

A Memorabilia of 2004

Building and outreach, programs and mission, and change, change, change make up the course of events of any year. The year 2004 has had its share of activity as attested to by reports kindly provided by Southern Province agencies.

Barely pausing amid Sunnyside Ministry's work, Roma Combs reports, "In 2004 the Southern Province once again offered shelter from the storm of poverty through service to families in need. Sunnyside Ministry offered that shelter to 10,000 persons at a cost of \$652,000. The Province came together in unity as volunteers and donors sacrificed so that Christ's love could be shared in a community with still unmet needs. Sunnyside is proud to be a place where all can answer the call and offer shelter for our sisters and brothers in the time of crisis."

Would that someday we could tell Br. Combs he can rest easy, all his agency's services have been fulfilled. In the meantime, though, help is on the way with the newly formed Sunnyside Program Board, a group of 15 individuals dedicated to assisting Br. Combs in strengthening and expanding Sunnyside's ministry to those in crisis.

Sunnyside Ministry is one of a number of undertakings of the Board of Evangelism and Home Missions, which also oversees new and forming churches as well as churches facing decline. This puts BEHM into the heart of the Southern Province — the growth and vitality of congregations.

BEHM's goal is a new congregation in the Province every two years. It's ahead of the game. Fresh from the organizing of New Beginnings in 2002 and Holly Springs in 2003, BEHM is shepherding another group toward church status. Cordero de Dios (Lamb of God) began several years ago as an outreach of Ardmore. Last May 2 Cordero de Dios began regular worship in its new home, the former Immanuel church building on Peachtree Street. Then on October 17, BEHM's David Guthrie reports, "Cordero de Dios was formally recognized as a developing congregation and opened its charter roll of members with 32 signing the roll on that day."

As the first Latino Moravian group in North Carolina, Cordero de Dios holds a special interest of the Southern Province. Numerous contributions of food and clothing have been made as well as a Home Church grant for renovations for better storage of supplies. Even Good Shepherd, amid its struggles with its future, issued a call to its members for a helping hand for Cordero de Dios.

Serving as pastor of Cordero de Dios is Enrique Alcantara, who is also under call as director of Latino Ministries Education and Development.

Further church development is taking place in Florida. An outreach of Prince of Peace in Miami has organized into a weekly worship service for Moravians in the Margate, Florida, area in northern Broward County. With God's blessing, as Br. Guthrie says, "It is possible this group may decide in the future to organize into a Moravian fellowship."

Long-established congregations also receive assistance from BEHM. A "Vital Congregations" training program was held in November with three congregations participating, Fairview, Peace, and New Hope. The aim of the yearlong program is to identify strengths and gifts of congregations so that new ministries of outreach and service can be developed. "BEHM plans," Br. Guthrie writes, "to make this an ongoing opportunity for growth and development for congregations in the Province."

The Moravian Church is a mission church, as Jack Geis of the Mission Society is eager to remind us, and the Society's support of individuals and agencies this year has truly stretched around the globe from Labrador to Croatia, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Honduras, and Mexico. Short-term mission work crews — 121 youth and 22 adults — came from Ardmore, Calvary, Christ, Clemmons, Friedberg, Grace, Hopewell, Kernersville, Konnoak Hills, Little Church on the Lane, Macedonia, New Philadelphia, and Raleigh.

Br. Geis is especially pleased with the refurbished floors in the Society's mission residence on Main Street in Salem. Actually, the entire house is undergoing a facelift —

Br. Geis says it was about time after decades of use — with significant contributions from individuals, churches, and Salem Congregation. Now visiting missionaries and other guests will have a pleasing place to stay.

The interprovincial Board of World Mission this year rounded out its administration by naming William C. Sibert, Jr., as executive director and Samuel Gray as director of intercultural ministries and communication. The work of the Board of World Mission encompasses church planting in Siberia, Nepal, and the Congo; cross-cultural participation and work-crew and short-term mission opportunities; support for AIDS orphans. The Board of World Mission even sees mission needs among us and is meeting these needs with church planting among immigrant Christian communities in the Northern Province and support of BEHM's Latino ministry in the Southern Province.

The wide range of the Board of Christian Education spans the outreach of the Moravian Book & Gift to the delights of camping at Laurel Ridge. Nine Provincial committees and commissions operate under the broad umbrella of the Board of Christian Education including Curriculum, Church and Society, Family Life, Stewardship, Youth, Spiritual Growth, Gemeinschaft, Church Educators, and Lay Seminary. Christian education is indeed for all ages, and an example of that is the children's ministry, with Lisa Mullen reporting that "to point to memorable events is hard because there are momentous times that are so fleeting in children's ministry, like seeds being planted, almost silent and imperceptible." College-age Moravians could hang out during the "boring" summer months with Bible studies and discussions. A singles ministry has also been meeting, providing support for singles or those dealing with the loss of a spouse or divorce, and "dealing with the 'couples world' mindset."

