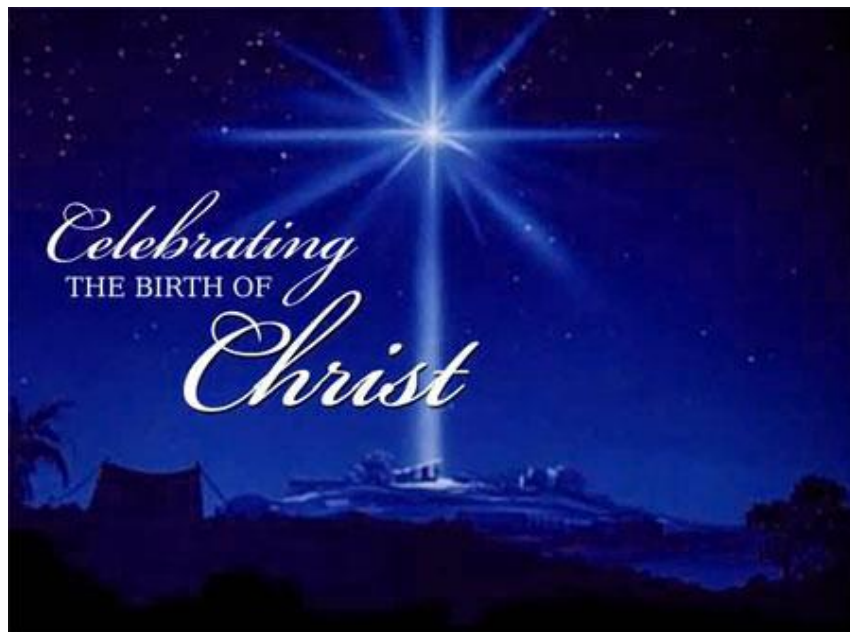




# PROVINCIAL TIES December 2022



— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

## **To Whom It May Concern – Advent Expressions**

We have been perpetually in the season of Advent for three years. It has been a prolonged season of darkness and light. At the onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic, people began decorating their homes and reaching for the symbols of this season – love, hope, peace, and joy. This included some who have displayed the Advent star year-round. The themes and symbols of Advent became important resources for managing and navigating through the long journey that this pandemic turned out to be. At the same time, many have turned to the resources of Advent to find inspiration during additional upheaval that has come from political tensions, war abroad, and the challenge to address racial injustice popping up around us.

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As we move into Advent this year, there is a new energy of love, hope, peace, and joy. For the first time in a long while individuals, congregations, and community groups are looking forward to Advent/Christmas activities that might come much closer to the in-person expressions most are accustomed to. For this I am grateful. In fact, allow me to extend this meditation to you as my own expression of gratitude – in the spirit of Advent.

To whom it may concern, I am grateful for the signs of love that are emerging in many places. Where more folks are returning to in-person worship, Sunday school, and ministry activity. Evident in volunteers who kept turning out to support expressions of outreach ministry and mission throughout the congregations and agencies of the Southern Province from the beginning of the pandemic until now. Thanks to all who kept showing up, so ministry continued, and love was embodied.

To whom it may concern, I am grateful for the many signs of hope that came to life because of the challenge that came with learning to do digital outreach because we had to. For the volunteers who discovered how to livestream Sunday school, worship, Bible studies, committee meetings, and funerals. Because of you we stayed connected and ministries continued. In many cases, the pastors led the way and in others, lay members stepped up. Specially to our oldest members who took the time to learn how to navigate Zoom and YouTube, and then went to the homes of fellow church members and neighbors to get them connected to digital ministry offered by the church. Your collective expressions embodied hope.

To whom it may concern, I am grateful for the many signs of peace that I see emerging. The PEC has been hard at work in recent months connecting with boards, clergy, agencies, and various groups. In many cases this has included creating space to listen and address grievances and empathize with loss and pain. I am grateful for all who have participated with us - listening to one another toward bringing to birth a spirit of peace. Thank you for joining in a mutual journey to embody peace into our world, beginning with one another.

To whom it may concern, I am grateful for the many signs of joy that have popped up recently. Agencies are working together to celebrate the season – i.e., the open house events planned at the Archives, Music Foundation, and PEC offices on December 16 and 17. The collaborations of worship, music, and ministry that are taking place in many of our congregations and ministry settings. And the phenomenal giving that groups and individuals have shared across the province. A special shout out to the anonymous giver of an unrestricted gift of \$100,000 toward provincial ministry. Although you choose to remain anonymous, please know that your generosity is a source of joy to the PEC as it seeks to care for our ministry efforts.

