Ministry, we visited and prayer with 4 bedridden members of our church. The latest was a visit to our brother Fred Reeder who is in a group home.

INDOOR
The ministry actively participated in some evangelical activities within the church.
- The ministry contributed in the success of the CWF/CMF National Annual Rally hosted by this congregation on 9/22/2019 with a pre-rally retreat on 9/21/2019.
- In collaboration with the fellowship ministry, we successfully organized “A BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY”.

SEND A WELCOME LETTER OR SMS TO RETURNING VISITORS:
We successfully contacted 101 visitors through SMS or EMAILs to appreciate their coming to worship in our church. The number of those who worshipped with us in MPPC in 2019 is far beyond those we contacted because most left without acknowledging their presence in the church’s attendance register.
OVERSEE CWF/CMF:
The ministry has always stood by these two movements. However, we have been more involved with the CWF than the CMF because the CWF was more present on the field that needed our assistance.

OVERSEE AND MAINTAIN THE CHURCH WEBSITE:
This church website is very functional. However, some update is necessary to make it very current. The latest Sermon posted on it was in August 2019. Pastor Anita and her IT team are currently doing all that is necessary to render it up to date.

CONCLUSION:
- Some goals are so interwoven with those of other ministries that assessing their performance in isolation becomes difficult. For example; oversee preparation of church brochure for members to give to friends and advertise special events in some local newspapers.
- If we go by the Attendance register, we have 101 visitors as compared to 109 in 2018 but by physical observation we had many more visitors in 2019 than 2018 considering the activities.
- The Gideon’s remain a faithful companion of this ministry.
- The chairman of this ministry had the opportunity to join other members of this church to participate in one presbytery training workshop organized by WSSMG on 9/27/2019.
- All the above put together, gives an average performance of 90% as per goal set as compared to 2018 which was 86.62.

As regards our vision for the First quarter of 2020, see the document below:

1) PLAN AND PROVIDE FOR WAYS TO MAKE OUR CHURCH VISIBLE TO THE COMMUNITY
   - In collaboration with the fellowship ministry, organized one “A BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY”.
   - Participate in at least one Flea Market

2) SEND A WELCOME LETTER TO RETURNING VISITORS.
   - Make sure all our Sunday visitors receive complimentary emails or SMS

3) OVERSEE CWF AND CMF.
   - Follow up all CMF/CWF activities mostly outdoors

4) PLAN AND COORDINATE A NURSING HOME MINISTRY
   - Organized one Nursing home and rehabilitation center visit.
   - In collaboration with the nurture ministry, visit some of our sick members and those who have been out of church for a long time.
5) **ADVERTISE SPECIAL EVENTS IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.**  
Under the supervisor of pastor Anita assure that all special church events are advertise in local newspapers

6) **OVERSEE AND MAINTAIN THE CHURCH WEB-SITE.**  
- Follow up on a weekly basis to make sure all church events are updated on the church web-site.  
- Encourage members of the church to frequently visit the web-site.

7) **OVERSEE PREPARATION OF A CHURCH BROCHURE FOR MEMBERS TO GIVE TO FRIEND/COWORKERS.**  
- This ministry will assist in preparing and distributing church brochure to friends and co-workers

8) **INTERACTION WITH THESE MEMBERS ON MY SHEPHERD LIST.**  
- On a weekly basis post some devotional meditation topics and prayers on the ministry’s WhatsApp Group.  
- Create a WhatsApp group for my shepherd list where members could share church information.

**SUBMITTED:**  
BY ELDER BERNARD MBAH  
CHAIRMAN EVANGALISM MINISTRY
Nurture Ministry: Elder Wallace Johnson

**Purpose:** Sharing the joy of the Word through assimilating new and existing members into the life and ministry of the church.

