



# PROVINCIAL TIES

February 2021



— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

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## 2021 Watchword for the Southern Province

Each year, in Herrnhut, Germany, members of the Provincial Board of the European Continental Province draw a Watchword for the year for each Province of our world-wide Moravian Church. These texts are drawn from a collection dating to the 1700's.

The 2021 Watchword for the Southern Province is the Old Testament text for December 29:

*I will exalt you, O Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths. Psalm 30:1 NIV*

The accompanying doctrinal or teaching text from the New Testament is:

*The dawn from on high [will] give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:78-79*

The prayer for the day, as found in the U.S. edition of the Daily Texts is also fitting:

*Bright Morningstar, you came to earth to lift up humanity and light our way to lives of peace. Help us carry that light into the world, so that all can see your goodness and love. Amen.*

## *2021 Day of Prayer*

All 2021 Day of Prayer services will be virtual this year. Some details are still being worked out at this time. We will send out a complete schedule as soon as all information is available. For now we have included the information about the Ash Wednesday service at Home Moravian.

Home Moravian Church Women's Fellowship will sponsor Day of Prayer on Ash Wednesday, February 17. The speaker will be the Rev. Victoria (Tori) Lasley. Music will be provided by Alex Helsabeck and Susan Foster.

This service will be livestreamed on the [Home Church website](#) at 11:00 AM. We hope that you will plan to attend this special service as we begin the Lenten Season.

*Submitted by Cindy Lamb*

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### **From the Salem Congregation, *grace and peace.***

Recognizing the continued challenges and risks associated with COVID-19, the Board of Elders of the Salem Congregation announces that the 2021 Easter Sunrise Service will again be livestreamed from the interior of Home Moravian Church. There will be no outdoor component, and attendance indoors will be restricted to the worship team.

With prayers for health and with faith in our risen Savior,

*Rev. Ginny Hege Tobiassen, Chair*

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## **Celebrations and Concerns**

### ***Illness:***

Prayers are invited for **Gladice Forena**, mother of **Illovis Gonzalez**, pastor of the newly-forming Agape Moravian congregation in Miami. Gladice has been under treatment for a brain tumor and has spent time in the hospital recently. Remember her and the family.

### ***Deaths:***

**Robert McCoy "Bob" Rierison**, age 83, died at home January 15, 2021 in Winston Salem, NC. Bob was preceded in death by his son, Robert Stephen Rierison. Bob is survived by his wife, Annalise; two daughters; two granddaughters; and one brother and one sister. A graveside service was held Wednesday, January 20, 2021 in God's Acre in Salem, with the Rt. Rev. D. Wayne Burkette and the Rev. John D. Rights officiating.

**Morris Adams**, of Cherryville, NC, and father of **Charlotte Thore** (husband, **Chris Thore**, Clemmons) passed into the more immediate presence of the Savior January 18, 2021. Keep Charlotte and her family in prayer.

***Pastoral Changes:***

**Rusty Rushing** was installed on Sunday, January 31 in a shared pastorate of the Little Church on the Lane and Peace congregations, in Charlotte, NC. Rusty began this new ministry earlier in January 2021.

**Joe Moore** has accepted appointment as Interim Pastor of the Unity congregation as they move into a call process for their next pastor. Joe began January 18, 2021 and was installed January 24.

**Victoria Lasley** has accepted appointment as Transitional Associate Pastor for the Kernersville congregation. She will be working with Christy Clore, Senior Pastor, during the preparation period for the call of a permanent pastor.

**Tony Hayworth** has accepted a call to be pastor of the Fairview congregation, and will be installed February 14, 2021.

**Andrew Craver** has accepted a call to be pastor of the Rural Hall congregation. He will conclude ministry as co-pastor of the Bethel Moravian Church, in Alaska, in May. After a sabbatical leave, Andrew will begin ministry at Rural Hall August 1.

Please keep these pastors, their families, and these congregations in prayer as new relationships in ministry begin.

