



Central Moravian Church

2023 Annual Reports
 2024 Annual Church Council
 Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.
 Church Sanctuary

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Central Moravian Church

Annual Church Council January 28, 2024

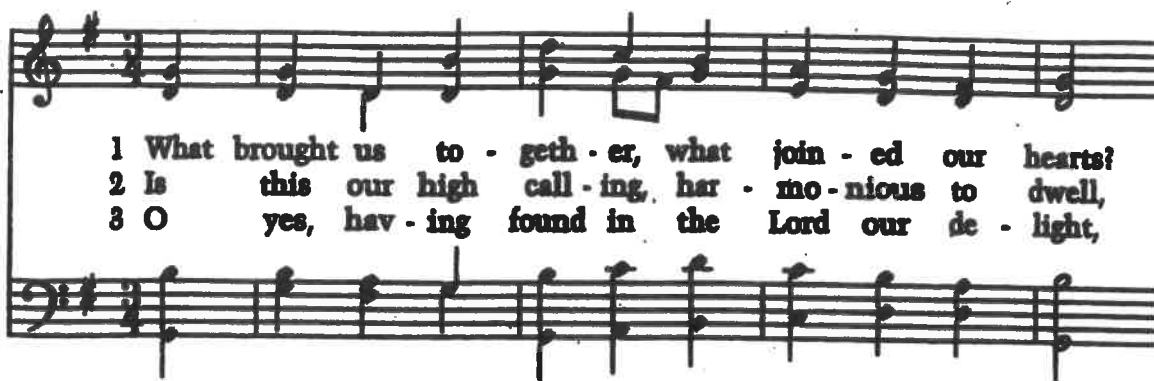
AGENDA

- a. Call to order – Janel Rice
- b. Prayer and Hymn # 675: *“What Brought Us Together”*
- c. Election of President and Secretary of Church Council
- d. Minutes of the last Annual Church Council
- e. Report of the Board of Elders – Pam Larimer
- f. Report of the Board of Trustees – Mary Catherine Tachovsky
- g. Financial reports of the Board of Trustees for 2023 – Kris Wruble
- h. Presentation of the budget for 2024 – Jeff Mosebach
- i. Reports from other organizations, agencies, and societies of the congregation
- j. General business
- k. Report of the Nominating Committee and Elections – Ann Raines
- l. Pastoral comments
- m. Adjournment

Congregational Watchword for 2024

Paul wrote: Do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God. 1 Corinthians 4:5

What Brought Us Together



1 What brought us to - geth - er, what join - ed our hearts?
 2 Is this our high call - ing, har - mo - nious to dwell,
 3 O yes, hav - ing found in the Lord our de - light,



The par - don which Je - sus, our High Priest, im - parts,
 and thus in sweet con - cert Christ's prais - es to tell,
 he is our chief ob - ject by day and by night,



'Tis this which ce - ments the dis - ci - ples of Christ,
 in peace and blessed un - ion our mo - ments to spend
 this knits us to - geth - er; no long - er we roam,



who are in - to one by the Spir - it bap - tized.
 and live in com - mun - ion with Je - sus our Friend?
 we all have one Fa - ther, and heav'n is our home.

Nominating Committee

Church Council Officers

President: Barry Pell
Secretary: Martha Jones

Board of Elders

Nominee for first term: Karen Brady, Jane Persa, Robert Phillips
Returning for second term: Kelly Ahn

Continuing Elders: Don Brown, Jane Leposa, Susan Noack, Bill Sachs, Bob Wascura, Linda Wickmann, Kathy Williams, Anne Zug

Board of Trustees

Nominee for first term: Pam Larimer, Hank Naisby, Tom Tenges
Returning for second term: Beth Boyer, Barry Pell

Continuing Trustees: Jeff Biro, Jennifer Ceneviva, Brenda Hoelman, Jeffrey Long, Jeff Mosebach, Ann Raines, Beth Schlener, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Susan Trimble

Bethlehem Area Moravians Board of Directors: Elke Rockwell

Eastern District Synod

Delegates: Karen Brady, Brenda Hoelman, Steve Krawiec, Becky Lepore, Camie Modjadidi
Alternate Delegates: Lynne Brolly, Pat Herman, Connie Pierce, Katie Royer

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Raines, Secretary

Minutes of the Annual Church Council–January 29, 2023

The annual meeting of the Central Moravian Church Council was called to order at 12:37 p.m. on January 29, 2023. Senior Pastor Hopeton Clennon offered a prayer reminding us of our thankfulness, that we have come this far by faith and all we do is for the honor and glory of God. The congregation joined him in the Lord's Prayer to close. The congregation sang Hymn 675 - What Brought Us Together. Hopeton entered the names of Barry Pell and Martha Jones for the offices of Council President and Secretary, respectively. The election was unanimous and without opposition. Reviewers of the minutes will be Martha Griffis, Dave Hochella and Karen Brady.

The minutes of the 2022 Church Council in January 2022 were approved without any change. The motion was made by Chris Bosch and the vote was unanimous.

Hopeton offered the report of the Board of Elders. Page 5 and 6 of the Annual Report gives much detail for the work of the Board of Elders during 2022. Hopeton named Susan Noack, Bob Wascura and Bill Sachs as new Elders in 2022. He thanked Mary Shields as she completes her service to the Elders. Hopeton spoke of the new BoardEffect system of accessing minutes and information for the boards. He thanked Cindy Gibson and her efforts to make this new system work for the boards. Hopeton spoke about the sharing of minutes between the boards. COVID is still a challenge, mask-wearing is a personal choice, Live Stream is a challenge – Hopeton prefers in-person worship. He mentioned a letter of affirmation sent by the Elders to affirm the work Nate Bissey is doing as chaplain with the Fire Department. The Lenten Program for 2022 was about Transitions in Our Community. Hopeton also mentioned the farewell to Pastor Lynnette in 2022.

Mary Catherine Tachovsky gave the report of the Board of Trustees. Pages 21 and 22 of the Annual Report gives more detail on the work of the Board of Trustees for the year 2022. Many thanks were given to Joan Carson who was secretary of the Trustees and is completing her service this year. Mary Catherine mentioned many worries the board has, such as decline of investments and the large project of overhauling the HVAC system in the Sanctuary. As she listened this morning during the service, she was reminded of the

blessings we have, of being grateful for God's gifts. We use the funds to support the ministries of Central and this year we are blessed with a surplus. The next part of the council meeting was the Financial Reports of the Board of Trustees for 2022. In her first annual report, Kris Wruble reported that we ended the year 2022 in the black with a surplus of \$32,282 which is very good news! Kris spoke about each line of income and expenses. Salary and benefits seem to be the reason for the surplus. The church buildings are well used, there were needed renovations in the church office, and the Province and District Administration fees were paid 100%. There is more financial detail on pages 29 and 30 of the Annual Report.

Jeff Mosebach brought forward the report for the 2023 Budget. The overview and budget are shown on pages 31 and 32 of the Annual Report. Jeff thanked the Board of Elders, Trustees, Sacristans, staff, and the congregation for ideas, donations and financial support which helps us all to trust in the future. The budget for 2023 is based on past years' trends. The total income for 2023 is budgeted at \$1,020,298. Camie Modjadidi moved to accept the budget for 2023. A voice vote was unanimous in approving the budget.

Other reports from groups in the church elicited no questions or comments.

General Business had one comment made. Mike Pragheimer noticed that there were reduced hours for the Star and Candle Shoppe this year which probably reduced the income.

Ann Raines presented the report of the Nominating Committee. Nominee for a 3-year term to the Board of Elders is Anne Zug. Elders returning for a second term are Jane Leposa, Linda Wickmann and Kathy Williams. Nominee for a 3-year term to the Board of Trustees is Jeff Biro. Trustees returning for a second term are: Jeffrey Long, Ann Raines and Beth Schlener. Nominee to the Bethlehem Area Moravians Board of Directors is David Charrier. Nominees to the Provincial Synod are Karen Brady, Brenda Hoelman, Becky Lepore and Bob Wascura. Alternate delegates nominated are Caitlin Heckman, Pat Herman, Steve Krawiec and Jane Leposa. Mary Brown moved to close nominations. This slate of nominations was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Pastor Hopeton Clennon made some closing pastoral comments to the Council. Hopeton expressed thanks for the loving support that he and Shelia appreciate. He will be traveling to Camp Hope, Jamaica which has not been used for several years due to COVID. He'll be working to get it in shape for the March mission trip and other future use. Hopeton mentioned all the staff members and what they do to assist with Central and its mission and ministries. He thanked Pam Larimer for arranging the lunch before the meeting.

Dave Hochella moved to adjourn the Council, all stood to second the motion and at 1:37 p.m. the Church Council was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha W. Jones, Church Council Secretary
Respectfully Submitted,

Martha W. Jones
Church Council Secretary

Board of Elders

Please refer centralmoravianchurch.org and *The Belfry* articles and *Sunday Times* for updates and information.

The Board of Elders welcomes the election of new members each year for a three-year term. The full complement of 12 elders is supplemented by the pastor bringing the total to 13.

Seven elected elders are required to constitute a quorum.

Our Elders are called upon to ensure that the public means of grace are regularly and faithfully dispensed according to the rituals, customs, and practices of the Moravian Church. Elders oversee the Christian culture of the members of the congregation and their instruction in the doctrine, history, principles, and usages of the Moravian Church, the Sunday School, and various organizations, agencies, and societies of the congregation.

Sincere gratitude is offered to the Sacristan Corps, Music Committee, and Christian Education Committee, among others, for their phenomenal work in these areas.

Although the Elders decide on all matters pertaining to the admission, dismissal, suspension, and exclusion of members, we prayerfully choose to be guided by the expressed wishes of individual members of our worshiping community. Two other areas of responsibility include determining when, how, and by whom the church buildings and properties may be used and determining what financial appeals shall be taken for causes outside of the local congregation.

The board of Elders meets on the second Tuesday evening of the month.

This is the format of a typical meeting agenda.

Preliminaries: After the meeting is called to order, the assigned Elder leads devotions. We pray the Liturgy for Elders that includes space for the leader's thoughts and a time for prayers of intercession. Our Senior Office Administrator, Cindy Gibson, sets up the roster for the year with each Elder taking a turn.

The boards only share their approved minutes, so there's a lag of two months. Next, Elders are invited to share their comments, followed by the pastors' comments.

Church Membership: Cindy Gibson prepares the worship attendance table — tracking monthly statistics for the past five years. Bill Sachs prepares graphs tracking attendance trends and cumulative Sunday worship attendance. In this section of the Elders' meeting, we address requests for church membership and baptism, while acknowledging requests for transfer or removal.

Comments: Each month, a Trustee visits the Elders' meeting and is invited to offer comments from the most recent Trustees' meeting. This keeps each board up to date on the other board's activity prior to receiving approved minutes.

Discussion/Action Items: Here is where we address issues related to requests for the use of the church facilities and approve special offerings for causes outside of the local congregation. The following are a few highlights of the actions taken.

Committee Reports: There are approximately 30 committees in the congregation with at least one Elder serving. Some elders serve on as many as four. Some committees meet annually (e.g., Audit), some meet

quarterly (e.g., Investment), some meet bimonthly (e.g., History), some meet monthly (e.g., Buildings & Grounds), and some meet as needed (e.g., Emergency Preparedness).

We are thrilled that the Communications Committee and Church Family Life Committee have resumed in full complement.

Thank you to all who assist and share your gifts.

Unfinished/New Business: New or ongoing ministry and mission activities tend to be covered in the comments section or committee reports.

Closure: All Elders meetings end with The Lord's Prayer.

JANUARY

- **It was a month** of grateful hearts as we looked forward to fellowship, planning, and returning to in-personness. We looked forward to the new year and felt God's presence as we reflected on the abundant blessing of the Advent season.
- **Mike Repsher** joined our facilities staff.
- **The Essential Café** pay-as-you-can eatery at 418 3rd Avenue Bethlehem was introduced as a new Moravian Ministry. The Elders approved support with a special offering.
- **Pastor Maggie Wellert** blessed us with her compassionate preaching on Jan. 15.
- **We welcomed Dr. Bill Hoffman** to the pulpit for Mission Lovefeast sermon.
- **The call continued** for an additional pastor.
- **On the topic of church statistics...** *"Behind these numbers lay wonderful memories of fellowship past and boundless potential for life-changing ministries into the future. May it be so."* — Pastor Hopeton

FEBRUARY

- **Feb. 1:** J. William Reynolds, Mayor of Bethlehem and Chair of the Bethlehem World Heritage Commission, along with representatives of the Bethlehem Area Moravians, Central Moravian Church, Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites, Moravian University, and Northampton County, confirmed that the U.S. Department of the Interior has submitted a multi-country nomination to the World Heritage List representing world-wide Moravian Church Settlements. The nomination

includes Bethlehem, Herrnhut, Germany, and Gracehill, Northern Ireland/United Kingdom. It is proposed that they will join Christiansfeld, Denmark, which became a World Heritage Site in 2015, to form a single Moravian Church Settlement Site. This is the first ever multi-national nomination for the United States. If approved, Moravian Church Settlements would join such locations as the Taj Mahal and the Eiffel Tower. There are only 24 Sites in the United States including the Statue of Liberty, Yellowstone National Park, and Independence Hall.

- **Feb 11:** Pancake breakfast to benefit Jamaica trip. Resumed the annual mission trip to Jamaica, March 4-11, 2023. Pastor Hopeton traveled with six members including four youth: Christian Ferrey, Ruth Ferrey, Kayla Roman, and Zach Roman. We appreciate your support of the pancake breakfast.
- **Feb. 12:** We celebrated and surprised Bishop Hopeton on his 10th anniversary as Senior Pastor of Central Moravian Church. We celebrated LOVE at both services. The children's choir sang at the 9 a.m. service.
- **Feb. 12:** The Joint Board met for a light meal, and reorganization, then welcomed one new Elder (Anne Zug) and new Trustee (Jeff Biro). Mayor Reynolds was invited to speak to us as the educational component of our joint session. Many thanks to Camie Modjadidi and Pam Larimer assisting for in planning the day.
- **Feb. 22:** CMC started our Lenten Program on Ash Wednesday "Create Deep in Me" based on Psalm 51. We appreciate the planning team of Minister of Music Becky Lepore, Jane Leposa, and Pam Larimer, Elders, and Pastor Maggie Wellert. It is a joy to share a simple meal and fellowship during the Lenten season — learning, and growing in God's love with our sisters and brothers. *"The theme of love as expressed has truly been our lived experience. May God bless us all."* — Pastor Hopeton

MARCH

- **Sister Judy Williams** joyfully announced that the Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate ministry would soon resume.
- **Rose Warner** announced she was retiring from her dinner planning and cooking duties for Central's nights at the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter at the end of this shelter season. Rose has contributed her time and energy in service to the BES program for over 12 years. She started with Monday nights at the Women's Shelter at Christ UCC, cooking at Christ

UCC's Saturday noontime hot lunch program, then hosting all the years at Central's Women's Shelter, and finally cooking and otherwise assisting at the BES consolidated program. "Thanks to Rose for all your efforts through the years and for being such a comfort to our guests!" — Janice Ostock

APRIL

- **We were blessed** to receive 14 people as new members of our congregation on Palm Sunday. Three received the sacrament of Baptism, nine joined through Reaffirmation of Faith, one through Transfer of Membership, and the youngest member was received with her parents.
- **We welcomed this class**, in their pledge, to take on the responsibilities of membership at CMC. Together we show our love for God and people. Suzanne Boundy, Scott Dawkins, Eric Frey, Shirley Frey, David and Annie Jones, Alysa Jones, JoEllen LaPrade, Jonathan Miller and Stacy Price Miller, and daughter Sophia were received with her parents. Melanie Sattler and son Theo Sattler and Jane Tomlinson.
- **We gathered** for the annual Holy Saturday morning gathering and placement of hyacinths at the graves in God's acre.
- **There was a new approach** to sunrise hospitality. We stayed outside in fellowship offering coffee and Moravian sugar cake on a cool morning. The hospitality was set up and served outside on the CE building green. Having coffee offered outside after the Sunrise Service was very well received. This outside space usage allowed for an amazing Easter morning children's egg hunt and fellowship time — lovingly prepared in Nitschmann Hall.
- **The Elders recognized** and are deeply grateful for gifts from our brothers and sisters sharing and offering their Christian education talents and love.
- **Pastor Hopeton declared**, "I believe ... in the resurrection. Although not written by the apostles, it does summarize the apostles' proclamation concerning the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is our belief in the resurrection that feels most relevant this month. Life after death! Spring blossoms after bleak midwinter! We have enjoyed seeing snowdrops, hyacinths, daffodils, and crocus springing to life. We are energized and filled with hope. Recovery and revitalization are genuine possibilities. Nine members of Central were witnesses to that reality returning to Camp Hope in Westmoreland, Jamaica. What a joy to experience new life following the

renovation of a Moravian Church camping facility — mostly abandoned for two years. We offer sincere thanks to all who helped to make that mission trip and all its accomplishments for the church and community such a resounding success. May we all inhale the breath of life and celebrate another resurrection." — Pastor Hopeton

MAY

- **The annual Busy Workers' Sale** took place on May 13 and 14. The joyful Moravian spirit and work ethic are ever present during this event. This bi-annual event is another delightful example of Moravian community-building.
- **The Art Enriching Our Lives** program was held on Sunday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. and was a special evening of art, art appreciation, and spiritual insight. Two of our local artists, Gene Allen and David Sommers shared presentations, and we had a time of fellowship and food as we viewed their art and work shared by art class members.
- **Mission work in Korea** is growing and many people are interested in the Moravian Church. The Board of Elders unanimously affirmed and approved Hyerin Kim as Leader of Central Moravian Church's Korean Ministry.

JUNE

- **This is CMC's sixth year** for Envelopes for Education. These grants/gifts honor our high school graduates with a monetary gift from the congregation. This year, we shared gifts with Josiah Adams, Jeremy Ko, Katie Owens, and Claire Phillips.
- **Sister Martha Jones** continues to keep track of all information in an exemplary fashion. We thank her.
- **On June 4**, the congregation celebrated Bishop Hopeton's 40th anniversary of ordination (June 19, 1983). *Pastor Hopeton expressed: "In some ways, 40 years as a pastor feels like a long time. In many ways, it feels like the twinkling of an eye. I am deeply grateful these 40 years have brought such joy. I have silly regrets like wishing I kept a record of every baptism, wedding, and funeral I officiated. I also have delightful memories like in 2002, preaching at the 40th anniversary of the pastor Shelia and I had as teenagers, the Rev. Justin Peart. In every way, I offer thanks to God for the grace, mercy, and love that brought me this far, and for my fellow pilgrims along this journey of faith."*

- **Pastor Maggie retired** to Paul's opening words to the church in Philippi, "*Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ ... And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus.*" These beautiful words convey the thoughts of my heart towards the community of Central Moravian Church, as I prepare to (again!) retire, June 30, 2023. Gratitude. Joy. Partnership. Love." — Pastor Maggie

JULY

- **We welcomed many visitors** this month including delegates from Bethlehem's Sister City in Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany and assessors from UNESCO. This was the next step in the journey to World Heritage inscription. Many thanks to CMC staff, the History Committee, and the entire congregation for their energetic spirit in this effort
- **The engine of the church** hummed along through the summer. One person after another walked through a door, sent an email, carried a load, answered a phone, and offered a smile. We are fortunate for the quiet committee work that joyfully takes place every day. Thanks to all who make the CMC machinery run so well all summer long.

