



The Belfry

News of Central Moravian Church, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

December 2011

Worship in December

9 a.m. in the Old Chapel

11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve Tickets and Giving Envelope Distribution

Sermon: The Rev. Janel R. Rice

December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

Sermon: The Rev. Carol A. Reifinger

December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lessons and Carols

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services - Tickets Required

1:00 p.m. - Children's Lovefeast

5:30 p.m. - Vigil (Child Care Available)

8:00 p.m. - Vigil

December 25 - Christmas Day - 11 a.m. worship only

Sermon: James Lavoy

December 31 - New Year's Eve Vigil

11:30 p.m. - Sanctuary

Meditation: The Rev. Janel R. Rice

January 1 - New Year's Day, Epiphany

Holy Communion

11 a.m. worship only

Advent Spirituality Class

Advent is a complicated and strange time of our Christian year. Is it a time for waiting? A time for buying presents? What should we do during Advent?

After the 11 a.m. worship service on December 4 and 11, a small group will meet for lunch, fellowship, prayer and discussion in the Sacristy. If you are interested in joining this two-Sunday program, please contact James Lavoy, pastoral intern, at jlavoy@gmail.com. or call the church office.

Treats and Fellowship at the Church Office Open House

All are welcome to a Central Moravian Church office open house and Christmas party on Tuesday, December 20 anytime from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Join us for lunch, Christmas treats and a tour of the church office.

Each of our staff members will have a display of their special talents.

Contemplative Worship Service

On Tuesday, December 20, a Contemplative Worship Service will be held at 7 p.m. in the Old Chapel. What is a Contemplative Worship Service? Contemplative Worship is an informal setting in which we quiet ourselves in order to be open to the presence of God. Ole Hallesby, a Norwegian Lutheran theologian once said, "It is not necessary to maintain a conversation when we are in the presence of God. We can come into His presence and rest our weary souls in quiet contemplation of Him."

During the month of December our lives are so busy with exhausting schedules never-ending "to-do" lists and constant interruptions that our souls yearn for a place of still, reflective, meditative rest that will refill and revitalize.

In April, for the Lenten Series, Becky Owens (piano) and John Arnold (classical guitar) presented an hour of quiet, worshipful music, centering on hymns and spiritual songs. John Arnold is a wonderful classical guitarist who teaches at Moravian College, and formerly taught at Vermont's Bennington College.

For this Contemplative worship service, John and Becky will present an hour of meditative, reflective arrangements based on Christmas carols. Give yourself the gift of quiet time with your Creator as you come and worship and enjoy the peaceful beauty of favorite Christmas carols.

Busy Workers' Christmas Sale

On Saturday, December 3 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.) and Sunday, December 4 (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.), the Busy Workers will be hosting their annual sale in the Lower Level of the Old Chapel.

We'll have beautiful handcrafted items, Christmas ornaments galore, knitted scarves, caps, etc., plus fresh green wreaths, delicious baked goods, Moravian Sugar Cake AND the 'hot-off-the-presses' Best of Busy Workers' Cookbook!!! You'll be sure to find something for everyone on your gift list.

All proceeds from the sale benefit many charitable projects, from Bethlehem to Tanzania and Nepal. We hope to see you there!

The Busy Workers Cookbook is Here!

And just in time for holiday gift-giving! Over 200 pages with over 400 recipes from Busy Workers and the Central Moravian Church Community and a beautiful cover with artwork by Fred Bees!

The cookbook will be available at the Busy Workers' Sale on Saturday, December 3 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.) and Sunday, December 4 (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.) in the Old Chapel Lower Level.

The price is \$15 and proceeds benefit many charitable causes, from Bethlehem to Tanzania and Nepal. Questions? Contact Joan Carson at 610-346-8012 or jec1@lehigh.edu

Membership Committee Reaches Out to Our Neighbors

At the beginning of Advent, our confirmation students and Membership Committee joined together to invite our neighbors in the downtown Bethlehem area to a number of December worship services, concerts and the Putz and Star and Candle Shoppe using special door-hangers.

We hope that you will join with us in inviting your friends and neighbors to our worship services and special programs this Advent and Christmas season. More information can be found on our website at <http://www.centralmoravianchurch.org/worship/christmasevents.php> or talk with Pastor Janel for an extra door-hanger.

The Star & Candle Shoppe is Open for Business

You will find beautiful stars in all sizes, from paper to glass; handmade Moravian beeswax candles, plus Santas, nutcrackers, Christmas ornaments, notecards, jewelry....and so much more. Something for EVERYONE on your shopping list.

The Shoppe is located in the C.E. Building., next to the Putz.

