

# District Developments

The Newsletter of  
The Eastern District  
Moravian Church  
September 2017  
David E. Bennett,  
President



## Taking Church To The Beach!

I'm told, "sandy feet left the beach early!" One can imagine how serving a congregation close to the shore can be a challenge come warm summer days. Naturally, we all want to make the most of summer and so enjoying a few weekends at the beach is an essential treat, especially when you are in southern New Jersey. Pastors of these congregations will attest that attendance during these summer days can be a real challenge as many of their families migrate to shore homes and hotels, enjoying the beach as much as possible. Certainly, this is a normal struggle on most summer Sundays, but even more so when it comes to celebrating our August 13 "Moravian Pentecost." So, what do you do when the sandy beaches of Long Beach Island take sandaled feet away from the church? Well, of course.....you take the church to the sandy beaches of Long Beach Island!

In an ecumenical partnership with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Brant Beach, our Palmyra, Riverside, and Egg Harbor congrega-

tions of New Jersey packed up both choir and lovefeast goodies and headed to the beach.....well at least a church close to the beach! With a Lovefeast Ode consisting of hymns from the Lutheran hymnbook, the service not only offered an excellent full-communion interaction, but also the opportunity for Lutheran brothers and sisters to experience their first Lovefeast. As captured in one of the congregation's newsletters, "The lovefeast reminds us of the close tie between the Lutheran Church and the Moravian Church. On August 13, 1727, after the celebration of Holy Communion, the Moravians living in Herrnhut, Germany continued to talk over the great spiritual blessing which they had experienced and were reluctant to separate and return to their own homes for the noonday meal. Their patron, the Lutheran nobleman Count Zinzendorf, sensing the situation, sent them food from his manor house, and they ate together, continuing in prayer, religious conversation, and the singing of hymns. This incident reminded Zinzendorf of the early church's agape meal, and the idea was fostered until lovefeasts became a regular custom in Moravian life."

I am inspired by the effective stewardship which this event models for us. Historically, the Moravian Lovefeast does offer common and sacred ground between the Moravians and Lutherans. Let us not forget that Zinzendorf's fingerprints upon our history represent a special kinship with the Lutheran

Church through Christ. Additionally, however, let us also see the wisdom in taking the Church to the people, rather than bemoaning the fact that the people are not present in our church buildings. To take this sacred service "to the beach" because that's where the people are, was in my mind, not an act of surrender. It was a wonderful act of hospitality. I can't help but believe Christ smiled upon this day as Moravians and Lutherans broke bread, prayed, and sang together....and quite possibly even wiggled toes in the sand a bit!

## Moravian Ministries Foundation

Do you have a Charitable Plan or a plan to effectively and efficiently put your money and resources to work for the things you are passionate about? There are fancy words like "philanthropy" that are thrown around and that's great, but at the end of the day, how do you give back? Is it like hunting quail with a rocket launcher or more like a targeted, carefully planned shot? Have you narrowed your scope and defined your mission around giving?

If your answer is yes, I would love to hear your story. Call me or email me. If your answer is no, I still want you to call me or email me. MMFA stands ready to help. We help by having a

conversation with you and helping you identify and define your passions and dreams as they relate to the work of Jesus Christ. We do an inventory of where your resources are pointed now and compare that against where you want them to be (i.e., those dreams and passions). Then we chart a course for you to meet and deliver on your charitable plan through real live advice and prayer. We'd love the opportunity to chat with you and start the conversation. Pray about your resources and what Christ is leading you to do. Where and how do you want to make an impact? Let us help... Call or email us today at 888-722-7923 or by clicking [here](#).  
Chris Spaugh, MMFA President



### Schedule of Events

**September 23 (overnight stay Sept. 22)-Eastern Region Moravian Women 2017 Fall Workshop: "Renew, Revive, Rejoice."** Held at Faith Moravian Church, 405 Riggs RD NE, Washington, DC 20011, phone: 202-635-9012. Registration 9 am, rally begins 10 am. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Registration is \$20 due by Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, \$25. No refunds after Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. For registration contact Sr. Jennifer Joseph at [jenniferjoseph27@hotmail.com](mailto:jenniferjoseph27@hotmail.com) or 917-489-0888.

**September 27-30- Quilt camp at Camp Hope.** For info about registering call (908) 459-4435 or

contact: [hope-center@camphope.org](mailto:hope-center@camphope.org)

**October 15, 2017 2-5 pm-Open House-Moravian Music Foundation at Moravian Archives** 41 W. Locust St. Bethlehem, PA-Special display of archival manuscripts of music. Presentation by Moravian Music Foundation Director, Nola R. Knouse. Music by the Bethlehem Area Moravian Trombone Choir and Two-Part Invention (flute and guitar duo). Refreshments offered. Event is free to the public.