**Duties:**

- Meet, inform, and encourage new members to be actively involved in the life and ministries of the church
- Plan & promote Programs and Activities for Young Adults
- Oversee Prayer Chain
- Plan and provide innovative ways to get more members actively involved in the life and ministries of the church
- Foster a family atmosphere in the church

**Accomplishments:**

The Nurture Ministry in 2019 accomplished the following items:

- Establish Mission Plan and promote programs for church at large
- Involved members not already involved in other ministries
- Held one health fair and finding health insurance workshop
- Held one financing college workshop for Middle and High School youth
- Began to prepare for 2020 to organize some of the following: 1st time hope buyer workshop, financing college workshop, church-church outreach with a church “Phonathon” to reach out to those members we see infrequently, healthy stewardship workshop, and health fair and insurance workshop.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elder Wallace Johnson
Christian Education Ministry: Elder Charles Tangwan

**Purpose:** Sharing the Word through spiritual growth opportunities

**Chairman:** Charles Tangwan

**Duties:**

- Plan and provide for Sunday School classes, curriculum & teachers
- Plan and provide for the Communicants' Class
- Plan and provide for Vacation Bible School
- Oversee Electronic Outreach
- Plan and provide for a special CE study/activity each quarter

**Accomplishments:**

- We meet during the end of worship service on the second Sunday of the month. Our members are various ages so we have different ideas and inputs.
- We have French/English class each Sunday morning at 8:30 am with Elder John Abeh as teacher. All are invited.
- We have Sunday School classes for all ages. The adults rotate teachers on a weekly basis, the High School class meets each week with Pastor Anita as teacher and various adults as helpers, the Children's' class meets weekly with Deacon Dwayne Cook and Elder Mitzi Ecker as teachers. The Session has approved two men to begin learning how to teach so we can establish a Middle School class in the near future.
- We had Vacation Bible School Monday June 24 – Friday June 28th, 2019 from 6-8 pm. We had good attendance and many volunteers. Some could only help a few days but others filled in. The Lord blessed us. The children took up a special collection and selected items to furnish for Cameroon Africa. The Presbyterian Mission Project asked if our story and pictures of the children could be used in their publications. We had all the parents sign approval forms to allow their children's pictures to be published.
- We had two Bible Drill Competitions between the children and the adults. One was held in March and one in December. Everyone had a good time. The parents and teachers are doing a great job in teaching the children. They often know more answers than the adults.
- We have a SMORES class Friday nights with 3 classes. We study Bible lessons and share God's Word. Each class has a teacher and at least one adult helper.
- This year we had 8 children and one adult that were members of the Communicants Class. Pastor Ed meet with them and prepared them to join the membership of Mt. Paran.
- The Sunday School classes and students went on a field trip to Lancaster, PA to see the Noah's Ark displays. It was educational and enjoyable. We had been studying Exodus so we could relate to the displays and information.
Fellowship Ministry: Elder Cathy Mobit

**Purpose of Fellowship Ministry:** The purpose is to bring people closer to Christ and also to know them by name as well as their needs. The Fellowship Ministry is not limited to the ministry members, but involves the entire church to bring people to church as well as make the Word of the Lord known to the people in and out of Mt Paran Church.

**Activities and success of Fellowship Ministry 2019**

- **Meal preparation:** Every Sunday the ministry members bring food and serve the Christians after church benediction. This is important because Christians have the chance to meet each other face to face and know them personally by name. This is also fulfilling the Word of the Lord that paraphrased says “if you love me then feed my people”. This has been successful during 2019 and will continue. Many thanks to everyone that help to this success!

- **Special Occasions in Mt Paran:** baptisms, funerals, wedding, ordination, new members etc. Fellowship Ministry participates actively in the preparation, set-up and serving during reception. This was successful this year, thanks to every family of Mt. Paran together we stand and we are one.

- **National CWF / CMF / CYF Rally in September:** The biggest Occasion at Mt Paran this year was MPPC hosting the CMF & CWF 2019 Rally. The Fellowship Ministry, comprised of many CWF members, took the lead in organizing the food from other churches and donations from our members for the weekend. Many thanks, and a big, big, God bless you to all who gave of their time, talents, treasures, and shared in hosting this day! We pray that God will bless you as abundantly as you blesses us!!!