AUGUST - No meeting.

SEPTEMBER

- **After a lengthy and prayerful call process**, Pastor Janel Rice was called, accepted and was installed on Sunday, September 24.
- **We celebrated together** in worship at a single 11 a.m. service.
- **A reception** was held in Nitschmann Hall.
- **We are ever aware** and grateful as Elders for the constant and joyful ministry that extends from our walls and travels over streets, bridges, rivers and oceans. May it be so.

OCTOBER

I was away and things happened without me.

NOVEMBER

- **The Rev. Jeff Gehris** completed his service as Visitation Minister as of November 30, 2023.

DECEMBER

- **Central Moravians'** growing community of faith welcomed on December 17, 2023, another group of new members: David Bechtold, Mayra Cabrera Dean and Ryan Dean, and children Juliana, Everett, and Marcus, Brittany and Matthew Grenauer and daughter Emma, and John Kintzer Sr.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Larimer, Vice President

Student Pastor, Josh Follweiler

Many of you have had the chance to meet our student pastor Josh Follweiler, or know him from his wonderful ministry with our kids at Friday Fun Nights or volunteering in other areas. Josh is in his third and final year of a Master of Divinity program at Moravian Theological Seminary and an approved candidate for ordination in the Southern province. This fall, Josh has shared a ministry with Central and Calvary Moravian Church in Allentown, helping as Calvary went through a pastoral search. As Calvary's new pastor will start this February, Josh will be engaging with Central on a more regular basis. He hopes to be involved in several committees, attend Board meetings as his school schedule permits and he will preach twice during the Spring semester. Josh will be graduating from the Moravian Theological Seminary in May 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Janel Rice
Pastor of Congregational Care and Community Outreach

2023 Statistics

Births: 4

Ava Elizabeth Bard
Sophie Ann Macaulay
Shristi Diana Naisby
Sam Kenneth Rampolla

Baptisms: 8

Caden Charles Bach
Ava Elizabeth Bard
Scott Nunez Dawkins
Emma Rose Grenauer
Alysa Helen Jones
Sophie Ann Macaulay
Ryan James Metcalf
Theodore James Sattler

Confirmations: 3

Kaylyn George
Leo Silvius
Zane Silvius

Receptions: 20

David Bechtold
Suzanne Boundy
Mayra Cabrera Dean
Scott Dawkins
Ryan Dean
Erig Frey
Shirley Frey
Brittany Grenauer
Matthew Grenauer
Alysa Jones
Annie Jones
Dave Jones III
John S. Kintzer
JoEllen LaPrade
Jonathan Miller
Stacy Price Miller
Christian Rice
Janel Rice
Melanie Sattler
Jane Tomlinson

Young Children of New Members: 8

Savannah Bechtold
Emma Grenauer
Everett Dean
Juliana Dean
Marcus Dean
Sophia Miller
Sophie Rice
Theodore Sattler

Deaths: 13

Barbara Allen
Johanna Bees
Dolores Egge
Mary Jo Hill
Jean Jackson
J. Christian Kuhn III
Jeanette Long
John Lychak
Ingeborg Mackow
John Mast
Dorothy Mueller
Donald Spieth
Dorothy Taylor

Average Weekly Attendance in 2023:

In-person Services: 241
Livestream Services: 202*
Combined In-person and Livestream Services: 443

* Livestream attendance is based on the accumulated number of views on the sixth day following the service.

Total Membership on December 31, 2023: 986

Care for Creation

2023 was another busy year for the Care for Creation Committee. Our emphasis was on recycling and we tried to highlight ways our congregation could improve our environment with efforts to “reduce, reuse, and recycle”.

Early in the year, our committee welcomed Katie Tember, a member of the Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council, to describe what the Council was doing to institute a single-use plastic bag ban in the City of Bethlehem. She pointed out that, based on population, the residents in the City could expect to use 27 million plastic bags over the course of just one year!

In February, 2024, C4C will complete its 4th full year of recycling clean, dry plastic bags and wraps through the TREX Plastic Challenge program. We cooperate with the 5 other BAM churches, and this year earned our 4th TREX bench. We donated this bench to the Essentials Café workers who tend the garden behind the Widow’s House; produce from the garden will be used for Café meals. Audrey Wanamaker from West Side Church now serves as Coordinator of the TREX program, taking over from Elke Rockwell. We continue to collect plastic, along with food for our Food Pantry and clothing for Cynthia’s Boutique, on the 1st Sunday morning of the month in the C. E. Parking Lot. New volunteers are always welcome!

We celebrated Earth Day this year with a Mission Moment focused on the TREX program. We displayed just how much plastic our congregation recycles each month – 10 huge bags -- that are delivered to our Community Partner, Weis Market on Crawford Drive, and then transported to the TREX company.

C4C continues to provide Green Texts each month, via *The Belfry* Newsletter, and, during Lent, provided 40 ideas on how to “give up plastic for Lent”.

But our efforts weren’t ALL about plastic. We reprinted our popular booklet *Moravians & Mushrooms* with the help of a financial grant from the Elizabeth Johnston Prime fund. Books are sold in the Church Office, as well as the Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites stores, the Moravian Archives, and Moravian Historical Society. A portion of the profits goes back to future reprinting costs, and a portion from

sales at the church office goes to the HVAC Capital Campaign.

We spent a considerable portion of time this year learning about the Lenape Nation of PA, its history, earth stewardship, and efforts to attain state recognition. We also learned about differences between LNPA and other branches of the Lenape who migrated to Oklahoma, Wisconsin, and Canada. An Elder from the Delaware Nation in Oklahoma, who spends time at Ursinus College, visited Bethlehem for the first time in November, meeting with committee and Archive representatives. We hope to further our knowledge of the Lenape and Delaware Nations in the coming year.

Along with the Social Action Committee, Care for Creation sponsored a Lenten Dinner in the spring. And, beginning this fall, we have continued our Living the Change series of recipes in Constant Contact, encouraging more options for meatless meals.....better for our health, and better for the planet.

In November, we welcomed Michael Halbfoerster, head of recycling for the City of Bethlehem, to the C. E. building for a discussion of the City’s recycling program, both curbside and the recycling drop-off center. He was a most entertaining speaker and the program generated LOTS of questions.

We continue to hold our meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. via Zoom, doing our part to reduce fossil fuel consumption and making it easier for folks to attend evening meetings. We welcome new members to our committee; please contact Joan Carson if you are interested.

Finally, with sadness, but also with great appreciation, we acknowledge the death of Mary Jo Hill, a member of our committee from the very beginning. In fact, Mary Jo helped craft the goals and mission statement of our committee in the spring of 2019, and wrote frequently about recycling options in *The Belfry* newsletter. We miss her excellent writing and editing skills, and her wonderful sense of humor. Donations were made to our committee in memory of Mary Jo, and we have donated those funds to the HVAC Capital Campaign, a project near and dear to MJ.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Carson, Chair

Committee Members: Joan Carson, Chair, Peg Church, Nancy Doyle, Ron Doyle, Louisa Frey, Brenda Hoelman, Carol Holbert, Annie Jones, Margaret Krawiec, Susan Noack, Connie Pierce, Janel Rice, Elke Rockwell, Rose Warner, David Wickmann, Linda Wickmann, Judy Williams

Christian Education Committee

This year, we joyfully welcomed Pastor Janel Rice, Pastor for Congregational Care and Community Outreach. We are blessed to have her spiritual guidance and commitment to Christian Education.

This year also brought a farewell to Faith Fiegel, our Sunday School Superintendent and Children's Choir Director. Faith accepted a job offer at BMI in Nashville. While we will miss Faith, this is an incredible opportunity and the next step in her life journey. We have all been blessed by Faith's tremendous leadership and deeply appreciate all she has done for our children and families.

We are so pleased to welcome Laura Corcoran as our new Sunday School Superintendent. Laura has volunteered as one of our Sunday School teachers for several years. We are fortunate to have Laura lead our wonderful Sunday School team.

The Christian Education Committee is deeply grateful for our program leaders and Sunday School teachers whose commitment and diligence allowed us to provide meaningful Christian Education programs. We sincerely thank our families and program participants for their consistent support.

Message from Pastor Janel: What a blessing and privilege to minister with so many wonderful teachers, leaders and engaged children, youth and adults in a variety of Christian Education opportunities. It was wonderful to have Laura Corcoran accept the position of Sunday School Superintendent as I started in late September. There were three main areas of immediate interest and need that were my focus this fall. The first was quickly taken on by Michella Cardoso in restarting a staffed nursery at the 11 a.m. service with the help of several parents.

The second was to restart an adult Sunday School class during the 10 a.m. Sunday school hour. Previously

called Stories for Life and led by Rev. Maggie Wellert, we talked about a new opportunity for Bible study, particularly around the lectionary texts to be used in worship on a Sunday morning. My thanks to Dr. Brigidda Bell, professor of New Testament at Moravian Seminary and active participant (along with her family) at Central, for leading this class starting in November. They meet in the lower level of the C. E. building and select one of the Scripture texts used in Sunday's worship for study and discussion. The format allows for participants to easily attend, as their schedule permits, without a long-term commitment. We welcome new participants anytime!

My second focus is on our youth. I sent letters to the parents of all our Senior High youth who had not been confirmed. However, due to their schedules, there was not enough interest in starting an older youth confirmation class this year. We decided to wait until next school year (August 2024) to hold a confirmation class geared around 8th graders (and any interested older youth).

Instead, I hoped to focus on building a youth group for Middle and Senior Highs around monthly get-togethers focused on mission and service to our greater community. Starting in November, we made Thanksgiving crafts with the residents of King's Daughters Home and in December we joined Schoeneck Moravian Youth to Christmas carol to Moravian Village, Moravian Houses, and King's Daughters. We had between 3-5 Central youth at each event. In the new year, we will serve at the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter, an animal shelter, and we hope to do a trip to New York City and Moravian Open Door. Each gathering begins in reflection about what we are doing, and ends with the question of how this service has helped us share God's love and what it has taught us about ourselves.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Janel Rice

Opportunities for Children and Youth

Central Moravian Sunday School: Sunday School, January through May, continued with the Celebrate Wonder curriculum. Lessons consisted of music, scripture, games, and crafts. Our teachers were Faith Fiegel, Gayle Dimmick, Jane Corvino, and Laura Corcoran. The year culminated with a wonderful Easter egg hunt and workshop enjoyed by all ages.

Sunday School started up again in September. The younger children range in age from 4 to 9, attendance ranges from 4 to 13 children each week. The teachers are Laura Corcoran, Jane Corvino, Kelly Ahn, Hye Rin Kim, and Eunice Kim. We are again using the Celebrate Wonder curriculum. We have learned about creation, took a faith journey with Abraham and Sarah, had the blessings of Esau and Jacob, and experienced the Joy of Jesus' birth. We do this each week with opening activities, review, children's Bible stories and discussion, songs with movement, crafts and activities, and sharing food. Becky Lepore comes to us each week to teach us songs that we perform every other month at worship services. In November we participated in Red Wagon Sunday and visited the food pantry to learn where the food we collect goes.

Also in September, a new Sunday School program was started geared toward middle school age children. It is led by Karen Brady and Gayle Dimmick. The curriculum is called "Be Bold." The format is a discussion group, addressing questions and issues facing this age group and integrating our Christian beliefs with the world they live in. *Submitted by Laura Corcoran, Sunday School Superintendent*

Central Moravian Confirmation Class: Four children were officially confirmed in May of 2023. Our classes were biweekly and led by Pastor Hopeton Clennon, Shelia Clennon, and Faith Fiegel. The classes included Bible study, history lessons, journaling, faith discovery, and games! *Submitted by Camie Modjadidi, Chair*

Central Moravian Children's Choir: Each week Becky Lepore came to our class to teach us songs. On November 5, we had 9 children sing at the 11 a.m. Worship Service. We sang "Praise Ye the Lord" and "Give Thanks to the Lord." On December 10, we had 4 children sing at the 9 a.m. Worship Service. We sang "Away in a Manger" and "Baby Jesus We Love You." We also had 13 children sing these songs at the Christmas Eve Children's Lovefeast. Future singing dates are planned for January, March, and May. *Submitted by Laura Corcoran, Sunday School Superintendent*

Advent Workshop: The 2023 Advent workshop was a great success. Carol Holbert had to step down, but gave us a great foundation to build upon. Laura Corcoran and Elissa Derbak shared ideas, trying to utilize craft items already in our closet. There were

familiar traditional crafts, as well as exciting new crafts and activities for all ages to enjoy. Special thanks to Elissa Derbak, Jane Corvino, Gayle Dimmick, Kelly Ahn, Hye Rin Kim, Eunice Kim, Sue Trimble, Laura Corcoran and all who assisted at the 11 craft and 3 activity areas. There were several pianists to provide festive Christmas carols as we crafted. We snacked on a variety of treats, arranged by Pat Metcalf and Michella Cardoso. *Submitted by Laura Corcoran, Sunday School Superintendent*

Friday Fun Night: 2023 marks another successful year for our Friday Fun Night program (FFN). We hosted an average of 11 children each Friday from January through December, with a summer break during June, July, and August. Thanks to the support of Carol Holbert, Pat Metcalf, Michella Cardoso, and Elissa Derbak, we enjoyed crafts, games, stories, music, and food centered around various themes, including a fabulous Christmas Party. We have been excited and blessed to welcome several new faces to our Friday celebrations, and the parents have become better acquainted during pick-up and drop-off times. We are incredibly grateful for Central's help and support for Friday Fun Night, and we look forward to continued fun, learning, and growing with God throughout 2024. *Submitted by Josh Follweiler, Friday Fun Night Leader, Student Pastor*

Nursery: In November we prepared for the return of a staffed nursery ministry. Toys were cleaned and taken out, as well as books being shuffled to match the season. We have been using a Sign-Up Genius Volunteer form, so that volunteers can pick the days in advance that they can help. This system seems to be working. Going forward, I look to continuing the availability of a staffed nursery. Thank you to all of those who have volunteered! *Submitted by Michella Cardoso*

Toddler Time: Toddler Time meets the second Sunday of each month, September through May, at 10 a.m. in the nursery located in the Christian Education building. The group also meets outside when the weather is nice. On average there have been between 3 to 7 children in attendance. The young children have enjoyed music, stories and playing together and it is a valuable time for parents to share in the camaraderie of being a parent to a young child. *Submitted by Katie Royer*

Vacation Bible School: VBS was held the week of

June 26th at East Hills Moravian Church. In addition to East Hills and Central, Advent Moravian and College Hill Moravian also participated. Our theme this year was “Operation Restoration” and we learned many ways we can help to sustain God’s earth and His people by feeding, healing, forgiving, praying and resting. Central was represented by a number of children, as well as adult and teenage volunteers.
Submitted by Gayle Dimmick

Camp Hope: Central had 8 Camp Hope attendees this year. As always, the experience was enjoyable.

Opportunities for Adults

Comenius Tuesday: Comenius Tuesday is a reading group where members select stimulating books about the Christian faith and current contemporary issues. The books are discussed with candor and a respectful regard for all participants. *Submitted by Jane Leposa and Steven Krawiec*

Men’s Bible Study: The group has a contact list of 26 persons and an average attendance of 17 attending by Zoom and in person. We meet on each Wednesday at 7:15 a.m. Eastern time for food and fellowship and at 7:30 a.m. Eastern time for Study and discussion. We adjourn at 8:30 a.m. Currently, we are studying the book of Isaiah and expect this study to last the majority of 2024 as Isaiah has 66 chapters. This study was started following the understanding that Jesus frequently quoted portions of Isaiah, as well as other New Testament writers.

We started a new format for our discussions. Various members of the Study have been asked to provide leadership for a chapter, or two or three, following a successful study of the Book of James, using this format. Thus far, six members of the study have, or will have, provided leadership and we look forward to more trying their hand at leadership. Our discussions are wide ranging and while the majority of our participants are members of Central Moravian Church, we also benefit from points of view from other Christian traditions.

This year we had a discussion about changing the tradition of having only men. This discussion was initiated by a request from a member of the church who wanted to participate. We agreed that if a person wanted to join our group, we were certainly welcoming. Now that the decision has been made by

the group, we look forward to having our first participant. As we have said in the past, “The group welcomes participants of all ages and represents points of view from across the theological spectrum”. Please contact David Wickmann, the coordinator, at wickmann.david@gmail.com for more information.
Submitted by Dave Wickmann

Women’s Bible Study: Women’s Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings. There are 11 women registered and we have an average attendance of 6-8. This year we studied Ruth and Luke. We will start the New Year with “Sitting at the Table in the Kingdom of God” by Dr. John D. Rights. We are excited with the response.
Submitted by Pat Herman

Stories For Life: Stories For Life is a weekly Bible study, meeting Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Lower Level of the Old Chapel, September through May. Pastor Maggie Wellert led the study, based on the assigned text of the week from the Narrative Lectionary. This is a four year lectionary program that focuses on one of the gospels each year. We had a committed core group who love to explore and go deeper in Scripture. *Submitted by Pastor Maggie Wellert*

Awakened Hearts: Awakened Hearts: A Wisdom Way of Knowing Prayer Circle. Pastor Maggie Wellert led this group in contemplative spiritual practices of *lectio divina*, centering prayer, chant, and body prayer. We met monthly throughout the year. When we are together, we listen for God’s presence and guidance with our hearts, hear each other’s stories, and pray for one another between gatherings. *Submitted by Pastor Maggie Wellert*

I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to the members of the Christian Education Committee for their steadfast dedication to our Christian Education ministries and their unwavering support of our volunteers and leaders. The committee wishes to extend our deepest gratitude to Cindy Gibson for her invaluable support.

The Christian Education Committee Members are: Kelly Ahn, Peter Behrens, Michella Cardosa, Pastor Hopeton Clennon, Laura Corcoran, Student Pastor Josh Follweiler, Caitlin Heckman, Pat Herman, Carol Holbert, Steve Krawiec, Jane Leposa, Pastor Janel Rice, and Susan Trimble
Submitted by Camie Modjadidi, Chair

Collaborative work with Social Action Committee: Members of the Christian Education and Social Action Committees continue to collaborate on two joint initiatives, the Racial Justice Team and the Mental Health Team. For the Mental Health Team report, please see the Social Action Committee Report.

Racial Justice Team: Central Moravian's Racial Justice Team is an ongoing collaborative effort between the Social Action Committee and the Christian Education Committee.

Activities in 2023 included the Rev. Dr. Riddick Weber as guest preacher at Central on 9/10/23, supporting the Northern Province Racial Justice Team's Advent 2023 series, supporting the Northern Province's Sacred Ground Series, collaborating with the History Committee in planning and implementing walking tours of Bethlehem titled, *Both Enslaved and Free: Men and Women of African Descent in Early Bethlehem* which visited significant sites pertinent to the intertwined history of slavery and our Moravian and Bethlehem communities, providing book recommendations including, *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debby Irving, *Dear White Peacemakers: Dismantling Racism With Grit and Grace*, by Moravian Pastor Osheta Moore, and a children's book, *Our Skin, A First Conversation About Race*, by Megan Madison, book discussion groups that explored Pastor Moore's book, and looking into having caring conversations with black and brown faith communities.

