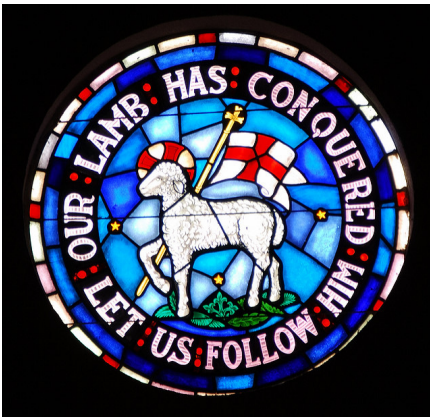


# District Developments

*The Newsletter of  
The Eastern District  
Moravian Church  
January 2018  
David E. Bennett,  
President*



## Gather, Go, Grow Provincial Synod 2018

On behalf of the Eastern District Executive Board, I send our warmest new-year greetings -- especially within these extra chilly days! As 2018 dawns upon us, believe it or not so does another synod year! Before we know it, June will arrive and we will be gathering once again on the campus of Moravian College for the 2018 Northern Provincial Synod. In preparation for this sacred gathering of our province, pre-synod meetings will be held across the province to acclimate synod delegates to the issues at hand. Led by our Provincial President, The Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller, these sessions will offer not only the opportunity to worship and fellowship together, but will also provide information related to synod proposals that are coming from the Provincial Elders' Conference and report on work that has been done by various provincial task forces throughout the inter-synodal period. Especially important will be information related to discernment around Identity, Purpose, and Organization (IPO). Over the last year in particular, the Canadian, Western, and Eastern District Executive

Boards have met multiple times with the Provincial Elders' Conference to discern a governance model which can provide regionally based provincial governance and also equip district leadership for "need specific" congregational support. It is hoped that such a new governance model will broaden and enhance lay-based ministry in support of mission and ministry at a local level.

Therefore, these pre-synod meetings are very important for both delegates and alternate delegates who have been elected by your Church Council. We strongly urge delegates to make every effort to attend one of the meetings listed below, as such preparation will be invaluable in prayerfully discerning Christ's will for our provincial common ministry moving forward. If the meeting date planned for your area is not a possibility for you as a delegate, please consider attending one of the meetings in another area. (These meetings will also include some light refreshments, therefore please contact host congregations so food preparation numbers will be accurate.)

### **January 27 – 9:00-1:00 PM...College Hill Moravian Church, Bethlehem**

(Lehigh Valley North + South congregations)

### **January 28 – 4:00-7:00 PM...Great Kills Moravian Church, Staten Is- land**

(NY Congregations + Battle Hill)

### **February 3, 10:00-2:00 PM...Schoenbrunn Moravian Church, Ohio**

(Ohio + Toronto congregations)

**March 10 – 10:00-2:00  
PM...Redeemer Moravian Church,  
Philadelphia**  
(Pennsylvania/Maryland + Delaware  
Valley congregations)



## The wise still respond to Christ's presence with gifts

By Vince Holbrook

The gifts weren't cheap. And delivery wasn't convenient. They couldn't just email an Amazon gift card at the last minute, as I do too often. The magi carefully watched the skies for signs and they were ready when the time came to follow the star of Bethlehem. They planned and prepared for a long journey. Some believe the Christ child was somewhere between 40 days old and 2 years old by the time they arrived. Their gifts were thoughtful and indeed identified Christ -- gold for a king, frankincense for a priest and intercessor, and myrrh to anoint the body of our savior.

We too can be wise like the magi and carefully plan our gifts in Christ's name. The Moravian Ministries Foundation in America can help maximize the impact of your gifts for ministry and optimize your giving from a tax perspective. Contact us for more

information: Chris Spaugh (888) 722-9723. [cspaugh@mmfa.info](mailto:cspaugh@mmfa.info).  
[www.mmfa.info](http://www.mmfa.info)

### Crossroad Winter Courses

Plan now to take a Winter-term course through Crossroads. New Testament with Rev. Dr. Joanne Marchetto will begin on Jan 8 for eight Monday nights. Compass, a good place to start and to define your sense of call, will be Thursday nights starting Jan 4 also for eight weeks. For more info contact Jill Peters at [jpeters@moravian.edu](mailto:jpeters@moravian.edu) or go to <http://www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads>



### Schedule of Events

**January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Bach at Noon – A Cantata Series.** The Bach Choir of Bethlehem 12:10 pm. – 1 pm, Central Moravian Church, 73 W. Church St. Bethlehem, PA. Please visit [www.Bach.org](http://www.Bach.org) for more information. Free.

