



Central Moravian Church

2015 Annual Reports
2016 Annual Church Council
Sunday, January 31, 2016
Church Sanctuary

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Central Moravian Church

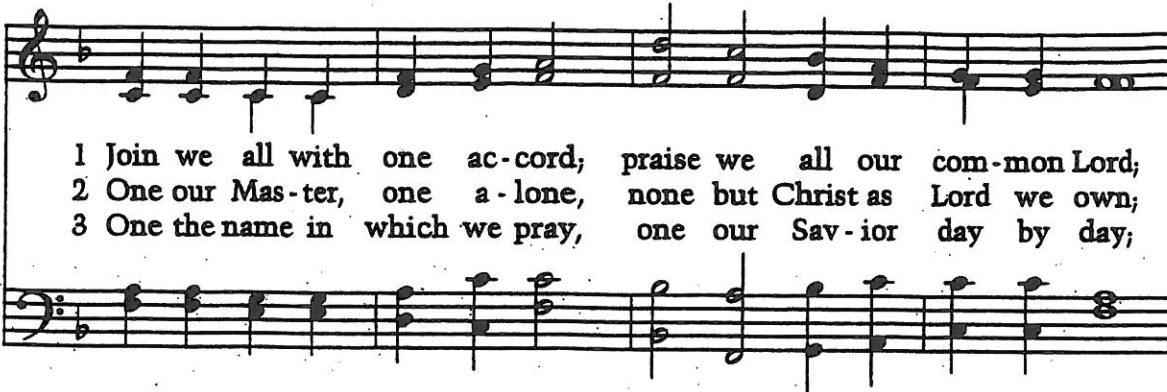
Annual Church Council

January 31, 2016

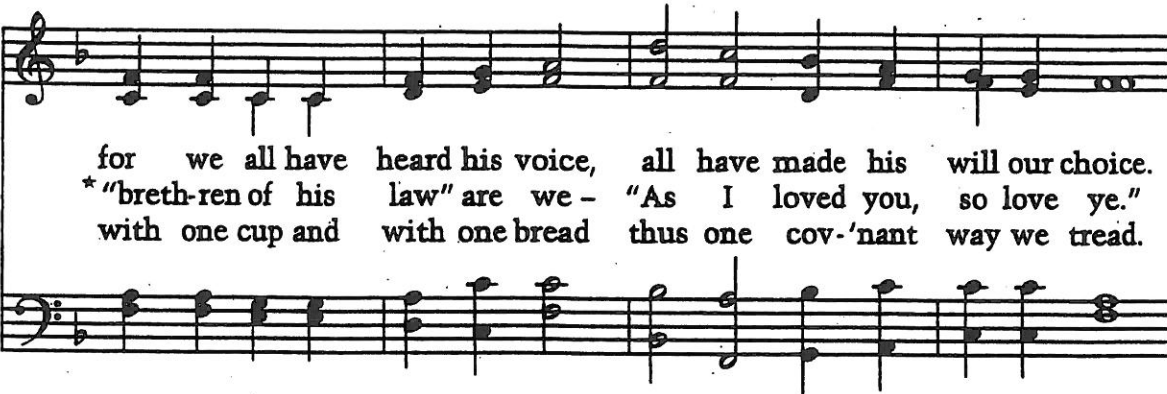
AGENDA

- a. Call to order - The Rt. Rev. C. Hopeton Clennon
- b. Prayer and hymn #525
"Join We All with One Accord"
- c. Election of President and Secretary of Church Council
- d. Minutes of the last Church Council
- e. Report of the Board of Elders - Hopeton Clennon
- f. Report of the Joint Board - Terry Worrich
- g. Report of the Board of Trustees - Terry Worrich
- h. Financial reports of the Board of Trustees - George Mowers
- i. Presentation of the budget for 2016 - Michelle Trent
- j. Reports from other organizations, agencies, and societies of the congregation
- k. General business
- l. Report of the Nominating Committee and Elections - Pam Larimer
- m. Pastoral comments
- n. Adjournment

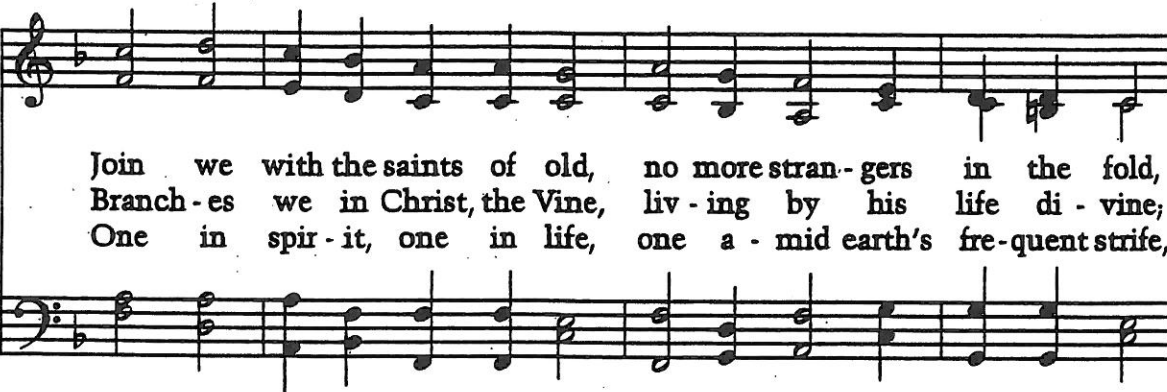
Join We All with One Accord



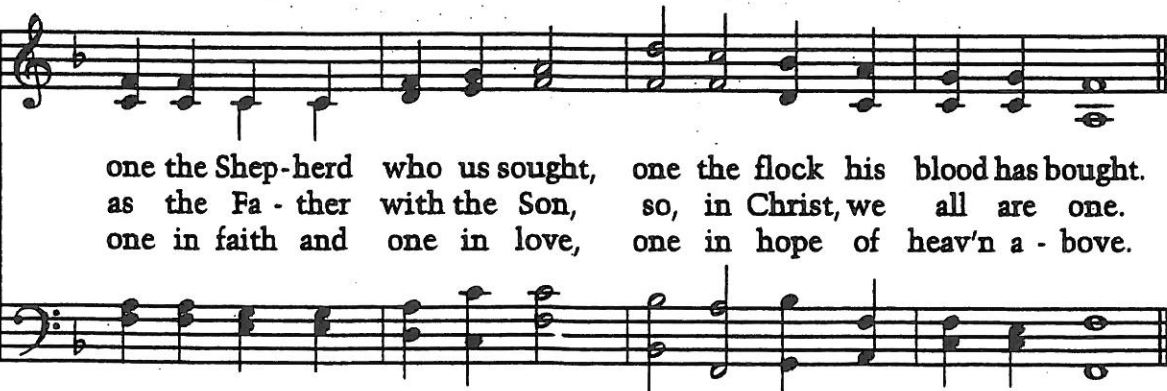
1 Join we all with one ac-cord, praise we all our com-mon Lord;
 2 One our Mas-ter, one a-lone, none but Christ as Lord we own;
 3 One the name in which we pray, one our Sav-ior day by day;



for we all have heard his voice, all have made his will our choice.
 * "breth-ren of his law" are we - "As I loved you, so love ye."
 with one cup and with one bread thus one cov-'nant way we tread.



Join we with the saints of old, no more stran-gers in the fold,
 Branch-es we in Christ, the Vine, liv-ing by his life di-vine,
 One in spir-it, one in life, one a-mid earth's fre-quent strife,



one the Shep-herd who us sought, one the flock his blood has bought.
 as the Fa-ther with the Son, so, in Christ, we all are one.
 one in faith and one in love, one in hope of heav'n a-bove.

* This was a name applied to itself by the Moravian Church in the fifteenth century.

TEXT: Matthew of Kunwald (1457) or Gabriel Komarovsky (1467)
 Tr. Michael Weisse (1531), Moravian tr. (1904)
 TUNE: Jan Roh (1544), alt.