- **Chaffing Dishes:** We also supported the donations of the new chaffing dishes. Many thanks to all who helped and made this key event a success. Many thanks to our new member Mr. Mariano Simms who built shelves in the kitchen to hold the new chaffing dishes.

- **Visiting the sick:** This ministry with other Ministries visit the sick in Nursing Homes, individual homes and hospitals preaching and singing praises to God for healing power. Thank God for strength to carry it on successfully this year.

- **Making our church known:** We hosted Bring-A-Friend Sundays which were a success and enjoyed by all. We thank God for everyone’s participation!

- **Monthly newsletter:** The Fellowship Ministry provides and presents the daily activities of the church for the members to be aware of the upcoming and changes that are taking place in church. This didn’t fully publish during 2019, but we are thankful that it is back up and running.

- **Meetings:** In 2019 met regularly. This has been a successes and will continue.
• **Supplies for the fellowship:** During this year it has been very steady and successful with supplies. The fellowship chairperson and Deacon Olivia handle the check and balances of what is needed before it runs out. Thanks for your help Deacon.

• **Fellowship Hall and Kitchen:** This ministry has always been doing the cleaning up after fellowship, most of the time by the CWF member throughout the year successfully. Thanks so much ladies keep the good job going. Fellowship Ministry we will run the race and we will not get tired.

• **Future planning** is to visit the sick and shut-ins in their homes and to involve many more members in the donations of weekly food items for fellowship meal after worship.

To crown it all Fellowship Ministry welcomes everyone to join so that we can know our members in church, serve them, pray, visit, clean after fellowship, feed, and make Mount Paran a family fellowship church where you cannot afford to miss the fellowship and the Word of God.
Youth Ministry: Elder Beatrice Muma

The purpose of the Youth ministry is to pass the Word of the Lord to our young Christians who will in turn lead the church in the future and continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. The youth gather every Friday for youth choir practice, and SMORES Bible education during the school calendar year. We also arrange other youth events when possible.

Duties:

- Coordinate all youth activities
- Plan and provide curriculum for study activities and serve as advisor
- Support youth activities in and outside of the church
- Encourage parental involvement and assistance
- Coordinate teachers for various youth groups
- Mentor to the youth

Accomplishments:

- The year 2019 was a very exciting year for the youth ministry because we accomplished dreams for the first time. We had over 40 youths in our church last year, and for the first time, we had a separate high school youth group and Sunday School class.

- We began the year working towards achieving the goal of youth summer camp. The goal of sending our high school youth to Triennium and the middle school youth to Massanetta began with fund raising activities. These activities included soliciting funds from our generous church members, lemonade stand after church on Sundays, yard sale, and patron giving. We also applied for scholarships and we were awarded $100 per youth going to Massanetta, and $300 per youth going to Triennium. We also received $500 from the Presbytery of Baltimore.

- We accomplished sending 6 high school youth and rising 9th graders, plus Sally Mbah and Pastor Anita to accompany them to Triennium at Purdue University in Indiana in 2019. This was a life changing event for the youth.

- We also over the summer sent 12 middle school youth to Massanetta including Cassandra Azure as a chaperone. This was an accomplishment for the youth group as this has always been Pastor Ed and Mrs. Lady’s dream. The youth reported they had such a wonderful time and requested to go back.

- After summer camp, the youth were also able to have a swim event at Pastor Ed & Mrs Lady’s residence.
• High School Youth Bible Study class was also started and Pastor Anita is coordinating the lessons along with Elder Beatrice Muma on Sunday mornings.

• We also had a separate middle school SMORES class taught by Ms. Lady and Elder Beatrice with at least 10 to 12 youth in attendance each class.

• The youth visited Westminster Presbyterian Church where we attended church service, had lunch and spent time with Westminster’s youth.

• Our High School Youth were also invited to Bel Air Presbyterian Church where they participated in the worship which served as a come together for all Triennium attendees. Our students testified to their experiences.

• Our church was also honored by our high school youth leading the Sunday worship service and the message by the youth leader, Elder Beatrice.

• The youth also had an opportunity to prepare Holy Communion, and during that activity, they learned about the importance of bread to life.

