

NEW DORP MORAVIAN

JULY

CHURCH

2025



Good Company

Elders

Pastor Walter Bishop*

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Patrick Carolan

Maria DiForte**

Toni Ann Fischetti

Maria Glorioso

Ed Ranieri, Jr.

Alexandra Romito

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Okim Hyon

Robert Iadarola

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Richard Simpson

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Harold Gerstenlauer

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* Chair

** Vice-Chair

I was warned about peer pressure when I was young, though I can't recall the age at which I was first given the warning. Were you, too, warned about peer pressure? I pretty much felt like I was making all of my decisions on my own and that peer pressure had no real influence on me. As I look back, through more mature eyes, I can see that peer pressure did influence my development – sometimes for good, and sometimes not. I was also admonished to be careful about the persons with whom I associated because “you are known by the company you keep.”

From the Book of Proverbs we have “*Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm.*” (13:20, NRSV) This seems a bit of a paradox to me. If this is good advice for everyone, the wise will not let the foolish walk with them, and the foolish cannot become less foolish through the close influence of the wise. In Jesus' time there was a similar sentiment regarding the persons with whom one associates – “The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, ‘*Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?*’” (Luke 5:30) Our Lord's response should be instructive for us “Jesus →

answered, *‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance.’*” (Luke 5:31-32)

What are we to make of this? Can we really make disciples of all nations (cf. Matthew 28:19) while remaining distant and separate? Jesus did not remain distant or separate. No, he sought out the “other.” According to the Scriptures, even though Jesus “was tempted in every way that we are” he was “without sin”. (Hebrews 4:15c, CEB) This is a feat that no human has since duplicated. So, what are we to do? We seem to not have the fortitude against temptation that Jesus had, but we still are called to go out in his name, be servant people, share the Good News, and take the Light of Christ into the darkness. How do we best work against our own falling and failing?

If we are influenced by the company that we keep, then we will do well to make our Lord, Jesus Christ, our first and best companion. Some good advice and observation from the author of Colossians is:

“Be rooted and built up in him, be established in faith, and overflow with thanksgiving just as you were taught. See to it that nobody enslaves you with philosophy and foolish deception, which conform to human traditions and the way the world thinks and acts rather than Christ. All the fullness of deity lives in Christ’s body. And you have been filled by him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.” (Colossians 2:7-10, CEB)

Beyond that, we need the close company (positive peer pressure) of fellow believers to *“...encourage one another and build up each other...”* (1 Thessalonians 5:11) We are called to serve not only as individuals, but also corporately – as one body. We can only do that by being in active and loving relationship with one another.

We cannot sit back and simply claim our own salvation and blessings from our Savior. We must be vulnerable and take risks to be an influence on others and to be the good company kept that others need. This is so that they can be first-hand witnesses and recipients of the →

love of God shared through the Body of Christ, which is the church, which is you and me (among others). Playing it safe would seem to be against the teachings and example of Christ. Faithful followers of Christ will take risks and will also see reward. As you go into the corners of the world near and far in Jesus' name, may God bless you in your journeys among the sinners and the saints. Go in peace, and serve the Lord.

Your sibling in Christ,

Pastor Walter

(This article has been previously published elsewhere.)



A big **"Thank You"** to everyone for marking the 20th anniversary of my ordination with me. The celebration luncheon was a beautifully affirming event with great food, kind words, and good wishes. I am blessed by this congregation and thankful to be journeying with all of you.

Sincerely,

Pastor Walter Bishop

**Elders Report from June 2025 meeting:**

The Elders met on June 9. A devotion was prepared and presented to open the meeting. Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed and approved. Students graduating high school were noted with acknowledgements and gifts considered. Planning for a Church Anniversary international potluck luncheon on July 13 was discussed. A vacation week was tentatively scheduled for the pastor and church secretary. Future events on the church calendar were reviewed and discussed. Informational material was reviewed and discussed on attracting young adults. The meeting was closed with prayer.

Prepared by Pastor Walter Bishop

From the Board of Trustees:

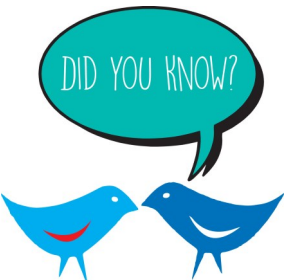
The Trustees met June 16th.