In 2024, the team looks forward to having the Rev. Sue Koenig as guest speaker preacher on 2/4/24. In addition, the team plans to offer the walking tour to the wider Moravian community, as well as to the community at large, to continue to support the Northern Province Racial Justice's Advent and Sacred Ground Series, to provide additional reading recommendations for all ages, to offer book discussion groups, to continue discussion on reaching out to other faith communities, and to invite other guest speakers.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the members of the team who have willingly given of their time, talents, and energy. The team would also like to thank Cindy Gibson for her invaluable support.

The Racial Justice Team Members are:
Cheryl Boots, Annie Jones, Barry Kessler, Diane

Kessler, the Rev. Sue Koenig, Jane Leposa, Pastor Janel Rice, Dick Williams, Judy Williams, the Rev. Dr. Riddick Weber, and Barbara Vernoooy.

Respectfully Submitted,
Camie Modjadidi, Chair

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee oversees the internal and external content of information shared with the Central Moravian community. This includes in-house printed materials, press releases, and all electronic and social media. The goal of the committee is to effectively communicate to the public the identity and mission of Central Moravian Church. Ultimately, fostering closer relationships throughout our community, attracting new members, and leveraging the assets of our congregation.

In 2023, we developed and printed the Sanctuary Brochure, to provide a brief overview of the history of our church for visitors and potential new members. Additionally, in collaboration with our History Committee, we conducted several Sanctuary open houses during Musikfest and the Celtic Classic. The committee also revised the Welcome Brochure (This is what we Do!) in an effort to modernize our message.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Persa, Chair

Committee Members: Jane Persa (Chairperson), Peter Behrens, Hopeton Clennon, Eric Derbak, Ray Holton, Craig Larimer, Jeff Mosebach, Rob Phillips, Janel Rice, Bob Wascura, Anne Zug

Congregational Care Committee

The primary goal of the Congregational Care Committee is to care for members who need assistance and to help members maintain their connection to the church, especially those with challenges of health, age or distance.

During 2023 committee members and pastors:

- continued visiting shut-ins;
- reached out to a younger population - college-aged and twenty somethings;

- honored seniors on a special Sunday; and
- re-activated visits and communion services with the King's Daughters House.

We are grateful to Pastors Jeff Gehris and Janel Rice for their efforts visiting shut-ins. We are excited about the fresh perspective Becky Lepore brings to the committee with her focus on caring for and connecting with younger aged members. And, we are impressed with the creative efforts of Pastor Rice as she reenergizes connections among the various demographics of our congregation.

In 2024, the committee plans to continue visitations; explore ways to transport those having difficulty attending services; repeat the Lebenslauf program; hold a workshop on end of life issues; honor seniors; and reach out to youthful members. We look forward to the addition of Josh Follweiler with his interest in youth ministry to our team!

We'd love to have you join us in any of these efforts. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Beth Boyer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Boyer and Brenda Hoelman, Co-Chairs

Currents Capital Campaign

The *Currents* Capital Campaign to fund the Sanctuary HVAC replacement officially launched October 1, 2023. Committee co-chairs are Jennifer Ceneviva, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Barry Pell, and Tom Tenges. Committee members are Anne Zug, Beth Boyer, William Sachs, Martha Jones, Pam Larimer, Hopeton Clennon, and Lee Williamson (consulting). As of December 31, 2023, 144 pledges had been received, \$742,600.84 pledged, \$378,598.29 paid to date.

Engineering, bidding process and then selection of Worth and Company, Inc. as contractors for the HVAC project was completed within 2023. Construction, mostly occurring in the basement, has started in January 2024 with estimated completion in spring 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Ceneviva and Barry Pell Co-Chairs

History Committee

2023, our seventeenth year of work, was a very active year for the History Committee. We were engaged in an array of activities and projects, ranging from hosting special visitors, to clearing out the basement of the Sanctuary. The basement continued to be a focus this year. Committee members volunteered to help scour the basement for potential artifacts to preserve. Packing, cleaning, and finding temporary homes for these items involved a good bit of time. We also ran a silent auction to dispose of items of surplus furniture that were stored in the basement, raising \$1,255 to be put toward the Capital Campaign for the new HVAC system. We are continuing to research some of the items, including a small number of music stands.

Tours were a special focus of 2023 as we tried a new model to give visitors a chance to see our beautiful sanctuary and learn about Central. Bob Wascura coordinated a project through the Communications Committee to develop a brochure for visitors to the Sanctuary. We used the brochure to good effect for a series of open houses, scheduled for weekend days when special events were occurring in Bethlehem. Mother's Day weekend, Musikfest, Celtic Fest and the weeks before Christmas all drew visitors, especially the Christmas season. We will be reviewing the results of the 2023 tours to decide on the optimum days and hours to make the sanctuary available. We have had requests to include the Old Chapel as an additional place to visit and we are planning to make that possible in 2024.

Our partnership with Central's Racial Justice team to develop a walking tour on the men and women of African descent in early Bethlehem came to fruition this year. We first piloted the tour with members of our two sponsoring committees—History and Racial Justice. Building on what we learned, we offered the tours to delegates of the Northern Province Synod in June, and we hosted two tours for the congregation in October. We will continue to offer these tours for area Moravians, the general public, and special groups. Several committee members have learned the script and can help to lead the tours.

Exhibits were another big part of our work this year. Carol Reifinger put together several new exhibits, including a look at the architectural history of Central—"Central: Inside and Out"—in the West

Room, and bulletin boards throughout the church documenting the transnational nomination of Moravian communities for World Heritage Status. Carol, with the help of her talented granddaughter Greta, created descriptive labels for the artwork and special furnishings in Central and the church office. The Christmas season brought three new exhibits: a display of children's books from the collection of Diane Shaw on the "Twelve Days of Christmas," in the West Room; an exhibit of historical putz figures by Richard Miller in the hall outside Central's putz in the Christian Education Building; and a new exhibit in the narthex by Nancy Rutman featuring images of Central's historical Christmas decorations. This exhibit will be expanded later in 2024 to include images of Easter, patriotic holidays, and anniversary celebrations.

Several History Committee members were involved in helping to host visitors associated with the World Heritage nomination. In early May, we assisted with the visit of the Minister President of Saxony, who was accompanied by the German consul from New York, and a large delegation. Hopeton Clennon, Diane Shaw, and Barry Pell spoke briefly, and the Bach Choir gave a short program. We also helped to prepare for the visit of the assessor for the International Council on

Monuments and Sites in July, participating in a trial run of the tour he would be given of Bethlehem and making specific preparations for a worship service and tours of the Old Chapel and Sanctuary. Other committee activities included preparations for a historical and cultural tour of Jamaica in 2024, led by Pastor Clennon.

A bright spot in the year was our connection with the Croton Falls (NY) Community Church and its pastor Timothy Wagner. Pastor Wagner had reached out to us about creating an "authentic" Moravian putz for his 30th year in ministry project. He and members of his congregation made multiple visits to Bethlehem to learn candle making and other aspects of putting on a putz. They made many friends among us, and a delegation from Central visited Croton Falls for the dedication of their putz. Their accomplishment was quite remarkable. We thought it would make a good story for The Moravian magazine and submitted an article that has just been published.

We were deeply saddened this year to lose one of our longtime committee members, Mary Jo Hill, who

passed away in March. Mary Jo cared passionately about the work of the History Committee, and she left part of her estate to benefit the Pat Smith Room.

One additional action taken by the History Committee this year was to review and refine our mission statement, which now reads as follows: To preserve and provide information about the history of Central Moravian Church from its founding in 1742 to the present. The Committee cares for Central's art and artifact collections, prepares periodic exhibits, offers tours, and provides educational programs.

The committee meets every other month online on the second Monday evening. Anyone who might be interested in our work is encouraged to contact Diane Shaw.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Shaw, Chair

Committee members: Kelly Ahn (Elder), Mary Brown (Trustee), Hopeton Clennon, Jan Cole, June Griffiths, Mary Jo Hill, Jeffrey Long (Trustee), Richard Miller, Hank Naisby, Susan Noack (Elder), Barry Pell (Trustee), Paul Peucker, Carol Reifinger, Nancy Rutman, Priscilla Schueck (Elder), Bart Shaw, Diane Shaw, Bob Wascura (Elder)

International Mission Committee

The International Mission Committee of Central Moravian Church supports and provides oversight of international mission efforts. It is important to acknowledge that other Central Moravian Church committees, groups, and individuals also share in helping this congregation fulfill its mission to love and serve others, especially those who are most in need. We express our appreciation to the Board of World Mission, and to all contributors and participants for their spiritual engagement in helping others.

Tanzania: One of the most historic of Central Moravian Church's efforts work is in Tanzania. In the past, outreach has included aiding the building of churches, supporting the construction and maintenance of wells, sending medical supplies, improving, and building facilities and caring for and educating youth. In recent years, the focus has been on the Adopt-a-Village Program and the support of education for

orphans and the children of the Mamas who manage the program in Tanzania. Adopt-a-Village is a partnership with the Board of World Mission, Central Moravian Church, and many other churches. This partnership has been faithfully supervised by Central Members, especially Bill and Peg Hoffman. Special thanks to Justin Rabbach, Board of World Mission Executive Director, Rex Knowlton, Treasurer, and Chris Giesler, Director of Mission Engagement for their partnership on this work. Bill and Peg have been unable to travel to Tanzania in recent years. However, the information we have received from Tanzania affirms that the work carries on, and Central Moravian Church continues to send financial support using funds donated for this purpose as well as line item funds in the Operating Budget.

**Mission Committee report from Sikonge, Tanzania
Bill Hoffman offers the following words:**

Dr Benedict Ruhanya, the linchpin for funding between Bethlehem and Sikonge, died in 2023 from complications of long-standing diabetes. His wife and daughter, who had been assisting him since he became blind in 2018, have taken responsibility for the transfer of funds to the various programs that Central Moravian and others have been supporting there.

The orphan programs, both in the villages and the city of Tabora, have continued unimpeded. Our vehicle, which had been grounded due to insufficient funding from the Sikonge Moravian Hospital, has been restored to full service. Significant money remains in the Woodbridge Well Construction fund, but no requests were received in 2023. The government has significantly increased the size of the dormitories at the Sikonge Special Needs School for children who are blind, deaf, or “slow learners.” Central Moravian and others provide uniforms, school supplies, and medical care to any of these students in need of financial assistance. The Foreign Student Care Committee continues to fund Jane Misfiri’s graduate education as she enters her last year of study for her nursing degree. The Delph Scholarship Fund is currently providing university education to three students, including one in law school. Parker scholarships are providing free education for six students at the Sikonge Lusangi Junior Bible School, which provides much needed assistant pastors to the churches in Western Tanzania.

Nepal: Jody Trostle and Sue Trimble, who have both traveled to Nepal, continue to be our committee representatives who stay in contact with Vani and

Shanti Pradhan and bring news from the Shristi Academy to our congregation as it is received. The International Mission Committee is very grateful to the congregation for the support of ministry in Nepal. Shanti and Vani remain dear friends of Central Moravian Church and they express their sincere gratitude for our help and prayers. Vani and Shanti hope to travel to the United States in the spring and the committee has set aside some funds to assist them with this trip.

Sue Trimble and Jody Throstle added the following update: The Moravian mission in Nepal is headed by Vani and Shanti Pradhan. They serve three Moravian churches, as well as the International Kindergarten and Shristi Academy (presently grades 1-8). In the 12 years that Moravians have been serving the Nepali educational community, the school has grown from 49 to 188 students. As the excellent reputation on the school has spread, so has enrollment and the need for additional space. This was accomplished in September 2023, after 7 years of prayers and planning. A monumental amount of work, financial planning, and constant prayer has resulted in greater space and an opportunity for the continual growth of the school. Many deeply appreciative thanks go out for the financial and prayerful support of the Busy Workers, Central Moravian Church International Mission Committee, and the Board of World Mission. If you have always felt a call to mission work, consider a trip to Nepal to share your time and talents.

Jody Trostle or Sue Trimble would be glad to share their experiences with you.

New Ministry: Each year, the Mission Committee receives requests for support of new ministry opportunities. The International Mission Committee agreed to begin a fund designated as a reserve to apply to new requests. The Central Moravian Church Congregation generously supports International Mission in the Annual Budget in the amount of \$12,000. The distribution for 2023 is as follows: \$8,000 for Tanzania, \$2,000 for Nepal, and \$2,000 for New Mission Requests. Any money not used in a calendar carries forward to the following year. This allows the opportunity to fund requests greater than \$2,000. The committee continues to oversee and support our obligations in Tanzania and Nepal, but the opportunity to engage in important new ministry has been exciting. The following projects were funded in 2023.

1. Camp Hope in Jamaica received a grant from CMC at the end of 2022 to complete much needed renovations of the building. Enough of the renovation was finished in 2023 in time to house Ursinus/Moravian Mission trip in March.
2. A request of \$3,000 was requested and approved to assist a school in Nicaragua Blue Fields which was damaged by Hurricane Julia. The request came to us from Mrs. Burdina Williams.

The Moravian Church in Tanzania, Western Province, submitted a request for a grant in the amount of \$5,000. The purpose of this grant was to purchase and install musical equipment and components of a sound system in the new sanctuary being built for Milumbani Moravian Church in Tabora. The request came to us from Bishop Ezekiel Yona. The expectation is that Dick Milimuka will make the purchases in Tanzania and submit invoices to Central for reimbursement.

David Lauer, church member, expressed interest in a possible mission trip to Ahuas Clinic. He has a desire to use his experience to be helpful. There was interest in this request by the committee and Chris Giesler thought the effort could be coordinated with other efforts of the BWM in Ahuas. It was decided that a sum of \$1,500 for airfare and other expenses be set aside for the trip if it materializes.

Helping our brothers and sisters around the world and providing oversight of the income and expenses of designated funds is the focus of the work of this committee. The continued financial support and prayers of the congregation make this work possible. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Chair

Committee Members: Peter Behrens, Eileen Biro, Jeff Biro, Hopeton Clennon, Patricia Herman, Margaret Hoffman, William Hoffman, Glenn Noack, Susan Noack, Sue Trimble, Jody Trostle

International Student Care Committee

I write this report this year late, tearfully, just short of the deadline, after the news of our brother's passing today. Pastor Hopeton was the impetus behind the International Student Care Committee partnership with Moravian University. He encouraged the creation of the Barnette scholarship fund which has made this program possible. He reached out to people all over the world to inform and assist with the applications for the program. He was the guide to every action we took, and provided wise counsel to me and the rest of the committee members. We are grateful for his selfless service.

To date, we have had four students successfully complete undergraduate degrees. In 2023, Dalley Silwamba (Zambia) continued his studies in a four-year biology degree program. Edina Mang'ombe (Tanzania) joined us in August and has successfully completed her first semester in a public health program. We are blessed to have them in our midst. We have one more student applying for matriculation in August, 2023.

We remain grateful for the support of this congregation, the continued partnership with Moravian University, and the endowed scholarship that Hank and Joanne Barnette have so graciously provided. We invite your continued prayers and support for this vital ministry.

I am personally grateful for the commitment of the committee members who dedicate time and loving care. Committee Members (Mamas and Papas): Jessie and Jim Bucchin and Myra Jones (Edgeboro Moravian Church), Jack Thomas (College Hill Moravian Church), and Central Moravian Church members Lyn Chynoweth, Shelia and Hopeton Clennon, Pam and Craig Larimer, Jeff Mosebach, Alex and Bob Newell.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lyn Chynoweth, Chair

**SIKONGE/TABORA, NEPAL & OTHER MINISTRIES
INCOME, EXPENSES AND BALANCE
January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023**

	2022				Current
	Balance	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Balance
Orphans' Fund	7,884	50,657	(30,000)	(2,000)	26,541
Hoffman Travel	20,167			(20,167)	(0)
Hoffman Fund	21,137	2,794		(23,931)	(0)
Wells Fund	5,366				5,366
Mamas' Education Fund	1,987		(1,290)		697
Education Fund	6,200				6,200
Nepal Fund	3,786	3,661		2,000	9,447
Other Initiatives	2,999	1,000	(3,000)	2,000	2,999
Totals	69,525	58,112	(34,290)	(42,098)	51,249

Note - Merrill Lynch Account Balance as of 12/31/23 was \$24,842.21 for Tanzanian Orphans

Note - Moravian Ministries Fund Account Balance as of 12/31/23 was \$77,828.48 for Tanzanian Orphans

Note - Other initiatives include a Grant for Renovation of Moravian Primary School

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. For the first time since the beginning of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in 2020, the committee organized an Invite-a-Friend Sunday for the November 13 Lovefeast.

For the twelfth year, the committee mailed Christmas cards to distant members of our congregation. We also created the pictorial section for the publication of Central's 2023 Pictorial Directory, which has been submitted for printing.

For the coming year, we plan to review our ministries with the goal of aligning them more closely with Central's recently released five-year strategic plan.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Sachs, Chair

Committee Members: Kelly Ahn, Lyn Chynoweth,
Hopeton Clennon, Elissa Derbak, Janice Ostock,
Bill Sachs, and Beth Schlener

Music Committee

The mission of our music program embraces the mission statement of Central Moravian Church as we strive to be an effective and living example of our Moravian heritage by creating innovative musical offerings with a standard of excellence in the spirit of evangelism.

A tremendous amount of gratitude is given to Llyena Boylan, who has served as chair of the Music Committee since 2002. This past year, Llyena Boylan and Ken Kodama served as co-chairs, and in 2024, Ken will serve as chair of the Music Committee. We thank Llyena for her many years of dedication, time, wisdom, and vision.

Richard Miller, chapel organist and director of the chapel choir, enhances the Chapel service with his musical creativity, writing music and "Grace Notes",

directing the choir, playing the organ and piano, and offering a vast variety of choir, ensembles, soloists, and instrumentalists.

Central Brass Ensemble, under the wonderful direction of Caitlin Heckman, plays once a month for the 11 a.m. service. The Bethlehem Area Moravian Trombone Choir, under the direction of Don Kemmerer, played for our Easter Dawn Sunrise Service, Children's Christmas Eve Worship Service and for our New Year's Eve Service. The Mainstreet Brass played for our 11 a.m. Easter service, Summer Concert on the Green, Johnston Festival Concert, Don Spieth's memorial service, the Advent and Christmas Concert, Lessons and Carols, and Christmas Eve Vigils.

Special thanks to Will Schwab who has given our church countless hours in preparation and implementation of livestreaming our worship services. A big thank you to Chris Fiegel and Phil Corvino for assisting and substituting when needed.

The most challenging part of 2023 was the heartbreaking loss of our Conductor in Residence, Maestro Donald Spieth who on September 1, entered into the more immediate presence of his Lord and Savior. Don had conducted many of our Johnston Concerts, Christmas Eve Vigils, and our Easter Celebration Service. We are grateful for the many years and experiences we shared together and rejoice in the Hope of the Resurrection.

Musical highlights from 2023 include:

- Our first annual Super Bowl Sunday Chamber Music Concert was presented on Sunday, February 12th at 2 p.m. An enthusiastic and at-capacity crowd enjoyed a wonderful hour of music by Two-Part Invention Plus One.
- A music brochure was printed for the 2023-2024 season and included a QR code to the music webpage of CMC website.
- A Hymn Festival was held on Sunday, August 20th at the 10 a.m. service.
- A Concert on the Green was held on Sunday, August 20th at 2 p.m. and featured Mainstreet Brass to a very appreciative audience on a beautiful, late-summer afternoon.

