

District Developments



On behalf of the Eastern District Executive Board, I bring you greetings in this season of Advent. As we have been meeting via Zoom with the clergy in each of our regions, there seems to be a common theme – great excitement with signs of new life and new possibilities within our congregations, as well as the reality of great challenges. In the midst of it all, we offer prayers of deep appreciation for you, your congregations, and the ministry you carry out. May each day of this season and new year beyond be filled with evidence of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Blessings,

Melissa Johnson

Melissa Johnson
President, Eastern District Executive Board

Then... But Now!

Then the Youth and Young Adults gathered for the Metro Youth Rally by Zoom, spiritually connected, but physically remote. **But now**, more than 160 youth, young adults, and adults from the Eastern Region of the Eastern District met in person in Egg Harbor, NJ. Emptied, Embraced, and Empowered they celebrated their need of God's presence and God's power in their lives.

Welcomed by the Metro Youth Council and Egg Harbor Moravian Church, they

remembered the past two years. **Then** emptied, because of Covid doubts, uncertainties, and disillusionment. They acknowledged that the last couple of years were tough what with remote school and colleges, remote graduation, remote proms, remote church, remote camps and summer programs, remote relationships, remote everything! Many spoke of their state of mind, noting that some are dealing with serious mental health issues, and all trying to process their fear.

Then, in the midst of those uncertain times, there was an awareness that although so many things were remote. But now looking back, they saw God was not. They talked about a sense of God's encouraging presence and inspirational words, 'do not be afraid, I am with you,' embracing them as they learned to adapt and continued to live life in changing circumstances. A sense that they were emptied but in a strange way, they were filled by an unchanging God, who's love embraces them every day.

Inspired by many speakers, songs, and conversations, they were reminded that yes times have been difficult, but God was there. Yes, things have changed, but God is here. And yes, we are not certain what the future may be, but God is walking with us. So do not fear. God embraces and empowers you. God calls you by name and claims you as God's own.

During worship they heard that more than 365 times in the Bible (one for every day of the year), we are embraced by God's words - "do not fear." Many of the times, the words "do not fear" come to an individual. That was the message to Zechariah, the priest, whose wife Elizabeth was barren, but she would have a child, John, Jesus' cousin. It was the message to young maiden,

Mary, when she learned she was with child, the Messiah. It was the message to Joseph - "do not fear" - in a dream - that his wife would bear a son. It was what the angel told the shepherds in the field, when they heard the news of great joy and did not know what to make of it. Those are beautiful and important messages - but they are specific words to specific situations.

Looking closely at that same message - spoken by the prophet Isaiah - they saw that it was written not to a person but to a people. A people in crisis! "Do not fear" was God's embrace meant to comfort and encourage a people in transition. A people who became aware that what had worked in the past wasn't working in the present, a people in conflict with themselves and with each other, a people not knowing what is next but returning to a God who was and is and ever shall be (Isaiah 43:15).

Then the people were emptied, embraced, and empowered. These people were like us.

But Now in the midst of this gathering of youth, young adults, and adults, they heard God's words 'Do not fear.'

But Now in the midst of transition, they turned to lean into God's embrace of faith and hope. To be filled by God's empowering love.

(Emptied) When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and the rivers shall not overwhelm you.

(Embraced) Do not fear, for I am with you.

(Empowered) Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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Then emptied and embraced... **But Now** empowered to do more than we thought possible, to endure more than we thought possible, and to overcome more than we thought possible.

Then...

Covid took us from our communities of faith, Covid caused us to question everything, Covid kept us from gathering together in person for the Metro Youth Rally for two years, **But Now** we gather in person, but now embraced by God presence, but now empowered by God's renewing love, we go back into our world, face to face, as witnesses for Christ.

"But now" these two small words put together, signal that things are changing. What once was is no longer. We are in a different place now. Emptied and ready for God's presence, renewed by the Hope of God's hopeful and empowered by God's ever-present love we are God's witness in our world.

This article is written by Rev. Cynthia Rader Geyer, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, NP ED. The Metro Youth Council hosts a yearly Youth Ministries Weekend in October over the Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Holiday. This article is inspired by the message of Jasmine Aska, shared at the 2022 Youth Ministries Weekend and by the youth and young adults who gathered to celebrate faith, hope, and love.



**BOARD OF
WORLD MISSION**
of the Moravian Church • North America

The Board of World Mission Announces New Education Fund

Universal education has been a Moravian core value since the founding of the Church in 1457. As 2022 comes to a close, the BWM is pleased to announce the launch of

our Education Fund, which will continue to grow and be a source of funding for Moravian education ministries for years to come. We invite you to be part of this effort by including the Board of World Mission in your end-of-year giving.