***Ordination Anniversaries for February 2021***

Paul Couch, Jr.....27 years  
Tim Sapp.....15 years  
Craig Troutman.....39 years  
Steve Wilson.....45 years  
Andrew Heil.....8 years  
Fran Saylor.....3 years

***DCE Anniversary for February 2021***

Joyce Vance.....21 years

***Congratulations and God Bless You!***



# Moravian Music Foundation February 2021

## Moravian Music on the Mountain Cancelled for 2021

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we do not think it wise to be together on the [mountain](#), this year.

Keep singing and playing – sing along with recordings and online videos. Of course, we sell many fine CDs at [www.moravianmusic.org](http://www.moravianmusic.org), but you may also search for “Moravian music” on your favorite streaming service.

Here are just a few playlists MMF has created on Spotify:

### Organ playlist

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6zog5hxH5a8ogO1MyZ78cAsi=4L11TgE1QPOEFITqUou00>

### Lower brass playlist

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1yqzBbDgIOowT5OVup8Ad2si=5R7YDLhKRcKYRfFUAXPuFO>

### Sing O Ye Heavens

<https://open.spotify.com/album/19fSzkAcpxtsJdt4s7fte5?si=zxYIF6LXTNmLY-Cd8qufQw>

### Joining Our Voices

<https://open.spotify.com/album/5NaBkWm8KiV0ut4n4TQxzwsj=4Af53rA7TfqsuHTZoDvJxA>

Since this is a true hardship for *Laurel Ridge*, please consider a donation to them, through the MMFA [Giving Portal](#)

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## Moravian Music Sunday THE HYMNS OF JAMES MONTGOMERY

Recognizing that music is a means of proclaiming the Gospel, we celebrate [Moravian Music Sunday](#) on the fifth Sunday of Easter, May 2, 2021.

*If your congregation is NOT SINGING, focusing on the texts by this Moravian poet may provide a new and unique way to listen and share in worship.*

[All Resources Provided](#)



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## Bethlehem Conference

*April 20 - 24, 2021*

**A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND!** All content will be online.

[Program and Details](#)



**Due to the pandemic, the Festival will be reimagined for July, 2021**

**– with digital content, remote connectivity, recorded and livestreamed**

**music.**

*continued on page 5*

**Digital music experiences will allow for more equitable participation than ever before, with potential to engage our worldwide Moravian music community! While the Festival will be very different this year, we hope to invite everyone to Bethlehem in the summer of 2022 to be together and make music, live, and in-person. Watch for further developments.**

**PART 1: The 2021 Festival will focus on Education with mostly online connectivity. PART 2: Then, in 2022, we hope to gather in Bethlehem for a shorter in-person Festival to present the music we learned in 2021!**

**START FOLLOWING THE LATEST DETAILS at [www.moravianmusicfestival.org](http://www.moravianmusicfestival.org) REGISTRATION WILL BE OPEN SOON!**

*Submitted by Erik J Salzwedel*

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## *BCM News for February 2021*

### **Leadership Focus 2021**

#### **Prepare the Way of the Lord! Transforming Spiritual Imagination into Action**

It's been an interesting season to be the church, at times feeling like we are indeed in a wilderness. We are certainly weary of the ongoing pandemic and the divisions that separate us, so let's focus our energies on doing the important work to "prepare the way of the Lord." What highways can we build? How can we prepare for the church that is even now emerging? And how can we continue to minister to others, whether in our buildings or online, or both?



Leadership Focus 2021 will offer an opening series, a closing series, and a variety of standalone workshops your congregational leaders will find particularly useful right now, as we explore what it means to be Church beyond the pandemic. We are especially happy to announce that we'll be partnering with the [Northern Province's Healthier Moravian Congregations Task Force](#) this year to produce this event. The task force facilitates the resourcing of congregations and works on projects to inform the work of developing healthier practices in our congregations.