Hours are Thurs - Sat.: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sundays: 1-8 p.m. Closed Dec. 24 & 25. Open Daily Dec. 26-31 from 10a.m. - 8 p.m. (open later on New Year's Eve!)



Bring a Friend and Experience Moravian Christmas Traditions

The Putz and Star and Candle

Shoppe will be open throughout the month of December, Thursday – Saturday (10-8), Sunday (1-8) and every day after Christmas (10-8.)

Check out the **Star and Candle Shoppe** for last minute shopping needs; stars, jewelry, hand-crafted items and baked goods.

This year, the **World Import Shop** will be a part of the Star and Candle Shoppe and we are excited to have their wonderful crafts, jewelry and other items from around the world!

We will also be offering five showings of “**Old Fashioned Moravian Christmas**” highlighting our Advent and Christmas traditions, music, history and present ministries.

These special performances feature MainStreet Brass, Moravian College Brass and Becky Owens on organ, with the Central Choir at select performances.

Performances are held December 1, 2 and 3 and again December 8 and 10 at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from ArtsQuest (www.christmascity.org) or at the Church office conference room at 1:30 p.m. on the day of the concert. Consider a ticket to Old Fashioned Moravian Christmas as a special present.

Series Features The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

King's dream for civil rights and racial equality is well-known today. But did you know about his speeches and sermons on non-violence and economic justice? Or how he grounded his work for justice in Scripture and his Christian faith?

Learn more about this fascinating American and how his message is still relevant for our faith and society today. We will explore the life, writings and sermons of King through six sessions together using video and first-source material.

Travel with us as Travelers' Together starts together on January 15 and then meets Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. or Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. until February 15 or 19.

Emergency Shelter Seeks Volunteers

The Bethlehem Emergency Shelter will open its doors on the frigid winter nights January-March to provide shelter to the homeless. The Shelter is financially assisted through a grant from the Bethlehem Area Moravians.

Last year the shelter housed over 50 individuals each evening providing dinner as well a simple breakfast. Many churches, such as Central, who did not host, were involved in supplying volunteers, food and resources. Again, we ask for volunteers to help at College Hill Moravian who hosts Friday, East Hills on Saturday and West Side on Tuesday nights. To volunteer, call Barry or Dawn Dubbs at 610-838-1887.

Church Council Planned for January

All members of Central Moravian Church are invited to participate in our Annual Church Council on January 29 in the sanctuary immediately following the 11 a.m. service.

At Church Council, we review printed reports from our Boards, committees and organizations. We discuss and vote on our budget for the coming year. Names of nominees are brought forward for the Boards as well as various standing committees.

In order for us to have our church council printed report ready by January 22, we ask all groups and committees to submit their reports to the church office (email or written) by January 3. This will allow our members to review the reports and prepare questions for Church Council.

December Special Offering Envelope

The Christmas special envelopes are used at Central Church to help with extra expenses incurred in our mission of the Advent and Christmas seasons. They include many things such as music, printing, extra utility expenses incurred during the extra services, any unexpected expenses that may arise during this time and the special pulpit decorations used during Advent and Christmas. Examples of the special decorations include the trees and straw we place in the Chancel for the Christmas Eve service.

Unity Women's Desk

Since 1995, women throughout the Unity of the Moravian church have been meeting to see how they could help each other. This work has now been formally organized under the leadership of the Rev. Patricia Garner, an ordained Moravian from the Southern Province. Under Patty's leadership, the Unity Office approved a proposal for the creation of the Unity Women's Desk. The purpose of the Unity Women's Desk is the coordination of the resources of Moravian women (spiritual, financial, intellectual and material) around the world at the congregational level to affect global change. Ideas include micro finance loans, educational scholarships and women working in each Province to coordinate these efforts. The Unity Women's Desk will focus on the following issues:

1. Education
2. Violence against Women
3. Employment and Overcoming Poverty
4. Health Issues of Women and Children
5. Parenting for Justice
6. Biblical imperative for Justice for Women
7. Women in Ministry

Look to their website at www.unitywomensdesk.org to provide information on efforts already in place around these objectives and how people can help.

If you would like to be involved in the prayer team or in helping with research or the coordination of services, please contact the Rev. Patty Garner at pfgarner@triad.rr.com or 336-725-6413 for more information.

“The Greatest Story Ever Told” An Advent Program for Children

Our church school children (and parents too!) are invited to “The Greatest Story Ever Told;” on Sunday, December 11 at 10 a.m. in the Old Chapel. Featuring Central member and storyteller and actress Mary Wright who works with Touchstone Theater, our children (and adults) will be treated to an Advent program to prepare them for the coming of the Christ child.



