

# Provincial Ties

## Implementation Steering Committee Update

During February, the Implementation Steering Committee sought input from our pastors on the organization and responsibilities of Regional Conferences of Churches (RCC). This process was undertaken through a series of small group meetings conducted by various members of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee sincerely appreciates the wonderful turnout and the great diversity of ideas put forth for the Regional Conferences of Churches (RCC). If the energy that was present in our meetings is directed toward the work of the Regional Conferences, it will have a very strong, positive influence on the health of our individual congregations and our province.

On March 4th prior to the Moravian Ministry Association meeting, pastors unable to attend the small group meetings, along with all other ordained ministers and retired pastors will have an opportunity to participate in the process. Later in March, Christian Educators will also participate in the input process.

Early in March, a communication piece will go out to churches to help inform congregants of what a Regional Conferences of Churches (RCC) is, how it will be initially organized and directing church boards to begin their process of appointing representatives from their congregation to the Regional Conference to which they are assigned. Each church will have three representatives. There will be a pastor and two lay representatives from the congregation at large. The Steering Committee will ask for a list of representatives from each congregation no later than April 15th with the first meetings of the Regional Conferences scheduled to take place in May.

Once the Regional Conferences of Churches (RCC) are established, a representative from each Regional Conference will be elected to sit on the Board of Cooperative Ministries (BCM). It is anticipated that the BCM will begin meeting in June or July.

We continue to consider our Province to be a community in transition, and we ask for the ongoing prayers of the Province during this process. We also continue to find confidence in the watchword for the date we began our work: "Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

For questions or comments regarding the Steering Committee's progress, please contact Gary Kniskern at (336) 789-5388 or [garykniskern@gmail.com](mailto:garykniskern@gmail.com).

*(submitted by Gary Kniskern)*

### Congregations and Fellowships

Advent  
Ardmore  
Bethabara  
Bethania  
Bethesda  
Calvary  
Christ  
Christ the King  
Clemmons  
Community Fellowship  
Covenant  
Crooked Oak  
Enterprise  
Fairview  
First Moravian (GA)  
First Moravian (NC)  
Friedberg  
Friedland  
Fries Memorial  
Fulp  
Good Shepherd  
Grace  
Home  
Hope  
Hopewell  
Immanuel-New Eden  
Kernersville  
King  
King of Kings  
Konnoak Hills  
Leaksville  
Little Church on the Lane  
Macedonia  
Margate Fellowship  
Mayodan  
Messiah  
Mizpah  
Moravia  
Morning Star Fellowship  
Mountain Laurel Moravian Fellowship  
Mt. Bethel  
New Beginnings  
New Covenant Fellowship (Palm Beach)  
New Hope (FL)  
New Hope (NC)  
New Philadelphia  
Oak Grove  
Olivet  
Palm Beach  
Palmetto Fellowship  
Peace  
Pine Chapel  
Prince of Peace  
Providence  
Raleigh  
Rayaka Ingnika Fellowship (Sarasota)  
Rolling Hills  
Rural Hall  
St. Philips  
Suriname Fellowship  
Tampa Fellowship  
Trinity  
Union Cross  
Unity  
Willow Hill

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# Concerns & Celebrations

“WAIT FOR THE LORD; BE STRONG, AND LET YOUR HEART TAKE COURAGE; WAIT FOR THE LORD!”

PSALM 27:14

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH . . .

## Illness:

Brother **Hal Cole**, Moravian Minister

Brother **Jay Hughes**, Moravian Bishop

Sister **Carol Foltz**, Moravian Minister

Sister **Jill Sawyer**, wife of **Bob Sawyer**,  
Moravian Minister

Brother **Chris Weber**, brother of Riddick Weber,  
Moravian Minister

*Our prayers are with these.*



## Ordination Anniversaries March

Melvin Klokow ..... 63 years  
Frank Venable..... 23 years  
Leslie Venable ..... 23 years  
Margaret Leinbach..... 6 years



*Congratulations and God Bless You!*

## You Are Cordially Invited!

- to the Service for the Rededication of the  
**Oak Grove Sanctuary**  
Sunday, **March 21**, 9:45am  
Oak Grove Moravian Church  
120 Hammock Farm Road  
Winston-Salem, NC 27105  
Guest Speaker: Bishop Graham Rights  
  
This special service will include a lovefeast and special music by the band and choir.
- A concert of Moravian music presented by the Salem College Choirs under the direction of David Schildkret and the Salem College Orchestra under the direction of Margaret Rehder  
Sunday, **March 21**, at 3:30pm  
Hanes Auditorium,  
Salem Fine Arts Center  
*(sponsored by the William H. and Helen Olsen Mathias Endowment Music Excellence Fund)*
- **April 18, Tichina Vaughn in Concert** in Old Salem at St. Philips Moravian Church. For additional early Spring 2010 events at St. Philips, call 336-721-7350 or [www.oldsalem.org/stphilips](http://www.oldsalem.org/stphilips).