### 500<sup>th</sup> Reformation Anniversary To Be Celebrated

Save the date of Oct. 31st for a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and put it in the context of reformations in our church, past and present. "Reformations Yesterday and Tomorrow": Craig Atwood (Moravian), Kelly Denton-Borhaug (Lutheran), Brian Pavlac (Episcopal) will be the speakers, with Steven Simmons (Presbyterian) as the moderator. Bishop Sean Rowe (Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem), Bishop Sam Zeiser (Bishop of the Northeast Pennsylvania ELCA), and Rev. David Bennett (Eastern District President, Moravian Church Northern Province) will be present as event hosts and we will enjoy a Full-Communion celebration of Eucharist. All this and lunch for a free will offering, on Tuesday, October 31st, at Moravian Theological Seminary, 9:00 am -1:30 pm. This is a free event,

but registration is required. Register at: [www.moravianseminary.edu/registration](http://www.moravianseminary.edu/registration)

### Crossroads Offers Fall Courses

Crossroads at Moravian Theological Seminary, Bethlehem is running two fall courses of 8 weeks each. Traveling Mercies is a course on caring ministries begins Thursday, Sept 7 with the Rev. Maggie Wellert and Greg Krausz, Certified Addictions Counselor. Faith Stories of the Old Testament with Kim Denyes, MATS is a thematic exploration looking at the Old Testament in a new way. Contact Jill Peters at: [Petersj2@moravian.edu](mailto:Petersj2@moravian.edu) or go to: [www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads](http://www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads) for more information.

### Prayer Concerns

Please pray for Sr. Katie Van Der Linden, pastor of Glenwood Moravian Church in Madison, WI. You may recall we offered prayers when she delivered twin boys quite prematurely and one boy died soon after birth. With a heavy heart, we report that the second son, Andrew, passed away on August 2nd. Pray for peace and healing for Katie, Aaron, their family and for the parents of these two boys

Please pray for continued healing for Br. Burke Johnson, retired pastor and former PEC president living in Florida. Burke is recovering from surgery that took place on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

 **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**September Birthdays**

- 1 The Rev. Dr. Lyn Bechtel
- 2 Mr. Richard Everhart
- 5 The Rev. Dennis Rohn  
The Rev. Hugh Daley
- 10 The Rev. David Danneberger  
The Rev. Mark Breland  
The Rev. Kathlyn Ferguson-Nealand
- 12 The Rt. Rev. Douglas Kleintop
- 15 The Rev. Mary Ann Pula  
Mr. James Reifinger  
The Rev. William Surber
- 16 The Rev. Rhonda Robinson
- 20 Mrs. Sherry Gehris  
The Rev. Tracy Pryor
- 21 Mrs. Joan Daley
- 23 Mrs. Cecile White
- 24 The Rev. Melissa Johnson
- 28 The Rev. Bruce Weaknecht
- 30 Mrs. Junie Sahadath  
Mrs. Maria Prochnau

**September Anniversaries**

- 9 The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Howard Cox
- 16 The Rev. Tracy Robinson & the Rev. Rhonda Robinson
- 20 The Rev. Tracy Pryor & the Rev. Michael Poole  
The Rev. Trina Holmberg & Mr. Kenneth Homberg
- 26 Mr. and Mrs. Les Lavoy
- 27 The Rev. & Mrs. Frank Barker
- 29 The Rev. Sayward & Mr. Kevin Lippincott
- 30 The Rev. Jennika & Mr. Jonathan Borger

 **Changes of Address**

Effective Immediately:  
 Rev. Lloyd Gooden  
 4729 Moravian Church Rd. SE  
 New Philadelphia, OH 44663  
 Parsonage Phone: 740-673-7226

 **Free 2017 Daily Texts Available**

As we prepare for the arrival of the 2018 Moravian Daily Texts in late October/early November, we would like to offer our 2017 editions to congregations and agencies for use in their ministries free of charge. Daily Texts are perfect for outreach, new member introductions, study classes and community events. We have a limited supply of 2017 large print, journal, hardcover and paperback editions available; all we ask is that you either pick up at the Church Center in Bethlehem or pay for shipping to your location. To obtain these free editions, please contact Jill Bruckart at [jill@mcnp.org](mailto:jill@mcnp.org), or call 1.800.732.0591, ext. 38.

**Pastoral Changes**

Sr. Mandy Mastros, who graduated in 2017 with a Masters of Divinity from Moravian Theological Seminary and a Masters of Social Work from Marywood University, has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Lancaster Moravian Church. She will be ordained a Deacon of the Moravian Church on October 22nd at 4:00 pm at the Lititz Moravian Church in Lititz, PA and installed at Lancaster on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Please keep Mandy and the Lancaster congregation in your prayers as they prepare for this next chapter in their ministry

**Camp Hope 2017 By the Numbers**



- 231 Campers in 2017
  - 104 Weekly staff in 2017
  - 100 Collapsible water bottles delivered to Camp Cuba
  - 63.75 Dollars Collected and sent to MOD
  - 44 Non-Moravian campers and staff
  - 29 Congregations who sent campers (out of 41)
  - 26 Congregations who sent weekly staff (22 and 1 almost)
  - 13 Summer staff
  - 8 Moravian camps
  - 7 Weeks of Moravian camp
  - 6 Sets of twins in camp
  - 6 Moravian congregations represented by neither campers nor staff members
  - 3 Bishops on weekly staff
  - 3 SouthernProvince members on weekly staff
  - 2 New year-round staff
  - 1 Successful year!
- [hopecenter@camphope.org](mailto:hopecenter@camphope.org)  
[camphope.org](http://camphope.org)  
 Susan M. Dreydoppel, Director



**Palmer Moravian Church, Easton, PA seeks a Director of Christian Education** for a part time position of 20 hour per week. For more information please contact [Melissa@palmermoravian.org](mailto:Melissa@palmermoravian.org)