



PROVINCIAL TIES

October 2016

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —



Moravian Ministries Foundation

In 2012 the Moravian Ministries Foundation began a peer group study of faith-based and community foundation investment returns as part of our continued commitment to providing Moravian Common Fund (our pooled investment program) participants with superior investment returns at the lowest cost. We are pleased that for the fourth consecutive year, the Common Fund's growth portfolio (70% equities, 30% fixed income) performance ranked number one. In particular, our growth portfolio was ranked #1 over the one, five and ten year periods.

Today the Moravian Common Fund stands at \$150,000,000 invested by almost 100 Moravian churches and agencies, as well as both Provinces. Every dollar in the Common Fund is benefiting and supporting ministries of the Church.

If you would like a copy of the peer group study or our current investment performance report, or if your church/agency is interested in learning more about the Moravian Common Fund, please contact Paul McLaughlin, MMFA president, at pmclaughlin@mmfa.info or 888.722.7923.

Submitted by Laura Sides Watson

Stewardship Dinner

The annual Stewardship Dinner will be held Thursday, October 13, 2016
at Hopewell Moravian Church Family Life Building.

Registration begins at 6:00 pm
Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm.

Save the Date **Living the Essentials Conference**

A church-wide, intersynodal conference is set for February 17-18, 2017 and will be hosted by New Philadelphia Moravian Church.

Participants will include pastors and lay leaders (selected by Boards of Elders or Church Boards) from our congregations and fellowships.

The theme is: "Living the Essentials". The program includes worship, keynote presentations, and a time for discerning God's call and direction as our Province moves toward the 2018 Synod. The focus will be on where God may be leading us in the areas of spiritual growth/discipleship, community (our life together), and in mission. Please mark these dates. A letter with further details will be sent in mid-October.

Submitted by David Guthrie, PEC President

Board of World Mission

Justin Rabbach, Director of Mission Engagement for the Board of World Mission, will be the guest speaker at the annual World Mission Lovefeast on November 6 at 3:00 p.m. The service will be at Konnoak Hills Moravian Church. The Provincial Band, Konnoak Hills Handbell Choir and musicians, and the Provincial Praise Group will present intergenerational music. Join us for this special inspirational service of worship, music, and a brief update on the many efforts of the Mission Society.

Submitted by Shiela Beaman

Retirement Reception Honoring the Rev. Richard Sides

Home Moravian Church invites you to a reception honoring the Reverend Richard L. Sides on Sunday, October 30th at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us as we enjoy light refreshments, thank Rick for his service to Home Church and the Province, and wish him well in his retirement.

Newsletter Notes from Around the Southern Province

This month's "Newsletter Notes" is special, because it has just one item. Not that churches aren't busy with the change of seasons, renewed Sunday Schools, preparing for Christmas, etc. But we asked David Holston, Director of Sunnyside Ministry, for a special report, and this is what he turned in:

August 11-14, 2016 were busy days in Salem. Old Salem Museums & Gardens offered "Illuminate Salem" Thursday-Saturday night and Community Day on August 13. The Board of Cooperative Ministries hosted the third annual Children's Festival in Salem on Sunday, August 14.

The Children's Festival featured events for children, including face painting and pottery. A unique piece of pottery was created that features a finger print from all the children in attendance. Bishops Lane Sapp and Graham Rights presented birthday books to the children. Bishop Sapp wrote in calligraphy the name of each child in their book. Provincial offices were open for the children and their parents to learn more about the work done daily in Salem. Hundreds of families were at the event that ended with a wonderful Lovefeast Celebration presided over by the Rev. Ginny Tobiassen with special "camp songs" led by the Regional Youth Council. A total of 247, many of them children, gathered for worship at the Lovefeast held in the sanctuary of Home Church. In spite of the heat, everyone seemed to be having a good time.

Next year the Children's Festival will be held at Friedberg Moravian Church.

Old Salem and the Moravian Church brought thousands of people to Salem in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of Salem. This unique event gave us the opportunity to tell the story of the founders of Salem as well as inform people of the church today. Numbers can sometimes tell a story. "Illuminate Salem," with a concert and light and video show, drew 900 on Thursday, 1,500 on Friday, and 2,500 on Saturday, with the Salem Band providing music Saturday night. The Community Day attracted 5,000 visitors to Salem on Saturday. Over 400 visited Home Church, and visitors were steady at the Archives and Music Foundation on Saturday. The events were free, but a food donation for Sunnyside Ministry was requested, approximately 4 tons or 8,000 pounds of food were collected over the weekend to fill Sunnyside's food pantry.

Wow! We thank David for this stirring report on the Children's Festival and Salem 250th.

Submitted by Richard W. Starbuck, Moravian Archives

PEC News for October, 2016

The Provincial Elders' Conference met once in September on the 12th, with all members attending. As is typical, the meeting began with sharing concerns, news and needs from across the Province and a time of intercessory prayer.