- The Johnston Festival Concert, “In Celebration of the Resurrection,” was presented on Sunday, October 8th at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- A Contemplative Service in Remembrance of All Saints’ Day was held in the Chapel on Wednesday, November 1st at 7 p.m. Becky Lepore provided contemplative piano music, David Charrier was soloist, Janel Rice and Bill Sachs were readers, and a special thank you to Hank Naisby for building the wooden trays to house stabilize the candles.
- An Advent and Christmas Concert was held on Saturday, December 2nd at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and featured the Central Moravian Church Choir and the Mainstreet Brass with Sophie Rice as our Morning Star soloist.
- Our annual Advent German-English Singstunde that was to take place on Tuesday, December 1, was canceled due to sickness. We look forward to celebrating this event in 2024.
- A Contemplative Christmas service was held in the Chapel on Monday, December 11th at 7 p.m. with Becky Lepore (piano) providing the contemplative music.
- A Service of Lessons and Carols was the first service of four on December 24th. The Church Choir sang, and the Mainstreet Brass blessed us with their glorious strains at the 10 a.m. service. Kaylyn George, Sophie Rice, and Alexandra Goodman were our Morning Star Soloists. The Sunday School Choir, under the direction of Becky Lepore, presented their music at the 1 p.m. Christmas Eve Children’s Lovefeast. The Christmas Eve Vigils were blessed to have the Christmas Eve Orchestra, Mainstreet Brass, timpanist Steve Mathieson, and our outstanding choir! A huge thanks to head sacristan Tim Brady for providing our boxed lunches for our Schmaus.
- Thank you to Richard Miller and Dave Charrier for providing our service music on Christmas morning, and to Gwyn Michel for playing our New Year’s Watchnight service.

As always, I am forever grateful to the church staff and the sacristan corps, as there is never a single musical event that doesn’t require their time, presence, wisdom, and assistance. I’m blessed beyond measure to be a part of this extraordinary congregation!

Finally, as we grieve the sudden loss of our beloved Bishop Hopeton Clennon, we are reminded of the privilege we have in serving our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, and sharing the message of God’s Eternal Love through our music.

In God’s Service
Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Lepore, Minister of Music

Committee Members: Llyena Boylan, Co-Chair; Ken Kodama, Co-Chair; Rt. Rev. C. Hopeton Clennon, Mary Brown, Dave Charrier, Becky Lepore, Pam Larimer, Richard Miller, Hank Naisby, Tom Tenges

Social Action Committee

We are grateful and encouraged by the dedicated members of our church who promoted new and ongoing partnerships with our community and church agencies and creative projects that raised awareness in the areas of environmental concerns, homelessness, hunger, mental health, racism and poverty. We continue to value and connect with the ministry of many agencies in the Lehigh Valley and beyond, and are fortunate to work with them.

SAC serves marginalized, underrepresented, and underserved populations. We are committed to understanding the injustices that are the source of these inequities, and the importance of seeking justice through education and advocacy to address these underlying social issues.

Our Community and Church Partners and our Ministry Together in 2023:

Bethlehem Emergency Shelter: Central continued its mission with the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter for the 2023 season. The shelter at Christ UCC shelters and feeds up to 75 homeless men and women from November 15 to April 30th. This year, the shelter reached capacity early in December. We cook and serve meals on the first Saturday of each month, and keep the shower schedule moving along. Paid staff handle overnights. This fall, we picked up two additional dates, when no other group had signed up for them.

Rose Warner retired in the spring after many years of service to the shelter. We very much appreciate all of her efforts. While the shelter was at Christ UCC, she oversaw our shopping, kitchen prep, cooking, and serving! In prior years, when the shelter was at Central, she also stayed overnight and was a kind friend to our guests.

I am very thankful that we have gained new volunteers this year who are happy to take over the cooking duties. Our thanks to our faithful volunteers who keep everything running smoothly and who are so willing to take on additional dates!

If you are interested in helping at the shelter, please contact Janice Ostock at janice.ostock@gmail.com or 610-984-7502. If you are interested, but can't come the first Saturday, there are often open slots on other days, as well as openings to make bagged lunches on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, go to the Volunteer tab at bethlehememergencysheltering.org. \$250 was donated to the shelter by SAC.

Submitted by Janice Ostock

Bread for the World: Michael Brennan and Bonnie Davis distributed 300 postcards to the congregation and 250 postcards to our food pantry clients advocating for this year's Farm Bill. Bonnie Davis attended The 2023 Bread for the World advocacy meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown on September 9th. The Bread for the World Campaign for the congregation took place on September 17, 2023. Postcards for the food pantry clients were distributed on September 8th, 15th, and 16th. Also, a \$400 membership contribution was donated to Bread for the World.

Submitted by Bonnie Davis and Michael Brennan

Capital Project Sanctuary HVAC Fund - \$2000

Care for Creation: see separate report.

Central Food Pantry: see separate report.

Central Santa 2023: Central Santa keeps evolving to meet the needs of our community partners. Shortly before beginning our annual drive, Esperanza, one of our partners, asked that we not provide clothing as gifts this year, but instead, provide gifts of books, similar to our gifts to Community Services for Children. Several SAC committee members suggested we ask our Central Santa contributors to provide

clothing gifts for Cynthia's Boutique that would benefit our Food Pantry clients and their families. As usual, our congregation, and friends of our congregation, responded enthusiastically. 456 books were donated to Esperanza and Community Services for Children; clothing in sizes from infants to teens were donated to Cynthia's Boutique for 79 children; and we presented a check for \$565.22 to Community Services to be used to purchase more books for their Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Gillian Sharkey, a Moravian University grad and former employee, who now works with Community Services, expressed her thanks for the donation of books and funds. Pastors Tracy and Rhonda Robinson at Esperanza said they will provide some books to their congregation's children to keep, and start a library in their church hall with the rest of the books. Charlie McGorry, at Cynthia's Boutique, described the smiles and thrills as parents and children picked out new jackets, play clothes, shoes and boots for the winter. Central Santa has made many Lehigh Valley families happy this Christmas season. Many thanks to everyone who helped with this ministry....by giving gifts, of course, but also in helping with sign-ups, moving gifts to the Church Office, shopping for extra books, loading up the Community Services van and delivering to Esperanza. Thanks to Cindy Gibson, Martha Jones, Kris Wruble, and Kelly Knapp in the church office for all the help they provide in administering this project.

Submitted by Joan Carson

Church World Service - CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by CWS. This year, Bethlehem Area Moravians raised approximately \$5,700, walking a route on Sand Island. Money raised ensures that people worldwide have access to nutritious, sustainable food sources. From combating droughts in Nicaragua, to providing agricultural training in Indonesia, to stocking shelves in hundreds of food pantries across the U.S., this walk helps end hunger. *Submitted by Helen Forasté*

Cynthia's Boutique: 2023 was Cynthia's busiest year ever, bringing more families and individuals including some of Bethlehem's homeless population. Our distribution of diapers and other personal care items grew as well. Fortunately donations increased enabling us to serve these ever expanding needs. In addition, Central Santa chose us as beneficiaries of new children's clothing and accessories which gave us a much needed boost in that area. A very successful and rewarding year. *Submitted by Charlotte McGorry*

Essentials Café: \$600 donated.

Fair Trade Coffee Project: Michael Brennan, Bonnie Davis, Valerie Antonelli, and Scott Dawkins took over the Coffee Ministry in February 2023. We sell coffee, tea and chocolate the second Sunday of the month. All products come from Equal Exchange Fairly Traded.

We started 2023 with a balance of \$4,396.56.
We spent \$5,318.94. We donated \$3,000 to the HVAC fund in August.

We made \$1,737

We have inventory as stock.

Our closing balance is \$1,188.62.

Submitted by Bonnie Davis and Michael Brennan

Lehigh Conference of Churches Yearly dues: \$200

Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot: \$1,000

Lehigh Valley Pride Fest: \$150

Luminaria Night: On the second Saturday of December, we had a great turn out to set up luminaria, light them along with many others in Bethlehem, and bring comfort and joy to Lehigh Valley residents and visitors. Following the lighting, we gathered for a pot luck supper in the Chapel basement for an evening of fellowship. Please plan to join us next year.
Donation \$80. *Submitted by Connie Pierce*

Mental Health Awareness: This past year, the Mental Health team planned and sponsored 4 programs. The first was May 24, 2023, which was the Emmy Award Winning video - Give Me Shelter: Suicide, produced by Dr. Teri Haddad of EMedia. This was shown at Central and streamed to the congregation and community. The video highlights suicide awareness while interviewing Lehigh Valley families that have experienced suicide. It was shown again at First Moravian Church of Easton, coordinated by the Rev. Sue Koenig on October 21, 2023. The third program was the Art of Kintsugi, led by Diane Kessler on August 26, 2023. Kintsugi, the practice of repairing broken vessels by sealing the cracks, then painting them in gold, helps us understand, in a new way, what we've always seen as brokenness and failure. Maybe we can begin this healing process, continue the healing process, or help another understand this wisdom filled concept. Another Kintsugi program is planned based on the enthusiastic response. The Longest Night service was presented on December 21, 2023, in the

Chapel with a significant number of people attending, some Central members, and some from the community. This was a service of candles, poetry and reflections, quiet music and times of meditation for those experiencing a loss, depression or weariness during the Advent season. The service was led by the Rev. Janel Rice and Richard Miller, along with members of the Mental Health team. Much appreciation to Camie Modjadadi for her inspirational leadership the second half of the year. *Submitted by Dick Williams*

Moravian Ministries Foundation Debt Jubilee Project: \$500

Moravian Open Door: \$500 donated.

Racial Justice: please see Christian Education report.

Victory House: \$200 was donated in underwear in December which Elke Rockwell purchased with SAC dollars and delivered.

We greatly appreciate and sincerely thank Dick Williams who co-chaired this committee for five years, and our amazingly dedicated committee and congregation for a successful year of caring, sharing and action.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Hoelman and Judy Williams, Co-Chairs

Joint Board

The Joint Board of Central Moravian Church consists of the 12 members of the Board of Elders and the 14 members of the Board of Trustees. Meetings are held on an as-needed basis for the transaction of business that requires the united action of both Boards. The most pressing role for the Joint Board in 2023 has been the participation in the Moravian District Call Process. My thanks to the members of the Joint Board for their careful discernment and continued dedication to moving the process forward to conclusion. Special thanks are extended to Melissa Johnson, President of the Eastern District Executive Board and to Linda Rapp, District Executive Board Member for leading us through the process. In August, we joyfully announced that Rev. Janel Rice accepted the call to return to Central Moravian Church as Pastor of Congregational Care and Community Outreach. The announcement

was received with spontaneous applause. Pastor Janel was installed on September 24, 2023, followed by a reception in the Christian Education building. The Role of Congregational Care and Community Outreach greatly expanded the responsibilities Pastor Janel had at Central, prior to her serving as Pastor of Calvary Moravian Church. We feel blessed by the Holy Spirit in the outcome of the call process.

A second important concern for the Joint Board was working together to consider all factors in the replacement of the HVAC systems in the Sanctuary. Replacement of heating, air conditioning and ventilation was carefully considered by Elders and Trustees and advisory outside sources including The Stone House Group, Facilities and Energy Management, and Snyder Hoffman Associates, Inc., Mechanical/Electrical Consulting Engineers. The Joint Board authorized a capital campaign to fund this major endeavor. The construction contract is with Worth and Company, Inc., Mechanical Construction, Service and Repairs.

Preparations also continued related to our Nomination of Moravian Church Settlements for inclusion on the World Heritage List by the United States of America, The Federal Republic of Germany and The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Our board focus has been considering the impact on the Sanctuary, Old Chapel, and congregation if the Bethlehem historic settlement area receives this designation. Thanks to Pastor Hopeton for his dedicated presence in representing Central at functions, meetings, and correspondence with other settlement nominees in pursuit of this designation.

The Joint Board convenes each February after the Annual Church Council for orientation, board education, welcoming new board members and thanking members who are rotating off the board. In 2023, the Welcome and Orientation Meeting was held on February 6 and our guest speaker was Bethlehem Mayor, J. William “Willie” Reynolds. Thanks to Pam Larimer and Camie Modjadidi for organizing this event.

The Joint Board greatly appreciates the work of Cindy Gibson, who in addition to office support, serves as the administrator of BoardEffect, a Board Management Software which helps the board to perform board related duties more effectively. Information technology on the platform includes agendas, minutes, meeting

management, and a library of resources which electronically serves the needs of board members.

Some issues that are brought before both boards are handled at the regular separate meetings of Elders and Trustees. An example of such an issue is the approval of the proposed 2024 Budget. It is customary to have a Trustee attend each Elders’ Meeting and an Elder to attend each Trustees’ Meeting. When special items are presented for review by both boards, additional board members may attend as appropriate. Special thanks to Jeff Mosebach, Treasurer, for facilitating the budget adoption process.

Between occasions of Joint Board Meetings, or the scheduled monthly Elders and Trustee meetings, the Executive Committee of the Joint Board, which includes the officers of Elders and Trustees, and the Pastors meet to oversee any immediate needs of the congregation. Executive Committee members in 2023 included Senior Pastor and President of the Board of Elders, Bishop C. Hopeton Clennon, Vice President of the Board of Elders, Pamela Larimar, Secretary of Elders, Kathy Williams, President of the Board of Trustees, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Vice President Board of Trustees, Ann Raines, Trustee Secretary, Jeffrey Long and Treasurer, Jeff Mosebach. Pastor Janel Rice joined the committee in September.

Finally, we express appreciation to our treasured Pastors, Hopeton, Maggie, Janel and Jeff, our Minister of Music, Becky, and Chapel Organist, Richard, our sacristans led by Tim Brady, Nate Bissey, Beth Boyer, and Ann Raines, and to the many other dedicated volunteers who are responsible for our worship services, our buildings and grounds, our programs, and activities. Central Moravian Church is indeed fortunate to have a church community committed to living its mission and vision with dedication and joy.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Catherine Tachovsky, President, Joint Board

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees consists of 14 members of the church, elected by Church Council. The Trustees meet monthly, generally on the third Wednesday of the month; 8 members constitutes a quorum. A president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary are chosen

from among their number annually. The Trustees are especially charged with managing the temporal affairs of the church. Their duties include ensuring the prompt payment of all salaries, invoices, and Provincial and District obligations. Each trustee may serve a term of three years with eligibility for election to a second three-year term.

In February 2024, **Mary Brown, Dave Charrier, and Camie Modjadidi** will rotate off the Board of Trustees. Each year a challenge presents itself to the Board of Trustees. How will we ever manage without the board members who are completing their terms? This year is no different. **Mary** is the rock we depend on for her deep knowledge and understanding of all things Moravian and her quick eye and mathematical prowess. **Mary** traveled to Prague, Herrnhut, Christiansfeld, and Grace Hill this year with Hopeton, Bryon Grigsby, and a group of Moravian Students to experience other Moravian Settlements. She is also co-chairing the Congregational Care Committee, is a member of the History Committee, and she is a wonderful advocate for our hopes of a World Heritage Site designation. **Dave** brought his knowledge of the musical ministry of Central Church, his leadership in the live streaming initiative and his work as chair of the continuing Digital Ministry Committee. **Dave** also served as Treasurer during his time on Trustees and continues to offer his guidance on past financial matters, as well as tracking expenses for the Buildings and Grounds Committee. **Camie** is a past president of the Board of Trustees and is the Chair of the Christian Education Committee which has cooperated in multiple new branches of ministry and coordinated with the Social Action Committee to expand the work of both Committees. She also chairs the Fundraising Committee whose purpose is to support the Operating Budget on an annual basis. The above notes on these wonderful board members are certainly not complete, but it gives a glimpse of their extraordinary dedication to the Board of Trustees and Central Moravian Church in so many capacities. We will dearly miss them.

Pastors are important attendees at Trustees Meetings as non-voting participants. The monthly agenda includes a report from the Pastors, and the rotating Elder assigned to meet with Trustees each month. A key focus of the agenda is the report of the Financial Secretary, **Kris Wruble**. The Financial Secretary is not an elected board member, has non-voting status, and attends meetings as invited. The Financial Secretary and the Treasurer receive, record, and

deposit the receipts and disburse monies with the authorization of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees also have oversight of all the funds of the Church, exercising the greatest of care to use the income prudently and properly. The Trustees must also keep all church owned and leased property in good repair and attractive condition. The Budget and Finance Committee, Investment Committee, and the Audit Committee are especially thanked for the work of these committees in supporting the responsibilities of the Trustees. **Jeff Mosebach, Don Brown, and Beth Schlener** have our sincere gratitude for their leadership on each of these committees. We are also grateful to the Buildings and Grounds Committee, lead by **Hank Naisby**, for their careful oversight of the condition of the campus and the detailed expenses incurred caring for the physical buildings and outdoor spaces. Also deserving thanks are those who served as officers this year, **Ann Raines**, Vice President, **Jeff Mosebach**, Treasurer, and **Jeffrey Long**, Secretary. The officers of Elders, **Pamela Larimar**, Vice President, **Kathy Williams**, Secretary, and Senior Pastor **Hopeton Clennon** also joined with the officers of Trustees to serve as members of the Executive Committee which meets, as needed, between scheduled board meetings.

The Trustees are very grateful to **Kris Wruble** for her dedicated work assuming the duties of Financial Secretary. The transition of the financial office has been carefully and seamlessly accomplished with the continued assistance of **George Mowers**, acting part time as Financial Advisor, **Kelly Knapp**, as Financial Assistant, and **Martha Jones** as the Stewardship Coordinator. Our financial team is especially thanked for their extraordinary efforts in coordinating the Currents Capital Campaign. Central Moravian Church is fortunate to have financial resources that are the result of generations of careful managers and investors and a multitude of generous benefactors who entrust the current Board to use resources carefully for the present and for the future.

Each year the Operating Budget Process projects income and estimates expenses. The Trustees are grateful to all the committees who work with the Budget and Finance Committee to create a working budget each year. One committee, the Fundraising Committee, led by Committee Chair, **Camie Modjadidi**, works to support the operating budget and help fill in gaps with new income. Since donor gifts

and memorials are rarely designated to fund yearly operations, Trustees appreciate the support of the Fundraising Projects which are selected with the intention that the Congregation receives a fellowship opportunity or some spiritual or material benefit in return for additional donations.

The work of the Board of Trustees is dependent on the constant support of the Senior Office Administrator, **Cindy Gibson**. The Trustees are also grateful for the work of our 2023 Facility Managers, **Jeff Griffis** and **Mike Repsher** who took over the role mid-year. Mike takes on the supervisory role of the HVAC Project in a full-time capacity working with **Hank Naisby** and **Bobb Carson** and the other members of the project team of Worth & Company, The Stone House Group, and Snyder Hoffman Engineering. Special thanks to custodian, **Tammy Ace** for assisting the ministry at Central through her dedicated work in maintaining our buildings. Our facility staff works in close cooperation with the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Board of Trustee Accomplishment Highlights 2023:

Coordinated with the Buildings and Grounds Committee to finalize the redesign, prepare for the construction of the new variable refrigerant flow (VRF) system which will heat, cool, and ventilate the Sanctuary with outside air, and prepare for the financial costs associated with the renovation.

