

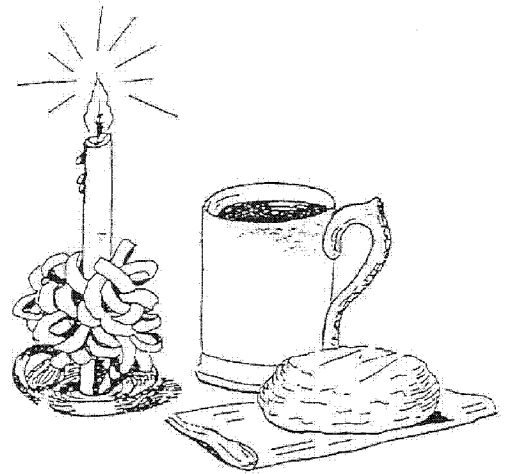


Bethabara Bells

A monthly publication of Bethabara Moravian Church

Volume 17, Issue 12 December 2005

Christmas Eve



Lovefeast & Candle Service

Saturday, December 24, 2005

Band Prelude at 3 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Lovefeast & Candle Service at

3:30p.m. & 6:30p.m.

FIRST SUNDAY FAMILY FELLOWSHIP












Hanging of the Greens

Plan to join us **SUNDAY DECEMBER 4** at 5:30 p.m. for Family Fellowship and the annual Hanging of the Greens. Bring your favorite dessert to share with everyone after we decorate! This is always a wonderful time of fellowship, fun, and team work. We hope to see you!

10 Tips for a Simpler More Meaningful Christmas

Betsy Taylor, author of What Kids Really Want that Money Can't Buy, gives us some helpful suggestions for joining our children during this season of joy and hope.

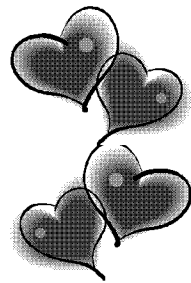
-  Plan ahead. Instead of going on auto-pilot the day after Thanksgiving, hold a family meeting to decide what the group really wants to do and who's going to do what.
-  If you need a symbol for giving (in addition to Jesus and the Three Wise Ones), learn about St. Nicholas. Santa Claus has been completely taken over by commerce.
-  Avoid debt. Refuse to be pressured by advertising to overspend.
-  Avoid stress. Give to yourself. Don't assume that things have to be the same way they've always been.
-  Draw names rather than everyone giving something to everyone else in your giving circle. Set a ceiling for each recipient. Give what they want to receive, not what you want to buy.
-  Give alternative gifts. Give 25% of what you spent last year to the needy...individuals or groups locally, nationally or internationally. Buy crafts and clothing from developing countries at alternative gift markets, not from commercial importers, so that the artisans received a fair price for their work. Give of yourself, not just "stuff" - a coupon book for future services (such as baby-sitting or an "enchanted evening"), something baked, sewn, handmade, composed, etc. or a family service project, such as working together at a soup kitchen.
-  Celebrate Advent.
-  Put the gifts under the tree shortly before opening them. Then take turns opening them around the tree, not all at once, so that each gift can be admired and each giver thanked.
-  Make changes slowly but persistently. Don't try to change everything and everybody all at once. The resistance will make you feel defeated and lonely.

B i r t h d a y s	2	Emory Thomas
	8	Amanda Gupton
	11	Mason Cobb
	17	Hank Lambeth
	19	Sybil Vanston
	20	Paulette Kuzmanovich
	24	Jerry Overby
	27	Sara Cooke
	28	Bill Rosenbaum
	29	Bill Lackey



Music Program
Dec. 21
Appreciation Dinner

Happy Anniversary



23	Tommie/Marie Choplin
24	Marlon/Betsy Johnson
31	Craig/Suzie LaVenture Billy/Carol Grant

HAPPENING IN DECEMBER AT BETHABARA

Every Tuesday

7 PM College Age Fellowship
(meet at the Master's Loft)

Every Wednesday

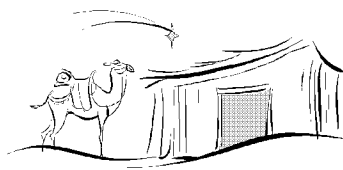

5:45 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6:30 PM Prayer & Bible Study
Children's Choir
7:15PM Adult Choir

Every Sunday *(unless otherwise noted)*

9:00 AM Band practice
9:45 AM Sunday School
11 AM Worship Service
4PM Harmony Ringers
5PM Bethabara Ringers