7.7.7.D. Trochaic

GAUDEAMUS PARITER

Report of Nominating Committee for Church Council

President of Church Council: Barry Pell

Secretary of Church Council: Martha Jones

Elders (3-year term): Ken Kodama
Diane Shaw

Returning Elders: Julie Atwood, Hopeton Clennon (*ex officio*), Elizabeth Derbak, Martha Griffis #, Patricia Herman, Hank Naisby, Janice Ostock #, Ann Raines, William Sachs, Steven Schlack, Frank Shipman

indicates beginning second term

Trustees (3-year term): Mia Mecleary
Glenn Noack

Returning Trustees: Llyena Boylan, Don Brown, Janice Cole, Steve Krawiec, John Mast, Robert Phillips, Tom Tenges, Anthony Thompson, Michelle Trent #, Sharon Upton #, David Weikert #, Anne Zug

indicates beginning second term

BAM Board of Almoners: David Williams

BAM Ministries Committee: Katie Royer

Eastern District Synod (June 22-25, 2016)

Delegates: Katie Albarelli, Steven Krawiec, Andrew Mengel, Hank Naisby, Sarah Wascura

Alternates: Jeanne Bednarik, Joan Carson, Karen Naisby, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Vickie Ziegler-Thompson

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Larimer, Chair

Members: Hopeton Clennon (Senior Pastor), Pam Larimer (Elder), Jeff Long (At-large), Stuart Paxton (At-large), Ann Raines (Elder), Terry Worrich (Trustee), Anne Zug (Trustee)

Minutes of the Central Moravian Church Council January 25, 2015

Pastor Hopeton Clennon opened the annual meeting of the Central Moravian Church Council at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 25. Following the singing of "Join We All With One Accord", Barry Pell and Terry Delph were nominated for the offices of Council President and Secretary, respectively. As is customary, these two were elected without opposition.

The minutes of the 2014 Church Council were approved without modification. Mary Brown, Phil Corvino, and David Griffiths will serve as reviewers for the minutes of this year's council meeting.

Hopeton presented the report of the Board of Elders. Seminarian Garritt Fleming is nearing the end of his very effective service with us and is anticipating ordination in 3-4 months. With regard to Christian Education, Janel praised the efforts of those who taught in the Sunday School this year. The reports of the remainder of committees occasioned no comment.

Camie Modjadidi spoke on behalf of the Joint Board. She noted that one of the strengths of Central's committee system is that every committee includes both a Trustee and an Elder. Camie recognized the exceptional work done by the church staff, both pastoral and non-ordained members. She also spoke feelingly of the rewards that her term as head of the Joint Board has brought to her.

George Mowers then rose to outline the financial results experienced in 2014. Unfortunately our streak of three surplus years has come to an end and we ended 2014 with a \$15,514 deficit. The deficit has been filled by a transfer from reserves. Interestingly enough, our expenses were under the budgeted amount. The budget shortfall lay largely in the area of envelope giving, which was nearly \$27,000 below expectations. In response to a question from Priscilla Wolle, George noted that the Preservation Fund has now reached one million dollars of a three million dollar goal. He also made special note of the \$51,000 that various groups at Central had donated to mission causes outside of the budget.

Michelle Trent followed with a presentation of the 2015 budget. This budget envisions total income of \$828,492. The most important income component is

envelope giving, with a giving level of \$540,000. This is reasonably in line with giving levels over the period 2011-2013. The budget provides for salary raises of 2.23%. Our visitation ministry is ending, but we have a newly-inaugurated position of youth leader. The budget passed with one dissenting vote.

The problem of wax from candles dripping on pews during the various Christmas Vespers services was addressed.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Alice Mosebach presented the nominees for the Joint Board for 2015, and the Board of Almoners. These were:

Elders (first term): Julie Atwood, Elizabeth Derbak
Elders (continuing): Joe Bednarik, Hopeton Clennon (*ex officio*), Martha Griffis, Pat Herman, Pam Larimer, Hank Naisby, Janice Ostock, Ann Raines, Janel Rice (*ex officio*), Bill Sachs, Steve Schlack, Frank Shipman

Trustees (first term): Jan Cole, Steve Krawiec
Trustees (continuing): Llyena Boylan, Don Brown, Joan Carson, Hopeton Clennon (*ex officio*) John Kintzer, John Mast, Rob Phillips, Janel Rice (*ex officio*), Tom Tenges, Anthony Thompson, Michelle Trent, David Weikert, Terry Worrich, Anne Zug.

Board of Almoners: David Williams (to complete final year of Dave Devey's second three year term)

The nominees were elected without dissent. Hopeton gratefully acknowledged the services of those Elders and Trustees who were concluding their terms. He also recognized the devoted service of Central staff members.

The Council adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,
Terry Delph, Church Council Secretary

Board of Elders

In November 2014, Elders and Trustees of our congregation gathered for a planning retreat in the Bahnson Center at Moravian Theological Seminary. We spent four hours together in fellowship and conversation on Friday evening and returned for another four hours on Saturday morning. We engaged in strategic planning as our primary task, looking at key elements of ministry and mission into the future. The development of a five-year Strategic Plan continued throughout 2015, and the latest edition will be distributed at Annual Church Council in January 2016.

An underlying theme at the Joint Board planning retreat and also at the two congregational forums that reviewed the Strategic Plan in September and October 2015 is tripartite love. More specifically, "*Love God, Love Neighbor, Love Self*" as presented in all three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-31, and Luke 10:25-27. In keeping with this theme, we offer the review of the work of the Board of Elders for the year 2015.

Love God

We welcomed six guest preachers to the pulpit at Central including three Central members: The Rev. Judy Ganz, Executive Director of the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church (January 11), The Rev. Dr. Charles Rice, Chaplain, Ursinus College (June 14), The Rev. Dr. Frank Couch, Dean and Vice President, Moravian Theological Seminary (July 5), The Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood, Associate Professor of Moravian Theology and Ministry, Moravian Theological Seminary (July 26), Dr. Thomas Fudge (October 18), and Dr. Sarah Wascura (December 27). In addition to these guests, we were blessed by the proclamation of the gospel by our Pastoral Intern, Brother Garritt Flemming on February 8, March 15 and April 12, and by our Parish Pastor, The Rev. Maggie Wellert on October 11, November 22, December 13 and 25.

A Midweek Lenten program series was presented by chaplains from Cedar Crest College, Lafayette College, Lehigh University, and Moravian College. They were invited to explore the role of religion on college campus and the pursuits of spiritual life by young people today.

In September, Brother Tim Naisby engaged in a dialogue with the board regarding his sense of call to the ordained ministry of the Moravian Church. The required letters of endorsement from the pastor and from the Board of Elders were submitted to the President of the Eastern District Board on Tim's behalf.

Love Others

Our participation in the Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering Program that began in December 2014, continued through March 2015. After the departure of Pastor Janel in September, Sister Carol Holbert and Sister Rose Warner completed preparation for the new season of the shelter. The doors of the C.E. Building were once again opened to homeless women on December 5.

Several members of our congregation participated in Mission trips including Brother Ian Larimer's trip to Jamaica in March and Brother Andrew Mengel's trip to Jamaica and Cuba in August. Sister Mia Mecleary accompanied Brother and Sister Bill and Peg Hoffman to oversee the care of 3,200 orphans in Sikonge District, Tanzania as well as the church construction and well-digging work there.

Subsequent pages of this Annual Report booklet reflect the wide extend of community service and care of others that was provided by members and organizations in our congregation. A new initiative developed in September, evolving from a strong desire to assist Syrian refugees resettle in the United States. Sister Louisa Frey and Brother Jim Whildin are providing excellent leadership for this mission and we pledge our prayerful and material support.

Love Self

At the beginning of 2015, the Elders welcomed Sister Julie Atwood and Sister Elissa Derbak to the board. We expressed deepest appreciation to Sister Martha Jones who served three years as secretary of the board and also served on the Personnel Committee, and to Sister Alice Mosebach who coordinated our nomination process and represented the Elders on the Mission Committee and Music Committee. Sister Ann Raines accepted the responsibility of secretary. Brother Bill Sachs served his 4th year as Vice President of both the Board of Elders and the Joint Board and continues in that position.