To give you an idea of the blessing your gift will be to a Moravian educator or student, here are some impact examples based on our current projects:

- \$25 = one week of schooling for a student in Kyiv, Ukraine
- \$75 = one month of instructor certification training for a teacher in Ngiehun, Sierra Leone
- \$150 = one week of speech therapy for all students at Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Ramallah, Palestine
- \$2,000 = an international BWM conference for one church leader
- \$5,000 = one year of training for a future doctor, nurse, or medical support staff at the Moravian clinic in Ahuas, Honduras

Go to MoravianMission.org/Education to learn more. To contribute, please donate online at MoravianMission.org/Give or mail checks to: Board of World Mission, 1021 Center St. Bethlehem, PA 18018. Please indicate that your gift is for "Education Projects."

We also invite you to follow along with our 2022 Advent calendar, which encourages Moravians to

count their blessings and to be a blessing to others. Learn more at MoravianMission.org/Advent and join in at any point during Advent by contacting sylvie@moravianmission.org.



**Graystone
Consulting**
from Morgan Stanley

New investment partnership By Chris Spaugh

Moravian Ministries Foundation's Board of Trustees selected Graystone Consulting to be the go-forward investment partner for the foundation and the Moravian Common Fund. The foundation staff conducted a formal proposal request process to 10 investment firms for bids to manage the common fund. All ten firms replied and presented competitive responses. After review, and in-person interviews for the top three finalists, Graystone was selected. The MMFA team will work with Graystone to transition the assets of the Common Fund to their platform by December 31, 2022. Graystone is part of Morgan Stanley and they have been named among Barron's 2022 Top 100 Institutional Consulting Teams. They manage over \$7.8B in assets for religious organizations. They promise to serve as an extension of our staff and team providing back-office support, cybersecurity, and a host of analytical services.

Their unique focus on religious organizations and their ability to help us manage the Common Fund into the future was extremely attractive for us. They will also help us maintain low costs and opportunities for competitive investment returns into the future. I am

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excited about this new partnership and our enhanced ability to meet our investors goals into the future. As we work to transition, you will hear more about Graystone in the coming weeks and months. Please call me with questions anytime, and I look forward to meeting with you in 2023 to highlight the portfolio changes and opportunities.



Crossroads 2023 Winter and Spring Courses

Note: All Courses are in person for those who are able AND also real time on Zoom. Your choice.

-Ministry Journeys of the New Testament with Rev. Dr. Joanne Marchetto, Mondays, Jan 9 - Feb 27, 6-9 pm

-Mapping the Route - Conversations in Theology with Rev. Dr. Bill Falla, Thursdays, Jan 5 - Feb 23, 6-9 pm

-Traveling Mercies Congregational Care with Greg Krausz and Diane Kareha, Mondays Mar 6 - May 1 (except April 3), 6-9 pm

-Traditions - Exploring Denominations & Religions with Rev. Dr. Bill Falla, Thursdays Mar 9 - May 4 (except April 6), 6-9 pm

For more information, Contact Jill Peters at petersj2@moravian.edu or go on the website at www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads



Prayer Concerns

You are invited to pray for Sr. Peg Chamberlin, retired pastor living in Minneapolis, MN, sister to Provincial Elder Valerie Wagner, and a member of the Waconia Moravian Church in Waconia, MN. Peg is the aunt of Pastor Dan Miller's wife (he serves Edgeboro

Moravian Church in Bethlehem). Peg had open heart surgery in November and covets the prayers of the wider church even as she requests no visitors or calls so that she may rest. Please offer prayers for her continued recovery and her spouse Mark, and family during her recovery time.

You are invited to offer continued prayers for Br. Steve Pasquinelli, President of the Larger Life Foundation and husband of Eastern District Board member Jackie Pasquinelli. Steve was recently diagnosed with stage IV pancreatic cancer. He is undergoing aggressive medical treatment. Please keep Steve, Jackie, and their family in your prayers.

Please Pray for the following churches who are without pastors:

Canadian District:

Good Shepherd in Calgary, Alberta

Eastern District:

Battle Hill, Union, New Jersey
Central (Associate Pastor), Bethlehem, PA
Covenant, York, PA
York First, York, PA
Tremont Terrace, Bronx, NY
Trinity, New Carrollton, MD

Western District:

Berea Moravian in St. Charles, Minnesota
West Salem, Illinois
Our Saviors Moravian in Altura, Minnesota
Additionally: two congregations that are not in the call process but are currently without pastors: Grace Moravian in Westland, Michigan and Daggett Moravian in Daggett, Michigan.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Birthdays

- 1 Mrs. Rose Nehring
- 4 The Rev. Cynthia Rader Geyer
- 7 Mrs. Marie Morman
The Rev. Wanda Weidman
- 9 The Rev. David Geyer
- 11 The Rev. Jeffrey Gehris
The Rev. Duane Ullrich
- 13 Mr. Keith Dague
- 14 Mrs. Carole Johnson
- 21 The Rev. Richard Bruckart
The Rev. Timothy Naisby
- 25 The Rev. Frank Barker
The Rev. Charles Harewood
- 26 Mrs. Cynthia Rice
The Rev. Sanette Fleming
- 27 Ms. Bonnie Robertson
- 28 The Rev. Darrell Johnson
- 30 The Rt. Rev. M. Blair Couch