Church school will meet for adults and children on December 4, 11 and 18. We will be canceling church school on December 25 and January 1 and resume again on January 8. Please note our location changes from December 4 - 18 due to the Putz and Star and Candle Shoppe.

- * Sojourners: Old Chapel basement (starting Nov. 20)
- * Senior High and Confirmation Chat: Kleiner Saal
- * 5-7th graders: Johnny’s Bagels on Main Street
- * 3-4th graders: Library, CE classroom nearest kitchen
- * Parents class: Putz room
- * Dec. 4 Parent’s Meeting in Putz Room

a church mouse theory

hello
and greetings
and here is the church mouse theory
of relativity
and heaven is above the earth
and hell is below the earth
and in between is earth
and god reigns in his heavenly kingdom
and the devils domain is hell
and we live on earth
and we pray to god thy kingdom
come on earth as it is in heaven
and so how do we get the heavenly kingdom on earth
and my theory is - it is all relative to jesus
and we need to get jesus in our hearts
and we know god and jesus and the holy spirit are one
and therefore with god and jesus and the holy spirit in there we have the heavenly kingdom in there too
and that is big – no room for the devil
and so this christmas season as jesus comes to earth - seek him and ask him to live in your heart and you shall have everlasting life and dwell in the house of the lord and in the heavenly kingdom just by believing jesus loves you and so do I.



Knitting Into the Mystery

The next meeting of the prayer shawl knitting group will be held on Thursday, December 15 from 10 -11:30 a.m. in the church office conference room. All knitters are welcome, whether “old hands” or novice knitters.

We have a time of gathering and sharing and then a time of silence as we knit in order to present to God. Our silent time, as we listen to sacred music, is 45 minutes long and it is so enjoyed by our members that we often wish it were longer. So, don’t be afraid of silence. It’s probably the best rest you’ll have in a long time.

In December, we also have our cookie swap. For more information, contact Dorothy Stutzenberger at 610-865-5956.



Many thanks to the Church Family Life Committee and all who came out to our Fall Party

South America With Central Travelers in 2012

There is still room to join us for a grand tour of Chile and Argentina from April 23 - May 6, 2012. Thirteen days for only \$3,095 including airfare, 19 meals, a full-time program director, private motor coaches, 11 nights in 4 star hotels and we will even through in a tango lesson and more. There is an optional 7 day pre-extension to Peru to visit Lima, Machu Picchu and Cuzco. For more information and a flyer, contact Craig and Alice Mosebach at 610-625-4576 or e-mail at mosebach@ptd.net.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2011</h1>					<p>Putz, Star & Candle Shoppe and World Imports Shop (with the Star & Candle Shoppe in Dec.)</p> <p>Before Christmas Thurs.-Sat.: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sunday: 1 p.m. - 8 p.m. Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day</p> <p>After Christmas: Daily 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.</p>	
<p>Location Key CE - Christian Education Building BA - Benigna Auditorium CE CR - Conference Room NH - Nitschmann Hall ZP - Zinzendorf Parlor CS - Sanctuary OC - Old Chapel LL - Lower Level 73 W CR - Church Office Conference Room CSE - Christian Spring Estate</p>				<p>1 2 Artsquest Program CS</p> <p>7 Choir CS 7 Chapel Choir Reh. OC</p>	<p>2 Unity Prayer Watch 9-3 Old Chapel</p> <p>2 Artsquest Program CS</p>	<p>3 10-4 Busy Workers' Sale Old Chapel LL</p> <p>2 Artsquest Program CS</p> <p>5 AA, BA</p>
<p>4 Coffee/Food Bank Sunday</p> <p>10-2 Busy Worker's Sale Old Chapel LL</p> <p>12:15 Advent Class 73 W CR</p> <p>5 Caroling - Seminary</p> <p>7 AA, BA</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 9 Ladies Sewing 73 W CR</p> <p>7 Singstunde OC</p>	<p>7 6:45 Men Bible NH</p> <p>10 Cynthia's Btq 73 W Rear</p> <p>7 Choir Reh CS</p>	<p>8 2 Artsquest Program CS</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 2 Artsquest Program CS</p> <p>5 AA, BA</p>
<p>11 Blood Pressure Check OC/CS</p> <p>12:15 Advent Class 73 W CR</p> <p>7 AA, BA</p>	<p>12 6:30 Decorate Church</p>	<p>13 9 Ladies Sewing 73 W CR 9 Comenius CE CR</p> <p>6:30 Decorate Church 7 Elders' 73 W CR</p>	<p>14 6:45 Men Bible NH</p> <p>10 Cynthia's Btq 73 W Rear</p> <p>7 Choir Reh. CS</p>	<p>15 10 Knitting 73 W CR</p> <p>7 Chapel Choir Reh. OC</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 10-12 Food Bank 73 W Rear</p> <p>5 AA, BA</p>
<p>18 Lessons & Carols</p> <p>7 AA, BA</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 11-2 Office Open House</p> <p>7 Contemplative Service OC</p>	<p>21 7 Trustees', 73 W CR</p>	<p>22 7 Choir Reh. CS</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Office Closed 1 Lovefeast CS 5:30 Vigil CS 8 Vigil CS</p> <p>5 AA, BA</p>
<p>25 No Church School</p> <p>11 Worship only CS</p> <p>7 AA, BA</p>	<p>26 Office Closed</p>	<p>27 9 Comenius ZP</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 5 AA, BA</p> <p>11:30 New Year's Vigil CS</p>

