



MORAVIAN MESSENGER

MAY 2018

RURAL HALL MORAVIAN CHURCH

Dear Rural Hall Moravian Congregation,

Greetings in the name of our Chief Elder in whom we live and move and have our being! You were continually in our thoughts and prayers during our 2018 Synod (April 19-22), and we thank you for holding us in your prayers.

Synod, as always, was eventful. We shared everything from laughter to tears in our committees and on the Synod floor. We sang, we prayed, we listened, we spoke, and we discerned as we were able the leading of the Holy Spirit before and during Synod. We trust that we will continue to listen to and discern God's leading in the days to come.

Over the course of our four days together, two bishops were elected. The first is Carol Foltz who is currently under call as the pastor of Moravia Moravian Church in Oak Ridge. The second is Tom Shelton, who retired from Friedburg Moravian and currently resides in Florida. Ironically, Sister Foltz and Brother Tom were ordained on the same day in 1978. We look forward with great excitement and anticipation to their consecration services! Aaron will be sure to share those dates with you when they are publicized.

Synod re-elected Br. David Guthrie as PEC President. Working with David on the PEC are Sisters Peggy Carter, The Rev. Dr. Nola Knouse, and the Rev. Judy Knopf, and Brothers Keith Kapp, Tommy Cole, and The Rev. Jeff Coppage. May we continue to keep our PEC in our prayers, and continually support them as they lead and guide our province.

A proposal adjusting the Provincial Assessment system was passed that moves us to a more point-based system. We also will implement a capital campaign for Laurel Ridge Camp, Conference, and Retreat Center to pay off their debt and make necessary renovations to facilities.

We passed legislation calling our congregations to assist in prison ministry, affirming the Essentials of our faith from the Ancient Unity (God creates, redeems, and makes us holy, and we respond in faith, love, and hope), urging us onward in the tasks of racial reconciliation, affirming full communion with the full communion agreement with the United Methodist Church, and sharing best practices about youth and family ministries.

Some of the work of Synod falls into what might be considered controversial. We will address all of these resolutions in the following paragraphs.

Synod passed a resolution that calls on our congregations to reaffirm that we open our doors to share the Gospel with everyone in our community, including immigrants, regardless of their legal status. It also calls us and individuals and church bodies to stand against injustices to the marginalized and voiceless among immigrants. What this resolution does not do is take a political stance.

Synod also considered two proposals, both of which passed, that came out of our province wide conversation about homosexuality and the church. The first one simply recognizes that there are differences of opinions in our province and Unity on this topic, and affirms that "any person, group, congregation, agency and entity within the Southern Province retains the right to make opinions related to LGBTQ+ issues known without fear of recrimination, provided such opinions live up to our covenant: 'We will not hate, despise, slander, or otherwise injure anyone' (Covenant for Christian Living)." This proposal was a reminder to Synod and our province that we can and do disagree, and that we must do so without hating, despising, slandering, or injuring any of our brothers or sisters. (cont. next page)



CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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The next resolution was considered on the Synod floor for over two hours. Our Co-Chairs and a few of our clergy made sure that everyone who wanted to speak was able to speak, and the Holy Spirit seemed to want that too since a motion to close debate before everyone had spoken failed to pass by one vote.

The resolution passed, just one vote shy of a two thirds majority. It originated from a group of clergy the PEC organized from across the spectrum. Some of them are very much against same-sex marriage. Some of them are for same-sex marriage. Others were undecided. Their resolution, which we referred to as the consensus resolution, was shared with active clergy. Of the 80% of our active clergy who responded to the survey, 90% were willing to support this resolution. The community committee agreed to send it to the Synod Floor after tabling, or withdrawing all other similar resolutions we had at the time.

This resolution “affirms the role of pastors and boards... in determining... who is and is not admitted into membership and leadership, who may or may not participate in rights and sacraments, and the purposes for which church buildings and property may be used.” It also, “affirms the respective roles... the PEC, church boards, and pastors in the call process including...the PEC to determine which individuals are considered for call, church boards to decline consideration of individuals, and pastors to decline a call.”