#### Registration

##### Individual Registration

- Individual (Access to ALL recordings and materials) | \$30
- Pastor/Educators (Access to ALL recordings and materials) | \$20
- Live Only (No Recording Access) | FREE

##### Group Registration

- Church Bundle with access to ALL recordings and materials
  - Up to FIVE Members | \$100

*continued on page 6*

- Up to TEN Members | \$150

With your registration, you can sign up for as many workshops as you would like! Once you register, you will receive all recording/materials from the sessions you select. With the “Live Only” option, you will only be able to view the sessions in real-time, with no access to the recordings.

Visit [MoravianBCM.org](http://MoravianBCM.org) for more information and to register!

## GenOn Ministries Curricula Partnership

As we move into a second year of COVID restrictions, we must work intentionally to nurture church community among the generations. BCM is excited to announce that we’ve entered into a partnership with GenOn Ministries to provide Moravian congregations with FREE online resources during 2021. These resources will work for all ages both during and after COVID restrictions.



Our first partnership offering is Lent at Home in Community, an interactive devotional resource for the six weeks in Lent. These short, easy-to-do sessions involve reading a Psalm passage (from the lectionary), doing an activity based on that passage, and praying together. It is written for all ages to do at home with an optional gathering (virtual or in-person) for all homes to process each session together. This fully downloadable resource includes all the details for making Lent at Home in Community a success.

Once you’ve received the access information, you also have access to the following GenOn curricula for the calendar year 2021 as it is released:

- Vacation Bible School virtual option: All God’s Children: The Church Family Gathers for a Very Blessed Summer
- Spring quarter - Sunday LIFT virtual model and Virtual LIFT in Community
- Summer quarter - Sunday LIFT virtual model and Virtual LIFT in Community

**To access these resources for your congregation, please email Beth Hayes, BCM’s Director of Congregational Resources and Ministries. She will handle distribution of resources to Moravian Churches via a dedicated password-protected web page on [MoravianBCM.org](http://MoravianBCM.org).**

## Vacation Bible School 2021 Update

The COVID-19 pandemic doesn't mean you have to cancel VBS this year! Many publishers are offering virtual pieces that allow Vacation Bible School to take place at home – either in families or in small neighborhood groups.

**[Our VBS Update 2021 webpage](#) explores the themes and Bible stories for this year's VBS curriculum options.** Contact Beth Hayes with any questions or to place orders from Abingdon/Cokesbury, Shine, GenOn, and PCUSA.

*Submitted by Hanna Cheek Jackson*

## *For Your February Calendar*

February 11 - PEC Meeting ( *video conference call* )

February 25 - PEC Meeting ( *video conference call* )



### **PEC News February 2021**

The Provincial Elders' Conference met January 14 and 28, via video conferencing, with all members participating. These meetings included a time of prayer for the needs of our congregations and church leaders.

#### **SYNOD / STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

PEC discussed information to be shared with the Nominations Team of the 2022 Synod Planning Committee; received an update about the ongoing work of the Moravian Team for Racial, Cultural and Ethnic Reconciliation (2018 Resolution 19), including the possibility of applying for a grant to support its work; and noted that the Synod Planning Committee is considering alternatives should the pandemic hinder being able to hold Synod in person. PEC received an update from the Provincial Organization Core Team (2018 Resolutions 17 and 18) and scheduled a meeting with the Team for Feb. 23.

#### **CHURCHES AND LEADERS**

PEC continued steps related to call processes for: Ardmore; Fairview; First, Greensboro; Hope; Rural Hall; and, Unity; and, appointed Victoria Lasley as Transitional Associate Pastor at Kernersville, and Joe Moore as Interim Pastor at Unity. PEC discussed clarifying policies around how years of service would be calculated in relation to the salary scale and the pension benefit for pastors serving under call or appointment, whether full-time, three-quarter time, and part-time. The schedule for spring 2021 quadrennial reviews was adjusted as one congregation opted to delay due to the pandemic. PEC received and discussed a report from the Commission on Ministry, which featured updates about the eight approved candidates for ordination; discussed guidelines for Provincial Acolytes who seek to pursue ordination; and reviewed possibilities of pastors from other provinces serving in ours. PEC talked about options for pastoral leadership for the New Hope and King Nani Kingka congregations after the death of Gregorio Moody.