• Last year also brought a rapid growth in our children’s church as more members with young children of preschool and elementary school age joined the church.

I am pretty sure, I have not done justice to what the youth and the church was able to accomplish last year, but the youth will like to use this opportunity to thank the church for all the spiritual and financial support, and all the opportunities provide to them by our Pastors, elders and the entire church. Without everyone, especially our parents, we will not have been able to accomplish these things.

Thank you,

Elder Beatrice Muma
Children’s Church: Elder Danielle Owusu

Under Session guidance and partnership between Youth, Christian Education, and Worship Ministries

Children’s Church continues to grow and expand. There remains an average of 30 or more children in regular attendance. Children continue to participate in the worship service until dismissed for Children’s Church prior to Prayer for Illumination. Children rejoin the worship service during the Joys of the People.

Accomplishments:

This year students age 4-grade 3 went to children’s church while the upper elementary and middle school students remained for the church service.

In 2018 we received Session approval for 2019 implementation of “Answers in Genesis”, an Apologetics Study for children. This study will provide a necessary foundation for their Christian Formation.
Deacons’ Annual Report 2019
Secretary General - Stephen Abunaw & Chairman Board of Deacons – Dwayne Cook

Deacon Defined

❖ The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

Accomplishments 2019:

❖ Deacon’s Fund: After compassionate and prayerful consideration, the Deacons were blessed to use the Fund to help 10 individuals / families
❖ Solicited volunteers to clean our church and its surroundings, greeters, and ushers. Continued to maintain the kitchen supplies
❖ Thanksgiving Baskets provided to community: We donated the total sum of $600 in Aldi Supermarket gift cards to Randallstown Elementary School and Deer Park Middle School to assist members of the community to purchase food
❖ Welcomed new Deacons
❖ Serve the people in the Mt. Paran family in many ways including, but not limited to, reaching out to church members, prayers, as well as connecting with new church members and guests each week
❖ Pick and drop some members who could not secure a ride to/from church events
❖ Inter- Deacons communication has taken a step forward for teamwork as new communications have been developed
❖ Assisting the Sunday school students morally & spiritually to enhance God’s work

Capital Improvements in 2019:

❖ Complete renovation of the Men’s & Women’s Bathrooms in Fellowship Hall
❖ All the lighting in the Fellowship Hall & the Historic Church Building was converted to energy savings lighting
❖ Repaired the water leak around the chimney in the Historic Church Building
❖ Repaired the side door to The Fellowship Hall
❖ Replaced the shed at the Fellowship Hall
Mt Paran Cemetery: Contact Deacon Dwayne Cook

The cemetery is part of Mt Paran’s ministry to its members and to the community. This means that our church has a moral and a financial obligation to provide perpetual care, easy access, as well as accurate records. It also means anyone can be buried in our cemetery as long as there are available spaces. Three individuals were buried in our cemetery in 2019.

In 2019 the cost of caring for our cemetery was $4,351.75. This included lawn care, plowing snow and salting the driveway, electricity for security lights. We were blessed that Helen Sandusky left a substantial financial trust to insure that the church had the necessary funds to properly care for the cemetery. The terms of the trust allow us to use the interest to maintain the cemetery. In addition all the funds from the sale of cemetery plots go into the cemetery fund. In 2019 we received $2,100.00 from the Sandusky Trust. No cemetery plots were sold in 2019. As you can see the expense of maintaining the cemetery was $2,251.75 greater than the income received from the trust, the sale of plots, and donations. Therefore, donations to the cemetery fund are always welcome.

At this time there are around 150 plots available for sale. Currently lots in Mt Paran’s Cemetery sell for $550. This fee includes the land and perpetual care. There is no opening or closing fee paid to the church. (However, there is an additional cost paid by the family directly to the gravedigger for his services) The $550 cost Mt Paran charges for the plot is a little lower that the other church cemeteries and it is substantially lower than the commercial cemeteries in the area. This is intentional because we view the cemetery as a ministry to our members and to the community. Please see one of your Deacons if you are interested in purchasing a lot or if you are interested in obtaining more information about the cemetery.
Christian Women’s Fellowship (CWF):  President Lady Terry

**Purpose:** To build an inclusive, caring community, of Christian women, that strengthens other Christians in God’s vineyard with prayer, Bible study and service.