Highlights from the past 2 months were discussed as follows:

I will be following up with our Alarm Company to schedule a date for installation of a new fire alarm panel installation. Our existing panel is no longer supported and requires an upgrade. This was voted on and approved during prior meetings and the UBC has provided the funds needed. We continue to pursue upgrading our Audio Visual System. We have received one quote however we need to further explore all of our options (ongoing). The parsonage repairs continue to be discussed, however we all agree we need to have a contractor selected to do the work required. The ADA bathroom at the Parish House is actively underway and is expected to be completed over the next several weeks. Lawn signs will be available for purchase within the month: details to follow (Patrick and Bob are spearheading this program). Richard is requesting input into other activities our church might provide utilizing the Parish House grounds; eg: Outdoor events, entertainment programs....etc.

As a final note, we are looking for volunteers to perform minor work around the church such as painting, minor repairs (there is a list of items needing repairs posted). Cleanup after the fellowship hour is also in need of volunteers. The same folks cleanup every Sunday: let's share the cleanup work with others who enjoy the fellowship hour.

Prepared by Steve Greet, Chair, Board of Trustees



The Board of Trustees keeps a “Jobs List” of tasks that need doing around the church building, Parish House, and grounds. This list is posted in the small hallway off the serving area of the Conference Center. Check it out and see if you can contribute to crossing some of those items off of the list. (It is regularly updated.) Our church, like our homes, always has some upkeep tasks.

There are also occasional “work days” scheduled for maintenance tasks. We all lead busy lives, but it takes us all to contribute to the upkeep of our church home.

So, see if there’s a task you can do and plan on pitching in on our work days. Together we can accomplish much!

(If you have questions please see Steve Greet or Bob Iadarola.)



We are working on membership information and are unable to reach some people due to bad telephone numbers or addresses. If you have contact information for the following please contact Debbie in the church office. Thank you!

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Olivia Delmar | Melissa Kowalski |
| Margaret DiGiorgio | Jane McCord |
| Alfred Helfrich, Jr. | Matthew McCord |
| Janet Joan James | Dominick Tomasuolo |



Spend time with God this summer

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
		1 7:00 pm Outreach Committee Meeting	2 6:00 pm Movie Night
6 John Hus Festival 10am Worship/ Communion 11ish Coffee/ Fellowship 3:30 pm Grace MC John Hus Festival	7	8	9 10:00 am 6:00 pm D Movie Night
13 5th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship 11ish Anniversary Lunch	14 7:00 Board of Elders Meeting	15	16 6:00 pm and Movie
20 6th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship 11ish Coffee/ Fellowship 3:00 GMRF Concert	21 7:00 Board of Trustees Meeting	22	23 10:00 am 6:00 pm and Movie
27 7th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship 11ish Coffee/ Fellowship	28	29	30 6:00 pm and Movie

JULY



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dinner and Night	3	4 	5
Sonrisers Dinner and Night	10	11	12 Trash to Treasure 10:00 am—2:00 pm
h Dinner vie Night	17	18	19 Vanderbilt Community Meal 4:00 pm—6:30 pm
n Sonrisers Dinner vie Night	24	25	26
Dinner vie Night	31 		

Our Benevolence of the Month



This wonderful ministry, located at the Avenue of the Americas, was begun in 1985 by Ganga Stone in response to the growing AIDS crisis. What started as one meal by Ms. Stone to a single AIDS patient has grown to 15,000 meals each weekday to patients and caregivers suffering from a variety of diseases (AIDS, cancer, Parkinson's, ALS, diabetes, etc.) And the meals are not "just food", they are medically designed by nutritionists to meet the needs of the individual's illness and culture.

In addition to meals, birthday cakes are also baked and delivered on a patient's (or their child's) birthday along with a homemade card.

While the organization does have some corporate sponsors, they rely heavily on community donations and an army of volunteers.

Although a sectarian ministry, the organization does indeed deliver God's love to others throughout the five boroughs of New York city and in some areas of New Jersey.

