



# PROVINCIAL TIES

September 2022



— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

## Leaning into Hope

As September begins, and with it a rapid increase in activities and events – in family life, church life, and community life. Some of us are more than ready to gather with others and enjoy community life again. For others (i.e., teachers, church leaders, and community volunteers) there is wave of fear. Are we really ready to be “normal” after a long pandemic? Is it safe yet? Will it ever be safe? The tension is real. Take note of those around you that still feel the weight of a burden.

A coach of pastors recently passed along an article that began with an alarming statement: “If you are part of a church, there’s a good chance that your pastor is not all right.” (Tish Harrison Warren, NY Times, August 28, 2022) It cites a Barna study that reveals clergy burnout is at unprecedented levels. The numbers are higher for younger pastors. The level of burnout is higher for clergy women than men. Discouragement and exhaustion is huge for many who are in roles that focus on helping people. The article noted this is unique for pastors (and church educators) - they bear the weight of their own pain as well as that of the community’s grief, division, and anxieties. It isn’t the issue of the pandemic as much as the relentless struggle with the endless list of issues with which it is combined. But there is hope.

*continued on page 2*

Gratitude abounds that the 2022 Synod successfully took place. Over this month as I have begun to meet with various groups and commissions, I have heard many acknowledge the tiredness and fatigue from the challenge of the last two years, but also bright spots of energy. Among the younger members of the community, a stronger desire to do something that matters to bring the community together in ways that build hope.

There are lots of positive ideas about justice and advocacy, especially among our youth. There is a new desire among young adults to be better equipped to share faith and beliefs more directly with peers who no longer attend church after being deeply wounded or rejected. Friends who were ready to step back from leadership and speaking up for younger generations, have found sparks of inspiration to keep showing up where it matters for their church communities.

This striking mix of fatigue and hope reminds me of Pentecost Sunday in Acts 2:17 – “In those days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.” I admit I have held a romantic view of such a moment arriving when everybody was ready, willing, and excited to be joined by the Spirit in the birthing of a new movement. The last few months have reminded me that the Spirit often acts in a different way – among the tired, frustrated, and weary. Bringing a pulse of hope and energy for new effort just when it seemed it was easier to quit and give up.

September marks the upbeat of church life, provincial events, and ministry opportunities all around. For many it’s the first time for being back in-person since 2019. There is excitement as well as the haunting fear of that too few will show up to make the effort worthwhile. I invite you to consider that you do not travel alone, that God’s Spirit seeks to work with you, in you, and through you. Partner with God in what God is bringing to life around you. And leave room for the weary and the tired to be present too. I am personally grateful that God’s Spirit really enjoys working with the weary and the tired! Which means we all can be part of what God is seeking to do in our midst. Let us embrace together what it means to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation in this moment.

*Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Neil Routh, PEC President*

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## **VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED**

Sunnyside Ministry is seeking new volunteers. During the pandemic period, we have operated with a smaller number of volunteers. In August, we entered a period that we are calling our **NEW NORMAL. The place we will be until at least the end of 2022.**

*continued on page 3*

To continue to serve our neighbors, we need to increase the number of volunteers we currently have by about 50%. To learn more about how you can help your neighbors in need, please contact Mary Beth Marquard at 336-724-7558.

We believe you will find this to be meaningful work. A reminder of Matthew 25:40: “Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’ (CEB)



*Submitted by David Holston, Director, Sunnyside Ministry*

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## **Moravian Team for Racial, Cultural and Ethnic Reconciliation**

The Moravian Team for Racial, Cultural and Ethnic Reconciliation extends an open invitation for your communities to join us. Learn and grow alongside fellow community members, congregants, lay leaders, and clergy as we strive to put faith in action.

**SACRED GROUND (VIRTUAL & FREE) – Bimonthly, Sept 2022 – Feb 2023** Registration required by September 6

Recurring interdenominational educational opportunity geared for white people to discuss racial healing and reconciliation in our personal lives and ministries; led in part by Moravian pastor Sue Koenig.

More Info Here: <https://www.moravian.org/ccd/2022/08/11/sacred-ground-a-film-and-reading-based-dialogue-on-race-and-faith/>

**SALEM WALK (IN PERSON & FREE) – Bimonthly, Sept – Nov 2022** *Pre-registration required; September walks September 6 and 10*

Learn about the lives of those enslaved by the Moravian church between 1771 to 1860 as we walk in their historic footsteps and then gather for discussion and worship.

More Info Here: <https://www.moravian.org/ccd/2022/08/11/salem-walks/>

**RACIAL HISTORY OF THE CHURCH (VIRTUAL & FREE) – November 2022**

Over the course of three webinars we will explore the racial history of the Moravian and Episcopal churches, focusing each session on a particular issue and then expanding it to explore the impacts to broader issues within that time period, as well as present day. (These will be also recorded for future viewing)

More Info Here: <https://www.moravian.org/ccd/2022/08/11/racial-history-of-the-church-november-2022/>

*Submitted by Betsy Bombick*

## What's New with the CCD?

### For Clergy

#### *Pastor to Pastor \*New Time\**

- Zoom rescheduled for the 2nd Thursday of the month from the 2nd Tuesday time slot. [Link](#)
- Preaching Event on September 8, 2022 at New Philadelphia 9am-2pm.