## Pastoral Changes:

**Sister Cheryl G. Cottingham** has accepted the call to become pastor of Immanuel-New Eden Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, NC. She will be ordained on April 18 at 3pm at Kernersville Moravian Church in Kernersville, NC. Bishop J.C. Hughes will officiate.  
*Congratulations!*

## Our thanks to Deanna!

We wish Deanna Hollenbach well as she begins a new chapter in her life. She has served as Executive Director of the Interprovincial Board of Communications (IBOC) and editor of *The Moravian* since 2001 and will resign mid March in preparation for her marriage and relocation to Danville, PA. We express our gratitude and appreciation for Deanna's hard work and dedication and wish God's richest blessings upon her.  
*Congratulations!*

## Births:

**Claude and Joy Pariz** of Southampton, New York have been blessed with the birth of a daughter, **Caroline Vance Pariz** on February 28, 2010. Proud grandparents are **Randy and Joyce Vance**-Christian Education Director at Peace Moravian Church in Charlotte, NC.  
*Congratulations!*

## PEC REPORT:



The Provincial Elders' Conference met on February 2 and 16, 2010. All members of the Conference were present for both meetings, and each meeting began with sharing of contacts with pastors and congregations followed by a time of intercessory prayer.

Various concerns and opportunities were discussed related to congregations, fellowships and personnel in the Province. The PEC continues to work with the Joint Boards of Hopewell and Fairview through the call process. The Rev. Dan Conrad returned to pastoral service at Advent effective February 8 following a medical leave of absence. The Rev. Scott Venable was granted additional personal medical leave of absence from his responsibilities as Associate Pastor of Home Church. Bro. Alphonso Gaydon was approved as a Congregational Acolyte at St. Philips. PEC reaffirmed the calls to specialized ministry for the Rev. Robert Wolfe (Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministry) and the Rev. Logan Jones (Rex Hospital, Raleigh, NC). The Ordination Review Committee for 2010 was appointed as follows: the Rev. Judy Knopf, the Rev. Carol Foltz, and Bro. Gary Kniskern. Two candidates for ordination complete their seminary requirements this spring: Sr. Betty Helms and Bro. Russell Williams.

PEC received reports on meetings of the Structure Implementation Steering Committee (see report in this issue of Provincial Ties), and continued discussion of plans for the stated Synod of September 2010, including invitations to ecumenical partners for representation and formation of committees on government and finance. PEC will meet in special session on March 2 to continue discussion and planning for Synod. Bishop Lane Sapp also reported on the recent meeting of the Florida District Board and the presbyteral consecration of the Rev. Willie

Israel at Rolling Hills Moravian Church. PEC gave approval to the draft of a document from the Interprovincial Faith and Order Commission titled, "Who Are Moravians?" It is anticipated that the statement will be available for use by congregations and individuals later this year.

Bishop Sam Gray met with PEC on February 2 to discuss matters related to the call and ordination of persons for service outside the Southern Province in cross cultural ministry. PEC will seek additional advice and guidance on this matter from the Board of World Mission.

PEC discussed possible ways to improve communication with and connection to retired pastors, as well as steps needed to implement the grant application process this spring for the Petree Fund.

Various other matters, as well as requests and questions from congregations and pastors, were discussed and information shared concerning the ongoing ministries of the Province. The next scheduled meetings of the PEC are on March 2 and 16, 2010.

*(submitted by Wayne Burkette)*

### Ministers Care Plan

#### *Confidential pastoral counseling and referral for ministers and their families*

The emotional and spiritual health of ministers is crucial to the effectiveness of their ministry and the health of the congregations they serve. The Southern Province of the Moravian Church in America and Baptist Hospital/CareNet make confidential and compassionate care available in times of need for ministers, their families, and full-time DCEs.

Call CareNet at 336-716-7339 for the center closest to you. Individuals will be expected to first use their mental health benefits of their health insurance as primary coverage.