Most of all, I am grateful to the One who chooses to come again and anew through so many expressions of love, hope, peace, and joy in this season. Shining through so many servants – clergy and laity alike. May this Advent of Jesus and his presence shine to us, with us, and through us all.

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

## From The Provincial Financial Office

**2023 Budgets** – Please remember that 2023 Budget forms are due at the Provincial Financial Office by December 15, 2022.

**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 2023 before the end of 2022 and documents this approval in the Board minutes.

**Year End Contributions** – As we all scramble to make yearend contributions to the Church or other charities, please remember that for a contribution to be deducted in 2022, it must be “delivered” in 2022. This means that yearend checks must be dated in 2022 and either physically delivered to the Church by year end or mailed and postmarked by December 31, 2022. Checks that are dated in 2022 but not mailed or delivered to the Church until 2023 should be treated as 2023 contributions. They should **not** be reflected in 2022 giving statements or deducted in 2022.

**Important Payroll Deadline** – Please send all 2023 wage increases or payroll adjustments to Karen Macon at [payroll@mcspp.org](mailto:payroll@mcspp.org) by December 1, 2022. We need this for all employees, not just the ministers.

**403(b) Changes** – Churches and agencies may make contributions to their employees’ 403(b) plan beginning January 1, 2023. This is optional by church, but if you provide for 1 employee you must provide for all qualifying employees. A qualified employee is one who is regularly scheduled to work 10+ hours per week, over the age of 18 and has completed 60 days of service.

Lastly, all employees who work 10+ hours 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 Robyn Glance a call at (336) 793-0093 or email at [rglance@mcspp.org](mailto:rglance@mcspp.org) if you have any questions.

**Open Enrollment** – Open enrollment begins December 5th through December 12th. All our insurance coverage is moving to United Healthcare. We have received a decrease of 40% in our 2023 health insurance premiums.

**Human Resources** – All Human Resource functions are moving to the Provincial Financial Office January 1, 2023. Karen Macon will be the new HR Administrator. Please submit all HR questions and employee paperwork to [payroll@mcspp.org](mailto:payroll@mcspp.org). Kathy Osborne’s last day will be December 20th. We are deeply grateful for her nearly 2 years of service.

**Provincial Stewardship Presentation** - The Provincial Stewardship Presentation presented on October 13th on the 2023 Provincial Budget and 2023 Provincial share is posted on our website @ [Moravian.org/southern](http://Moravian.org/southern). Lots of good information was provided in 30 minutes!

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***Anonymous Contribution – The Province has received an anonymous unrestricted gift of \$100,000. We would like to express our deep gratitude to this donor via this post in the Provincial Ties. Your generosity has touched us greatly!***



*Submitted by Robyn Glance, Chief Financial Officer*

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## **News from the PEC**

### ***December 2022***

The PEC met on Nov 4, 18, and 29. We are happy share the completion of the call process at Union Cross and the call accepted by the Rev. Adam Goodrich to serve as the next pastor beginning in late January. Grace, Kernersville, and Raleigh continue in call processes. We continue to work with Providence and details related to closure (December 31). As well as Mountain Laurel Fellowship and the title for their new property in the former Peake Creek Presbyterian Church.

The PEC took action to make a shift in its staff, which included ending the position of “Assistant to the President” and creating the new position of “Director of the Commission on Ministry.” The Rev. Dr. Dave Marcus concluded his service in the former roll and will be supported with provincial service while we seek for him a call to return to parish ministry. The Rt. Rev. Lane Sapp has accepted the call to be the new Director of COM beginning in late January. He concludes his ministry at Calvary Moravian on January 8.

The PEC partnered with the Commission on Congregational Development (CCD) and the Commission on Ministry (COM) to hold a planning retreat at Higgins Lodge, Laurel Ridge (Nov 29-Dec 1). Our time together provided important space for discussion and planning, in addition to assigning the remaining resolutions from the 2022 Synod which have not already been assigned to working groups within the province.

The Rev. Dr. Neil Routh (President) and the Rev. Christy Clore (Vice-President) joined the clergy and pastoral leadership of the FL-GA District on retreat hosted by First Moravian Church of Georgia, in Stone Mountain (Dec 2-4). The event concluded with worship for the participants and the congregation. It also served as the first of many future opportunities to listen and dialogue with pastoral leaders across the province. At this event, the Rev. Dr. Dion Christopher (PEC and FL- GA District President), partnered with Routh and Clore to share developments and vision from the PEC with

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the participants. The event provided space and time for relationship building – especially for clergy leaders and their spouses.