In June we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the ordination of Sister Janel Rice. The special worship service on the 14th included messages and presentations by Brother Terry Worrich and Brother Bill Sachs. The guest preacher, Dr. Charles Rice, was chaplain at Ursinus College during Sister Janel's undergraduate studies and was an integral part of her discerning her sense of call in those formative years. The 'surprise' speaker was Sister Pam Larimer who recounted ministry experiences as early as the year Sister Janel's served as Pastoral Intern at Central (2004-2005) prior to her ordination and call as pastor.

In September we experienced the sad farewell of Sister Janel who accepted the call to serve as Pastor of Calvary Moravian Church in Allentown. We had a combined service on the 6th and expressed our appreciation for her faithful and effective ministry in our midst. Our prayers and best wishes are with her and her wonderful family—husband, Christian, daughter, Sophie, and parents, Ken and Jeanne Reppert.

The Personnel Committee interviewed and hired retired Moravian minister, The Rev. Maggie Wellert as Parish Pastor beginning on October 1. Her part-time position was scheduled for approximately 20 hours per week with a focus on worship leadership, spiritual formation, and pastoral care.

We hired Brother Richard Miller as part-time Office Assistant working three days per week, four hours per day. He continues as Chapel Organist and Choir Director. On June 7, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Chapel Choir and on September 20, we observed the 20th anniversary of Brother Richard as Chapel Organist.

In September, Sister JoAnna Freund stepped into a newly created position as Sunday School Superintendent, adding to her ministry as Sunday School Choir Director. Ben Lippert joined Emily Toyberg in providing leadership for our ministry with third through eighth graders. In November the Star and Candle Shoppe opened under the direction of Shelly Watson and her mother, Sister Betty Watson. The Putz had an able team of volunteers with special thanks to Brother Bob Wascura organizing moss gathering, Brother Will Schwab overseeing construction, and Brother Richard Miller coordinating the presentations.

Other members of staff served exceptionally well in

2015. We are grateful to them for going beyond the call of duty. We make special mention of Becky Owens, Director of Music, Cindy Gibson, Administrative Assistant, George Mowers, Financial Secretary, Mike Wall, Facilities Administrator, and John Geier, Sexton.

In keeping with the terms of his call to serve Central congregation, Pastor Hopeton was away for seven Sundays in 2015. He appreciated the opportunity to enjoy four weeks of rest and recuperation on vacation; a week writing and presenting the program for a Moravian church camping ministry; a week facilitating an international mission opportunity; and participation in an interprovincial bishops' conference in a year that did not have a church synod.

We express deepest appreciation for the excellent work of our staff and the large number of willing and able volunteers engaged in the vital ministry and mission of our congregation. Together we look forward to many more years of service in God's kingdom.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Hopeton Clennon, President

Congregational Watchword for 2016

“Trust in the Lord forever, for
in the Lord God you have an
everlasting rock.”

Isaiah 26:4

Statistics

Births - 12

Emmett Wayne Becker
Landon Schueck Becker
Norah Ann Derbak
Lalibella Adrienne Derso
Blake Harper Gross
Austin Dean Kozar
Maximus Augustus Kozar
Grace Irene Neff
Lilah Mae Toedter
Alexis Laura Wintjen
Charles Mathew Wintjen
Jaece Michael Zuk

Baptisms - 12

Emmett Wayne Becker
Landon Schueck Becker
Chloe Grace Brady
Lalibella Adrienne Derso
Ryan Diehl
Blake Harper Gross
Austin Dean Kozar
Maximus Augustus Kozar
Maya Grace Kret
Grace Irene Neff
Maria Joy Trent
Kylyn Angelica Warmkessel

Receptions - 17

Beth Careyva
Eleanor Chase
William Eberman
Faith Fiegel
Gary Fiegel
Linda Fiegel
Ruth Ann Halteman
Justine Jamison
Steve Jamison
Dennis Jolliffe
Ann Kuhn
J. Chris Kuhn III
David Lauer
Kathy Long
Tom Long
Lucy Thomas
Charles Welty

Young Children of New Members - 2

Stephen Jamison
Sean Jamison

Confirmations - 5

Bobby Owens
Kayla Roman
Leah Shields
Abigayle Ward
Graydon Wascura

Deaths - 17

Linda Mease Beyers
Marion Louise McCall Bray
Jean Eleanor Christ
David James Devey
Doris Marsteller Eberman
Betty Lee Griffis
George Zimmerman Heimbach
Hallie Iobst
Virginia Vaughn Laidman
Wallace Long Jr.
Edna Mae McEvoy
Margaret Elizabeth McInvaill
Marjorie Alberta Mott
Jane Hamlin Quier
Mary Anne Spence
Nanette Catherine Weidner
Caspar Ligon Woodbridge

Average Attendance - 330

CD Ministry - 12

Total membership as of 12/31/15 - 978

Parish Pastor

We are always writing these reports in the deep, dark days of winter, anticipating the Nativity and the Epiphany of our Lord. Thankfully, the light of Christ, continues to shine in the darkness, and no matter what, the darkness cannot overcome it. Living and sharing that message is one of the joys of serving as a pastor in the Moravian Church.

The position of Parish Pastor began on October 1, as a long term experiment in staffing the ministry needs of Central Moravian Church. The Ministry Description was designed around the gifts that I bring to the community: teaching, preaching, mentoring, and spiritual growth, and was defined as twenty hours per week. The intention was that this position would continue so long as it was life-giving for me and life-serving for the community.

My portfolio has included the following: worship planning; preaching at least once monthly; spending time getting to know people through various meetings, gatherings, and studies; staff meetings; assisting with home and hospital visits as needed, leading Bible study as space became available both within the calendar and on the campus.

I have come to believe that contemplative prayer and compassionate action are integral to the life of faith. Without time to return to God, we burn out. Without compassionate action, our prayer becomes self-serving. I hope to live into that balance more fully, and pray that you might journey with me. My hope has been to develop a “prime time” that would be devoted to prayer, study, and spiritual growth on a regular basis, as well as the opportunity to develop weekend or day long retreats grounded in contemplative prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Margaret A. Wellert, Parish Pastor

Christian Education

I would like to begin by thanking all the committee members, teachers, parents and students and staff who supported all of Central Moravian’s Education efforts this past year.

Children’s Sunday School:

The biggest change this year was the addition of a Sunday School Superintendent. Mrs. JoAnna Freund assumed the duties of keeping Sunday School on track as well as her previous roles of teacher and Children’s Chorus Director. The pre-K class welcomed Gayle Dimmick who joined Jane Corvino and Stephanie Bissey on the teaching team.

February again brought a workshop for children to learn more about the sacrament of Holy Communion. Parents and children were invited to participate to prepare children to receive communion in church.

November 22 brought another Red Wagon Sunday. Mark Jones and Mary Shields again organized a terrific Advent Workshop for the 1st Sunday of Advent (November 29th.) It was attended and enjoyed by children and adults. Mary says this may be her last year, so all crafty people, feel free to contact any member of the Christian Education Committee should you wish to step into this role. Richard Groman provided seasonal music during the morning.

The children of our Sunday School presented the story of Christmas to the congregation at the service of Lessons and Carols and also at the Children’s Love Feast on Christmas Eve.

Adult Sunday School:

Adult education continued with the Friendship Bible Class, the Comenius Sunday DVD discussion group, the informal parents’ discussion group and an Adult Forum. The Forum welcomed Rev Maggie Wellert to the rotation as well as “regulars” Dr. Micah Sadigh, and Travelers’ Together. The Adult Forum also welcomed Rev. Dr. Deborah Appler from Moravian Theological Seminary (professor of Old Testament) who led a three week discussion on “Looking at the Moravian Tradition, our Biblical Texts and Sustainability Issues”. Willard Martin leads a Comenius Sunday group that meets Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. This is a discussion group that focuses on current issues with a DVD or YouTube presentation to focus the group. This is a very dedicated and vibrant group of about 8 -15 people.

In addition to Sunday morning Adult Education, Rev Dr. Gordon Summers continued to lead the Men's Bible Study early Wednesday mornings and AnneMarie Whildin continued to meet with a strong group of about 10-12 people twice a month to discuss progressive Christianity books.

