

## A Memorabilia of 2013

Report from **Willow Hill** on its Sunday, December 22, Christmas lovefeast: “It was jam-packed. It was 62 degrees, so we had the air conditioner running and the doors wide open, so the neighborhood dogs came in too.”

Now wait. This is important. For in this brief report Willow Hill embodies the heart of Moravian faith: worshiping our God and Christ; and mission and service to others. And so as 2013 nears its end, let us review how the Moravian Church, Southern Province has fared in worship and service, and frankly, just having fun being Moravian.

“Music, music — and yet more music!” hat seems to be the watchword (what else?) at the Moravian Music Foundation, which has outdone itself through the year with — well, music! On any given weekend Director Nola Reed Knouse could be found in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida leading a workshop, seminar, hymn sing, rehearsal, performance. The hands-down highlight of the Moravian music year was the 24<sup>th</sup> Moravian Music Festival held in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. More than 300 full participants shared a week of immersing into Moravian music, both new and old, and presenting it to the community at large in nightly concerts. Emphasis was especially given to participation by children and youth, since after all they are the future of the Moravian Church. Mark your calendar for the next Moravian Music Festival, the 25<sup>th</sup>, which will be the summer of 2017 in Winston-Salem.

One of the new things introduced at the 24<sup>th</sup> Music Festival was *Sing to the Lord a New Song: A New Moravian Songbook*. At least three years in the making, the 150-page spiral soft-bound song and worship book certainly lives up to its *New Song* title with some 80 newly-written songs by Moravian composers and writers of today. Liturgies, poems, and other works are also included. So when you sing out of *Sing to the Lord*, you just might be singing something the person in the pew next to you wrote or composed, or maybe even yourself.

Certainly 2013 was a year of emphasis on young people’s ministry and mission. In March Douglas Rights of the Board of Cooperative Ministries organized two “spring break” college age mission trips to Staten Island to help victims of Hurricane Sandy — oh, and to see New York City. Thirteen young Moravian collegians volunteered their time and energy and were rewarded with new friendships and the “humbling” experience of mission work. Since 1957 Youth Convo has been held every four years for high school students across North America to have a week of worship, fellowship, and learning. That means 2013 was time for the 14<sup>th</sup> Convo, and this time it was held at Greensboro College, which was an easy distance for field trips to Old Salem and Home Church, Historic Bethabara Park, a Winston-Salem Dash baseball game, and of course Laurel Ridge Camp and Conference Center, our “almost heaven” in the North Carolina mountains. If these teenagers have anything to do with it, the future of the Moravian Church will be very enthusiastic and joyful.

Charlotte area Moravian women gathered on February 16 at New Beginnings in Huntersville for their second Women’s Day of worship, fellowship, and learning. Joining the host church were women from Peace, New Hope, and Little Church on the Lane and Palmetto and Morning Star fellowships. And yes, indeed, already there was a call for another Charlotte area Women’s Day next year. The Charlotte area Women’s Day was followed in April by the Provincial Women’s’ Spiritual Life Retreat at Laurel Ridge. The theme of the weekend retreat was “Jesus — God with Us,” as the mountains and valleys echoed with the joyful sound of Moravian women in worship and song, fun and fellowship.

Laurel Ridge was also host in April for a global summit of a number of Provinces of the worldwide Moravian Church. Board of World Mission and Northern Province and Southern Province leaders met with leaders of partner Provinces: Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, Guyana, Eastern West Indies, Newfoundland-Labrador, and Western Tanzania, along with a representative of the Moravian Church in Cuba. While covenanting to pray for each other in issues confronting the worldwide Moravian

Church, the summit addressed the need for sustainability in sharing resources and capabilities with one another.

Speaking of resources, are you ready for a few breathtaking figures? The Moravian Ministries Foundation cites a recent study that found that the 17,500 Moravian households in the United States own \$8-12 billion in assets. That comes to \$450,000 to \$700,000 per household. So are we going to take it with us? Think about that when you are planning for the future. You might want to give Moravian Ministries Foundation a call (888-722-7923). After all it's your church.

As the Moravian Church is widespread throughout the world, so too the annual Latino Ministries Conference shows that the Southern Province is widespread. The fourth Latino conference last April brought together Moravians of widely different nationalities from Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina. Sponsored by the Salisbury Road Regional Conference of Churches (Friedberg, Little Church on the Lane, New Beginnings, Peace, with Palmetto Fellowship), the conference was held at New Beginnings in Huntersville and Peace in Charlotte and blended worship, praise, and fellowship with planning for the conference's future service in the Southern Province.