The group meets weekly when possible following the fellowship hour after Sunday morning worship. Regular attendance at worship is a part of our commitment to the CWF.

As part of our spiritual growth each member teaches our Bible study at least once during the calendar year. We use material for Bible study suggested by the National Committee of CWFP/PCUSA.

This year we studied the book of John and took our annual quiz but did so without any official study because the material from National Headquarters was not available.

Our dues are $30 per year with a portion sent to the National Committee with the remaining being ours to use as necessary.

**Actions of Service 2019:**

We assist Elder Cathy Mobit each Sunday with the fellowship time following worship and we increase our fellowship with one another at the same time.

We participate in the World Day of Prayer with other Zonal CWF Groups as we present a program showcasing the Host country and promote understanding of the physical and spiritual needs of other nationalities.

We choose to present the music for our regular MPPC services every third Sunday, coordinating with the Pastor to present the sermon topic in musical form. This allows us to be members of the Worship Ministry.

We participate in the Evangelism ministry by visiting nursing homes and collecting needed items for the clients.

We support our members as they grieve or experience trouble with prayer, food and funds.

We have attended retreats to promote our spiritual life and we helped to support the Nurture Ministry by attendance in 2019 to a first time Women’s retreat.

In 2019 we hosted the CWF/CMF Annual Rally at MPPC. This involved including the entire congregation in providing the finances and personnel support needed for an event that large. With the support of the Mt. Paran Session, Congregation and Community we raised over $8000 to manage our costs. We estimated that we had over 400 people at the Sunday Rally service and as many as 200 at the retreat held on Saturday. We were blessed to have Pastor Ed Terry and Pastor Anita Johnson leading us spiritually and working along- side of us
in every step of the way. The CWF and CMF became a much closer working group because of our combined efforts to promote the Rally.

This year we elected new officers to serve beginning in January 2020.

The new executive Council Members are:

- President----Cathy Mobit
- Vice President----Helen Ayuk
- Secretary----Christy Aluna
- Vice Secretary---Ziporah Enone
- Financial Secretary---Pauline Tanwani
- Treasurer--- Mitzi Ecker

We are growing in members and strength in purpose. We are preparing to serve with joyful hearts in the vineyard for 2020.
Christian Men’s Fellowship (CMF)

**Purpose of the Christian Men Fellowship:** To teach, inspire, motivate, empower members to foster the work of evangelization.

**Accomplishments 2019**

The group meets every Sunday immediately after church services for bible study and other activities.

Each member led at least one bible study during the year.

- Supported church activities enormously: That is, help in cleaning in and out of the church surroundings. Friday December 27, 2019 we assisted Pastor Ed. in cleaning his surroundings.
- Assisted members in times of happiness and sadness. This happens when some members lost their love ones or in times of joy and happiness.
- Working in collaboration with C.W.F. Mt. Paran group and other members in some occasions.
- We had series of meetings with the National Executives CMF- SSPC and other C.M.F .members in and out of Maryland. This meeting under the umbrella of PC- USA was a stepping stone to bigger and greater achievements in God’s Vine Yard. In one of this meetings, Elder Henry Tanwani was elected National Treasurer and Deacon Stephen Abunaw was elected National Secretary General.
- Friday, September 20, until Sunday September 22, 2019 we hosted the nationwide Rally organized by Mt Paran Presbyterian Church Maryland. C.M.F. Mt. Paran PC – U.S.A. did a wonderful job. To crown this wonderful deeds, we were selected as best singers,
- We revamp our by-laws to suit our appellation – CMF Mt. Paran PC-USA.
- Our Financial Secretary, Elder Henry Tanwani gave the group a detail and comprehensive report on our Financial Statements. Our balance brought forward was good. It was announced to members that our annual registration contributions as from 2020 will step up to $35.00.
- Sunday, December 1, 2019 CMF Mt. Paran took part in the 2019 CMF PC- USA Rally Quiz. Guess what? We had a wonderful performance.
- Eight of our Brothers will be dedicated as CMF members come 2020. At the same time one of our Brothers, Franklin Epeme was called up to serve as an elder in our church. This helps to buttress the spiritual growth of our group and our church. We were highly elated,
  - In all, our members grow from strength to strength spiritually.
  - We remain five executive members plus Pastor Ed our Spiritual Leader.
  - Pastor Ed. Spiritual Leader
  - Charles Tangwan - President
  - Stephen Abunaw – Secretary/ Secretary Gen. National Branch.
  - Henry Tanwani =Financial Secretary/ National Treasurer
Eric Nchumuluh – Chief whip
Martin Aluna – Song Leader