Nepali Notes

by Alice Mosebach

From September 29 through October 23, 2011, the Rev. Vani Pradhan, a Moravian pastor from Nepal and former intern here at Central, visited Moravian congregations in the United States. The purpose of her visit was to connect with Moravians in the States who have been particularly supportive of the ministry in Nepal and to update them on their new venture – The International Kindergarten.

The Kindergarten is one of the oldest in Kathmandu having been in business for 42 years. It was purchased for \$25,000 provided by NMO (Nepali Moravian Outreach) in Bethlehem, and the British Province. In June of 2011, Vani became the Principal and her husband, the Rev. Shanti Pradhan, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Students are ages two to five and number 51. By the time they graduate, they can read and write in both Nepali and English. While Christianity is not taught in the school, Christian principles are lived and demonstrated by Vani and Shanti and the teaching staff. They are being able to gently share the love of Jesus Christ with the students and their parents.

While Vani was in the United States she visited North Carolina, North Dakota, Michigan, Wisconsin, California and Pennsylvania. Her trip was funded by a generous grant from BAM and some California churches. Additional funds provided by Central's Mission Committee were

used to get Vani a new computer, I-pod Touch and cell phone. Many of you donated DVDs, books, school supplies and teaching aids – so many that Vani could not take everything with her. Some also donated suitcases to carry the supplies to Nepal. What she could not take we hope to send in January when Thomas Baucom from North Carolina plans to go to help them set up a computer system at the school.

Shanti and Vani prepared an eight minute DVD about the school to show at gatherings during her trip. If you were unable to attend the one in Bethlehem at Advent Moravian Church, and would like to see it, we have one and would be happy to share it with you and tell you more about the school.

Currently on their wish list is a van for the school for ~\$25,000. Rental for a van over there is ~\$850 a month, and they can use it only for picking up children in the morning and returning them home in the afternoon. With their own van, they could use it all day for the school, and for the church on weekends and evenings. It also would serve as a great advertising tool for the school. Contributions for the Nepali Moravian Outreach should be sent to College Hill Moravian Church specifying NMO on the memo line of your check.

Remember the Moravian Star pins (order forms in church office) and the Nepali Christmas cards which support NMO. Please keep this precious ministry in Nepal in your prayers.

Architectural Prints Make Beautiful Christmas Gifts

As Christmas approaches, the Central History Committee would like to remind you of a special opportunity to purchase one (or more) of the stunning architectural prints of the interior and exterior of Central Moravian Church. These drawings were done by Jeffrey Long and were commissioned as part of our commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the church sanctuary in 2003-2006.

Examples of the prints can be seen in the west hallway of the sanctuary. They come in two styles: white lines on blue paper and black lines on white paper. The blue print version is shown in the hallway, while an example of the white print with black ink version is on display at the Northeast door bulletin board.

Prints make wonderful purchases for your home, office or as gifts. Order forms are available in the west hallway. Unframed black and white prints are priced at \$40; white on blue for \$50. All proceeds from the sale of the prints will enable the History Committee to carry out future projects.

The Belfry Deadline

Articles for the January *Belfry* are due in the church office by December 2.

Musical Notes - December

by Rebecca Kleintop Owens

Children's Chime Choir will ring and sing at the Children's Christmas Eve Lovefeast. There will be three rehearsals:

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6 -7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6-7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 21, 4:30-5:45 p.m.

Please let Becky Owens know if you are planning on participating.

The Central Handbell Ensemble

under the direction of Jeanne Bednarik, rehearses on Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Kleiner Saal. If you are interested in ringing, please call Jeanne Bednarik at 610-974-8332 or email her at jmbednarik@yahoo.com.