Supported the HVAC Capital Campaign Planning Committee chaired by Jennifer Ceneviva and consultant Lee Williamson who have steered our efforts.

Launched the 2023 *Currents* Capital Campaign co-chaired by Jennifer Ceneviva, Barry Pell, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, and Tom Tenges who led the church in undertaking a philanthropic objective of \$1.6 million. The Trustees are humbly grateful for the support and generosity of the Congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Catherine Tachovsky
President of the Board of Trustees

63 W. Church St. Property Committee

Under the guidance of the Trustees, and in cooperation with the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Property Committee provides oversight of the 63 West Church Street Central Church owned property, currently rented as a residence, and in the past used as the Central Moravian Church parsonage. When the Parsonage was not needed for current pastors in 2011, the decision was made by Trustees to rent the property. The Property Committee manages matters related to the lease, rent, and future planning. The Facilities Manager, who is a member of both committees, refers all maintenance needs to the Building and Grounds Committee. The Property Committee meets annually or on an as-needed basis. It is the intention of the Trustees to continue leasing the property, so a new, five-year lease agreement with current tenants was negotiated in late June of 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeffrey Long

Committee Members: Hopeton Clennon, Jeffrey Long, Mike Repsher, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Kathy Williams

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee goal is to meet with our Auditors in the November / December timeframe and review and approve the previous year's financial statement (2022). We would then present the findings to the Board of Trustees during the December meeting.

Unfortunately, our accountants, Campbell, Rappold & Yurasits Accounts LLP, have been unable to meet with us prior to year-end. We are working with them to schedule a call or meeting in the next week or two and hope to present the financial statement during the January Trustee meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Schlener, Chair

Buildings and Grounds Committee

The Buildings and Grounds Committee oversees maintenance and capital projects that involve the Moravian buildings cared for by the church.

Implementation of these projects, and of regular, on-going tasks (e.g., cleaning, inspections, etc.) is carried out by the Facilities Manager. Jeff Griffis (served until April 15) and now Mike Repsher is in that position. Tom Tenges and Pam Larimer filled in during the interim. Thank you all for your service.

Our major projects this year to maintain, improve and increase safety include:

Sanctuary

1. The sign on Main Street has been repaired, replacing rotted wood.
2. Cracks in the stucco of the North exterior wall were repaired. The wall was cleaned. New landscaping was installed that should reduce splashing onto the building.
3. A railing was designed and will be installed at the edge of the risers in the choir loft to prevent falls.
4. The clock in the belfry (the oldest working tower clock made in the United States), continues to be maintained.
5. With regret, the committee determined that it was not safe to hang the star in the belfry until an assessment was made. That is in process and we look forward to seeing the star next year.
6. Planning for the replacement of the worn out HVAC system continued. The design has been agreed upon, contracts are signed, and work will begin in January. The work should not interfere with services or other use of the building.
7. In preparation of the HVAC installation, major cleaning and reorganization of the basement took place.

Christian Education Building

1. Converting lighting to LED in Nitschmann Hall was completed.
2. Doors on the kitchen cabinets are being rebuilt.

Chapel

1. Stairs leading to the main entrance were repaired.
2. The sidewalk was repaired.
3. Stonework on the exterior wall over the entrance to the Moravian Museum was repaired.

Office

1. Recarpeting was completed.
2. New lighting was installed in Becky's office.
3. The stairs to the rear door were painted.
4. A new storm door was installed at the rear door.

63 West Church

The flat roof has been assessed and is being monitored.

Church Green

Lampposts have been repaired.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hank Naisby, Chair

Church Family Life Committee

Church Family Life Committee had only one activity in 2023. On October 29, 2023, we served lunch after the 11 a.m. service in the Christian Education building. Janel had been in the building with Sunday School earlier in the day and announced it at the 11 a.m. service. This was well attended and almost no leftovers. Rose Warner and Martha Griffis were there all morning and into the afternoon cleaning up. We have lost several members due to different issues and are in serious need of new members to this committee. We would like to have a committee of at least 10 or more men and women so that we could do more activities without having the same people doing everything, every time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Martha Griffis, Chair

Digital Ministry Committee

The Digital Ministry Committee was officially formed as a result of the 2023 Strategic Planning Sub-group – Passion: Worship and Music Committee which set as their #1 goal the creation for a new standing committee for Digital Ministry. The purpose of the committee, as stated in the Strategic Plan, includes: Overseeing the Virtual Worship streaming program; Educate the congregation on the various programs and their functions; Help enable those who lack technology and skills in these areas.

The committee met six times during 2023 and has been busy improving the “behind-the-scenes” procedures necessary to maintain the excellence of the streamed worship services.

Additional information regarding activities at Central Church and the benefit of “subscribing” and “liking” the YouTube programs are now included in the streaming before the service begins and after the postlude.

Repairs were made to speakers in the choir loft, West room, vestry, sacristy and the kitchen. The actual process for setting up the weekly program was streamlined to increase efficiency. There are slides completed for hymns, Liturgies and Lectionary scripture readings.

Programs on YouTube are restricted by our license for hymns not in the public domain to one year from the dates they are sung. Programs greater than one year have been moved to a “private” folder.

Physical support for Will Schwab was a key area of focus. Will has worked tirelessly being at the workstation every Sunday for many consecutive months. Phil Corvino and Chris Fiegel volunteered to team-cover for Will for well-deserved time off.

A “Smart Board” has been purchased. The Smart Board may be used in conjunction of Zoom meetings, the Lenten Series as well as in-person presentations, committee meetings, memorials, and Christian Education programs.

My thanks for the enthusiastic support, ideas and implementations of plans to committee members: Hopeton Clennon, Janel Rice, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Becky Lepore, Will Schwab, Llyena Boylan, Camie Mojadidi, Susan Noack, Emily Wascura and Stephen Yorks.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Charrier, Chair

Emergency Preparedness Committee

In May 2020, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, President of the Trustees and Joint Board, established the Emergency Preparedness Committee as a new standing committee. Covid 19 prompted this action. The charge of the committee was to create a manual that outlined protocols to address a variety of potential emergencies. This committee will function in perpetuity as situations, best practices and accountabilities change.

The committee completed the 2023 annual Emergency Response Manual review. Revisions included, updated contact information, building addresses, a statement regarding mandatory evacuation of any building when the fire alarm goes off, and a Responsible Partners’ acknowledgment statement. The manual was distributed electronically via Constant Contact. Hard copies were placed at key locations and given to key Partners. The manual is also available on BoardEffect for the Elders and Trustees.

In addition, the committee recommended that the FDA approved over the counter Narcan nasal spray, which is used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, be included in all first aid kits. The committee also recommended that a list of items in the first aid kits be readily visible. Sacristans will check the first aid kits at least annually to confirm all items are there and that items with an expiration date are current. These recommendations were implemented.

The committee will meet every 6 months or as needed.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the members of the committee who have willingly given of their time and energy. The committee would also like to thank Beth Boyer and Cindy Gibson for their invaluable support.

Committee Members: Pastor Hopeton Clennon,
Ken Kodama, Ann Raines, Kathy Williams, Terry Worrich

Respectfully Submitted,
Camie Modjadidi, Chair

Fundraising Committee

Our projects this year included Bulletin Sponsorships, art lessons, Christmas Putz note cards, Fred Bees note cards, Lessons & Carols Booklet Sponsorships, Art Show and Lectures program, and polo shirts. In addition, the flag sets, aprons, tote bags, and framed Moravian Seal posters were still available. The Shoppe On The Greene was held twice. The committee also participated in the Star and Candle and Bake Shoppe. We would like to thank Carol Reifinger for this opportunity and for her generous support.

The committee met its 2023 goal of \$7,000 thanks to the generous support of the congregation and friends. These funds directly support Central's mission and outreach programs through the church's operating budget.

While the committee continues to brainstorm new projects as well as discuss how we can continue and/or adapt our well-established ones, we are in the process of evaluating the relevancy and future of the Fundraising Committee. The committee wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to members of our congregation and friends for their unwavering support.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the members of the committee who have graciously given of their time, talents, and resources. We as a committee also wish to thank Cindy Gibson, Martha Jones, Kelly Knapp, and Kris Wruble for their invaluable support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Camie Modjadidi, Chair

Committee Members: Pastor Hopeton Clennon,
Lyn Chynoweth, Pam Larimer, Hank Naisby,
Connie Pierce, Carol Reifinger, Priscilla Schueck
Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Mike Wall, Anne Zug

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee consists of 10 members, most of whom serve on either the Nominating Team or the Orientation Team, and includes both pastors. This committee, approved by the Joint Board in 2022, assumes the work of the previously separate Nominating and Orientation Committees. Additionally, this committee provides mentors for new board members, support for all board members throughout the year, participates in New Members' Classes, and develops tools aligned to best practices for boards. This committee also strives to communicate more intentionally with members of the congregation to engage church members who express an interest and are willing to share experience and skills to lead as board members. Please note that the Nominating Team Election Process remains the same procedurally as indicated in the Church Handbook. Two Elders, two Trustees, and two members at large prepare the slate of candidates for Church Council.

The Governance Committee generally meets monthly, opening each meeting with a reading of the Daily Text, and cooperatively discusses and acts upon topics set forth in each agenda. Some of the materials and tools developed by the members this past year include: a revised Nominating process timeline, a mentoring program for new board members, tools to facilitate the nominating of potential members, including a new board member resource packet, and preliminary board evaluation tools. We look forward to continuing our work to support our treasured board members and to invite interested candidates for future board membership through a congregational outreach plan.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Noack
Chair and Member of Board of Elders

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee meets on a quarterly schedule in January, April, July, and October to evaluate the performance of the Church's portfolio and make purchases, sales, or any needed adjustments. Members of the committee include Anne Zug, Jennifer Ceneviva, Brenda Hoelman, David Weikert, Anthony Thompson, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Don Brown, and Wayne Achey, our Merrill Lynch representative.

Markets were up and down this year, but a year end upswing gave us about a 10% increase in the portfolio, over 2022.

The following table indicates the opening and closing balances of our managed funds, the amounts that were withdrawn from the accounts to help cover the 2023 Budget, and cash set aside for the HVAC project. The Committee has been planning with the church Boards this year on how best to cover the planned HVAC capital project. Capital projects are usually started after a Fund Drive, however, due to the declining life of the current gas furnaces, the HVAC project is planned to start before the full proceeds of the Fund Drive have been received. This could be a potential problem in paying off the project before adequate funds are received. Arrangements have been made to borrow any needed funds from Merrill Lynch to cover the project, but there are no provisions in the Budget to pay any interest expenses. The Investment Committee has been moving investable cash from the Endowment and Steps Funds into an interest bearing account at the Moravian Ministries Foundation to cover the early project payments. We are hopeful there will be enough HVAC Fund Drive receipts to cover the final payments of the approximately 1.6 million project which will be due in mid 2024. Our investment funds will be paid back as Fund Drive proceeds are received over a period of time.

Central Funds	Opening Balance on January 1, 2023	Closing Balance on December 31, 2023	Funds withdrawn to support projects and the Church Budget	Cash set aside for HVAC project in the MMF
Endowment Fund	3,834,296	3,820,427	189,309	500,000
Endowment Growth	859,837	1,054,073	0	
Preservation Fund	739,189	783,961	61,286	100,000
Preservation Growth Fund	358,765	441,739	0	
Preservation Income	61,301	120,525	3,929	
Central Steps	359,590	82,030	0	300,000
Holding Account	56,234	77,527	0	
E. Johnston Prime Fund	792,299	868,239	23,252	
Central Mission	109,807	102,671	25,000	
Van Ness Fund	378,043	396,300	47,935	
Van Ness Growth	890,025	1,103,566	0	
James McKay	--	100,899	0	

The Investment Committee operates within a set of guidelines that help keep the investments balanced in a combination of stocks, bonds, and funds that promote diversification to help balance risks. These guidelines were recently updated. Many thanks to the committee members who help keep our portfolio strategy on course.

Respectfully Submitted,
Don Brown, Chair

Landscaping/Gardening Committee

The Landscape Committee is responsible for maintaining and enhancing the landscaping on the church campus created by a capital project funded by Foundations—The Campaign for Central Moravian Church’s 275th Anniversary.

Work completed during 2023 include general housekeeping and late-fall deadheading and pruning of the hydrangea along the south wall of the Sanctuary and on the Chapel Green. For the third year, an assortment of sunflowers was planted to add late-summer color along the west wall of the Chapel. Unfortunately, one of the dwarf mountain laurels (‘Elf’) and the red-flowered rhododendron (‘Nova Zembla’) planted in 2022 in this area have succumbed to the effects of the summer drought of 2022 and will be replanted next year.

It remains to be seen how the current landscaping along the south wall of Sanctuary will be affected by the placement and installation of the compressors required for Central’s new variable refrigerant flow HVAC system.

The help and assistance of our committee members and volunteers in maintaining our campus landscaping this past year is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Sachs, Chair

Committee Members and Volunteers: Beth Boyer, Joan Carson, David Charrier, Hopeton Clennon, Butch Coleman, Jo Ann Haines, Pam Larimer, Jeffrey Long, Craig Mosebach, Barry Pell, Bill Sachs, Tom Tenges, Vickie Ziegler Thompson, Sharon Upton, Rose Warner, and Anne Zug

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee held monthly meetings virtually throughout 2022. To complete our staffing, Personnel worked to fill the second open position in facilities maintenance. In January of 2023, Central hired Mike Repsher for the evening position. We congratulated Brother Jeff Griffis on his retirement wishing him all the best. Personnel reworked the roles to be responsive to our needs, and Mike Repsher was named full-time Facilities Manager to incorporate both his prior responsibilities and take on key responsibilities of the previously part-time Facilities Manager role.

Parish Pastor Maggie Wellert, who had stepped forward to provide additional care to our congregation as the call process for a second Pastor moved forward, announced her retirement to take on a passion project. With much gratitude for exceptional connection to our congregation, we wished her joy in her next chapter. Pastor Jeffrey Gehris joined us to support visitation and care from July to December. In October, Pastor Janel Rice returned to Central in an expanded role as Pastor of Congregational Care and Community Outreach. Pastor Janel’s welcome cake expressed the joyous sentiment, “Getting the band back together”. Through the efforts of our wonderful pastoral staff and the efforts of gifted volunteers, online worship continues to spread our ministry to many who could not be present at Central because of distance or difficulty traveling again this year.

We are blessed to have talented members of our congregation and deeply committed staff who have facilitated opportunities and responses to challenges throughout the year. Looking forward to 2024 with great hope, we will continue to identify emerging needs, and find creative ways to meet those needs, as well as keeping our job descriptions, employee handbook, and policies updated to reflect current situations and best practices.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Raines, Chair

Committee Members: Hopeton Clennon,
Pamela Larimer, Jeffrey Mosebach,
Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Kathy Williams

Stewardship Committee

2023 Results: The 2023 Church Operating Budget called for Envelope Giving and Other Contributions* of \$687,092. The total amount given by members and friends by December 31, 2023, was \$603,250. This represented 88% of the Church Operating Budget.

2024 Budget: The proposed 2024 Church Operating Budget calls for Envelope Giving and Other Contributions* of \$689,942.

The stewardship letter was mailed on November 6, 2023, to 514 church household members and friends. These 514 pledge cards represent confirmed church members and friends. Unless requested otherwise, only one pledge card is sent to a household. As of December 31, 2023, \$349,570 has been pledged by members and friends. This represents 51% of the proposed 2024 church operating budget.

*Envelope Giving and Other Contributions is defined as cash contributions from members and friends.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Ceneviva and Brenda Hoelman, Co-Chairs

Contribution Analysis

GIVING RANGES	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
less than \$1	217	210	219	244	268	250	251	286	316	309	281
1 - 100	106	85	73	73	67	78	88	59	49	57	64
											18.82%
101 - 200	41	52	34	31	37	28	29	26	15	21	22
											6.47%
201 - 300	43	44	34	46	43	33	29	26	22	21	21
											6.18%
301 - 400	27	25	21	17	25	26	19	17	18	10	16
											4.71%
401 - 500	16	29	32	30	19	19	20	13	17	13	15
											4.41%
501 - 600	28	18	22	23	23	17	15	16	21	22	19
											5.59%
601 - 700	8	15	10	9	9	14	16	12	10	5	10
											2.94%
701 - 800	19	17	11	15	12	24	13	15	16	12	8
											2.35%
801 - 900	11	6	7	9	7	5	12	9	10	12	11
											3.24%
901-1000	12	12	9	11	7	14	19	16	11	12	12
											3.53%
1001 - 1100	9	11	12	5	10	10	5	9	6	11	5
											1.47%
1101 - 1200	17	11	14	10	20	14	17	15	14	14	14
											4.12%
1201 - 1300	7	9	11	13	7	4	6	5	5	4	6
											1.76%
1301 - 1400	7	8	5	10	5	8	6	5	4	7	8
											2.35%
1401 - 1500	5	10	7	9	13	8	7	5	7	8	10
											2.94%
1501 - 2000	31	32	31	30	27	23	21	19	21	16	20
											5.88%
2001 - 3000	40	37	34	38	35	38	33	35	35	34	33
											9.71%
3001 - 4000	16	9	12	9	13	13	12	8	9	11	14
											4.12%
4001 - 5000	12	11	10	14	4	8	7	7	7	7	8
											2.35%
5001 - 7500	10	9	9	9	13	15	9	12	11	13	16
											4.71%
7501 - 10000	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	3	3	2	3
											0.88%
>10000	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	5
											1.47%
Total Giving Units (1)	470	456	403	416	400	404	388	335	312	313	340
											100.00%
Average Contribution (2)	\$ 1,137.70	\$ 1,143.23	\$ 2,211.04	\$ 1,188.20	\$ 1,247.28	\$ 1,230.07	\$ 1,260.07	\$ 1,345.05	\$ 1,613.33	\$ 1,393.55	\$ 1,515.58
Total Contributions	\$ 534,720	\$ 521,311	\$ 492,078	\$ 494,292	\$ 498,913	\$ 496,949	\$ 488,909	\$ 463,931	\$ 440,958	\$ 436,174	\$ 514,617
Units giving \$500 or less	233	235	194	197	191	184	185	141	121	122	138
% \$500 or less	49.57%	51.54%	48.14%	47.36%	47.75%	45.54%	47.68%	42.09%	38.78%	38.98%	40.59%
Units giving over \$500	237	221	209	219	209	220	203	194	191	191	202
% over \$500	50.43%	48.46%	51.86%	52.64%	52.25%	54.46%	52.32%	57.91%	61.22%	61.02%	59.41%

(1) Number of giving units as those assigned by contribution envelope numbers

(2) Total giving divided by giving units

Financial Disclosure Summary

In reviewing the past several years, a positive trend regarding the Operating Budget of Central Moravian Church has continued to exceed or match our Budget expectations. Fiscal Year 2020 ended with a surplus of \$118, FY2021 ended with a surplus of \$1,792, FY2022 ended with a surplus of \$32,282 and now FY2023 has ended with a minimal deficit of \$-745 even though we ended the year with a full complement of staff for the first time in several years.

Total Income was \$951,836 which was under budget by \$68,462 or 7%.

Envelope Giving and Other Contributions were, at times, below budget requirements throughout the year and ended \$83,842 or 12% under budget.