## Synod 2010

*“Behold I am Making All Things New: God’s Gifts for God’s Vision”*

- Pre-synod meeting for all official and advisory delegates (alternates are not required to attend)

Saturday, **May 1, 2010**  
8:30am—3:30pm  
Kernersville Moravian Church  
504 S. Main Street  
Kernersville, North Carolina

- The Unity and Ecumenical Affairs Commission is providing the following documents as information pieces for church leaders throughout the Southern Province. These are available on the Southern Province web site along with other, larger documents about two proposals which will be presented for consideration by the 2010 Synod. We hope that this will better prepare clergy and lay leaders in our province for a consideration of these proposals at Synod in September.

It is important that all delegates become familiar with these proposals before Synod. It will be a great help if pastors help in conveying this information to delegates. The two documents are: [Moravian-Episcopal Full Communion Proposal](#) and [Proposal for Moravian-Presbyterian Covenant Partnership](#).

*(submitted by Tim Byerly)*

### Unity Prayer Offering

**March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

*School of Music & Worship*  
Limón, Costa Rica  
*Multiuse Building*



## Attention: Former Dayspring Choir Members

In the early 70's, a youth choir was formed from the Moravian Churches in the Southern Province. In 1974, approximately 80 "Dayspring" members toured the Northern Province, singing and performing in multiple churches in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Wisconsin. A 35 year reunion of our tour is officially planned for April 3rd the Saturday before Easter 2010! Konnoak Hills Moravian Church has generously allowed the use of the church for a luncheon get together and singing. A planning committee has been formed and we want to reach every single one of you. If you are a former choir member or you know someone who is, please send your contact information (full name including maiden name, email, phone number, mailing address) to: Jeff Jackson, 2905 Borg Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27127; email: [jjac888077@aol.com](mailto:jjac888077@aol.com); 336-784-0947. Check us out on Facebook as Dayspring, Provincial Moravian Youth Choir. We also ask you to help us pass the word to those who may be in other states or who may no longer have access to church bulletins and Moravian publications! "It Only Takes A Spark!"

## Volunteers Needed at Laurel Ridge!



Recent snow and ice storms have left extensive damage to trees and some buildings at Laurel Ridge. Moravian Volunteer Resources (MVR) along with the staff of LR are calling on anyone who is willing to come and help in the clean up and repair efforts. Work days begin April 10 and continue each Saturday through April 24, 8am-4pm until the work is finished. If you are willing to be a team leader contact Mark Ebert (336-225-3540 or [mebert@mensp.org](mailto:mebert@mensp.org)) or Joe Landreth ([bojobike@bellsouth.net](mailto:bojobike@bellsouth.net)).



## Salem Congregation's 238<sup>rd</sup> Easter Sunrise Service Salem Square—6:15am

All members of our congregations are cordially invited to participate in this inspirational service. It will begin in front of Home Moravian Church and conclude in God's Acre. Ministers, spouses and family members are invited to assemble in the west vestibule of Home Church by 5:55am.

We know that many pastors will be involved in the band, choir or leading other Easter services. Our prayers are with all pastors and congregations as we proclaim together the wonderful message that our Lord is Risen !!

*(submitted by Mark Leinbach)*

## Senior Friends Retreat at Laurel Ridge

The annual retreat for older adults, sponsored by the Senior Friends, will be **April 26-28, 2010** at Higgins Lodge, at **Laurel Ridge**. Our speaker will be **the Rev. Jon Boling**, pastor of Ardmore Moravian Church. His topic: **"The Longer I Serve Him: Celebrating Jesus Year after Year."** Come to the mountains to enjoy fellowship, worship, learning, recreation and good food. Experience the beauty of God's creation and celebrate our Moravian heritage. Cost: \$130 for Salem wing, with private bath; \$110 for Bishop's wing where two rooms share a bath. **Register by April 15.** Materials have been sent to church offices and Senior Friends officers (or older adult contacts). They can also be found here: <http://moravianevangeliism.org/?p=422> .