Basically, it states that pastors may decide who they will or will not marry and which congregations they will or will not serve. Church boards decide who will or will not use their facilities and who they will not extend a call to. The PEC decides who is and is not eligible for a call and ordination. This is not a unilateral decision on gay marriage or ordination of openly gay members of the church, but that may happen. It is equally important to acknowledge that no one is forcing their particular views on another. We will continue to disagree on this topic. This is just the best move we have for maintaining our unity, and alienating as few as possible. It is not perfect, but this is the best we could repair our Ark in the flood of our current division.

The last controversial resolution passed by Synod addressed the rise in gun violence over the last several years. It calls the PEC to communicate to elected representatives in areas with Moravian Churches that they should, “enact laws banning the sale of military style assault weapons and requiring universal background checks for all purchases of firearms.” With this resolution, it is just as important to note what it does not do as what it does do. It does tell the PEC to communicate with elected leaders an opinion on a controversial topic in our society. It does not state that Moravians are not to own assault weapons, or that the Moravian Church wants to take guns away from people. It does not call for a national registry of gun owners. It does not state that the Southern Province thinks its members do not have the right to keep and bear arms, nor does it state that we do not have a right to protect ourselves or our families.

If you have questions, please feel free to speak to Richard Key, Michael Terry, and/or Aaron Linville. Aaron is happy to provide hard copies of the resolutions if you want to read them yourself. We are talking with the PEC about inviting them to a dinner and conversation over the work of Synod. More information (and hopefully the actual resolutions) will probably be posted on the Southern Province’s website (mcsp.org) in the coming days. Please keep an eye on it.

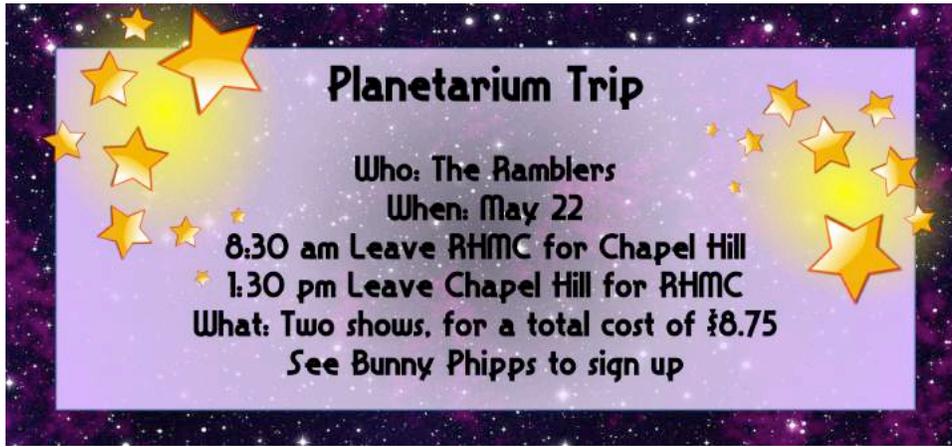
Blessings to you,

Pastor Aaron

Richard Key

Michael Terry

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Planetarium Trip

Who: The Ramblers
 When: May 22
 8:30 am Leave RHMC for Chapel Hill
 1:30 pm Leave Chapel Hill for RHMC
 What: Two shows, for a total cost of \$8.75
 See Bunny Phipps to sign up

Circle 1 is collecting items for Forsyth Prison Ministry.

The item for May is:

Deodorant

Please place in the bin located in the elevator lobby.

National Day of Prayer
 May 3, 2018 ~ 12:00 pm
 Rural Hall Community
 Prayer Service
 Rural Hall Moravian Church



Hope du Jour MAY 1, 2018
 CRISIS CONTROL MINISTRY

We will be meeting at The Mayflower in Rural Hall for Lunch on Tuesday, May 1 at 11:30 am.

Please join us!