*No Handbells after Christmas
until Jan 22*

December 2005

3rd	Moravian Christmas on the Mountain <i>Bethabara Choir @ Laurel Ridge</i>	14th	5:45pm Dinner 6:30pm Prayer/Bible Study Children's Choir 7:15pm Adult Choir
4th	3pm Harmony Ringers 4pm Bethabara Ringers 5:30pm Family Fellowship/ Hanging of the Greens	18th	1:15pm Christmas Caroling **Youth Movie Event (see Kristy Sapp)
5th	6:30pm Circle 2 Christmas Party <i>Pat Mobley's home</i>	21st	5:45pm Dinner 6:30pm Prayer/Bible Study Children's Choir 7:15pm Adult Choir
6th	10am Circle 1 <i>Social Room</i>	24th	2pm Handbells practice 3:30pm Lovefeast 6:30pm Lovefeast <i>Band prelude 30 minutes prior to service</i>
7th	5:45pm Dinner 6:30pm Prayer/Bible Study Children's Choir 7:15pm Adult Choir	25th	MERRY CHRISTMAS! 
11th	No Harmony Ringer practice 4:30pm Bethabara Ringers 5:30pm Band prelude @ Brookridge 6pm Lovefeast @ Brookridge	26th	Church Office CLOSED 
12th	7pm Church Board meets	27th	Church Office CLOSED
13th	7pm Church Board meets	28th	NO Wednesday Evening Activities!!

Women's Fellowship News

Fall Festival Report

We had a wonderful day & evening on Nov. 12! It was a success in a monetary sense and also in the fellowship, laughter, ministry and hard work. Our profits including the BBQ were a little over \$6,500.

Thanks to each and every one who were willing to help make this a successful event.

☞ We tried some new things this year, the second hand items (like new) were a hit. The candle making display did not draw as much attention as we had hoped. The Latino tasting table warmed our taste buds and our spirits with their new and spicy foods.

☞ The cookbook tasting table was full of items from our recipe book. Members donated food for tasting from recipes they had in the cookbook.

☞ The country store was colorfully decorated and added to the appeal of our festival.

☞ We had a large number of items in the silent auction area, with several new items never before donated. One of those items was the Salem pottery so generously donated.

☞ Our tables overflowed with baked items. We had bake goods provided by those as young as 5 and as old as (Perhaps it's better not to mention the oldest contributor.)

☞ The Men's Fellowship manned the food service area. They shared that this was the largest crowd that they had ever had for breakfast! A special thanks to all who stepped in to help when the crowd was overflowing. The lunch was a success as well. Several of our ladies provided the soup, crackers, chili and slaw for the lunch menu.

☞ Crafters, you came up with new items again this year and they bought us out!

☞ The tellers did a smooth efficient job. You are to be congratulated.

☞ Our dulcimer player, your music added to the atmosphere of our festival. Thank you for being willing to share your talent with us.

Women's Fellowship News

Those who pitched in to help at the BBQ, all I can say is thank you. We even put our paid guests to work at times. Bethabara gives a special thanks to Becks Baptist Church for their support by their 25 plus orders of BBQ.

A special thanks to all who contributed toward the advertising and to Rachel Weavil who got our advertisements on the radio and TV. Thanks again to our sign makers, church members and Fastsigns. They did a wonderful job.

All who help with the setup (including the bottled water movers) and those who pitched in to help with the cleanup.

We continue to surprise ourselves with what we can do when we work together for the good of our church and our Lord. Love in Christ, Betsy Johnson & Cheryl Everhart

FROM OUR LATINO MINISTRY LEADER

" I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHICH STRENGTHENS ME." PHIL. 4:13

On Nov 13th, on Sunday Bible classes received the Grace Rafael Lopez, he is Mexican. He is very happy and interested in learning the Bible. He is married and has 2 little girls. His family is in Mexico. We must pray for him and his family. Praise the Lord!

THE LOVEFEAST SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT was wonderful. The service was plenty of brothers and sisters and visiting us Latino People with their children, singing in the Choir.

The Children Choir is practicing for this Christmas. Thanks Tom for your work with them.

ON THIS DECEMBER 11th, JESUS MARIANO RAMIREZ, will be baptism in our Sanctuary. Jim and Paulette will be the sponsors . Many blessings for the family and Bethabara Church.

Este 13de Nov. recibio a Cristo en su corazon Rafael Lopez en las clases biblicas del domingo. El es casado y tiene a su esposa y dos pequenas hijas en Mexico. Oremos por el y su familia. !Gloria a Dios!El Servicio de Amor del Miercoles en la noche estuvo precioso. Estuvo lleno de hermanos y hermanas y visitandonos mucha gente latina con sus ninos, cantando en el coro.Los ninos del Coro estan practicando para esta Navidad. Gracias Tom por tu trabajo con ellos.Este 11 de Diciembre sera bautizado en nuestro Santuario JESUS MARIANO RAMIREZ. Jim y Paulette seran los Padrinos. Muchas bendiciones para su familia y la Iglesia de Bethabara.