Children and Youth Activities:

Through confirmation, youth service opportunities, our Friday Night Fun program for younger children, and other gatherings, we try to provide opportunities for children and youth beyond Church School. Friday Night Fun was led by Emily Toyberg and Ben Lippert. There is currently not a confirmation class as there are no youth this year at an appropriate age.

Vacation Bible School:

Vacation Bible School continues to be a cooperative program with East Hills Moravian Church and College Hill Moravian Church. VBS was held June 22-26 at East Hills with teachers from participating churches. Christian Spring was not used this year.

Nursery:

The Nursery continued to be staffed by volunteers. This group of 8 women have become very self-sufficient with providing this service. Use continues to be episodic but always appreciated when needed.

Christian Spring Spiritual Center Programming:

The C.E. Committee continues to direct Central programming at Christian Spring. This year the pool was not opened so that did reduce the use of Christian Spring. There was no VBS there this year but Faith and Film Nights continued.

Looking Forward:

In the next year, we hope to address more consistent programming and leadership for our middle school and senior high youth. We are blessed with strong and capable volunteers, and many eager participants. We eagerly anticipate changes and growth as we look forward to connecting with our new pastor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Herman, Chair

Church Family Life Committee

This Committee looks to provide occasional congregational fellowship opportunities for all ages. We began the year with a very successful Birthday Social in February with cakes provided for each month to celebrate everyone's birthday. Over 80 people attended, including the women guests from the Women's Emergency Shelter and we thank the Busy Workers' Society for their help with the soups to complement our cakes. Throughout the year, we had several after church pot lucks, including a fall Pig Roast that averaged between 60-85 people.

During the summer months, we assisted with the two Chautauqua BAM events at Christian Spring. We also helped to organize outings to the Iron Pigs (about 25) and Knoebel's Amusement Park (BAM event- about 75). Christmas Caroling was cancelled due to everyone's busy pre-Christmas season calendars.

We also continued our children's fellowship program called "Friday Night Fun" for children in Kindergarten - 5th grade. Held each 2nd Friday from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., and led by our youth leaders Emily Toyberg and Ben Lippert, this program combines a dinner, recreation and faith lesson. Ben and Emily have been doing a great job of bringing Bible stories to life in creative ways through arts and crafts, games, and drama and providing an opportunity for our children to grow together in fellowship. They average about 6-8 children each Friday. This fall we started a middle school youth group component of this Friday evening, averaging about 6 kids. Parents enjoy the time to drop off their children and enjoy a few hours out in Bethlehem. We thank the hard work of the committee and welcome any "fellowship suggestions" from our church family.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rose Warner

Communication Committee

Central Moravian Church special services and music programs received good coverage in newspaper and digital news outlets in 2015, especially in *The Morning Call* and the weekly LV Chamber of Commerce e-calendar of events in Bethlehem. Our Christmas Putz and Star & Candle Shoppe were listed in the Fall's Top 5 seasonal attractions along with a story quoting our own Vangie Sweitzer. Our committee thanks church staff for a job well done getting word out to the community.

Central was also included in stories about the interdenominational support for the Lutheran organization's efforts to settle Syrian war refugee families in the Lehigh Valley. Central's outreach program supports a Christian response to people in crisis.

Internally, the staff continues to keep our members informed in print via *The Belfry* and *The Sunday Times*. In addition, weekly announcements are sent to members' e-mail addresses via Constant Contact.

The committee is also exploring how we can use electronic screens on the church campus to inform members and visitors of upcoming services and programs. Additional signage on the campus is another topic of discussion. Plans for the coming year include updating our "Welcome to Central Moravian Church" brochure and DVD, our visitors' cards, and other pew rack material.

The Communications Committee invites suggestions for new and improved communication methods from our congregants. Anyone interested in contributing ideas and time, please contact any member of the committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ray Holton, Chair

History Committee

Established in 2007, just after the 200th anniversary celebration of the construction of Central Church, the History Committee has just completed its ninth full year of work. In 2015, Carol Reifinger and Mary Jo Hill continued their work for the collections committee in researching the large Nativity canvases stored in Central's attic. Their interesting findings were described in detail in a fine article in the December *Belfry*. In 2016, it is the committee's intention to get good photography of these hard-to-photograph items and to begin to plan for their ongoing preservation.

In September, the History Committee sponsored three short programs for its traditional "Moravian History Month." Pastor Hopeton introduced History Month in his message on September 13 with remarks about the historical call process. On September 20, Barry Pell talked about the construction of Central's Belfry and about its immense size, which was demonstrated by History Committee members who stood to mark the four corners. Carol Reifinger presented historical Lovefeast items (coffee pots and other pieces) as part of the children's message at 9 a.m. and at the 11 a.m. service on September 27.

Other activities of the committee included the creation of a historical panel on the history of the belfry by Barry Pell, which has been printed and can be seen on the bulletin boards at the doors to the sanctuary. Barry is currently at work on a panel on the church grounds. The committee also arranged for former committee member Jim Whildin to install an exhibit in the exhibit case in the lobby of the C.E. Building about the Putz. Jim, an incomparable putz-builder, created a wonderful display from his personal collection, complete with palm trees. The committee hopes to do further exhibits in this case in the future. Other future plans include discussions about offering regular historical tours of the church and maximizing our relationship with the Moravian Museum.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Shaw, Chair

Committee Members: Marianne Allen, Hopeton Clennon, Jan Cole (T), June Griffiths, Mary Jo Hill, Jeffrey Long, Pat McAndrew, Hank Naisby (E), Barry Pell, Paul Peucker, Carol Reifinger, Marge Rowland, Nancy Rutman, Priscilla Schueck, Bart Shaw

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee's mission is to welcome and embrace new members, while encouraging the involvement of all members in the life of the church through faithful worship, service, and fellowship. The committee, which reports to the Board of Elders, also engages in outreach to attract visitors and new members.

The committee organized two outreach events this year: a spring Invite-a-Friend worship service coinciding with the Great Sabbath Lovefeast and a fall Invite-a-Friend Sunday in conjunction with the Lovefeast held on November 8. We also printed door hangers with a schedule of Central's Advent and Christmas season events for members to distribute in their local neighborhoods, and designed and printed a limited run of bookmarks with a schedule of events for the Lenten and Easter season. For the fourth year in a row, the committee mailed Christmas cards to distant members of our congregation in early December.

The committee also prepared and distributed information to the spring and fall Inquirers' classes on Central's organizations and ministries. In 2016, the committee will be contacting members of recent Inquirer's classes for feedback on their experiences at Central.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Sachs, Chair

Committee Members: Joan Carson, Derrick Clark, Hopeton Clennon, Jane Leposa, Janice Ostock, Bill Sachs, Nina Schaffer, Beth Schlener

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee of Central Moravian Church encourages the involvement of our members in Christ centered ministries and missions. The Mission Committee affirms, prays for and helps promote the international mission efforts approved by the Joint Board of Elders and Trustees through groups, organizations and individuals. In carrying out this mission, the Mission Committee partners with the Board of World Mission.

Sikonge – Tabora Mission

This year marks the end of the first quarter century of partnership between Central Moravian and the Sikonge Moravian churches. In support of this partnership two members of Central, Peg and Bill Hoffman, began their twenty-seventh trip to western Tanzania in mid November. The visit had multiple objectives. Most important was the ongoing review of the orphan program. This continues to constitute the major component of the partnership. Adopt a Village, which is providing significant financial support for these children, is sponsored jointly by Central Moravian Church and the Board of World Mission. It is funded by multiple churches, organizations and individuals in both the Northern and Southern Provinces. The financial report for fiscal year 2015 needed to be prepared from data provided by the program director in Sikonge and the village orphan ladies. Ongoing church construction projects are always re-evaluated. Evangelism of the Sukuma, sponsored by Central members, the Society for Promoting the Gospel, the Sikonge Moravian church, and individuals from the Southern Province, requires ongoing semiannual review. The Special Needs School, supported by First Presbyterian Church of Durango, had recently expanded its capacity; requests for additional funding were to be evaluated.