Institutional Receipts (Moravian College, Moravian Academy, ArtsQuest, Bach Choir, 63 W. Church Street rental, and wedding income) came in \$2,746 over budget. That includes Moravian Academy reimbursements totaling \$21,674 for their share of the CE Building maintenance costs.

Endowment Income came in over budget by \$12,635 or 6% and \$27,780 over actual 2022 income.

Total Expenses were under budget by \$67,717 or 7%.

Salary and Benefits were under budget by \$60,418 or 11%, due to partial year staffing of a second pastor.

Facilities-Operations were over budget by \$4,125 or 4%, due to increased costs for utilities.

Facilities-Maintenance was under budget by \$7,125 or 8%, mostly due to a transfer of some improvement expenses to Capital Projects.

Total Programs expense increased over actual 2022 by \$12,786 however was under budget by \$7,001 or 5%.

Church Office Administration expenses came in over budget by \$2,702 or 6% due to office renovations.

Province & District Administration was paid identical amounts in 2022 & 2023 in support of the many beneficial aspects of the district.

Total Income less Capital Projects Income increased from last year by \$43,331 finishing at \$951,836.

Total Expenses less Capital Projects Expenses increased from last year by \$76,357 finishing at \$952,581.

Fiscal Year 2023 ended with a minimal deficit of \$745 which will be carried over to FY2024.

Capital Projects, although not part of the Operating Budget and funded by income from the Preservation Fund, totaled \$60,423 for capital improvements to buildings on the Church Street Campus.

Jeff Mosebach, Treasurer and Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
Kris Wruble, Financial Secretary

CENTRAL MORAVIAN CHURCH
Financial Disclosure
For the year ending December 31, 2023

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	23 vs 22 Change	2023 Budget	2023 Actual %	Budget \$ +/-
Beginning Balance	19,456	19,574	21,366	53,648				
INCOME:								
Envelope Giving	463,991	440,958	436,174	534,650	98,476	497,502	7%	37,148
Other Contributions	100,441	168,407	169,310	68,600	(100,710)	189,590	-64%	(120,990)
Capital Project Contributions	32,292	132,021	53,570	60,423		0		
Institutional Receipts	77,816	91,475	90,998	108,783	17,785	106,037	3%	2,746
Endowment Income	172,443	179,755	212,024	239,804	27,780	227,169	6%	12,635
TOTAL INCOME	846,983	1,012,617	962,076	1,012,260		1,020,298		
Less Capital Projects Contributions	32,292	132,021	53,570	60,423		0		
NET TOTAL INCOME	814,691	880,595	908,506	951,836	43,331	1,020,298	-7%	(68,462)
EXPENSES:								
Pastoral Staff Sal. & Ben.	212,967	229,457	144,302	157,649	13,348	222,649	-29%	(65,000)
Music Staff Sal. & Ben.	85,660	86,920	89,141	95,370	6,229	93,627	2%	1,743
Support Staff Sal. & Ben.	195,047	179,930	200,079	237,761	37,682	234,921	1%	2,839
Total Salary & Benefits	493,675	496,308	433,522	490,780	57,258	551,198	-11%	(60,418)
Total Facilities - Operations	77,598	83,106	89,810	101,938	12,128	97,813	4%	4,125
Total Facilities - Maintenance	73,914	55,754	99,252	83,275	(15,977)	90,400	-8%	(7,125)
Capital Projects Expense	32,292	132,021	53,570	60,423	6,853	0		
Ministry & Worship Program	49,142	54,701	62,759	75,178	12,419	80,178	-6%	(5,000)
Music Program	18,039	31,117	43,282	43,433	151	38,659	12%	4,774
Christian Education Program	9,338	4,750	5,828	7,737	1,908	14,370	-46%	(6,633)
Mission & Outreach Program	17,521	16,950	18,150	16,458	(1,692)	16,600	-1%	(142)
Total Programs	94,040	107,519	130,020	142,805	12,786	149,807	-5%	(7,001)
Total Church Office Administration	38,653	38,693	51,946	44,702	(7,244)	42,000	6%	2,702
Total Province & District	104,094	97,423	89,081	89,081	0	89,081	0%	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	914,265	1,010,826	929,794	1,013,004	83,210	1,020,298		
Less Capital Projects Expense	32,292	132,021	53,570	60,423		-		
NET TOTAL EXPENSES	881,973	878,805	876,224	952,581	76,357	1,020,298	-7%	(67,717)
Current Year Surplus (-deficit)	-67,282	1,792	32,282	-745				
Adjustment from Reserves (5)	67,400	0	0	0				
Adjustment from Prior Year								
Net Surplus (-deficit) (1)(2)(3)(4)	118	1,792	32,282	-745				
Ending Balance	19,574	21,366	53,648	52,903				

- (1) In FY2020, \$118 was transferred to the Prior Operating Surplus/Deficit Fund
(2) In FY2021, \$1,792 was transferred to the Prior Operating Surplus/Deficit Fund
(3) In FY2022, \$32,282 was transferred to the Prior Operating Surplus/Deficit Fund
(4) In FY2023, \$-745 will be transferred to the Prior Operating Surplus/Deficit Fund
(5) In FY2020, \$67,400 was applied to the budget from monies received in the PPP loan/grant program

2024 Budget Overview

Budget and Finance Committee: Jeff Mosebach (Chair), David Charrier, Don Brown, Jennifer Ceneviva, Hopeton Clennon, George Mowers, Rob Phillips, Ann Raines, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Sharon Upton, Kris Wruble.

Many individuals worked diligently to prepare committee and departmental budgets by projecting what they believe to be realistic expenses for 2024. The Budget and Finance Committee reviewed those projections taking into consideration income from various sources including Envelope Giving and Other Contributions for Central Moravian Church.

Many thanks to staff and the Budget and Finance Committee for looking at the details, keeping the goals of Central Church in the forefront while developing resourceful fiscal adjustments resulting in a realistic budget for 2024.

Income:

Envelope Giving and Other Contributions present challenges in budgeting to identify trends and how those will be impacted by other initiatives or campaigns. Based on initiatives for 2024, the goal for Envelope Giving was increased to \$621,677 and Other Contributions was decreased to \$68,265. In total the goal for both is \$689,942 which reflects a minimal \$2,850 difference from the 2023 budget.

Institutional Receipts include fees for facility usage as well as rent for 63 W. Church Street. This shows an increase of \$1,396 or 1% from 2023 Actual. **Endowment Income** is a projected income increase of \$18,401 or 8%.

Expenses:

Salaries and Benefits expense illustrates a full complement of staff for 2024 and a yearly salary increase for full-time and part-time employees.

Facilities Operations budget is slightly increasing by \$2,349 or 2% anticipating increased utility costs and use of our facilities.

Facilities Maintenance shows an increase over the 2023 budget figure due to maintenance costs; however, many projects may be handled under Capital Projects and funded with income from the Preservation Fund.

Ministry & Worship reflects a decrease of \$15,511 for visiting and in home Ministry since that responsibility is now included within the Pastor of Congregational and Community Care role.

Music Programs shows an identical budget between 2023 and 2024 which will continue to provide innovative musical offerings that enrich the spiritual life of the congregation as well as the community.

Christian Education shows a slight decrease in the 2024 budget over 2023 reflecting some opportunities for re-organization within our educational programs and staffing for youth, young adults, and adults.

Church Office Administration shows a slight increase over 2023 budget for increased costs.

Province & District Administration exhibits a slight decrease from the 2023 budget which is automatically calculated based on prior year Envelope Giving.

Jeff Mosebach, Treasurer and Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
Kris Wruble, Financial Secretary

CENTRAL MORAVIAN CHURCH
Proposed Budget
For the year ending December 31, 2024
(approved by Elders 12/12/23 and Trustees 12/20/23)

INCOME:	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023	2024	Actual 2023 vs	
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Proposed	Proposed 2024	
Envelope Giving	463,991	440,958	436,174	497,502	534,650	621,677	87,027	16%
Other Contributions	100,441	168,407	169,310	189,590	68,600	68,265	(335)	0%
Capital Project Contributions	32,292	132,021	53,570	0	60,423	0	0	0%
Institutional Receipts	77,816	91,475	90,998	106,037	108,783	110,179	1,396	1%
Endowment Income	172,443	179,755	212,024	227,169	239,804	258,205	18,401	8%
TOTAL INCOME	846,983	1,012,617	962,076	1,020,298	1,012,260	1,058,326		
Less Capital Projects Contributions	32,292	132,021	53,570	0	60,423	0		
NET TOTAL INCOME	814,691	880,595	908,506	1,020,298	951,836	1,058,326	106,490	11%
EXPENSES:								
Pastoral Staff Sal. & Ben.	212,967	229,457	144,302	222,649	157,649	240,484	82,835	53%
Music Staff Sal. & Ben.	85,660	86,920	89,141	93,627	95,370	99,103	3,733	4%
Support Staff Sal. & Ben.	195,047	179,930	200,079	234,921	237,761	253,879	16,118	7%
Total Salary & Benefits	493,675	496,308	433,522	551,198	490,780	593,466	102,686	21%
Total Facilities Operation	77,598	83,106	89,810	97,813	101,938	104,287	2,349	2%
Total Facilities and Campus Maint (5)	73,914	55,754	99,252	90,400	83,275	99,000	15,725	19%
Capital Projects Expense	32,292	132,021	53,570	0	60,423	0		
Ministry & Worship (1)	49,142	54,701	62,759	80,178	75,178	59,667	-15,511	-21%
Music Program (2)	18,039	31,117	43,282	38,659	43,433	38,659	-4,774	-11%
Christian Education Program (3)	9,338	4,750	5,828	14,370	7,737	13,450	5,713	74%
Mission & Outreach Program (4)	17,521	16,950	18,150	16,600	16,458	19,600	3,142	19%
Total Program & Outreach	94,040	107,519	130,020	149,807	142,805	131,376	-11,429	-8%
Total Church Office Administration	38,653	38,693	51,946	42,000	44,702	44,200	-502	-1%
Total Province & District Administration	104,094	97,423	89,081	89,081	89,081	85,997	-3,084	-3%
TOTAL EXPENSES	914,265	1,010,826	929,794	1,020,298	1,013,004	1,058,326		
Less Capital Projects Expense	32,292	132,021	53,570	-	60,423	-		
NET TOTAL EXPENSES	881,973	878,805	876,224	1,020,298	952,581	1,058,326	105,745	11%
Current Year Surplus (-deficit)	-67,282	1,792	32,282	0	-745	0		
Adjustment from Reserves (6)	67,400	0	0	0	0	0		
Net Surplus (-deficit)	118	1,792	32,282	0	-745	0		

- (1) Primarily Christmas, Easter, Lovefeasts, bulletins, Daily Texts, Hospitality, Membership, Stewardship, Church Family Life, Elders, Planned Giving, Visitation Ministry & Parish Pastor
- (2) Lead singers, soloists, instrumentalists, accompanist, substitute organist, materials & supplies, piano & organ
- (3) Church School, youth programs and staff, adult education, child care
- (4) Mission, Communications, Social Action, Social Agencies, Esperanza
- (5) Includes basic buildings & grounds maintenance, supplies, service contracts
- (6) PPP loan/grant program in 2020



THE PROVINCIAL ELDERS' CONFERENCE (EXECUTIVE BOARD)

1021 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018

Telephones: 610-867-7566 - Moravian Church Center
610-865-3137 - P.E.C. President
610-866-9223 - Fax

THE MORAVIAN CHURCH • Northern Province

October 2023

Dear Friends and Partners in Ministry,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the God who calls us to follow with faith, love, and hope! The Moravian Church Northern Province equips congregations and people to be agents of God's transforming love in the world. We believe that God calls all of us to join God in this important work.

On behalf of the 2023 Northern Provincial Synod, I seek your full participation in our **Common Ministries Commitment** in 2024. This budget comes from the direct input and prayerful discernment of the synod delegates representing all of our congregations. We now seek your own commitment to support and fulfill the ministry initiatives which this budget strives to achieve.

Your support allows us to educate seminarians who will become our pastors. Your commitment supports the Board of World Mission which supports our ministry regions all over the globe. In that same spirit, your support and presence was represented at the recent Unity Synod gathering in South Africa. Your faithfulness fosters new ways of allowing the Moravian Music Foundation to care for and promote musical resources. Your funds support the Interprovincial Board of Communication that continues the long tradition of publishing the Daily Texts to be distributed around the world. Your gifts support the Provincial Archives, which treasures and preserves our historical story as a Moravian family. Your offering supports the provincial leaders and staff that faithfully serve you. It takes all of us, serving together to realize God's vision for the church. Thank you in advance for your full participation.

We fund our common ministries through every congregation giving a percentage of its Line 1 income. The 2024 provincial budget was built on your Line 1 income from 2022. The *percentage* of your Line 1 income remains the same as last year. The *amount* you are asked to offer changes based on the fluctuation of Line 1 income. If your congregation is able and feels led, please consider making a Faith Gift – above and beyond what we ask of you. Very often these gifts make up the difference when some congregations struggle to meet their full commitments.

The 2023 Northern Provincial Synod approved a budget for 2024 in the amount of \$2,085,638, which is based on anticipated common ministry receipts of \$1,483,295. You should be aware that we fund the difference between congregational support and actual expenses through a growing draw from designated funds that function as endowment. As you can imagine, with the downturn in the financial markets, our endowment income will be diminished.

As before, we are sending out this entire mailing via e-mail. You are receiving this letter because you are a Pastor, Vice-Chair of Elders, President of Trustees, or Treasurer. It is imperative that you access the specifics of your congregation's share of the provincial budget on the Moravian Church Northern Province Portal. You have access through a specific password; if you experience difficulty with the portal, contact Tammy Curcio in our Finance Office at portal@mcnp.org.

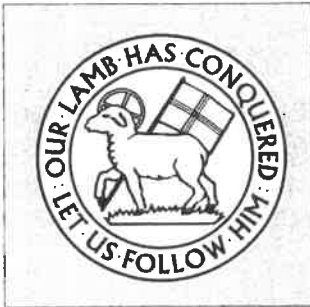
As you prayerfully determine your local congregational budgets and include your share of our provincial budgets, I invite you to remember our common commitments we make as congregations of this province. We must all give - and serve - together so that we continue to be faithful and courageous agents of God's transforming love in the world. Thank you for the many ways you live the Good News within and beyond your local congregation.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David E. Bennett', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Rev. David E. Bennett
President

DEB/jh



THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT

Incorporated December 4, 1945

1021 Center St., Bethlehem, PA 18018

Telephone: 610-865-0302

Fax: 610-866-9223

www.moravian.org/eastern

THE MORAVIAN CHURCH • Northern Province

October 2023

Dear Ministry Partners,

Greetings in the name of our Savior. I am writing on behalf of the Eastern District Executive Board (EDEB), as we look to a new year of ministry opportunities within our district. First, I want to thank you for your faithfulness and creative approaches to ministry in these challenging times. Perhaps we had hoped that things might be easier by now. We had hoped that we'd be on more even footing and gaining understanding of how God is at work all around us. If you're like me, things might not be quite as clear as you would like.

Yet as I visit congregations and talk with lay leaders and pastors, I am sure of one thing. God IS at work all around you – and *within* you. There is so much energy and creativity, as well as reordering of ministry priorities. We continue to learn who we are as congregations and as Moravian Christians. I am so grateful for your willingness to move into the future with faith.

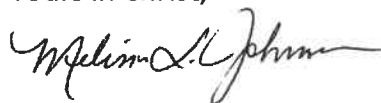
In uncertain times, we have the gift of one another. God has given us relationships that nourish, encourage, and challenge us. We have our district partnership, perhaps best expressed through our Common Ministries. Together, we make a difference in the world in the name of Christ.

The reality is that many congregations struggle to pay their share of our Common Ministries. The EDEB continues to search for ways to address this through the district budget. We strive to continue offering as many resources as possible to our congregations so they might thrive. We express our deep gratitude to congregations who are doing their very best to commit to their share of our Common Ministries. As always, we ask you to consider an additional gift before the end of the year if you have been blessed to do so. Or perhaps you might look to next year and move toward more consistent giving by making monthly contributions. Every gesture counts as we strive to be good stewards of our district resources.

Remember to utilize the benefits of the Past Due Balance Policy, offering 20% forgiveness of the Provincial and District Common Ministry past due balances for each year in which a congregation meets all district/provincial assessments and pastoral benefits assessments in full. The goal is to provide relief from past due balances, while encouraging support for our common ministries in the present. Please contact me for more information about this program.

Attached you will find a description of our Common Ministries. Often congregation members are unaware of how these funds are use. Please share this widely within your congregations, beginning with your leadership boards and then your full community. Please reach out with questions. Your district board members and I are grateful for any opportunity we might have to come and talk about these in a worship or meeting setting. Together we can help to strengthen the ministry of our individual congregations and our district as a whole. Thank you for your dedication to Christ and to the ministry we share!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa L. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Rev. Melissa L. Johnson
President

Enc: District Common Ministry Description

OUR EASTERN DISTRICT COMMON MINISTRY

One of the noblest attributes of the Moravian Church is found not only in how we as individual congregations touch lives within our own communities, but also how we collaborate denominationally to make a regional, national, and even global impact. Our Common Ministries reflect an important, shared value that Christ calls us to do together that which we cannot do alone. It is in this way that our Common Ministries contributions express not only our ministry partnership with one another, but more importantly the kinship we proclaim in Christ Jesus.

ADMINISTRATION

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

These monies are allocated for such items as district synods; the cost of travel and expenses of meetings of the District Board; making grants to congregations; paying liability insurance; the cost of having our district represented on various boards, committees, and agencies; subsidy in support of Moravian Open Door administration and legal and intervention expenses; as well as salaries, benefits, and program costs for our district staff.

CHURCH REDEVELOPMENT

Utilizing the services of district professional staff and the consultation of the district ministry teams, these monies fund ministry assessment, appreciative inquiry, and assistance for congregations in need of revitalization, redevelopment, and discernment for the future.

DISTRICT PROGRAM

Provides support for miscellaneous programming efforts, including pastoral development events, internships, support for state councils of churches and ecumenical agencies, as well as continuing education at Moravian Theological Seminary.

DISTRICT SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITIES

This contribution assists Moravian Manor Communities and Morningstar Senior Living in providing care for residents whose costs are not fully covered by personal and social security resources.

HOPE CONFERENCE AND RENEWAL CENTER (all congregations except Ohio)

These monies subsidize the cost of the administration and management of the Hope Conference and Renewal Center.

STATE COUNCILS OF CHURCHES

This item includes contributions to State Councils of Churches in New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Ohio, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania. These monies provide an ecumenical service and witness which otherwise would not be available to us as individual congregations. Services provided include consultation on migrant ministries and information on public policy issues.

INNER CITY YOUTH

This significant ministry for congregations in urban areas was started by the "Moravian Women" who annually contribute between \$3,000 and \$5,000 for this ministry. As the years have passed, requests have increased to approximately two- and one-half times the monies available. The District Synod of 2004 established support for this important ministry through an assessment. This initiative funds new youth ministry initiatives for congregations in urban areas where youth programming is lacking or non-existent.

MORAVIAN OPEN DOOR

Moravian Open Door is a not-for-profit (501(c) 3) organization committed to providing transitional housing and supportive services to the homeless, distressed, and underserved population of New York City. Our ministry serves those individuals who are fifty and older with the goal of helping them regain their independence and security, and assisting them in moving to appropriate, permanent facilities.