December Anniversaries

- 6 The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Michael Johnson
- 8 The Rev. Timothy Naisby & Mrs. Usha Naisby
- 17 The Rev. Bevon White & Mrs. Cecile White
- 21 The Rev. Aden Ward & The Rt. Rev. Kay Ward
- 27 The Rev. Jodie Harney & Mr. Scott Harney
- 28 The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Reed Acheson
The Rev. Tracy Robinson & the Rev. Rhonda Robinson
- 29 The Rev. Mark Newman & Mrs. Dianne Newman

Churches celebrating December anniversaries:

- 11 - 1887 College Hill, Bethlehem, PA

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17 - 1914 Reading, PA
19 - 1747 Lebanon, PA
25 - 1863 First, now Advent,
Bethlehem, PA
27 - 1748 First, New York, NY
1842 First, Dover, OH
31 - 1865 First, Riverside, NJ
1947 Schoenbrunn, New
Phila., OH



Ministerial & Leadership Updates

The Rev. Walter Bishop was installed as the intentional interim pastor of the New Dorp Moravian congregation on Sunday, November 27, 2022, during the 10am worship service. Br. Bishop has been serving in the Southern Province. Please join in prayer for Walter, his spouse, Debbie, and the congregation!

Br. James Heroux, pastor of the Freedom Moravian Church in Freedom, Wisconsin, will be consecrated a Presbyter in the Moravian Church on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 3 pm CT. Br. Paul Graf will be the consecrating bishop. James was ordained a Deacon in the Moravian Church on June 16, 2018. Consecration as Presbyter is the second order of ministry in the Moravian Church.

All are invited to join James and his family in this celebration of the church and affirmation of James' ministry. The congregation will host a meal following the service. Those unable to attend in person may join via livestream on the Freedom Moravian Church's YouTube page. That can be found here - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6J4etgo6ywZdAucqtYUzew>.

Please be in prayer for James, his spouse Alli, and their whole family, along with the Freedom congregation at this time of celebration.

IBOC December Highlights

The IBOC has some wonderful Moravian Christmas Gifts this holiday season!



Enjoy the sweet sound of Christmas by the Bach Festival Choir and Orchestra (Florida) as they bring you *What Good News the Angels Bring*. CD \$16.00. 22 songs.

Inspire friends and family with 2 of our latest book offerings: *Your Friendly Neighborhood Hope Shop* by Rev. Mandy Mastros offers Advent meditations and shares hope through the stories of people living on the streets of Lancaster PA. \$10.95. *Losing Light* by Rev. Brian Dixon, is a compilation of prayers, poems and parables about faith. \$12.95.

Help fill time during the winter season with a 500-piece PUZZLE - a Moravian Star Mosaic. This will bring hours of fun. \$30.00

Sip coffee, tea and hot chocolate from this russet-colored, large café mug decorated with a Moravian Star on each side. Holds 18 oz. of liquid. Microwave and dishwasher safe. \$11.95

For these and other great products, visit our store at store.moravian.org or call Jill at 610-867-0593 ext. 703.

Camp Hope's Property Team

Camp Hope's Property Team is responsible for helping staff oversee the ongoing maintenance and improvement of buildings and grounds. This team is led by the Executive Director and the Property Manager.

Property Team responsibilities include:

In conjunction with Property Manager:

- Prioritize projects and tasks to be done
- Plan and promote volunteer work events, including Spring and Fall Mission Camps (5 - 6 days) and work weekends

Provide Property Manager with:

- Support and assistance on projects
- Specialty expertise on projects
- Historical perspective, including familiarity with camp's land features and buildings

Skills sought:

- Basic knowledge of overall property maintenance
- Specialized skills such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical
- Willingness to work
- Organization to plan work events
- Ability to recruit volunteers for work events
- Enthusiasm to promote work events

Time Requirements:

- Zoom conference call the 3rd Wednesday of every other month, beginning in January
- Attend one or more volunteer work events each year (Please

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note, individuals are not required to attend the entire duration of Mission Camps but are asked to attend at least the weekend.)

- Occasional phone calls/email from Property Manager for advice/support

Important Dates:

- Initial Property Team Zoom call scheduled for January 18, 2023
- Spring Mission Camp -- May 16 - 21, 2023
- Fall Mission Camp -- September 19 - 24, 2023

If you are interested or would like to recommend someone who would be a good fit in serving on this team, please contact Suzanne Curtis

(director@camphope.org) for more information! The first Zoom meeting for this group is January 18, so we would need the name of potential Property Team members by that time.