

PROVINCIAL TIES

December 2020



— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

From The Provincial Financial Office

2021 Budgets – Please remember that 2021 Budget forms are due in to the Provincial Financial Office by December 15, 2020.

Housing Allowance – Ministers can treat their housing allowance as nontaxable income for federal income tax purposes to the extent that it is used to pay for housing related expenses and does not exceed the fair rental value of their home. However, the housing allowance must be specifically designated by official church (board) action **in advance** for this favorable tax treatment to apply. Please be sure that your Church Board approves this designation for 2021 before the end of 2020 and documents this approval in the Board minutes.

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Year End Contributions – As we all scramble to make yearend contributions to the Church or other charities, please remember that in order for a contribution to be deducted in 2020, it must be “delivered” in 2020. This means that year end checks must be dated in 2020 and either physically delivered to the Church by year end or mailed and postmarked by December 31, 2020. Checks that are dated in 2020 but not mailed or delivered to the Church until 2021 should be treated as 2021 contributions. They should **not** be reflected on 2020 giving statements or deducted in 2021.

Important Payroll Deadlines – Please have all 2021 wage increases or payroll adjustments to Jennifer Vinson by December 31, 2020.

Lastly, all employees who work 20 hours or more per week are eligible to participate in our 403(b) plan. This is an easy way to save for retirement on a tax-deferred basis, and I strongly recommend participation in this plan. You can sign up to participate in the 403(b) plan any time during the year and can stop or change your contributions whenever you desire. However, most new participants sign up now so that their contributions will start with the first payroll of the year. Please give Jennifer Vinson a call at (336) 531-0025 if you have any questions.

Submitted by Robyn Glance, Chief Financial Officer

Interim Human Resources Manager

The Moravian Church in America, Southern Province is pleased to announce the hiring of Gary Stilley as our Interim Human Resource Manager. Gary is no stranger to this position having served as our Province’s HR Director part time for several years. Gary will be in the office one day a week, every Wednesday. Outside of Wednesdays he will be available for consultation through telephone or email. Gary’s primary responsibilities will be conducting site visits as needed to congregations in regards to Safe Sanctuary policies, drug and background checks and general consultation regarding HR matters. His cell phone number is 336-414-3828 and his email address is: garystilley18@gmail.com.



Welcome back Gary!



BCM News for December 2020



A Moravian Christmas: COVID Style

For many Moravians, celebrating Christmas means a packed church, beautiful music, joyous singing, beeswax candles, sharing a Lovefeast and more – all things that are difficult, if not

impossible, in this very challenging year. Now more than ever, our Moravian traditions provide grounding and comfort during an uncertain season. Earlier this year, a group began imagining what a Moravian Christmas might look like in this age of physical distancing, virtual worship, and limited singing options. This interprovincial collaboration offers events, ideas, and resources to ensure that Christmas 2020 is a spiritual, memorable, uniquely Moravian experience!

Visit MoravianChristmas.org now and throughout the Advent and Christmas season as we rethink our traditional worship and programming. Highlights include:

- Worship Resources: music, liturgies, images and videos
- Family Resources: at-home spiritual formation and fun
- Special digital content and events: Moravian "stuff" to watch and share, Advent readings online services, Moravian Advent Trivia, centralized event calendar
- AND MORE!

If you have any questions, contact Mike Riess at Mike@MCNP.org.

A Journey Through Advent: Moravian Online Reading Services

Mondays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Dec. 21, & Jan. 4 | 7:00 PM ET | Via Zoom

BCM, Moravian Church Without Walls, and the Interprovincial Board of Communication (along with members of the Interprovincial Moravian Christmas Task Force) have partnered to host a series of virtual Advent Reading Services beginning on Monday, November 30. We'll be reading through exciting new materials curated from our Advent/Christmas/Epiphany lectionary and combined to be very similar to Readings for Holy Week. We will once again feature an interprovincial group of voices who will read this transformational story. Several of the services will be live on our Zoom video webinar platform but others will be pre-recorded for release on specific dates (like Christmas, New Year's Eve, etc.).



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Visit MoravianChristmas.org for more info!

Start Your Christmas Shopping Today!

Moravian Stuff for Your Favorite People
#MoravianSwag

Start your Christmas shopping now with [#MoravianSwag!](https://twitter.com/MoravianSwag) These items are perfect stocking stuffers and are great for people of all ages! We have added several new items this year including a new Moravian Star PopSockets, Faith-Love-Hope Cutting Board, and face masks.