DISTRICT MINISTRY TEAMS

Spiritual Formation Ministry Team:

The purpose of the Spiritual Formation Ministry Team is to aid pastors and congregations in elevating the call of ministry to laity through workshops and training events (locally, area-wide and District-wide); to assist in developing leadership skills among all members for continued spiritual growth and to include spiritual leadership development; to assist in a discernment process for laity to identify their call to life-long, vocational ministry, mission and service; and to uphold the importance of shared ministry among lay and clergy alike.

Stewardship of Life Ministry Team:

Moravians have always stressed the stewardship of all of life – management and sharing of our spirituality, time, talents, and treasures as well as the care of creation. The primary focus of the Stewardship of Life Ministry Team is to enable congregations to discover what assets are available within their congregation for ministries so that the congregation feels empowered to view their community and world as their mission field.; to assist congregations in helping members discover their spiritual gifts for ministry and matching them to the ministry needs of the congregation and community; and to encourage congregations to develop a strategy where the time commitment of members to a specific ministry is adjusted to the time and place of the congregation, demonstrating sensitivity to the life-styles of members.

Church in Society Ministry Team:

Moravians have always understood the need for the Church to be the voice for the voiceless. The primary focus of the Church in Society Ministry Team is to assist congregations in identifying a mission ministry to “the least of these” (experiencing hunger, poverty, discrimination) in the community in which the congregation is planted and assist them in developing programs to help meet the needs of their community, as well as pursue partnership with other congregations and agencies in seeking to meet these needs. The Church in Society Ministry Team will also serve as a resource to congregations throughout the district, working directly with congregations in their mission ministry efforts.

OHIO MORAVIAN MINISTRIES COMMISSION (Ohio only)

This item is for youth ministry, camp support, mission society support, matching grant programs for Ohio Congregations. These monies are collected by the Eastern District Executive Board and returned to the Ohio Moravian Ministries Commission.



BOARD OF WORLD MISSION

of the Moravian Church • North America

Mission, Purpose and Values

The Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in North America (BWM) represents the Moravian Churches of the Southern, Northern and Alaskan Provinces in our collective global mission work. We are guided by our purpose statement: *The Board of World Mission builds relationships through Mission Outreach and Mission Engagement to be faithful to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.*

From this statement come our established priorities of Mission Outreach (sharing the Gospel outside of our constituencies) and Mission Engagement (engaging and equipping our congregations and members in the mission of the church).

The three primary focus areas of Mission Outreach are: Area Development according to COUF; Leadership Development within our areas of work; and building capacity for Mission Outreach initiated by our mission partners.

The three primary focus areas of Mission Engagement are: Education about mission efforts and the theology of mission in a global Moravian context; providing opportunities for individuals to engage in service and mission; and seeking mission support through a variety of ways including offerings of financial resources.

Global Partnerships

BWM continues long-standing relationships with partner provinces in Nicaragua, Honduras (Unity Province and Mission Province), Costa Rica, and in Northern and Western Tanzania. (The relationship with the Northern Province in Tanzania became formal following a visit by BWM staff in 2022 and with board approval of a covenant agreement in early 2023.) Additionally, the BWM accompanies two Mission Provinces (Cuba and Labrador), and supervises two Mission Areas (Sierra Leone and Perú) on behalf of the Southern and Northern Provinces in North America, respectfully. In 2022 the Board of World Mission was tasked by the Unity to begin exploring possible partnerships within Brazil, Bolivia, and the Dominican Republic. While the opportunities for new work in the Dominican Republic appear less likely at this time, BWM Executive Director had a very encouraging visit to Brazil and Bolivia along with the Unity Board Administrator. The visit offered a chance for conversation about the mission and theology of the global Moravian Church. It is possible that one or both areas will be designated soon as official prospective or full Mission Areas.

BWM continues a partnership of greater than 75 years with Moravian Clinic in Ahuas, Honduras. A special anniversary celebration was held at the Clinic on June 16, 2021 to kick off the celebration and fundraising efforts. The Ahuas Clinic Committee of the BWM offered special publications (in the Ahuas Spotlight Newsletter) to tell the story of the history of the Clinic, and the BWM raised over \$85,000 in honor of the clinic's anniversary to help set it up for its next 75 years of work. Thousands of patients a year are treated at the clinic (surgeries, births, emergency medicine and preventative care) and the clinic is a base for community programs like the infant feeding program which helps support childhood nutrition efforts, changing health outcomes for these children for the rest of their lives.

Looking Forward

At the writing of this letter, the BWM is working towards the completion of its three year (2021-2023) strategic plan. Excellent progress has been made towards many of the goals.

This forward-looking plan is a guide which will help focus the Mission Outreach and Mission Engagement efforts of the BWM. The plan also demonstrates a growth mindset with the intention to expand the annual pool of funds available to global partners for projects with support leadership development, sustainable mission, and meeting the development needs of their communities.

2022 and forward plans:

The Mission Outreach portion of our work will prioritize:

1. Moving our mission areas through the stages of development to becoming full Unity Provinces, so they too can have the necessary infrastructure to care for their pastors and congregations and support them as those areas grow and continue their ministries. (Sierra Leone had its first conference as a formal Mission Area in 2020, and looks forward to the next steps, developing a book of order, etc., to become a Mission Province.)
2. Leadership development: This includes creations of provincial boards, election of bishops, and provision of leadership specific training in fields such as theology, accounting, administration, etc. These shared leadership practices will build capacity for self-reliance, and a stronger global church moving into the future.
3. Outreach: The BWM does not wish to be the sole outlet of mission endeavors within the Moravian Unity, and indeed already have many partners. Specifically, we will work to make sure our global partners are outward facing, and feel sent as well, to use their gifts and resources in reaching folks with a Christian Witness.

The Engagement portion will similarly focus in three areas:

1. Service: The core of our engagement strategy is to give back to congregation by providing them with support and encouragement to take part in the needs of the mission efforts of the church. In recent years BWM has started new mission camp programs in coordination with Camp Hope and Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center both held in the summers of 2022 & 2023. We are excited about this new opportunity for folks to volunteer at a Moravian property through the BWM.
2. Education: The BWM will work to keep members of the Moravian Church updated on the many ways that mission and ministry are happening along the globe. We will continue to respond to congregational invitations for mission speakers, and mission workshops to design tangible responses to needs present in communities near and far. Our communication efforts have been focused thematically, and in the near future we will launch our "Blessings Flow" campaign through the end of 2023, headlined by the opportunity to support the purchase of water filters for distribution in rural communities in Honduras.
3. Mission Support & Disaster Response: 2022 saw a huge need for disaster response funds to requests such as flooding in Malawi, tornadoes in the U.S., and the continued refugee resettlement needs from numerous disasters and political violence around the world. (A bright spot here has been the formation of Moravian Work in a refugee camp in Tanzania, a strong witness and ministry by our brothers and sisters, welcoming those fleeing untenable situations in neighboring countries.)

Additionally, there was tremendous outpouring of support for refugees from the Ukraine. BWM has been able to support renovations of a hotel to house families, pay for teachers and scholarships for students at a Ukrainian school relocated to Nova Paka, Czech Republic, and finally, helped to connect with several families who have

gotten temporary visas to stay in the Madison, Wisconsin area. This connection to the school, including support of the building of new dorms at the Jan Blahoslav Moravian High School have been a highlight of this work.

Much work has also been done in Central America in response to persistent flooding. Medicine and food distribution were a part of an initial, emergency, response. Longer term support is now being offered through the exploration of changes to agricultural practices with a trained agronomist and support for several new farming initiatives to help provide more food security in an area greatly impacted by recent storms and changing weather patterns.

Mission Grant Funding

Our mission grant program has continued to grow, and here are a few of the recent projects funded:

- A sustainable agricultural initiative in Honduras
- Scholarship for medical school education for a future Ahuas Clinic doctor
- Purchasing computers for remote education access at the Moravian Institute in Rajpur, India
- Purchase medical equipment for the Bilwaskarma Clinic in Nicaragua
- Funding of a speech therapist to be on staff at Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Palestine
- Scholarships for advance training for school teacher and administrators in Sierra Leone

Respectfully submitted,
Justin Rabbach
Executive Director

Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.

I hope this annual report finds you healthy and well. As we sit here in November and look back at the past year, the biggest accomplishment of the BAM Organization really was pushing forward in a meaningful way Moravian Bethlehem's bid to become a World Heritage Site.

This certainly was not just a BAM initiative, but the culmination of many years' worth of work from the Moravian Partners. The key stakeholders in the World Heritage Initiative are the Bethlehem Area Moravians, Moravian University, the City of Bethlehem, Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites, Central Moravian Church and Northampton County.

It is my opinion though that the reason we are even discussing World Heritage in Bethlehem is due to the herculean efforts of Historic Bethlehem Museum and Sites and its former Executive Director, Charlene Donchez-Mowers.

For many years, Historic Bethlehem and its Donors fully funded this project, bringing something that seemingly would be impossible to a point where Moravian Bethlehem may become the 26 World Heritage site in the United States.

For the purposes of this report, I thought I would walk through in a very high-level fashion what World Heritage is, what I think it means for BAM, and also an expected timeline.

What BAM Sites Encompass World Heritage?:

BAM is one of the largest "owners" of buildings included in the World Heritage Petition. Our World Heritage footprint includes God's Acre, moving south to the Sister's House/Bell House/Gemeinhaus/Old Chapel complex and to Central Church.

Across Church Street, the Widow's House, owned by Moravian University and then along the Monocacy Creek the Colonial Industrial Quarter, owned by the City of Bethlehem and maintained by Historic Bethlehem.

I have included in this report a map showing the sites proposed for World Heritage Status and their location.

The question that is always asked of us is why some buildings are included in the World Heritage Designation, but others are not? For example, the Schnitz House, located 20 yards from the Sister's House and dating to roughly the same period, is NOT included in the designation.

The answer to this question is that the Schnitz House was not included in the United States Designation of Historic Landmark Status for the area. World Heritage designation mirrors what the State Party (in this case, the United States) designated as the Landmark District.

The Importance of this Summer: This past summer, we were visited by Dr. Nils Alhberg, an inspector from World Heritage. Put simply, he was there to visually inspect the sites to make sure that what we presented in our dossier regarding the authenticity of our buildings was true.

This was a huge moment for us, and really was the culmination of years' worth of work and coordination among the Moravian Partners. It was not just the Moravian World Heritage Partners, but affiliates such as the Moravian Archives that provided key documents and artifacts supporting the cultural significance of Moravian Bethlehem.

I thought this inspection went very well. The highlight for me was a service by Central Church, conducted in the Old Chapel. It was a nice way to tie the past to the present for Dr. Alhberg, showing that the Old Chapel was still a vital place of worship, just as it was in the 1700s.

Although not part of the official inspection process, I did have some time with Dr. Alhberg to talk about the BAM Organization and its children companies, Moravian Village of Bethlehem and the Moravian Development Corporation. It was important to me to impress on him that the Moravian tradition of Mission is the same now, as it was when the first settlers arrived at the Monocacy Creek.

An example I gave was that the Moravian Houses are based on the Sister's House model, just on a larger economy of scale. The mission itself has not changed, rather the manner of delivery has. I do believe that tie in is important because it shows that our World Heritage Site is living, active ministry.

What is the timeline for inscription?: A decision on our potential World Heritage status will occur next year. There are 4 possible outcomes to our petition:

- Recommendation to approve inscription
- Recommendation to defer the decision for a year
- Recommendation to resubmit
- Recommendation to reject.

If it is any other decision other than recommendation to approve, I do believe it will be difficult to reorganize and resubmit a viable petition. In all likelihood, the World Heritage Petition would end at that point.

The larger question is, what do I think the decision will be? My answer to this is we have done all that we could to present this site in the best possible light and really the decision is now out of our hands. There are so many variables that can impact this, it is hard to say that we are optimistic or pessimistic at this point.

I believe we have a very strong, compelling case. I further believe that we could not have done anything different or better this past summer. I am proud of all the partners and their work on this. Now we wait. We have waited for almost 20 years at this point, and we can wait a few additional months.

What does World Heritage mean for BAM specifically?: This is one of the questions that our Administration team has been wrestling with. Assuming that the site is approved for World Heritage status, what does it mean for the BAM Organization, the larger Moravian Church and the Lehigh Valley?

I think World Heritage Status will be a honor for the generations of Moravians who toiled in anonymity in caring for and preserving these properties. This designation is not something we did in recent years, rather it is through the efforts of generations of leaders that we are at this point.

I also think this will be a boon for the Lehigh Valley and an increase in overall tourism and visitors to the site. From a practical standpoint, what does it mean to have an increase of visitors to our Historic District? How do we prepare for the additional wear and tear on our grounds, how do we protect the original stones in God's Acre? How do we make sure outside Organizations do not try to use the site for their own

personal gain and the site is best utilized by us for our own missions?

These are all unknowns to us at this time and will continue to be at the forefront of our discussions.

The Year in Review–Bethlehem Area Moravians: Our primary focus this year was to catch up on all the necessary capital work and improvements that was deferred during our response to the Covid Pandemic.

Through October, we will have spent over \$100,000 in non-re-occurring capital improvements, including:

- Nisky Hill Paving \$19,500
- God's Acre Paving/Tree Work \$28,000
- Historic District Masonry Work \$17,750
- Tree Work Historic District General \$17,000.

Also, our Clerk of the Works spent this summer reglazing all the windows in the Bell/Sister's House and repaired many of the window sills.

We have made considerable headway on replacing / refurbishing the Nisky Hill fencing. Our goal is to "turn the corner" and finish the fence along Church Street and work towards the Fahy Bridge. What we have found from the fence repairs, is that most of the fencing needed to be removed in its entirety and replaced. Our goal is to potentially have this completed within the next two years.

Very soon, you will see new signage throughout Nisky Hill Cemetery. The current lack of signage is confusing for visitors. It is our hope that the signage will be installed prior to the year end.

On the ministerial side, BAM continues to support some of its traditional ministries. We made grants to the Moravian Archives (\$20,000), the BAM Freezer Ministry (\$11,500), and the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter (\$10,000).

We also invested in new ministries. BAM granted \$40,000 to finish the construction of the Essential Café' initiative. We also issued grants supporting International Students (\$6,000) and was the primary supporter of the UMC Youth Council Weekend (\$2,250).

Although final year end numbers are not in yet, we are projecting total grants to be around \$140,000 for the year 2023.

As part of our expansion of programmatic ministry, this year BAM created a dedicated Social Worker Position. Over the years, we have seen a real need internally at our sites (primarily the Moravian Houses) but also externally from the Churches for help in navigating the complexities of the social issues our resident and parishioners face.

It is our goal with this position to act as a resource for the Churches to connect parishioners in need with potential services we have contacts with and also be a primary advocate for our residents at the Moravian Houses. Most of those residents do not have a familial or social safety net and this position steps in that role.

Moravian Village of Bethlehem (MVB): At Moravian Village, we continue to look forward to the future. With the dreaded “C Word”(Covid) becoming less and less an operational factor, we turned our efforts on transforming Moravian Village.

This past spring, we rebranded our Apartment Building to the Point 26 Suite Building to better reflect what our current independent living lifestyle looks like. The Point 26 moniker takes its name from the 26 equal points on the Moravian Star.

With the rebranding of the P26 Building, we also brought online an entirely new website and overall brand refresh.

One of the things Moravian Village has always done well is Resident Lifestyle and Programming.

This past August, we celebrated the opening of our new Community Event Center. This investment brought a new venue for mid-range sized events, with the flexibility to conduct smaller, more targeted offerings such as small group, advanced exercise classes.

Exercise and wellness have always been a priority for our Residents as the key to a long, healthy life is maintaining both the body and the soul. For the month of October, almost 25% of our total population at Moravian Village participated in some sort of wellness class and there is continued demand to expand our offerings here. The Community Event Center will provide the foundation for this.

Moravian Village though continues its focus on ministry and charitable giving. It is projected

that Charitable Care to the residents and outside Lehigh Valley Community will exceed \$500,000 for the first time ever in 2023. Charitable Care supports individuals who have run out of funds. With Moravian Village underwriting their costs, it allows some of the frailest individuals who Moravian Village serves stay in their homes, or their health care residence, or provides them with services they may not get from other areas.

Even in these somewhat challenging economic times, it is gratifying to me to see the Administration and the Board of Directors of the Village still finding a way to increase their charitable support.

Moravian Development Corporation (MDC): On the outside, MDC appears to be operationally, the most stable and “boring” of the entities. Internally though, we know it is an entirely different manner. We serve some of the poorest of the poor at the Moravian Houses.

Most of our residents that live in our properties meet some sort of low level economic threshold. Most come to us with some sort of medical ailment, some sort of social issue or emergency, and as stated above, many of them do not have a support system to help them through these challenges.

I always commented that the primary reason the Moravian Houses never went virtual during Covid was that if we were not there for our residents, nobody would be. We still continue that support.

In conjunction with the BAM social worker, we have also added social supporting staff. We are not reimbursed for these costs from an outside source, rather we consider these costs as an investment in people and in ministry. Where other Organizations are cutting staff, we actually added staff this year to try and meet the increasing challenges in running a low income elderly complex.

Remember Bill Henry: I wanted to take a few moments in my report to remember William Henry, MDC Chaplain, and longtime BAM Board Member, who passed away this past summer. Pastor Bill, as he was more commonly known at the Moravian Houses, was an individual who I consider to be one of the founding pillars of the BAM Organization.

The BAM Organization has been privileged to

have many strong, vocal, sometimes larger than life leadership at the helm and in the Board Room. Bill filled a different role, that I appreciate more as every year passes. I viewed Bill as the conscious of the Organization, the soul if you would, the voice that boiled down every complex problem or trial to the simple answer... What path helps the most people or does the most good, that is the path we should take. And no matter how challenging, or hard that path would be, he was always correct, as it was the right path.

He did his best work though as the Chaplain of the Moravian Houses. He loved being the chaplain because he loved the residents and believed it was at that level that true ministry took place.

In honor of Bill and his many years of service, we renamed the chapel at the Moravian Houses after him and we celebrate that Bill was able to participate in the dedication and hear how much we appreciated him for all of good works and contributions over the years. We will miss Bill.

Share your expertise with BAM: The Bethlehem Area Moravians has some committee and board positions open. If you feel that your professional expertise may be a good fit, or do you want to be part of a very dynamic ministry and would like to inquire about open positions that may interest you, reach out directly to me at dsoos@moravianvillage.com.

Finally, I want to thank my Senior Executive Team at the BAM Organization. These are the individuals who achieve what we dream, and without them, the BAM Organization and its affiliates could not serve the amount of people we do. I want to thank:

Brad Senick Chief Operating Officer (BAM)
Tracy Patton Executive Director (MVB)
Jess Kessler Operations Manager (BAM)
Mike Garganta Vice President (MDC)
Ashley Lilly Senior Lead Manager (MDC)
Jedd Foulk Director of Properties (BAM)

On behalf of all of us here at BAM and the affiliates, we want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season and all the best in the New Year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan Soos, CPA, Chief Executive Officer
Bethlehem Area Moravians

BAM Almoners Fund

The Almoners Fund is managed by Board Members elected by each of the six churches of the Bethlehem Area Moravians (BAM). The Board works quietly and confidentially to carry out the purpose of the Fund and responds to requests made by the Pastors of the local congregations to assist members who are in temporary financial need.