The PEC has partnered with the planning team of the Moravian Ministry Association (MMA) to revive the monthly in-person gathering of clergy and educators on the first Thursday at Trinity beginning this month and over the first quarter of 2023. A virtual link is provided for those unable to be present in person. This will be a platform for the PEC to share developments and ministry news directly with clergy and educators. The PEC is asking those under call or appointment to make this monthly gathering a high priority moving forward to improve transparency, relationships, understanding, shared vision, and taking risks to respond to God’s leading in our province. A specific summit is being planned for the first quarter of 2023 (date to be determined) at which all persons under call or appointment will be required to attend.

The PEC would like to acknowledge the retirement of the Rt. Rev. Carol Foltz from ministry as pastor of Moravia Moravian Church at the end of December. Noah Smith (seminary student intern) will remain in place as the supply pastor for the spring as he completes his final semester at Moravian Theological Seminary through online classes.

The PEC invites prayers of encouragement for the staff and congregations of Moravia, Calvary, and Friedland as they say goodbye to pastors. And for the brothers and sisters mentioned above who are transitioning toward new ministry or retirement.

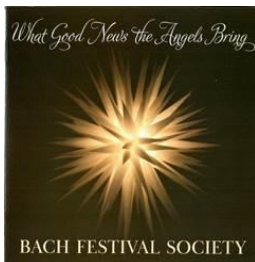
Please consider additional prayers for the Providence congregation, which held its final service on November 20 and which officially closes on December 31.

Finally, the PEC celebrates the beginning of a group in Savannah, GA led by Andy and Beverly Fulp toward the launch of a new Moravian fellowship. The Fulps have roots at Messiah Moravian where Andy grew up. They have been members of Wilmington Island United Methodist Church in Savannah for 35 years. On November 27, they partnered with members to host a Moravian Lovefeast. Stay tuned for future developments.

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

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## Moravian Music Foundation



## A Moravian Advent and Christmas Festival

presented by the Moravian Music Foundation. Enjoy Salem, experience Christmas tastes and sounds, and immerse yourself in German and Moravian Christmas traditions. The weekend will feature a variety of choral and instrumental music, artists and

craftspersons, Moravian gifts and items for sale, Tannenbäume (Christmas trees), food and drink vendors, fun and festivities, activities for children and Weihnachtsmann (Santa). Visit [moravianmusic.org/christmasfest/](http://moravianmusic.org/christmasfest/) for details and to pre-order your mug!

**Friday, Dec. 16, 2022 - 5pm - 9:00pm**

**Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022 - 10am - 1:00pm**

Admission is free; items for sale.

Archie K Davis Center (home of the Moravian Archives and Moravian Music Foundation)

336-725-0651; 457 S. Church St., Winston-Salem, NC; Parking at Salem College Fine Arts Ctr/God's Acre.

[moravianmusic.org/contact-us/directions-to-the-archie-k-davis-center/](http://moravianmusic.org/contact-us/directions-to-the-archie-k-davis-center/)

Coordinated with historic Cedarhyrst Christmas Open House of Moravian agencies.

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## **NEW CD of MORAVIAN CHRISTMAS MUSIC!**

Begin your holiday shopping with a new **Moravian Christmas CD** from MMF produced in cooperation with the Bach Festival (Winter Park, FL) Choir and Orchestra, John V. Sinclair, Musical Director. 22 Moravian hymns and anthems beautifully sung and played. [More info or to order>>](#)

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## **Music on the Mountain A Moravian Music Weekend**

**March 10 - 12, 2023**

Laurel Ridge Camp, Conference & Retreat Center  
*an opportunity to make music together, to worship, to learn,  
and to enjoy fellowship in a casual mountain setting  
with cozy accommodations and delicious meals included.*

[Friday dinner – Sunday breakfast]

[All the details](#)

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Chorus Leader: Amanda Moody-Schumpert

Band Leader: Van Krause

Devotions: Rt. Rev. Lane Sapp

Optional: we are all invited to Mountain Laurel Fellowship for Sunday morning worship; band prelude and choir anthems.

a project of the Moravian Music Foundation [www.moravianmusic.org](http://www.moravianmusic.org) and Laurel Ridge [www.laurelridge.org](http://www.laurelridge.org)

*Submitted by Erik J. Salzwedel*

## Concerns and Celebrations

### Pastoral Changes:

The Rt. Rev. **Lane Sapp** has accepted the call to be the new Director of the Commission on Ministry (COM). He will conclude his ministry of 27 years as pastor of the Calvary congregation in the coming weeks and begin his new role within the PEC staff in early 2023.