After a 50-year run of giving deeper insight into our Moravian faith and heritage, the Lay Seminary has been re-christened as the Comenius Learning Series, and three programs were presented during the year. "ShareFest: These Our Greater Gifts" was presented at Advent on May 18. It was followed by "Comenius for a Complicated World," held as a summer conference July 5-7 at Laurel Ridge. Then November 8-9 at Fairview participants learned "From Fear to Hope: Where Is God Calling the Church?" in this high-paced 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Our neighboring Salem Academy and College had another eventful year. For the third year in a row the college had record-breaking numbers of first-year students arriving in August. Then in September Dr. Susan E. Pauly announced her retirement as the 19<sup>th</sup> president of Salem Academy and College effective June 30, 2014. A search committee plans to name her successor by next April. Meanwhile, growing in the heart of the college campus is a \$6.8 million student center, which will include a café, student lounge, bookstore, multiple meeting rooms, and a 90-seat theater. It ought to fit right in since it looks real Moravian with hoods, arches, etc.

The outreach of Sunnyside Ministries continues to be desperately needed. Through November 6,859 interviews were conducted, 1,094 of them first time, 5,682 grocery orders were filled, providing food for 16,802 people, clothes or household items were distributed to 4,377 families or 13,373 people, and financial assistance totaling \$403,479 was given to 2,276. On June 20 the Sunnyside Medical Clinic closed its doors for the final time. The twice monthly medical clinic had been in operation for 33 years, using volunteer doctors and government funding. But other clinics offering more frequent services drew patients and funding away. Meanwhile, Sunnyside has opened a program titled "Gaining Control" aimed at helping people learn to gain control of their finances and improve the future of their families. Already 25 people have signed onto the program. Let's pray they and others to follow will see a bright future open to them.

With Provincial Synod coming up next April, 2013 can be considered a preparatory year, and indeed study groups, committees, and delegates themselves have been hard at work through most of the year. Delegates from across the Southern Province met September 28 at New Philadelphia to review the purposes and workings of Synod and what it means to be a Synod delegate. Among the items Synod will take up is a complete revision of the Book of Order in light of the new structure of the Provincial administration as mandated by the Synod of 2010. The theme for the 2014 Synod is very uplifting: "Jesus Still Lead On."

Among personnel changes, comings, and goings during the year we note one. After ably managing the office of Provincial Treasurer since 2004, C. T. Leinbach III — Ted Leinbach as everyone calls him — stepped into retirement last June. Ted is only the eleventh Treasurer the Southern Province has had going back to the creation of the office in 1858. Two of Ted's relatives were also Provincial Treasurer, James T. Lineback, 1874-1909, and Julius A. Lineback, 1909-1914. Succeeding Ted as Provincial

Treasurer is Dennis Stanfield of Trinity, who seems right at home with all the Province's byzantine funds, accounts, etc. (Just don't ask him how come his computer won't save his changes.)

If you haven't connected to *The BCM Essentials*, the new newsletter of the Board of Cooperative Ministries, you are missing out on a cornucopia of events that can keep you well immersed in Moravian activities throughout the year. The Board, known familiarly as BCM, occupies the offices of the old Board of Christian Education at 500 S. Church Street in Winston-Salem, and it runs several nifty operations including the Resource Center and the new "Grounds of the Unity" coffee bar. (Drop in at 500 and make yourself at home browsing all sorts of publications, DVDs, etc.) BCM is supporter or organizer of many of the events mentioned in this Memorabilia. We thank BCM for all its work in keeping us connected. You too can connect to *Essentials* at [www.moravianbcm.org](http://www.moravianbcm.org).

Just in time for Christmas, Moravian Archives got a tremendous present: volume 5 of *Records of the Moravians among the Cherokees*. This is great stuff, even if we editors are saying so. It's the great American epic of two vastly different yet very similar peoples, Moravian missionaries and Cherokee natives, living out America's history as it unfolds through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Volume 5 is the best yet, as we say *Farewell to Sister Gambold*, the Moravians' superb teacher of Cherokee children. Already Archives is hard at work on volume 6 of *Records: Cherokees*, which carries the ominous subtitle *March to Removal*. Archives is indeed thankful to the Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band of the Cherokees for their generous support of this tremendous contribution to America's historical documents. Not to mention that it is a flat-out great read.

Going "local," let's quickly review newsletter notes and other items, which show that yes, indeed, our Southern Province has had a very full year of activities.

**Friedberg** has calculated that over the last five years it has plowed some \$500,000 to its future with such improvements as new roofs, sanctuary renovation, new hymnals and racks, new air-conditioning system for the education building, two mini-buses, increased handicap parking, new church sign, paying off the Family Life Center note, and the latest project of elevator, bathrooms, and canopy. Each might seem like a small step, but taken together they are what make for the growth of the Kingdom of God.

**Konnoak Hills** added a bit of sparkle to its belfries by wrapping them in vinyl and giving them new copper roofs. In true Moravian stewardship tradition, the old copper was sold for \$300 to send a church youngster to mission camp.

