



BETHABARA BELLS

Bethabara Moravian Church Newsletter

Volume 31, Issue 4

April 2010

**CALLED
CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING
&
LUNCHEON**

SUNDAY, April 18th

(Immediately Following 11 am Service)

A proposal for a rest room in the vestibule area
(floor plan design from the architect)

was presented at the regular October 25th 2009 Church Council.

This proposal was a result of a request from the 2008

Church Council, directing the Church Board away from a
Kitchen renovation project (because of expense) to a rest room
only design. The Council directed the board to return to the
Church Council with a contractor's estimate of the costs.

[see next page, please]

**New Info on Restructuring
the Moravian Church,
Southern Province**

Our congregation has received its Regional Conference assignment. In the coming months and years, we will be working closely with four other Moravian churches to do effective ministry together: Fulp Moravian Church (Walnut Cove), Oak Grove Moravian Church (Ogburn Station), Providence Moravian Church (Stanleyville) and Willow Hill Moravian Church (Ararat, Virginia). Our own Chuck Harmon serves as pastor there.

Here is a comment from the Provincial Restructuring Committee on the upcoming changes in the Southern Province: *“As we move forward in the restructuring processes, it is essential that each congregation appoints representation to its Conference by April 15, 2010. The appointment of two representatives will be made by your church board. One representative will be appointed to a one-year term, and the other, to a two-year term. These representatives will serve until your 2011 and 2012 Congregational Councils, respectively.*

Following this initial appointment, representatives will be eligible to serve successive two-year terms by election at the same Congregational Council that elects your church board membership. Thus beginning in 2011, one representative will be elected each year to a two-year term. At this time, we are leaving any decision regarding the number of consecutive terms a person may serve to the discretion of your church board. Each congregation will also need a pastor representative. We anticipate that representatives will have their first Regional Conference meetings in May. At these May meetings, one representative from each conference will be elected to the Provincial Board of Cooperative Ministries.”

**TURN THE PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
THE REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF CHURCHES**

Forming Regional Conference of Churches: What Are the Regional Conference of Churches?

- As directed by the Special Synod in September 2009, Regional Conferences of Churches are being formed to assist individual congregations in discovering, exploring, developing, and cultivating a strong and healthy ministry.
- A conference represents a cluster of 4 to 6 congregations, represented by two lay persons and one pastor from each congregation, and in some cases, representatives from Moravian fellowships.
- Representatives will meet together at a minimum quarterly.
- Representatives may choose to communicate through conference calls or other electronic media, as long as strong relationships are fostered and maintained.
- Representatives will elect one representative to the new Board of Cooperative Ministries. It will provide provincial programs and resources to nurture local congregational health.
- Conference assignments have been sent to each congregation.

What Are the Main Purposes?

- Regional Conferences will give form and witness to the eight characteristics of congregational health: our relationship with Christ, mission, growth, leadership, worship, cooperation, stewardship and ministry.
- Regional Conference work together to define for Synod what “healthy congregational characteristics” need strengthening.
- They communicate with and request support from the Board of Cooperative Ministries on attaining Synod’s goals for the congregations represented by the Regional Conferences.
- Regional Conferences will be manageable in size and conducive for developing relationships, mutual efforts, sharing “best practices”, and meaningful participation between congregations.
- A Regional Conference will help each congregation celebrate its abilities for ministry.
- A Regional Conference will share mutual mission activity enabling congregations to do more together than separately.
- Capacity for healthy ministry will evolve from the synergy of this mutual effort in mission (Colossians 3:12-17).

[see next page]

How Are Representatives Selected?

- The governing board(s) of each congregation will appoint two lay representatives by April 15. One representative will serve for at least one year and the other for at least two years with their terms expiring at the next Congregational Council after their term.
- In the future, Regional Conference Representatives will be elected for a two year term at the annual Congregational Council when members of local board(s) are elected.
- Additionally, a pastor from each congregation will serve as a representative. In multi-pastor congregations, the pastoral representative will be determined by the governing board(s). A fellowship will be represented by the fellowship's coordinator and one other member selected by the fellowship.
- The congregation's representatives should be knowledgeable of the eight characteristics of congregational health and the current status of your congregation as relates to these eight characteristics.
- The representatives should be willing to share ideas, objective, able to think strategically, a good listener, and a good communicator.

A New Opportunity for Shared Growth!

- Each Regional Conference will determine the actual points of shared ministry. Just imagine the possibilities...
 - ◇ Senior Friends events / activities / retreats
 - ◇ Collaboration through shared mission trips /retreats at Laurel Ridge
 - ◇ Joint youth events / activities / VBS
 - ◇ Addressing outreach opportunities too large for one congregation
 - ◇ Sharing ideas and insights around stewardship
 - ◇ Sharing ecumenical partnerships with congregations from other denominations

Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

[end]