Taking a confident step to the future, Laurel Ridge early this year launched a major capital campaign titled "Growing for a Lifetime." The campaign aims to raise almost \$2 million for the expansion of Higgins Lodge including a new kitchen, 24 new guest rooms, additional meeting areas, and paved access road and 90 parking spaces. This is a grand opportunity to give a gift to the next generations, or as Laurel Ridge puts it, "Let us leave the same legacy left to us to our children and grandchildren: . . . a mountain . . . a vision . . . a future."

Also aiming for the future by building on the past is the Moravian Music Foundation. Along with several anthems and organ pieces, the Foundation saw the publication of *Companion to the Moravian Book of Worship*. Written by Albert Frank, this major volume contains information about every one of the hymns in the Book of Worship, the Supplemental Communion Services, and the Readings for Holy Week — a veritable gold mine of Moravian hymnody information. Looking ahead, director Nola Knouse reports, "We've been working hard on preparations for more recordings — a recording of Moravian Christmas music, hopefully to be completed in 2005, and the second volume of music of the 26th N.C. Regimental Band. Preparations are also already well in hand for the 2006 Moravian Music Festival."

The Moravian Archives continues its safekeeping of history and returning it to the churches in publications, slide shows, presentations, etc. An Archives Day in May drew about 100 people. A new edition of *Funeral Chorales of the Moravian Church*, published jointly with the Moravian Music Foundation, helps explain why bands play certain tunes at funeral services. A treasure trove of early Wachovia records was cataloged, and some of its maps were sent to a conservationist for preservation. A room-full of records was received from the Treasurer's Office, and among the minutes, correspondence, and financial statements was a shoebox filled with colonial and Confederate currency. The Archives urges churches and agencies to keep turning in those records. After all, the records you make today will be the history you read tomorrow.

The Southern Province hasn't had many treasurers, only eight since the office was established in 1858. Now we have our ninth treasurer. C.T. Leinbach III — everybody calls him Ted, like his father — began work last spring as secretary-treasurer of the Southern Province. He is also treasurer of Salem Congregation. It must run in the

family genes. Ted's great grandfather, Julius A. Lineback, was Provincial treasurer as was his great, great uncle, James T. Lineback. Together they served 35 years from 1874 to 1909. We look forward to many years of Ted's steady hand at the financial helm.

The churches of the Southern Province made their own history in 2004, not just with buildings but with programs and new initiatives as well. Peace held a grand dedication of its new church complex on Rea Road in Charlotte the weekend of August 14-15. All in all, it was a seven-year struggle with two zoning initiatives, five real estate transactions, changing the church name (from Park Road), calling a new minister, and being "homeless" for 1½ years while the church was being built. But the struggle was well worth it. The sanctuary, both inside and out, is positively beautiful. It can seat 300, and the remainder of the complex has seven classrooms, a fellowship hall, a music room, parlor, commercial kitchen, and offices. Congratulations, Peace, on your new home.

Covenant in Wilmington was two years in planning before it broke ground July 11 in steamy 98-degree weather for its new fellowship hall. The \$629,000 project will replace the old hall and an adjoining trailer.

Among the normal repairs and renovations churches face, Leaksville entered phase III of heating-cooling plans to install independent heating and air conditioning in the fellowship hall, the upstairs hall, and the restrooms on the main level. And Pine Chapel got a "whiz-bang" brand new organ, pleasing the organist no end.

Looking ahead, Christ Church is studying uses for the Hauser House, its former church office, and Olivet and Bethabara have consulted architect Doug Hurlbert on long-range plans for their churches.

We are reminded that services, programs, and activities are what make bricks and mortar necessary and possible. The year saw a number of new or expanded programs in the churches. For example, the Martha's Ministry at Calvary aims to coordinate and improve outreach to the congregation's homebound and those who have short-term needs. Covenant embarked on a new outreach to young people with the formation of the Community Youth Association, giving middle and high school youth a place to "hang out" in a safe and loving environment. And Mayodan and Fulp began puppet ministries, enlisting teenagers to give Gospel presentations to various groups.

Overseeing all the activities of the Southern Province is the Provincial Elders Conference. Eight call processes were completed during the year with five still in progress. The calling of the minister away from Macedonia resulted in a number of its members also leaving, but the remaining members have come together to continue Macedonia's 148-year rich heritage as a congregation of the Southern Province. Budget tightening produced a 5% reduction in the Provincial budget for 2005 but an 8% reduction for PEC, leaving less money for committees and commissions, travel and other items, and ministerial students. An Intersynodal Conference was held March 25-27 with the theme "The Moravian Church — The Many Faces of Ministry." Looking ahead, a Pastors Summit is planned for February 6-8, 2005, and work has begun for the next Provincial Synod, April 19-23, 2006, with six planning teams formed. And as if he didn't have enough to do as president of PEC, Bob Sawyer was elected president of the worldwide Unity Board for the coming year.