Please keep Brother Sapp and the Calvary congregation in your prayers over the coming weeks as they transition towards the future.

The Rev. **Adam Goodrich** has accepted the call to be the Pastor of Union Cross Moravian Church. He will conclude his ministry as the Co-Pastor at Friedland Moravian Church in December and begin his new role at Union Cross in January.

Please keep Brother Goodrich, the Rev. **John G. Rights**, and the Friedland congregation in your prayers over the coming weeks as they transition towards the future, as well as the Union Cross congregation as they celebrate this new beginning.

The PEC also acknowledges the ministry of the Rev. **Jeff Coppage**, who has served faithfully as the Interim Pastor at Union Cross. He will conclude his ministry at the end of December as he takes time away for health and recuperation.

### *Ordination Anniversaries for December 2022*

Gerald Harris.....45 years  
Chris Thore.....24 years  
John Wilson.....62 years  
Jeff Jones.....10 years

*Congratulations and God Bless You!*

## Three resolutions you can keep in 2023

By Vince Holbrook

The first step in reaching a goal is to have one. Sadly, fewer than 1 in 3 Americans even made a New Year's Resolution last year, according to [ABC News](#). Of those who did, the second-most common theme was to improve finances. (Improving health/losing weight took the top spot). And, according to [Forbes](#), 80% of those who do make resolutions abandoned them by early February.

We can't help you stay on a diet, but your Moravian Ministries Foundation in America (MMFA) is here to help you beat the odds with three resolutions you can keep in 2023. Use the marvels of technology and structured programs to keep your financial resolutions in 2023.

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## **Resolution 1: Improve finances**

Sign up for our next FreedUp class by January 9. MMFA pays the fee and provides the materials for Moravians. The virtual classes occur on six consecutive Thursdays at noon or 7:00 p.m. beginning January 19. MMFA's own Laura Watson leads the virtual class, which has received rave reviews from Moravians you may know. [Click here to read more!](#)

## **Resolution 2: Document your plan**

Did you know 68% of Americans lack a valid will? Make a resolution to be among the minority of people who do. Create your will, medical power of attorney, advanced directive, and other important legal documents.

MMFA is proud to introduce our new [Legacy Planner](#)™ online legal document system. It's an end-to-end way to create important documents to remember the people and ministries you love. It produces the actual documents and provides instructions to get them witnessed, notarized, and filed in the state where you live. Again, this service is free to anyone who is remembering any Moravian ministry in their plans.

## **Resolution 3: Fulfill your pledge**

You've told your congregation, fellowship, or worship community your plans to financially support them during 2023. So, what's better than your pledge card? A recurring gift on the Moravian Giving Portal. Surprisingly, nearly 1 in 4 people who do not keep their resolutions [report](#) the reason is that they forgot. The Moravian Giving Portal can help you remember by scheduling regular offerings on a monthly basis. It's easy to do. And MMFA pays any card processing fees. The portal remembers even if you forget. Of course, you can change or discontinue your recurring gift at any time.

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## **For Your December Calendar**

15 PEC Meeting, Cedarhyrst  
22-23 PEC Offices Closed for the Christmas Holiday  
28-31 LR Winter Camp, Middle/High School





## Moravian Archives

Cindy Lamb has accepted the permanent part-time position of Archives Operations Coordinator, effective January 3, 2023. Cindy will continue to work part-time for the Provincial Women's Board as well. Cindy was hired to "keep the lights on" in the period before I came on board, and she has been a tremendous help and resource to me as I have gotten started as the new Archivist. I very much value her expertise and skillset and look forward to working more formally with her in the future.

*Submitted by Meaghan O'Riordan, Archivist*

### *Mission Society News*

#### **Feast of Love Concert**

**Sponsored by the Mission Society of the Moravian Church  
Sunday, January 29, 3:00 PM  
New Philadelphia Moravian Church**



You're invited to a concert featuring Moravian musicians from around the area representing a wide variety of musical styles and genres. There will be an international element, a camp element (looking forward to Mission Camp), and traditional and contemporary elements. The Mission Society will take up an offering for the ten missionaries the society supports around the world.

If you have any questions call the Mission Society office at 336-773-1732.

*Submitted by Jennifer Boles*

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