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- Palm Sunday** 11:00 am - Morning Worship
(March 28) 6:45 pm - Band Prelude
7:00 pm - Holy Week Reading
- Mon. Mar 29** *7:00 pm - Holy Week Reading at Gemeinhaus
- Tues. Mar 30** *7:00 pm - Holy Week Reading
- Wed. Mar 21** *7:00 pm - Holy Week Reading
- Thurs, Apr 1** *7:00 pm - Holy Week Reading—
Holy Communion
- Fri., Apr 2** 2:30 pm - Death Hour Service—
Sanctuary and God's Acre
(The hour of Christ's death)
* 7:00 pm - Holy Week Reading / Lovefeast
- Sat., Apr 3** Graveyard Clean-Up
- Easter Sunday** 9:30 am - Fellowship Breakfast & Devotion
(April 4) 10:30 am - Resurrection Service - Sanctuary and
God's Acre
(*6:45 pm - Band Prelude)

**The Old Town School Book
Drive is back at Bethabara.**

**Women's Fellowship
General Meeting
Sunday, April 11
2:30 p.m.**

**THE GREAT SABBATH SERVICE OF MUSIC
Saturday, April 3**

7:00 p.m.

Home Moravian Church

The 76 member choir, made up of Moravians and friends from the community, is under the direction of Drake Flynt, music conductor at King Moravian Church. The service of music will include anthems composed by Moravians and others which share the story and feeling of the Great Sabbath day. A full orchestra and organ will accompany this musical presentation. Mary Louise Kapp Peeples is organist.

Everyone is invited to attend.

Circle Meeting

Tuesday, April 6

10:00 a.m.

Come and bring a friend!

**Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministries
Presents....**

Hope on the Inside

Friday, April 9th

7:00 p.m.

**First Presbyterian Church's Worship Center
200 N. Cherry Street
Winston-Salem, NC**

Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries' annual Hope on the Inside outreach will feature national speaker and author of "Championship Fathering", Carey Casey. His story telling and passion to encourage men to be championship fathers will inspire men and women. We invite you to come and hear Carey speak. An offering to support Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries' mission of using Christ's love and forgiveness to transform lives and break the cycle of crime and punishment will be received that evening. Call the ministry's office for more information, 759-0063, or visit the website: www.forsythjpm.org.



A SPECIAL PRESENTATION

On April 24th at 4:00 p.m., the Winston-Salem Pops Singers will present their annual spring concert here at Bethabara. This year they are going back to the fifties and early sixties – a time of poodle skirts and bobby sox, tee shirts and dungarees, crew cuts and ponytails. Please come hear some great music from a great decade.

Easter ‘firsts’

Here is a seasonal question with a tricky answer: When was the first Easter Sunrise Service in Salem? Answer: March 31, 1771.

BUT it wasn’t held outdoors. God’s Acre had not yet been consecrated with a burial. Besides, it rained. So the service was held in the two-story house (“Second House”) on the northwest corner of Main and Bank Streets.

The next year, 1772, the service was again held indoors. The graveyard had been consecrated with a burial, but once again it rained.

The first Easter Sunrise Service in Salem on the graveyard was April 11, 1773.

Of course it was **Bethabara** which had the first Easter services in Wachovia: April 14, 1754, and March 26, 1758, on the graveyard after the first burial.

Next question: Does the band play the same chorales on the early Easter rounds and to accompany the congregation to God’s Acre? Answer: Nobody knows. Not even Nola Reed Knouse, director of the Moravian Music Foundation. Most likely the band then was too busy playing to write it down.

Over the years we have fine tuned a bit. The service itself has added a few hymns more than our 18th-century hymnals. Beethoven’s “Creation Hymn” was probably added shortly after the Civil War. Four or five years ago Bands 1 and 2 added a couple of tunes to their antiphonal playing.

But basically bands now and then could recognize and play most of each other’s tunes. And probably we would agree to begin the early Easter rounds with 230 A: “Wake, awake for night is flying . . .”

Newsletter Notes

Richard W. Starbuck, Moravian Archives

Newsletter submissions should arrive in the church office by the 18th of each month.

**Ushers
For April**

Martin Gomez
Allan Burton
Edward Regalado
Chris Orrell

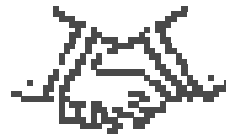
April Nursery Attendants

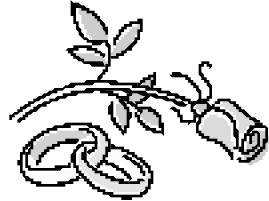
- 4 Elia Garcia / Edna Blevins
- 11 Elia Garcia / Pat Mobley
- 18 Elia Garcia / Ashley Burton
- 25 Elia Garcia / JoBeth Boyles



April Greeters

- 4 Gena Howard
- 11 Dick & Eva Morgan
- 18 Moir & Fern Hunter
- 25 Rachel Pike





April Anniversaries

- 4 Joey & Rachel Hampton
- 8 Joel & Kristy Sapp
- 9 Dick & Eva Morgan
- 18 Robby & JoBeth Boyles

April Birthdays

- 1 Ann Gabriel
- 3 Bill Cobb
- 4 Cesar Jimenez
- 11 Michele Harmon
- 11 Dick Morgan
- 14 Yahaira Tejada
- 22 Sarah Grace Burton
- 22 Beth Whitehouse
- 24 Christofer Gomez
- 25 Gloria Long
- 28 Frances Clark





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