**Grace** had a fire in its parsonage on April 6. No one was hurt, but it caused more than \$17,500 damage (covered by insurance) and made pastor and wife "homeless" for six weeks. Repairs revealed burned boards inside the wall on the second floor, whereas April's fire had been in the basement. Evidently some of the wood used to build the parsonage in 1941-42 came from the remains of a burned building.

The centennial celebration of Winston-Salem's consolidation on May 12, 1913, is now a memory. But we can still recall the Moravians' contribution with a look at the **Moravian Archives** April "Lunchtime Lecture" on the **Moravian Music Foundation's** YouTube web site: [www.youtube.com/user/MoravianMusicFndn](http://www.youtube.com/user/MoravianMusicFndn). You'll see that we Moravians really did have a big hand in bringing the two towns of Salem and Winston together.

The Salem Creek Regional Conference of Churches — **Home, Messiah, St. Philips, and Trinity** — embarked on an ambitious project this summer, an outreach blitz in the St. Philips neighborhood. Kicking off the blitz was a festival at St. Philips on June 15 with food, fun, and music. More than 200 children from blocks around enjoyed the activities which included pony rides and climbing on a real fire truck. Follow-up programs included Vacation Bible School type meetings on Monday evenings to encourage children and youth in the area to learn more about St. Philips and the Moravian Church.

**Fairview** is looking forward to 2014 and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its church building on Silas Creek Parkway. Renovations will bring the facility up to date with a list of projects to be completed.

**New Philadelphia** has begun a “Lamb Ministry.” It’s very simple. Small stuffed lambs are delivered to those who are hospitalized or home-bound, in nursing homes or assisted care. Each lamb has a collar tag that proclaims that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lamb Ministry has two purposes: to remind recipients that they are in the church’s thoughts and prayers, and to strengthen their ties to the church though they are not attending.

**Trinity’s** Br. John Jackman has been off moviemaking again. Previously he wrote and directed the film biographies *Zinzendorf* and *Wesley*. The movie this time is on the life of John Newton, who wrote the hymn “Amazing Grace.” Filming took place in Nova Scotia and on the North Carolina coast with the film’s release scheduled for 2014. Also in the movie limelight was the neighborhood around **Mizpah**. It made its appearance in several scenes of *The Ultimate Life*, which was released in movie theaters in September. Directed by Michael Landon, Jr., *The Ultimate Life* was filmed as both a sequel and a prequel to the movie *The Ultimate Gift*.

**King** and **Clemmons** are joining the “easy collection plate” bandwagon. It’s quite simple. All we have to do is arrange monthly automatic drafts from our banking accounts to our church. No more fumbling with check, wallet, or pocketbook on Sunday mornings. The electronics take care of it all.

Two Moravian churches went ecumenical in a big way at least for a time. During July and August **Covenant** in Wilmington shared services with Water of Life Lutheran Church, which happened to be holding its services at Covenant. And **Konnoak Hills** opened its fellowship hall Thursday evenings through February 2014 to Hope Church, an Assemblies of God congregation which is seeking more permanent arrangements in southwest Forsyth County.

Salem God’s Acre certainly was a lively place in 2013 and just might be livelier in 2014. To improve the sound quality of the Easter Sunrise Service, **Salem Congregation**, which manages the graveyard, buried new communication lines for new microphones and speakers. The improvements worked. Over the WSJS radio and Internet broadcast you could hear the rain drops as this year’s Sunrise Service got a drenching. Then this summer Salem Congregation removed almost all the ginkgo trees — about 60 — in the new section of the graveyard. The problem was some of them produced a smelly fruit and most of the rest had developed poorly or were sickly. (The great ginkgo in the old section of the graveyard still thrives.) Salem Congregation wants to replant but with a suitable kind of tree, grand but almost maintenance-free. Moreover, Salem Congregation sees the need for further improvements in the old section of the graveyard. The walkways are crumbling and need repaving. Cost: \$75,000. In addition, some 300 illegible gravestones are in need of ID plates giving names and birth and death dates. (The original stones would be kept.) And further down the road: “We will run out of traditional burial space in the years ahead and must make plans for providing for the needs of our thirteen member congregations with additional land purchase or increased space for cremations.”

Finally, a word of gratitude to all the ministers, church secretaries, contributors, etc., who helped in the preparation of this Memorabilia by providing the material for it. Especially kudos go to Mike Riess and his crew and contributors at *The Moravian*. Month after month you chronicle the life and service of the Moravian Church, Northern and Southern Provinces. Great job — articles and pictures, color and layout. Keep up the good work. But any errors or omissions of this Memorabilia are strictly my own.

Now returning to Willow Hill, may all your worship services be jam packed and our hearts and church doors be open to mission and service to our Lord and Savior, both in 2014 and for many years to come.

— Richard W. Starbuck  
Moravian Archives  
12/31/2013