The best part? Your purchase directly benefits the work of the Board of Cooperative Ministries, particularly leadership and youth development as well as the creation of new Moravian resources.

[Shop today!](#)

APCE Virtual 2021 Conference | Scholarships Available

APCE (Association of Presbyterian Church Educators) invites all involved in educational ministry to embark on a 3-day, [“Anything But Ordinary Time”](#) virtual adventure like never before! While 2020 may feel like anything but ordinary, we know God is “making all things new.” This conference will inform, inspire, and challenge us to:

- Create and build community through technology
- Grow in how we lead through the strength of diversity, and
- Build hope for the church, for our ministries, and for ourselves.

Whether you are a seasoned educator/pastor, inquiring student, or a parent teaching from home for the first time, we will all walk away from our screens with a renewed sense that we are the church and God is with us no matter what.

APCE is offering the Moravian Church several scholarship opportunities to attend this virtual event! Interested, contact Beth Hayes for more information.

Submitted by Hanna Cheek Jackson

Celebrations and Concerns

Death:

Phillip Justice, brother of the Rev. Judith Justice, died November 20 in Johnson County, NC after a brief illness. Please pray for Judith, her sister, Susanne, and the family.

Ordination:

Illovis Gonzalez was ordained a deacon Sunday, November 29 at 3:00 p.m. by Bishop Tom Shelton. She has accepted a call to be organizing pastor of Agape Moravian Church, Miami, FL (formerly Nueva Esperanza Fellowship). The service was conducted with limited attendance, and was live-streamed on the Facebook pages of King of Kings Moravian Church and Agape Moravian Church. Please keep Sr. Gonzalez in prayer as she begins her ministry.

Ordination Anniversaries for December 2020

Gerald Harris.....43 years
Chris Thore.....22 years
John Wilson.....60 years
Jeff Jones.....8years

Congratulations and God Bless You!



For Your December Calendar

December 10 - PEC Meeting (*conference call*)
December 17 - PEC Meeting (*conference call*)

PEC News December 2020

The PEC met via video conference Nov. 12 and 19 with all members participating. Nov. 12 the meeting was an abbreviated one, after the conclusion of the joint meeting of the PECs, South and North. Each meeting began with sharing news and concerns from across the Province and with intercessory prayers.

SYNOD / STRATEGIC DIRECTION

PEC received an update from Synod Planning Committee and agreed to send an early December official announcement of the 2022 Synod, to be held June 1-4, 2022 at Winston-Salem State University. The Planning Committee will also be considering a “plan B” if the pandemic is still a factor at that time.

CHURCHES AND LEADERS

PEC discussed the Standards of Responsible Behavior for Ordained Pastor as these relate to pastors from other denominations serving in the Province. PEC took appropriate steps in call processes for: Ardmore, Bethania, Fairview, Hope, Little Church on the Lane, Rural Hall and Unity; met with one pastor for conversation and support; and approved Rules and Regulations changes for one congregation. PEC reviewed and discussed the status of pastors currently without call or expressing openness to call. The following churches were identified for quadrennial reviews in spring of 2021: Covenant, Calvary, Trinity, and Willow Hill. Reviews will also be conducted in the FL churches and with the Laurel Ridge Board of Directors. PEC surveyed pastors about the preferred dates and times for hosting the weekly Pastor to Pastor Conversations.

BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

PEC received updates from the ongoing work of the Moravian Team for Racial, Cultural and Ethnic Reconciliation; and received a report from the Commission on Ministry including: their contacts with pastors from other denominations, updates about candidates for ordination and potential candidates, and an upcoming revision of the Christian Educators Manual. PEC acted on a recommendation from the Provincial Support Services Board to appoint Gary Stilley as interim Human Resources Manager; and a PSSB recommendation to approve the 2021 Provincial Budget; and a further recommendation to continue the current provincial health insurance plan for 2021. PEC approved a proposal from the Moravian Ministries Foundation in America to conduct a “Moravian Day of Giving,” for congregations, boards and agencies, February 16, 2021; and received updates from the Archives Commission regarding their 2021 budget preparations.

INTERPROVINCIAL, UNITY and ECUMENICAL

PEC revised and approved a joint, post-election statement from the Southern and Northern PECs, which was communicated to pastors and churches. PEC continued discussion of a report from an interprovincial task group focused on the ministries of licensed lay pastors (Northern Province) and Provincial Acolytes (Southern Province). PEC received an update from the NC Synod of the ELCA concerning their plan to call a part-time associate pastor for the Dwelling.