SYNOD / STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The PEC received a report from the Sept. 8 meeting of the Synod Planning Committee and approved possible keynote speakers for the February intersynodal conference. The PEC reviewed a discussion with the Resolution 12 Steering Committee on Aug. 23 concerning the actions of Unity Synod; and developed a list of key questions to address in focus groups on responding to 2014 Synod Resolution #17 on Manna (New and Emerging) Ministries. PEC noted that roughly \$16,000 is pledged by congregations to the Emerging Ministries Fund for 2016.

CHURCHES AND LEADERS

The PEC continued steps in the call processes for the Ardmore, Friedland, Grace, Home, and Prince of Peace congregations; and appointed Rusty Rushing as a student pastor for Peace. PEC continued work on a Congregational Development Initiative, approving an assessment resource created by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). This resource coordinates well with the "Living the Essentials" framework being developed by the BCM, and will also be used for quadrennial reviews, which are in the process of being scheduled for the fall. The PEC reviewed and approved proposed Rules and Regulations changes for one congregation; responded to requests for advice or consultation on leadership matters from two other churches; and approved letters to congregations concerning election of RCC representatives and organization of RCCs in 2017. The PEC sent letters to four pastors notifying them of their change in status under the Book of Order after three years without call.

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, and COMMISSIONS

The PEC reviewed a plan by the Archives Commission to present gifts to the country of Liberia for its archive during the visit of its President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, to Winston-Salem Sept. 22-25; and received reports from the September meetings of the Provincial Support Services Board and the Board of Cooperative Ministries.

UNITY AND ECUMENICAL

The PEC sent a letter, and then a revised letter to pastors concerning 2016 Unity Synod's Resolution 44 "Message to the America North Province", and received and responded to communications from individuals about those letters.

OTHER MATTERS

The PEC reviewed the development of the 2017 Provincial Budget, including anticipated reductions in income, adjustment of expenses, and possible staff changes needed; and discussed plans for the joint meeting of the PECs, North and South, to be held in PA at the end of October. The PEC made plans for the question and answer discussion time on Sept. 28 at the MMA retreat.

October meetings for the PEC will be on the 3rd and 17th.

Submitted by David Guthrie, PEC President

For Your October Calendar

- 3.....PEC Meeting
- 13.....MMF/Archives Lunch Lecture, 12:15 p.m.
- 15.....Mission Society Meeting, 7pm
- 16.....Living with HIV/Aids, 3:30, Fairview Church,
sponsored by Unity Women's Desk
- 17.....PEC Meeting
- 19-21....Moravian College/ MTS Trustees
- 27-30....Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music

Concerns and Celebrations

Pastoral Changes:

The Rev. Dr. **Neil Routh** has accepted a call to become pastor of Grace Moravian Church, Mt. Airy, NC, and was installed during morning worship on Sunday, September 25, 2016. Neil most recently served as pastor of King Moravian Church, in, King, NC.

The Rev. **Joe Moore** has accepted a call to become associate pastor of New Philadelphia Moravian Church, Winston-Salem, NC and will be installed during morning worship on Sunday, October 9, 2016. Joe served as co-pastor at Fries Memorial, Winston-Salem, NC prior to his call to New Philadelphia.

Retirements:

The Rev. **Richard Sides**, pastor at Home Moravian Church, Winston-Salem, NC, has requested and been granted permission to retire October 31, 2016 after 41 years of service. Prior to serving as pastor of Home Moravian, Rick served as director of Laurel Ridge Moravian Camp and Conference Center, Laurel Springs, NC, pastor of Christ Moravian, Winston-Salem, NC, associate pastor of Home Moravian, Winston-Salem, NC, Executive Director of the Board of Christian Education, and of the Board of Cooperative Ministries.

The Rev. **John Rainey**, pastor of Mizpah Moravian Church, Rural Hall, NC, has requested and been granted permission to retire January 31, 2017, after 24 years of service. Prior to serving at Mizpah, John was associate pastor of Clemmons Moravian, Clemmons, NC, pastor of Olivet Moravian, Winston-Salem, NC, associate pastor of New Philadelphia, Winston-Salem, NC, and pastor at Mayodan, Mayodan, NC, at New Hope, Newton, NC and at First Moravian, Greensboro, NC.

Death:

The **Rev. Bob Peek's** father-in-law, Earl Keene, died during the week of September 23. A graveside service was held on Monday, October 3rd. in Tampa, Florida. Please keep Bob and Earlette in your prayers.

Ordination Anniversaries for October, 2016

Jeffrey Carter.....18 years
James Demby.....7 years
Betty Helms.....4 years
William Kerner.....54 years
Judy Knopf.....11 years
Tripp May.....40 years
Daniel Nelson.....29 years
Robert Peterson.....40 years
John G. Rights.....20 years
Aaron Linville.....2 years

Director of Christian Education Anniversaries

Lisa Mullen.....3 years
Fran Saylor.....3 years
Congratulations and God Bless You!