#### **BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS**

PEC continued discussion of priorities for and the organization of the Board of Cooperative Ministries, including securing additional PEC-appointed, and RCC-elected members of the Board. PEC agreed that Guthrie will co-lead, with Marie Coutts (Director for Christian Education, Northern Province, Eastern District), a workshop on "Best Practices for Board Leadership" at the upcoming, virtual

Leadership Focus event hosted by BCM. PEC received a report from the Archives Commission. PEC acted on a recommendation from the Provincial Support Services Board to adjust the Provincial share allocations of two congregations; sketched plans for a modified, on-line Provincial Stewardship Presentation about finances in 2020 and the 2021 Provincial budget; and discussed convening a conversation among Provincial boards and agencies about office space allocation in Salem.

### **INTERPROVINCIAL, UNITY and ECUMENICAL**

PEC received and discussed an invitation from the Northern Province, Eastern District, to send one PEC member as an Advisory Delegate to its June 24-26, 2021 Synod; asked Guthrie to prepare brief video greetings to the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators' annual conference, Feb. 4-6; approved limited funding for Angelica Regalado's participation in a meeting of the Unity Youth Committee, as she serves as the North American Region representative; and received an update on the search process for the next Dean of Moravian Theological Seminary.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

PEC approved a request from the church boards at Mayodan to sell their parsonage; agreed to donate a set of hand bells from the former Good Shepherd congregation to the Raleigh congregation; reviewed fund balance reports of PEC designated (reserve) funds; and developed guidelines about how requests to review Synod minutes would be managed.

PEC meetings in February are scheduled for Feb. 11 and 25.

*Submitted by David Guthrie, PEC President*

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## **Our first ever Moravian Day of Giving** **By Chris Spaugh** **Moravian Ministries Foundation in America**

We are excited to promote the first ever Moravian Day of Giving on February 16 (Mardi Gras). The recognition has been approved by the Provincial Elders' Conferences of both the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church in America. The purpose is to encourage and celebrate giving that is unexpected, above and beyond the tithe. So many of our brothers and sisters have suffered and continue to suffer. Many have not been in a position to give as they had planned, yet the need for ministry is greater than ever. If you are in a position to make an extra gift of any amount, to any Moravian congregation, fellowship, agency, or ministry, please consider making the gift on the [Moravian Giving Portal](#) on February 16. Each donor who does will be entered into drawings for gift cards, Moravian SWAG, and more. The Moravian Ministries Foundation in America is preparing more than 100 thank you gifts for donors. In addition, Sister Sallie Greenfield will also match dollar for dollar the first \$10,000 in gifts to any of the Field of Interest Funds made on that day through the Giving Portal. Field of Interest Funds include: Hunger & Thirst, Housing & Shelter, Healing & Health, Clothing, Prison Ministry, Environmental Stewardship, and Prevention of Violence Against Women.



*continued on page 9*

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[Click here to watch Bishop Sapp's video](#)

[Click here to read more](#)

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## Moravian Archives News February 2021

### **A Reminder from the Archives:**

If you have not already, please submit the following items to the Archives for the year 2020. You can either send a hard copy or submit them digitally at [moravianarchives@mcsp.org](mailto:moravianarchives@mcsp.org). All items are immediately available for use in the Archives (board minutes and correspondence of the past seventy years by written permission of pastor or chairman of board concerned, only):

- Elders minutes
- Trustees minutes
- Congregation Council minutes
- Year-end reports given out at Congregation Council
- Year-end financial report (if not included in previous item)
- Budget (if not in year-end reports to Congregation Council)
- Joint Board minutes
- Minutes and year end reports of other committees such as Stewardship or Christian Education

*Submitted by Nicole Crabbe*

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### *News from the Widows Society*

The Board of Directors has determined there will be no annual meeting of the Widows Society this year

It has also been decided that present recipients from the Widows Society will be sent a check for \$550 in March.

The society is always open to new members and if you would like more information please contact Reverend Dr. Bill Campbell at 336-403-3209

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