In-country travel between Dar es Salaam and Tabora has greatly improved over the last year. There are several flights each week between the two cities. The drive between Tabora and Sikonge, however, has deteriorated badly. The first 15 miles are being prepared for macadam; travel over this section has been restricted to a temporary, single lane, side road. Perhaps due to the expenditures on the paving effort, coupled with difficulties engendered by the rainy season, the maintenance on the remaining sections has been ignored. The result is a long and extremely difficult road between the two areas.

Tabora Orphan Program

Four meetings were held with the Tabora orphan ladies. Two were purely organizational or business; two others were used for orphan rounds.

Kefas Kabata, the only man participating in orphan care, has been in charge of the Tabora program for three years; in spite of his sex he is a perfect fit for the position. As a driver he has access to Tabora as needed. Most importantly, he has the respect of the women with whom he works.

At Bwana Kabata's suggestion, the four orphan ladies, instead of functioning individually, have been divided into two groups of two. Each woman is now expected to know all the children in her group, although primary responsibility for care still rests with one individual. This new organization assures continuum of care even when one of the ladies is engaged elsewhere.

One day was spent making rounds with each team. The new system proved to be working well. At the first business meeting it was discovered that the ladies had not been including students enrolled in advanced education in their census. Although the total number of orphans in the program had been capped at 365 due to financial constraints, the actual number participating is 433. This figure will decrease slightly in January when children who have come of age or finished their education are removed from the rolls.

The Village Orphan Program

Zipora Kimwaga, assisted by the local orphan mamas, led rounds through Usega, Mkolye Chang'ombe, Usunga 1, Msuva, Udongo, Mkazi, Magereza, Kondi, Lembeli, Ukondamoyo, and Madukani. No program problems were found.

At the request of the local Moravian church, Usunga and neighboring Mwanamkata were both added to the program five months ago. Milka and Salome, the ladies responsible for the 123 new orphans in these villages, were "in serviced" last August by Mama Kimwaga. Since rain was falling when rounds were being made, and the two villages are separated by a small river, Mwanamkata could not be reached on this visit.

The controversy in Kisanga concerning Matha and Rehema, the village's long serving orphan ladies, and the Moravian church, was not resolved at the conclusion of the last visit as thought. The parish pastor subsequently went to the church elders and their pastor two weeks later. He was able to resolve the issues, at least temporarily. It will probably take some time for the rift to totally heal, but with Mchg Kapella

personally involved, the ladies believe the storm has passed.

The total cost of orphan care for fiscal 2015 was 80,100 USD, a decrease of 20% from 2014. This is due primarily to the change in expenditures for food; for the first time, maize was purchased almost exclusively in the early summer, when prices are lowest, and then stored until needed. The result was a 45% decrease in food costs year over year. This savings, however, was somewhat offset by the annual rise in educational expenses; this reflects the ever increasing number of students studying beyond primary school. These costs now account for 60% of the orphan budget.

Church Construction

The new Moravian church at Iyombakuzova (number 11) still needs to be plastered and painted. In a meeting with the building committee it was agreed that if the materials can be supplied the congregation will provide the labor.

The church at Msuva (12), after much negotiation, now has door and window frames in place. Government officials, charged with preventing the theft of local timber, initially refused to allow the frames to pass their checkpoint until a "tax" of 90% their assessed value of the wood was paid. The parish pastor intervened, and the materials were eventually allowed to be transported tax free to the construction site. The ring beam is now being installed. The congregation will then raise the walls and gables to the roofline. When that work is completed, the iron sheets and their supports will be installed. This should be completed within the next six weeks.

The walls at Mkolye (13) are in place. Before the ring beam is added the door and window frames need to be constructed and installed. The ring beam, wall and gable extension, and roofing will follow as at Msuva. This work, which will make the church functional, should be done by early spring.

The Well Project

Fourteen wells have been constructed in 13 villages. Three are functioning normally. Pumps have been stolen at two, but water is accessible at both with a rope and bucket. Two have been placed next to previously constructed and functioning wells. The head of the construction team had given his assurance during the last visit that repairs would be made as needed. Also promised were two new wells to replace those that had been inappropriately located. None of this has been done. The proposed repairs are apparently experimental and need to be tested before

being routinely used. The new wells could not be constructed earlier due to the political climate during a presidential election campaign; now they are delayed due to the rainy season. Further construction is on hold until previous promises have been fulfilled. The holding tanks in Uliwansimba have yet to be completed.

Special Special Needs School

The fall semester concluded with 83 students attending. The new dorm for additional boarding students will open in January. It will hold only twenty-one beds rather than the thirty originally planned. Furnishing for the new dorm, as well as much of the other infrastructure of the school, is being provided by First Presbyterian Church of Durango.

Consideration has been given to providing vocational training for students where appropriate, but the estimated costs are currently prohibitive. A scaled down program will be required before this training can be implemented.

Evangelism of the Sukuma

The Sukuma Moravian church at Kondi has a congregation of 65.

On the 5th of September Julius Mdauzi, the assistant pastor responsible for this congregation, had a major stroke affecting his left arm and leg as well as slowing his cognitive function. He has remained in Kondi and has participated in Sunday services which are now being led by one of the church elders; he has not, however, been able to teach Sunday school. Although Mchg. Mdauzi is making a remarkable recovery, the absence of his dynamic leadership is being felt by his congregation.

Assisted by support from both the Society for Promoting the Gospel (SPG) and the Sikonge Moravian church, the Sukuma congregation in Igulula has spread to the neighboring area of Mwasavanga. Sikonge Moravian has given both congregations funds to purchase land for their new churches. The women of the Sikonge Moravian have also pledged ongoing financial support for their church elder, Jackson Daudi, who has taken primary responsibility for the nurturing of these nascent congregations. SPG has provided bicycles for the pastor and Bw Daudi, as well as Bibles, hymn books, and collections of Moravian liturgies. It has also purchased tarps for the Mwasavanga congregation, who are worshiping out of doors, to protect them from the rain. A total of 70 Sukuma have been baptized at the two locations since January.

2015 Financial Report

Attached is the financial summary for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. Expenses (\$144,019) exceeded income (\$82,782) by \$61,237 which was better than the budgeted loss of \$64,000.

Conclusions

The orphan programs are running well. Minor structural changes have been made in Tabora. The numbers of children receiving education beyond primary school are continuing to grow.

While progress at Iyombakuzova remains slow the church is functional and in use each Sunday. Those in Msvu and Mkolye should both be roofed and in service by spring.

Work with the wells has been discouraging; further construction will remain on hold until problems are resolved.

The Special Needs school continues to grow both in numbers and in importance to the community. Multiple candidates are already available for each of the beds in the new dorm.

Christian Sukuma in the Sikonge district, a phrase oxymoronic only a few years ago, are growing in number. The illness of the assistant pastor in Kondi will test the mettle of this new congregation. Sikonge Moravian is providing the leadership in Christian outreach that was first envisioned twenty-five years ago.

In spite of the significant difficulties facing their community, Moravians in the Sikonge area live with a joyful optimism. The care of orphans and their families, the support of the educational infrastructure, the construction of churches, the organization of new congregations, and the creation of a special school for the disabled are visible demonstrations of the support generated by their brothers and sisters in the United States. The hopeful determination of these dedicated people will improve not only their own lives, but their communities and their country as well.

Nepal Moravian Outreach

These concise words from Vani and Shanti speak mountains to the dedication of the mission in Nepal: For the people of Nepal, things have been hard this year and we often hear people saying, "*can't wait for 2015 to be over, it has been the worst year. First the earthquake and now the unrest and economic blockade.*" It is hard to rejoice when people have just seen death and destruction, and before they have had a chance to get over this trauma, the very occasion to rejoice, such as the festivals in October and November

became a nightmare with no cooking gas to prepare meals for guests and families, nor fuel to travel and visit loved ones. We all have journeyed through the jolts, destruction, loss, pain, fear, uncertainty and frustration, however, apostle Paul's reminder to rejoice! rings clearly for us. As the people of hope, we rejoice as we see God's hand upon this land. God is doing something new. Through earthquakes and hardships we are learning to be vigilant, more careful in our walk with God. We saw that all things including life could be gone in seconds, hence the realization to set our minds on things above while we continue to be Christ's hands and feet in this world. As believers we have a stronger conviction and zeal to rejoice as we have survived the earthquake and live to tell of God's mighty works in our lives. God is Good all the time! We may never understand why or how.... but it is by faith alone we can say this. "Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again, rejoice." Philippians 4:4, The Nepali Moravian Outreach Committee (NMO) supports this ministry. College Hill, Edgeboro, Central and the Board of World Mission represent the NMO in the US and the Reverends Shanti and Vani are the committee's Nepali members.