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OTHER MATTERS

PEC reviewed and renewed a covenant agreement with the Board of World Mission and the Little Church on the Lane Sierra Leone Committee for the support of the Sierra Leone Unity Mission Area. PEC discussed a new county-level COVID-19 risk assessment tool developed by the NC Dept. of Health and Human Services and updated guidance for congregations based on the November 10 Executive Order by NC Governor Roy Cooper. PEC addressed calendar conflicts with the scheduled PEC meeting of Dec. 3, moving the meeting to Dec. 10.

The PEC concludes 2020 with meetings Dec. 10 and 17.

Submitted by David Guthrie, PEC President

Moravian Music Foundation



**Moravian Trivia Challenge
Advent and Christmas Edition**

[Sign Up for Trivia Challenge](#)

Open to all!

Thursday, 7:30pm (6:30c)
December 10, 2020

ANSWER AND SOLVE FOR FUN AND PRIZES

HISTORY
MUSIC
PEOPLE
PLACES
THE BIBLE

Zoom Online Trivia

Cooperative Ministries

Moravian Archives

Moravian Music Foundation

A project of MMF, Moravian Archives, and Board

of Cooperative Ministries.

Test your skills. Share your Moravian pride. Show your inner “Zinzendork!?”

All participants are asked to register ahead and will be divided into groups upon joining the Zoom meeting.

REGISTRATION: Zoom registration [LINK](#)

Please use this link anytime prior to the game on DEC 10 to sign up.

GAME DETAILS:

All participants are asked to register ahead and will be divided into groups upon joining the Zoom meeting. If you will have more than one person on the call, please let us know so we can keep the groups balanced.

*Our goal is to make this fun, not frustrating! Challenging, but not impossible!
Collaborative, not competitive!*

Questions will be about Moravian HISTORY, MUSIC, PEOPLE, PLACES, BIBLE

Beethoven’s Pastoral Symphony for String Sextet MUSICIANS of the WINSTON-SALEM SYMPHONY in CHAMBER CONCERT!

Beethoven’s “Pastoral Sextet”

December 16, 2020 - 7:30pm (EST-USA)

*Live-Streamed from the Recital Hall of **Moravian Music Foundation***

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Drei Equale; Ludwig van Beethoven ____ Four-part music for trombones
Symphony No. 6 "Pastoral"; Ludwig van Beethoven ____ Fischer transcription for
sextet

[Ticket to Livestream Concert](#)



Tickets for access to this special concert livestream
ONLY \$20 per device (plus tax & fee) [LINK](#)
proceeds benefit the Moravian Music Foundation

Upcoming the week of Dec. 10

LUNCHTIME LECTURE

Beethoven's Music in the Collections of the Moravian Music Foundation

Dave Blum, speaker

To be pre-recorded and released on the MMF YouTube Channel

Can't We Sing Yet?

Advice for the church and church musicians during the pandemic.

Nola R. Knouse, Director of MMF, talks about singing and playing in the time of
Covid-19.

Now on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/5o7zMVPPWhA>

Submitted by Erik J Salzwedel

Moravian Archives

December 2020

HOLIDAY PHOTO CONTEST. Now thru December 31, submit your photo of how you or your family or your congregation celebrated distinctly this pandemic holiday season. All who submit photos will be entered into a drawing for an original Herrnhuter Moravian star. Send photos (minimum 150dpi, 300dpi preferred) with your name, description and church affiliation to moravianarchives@mcspp.org. Photos submitted become property of Moravian Archives to document this experience in the Moravian community.

MORAVIAN TRIVIA CHALLENGE #2. On Thursday, December 10, from 7:30-9:00pm, join Moravians from all over the country/world for fun trivia about music, history, names and places, and the Bible. Open to all for free. A project of Moravian Music Foundation, Moravian Archives, and Board of Cooperative Ministries. Pre-registration required at: <http://lu.ma/MoravianAdventTrivia>

MORAVIAN STUDIES COLLABORATIVE ON "BECOMING MORAVIAN." On Thursday, December 17th from noon-1:00pm, Prof. Andrew Gurstelle, Academic

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Director of the Museum of Anthropology at Wake Forest University, shares the work of his student research team in the creation of this online exhibit inspired by artifacts gathered by Moravian missionaries which premiered during the “Becoming American” conference. See the exhibit at:

<https://moa.wfu.edu/exhibits/virtual/becoming-moravian/>

WATCH ANYTIME NOW. Our Supporters Night Video "We Gather Together," describing the work of the Moravian Archives in 2019-2020, is now accessible online. The sixteen-minute video features staff, friends and volunteers sharing their experiences of the year; and it offers ways for you to help now through 2021.