*(submitted by David Guthrie)*

## Provincial Women's Spiritual Life Retreat

We know that your life is filled with loving responsibilities. We know that you wake up each day to make the world a better place. You trust in your Savior and you reach out to help those who need the power of faith in their lives. Today and many other days you may need renewal. You may need time with fellow Christian women who walk a path similar to yours. You may need to laugh, to play, to pray with gratitude and you may need to re-connect to nature. There is an opportunity to experience a rejuvenating retreat on April 16-18, 2010. As Chair of the Spiritual Life Committee, I join with Jane Carter Handly and the rest of the Provincial Women's Board in inviting you to join us for a week-end at Laurel Ridge. "She'll be Coming Round the Mountain...with her heart, her joy and her faith" will be a week-end that will make your spirit soar and introduce you to faithful Moravian women from all over the Southern Province. Contact the Provincial Women's Board at 336-722-4911 or [pwbmcsp@gmail.com](mailto:pwbmcsp@gmail.com) or Tamra Thomas at 336-748-1339 or [tamrathomas@trial.rr.com](mailto:tamrathomas@trial.rr.com) for a registration form. Won't you join us and be a "View Keeper of the Mountain"? We will greet you with open arms.

*(submitted by Jane Carter Handly and Tamra Thomas)*

## Leadership Focus 2010

About 100 participants and leaders from 22 congregations gathered Saturday, February 19, for Leadership Focus 2010. The theme: "Following the Leader. . .leading the followers."

Special thanks to **Friedberg Moravian Church** for hosting the fourth year of this event. Leadership Focus has been a cooperative effort among provincial boards and agencies. Since 2007, over 800 people have participated – many returning for several years to enjoy the learning and sharing.

*(submitted by Leadership Focus Planning Team)*

## From the Provincial Treasurer's Office

**2009 Church Audits** – Instructions for performing the 2009 “audits” of churches have been sent to all Church Treasurers and Trustee Chairs/Vice Chairs. Please be sure these instructions are given to your Church’s “Audit Committee.” Per the Book of Order, 2009 audit reports are due by May 15, 2010. If you did not receive your instructions, please give us a call or you can download them off the provincial website at [mcsp.org](http://mcsp.org). They can be found under Resources/Year-end Forms.

**2010 Congregational Information Form** – If you haven’t already done so, please be sure this form is sent in to the PEC office as soon as possible. We all use this information to be sure that we are communicating with the current leadership at each church. The form is also available on the provincial website under Resources/Year-end Forms.

**Sales Tax Refunds** – How would you like to receive a discount on almost everything you buy at the store? Well, that is what churches can get due to their non-profit status. I am sure that most churches already file for sales tax refunds (or have sales tax exemption certificates), but if you don’t, you are walking away from “free” money.

The rules are fairly straightforward as to what does or doesn’t qualify. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to give Lois Crain (the resident expert) a call at (336) 722-7922, ext. 1003.

**403(b) Plan** – Our new 403(b) plan, administered by the ELCA Board of Pensions, is now up and running. I am pleased that we have added several new participants but we still have only have 37 participants making monthly contributions and only 24 of these are pastors. This means that about two thirds of our pastors currently do not participate. Since withdrawals from the plan are now housing

allowance qualified, many pastors are missing out on this potentially significant tax advantage. All employees working 20 hours or more per week are eligible to participate and you can sign-up at any time during the year. If you have questions or are not currently participating and would like more information about the 403(b) Plan, please give Donna Hampton a call at (336) 531-0025.

*(Submitted by Ted Leinbach, Provincial Treasurer)*

## Latino Ministries Event March 20, Bethabara Moravian Church

It’s time to register for a first-ever event focused on Latino ministries in our Province! March 20, Bethabara Moravian Church will host “**La Familia Morava Comparte la Mesa Con Todos**” (The Moravian Family Shares the Table Together). The day will include worship, with our speaker, Dr. Maria Teresa Palmer who is Director of the Multicultural Student Center at NC A&T University, Greensboro, NC, and an ordained United Church of Christ pastor. There will be three presentations about current ministries, from Green Street United Methodist Church, Bethabara Moravian Church (both in Winston-Salem), and New Hope Moravian Church, Miami, FL (part of our FL District); and an open discussion of next steps and future plans.

Churches are encouraged to send a team of leaders to this gathering. Registration materials are available at this web address: <http://moravianevangalism.org/?p=358>. The day will include time for fellowship, bilingual music, and (of course!) a delicious lunch. **Registrations are due March 12.**

*(submitted by David Guthrie)*

## Moravian Ideals (part 5)

Archivist Daniel Crews and Moravian Music Foundation Director Nola Knouse continue their take on “Moravian Ideals” with “Faith Manifested in Works,” the “Lunchtime Lecture” 12:15-12:45pm. Thursday, **March 11**, at the Archie K. Davis Center in Old Salem.