The Moravian Church in Nepal

The church continues to be living witnesses to the communities in Baneswor and Khokona village. The Baneswor congregation, in the city of Kathmandu, was established in late 1997 under the leadership of The Reverend Nagendra, Shanti's brother, and the second facility, Khokona, a village just outside of Kathmandu, was established in November 2006. They continue to grow in both faith and number. **The Vision of the Nepali Moravian Outreach (NMO) is to share the Good News of Christ through the ministries of the Nepali Moravian Church, transforming lives, educating and equipping people to impact the community and the nation at large.**

The church in the Khokona village, which was in a rented building, had major cracks and damages after the massive earthquake last April. On the advice of engineers, the church stopped gathering there and moved to open fields and worshipped under temporary tarps and tents for several weeks. Then a parcel of land was identified for long term use and purchase. A reasonably large, but temporary structure has been erected. Vani and Shanti tell us they rejoice at the blessing of this new church land in Khokona. We already feel the blessing of seeing new faces, being able to gather for evening prayers every day of the week, gather for choir/music practice, celebrate end of

life service, conferences, workshops etc., without the pressure and intervention of landlords, neighbors or strangers. This has been a huge blessing to the local community as many individuals and organizations are considering renting it for their meetings and programs. We have come a long way after the disaster and the relief support has reached the affected families too.

Our hearts are full of praise and gratitude to our Lord and all our brothers and sisters from around the world who have supported us with prayers and relief finances raised by the Moravian community in UK, US and the World Wide Moravian and non-Moravian communities. It was encouraging to know that they were there, praying and raising support for Nepal during the devastating times following the earthquake. Mission Trip/ International Kindergarten (IKG) In April 2015, five representatives of the NMO visited Nepal to lend support to the International Kindergarten. This was the time of graduation for some 17 children. Craig and Alice Mosebach from Central and Myra and Mike Jones and their daughter Jenny Minnich from Edgeboro helped with staging the graduation ceremony. Immediately following the graduation the pre-school began their move to a new building. We loaded a good sized borrowed pickup truck and the school van many times over two days to transport all the equipment and materials from the old school building to the new one. Vani and Shanti said – after many months and years of prayers, the pre-school moved to a bigger, brighter and better space. It is a rented building but very strategically located, almost certain that it was hand picked by God.

The massive earthquake hit Nepal just five days after this mission team returned to the Bethlehem. The very solid new school came through the tremors with only minor damage. It provided shelter for many in the community immediately following the earthquake. Several schools in the area were not so blessed. The IKG now has enrollment of 74 children after years of enrollments in the fifties.

Their vision for the future is to establish an elementary school where the same quality education may be provided for all the Nepali children regardless of their differences in caste, religion and ethnicity.

Tuition Aid Program

NMO has a program to help grow enrollment and to aid the children of parents in the Moravian congregation who normally would find it financially difficult to enroll their children.

The IKG's principal and board of directors administer the process. A fund has been established to

provide half of the \$1200 annual tuition for these children. This program is now providing aid to five children. Central's Mission Committee is providing tuition aid for two of the children. Phillip and Grace started at ages 18 and 23 months respectively, and, in the April 2016 graduation class, they will be the first tuition aided children to graduate. They have grown into energetic, smart and very talkative five year olds. Two more Moravian children are lined up for the next school year.

Higher Education Program (HEP)

“When God begins to move in a certain direction, we acknowledge and move accordingly instead of contemplating and resisting,” said Vani and Shanti. After the pre-school, higher education was another such direction they felt God was directing them to explore. A committee was formed by members of Moravian Church in Nepal to administer this program. After careful study they have developed a program which has the aim ‘to enable students who are unable to follow their education paths beyond year ten because they have limited financial resources.’ The first applicant, Jayanti, is working as a nurse in a mission hospital. She has excellent school records, but could not afford her desire to advance with a Bachelor’s Degree in nursing. She has been accepted into the HEP. The Higher Education Committee in Nepal and NMO are working to raise sufficient funds to help her complete her education. The total cost of her four year program is about \$5000 to \$6000 most of which has already been pledged. One of the expectations is for the student, upon graduation and securing employment, to repay a portion of the financial aid to the program thus contributing for future applicants.

Other News

Shanti, Vani and Nahum travelled to Bethlehem, PA in June 2015 for three weeks, for a time of reporting, reconnecting and debriefing their experience of the major earthquake. During this time, Vani attended the women’s conference held in Maryland and Nahum got an opportunity to visit the Moravian College and get a tour of the campus with the hope of coming to Moravian in the future. This was a much needed break for them.

Nepali Moravian Outreach expresses their gratitude to friends, churches, organizations, and provincial boards throughout the world. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated and constantly enhance the ministry in Nepal.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hal Smith, Chair

SIKONGE/TABORA MINISTRIES
BUDGET, INCOME, EXPENSES and BALANCES
OCTOBER 1, 2014 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

	2015	Fiscal Year			2016
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>BWM</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Beginning Balance		246,516	106,152	352,668	
Income					
Adopt-a-Village	45,000	39,739		39,739	40,000
Other Income	10,000	12,760	5,488	18,248	15,000
Education	2,000	250	2,110	2,360	2,000
Construction	10,000	9,730	1,274	11,004	10,000
Wells			2,143	2,143	
Misc		1,755	200	1,955	
Investment Income net of fees	12,000	(10,667)		(10,667)	10,000
Grants	23,000	10,000	8,000	18,000	18,000
Transfers				-	
Total	102,000	63,567	19,215	82,782	95,000
Expenses					
Orphans - Food, Clothing		20,030		20,030	
Orphans - Education		47,615		47,615	
Orphans - Health Care/Misc		12,407		12,407	
Total Orphans		80,052	104	80,052	
Variance, wired funds minus actual expended		15,948		15,948	
Amount wired for Orphan accounts - see note	100,000	96,000		96,000	100,000
Travel to/from Tanzania	7,500		6,814	6,814	8,000
Travel in Tanzania	3,500		2,200	2,200	2,500
Construction	15,000	5,200		5,200	8,000
Wells	40,000		24,425	24,425	15,000
Transfer/Close outs		9,380		9,380	
Other				-	
Total	166,000	110,580	33,543	144,019	133,500
Net	(64,000)	(47,013)	(14,328)	(61,237)	(38,500)
Ending Balance		199,503	91,824	291,431	
Note - This statement is derived from accounts at the Board of World and Central Church. The \$96,00 is the amount wired to Tanzania in the fiscal year. The variance of \$15,948 represents money that was not spent and will carry over to the next fiscal year. Cash on hand in Tanzania is on Sept. 30 was \$16,388.					

Music Committee

The music program at Central continued to expand this year because of the many gifts, talents and time that was given by so many people! Under the extraordinary leadership of Llyena Boylan, the Music Committee oversaw many wonderful projects and events. The committee meets six times during the year with sub-committees created when necessary. The Music Committee was proud to see all goals for 2015 either accomplished or in process of being accomplished.

Goals for 2015 included:

1. New CD – Choir and Organ based on hymns
 - a. *Be Still My Soul* was released in September 2015
2. Central Moravian Church: A History of its Music (A book based on memoirs and photos of the music program of Central Moravian Church to be published during the 275th Anniversary of Central Moravian Church.)
 - a. Sing to the Lord a New Song will be released in the summer of 2017 in celebration of the 275th Anniversary of Central Moravian Church.
3. More involvement of Central Church and Moravian College organ students in the music program at Central Moravian Church.
 - a. Becky Owens is an adjunct faculty member of Moravian College and teaches private organ lessons, hymnody, organ literature, and hymn improvisation to Moravian College Students.
 - b. Throughout the year, Moravian College students performed during the worship services of Central Moravian Church.
 - c. Once per semester, Moravian College is holding their weekly performance class in our Sanctuary and specifically features organ students of Becky Owens.