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary General: Stephen Abunaw
Partners In Care

“Partners In Care” is a program where local churches partner with The Maryland National Guard in providing pastoral counseling and assistance to soldiers and to the families of deployed National Guard members.

As you can imagine deployments are very stressful when a family member is away from home for extended periods of time. Mt Paran continues to participate in this program because the members in The Maryland National Guard are our neighbors and they are fighting for our freedom. In addition the National Guard is called in to assist us in natural disasters.

Referrals are made to our church through the Chaplain’s Office. Referrals are people in our neighborhood who do not have a church home. So as you can see this is an excellent way for Mt Paran to reach out and help people in our neighborhood. This is also an excellent way for us to share the Good News of Jesus with our neighbors who do not have a church home. This is truly a win–win situation for Mt Paran and for members of The Maryland National Guard faced with problems.

Mt Paran provided pastoral care and financial assistance to one (2) military family in 2019.
Immigration Ministry: Elder Tanwani Akum

Mt Paran started an Immigration Ministry in 2006. Each successive year we have refined the process and added funds to the Immigration Fund as needed. We started an Immigration Ministry to address the needs of some of our members. As you know the Immigration Laws in this country are very expensive and intimidating. It is not easy to get a Work Permit or a Green Card. It takes time and money to upgrade a person’s status and it is extremely difficult for a person to be here and their spouse and / or children to be in another country. It takes patience and a lot of prayer to deal with these issues. It is for these reasons that Mt Paran seeks to help members of our Church family deal with Immigration issues.

Immigration Funds may be used to help active members of the Mt Paran family pay the cost of filing immigration forms with The INS and to help with the cost of legal advice. The Immigration Committee, under the capable leadership of Elder Tanwani Akum, has established policy guidelines for accessing these funds. In addition Mt Paran has donated funds to the Immigration Ministry at St Matthews Catholic Church so members of our church could receive legal advice and legal help with any immigration issue. We chose St Matthews Church since they have a large on-going immigration ministry.

There were no requests for a loan from The Immigration Ministry in 2019

Please contact Elder Tanwani Akum if you have any specific questions about our Immigration Ministry.
Pastoral Counseling

Pastoral Counseling is just another of the many benefits of being a member of the Mt Paran family. Your Pastors are available for Personal Counseling, Family Counseling; Pre-Marital Counseling, and Marriage Counseling for couples having difficulties.

Everybody and every family has problems. The first step in solving any problem is to admit there is a problem. Then the next step is to define the problem. Problems are always easier to define, face and problems are easier to solve if we have someone to talk to and somebody to pray with us. That is what Pastoral Counseling is all about. Your pastors do not have any magic answers but when we honestly talk together, apply God’s Word to the situation, and bring our problems before The Lord in prayer we have the assurance that The Lord will come beside us and help us through our problem. There is never any charge for your Pastors talking and praying with you and there is always strict confidentiality.
2019 Operating Budget vs Actual Expenses

To be presented to the congregation at Part II of The Annual Meeting of The Congregation after worship on **Sunday March 1st, 2020**.

Copies will be made available to members of the congregation upon request. Please contact Clerk of Session, Mitzi Ecker or Pastor Ed Terry.

Presentation to Congregation

Presented to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meetings after worship on February 23rd, 2020 and March 1st (snow date March 8th, 2020).