



PROVINCIAL TIES

November 2023



— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

Leading from the Soul

We all learn and practice, from an early age, various methods of self-care. A daily routine of hygiene, exercise, and diet among other things. But how would you define your soul-care? Is soul-care something you attend to each day?

There has been a long debate about the stages of spiritual growth. Some contend that there are stages of spiritual development like physical development - stages of spiritual development like infancy, childhood, adolescence, young adult, adult, and older adult. The debate is whether spiritual development is epigenetic or not.

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“Epigenetic” is a term from biology that describes the process of cell growth. It has also been used to describe the process of physical and emotional growth from childhood through adulthood. In this case, it means that we grow older whether we like it or not; that we physically develop through life whether we choose to do so or not.

Does the same thing happen with our spiritual maturity? Do we grow more spiritually mature naturally or does it require our intentional effort? Some contend we do not evolve spiritually without conscious effort and choice. Others contend spiritual development occurs organically even if we would rather stay put at an earlier stage of spiritual development that feels safe and secure.

Since the earliest era of the Christian movement, there is much expression from many different types of voices and leaders that point to the importance of intentional effort spent on soul care, that each person has a responsibility to grow closer in connection to God. It is striking how the stories of scripture shed light on this, not only the importance of being connected to God in a deep way, but the development required for growing ever-deeper in this connection with God.

Consider Moses and his development as a leader - from his status as an outlaw in the Egyptian empire to shepherd in Midian to prophet. Consider the process of Paul - from bounty hunter after Christians to conversion through 20 years in preparation with Barnabas before he wrote one of his letters that is found in the New Testament. Each of these processes recorded in scripture reflects that great leaders evolve spiritually. And the process is not so much an acquisition of knowledge and practice as it is a surrendering to God’s leading at ever deeper places in the soul.

What are you doing on a daily or weekly basis to deepen your soul connection to God? If you are finding it hard to make time, consider the signal this represents about the potential toxicity of your work and responsibilities.

Recently I discovered a wonderful new book - Leading from the Soul, by Ruth Haley Barton - which provides a simple and clear way to approach work so that your soul is nurtured rather than weakened or distressed in it. It has challenged me to start each day with a few minutes of careful reflection and quiet, where I look at the itinerary of things to be done and lay them down into the hands of God. Where I spend a few moments in prayer considering who I will meet and to anticipate God showing up in each encounter to reveal grace, direction, and hope.

As simple as this seems, it takes choice and effort to be still long enough at the beginning and ending of the day to allow God to be revealed in the manner of Psalm 46:10 - “Be still and know that I am God.” As imperfectly as this effort may be, God is present, and the moments set aside for this discipline breathes direction and hope into my intentions. In fact, I often find more space for God to guide and lead while being less stressed and anxious about the endless list of items to be done.

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The ongoing intentional practice described above leads one to lead and live from the soul. Consider it for yourself. Taste and see if it helps you grow deeper with God.

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



Ordination Anniversaries for November 2023

Russell Williams.....13 years
Stuart Zimmerman.....45 years
Rusty Rushing.....6 years
Eulencine Christopher.....18 years
Lisa Mullen.....34 years
Illovis Gonzales.....3 years
Jeffrey Coppage.....30 years
Madi White.....1 year

Congratulations and God Bless You!

Moravian Ministries Foundation Association

Want to support your church?

Moravian Ministries Foundation can help!

- Make a tax-free gift
- Make a gift that pays you back
- Avoid taxation on your IRA
- Make a gift that costs nothing in your lifetime

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Looking ahead and preparing for the future can be a daunting task. With the uncertainty of what tomorrow might hold, taking the first step in planning might be nerve-wracking. MMFA is here to help!

Moravian Ministries Foundation in America is a valuable partner and a free resource for Moravians seeking to contribute to the church in a tax-efficient and effective manner. Our online “Legacy Planning” tool allows you to draft your will, healthcare directives, and powers of attorney, all at no cost! This wonderful resource enables anyone to initiate their preparations for the future while simultaneously ensuring continued support for Moravian ministries for years to come.