### For Congregations and Clergy (Please share with your congregations and boards)

#### *Focus Groups*

- We will begin scheduling focus groups to meet with Rev. Christy Clore on the kinds of support that you need regarding faith formation/Christian Education. Your input is vital to the continuing formation of the CCD and is greatly appreciated.
- [Sign Up here](#)

#### *Open Space Justice Event: November 12, 2022*

- After Synod the Advocacy and Justice Action Team has been gathering once a month with individuals throughout the province with passion for works of advocacy and justice to build a network of support.
  - Here is a link for an interest form for folks to specify the areas of justice work they are most interested in pursuing. Feel free to share widely <https://bit.ly/MoravianJusticeLeague>
- This team is planning to hold a hybrid “[Open Space](#)” event on November 12, 2022 to build on the energy of Synod and discern together how justice work in its various forms can grow within congregations and the province.
  - Please mark your calendars and share the opportunity with folks in your congregations that are active or interested in justice and advocacy or people who might be curious to learn more. All our voices will be needed to make this process a success!

#### **Comenius Lecture Series: “Southern Moravians, their Neighbors, and Processes of Americanization in the Early Republic, November 19, 2022**

- Hybrid event featuring the work of Dr. Grant McAlister and Dr. Ulrike Weithaus from Wake Forest University.
- For more information and to register [check the website](#).

*Submitted by The Rev. Rebecca Craver, Director, CCD*

## News from the PEC

### *September 2022*

The PEC met on August 4 and August 18. The work of the Commission on Congregational Development, the Commission on Ministry, and the Provincial budgeting process have been key areas of discussion. Brother Neil Routh officially took office on August 5, before attending a three-day retreat in Harrisonburg, VA hosted by the Moravian Ministries Foundation of America. This roundtable discussion included representatives of the MMFA, Board of World Mission, Interprovincial Board of Communication, and Archives (NP). It also included PEC NP President (Betsy Miller) and two District Presidents (Missy Johnson and Bruce Nelson). Southern Province leadership included Neil Routh, Dave Marcus, and Rebecca Craver. The group was led by Chris Spaugh and Laura Watson through three days of shared visioning and discussion on discovering more ways to collaborate and support mutual ministry.

The PEC has taken more steps to organize their work related to call processes, quadrennial reviews, and the support of candidates for ministry. A new technology vendor has been engaged to upgrade the email and digital data systems shared by the PEC offices, Moravian Music Foundation, and the Archives. Implementation and migration into the new system has begun. A new vendor has also been engaged for processing background checks through the Human Resource office.

Plans are being developed for a joint planning retreat to bring together the members of the PEC, CCD, and COM for setting vision and goals for provincial ministry for the immediate future. Particular effort is being devoted to structuring our shared work to accomplish necessary goals while leaving adequate room for developing vision and direction for the provincial ministry.

The Archives Commission met for the first time since Synod, and welcomed our new Archivist – Meaghan O’Riordan. The Synod Implementation Team convened to begin its work to shepherd action on the resolutions of Synod. We welcomed the new Director of the Moravian Music Foundation, Bruce Ernest – as well as his assistant, Chris Ogburn. And finally, the Provincial Organization Core Team met to review the work and discuss how it could be helpful in the Provincial visioning process.

The PEC celebrated with Nola Knouse (Music Foundation Director 30+ years) and Beth Hayes (CCD-Director of Congregational Ministries and the Resource Center 30+ years) upon their respective retirements.

Effort is underway to develop the budget and to communicate the new formula for provincial share adopted by Synod. This includes a narrative budget to accompany the annual budget materials distributed to congregations.

Approval was given to support the Laurel Mountain Fellowship, which is taking ownership of the Peak Creek Presbyterian Church property. This will give the congregation their own property and a location closer to Laurel Ridge.

*continued on page 6*

Robert Peterson has begun as Transitional Interim at Grace (Aug 7); Don Flowers has begun as a Bridge Interim at Kernersville (Aug 28). Call processes discussions this month: Ardmore, Grace, Kernersville, and Union Cross.

*Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Neil Routh, President, PEC*

## **Concerns and Celebrations**

Sister **Madison White** has begun her residency as a Chaplain at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, which includes status as specialized ministry. The PEC has approved her for ordination at a date to be determined. She is a recent graduate of Wake Forest Divinity School and Moravian Theological Seminary. Most recently she completed service as an intern at The Dwelling – a federated ministry between the Moravian Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church (NC) that serves the needs of persons in the immediate area of Winston-Salem struggling with housing insecurity.

Sister **Dana Myers** will be ordained on Oct 2 at Home Moravian Church with the Rt. Rev. Carol Foltz presiding. Her installation as the Associate Pastor for Fries Memorial Moravian Church will take place on Oct 16.