The **Chapel Choir**, under the direction of Richard Miller, has continued to bless the 9 a.m. worship services. In addition to the Chapel Choir, Richard Miller has done an extraordinary job of creating a wide variety of musical offerings such as instrumentalists, soloists, duets, quartets and a men's choir for the 9

a.m. service. Richard Miller who celebrated his 20th year as Organist for the 9 a.m. service, also assisted in the service playing during the Holy Week and Christmas season in addition to serving as the organist and choir director at the West Side Moravian Church.

The Central Moravian Brass Choir, under the spirited leadership of Central member Caitlin Heckman, plays the second Sunday of every month at the 11 a.m. worship service. This growing group consists of members and friends of Central Moravian Church and greatly enhances our worship experience.

The Men's Choir is a group of men from the Central Choir, Chapel Choir, and congregation members and friends of members that sings every third month. There is one rehearsal that takes place the morning of the worship service of which they sing.

The Central Church Choir is an amazing group of individuals who continue to give generously of their time and talents to both enhance our worship services and concerts, but also to provide musical outreach in the community. Each member contributes so much above and beyond their music to this ensemble whether it be as choir officers, (Hank Naisby, president) quartet, (Cathy Spallitta, Deborah Leyshon-Brandt, David Charrier, and Bob Beck), librarians (Alice Mosebach and Karen Naisby) hospitality coordinators, (Karen Naisby and Linda Wickmann) spiritual devotions, musical ideas, and humor, just to name a few. Thank you for all you do, and for being such a blessing!

We are also blessed to have the **Bethlehem Area Moravian Trombone Choir**, under the direction of Don Kemmerer, as a part of our worship services here at Central Moravian Church. In addition to playing chorales from the belfry on the last Sunday of each month, Bach at Noon concerts and at various memorial services throughout the year, this choir, who is a valuable part of our Moravian musical heritage, plays in worship ten times a year: August 13th Lovefeast, Children's Christmas Eve Lovefeast, New Year's Eve, first Sunday in Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday through Wednesday evening services during Holy Week and our Easter Dawn Service. Thank you to Don Kemmerer, Nancy Beitel-Vessels and the many members of the trombone choir. We look forward to many more years of being blessed by the Trombone Choir.

We were equally blessed by special music presented by the **Mainstreet Brass** (Palm Sunday, Easter, Lessons and Carols, and Christmas Eve), the **Mother Jones Brass Quintet** (July 19 worship and A Moravian Christmas Experience), **The Silver and Brass Trombone Quartet** (November 8th Lovefeast) and **harpist, Andrea Wittchen** (Advent Organ and Harp Concert, Advent Lovefeast, and Christmas Contemplative Worship).

A fifth music CD, *Be Still My Soul*, was created this year. This CD is devotional in nature and includes Scripture passages read by the Rt. Rev. C. Hopeton Clennon and musical reflections featuring the Central Moravian Church Choir, a piano/organ duet featuring Jeanne Bednarik, a solo by Bobby Owens, and organist, Rebecca Owens. *Be Still My Soul* sells for \$10 and the additional four music CDs (*Christmas Eve at Central Moravian Church, Favorite Hymns at Central, An Old-Fashioned Moravian Christmas, and To God All Praise and Glory*) continue to sell successfully at the price of \$5 each. A portion of these sales are given back to the general operating budget of the church on an annual basis as well as to the choir checking account. I am grateful for the extraordinary gifts of Kelly Knapp who continues to be responsible for the accounting, inventory, filling CD orders and giving complete financial records of the CD account to George Mowers and to the Board of Trustees.

Concerts at Central have continued to be a success in offering the gifts of local musicians as well as bringing visitors into our Old Chapel and Sanctuary. We are thankful that Karen and Tim Brady have continued to provide leadership of the **Concert Series Corps**. This group of volunteers is responsible for preparing the Sanctuary for concerts, handing out programs, collecting offering, and cleaning up after the concert.

Here is a sampling of the musical and music committee highlights that happened during 2015 in addition to the weekly musical offerings:

January

- Thirty-four members of the Central Moravian Church Choir, congregation members, and friends and family, led by Senior Pastor Hopeton Clennon and Director of Music, Becky Owens, returned from a choir tour to Antigua (December 27, 2014 to January 3, 2015).

- On Sunday afternoon, January 18, the Central Choir and Becky Owens presented an hour of organ arrangements and choir anthems based on favorite gospel hymns and included a hymn-sing where congregation members could choose their favorite hymn to sing.

February

- Chamber Music in the Chapel presented the Fairfield Duo on February 27, and featured classical guitarist Candice Mowbray and flutist Nora Suggs.

March

- Chamber Music in the Chapel presented the Anglo-American Duo featuring virtuoso American violinist Timothy Schwarz and British pianist Jane Beament on Friday, March 27.

April

- The West Side Men's Quartet presented special music at the 9 a.m. worship service on April 12.
- On April 19, The Sunday School Choir, under the direction of JoAnna Freund, presented special music throughout the 11 a.m. worship service which featured a children's worship theme.

May

- The Sunday School Choir presented special music at the 11 a.m. worship service on May 10.
- The Music Program sponsored a bus trip to Longwood Gardens on Monday, May 11 as a fundraiser for the next choir trip.
- Graydon Wascura (8th grade) presented a trumpet prelude at the 11 a.m. worship service on May 24.

June

- The Chapel Choir, under the direction of Richard Miller, concluded their 10th Anniversary with a special service of favorite anthems, scriptures, and hymns on Sunday afternoon, June 7.
- The Summer Choir was created to sing every Sunday morning during the summers. This choir only rehearsed on Sunday morning and was open to anyone who wished to sing.
- On June 28, Peter Kubath, Organist and Choirmaster of the Herrnhut Moravian Church, Germany concluded his sabbatical in the United

States. Throughout his time in the U.S., he conducted the choir and played the organ on various Sundays at Central Moravian Church.

July

- Colin Worrich, Central Moravian Church member and college student studying the trombone, presented special music at the 10 a.m. service on July 12.
- The Mother Jones Brass Quintet provided special music on July 19 at the 10 a.m. worship service.

August

- On August 1, members of the Central Choir and Becky Owens participated in the ordination service of Rev. Garritt Fleming at Palmer Moravian Church.
- The 2015-2016 music brochure was printed and distributed. This was the tenth year of producing a widely distributed poster-style, color music brochure that detailed the musical events, worship services and ensembles for 2015-2016.
- The Central Moravian Youth Bell Ensemble presented special music on Sunday, August 23.

September

- On September 13, at the 11 a.m. service, we celebrated the release of CD #5, *Be Still My Soul*.
- Moravian College student, Faith Brown, was the soloist for the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, September 20.
- On Sunday, September 20, Richard Miller was honored at the 9 a.m. Chapel service for 20 years of dedicated service as the Chapel Organist. Richard began playing for this service in September of 1995, and has added his own creativity to this worship service by creating the Chapel Choir (who are now on their eleventh year), and inviting a variety of talented musicians from both Moravian College and the community to share their musical gifts with the congregation. We are blessed to have such a devoted, musical, and creative servant to lead our music during the Chapel Services.
- Chamber Music in the Chapel presented soprano Grace Spruiell-Hochella in a program about African American spirituals on Sunday afternoon, September 20.

- The Sunday School Choir, under the direction of JoAnna Freund and accompanied by Richard Groman, sang at the Children's Lovefeast on Sunday, September 27 at the 9 a.m. service. Bobby Owens, (8th grade) played the trombone during the partaking of the Lovefeast.

October

- The Music Committee Handbook was revised.
- Moravian College students Devin Diaz (clarinet) and Ben Wallace (tenor) presented special music at the 11 a.m. worship service on October 18.
- The Johnston Festival Memorial Concert was performed on Sunday, October 18, 2015, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Carl Heinrich Graun's *Der Tod Jesu* and *Dark Night of the Soul* by Ola Gjeilo was presented by the Central Moravian Festival Choir and Orchestra and was conducted by Maestro Donald Spieth. A grand piano was brought in for this concert, and Becky Owens was pianist for the Gjeilo. A special offering was received and was given to the Nepal Moravian Ministry.
- Moravian College performance class was held in the Sanctuary on Tuesday morning, October 20 and featured two organ students of Becky Owens.