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We understand that this might be a confusing and time-consuming process, so we are here to help walk you through each step.

Beyond our "Legacy Planning" tool, MMFA offers additional support to help you:

- Establish gifts to provide an income stream that will eventually benefit your church and/or favorite ministries,
- Maximize tax advantages for both you and your beneficiaries,
- Transfer stock or retirement assets as a generous gift to your church or favorite Moravian ministry,
- And more!

Contact Chris Spaugh, MMFA President & CEO, for guidance or with questions.

Let MMFA be your partner in planning for the future. Let's move ministries forward, together.

Moravian Ministries Foundation in America
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Submitted by Hanna Cheek Jackson, Communications and Marketing Specialist, MMFA

Provincial Events Calendar

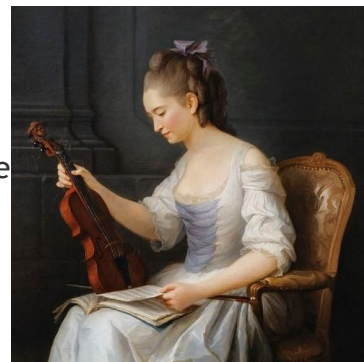


Going forward, using this link [Provincial Event Calendar](#), you will find all Provincial events scheduled in the Southern Province. The calendar will be updated when the PEC office has knowledge of an event. Please refer to the link often as it will probably change weekly. This link will take the place of the usual calendar items listed in the Ties.

Moravian Music Foundation

What is the Classical Style?

The next **Thursday Talk** will be November 9 at 12:30pm. Christopher Ogburn will be leading us in an examination of the origins and markers of the "Classical" style. What is it and where did it come from? Why do we call it Classical music? What made this style of music so popular among Moravian composers and musicians? As always, Talks are **FREE** and open to all. There will be light refreshments. www.moravianmusic.org



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ChristmasFest



**A Free Moravian Advent & Christmas Festival
Family Fun & Festivities - Holiday Marketplace!**

Music all day long by a variety of
choirs/ensembles
Food & Drink Vendors
Artists and Craftspeople
Activities for Children and Santa!
Moravian Music Foundation, Archie K
Davis Center (457 S. Church St.) and
Elberson Fine Arts Center (for

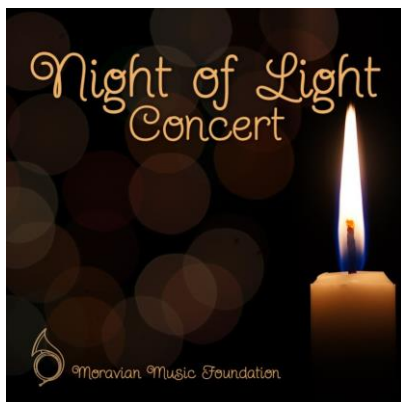
parking, use 412 Rams Dr. in your GPS) in Winston-Salem, NC. Free.

ChristmasFest will have space available for Moravian churches, groups, or agencies to set up a tent or display. For more info and to fill out a brief information form; the link is on the [CHRISTMASFEST PAGE >>](#)

VENDORS with unique Moravian items are welcome to apply for a limited amount of spaces at the same [link](#). There is a charge for vendor space. info@moravianmusic.org

VOLUNTEERS WANTED !!

Be a part of the excitement! Volunteers needed for ChristmasFest 2023! We are very excited for the upcoming Christmas Fest event which will be held on Saturday, December 16th. We are anticipating needing approximately 30 volunteers to work the full day (or more if people do half day shifts - 9:30-2, 2-7). There are multiple volunteer roles available, which caters to a variety of skill sets and interests. **If you would like to volunteer, please complete the [Christmas Fest 2023 Volunteer Form here.](#)**



Night of Light Concert

Premier Event, limited seating.
Saturday, December 16, 2023 [TICKETS](#)
7:00pm
Archie K Davis Center, 457 S. Church St.,
Winston-Salem, NC

<https://moravianmusic.ticketspice.com/moravian-music-foundation-serenade-series>

Submitted by Erik Salzwedel, Moravian Music Foundation

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