## Newsletter Notes

*From around the Southern Province*

So you have had it up to here with snow this winter. Casting back in our church records we can find some whoppers. How about 1800, when the **Salem** Diary for February 2 says: "Snow began this morning about eight o'clock and grew worse steadily, continuing until the next day at noon." And this sentence, which Archivist Daniel Crews says often appears in the church diaries: "The snow was so deep that the oldest inhabitant in this neighborhood said that he had never seen one like it." The result: about 1½ feet of snow with drifts in Salem of five feet. And then it snowed again March 7, another eight inches. That got **Friedberg** to move its anniversary date from March to May 12, when it is still observed today.

On prayerful consideration and careful study of its history, **Calvary** has decided to observe its anniversary on a Sunday near the actual date, April 20. Hope it doesn't snow.

**King** has made it official to purchase its first pipe organ and to have a three-year capital campaign to raise the needed \$440,000.

**Mayodan** and **Messiah** began the year right. Mayodan received an anonymous donation of \$5,000 toward purchase of another van. The church now has a "van fund" to raise the total cost. Messiah received a \$50,000 gift, which will allow for re-roofing the sanctuary and Sunday school building and other needed repairs.

**Covenant** has joined the crowd of churches with a beautiful new sign. Dedication will be in March. Hope it doesn't snow.

**Raleigh** held its "first annual Putzing Adventure" in December to have folks show their nativity displays to the wider community. It expected 20-25 displays. It got 47, and from all over the world.

Exciting headline in one church newsletter: "Do you *think* you want to be a 'Moravian'? Don't they have a tabernacle in Utah? Find out that and more!!" All of course was to introduce a discussion on the book *The Foundation of Our Faith: Preparation of Membership in the Moravian Church* by the Rev. Kevin Frack.

— Richard W. Starbuck, Moravian Archives

## New Philadelphia Moravian Church makes a difference

Christianity is about showing the love of Jesus Christ and what better way to do it than reaching out in our own community. That is exactly what Sandra Gray is doing at New Philadelphia Moravian Church. An outreach ministry was started in 2007 with around 20 people. They met each Tuesday from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Sandra Gray teaches a class of ESL (English as a second Language) during the school year. This program was started with the help of several members of the church. The first year it included nursery for small children with a paid worker. But given the economic circumstances, they could not afford to keep the worker. Sandra's granddaughter, Carrie, who is 16, now volunteers, taking care of 8 children ranging from 3 to 10 years of age. Currently, there is one ESL class that has continued these past three years with six persons: five from Mexico and one from Costa Rica. All have made tremendous improvement in their English. Announcements for these classes are made in the worship bulletin and newsletter, and also through the help of Mrs. Morris at South Fork Elementary School, which is next door to New Philadelphia.

We must reach out in our communities to show the love of Jesus Christ. Local churches have opportunities to become more involved as they support the initiatives made by their leaders and members. We invite your prayers for this small, yet significant ministry at New Philadelphia Church. Yet, we must not forget to pray for this ministry.

*(submitted by Hilda Regalado, Latino Ministries Coordinator)*

## Vital Connections

Hospice & Palliative Carecenter in Winston-Salem has launched a Vital Connections Campaign to raise the needed capital funds to expand their services. If your church or group would like someone to come speak to your members about Hospice and this project, contact Ellen Coble, 336-768-3972.



## Address Book

**Rolling Hills Moravian Church:**  
rhmcoffice@centurylink.net

*Deadline for the April Issue of  
Provincial Ties is March 25*

## For Your Calendar

Environmental Stewardship Conference@  
 Laurel Ridge..... Mar 5-7  
 Mission Possible@New Philadelphia-7pm... Mar 5  
 Youth Bible Bowl @ Unity 4-6pm ..... Mar 7  
 Prayer Day-Moravian Unity Work..... Mar 7  
 Day of Prayer-Calvary ..... Mar 10  
 Lunchtime Series@Davis Center-12:15pm... Mar 11  
 Easter Band Practice ..... Mar 14  
 PEC Meeting ..... Mar 16  
 Day of Prayer-Fairview..... Mar 17  
 La Familia Morava Comparte la Mesa con  
 Todos @ Bethabara..... Mar 20  
 Easter Band Practice ..... Mar 21  
 Day of Prayer-Konnoak Hills..... Mar 24  
 Easter Band Practice ..... Mar 28

Provincial Ties

*Moravian Church in America, South  
 Provincial Elders' Conference  
 459 S. Church Street  
 Winston-Salem, NC 27101*

[www.mcsp.org](http://www.mcsp.org)