November

- The Silver and Brass Trombone Quartet presented special music during the November 8 Lovefeast at the 11 a.m. worship service.
- An Advent Organ Concert was presented by Becky Owens with guest harpist, Andrea Wittchen on Saturday, November 28.
- The Chapel Choir, under the direction of Richard Miller, sang for the Advent Lovefeast and Candlelight Service at West Side Moravian Church on Sunday evening, November 29.

December

- A German and English Advent Singstunde was held on Tuesday, December 1 in the Old Chapel and was presented by Dr. Paul Peucker of the Moravian Archives (and our Central Church Choir) and Gwyn Michel of the Moravian Music Foundation with members of the Central Moravian Choir.
- Hopeton Clennon and Becky Owens presented seven Moravian Music Experiences to tour

buses in the Sanctuary and Old Chapel during the first two weeks of December.

- Central Moravian Church presented “A Moravian Christmas Experience” on Saturday, December 5 at 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Rt. Rev. C. Hopeton Clennon and Rev. Maggie Wellert were speakers and Becky Owens was organist. The Central Moravian Church Choir sang, Katie Owens was the Morning Star soloist, and the Mother Jones Brass Quintet provided special music to a very full house. Barry Dubbs was the coordinating sacristan.
- The Chapel Choir and Richard Miller presented a Christmas Concert in the Gemeinhaus on Thursday evening, December 10.
- A Contemplative Worship service was held on Tuesday, December 15 in the Old Chapel, and featured harpist, Andrea Wittchen and pianist, Becky Owens.
- The Sunday School Choir, under the energetic direction of JoAnna Freund and accompanied by Richard Groman, presented a wonderful ten minute musical about the birth of Jesus during the partaking of the Lovefeast during the Children’s Christmas Eve Lovefeast as well as during the 11 a.m. Lessons and Carols service on December 20. A special thank you to the children and their families who faithfully attended these rehearsals.
- On Christmas Eve, Michael Krem, Andie Silvius, Christian Ferrey and Ruthie Ferrey were Morning Star soloists. The Bethlehem Area Trombone Choir provided prelude music for the Children’s Lovefeast. Donald Spieth conducted the Christmas Eve Vigils with string orchestra, Mainstreet Brass, and the Central Moravian Church Choir provided music.

This expansive music ministry would not be possible without the dedication and support of so many congregation members. Again, I want to extend a special thank you to those of you singing in the choirs, playing instruments, providing special solo music, playing the organ, directing musical ensembles, ushering and handing out programs for concerts, assisting with publicity and marketing, and helping in a multitude of ways “behind the scenes.” I am grateful to the pastoral staff, to the Music Committee and to the church staff for their many hours of continued support, encouragement, help and extraordinary ideas. It is because of all of you that this music program can minister to our church, our community, both near and

far, and can continue to build up the Body of Christ here on earth.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Owens, Director of Music

Music Committee Members: Llyena Boylan, Chair;
Rt. Rev. C. Hopeton Clennon, Joe Bednarik, Jeanne Bednarik, Don Brown, Louisa Frey, Richard Miller, Alice Mosebach, Hank Naisby, Rebecca Owens, Tom Tenges

Social Action Committee

We thank the dedicated members of Social Action for another year of promoting good partnerships with our community and church agencies as well as creative projects that raised awareness in the areas of environmental concern, homelessness, mental illness, hunger, and poverty.

A List of our Community and Church Partners and our Ministry Together in 2015:

- **Fair Trade Coffee Project** (monthly sales of coffee and other products which benefit small farmers working sustainable farms, promotion of this ideal of commerce). Profits from this project are currently earmarked for refugee resettlement.
- **Central Food Bank** - served 96 families, including seniors living in the Moravian Houses on Main Street. Diane Berl and Joan Kolessar continue to lead this effort. Clothing from Cynthia’s Boutique has been made available to Food Bank participants during regular Food Bank distribution. Leftover dollars in our Social Action budget at the end of the year will be donated to the Food Bank account.
- **Bethlehem Emergency Cold-Weather Shelter** - We started hosting at Central on Saturday nights – with Carol Holbert and Rose Warner as coordinators. This program runs from December thru the end of March. In the 2014-15 winter, numbers ranged from 10 to 17 women staying with us. December of this year started out with lower numbers, probably due to the warm weather. Volunteers are especially needed for overnights this year. Our committee donated

\$100 this fall to be used for paper products for the shelter.

- **Esperanza Ministries** (congregational awareness, after-school tutoring), included about 50 children in need in Central Santa gift program. The Esperanza tutoring program has become very popular and new tutors are always welcome!
- **Bread for the World** (offering of letters to our Congressional representatives for hungry people in June, annual gift of \$400). Theme was Feed Our Children.
- **Church World Service** (promotion of annual Crop Walk in October, \$3700 was raised from Central members and friends. Helen Foraste did a great job, once again, as coordinator).
- **Moravian Open Door** (annual gift of \$400, congregational awareness)
- **Northeast Ministry** (annual gift of \$300 toward Summer Camp program for underprivileged children in the local area; congregational awareness)
- **Community Services for Children** (Central Santas in November, 170 (!!) gifts of warm clothing to needy children in the Lehigh Valley, including gifts to Esperanza children)
- **Victory House** (congregational awareness, annual gift of \$400, volunteers, year-end gift of \$100 worth of bed sheets, socks, umbrellas and wash cloths)
- **New Bethany Ministries** (congregational awareness, participated in Luminaria night with new Central members, the Jamison family, helping to light up our corner of Bethlehem, annual gift of \$400, volunteers)
- **Members are assisting in the Lehigh Valley Interfaith Resettlement Committee**, which will try to provide a refugee family with assistance.

In addition to our work with partners, the Social Action Committee ran our annual discussion group called Travelers' Together in January and February on the topic of "Wealth Inequality - is it putting Democracy at Risk". Forty-four people attended. Attendees brought in additional articles for sharing, indicating a great deal of interest.

In March, we coordinated a trip to the Reading museum to see an exhibit about the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

For Earth Day in April, we sponsored a series by Moravian professor Deborah Appler on "The Bible, Moravian Traditions and Food Justice". Deborah was a very dynamic speaker.

In May, we worked with the local Amnesty Int'l group that meets at Central to host a discussion session on the Death Penalty Moratorium in PA.

Central member Dr. Micah Sadigh continued last year's excellent discussion series on mental health issues with a few more interesting sessions on finding meaning in suffering, and the role of sleep in physical and psychological health.

In the summer, Social Action assisted in hosting a Chautauqua for the Lehigh Valley at Christian Spring on two Saturdays. This project was done in conjunction with Paul Larsen, a member of the Bethlehem Friends Meeting. Topics included: Moravian Music Between the Civil War and 1912 – and up to Bach Choir, and the Johnston Estate and Bethlehem Steel during World War I.

Through the year we have scheduled Mission Moments during worship services, to help make our congregation members aware of missions of our congregation, like the Food Bank and Coffee Project, and also the missions we support in our community (Victory House, etc.). We hope that by learning about these efforts, our members may be willing to support these groups with their time, talents and treasure.

We thank our dedicated committee and congregation for an excellent year of caring and action. We said farewell, this year, to 3 long-time members of our committee: Reed Acheson, Pastor Janel Rice and David Henkelmann. Their efforts and ideas will be missed!

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Ostock and Joan Carson, Co-Chairs

Members: Mare Ashford, Hopeton Clennon, Jan Cole, Barry Dubbs, Carol Holbert, Suzanne Irvine, Susan Jones Elke Rockwell, Nancy Rutman, Rose Warner, Maggie Wellert; Food Bank: Diane Berl; Coffee Project: AnneMarie Whildin; CROP Walk: Helen Foraste; Resettlement: Jim Whildin, Louisa Frey; Travelers' Together: Stew Early