Central Moravian Brass Choir

under the direction of Caitlin Worrich, plays the second Sunday of every month at the 11 a.m. worship service, and will play on Sunday, December 11. If you play a brass instrument and would like to play with this ensemble, please contact Caitlin Worrich at Caitlin.worrich@gmail.com

During December, the **Chapel Choir** will provide music for the 9 a.m. worship in the Old Chapel. December 4 will feature the Men's Choir, while the full Choir will sing on December 11 and December 18. New singers are always welcome. Please contact Richard Miller for more information and for a rehearsal schedule.

Christmas Contemplative

Worship on Tuesday, December 20. Contemplative Worship is an informal setting in which we quiet ourselves in order to be open to the presence of God. On Tuesday, December 20 at 7 p.m. , John Arnold (classical guitar) and Becky Owens (piano) will present an hour of quiet and reflective Christmas music. Enjoy the beauty of the Old Chapel at Christmas time and take this opportunity to rest and recharge.

Central Moravian Church Choir travels to Jamaica

Members of the Central Moravian Church Choir will be traveling to Moravian Churches in Jamaica from December 27 - January 1. This trip is being organized by Craig and Alice Mosebach and Rt. Rev. Hopeton Clennon. Directed by Becky Owens, the choir will sing for concerts and worship services as well as a special celebration anniversary service for the Bethlehem College.

A Special Sale on Central Moravian Church Music CDs continues in December

All Central Moravian Church Music CDs will be available at a discount for the months of November and December. All CDs will be available for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. What a great Christmas gift, hostess gift, or stocking stuffer!! There are four CDs to choose from:

* *Christmas Eve at Central Moravian Church* (Released in 2005 and includes choir, brass, violin, and organ)

* *Favorite Hymns of Central Moravian Church* (Released in 2007 and includes choir, brass, and organ)

* *An Old-Fashioned Moravian Christmas* (Released in 2008 and features the magnificent pipe organ played by Rebecca Owens)

* *To God All Praise and Glory* (Released in 2010 and features favorite classical and sacred organ pieces performed by Rebecca Owens)

Advent German-English Singstunde

A Singstunde is a traditional Moravian form of worship in which the congregation unites in singing a series of hymn stanzas. The stanzas are selected to develop a specific devotional theme. A Singstunde is sometimes referred to as "a sermon in song."

The Moravian Archives, Central Moravian Church and the Moravian Music Foundation are proud to host a German-English Advent Singstunde in the Old Chapel on **Tuesday, December 6 at 7 p.m.** Some of the hymns will include *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen / Lo, How a Rose is Growing*, *O komm, o komm, Du Morgenstern / O Come, O Come, Immanuel*, *O Bethlehem, du kleine Stadt / O Little Town of Bethlehem*, *Macht hoch die Tür / Fling Wide the Door* and *Hosianna / Hosanna* by Christian Gregor.



The Belfry

December 2011

Central Moravian Church
73 West Church Street
Bethlehem PA 18018

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BETHLEHEM, PA

Phone: 610-866-5661 **Fax:** 610-866-7256

Email: office@centralmoravianchurch.org

Website: www.centralmoravianchurch.org

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Mon. - Fri.
Closed for Lunch 12-12:30 p.m.

Pastoral Staff:

Carol A. Reifinger
Janel R. Rice

Pastoral Intern:

James Lavoy

Facilities Administrator:

Tom Tenges

Music Staff:

Rebecca Kleintop Owens
Richard T. Miller

Youth Ministry:

Katie Stehly

Church Secretary

Mary J. Wisneski

Financial Secretary:

George Mowers

Sexton:

John Geier

Church Journal

Baptism:

October 30 - Clare Raneri

Weddings:

October 11 - Lisa Schueck and
Matthew Becker

October 29 Amy Sipes and
Stephen Kozar

November 5 - Natalia Lyons and
Luke Herman

In Memoriam

October 29 - Mary Catherine
Concevitich

November 9 - Kenneth Stauffer

Moravian Women December Meetings

Group 1	2nd Wed., Dec. 14	12:30 p.m.	73 W. C. R.
Group 2	2nd Wed., Dec. 14	7:00 p.m.	C. E. Conf. Room
Group 3	2nd Wed., Dec. 14	10:30 a.m.	Rose Nehring
Group 4 & 5	2nd Mon., Dec. 13	10:00 a.m.	Chapel LL
Group 6	3rd Thurs. Dec.15	12:00 p.m.	Chapel LL
Group 7	2nd Sun., Dec. 11	10:00 a.m.	73 W. Parlor

No December Board Meeting

Year-End Contributions

When making your final contributions for the year, please remember that your contributions for the 2011 tax year must be in the church office by December 31, 2011, or mailed in a letter postmarked no later than December 31, 2011.