Please remember "God's Love, We Deliver" in your benevolent giving this month as well as your Joyful Noise donations.



Movie Nights are back! Beginning Wednesday, July 9, at 6:00 pm we will have dinner and a movie each Wednesday through August. Come, join us for a mid-week break.

(Please note that movie titles can not be advertised due to copyright restrictions.)



3	Vincent DiForte	17	Lillian Valori
3	Laura Moschella	19	Frank Reardon
3	Cayden Hulsizer	19	Blake Given
6	James Tomasuolo	20	Janice Schaffer
8	Violet Khabut	20	Joanne Simone
8	Susan Ullrich	21	John DiForte
12	Linda Williams	22	Michael Slipstein
13	Jake Wilcken	23	Ann Bjelka
13	Trevor Wilcken	24	Paul Meyer
14	Elaina Schuler	24	Walter Bishop
14	Jennifer Salvaggio	27	Harold Gerstenlauer
14	Nick Anderson	28	Dan Master, Jr.
15	Jaxsen Magrone	30	Tyler Pasko
16	Thomas Nolan	30	Kristin Passburg
17	Joseph Maffeo		



6	Edward & Barbara Mireider	1994
7	Jose & Marilou Amagsila	1975
8	Vincent & Brenda DiForte	2011
8	Lee & Nancy Reycraft	1972
9	Michael & Alice Cohen	2003
20	Scott & Robin Fox	1985
27	Jeff & Maryann Bollinger	1969
27	Brian & Carol Bugge	1972



The New York Moravian Churches will gather together on Sunday, July 6, 3:30 pm for a special worship service in celebration of John Hus. Join with our brothers and sisters in Christ as we remember his martyrdom and what would begin the reformation movement that led to the beginnings of the Moravian Church.

The Service will be held at Grace Moravian Church, 178-38 137th Ave, Jamaica, NY 11434. Join together for a wonderful time of worship and fellowship.

See you there!

Sonrisers Group

The Sonrisers are a prayer and card ministry group that generally meets two Wednesdays out of the month in the Conference Center.

All are welcome to participate and/or submit prayer requests.

This month's meeting schedule is as follows:

July 9 10:00 am

July 23 10:00 am





**Please help us keep our prayer list current
and notify the church office if changes occur.**

For On-going Concerns: John DiForte, Dolores Cavallo, Richard Iadorola, Carmel McCarthy, Ida Perez, Barbara Carolan, Linda Griggs, Connie Vadola, Lois Zipf, Libby Neri, Estefania Griggs, Charlee Cheru and family (Charlee undergoing treatment for childhood leukemia.)

For those under Hospice Care: Alfred Yee-Litt.

For Healing: Nadira Edwards (stage 4 cancer), Joyce Fernandez (treatments for breast cancer), Megan Iadarola, Carol Bugge (cancer), Michael Cericola (undergoing chemotherapy for brain cancer), Anita Guarino, Diane Serrano (cancer), Irene Malley, Maria Metzger (recovering from cancer surgery), Teresa Sahaj (in rehab for management of leg infection), Debbie Lotito (suffering from severe, chronic pain), Megan Poljak (recent breast cancer diagnosis), Jean DelBagno (vision problems), Domenic Denaro (recovering from a fall.)

Other Concerns: the family of Addison Gall, safe travels and wonderful fellowship for the Moravian Women's Conference, those affected by recent storms and disasters, for leaders here and throughout the world to find solutions for peace and justice, and an end to all war.

Please remember to pray for our denominational leaders, our Pastor, Board Members, and Committee Chairs as they lead us in the work of the church, and for our church, that we may follow God's call and leading in our service and ministries.

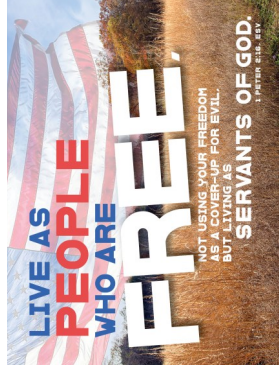
New Dorp Moravian

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Newsletter is also available to read on our website.

The Rev. Walter Bishop, Pastor



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