### ***Ordination Anniversaries for September 2022***

Bert Chin.....31 years  
Patricia Garner.....24 years  
John Jackman..... 40 years  
Nola Knouse.....13 years  
William McElveen..... 64 years  
Will Sibert.....36 years  
Ramona Spencer.....17 years  
Adam Goodrich.....5 years  
Angelica Regalado.....5 years  
Leslie Cox.....3 years

### ***Director of Christian Education Anniversaries***

Beth Hayes.....32 years  
Donna Hurt.....27 years

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

## ***For Your September Calendar***

1 - PEC Meeting, Zoom

16 - 18 - Women's Spiritual Life Retreat, Laurel Ridge

15 - PEC Meeting, 4pm -8pm, Cedarhyrst Conference Room

## Improving our relationship with money

Sign up by 9/26. Free classes begin 10/11.

By Laura Watson

In his book *God Vs. Money*, Clif Christopher writes, "I began to explore where our priorities were and whether our strivings were moving us closer or farther away from a relationship with our Creator."



Are you also thinking about what you value, what brings you happiness, and (hopefully) what brings GOD happiness? When it comes to money, are you working to make smart decisions while also wanting to do good with it? Unfortunately, our relationship with money can be a source of real stress and tension. It's hard to overcome our culture's messages of hoarding, fear, and "it's all mine and I need more."

[Click here to continue reading.](#)

[Email Laura now](#)

## Welcome Bruce and Chris and Jan! *Auf Wiedersehen, Nola und Gwyn.*



The time has come for us to say goodbye to Nola and Gwyn as they retire from the Moravian Music Foundation staff. In German, *Auf wiedersehen* means "until we see you again," which is appropriate, since we will see them. They will not be on staff, but will certainly be involved in Moravian music in some way, continuing to share and lead and educate, and serving congregations. I know you will all join the MMF trustees and me in thanking them for their many years of committed and joyful service to the Moravian Church and the Music Foundation.

*continued on page 8*

(Note: Gwyn will continue as Music Director at College Hill Moravian and Director of the Unitas Chorale) (read their Moramus Awards)

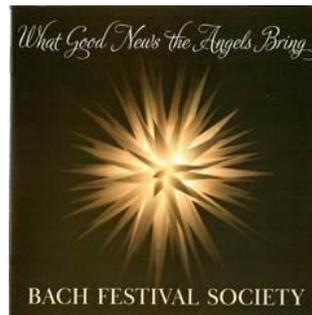
We welcome Bruce Earnest, Executive Director, and Chris Ogburn, Director of Programming to the MMF staff. For these first three weeks, they have been learning about the operations and programs of MMF; exploring new or expanded opportunities; meeting with constituents, Church leaders, community leaders, MMF trustees and staff, and organizing a staff retreat.

We also welcome Jan Harke to serve the Northern Province. Jan has worked for MMF on the GemeinKat cataloging project for many years and now assumes an administrative role in Bethlehem. She has been shadowing Gwyn and learning about the business functions and program activities of the NP office. She will be working Mondays and Fridays in the office at 41 W. Locust St., Bethlehem, PA.

*What a team we have to guide us into the future!*

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***Announcing a New Christmas CD from MMF!***



***What Good News the Angels Bring***  
**Bach Festival Society of Winter Park**

Bach Festival Choir and Orchestra  
John V. Sinclair, Music Director  
Caitlin Mohr, soprano  
Mary Wilson, soprano  
Chris Olivent, organ

One more example, and the final project, of the multi-year prolific partnership of Nola and Gwyn producing high quality recordings with great musicians, like John V. Sinclair, a long-time collaborator and ambassador for Moravian music.

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**New Book: *Strong Wounds; Eight Mohican Moravian Hymns***

This hymnal is the result of many years of research by Sarah Eyerly and Rachel Wheeler; and collaborative work with those in other fields of music and linguistics, Joshua Tanis, Brent Michael Davids, and Christopher Harvey. The 8 hymns are in the Mohican language, but translations to English are provided in the notes. A fascinating exploration of the work done by Moravians in the 18th century.

*Submitted by Erik J. Salzwedel*

## For Your Address Book

### **The Table**

**New mailing address:** P.O. Box 743, Apex, NC 27502.

**New phone number:** 919-909-4445.

**New email:** [atablepreparedforyou@gmail.com](mailto:atablepreparedforyou@gmail.com).

**New website:** <https://www.atablepreparedforyou.org>

### **New home and email address:**

**Neil and Beverly Routh**

787 Redford Road,  
Winston-Salem, NC 27104

Office: 336.725.5811

[nrouth@mcspp.org](mailto:nrouth@mcspp.org)

### **New home address and phone:**

**David & Lee Marcus (David III)**

108 Amberleigh Ct.

King, NC 27021

Home phone: 336-985-6285

### **New home address:**

**Tony and Laura Hayworth**

1201 Spainhour Mill Road

Pinnacle, NC 27043

### **New email address:**

Beth Hayes - [bethuncmom@gmail.com](mailto:bethuncmom@gmail.com)

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