A Great Day to Meet the President

September 24 was a most memorable day for Sister Dorothy Pettus of St. Philips Moravian Church, Cheryl Harry of Old Salem Museums & Gardens, and Richard Starbuck as Archivist of the Moravian Church, Southern Province. We had the great honor and humble pleasure of greeting Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of the Republic of Liberia and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate (2011), on her visit to Winston-Salem.

Cheryl read our presentation of “Liberia’s Salem Heritage” – how slaves around Salem were given their freedom in the 1830s and sailed across the Atlantic to begin a new life in President Sirleaf’s country, Liberia.

Among our gifts to President Sirleaf were a tin of Moravian Christmas cookies (with a murmur of approval from the audience), and an 1845 map of the coast of Liberia, taken from the original map in the Moravian Archives.

It is a great honor, not only for Old Salem Museums & Gardens, St. Philips Moravian Church, and the Moravian Archives, but also for Winston-Salem as a whole that such a distinguished person as President Sirleaf visited us.

Many blessings to her as she wings her way home and enters her final year as the first freely elected woman president of all Africa. You have charmed us all. As we say in our best drawl, “Y’all come back now and set a spell, y-hear.” We’d love to have you back, Madam President, for a return visit to Winston-Salem!

Submitted by Richard W. Starbuck, Archivist, Moravian Church, Southern Province



Moravian Music Foundation News

MORAVIAN MUSIC NEWS & EVENTS

An Evening of Moravian Music – Thursday, Oct. 27, 7:30 pm; Central Moravian Church. A concert celebrating 275 years of music in Bethlehem, featuring Central Moravian Church Choir and the Unitas Chorale. Presented in conjunction with the 5th Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music on the campus of Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA. Visit www.moravianconferences.org for information.

The Rev. Nola R Knouse, Ph.D. has organized a Moravian *Singstunde* and will give an introductory lecture at Eastman School of Music (Rochester, NY) for the 2016 Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative. <http://www.esm.rochester.edu/organ/eroi/archive/>. The conference will be October 26-28, 2016. On Thursday, October 27 (4:30 to 5:45 pm) the *Singstunde* is to be held at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford on the Taylor and Boody organ in the style of David Tannenberg: http://www.taylorandboody.com/opus_pages/opus_57/specification.html .

Submitted by Erik J. Salzwedel, Moravian Music Foundation

Widow's Society News

Since 1918, the *Widows Society* has existed to financially assist the ladies of the Moravian Church whose husbands were members of THE WIDOWS SOCIETY prior to their deaths. In 2016, 66 ladies received checks in March and September totaling \$630.00. These checks will continue until the death, or remarriage, of the widow. Two ladies have been receiving checks for more than 35 years.

In September, at its Annual Meeting, the Society voted to increase the one time dues from \$100.00 to \$250.00, effective January 3, 2017. This means that between NOW and January, a man can join for the **OLD RATE of \$100.00**, plus \$5.00 additional from age 51 – 60. For example, a man 57 can join for \$100.00 plus \$35.00, or \$135.00. After January 3, he would pay **\$250.00 PLUS \$10.00 per year for years 51 – 60**, or in the case of a 57 year old man, \$320.00

It is **NOT** clear why **ANY** eligible man would **NOT** wish to offer this protection and benefit for his spouse.

An application is available ON LINE at mcs.org under “resources,” or by calling Bill Campbell at 336 403 3209.

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Bill Campbell, Sr.

Latest BCM News and Events

Fall Comenius Learning Series Event: Register Today!

Sunday, November 5, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00pm

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The 18th century Moravian Church embraced a radical, creative theology and practice – one that was multi-national, multi-racial, and nonviolent. Evangelism, concern for the marginalized, and the ordination of women were the order of the day. Yet, over time and on into the 20th century, Moravians shed many of these distinctions as they sought acceptance in a changing American context. Join us as we explore the costs of this adaptation and how the original visions of our forebears might still challenge and inspire us today.

Online event registration along with a link to a print form is available here:

www.planetreg.com/E823115341142683

Submitted by Andrew Cox

Unity Women's Desk

The Unity Women's Desk invites everyone to join us for a very special event. Pastor Melania Mrema and Sr. Claudia Zeissing (a missionary from Germany) have produced a wonderful film about the situation of living with HIV/AIDS in Tanzania. The film was selected by the International AIDS Day Committee to be shown last year at the International AIDS Day event in Geneva, Switzerland on December 1.

Pastor Mrema has an incredible story to tell about her work with people who have AIDS since she has also been suffering with the disease for the last fourteen years. This beautiful and touching film has been sub-titled in English especially for the Women's Desk.

Please join us at **Fairview Moravian Church on Sunday, October 16, at 3:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.** Light refreshments will be served.

Submitted by Patty Garner

Deadline for submission of articles for the November Issue of Provincial Ties is October 26.

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