JEE <https://youtu.be/i5jKHGfN3JQ>

Submitted by Eric Elliott, Archivist, Moravian Archives

Moravian Lovefeast at Wake Forest

In this time of change and difficulty the Chaplains office at Wake Forest University has tried their best to keep things as normal as possible. Rev. Victoria Lasley and Chaplain Tim Auman have worked together to keep the Moravian Church and Wake Forest University connected. Since 2015, Victoria was introduced to Chaplain Auman while studying at the Divinity School on campus. Since then, every winter there is an abbreviated Candle Tea on campus in between the Annual Lovefeast and Candle services with Moravians from multiple congregations participating. This year Rev. Lasley was asked to write a letter which will go in the 2020 Lovefeast Kits. Madi White, who is a Candidate for Ministry in the Southern Province and second year student at Wake Forest University School of Divinity, will be participating in the service. Below you'll find a copy of the letter from Rev. Victoria. Although these are unprecedented times, we must continue to find ways to remain connected and be innovative with our partners in the community.

Dear Demon Deacons,

Count Nicolas Ludwig von Zinzendorf said “I have observed that the preservation of the community is best assured through a process of continuous change.” The Moravian Love Feast goes back to August 13, 1727 when the Moravian community in Herrnhut, Germany were having a tough time both communally and individually. However something special happened that day. After the Communion service held that day, small groups gathered together across the community. Count Zinzendorf understood that the people did not want to go home to eat alone, they wanted to stay together. So, they did.

Count Zinzendorf sent food to every group from the kitchen of his home. Nourished by a shared meal even at a distance, they were able to continue their fellowship until a renewed bond of the community was created and strengthened. This was the first Moravian lovefeast and from then on, even at a distance, Moravians still celebrate through the good times, the bad times, and all the change in between.

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You and the Moravians have something in common, you know a thing or two about what it means to live into the words *Pro Humanitate*. The Moravians on that August day in 1727 asked one another for forgiveness, for grace, and to be loved so they could love others and become a better community.

Each and every student, faculty, staff, alumnae, and community member who loves Wake Forest knows how beloved and valued our traditions are. We also recognize the importance of preserving our traditions within the community despite the changes that affect us. All of us have experienced change this year and as 2020 comes to a close we will experience another tradition in a slightly different way.

It is almost time to celebrate one of the most cherished traditions at Wake Forest, the Christmas Love Feast. You only have a candle, this letter, and information on how to be part of the Love Feast service this year. Moravian Congregations all over the United States and abroad eat and drink different things. I reached out to some of the Moravian ministers to see what their congregations use and thought some of their answers would be helpful for you at home.

In the Caribbean Islands you will have a type of Raisin Scone with Ginger Beer. In Britain you will have Milky Tea and a biscuit or cookie. In Dublin, Ireland you will have buns from a local bakery and Apple Juice. In Germany you will have a Raisin Bun and Milky Tea. In Madison, WI you will have Sugarcake and Milk. In the Northeast United States you will have Coffee, Hot Chocolate, or Chocolate Milk, and Sugarcake. In Canada you'll have Coffee, Tea, or Hot Chocolate, with assorted baked goods.

It is not about what you eat or drink during a Love Feast. Who you are with and why you are together is what matters most. 2020 has reminded us how precious our time together is and the value of making memories with those we love and cherish. Gather whatever you have with those you love and share in this meal, talk about treasured memories, and future adventures together. Find a way to repair broken relationships, ask for forgiveness, offer grace, and show love so when we are all together again next year for the Christmas Love Feast, we will be stronger and better together.

Peace and Love, Deacs,

Rev. Victoria Lasley, Moravian Church Southern Province
Wake Forest University School of Divinity Class of 2017

TO FIND THE ODE FOR THIS YEAR'S WAKE FOREST LOVEFEAST AND
THE LINK TO VIEW: <https://lovefeast.wfu.edu/>

Submitted by Nola Knouse

2020 New Year's Eve Watchnight Service

Hosted online by
St. Philips Moravian Church
at homemoravian.org/watchnight
also Facebook or YouTube channel

11:40 p.m.
preceded by band prelude

The Rev. Ginny Tobiassen,
Vice-Chair of Salem Congregation Elders,
Pastor of Home Moravian Church,
will bring the message.

Presented by Salem Congregation

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