Circle 1
 Tuesday May 8,
 10:00 am

Circle 3
 Tuesday May 21,
 6:30 pm



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

May 1 ~ 6:30 pm
 Missions and Evangelism

May 2 ~ 6:30 pm
 Music and Worship

May 8 ~ 6:30
 Christian Education



YARD SALE
 RHMC

YARD SALE
 The church yardsale will be held
 Saturday, May 5
 from 7:00 am - 12:00 pm

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

2018 General Fund Budget 229,397.00
 Needed Weekly to meet Budget 4,411.48

Year to date Receipts through 03/31/2018 43,108.42
 Year to date Expenses through 03/31/2018 53,662.79
 Receipts over (+)/under (-) Expenses -10,554.37

	<u>Balance</u> 1/1/2018	<u>Balance</u> 03/31/18	<u>Difference</u>
General Fund	138,379.98	127,825.61	-10,554.37
Building Fund	120,409.62	120,467.97	58.35
MMF - Investment	49,450.90	49,450.90	0.00
Second Mile	5,907.46	9,930.62	4,023.16
New Van Fund	1,550.57	1,343.57	-207.00
All Other Funds	<u>30,889.50</u>	<u>31,408.50</u>	<u>519.00</u>
Total All Funds	\$346,588.03	\$334,132.51	-\$12,455.52
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>
March	\$ 13,767.00	\$18,321.56	-\$4,554.56

Offering for the first 3 Sundays in April 2018

4/1	3,809.00
4/8	6,096.30
4/15	5,329.00

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Prayer Warriors 9:30 AM Band practice 10:00 AM Sunday school 10:00 AM Safe Sanctuary 11:00 AM Worship Service 6:30 PM Board Meeting 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Financial Peace University 	1 Hope du Jour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Missions & Evangelism Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Yoga 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #13099 meeting in Candle Room 6:30 PM Music and Worship 7:30 PM Choir Practice 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00 PM National Day of Prayer 2:30 PM Moravian Square Market 5:30 PM Weight Watchers 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Pavillion/Play-ground Reseved Mrs. Russell 	5 Cinco de Mayo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 AM Yard Sale
6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Prayer Warriors 9:30 AM Band practice 10:00 AM Sunday school 11:00 AM Worship Service 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Financial Peace University 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Circle 1 Meeting 6:30 PM Christian Education Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Yoga 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Pavillion/Play-ground reserved RHES Mabb/Spencer 7:30 PM Choir Practice 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Pavillion/Play-ground reserved RHES Campbell 2:30 PM Moravian Square Market 5:30 PM Weight Watchers 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Pavillion/Play-ground - Freeman/Vanhoy RHES 	12
13 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM ECA Monthly Meeting-candle room 6:00 PM Financial Peace University 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Pavillion/Play-ground reserved Hagedorn 7:00 PM Yoga 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #13099 meeting in Candle Room 7:30 PM Choir Practice 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Pavillion/Play-ground Reseved RHES - Hawks/Parker 2:30 PM Moravian Square Market 5:30 PM Weight Watchers 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pavillion/Playgr...HEBrown/Cook 	19
20 Graduate Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Prayer Warriors 9:30 AM Band practice 10:00 AM Sunday school 11:00 AM Worship Service 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pavillon/Felows...egarMasencup 6:00 PM Financial Peace University 6:30 PM Circle 3 Meeting-Parlor 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Ramblers to Planetarium 7:00 PM Yoga 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 PM Choir Practice 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Pavillion/Play-ground reserved Butler Class 2:30 PM Moravian Square Market 5:30 PM Weight Watchers 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pavillion/Playgr...HESCarter/White 	26
27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Prayer Warriors 9:30 AM Band practice 10:00 AM Sunday school 11:00 AM Worship Service 6:30 PM Board Meeting 	28 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Yoga 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #13099 meeting in Candle Room 7:30 PM Choir Practice 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Pavillion/Play-ground reserved Chunn's Class 5:30 PM Weight Watchers 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Ramirez Picnic 	2

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 1 Barbara Sellers
 Gemma Jones
 May 2 Bill Edsall, Jr.
 Stoney Longworth
 May 5 Eben Sifferlen
 May 7 Nich Hall
 May 12 Heather Smith

May 13 Juanita Carmichael
 May 16 Thad Merriman
 Beau Sifferlen
 Amy Linville
 May 19 Ashley Lorentz
 May 21 Ashleigh Essic
 Lisa Burchette

May 22 Ruth McCall
 May 23 Kenneth Speas, Jr.
 May 24 Bryan Bowles
 May 25 Banks Fant
 May 27 Lori White
 May 28 Adam Ridge
 May 30 Adrian Mikol