**January 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Post High Winter Retreat – Grade 9-age 21.** Please contact Camp Hope office for more information or contact Rev. Cynthia Rader Geyer, Eastern District Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at: [cynthia@mcnp.org](mailto:cynthia@mcnp.org)

**January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 7pm- Moravian Archives Presentation: “Firefighting in Bethlehem”.** Presentation by Chris Eline, Nancy Rutman and Karen Samuels. (Snow date is January 23, 2018). The enthusiastic team of local historians will talk about how firefighting started and developed in Bethlehem.

**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 – Hymn Sing in the Kleiner Saal, 2:00 pm.** Learn

about American hymnody with Becky Lepore. Central Moravian Church, 73 W. Church St., Bethlehem, PA. 610-866-5661. Free.



On Sunday, February 11, 5:30 pm. Hope Conference & Renewal Center will be kicking off the 2018 camping season with a dinner at East Hills Moravian Church in Bethlehem. There will be several important announcements about camp in addition to celebrating campers old and new with a dinner, music, pictures, and an auction to benefit "Camp Hope". Tickets are \$15 each. If interested in sponsorship opportunities, contact [hope-center@camphope.org](mailto:hope-center@camphope.org).

### Help Wanted at Camp Hope:

**Administrative Assistant**, part-time seasonal position.

**Executive Chef/Food Service Manager**, full-time for summer; also occasional hours during rest of year.

For more info, see:  
[camphope.org/employment](http://camphope.org/employment)  
Or call 908 459-4435

### Unitas Chorale Announces



2018 Season

Join us this year as we celebrate the Savior with *Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs*. Rehearsals are held January through April on the first and third Sundays of the month at College Hill Moravian Church. All singers are welcome; no audition is required. Please contact director, Gwyn Michel, for further information: [gwyn@moravianmusic.org](mailto:gwyn@moravianmusic.org) or 610-866-3340.



### Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### January Birthdays

- 2 The Rev. Belfield Castello
- 3 The Rev. Dr. William Matz
- 5 Mrs. Mary Mowrer  
The Rev. Andrew Meckstroth
- 8 Mrs. Carol Acheson
- 11 The Rev. Diane Joseph
- 12 The Rev. Maggie Wellert
- 14 The Rev. David Bennett
- 15 The Rev. Dean Easton
- 16 The Rev. Nigel Powell
- 18 The Rev. Dr. Gordon Sommers
- 19 The Rev. Benjamin John Lip-pert
- 20 Mrs. Joan Engelbrecht
- 22 Mrs. Jacquelyn Bell  
The Rev. William Andrews
- 23 The Rev. Richard Thierolf
- 24 Mrs. Betty Castello
- 27 Mrs. Renae Weaknecht  
The Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller
- 28 Mrs. Gail Andrews
- 30 The Rev. Charlesworth Ed-wards

#### January Anniversaries

- 1 The Rev. & Mrs. David Danne-berger
- 2 The Revs. Darrell & Chris Johnson
- 12 The Rev. Marge & Mr. Bill Hassler
- 15 The Rev. Dean Easton
- 16 The Rev. & Mrs. Gregg Schafer
- 20 The Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Weak-necht
- 29 The Rev. & Mrs. David Wick-mann  
The Rev. & Mrs. Jay Petrella

Churches celebrating January anni-versaries:

- 1 – 1815 – Sharon, Tuscarawas, OH
- 1 - 1968 - United, New York, NY, merger of New York III and IV
- 1 – 2010 – MorningStar, Coopers-burg, PA, merger of Coopers-burg and Grace Center Valley
- 31 - 1971 - St. Paul's, Upper Marl-boro, MD