The Board meets four times a year. Due to the timing of requests, many votes are held via email to expedite the process.

The Board provides \$1,500 for each BAM congregation to assist the Pastors with requests for immediate financial assistance and this was continued again this year. These discretionary funds are administered by the Pastors and are not to be used for the congregation's general or benevolence budgets. This program does not replace the current Almoners program, but supplements it. Requests for larger grants or short-term assistance are handled through the normal process.

During 2023, the Almoners expended a total of \$12,900.00 (including the \$9,000.00 in Pastor stipends) to assist individuals and families in financial need. A portion of that disbursement was made to members of the Central Moravian congregation.

Financial gifts, no matter how large or small, are always welcome.

BAM Almoners Fund, Inc.
620 Freedom Business Center, Suite 300
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Respectfully Submitted,
Nathan E. Bissey, Board Representative

Birthday Greeters

“There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.” 1 Corinthians 12:5

Our team of volunteers has joyfully engaged in sending birthday greetings to members of Central Moravian Church on behalf of the congregation. Each month, volunteers are provided with a list of names, addresses, and birth dates, along with sheets of postage stamps. Some volunteers purchase their own cards while others use cards with the Moravian birthday hymn provided by the church. It is a pleasure for us to serve our congregation through this ministry. If you would like to volunteer to join us in this ministry, please let me know. My number is 484-895-5147. Happy Birthday!

“to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” Ephesians 4:12 NIV

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelia Clennon, Coordinator

Blood Bank

The Central Moravian Church Blood Bank is a service for all Central members. It provides free blood products whenever they are needed for our Church members. **You do not have to be a donor to receive this service.** However, donors are the key to making this service successful for the community. Whole blood donations may be made once every 8-weeks. Platelets may be given every 8-days up to 24 times per year. Every day 450 donations of blood products are needed to supply the needs of our area hospitals.

In 2023, our donors made 57 donations to the Miller-Keystone Blood Center with a goal of 50. **Congratulations!!** Our goal for 2024 will remain at 50. Let’s beat that goal again!

Thanks to all of our dedicated donors for their wonderful gift to our Church Blood Bank and the community. **We are always looking for more donors to help support this great cause.** Contact Craig Mosebach for more information or the Miller-Keystone Center to donate – 800-B-A-Donor (223-6667). When donating, mention Central

Moravian Church and/or use 0194 for our organization credit.

Below is a list of donors and the number of donations they made in 2023:

Berlin, Mike	3
Boyer, Frank	4
Corvino, Phil	1
Deiter, Sandra	3
Delph, Ginny	4
Dimmick, Gayle	1
George, Jessica	1
Goodman, Jennifer	3
Heckman, Caitlin	2
Hochella, David	1
Hochella, Grace	2
Kessler, Diane	7
Pragheimer, Mike	1
Schlener, Beth	10
Shively, Kim	3
Sommers, Gordon	1
Tenges, Tom	1
Wascura, Sarah	5
Woodring, Sallie	4
Total	57

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Mosebach, Coordinator

Busy Workers’ Society

Busy Workers had another exciting and profitable year for 2023. We held our two major sales, Plant and Attic Treasures in May and our Christmas Sale with wreaths in December. In September, we now have a tradition to participate in Historic Bethlehem District Association yard sale. The financial success of all of these sales allows the Busy Workers to continue our tradition of charitable contributions, as listed below. We feel good that we raised \$6,000 more than the year before.

Charitable Donations:

Blanket Sunday	\$ 500
Cay Galgon Life House	500
CMC Discretionary Fund	2,000
CMC Allen Fund, Camp Hope	500
CMC HVAC	5,000
CROP Walk	300
Emergency Shelter	750
Essentials Café	1,000

Fostering Hope-Northampton	750
Jamaica Mission Trip	1,400
Lenten Dinner	256
Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot	1,000
Memorial-Mary Jo Hill	100
Moravian Archives	700
Moravian University-Barnette Scholars	1,000
Moravian Open Door	750
Moravian Theological Seminary-Scholarships	1,500
Nepal Science Lab	1,000
New Bethany Ministries	500
Pediatric Cancer Foundation LHV	500
Sanctuary Flowers	580
A. Sell UN project-Sani-pads	400
Staff appreciation gifts	900
Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center	750
Tables 6 round for C. E. Building	1,185
Unity Women's Desk	750
Victory House	500
Visiting Nurses Association	500
Total:	\$25,571

Expenses Total: \$ 4,434.59

Every year, Busy Workers' philosophy in giving is taken seriously. We have organizations to which we give regularly. All of our donations are reviewed the month before and discussed prior to our authorizing a donation. In the past, we have invited organizations to speak about their objectives. We also review their annual reports. When we make donations, we have requested our funds to be used in a specific way.

The Busy Workers paid for the six round tables for Nitschmann Hall, in February. Thank you to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for facilitating the order.

Our Plant and Attic Treasures Sale in May experienced weather that was pleasant, not miserable like the year before. At the end of the sale Monday, we packed up the attic treasures sending them to the Salvation Army. We try to keep a few items. It did not feel as if we sold any, but we did. On Monday, packing takes a lot of coordination on our part. Thanks to all the helpers, our sale was very profitable

Again, we participated in The Bethlehem Historic District Association yard sale. Thanks again to Frank and Beth Boyer for letting us use their property. We sold crafts, jewelry and attic treasures. It was a beautiful day, lots of fun and good fellowship. We had less to pack at the end.

The Christmas Sale, on December 2 and 3, was held in the Benigna Auditorium, CE Bldg. The auditorium lends itself to our needs. We can display our crafts, attic treasures, baked goods and Moravian sugar cake. All of the donated bake goods from our congregation, 90% sold on Saturday. Thank you to Moravian Academy for the use of the auditorium. The weather held out for us on Saturday but brisk and rainy on Sunday. This was a successful sale, too.

Busy Workers donated \$672 for sanctuary flowers in memory of departed Busy Workers and friends. We want to thank Priscilla Schueck for maintaining the church flowers' account. Priscilla would be the one to contact for flowers. Her email is: pschueck816@gmail.com.

The church has a prayer shawl knitting group that meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the church office. To date, we have given 521 prayer shawls. Twenty prayer shawls have been given in 2023.

We want to thank the congregation and friends for the support they give us all year round. Our sales are only made possible by your donating jams, baked goods, perennial plants, attic treasures and providing sugar cake from Mountainview Moravian Church. Don't forget, we will have a Plant and Attic Treasures Sale on Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12. In April, we will start collecting attic treasures. If dividing your perennials, please put them aside for us.

We had a terrific year financially. Because of everyone's supporting Busy Workers, we will be able to continue to contribute to church causes and charities from Bethlehem to Tanzania, Nepal, Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Palestine, and Ukraine.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Jacqueline Adams, President
 Linda Thudium, Vice President
 Marianne Allen, Secretary
 Sallie Woodring, Corresponding Secretary
 Sue Jones, Treasurer
 Beth Boyer, Assistant Treasurer

Decorating Committee

At its May 2023 meeting, the Decorating Committee updated and finalized its mission and goals:

Mission: The Committee oversees the appropriate decoration of spaces in the Church, Chapel, Church Office Building and CE Building in keeping with the historical character of these buildings. The Committee is responsible to the Board of Elders and works in cooperation with the History Committee.

Goals: To evaluate and preserve furnishings, art work, wall, floor and window treatments in our buildings and recommend replacement, removal or repair.

To respond to requests by the Buildings and Grounds Committee and to assist in making decisions on the interior or exterior decoration of our buildings.

To anticipate and recommend future decorating needs. Throughout the year, the Committee accomplished the following tasks:

- Accepted and acknowledged with gratitude the gift of a large lighted Moravian Star for the Central Church office foyer from the Rev. Peter Skelly.
- After researching various options, offered its opinion to the Putz Committee on the style, color and number of replacement chairs needed for Nitschmann Hall in the CE Building.
- As part of an ongoing, scheduled process of review, the Committee examined the West hallways of the sanctuary for painting needs and recommended selected areas for repainting.
- Reviewed and endorsed plans for a painted metal safety railing to be installed in the upper level of the choir loft.

Many thanks to our faithful Committee members: Hopeton Clennon, Diane Shaw, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Tom Tenges, Judy Thomas and Kathy Williams.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Carol A. Reifinger, Chair

Flower Distribution

The Flower Distribution Committee prepared 260 bouquets over 52 weeks, or an average of 5 or 6 bouquets each Sunday. Our records show we covered baptisms, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, new church memberships, hospitalizations, recuperations and the like. This year, our flowers went to King's Daughters Home, the Phoebe Residents, LifeQuest, Whitehall Manor, Country Meadows, Muhlenberg Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, The Good Shepherd Home and numerous shut-ins, and sweet little kids who just want "a flower!" Our flower construction crew includes Tim Brady and the Sacristans, as well as Val Antonelli, Peter Behrens, Karen Brady, Brenda Hoelman, and Connie Pierce. These are the people who delivered flowers and, with the kind assistance of our Visiting Pastors, Hopeton, Lynnette, Janel, Maggie, and Jeff, we hope that we brought our congregational love and support to these friends, neighbors and relatives. Thank you most sincerely to those who generously give the flowers for this continuing mission.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Tubio, Coordinator

Food Pantry

Dear Central Moravian Church Members,
We continue to be motivated by the words of Jesus (Matthew 25) who had particular concern for the less fortunate. We serve the hungry, the persons who need warm clothing in the winter and clothing in the summer, and for some, we are the ones who will listen and converse with anyone who wishes to "just talk."

Let me thank each and every member of the Congregation for the wonderful donations you bring to the **First Sunday of the Month** "drive-by." The food you bring is very important as it supplements the food received from Second Harvest Food Bank. Each month we make a list of items that are in short supply and each month you provide generously as each of you are able, often bringing many of the items we have noted as limited. Together this becomes a rich variety of nutritious food as well as extra items and your financial contributions allow us to supplement as needed for the food insecure population of the Lehigh Valley.

Food continues to be a critical issue for many families in the Lehigh Valley. Inflation has caused a serious crunch for many families who struggle to allocate their resources between housing (typically rent), food, and medical issues. We are seeing more and more homeless persons, each of whom have very basic needs. While our emphasis is upon nutritious food, many of you know that food is more than protein and carbohydrates and you provide wrapped sweet treats as well. All donations are deeply appreciated by our clients. Recently, there has been an increase in the number of infants that we serve so canned baby food will be and is appreciated. However, it is important to know that out of date baby food cannot be distributed as per Federal Guidelines.

The Food Pantry is currently open the second Friday, the third Friday, the third Saturday and the fourth Saturday of each month. Currently we have a group of volunteers who are a part of the Central family, but we also have volunteers from our friends at Trinity Episcopal, Methodists and some who have not yet shared their faith tradition. All have expressed a desire to serve and to help. It is not unusual for a grateful recipient to leave with tears in their eyes.

Statistically speaking, we have increased the number of households served from 190 to a peak 240 during this past year. Our volunteer group has also increased from 30 to 44 individuals. All together they have contributed 2,187.1 hours as volunteers during 2023. We have distributed 58,122.47 lbs of food which we have received from the Second Harvest Food Bank. During the growing season we have received a wide range of fresh produce from Monocacy Farm Project, for an estimated 500 lbs. We have purchased eggs from Jim Neilson's egg farm. Additionally, members of Central Moravian Church have provided their locally grown produce in season.

We have received 16,553.9 lbs of food from the Central Moravian Food Drive-by and from Moravian Academy and Light Bridge Academy, Moravian Lacrosse team, several local businesses and many other individual donations.

We welcome new volunteers at any time and the tasks that need to be completed include weighing and shelving food, serving the clients, cleaning and organizing the food storage space. We have a number of volunteers who are able to communicate in Spanish

and more persons who have Spanish as a language are welcome and needed.

We have welcomed Connie Pierce as a person who is sharing the coordinator responsibility with Dave Wickmann. This and the increased number of volunteers allows the volunteers to find time to travel and take time off from time to time, while maintaining a dependable schedule for our clients.

If you are interested in being a Food Pantry Volunteer, contact Dave Wickmann at 610-730-1650 (leave a message and he will call you) or email him at wickmann.david@gmail.com.

Weather is always an issue, but we will be there to serve the needs of the community rain or shine. **We are always looking for volunteers who are able and willing to receive food donations during our "Drive-by" on the first Sunday of each month from 8:30 a.m. till 1 p.m., the regular food pantry distribution on the second Friday, the third Friday, the third Saturday and the fourth Saturday from 8:30 a.m. till 11:30 a.m.**

Cynthia's Boutique is a vital part of the services offered as many of our clients spend a significant amount of time selecting appropriate clothing for the needs of their families on the third Friday and Saturday of each month,.

We continue to serve clients who reside at Senior Living areas of Holy Family Manor and Moravian Houses. We continue to serve Meals on Wheels clients to provide healthy food alternatives for currently 10 clients each month. MOW drivers deliver a bag of groceries each month to clients who request this service. We have continued to provide food to some participants of our sister congregation, Esperanza.

Special thank you to Cindy Gibson and Martha Jones for times that they have offered food to a needy client or received a donation that is given by members of our community during office hours. It is wonderful to have their assistance when a member of the Food Pantry "volunteer staff" is not available.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Wickmann
Food Pantry Coordinator

Knitting into the Mystery

“Knitting into the Mystery” meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the church office conference room at 12:30 p.m. until 2 p.m. Open to all knitters, experienced or novice, we enjoy both sharing time together talking as we knit, as well as meditative knitting to music. Shawls that are completed, when together or at home, are donated to the Busy Workers’ Prayer Shawl Ministry and distributed to those who are sick or grieving or in need of support. Even though things have changed, we have been and continue to be willing to mask for the comfort of others when necessary. Also, many of us and others have been knitting at home and giving our shawls directly to the Busy Workers for distribution. We are planning to continue to meet in 2024 in the Church Office Conference Room. If things change, we will resume our gatherings on Zoom as we have done in the past. Please contact me directly if you are interested in joining us. We would love to have other knitters join this very worthwhile and lovingly productive group. You don’t have to knit fancy patterns to knit with us. Many of us are “straight knitters.” Please come and join us, and choose this opportunity to slow down and pause once a month while helping us to make a huge difference in people’s lives!

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Rannels

Moravian Ladies Sewing Society

The Moravian Ladies Sewing Society is trying to return to their pre-pandemic weekly meeting routine. Since our tradition has long been that of each member’s making a specific part for each doll and our post-pandemic membership has declined, we are in the process of members learning to make more than one part of each doll. We are making progress: now meeting weekly, growing in membership and all learning to make more than one part in the process of making a Polly doll! We continue to work on opportunities to promote awareness of our dolls and welcome sewers who are interested in joining our group, as well as orders from those who wish to buy a Polly Heckewelder doll. It may not be as well-known that we also receive orders to repair dolls that we can

restore with new clothing, faces or other replacement parts. May our work to honor Sister Polly continue!

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Brown, President

Moravian Women

Moravian Women has as its purpose the promotion of Christian fellowship among the women of the church. We also support the spiritual and financial mission of the church locally and globally. A planned program of study and prayer encourages Moravian Women to grow in Christ and in his service.

Under the leadership of Diane Shaw, Circle 7 has most recently started to hold its meetings in the church office conference room. With the start of 2023, the circle continued with selected meditations taken from Dr. David Jeremiah’s “God Has Not Forgotten you,” with individual members sharing responsibly for the various topics.

Beginning this past September, Circle 7 began a study of the Book of Ruth under the guidance of Pat Herman. Using Sue Edward’s study guide titled “Ruth, Discovering God’s Faithfulness in an Anxious World,” the group has focused on both scriptural readings as well as question and answer discussion topics.

Moravian Women Activities 2023:

1. A year-end brunch with nine women present on June 4.
2. The annual Tanzania Orphan Appeal held May 15 to June 11 with Drs. Peg and Bill Hoffman speaking at both services. This drive resulted in donations totaling \$6,549.75.
3. On April 30, a Circle 7 photo shoot and congratulatory greetings sent to the Moravian Women Fellowship of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands on the occasion of their 80th anniversary.
4. The annual Unity Prayer Watch coordinated by Cheryl Tubio held in December.
5. Staff appreciation gifts totaling \$200 appropriated in December.

Respectfully Submitted,
Virginia Delph, Acting President

Prayer Chain

I have continued to send prayer requests as I receive them, from members or the pastor. We have a large group on our prayer chain, I always add the prayer concerns from Sunday morning services.

This is a very important ministry, and it is my privilege to be a part of it. If you have a prayer concern, contact me at 484-707-4680 or mgrandma13@gmail.com. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please send me your email address and I will add it to our list.

Respectfully Submitted,
Miriam Devey, Coordinator

Putz Committee

On Saturday, January 6, 2024, the deconstruction of the Putz marked the end of the 2023 Putz season. Putz construction began in November and for the first time, in a very long time, was completed on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

We were able to show the Putz to 3,237 visitors over the 24 days we were open. The second and third Saturdays of December were our busiest with over 300 visitors each day. The remaining Saturdays in December were a close second with over 200 visitors each day. Between Christmas and New Years, we had 70-90 visitors each day.

According to Signup Genius, we had 49 volunteers who contributed 468.5 hours of their time to help make the Putz a success. The actual numbers are higher because not everyone who helped signed up in Signup Genius. Jeffery Benner and Craig Mosebach deserve special recognition for volunteering over 50 hours apiece. Our volunteer coordinator, Sophie Rice, did a wonderful job making sure that all the days were covered.

In 2023, we were able to make several additional improvements to the Putz. Lynne and Michael Brolly created a new small manger, a more realistic looking belfry, and repainted the figurine of Jesus to look more Middle Eastern. We were able to refurbish the Herald Angel. To improve safety, we added glow in the dark tape to the edge of the platform risers. To better help direct people to the Putz, a large banner was hung on the wrought iron fence facing Main Street.

Unfortunately, our original plan to record a new Putz narration did not go as planned for this year. We are planning on trying it again for 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,
Will Schwab, Chair

Star and Candle Shoppe

The Star and Candle Craft and Bake Shoppe 2023 opened the day after Thanksgiving with a new format, combining craft sales and a hospitality area for visitors to enjoy homemade cookies and treats. Tom Tenges was our outstanding baker; Becky Lepore provided lovely knitted items; Linda Wickmann offered framed photography and note cards. The Fundraising Committee sold special Putz Christmas cards, Fred Bees note cards and select prints. As always, the Shoppe carried traditional beeswax candles, Moravian stars and books published by Central Church authors. Greta Reifinger served as our Shoppe Assistant, creating signage, setting up displays and managing inventory.

Thanks to the hard work of all of our volunteers and the support of our generous customers, the Shoppe was able to continue its longstanding commitment to donate to the Christopher Scott Seifert Fund for Christian Education and this year, also gave a gift to the "Currents" Capital Campaign.

Committee Members: Pastor Hopeton Clennon, Jan Cole, Diane Shaw, Susan Trimble, Linda Wickmann.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol A. Reifinger, Chair

Twenty Minute Society

The Twenty Minute Society distributed \$9,170 to help 14 people and/or entities in 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Thomas, President

Officers: Beth Boyer, Tekla Culpepper,
Barbara Heske, Margaret Krawiec