Hilda Regalado

IMPORTANT STUFF: BETHABARA NEWS

✝ Ushers for the month of DECEMBER—Moir Hunter, Britt Orrell, Jim Kuzmanovich, Alan Burton

✝ Nursery Volunteers for the month of DECEMBER—4) Fern Hunter, 11) Betsy Johnson, 18) Carole Rosenbaum, 25) Shannon Lineback

✝ WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP—Our schedule has changed slightly for the rest of the month! Please take note of the changes below:

DEC. 7 5:45pm—Meal (Pizza & salad)

6:30 pm—Prayer & Bible Study *at table (ends at 7:10pm)*

6:30 pm—Children's Choir practice *(ends at 7:10 pm)*

7:15 pm—Adult Choir practice

DEC. 14 5:45pm—Meal (Ham, green beans, black-eyed peas, corn)

6:30 pm—Prayer & Bible Study *at table (ends at 7:10pm)*

6:30 pm—Children's Choir practice *(ends at 7:10 pm)*

7:15 pm—Adult Choir practice

DEC. 21 5:45 pm—Special Dinner

6:30 pm—Prayer & Bible Study *at table (ends at 7:10pm)*

6:30 pm—Children's Choir practice *(ends at 7:10 pm)*

7:15 pm—Adult Choir practice

DEC. 28 NO EVENING ACTIVITIES

JAN. 4 NO EVENING ACTIVITIES

JAN. 11 NO EVENING ACTIVITIES

JAN 18 Regular Schedule Resumes *(more info in January Newsletter)*

✝ Plan your summer vacations now! The Church Retreat to Laurel Ridge is June 9—11!!



NEWSLETTER NOTES

Richard W. Starbuck

Every autumn we look forward to the Province's annual statistical checkup as reported in the Daily Texts directory and this year in *The Moravian*. As of the end of 2004 the Province lost 940 total membership, but almost half of that was at one church, **Macedonia**, which underwent the departure of its pastor. Three of our most robust churches are in the Charlotte area: **Little Church on the Lane**, **Peace**, and **New Beginnings**. Other "gold star" churches — those that gained in all three categories of confirmed communicants, total membership, and average worship attendance — are: **Rolling Hills**, **Prince of Peace**, **Bethania**, **Mizpah**, **Rural Hall**, **Immanuel-New Eden**, **New Philadelphia**, and **Union Cross**. Congratulations to all, and may your vitality spread throughout the Province.

Peace is embarking on a new outreach. Once a month it will provide a worship experience at The Haven, a care facility for people with memory concerns. The service will be at 2 p.m. the second Sunday of each month. Quite a few residents bring their families to such services, so it will be a double outreach for Peace.

Work is proceeding on the new tracker organ for **Kernersville's** Historic Chapel. Delivery and installation should be next May.

We're drawing in the young ones. Let's do more. At **Union Cross** the new preschool program has already gained enough children to require the hiring of a new teacher. The preschool at **Peace** is running at capacity of 52, and next fall's nursery looks just as full with siblings of the present children.

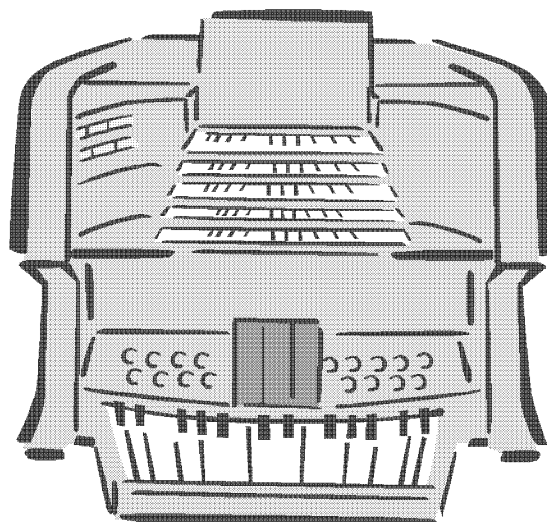
Covenant continues monthly updates on its construction project. The latest: "We are still on schedule to be in the facility by Candle Tea on December 10." The roof is on and windows installed, with insulation, drywall, and masonry to go. And we can envision Covenant's steeple cruising along College Road any day now to top off the new building.

With stewardship and commitment reaching a peak in many churches, we note that at **New Hope** (Newton) pledges are generous enough that the congregation should be mortgage free by the end of 2006.

ORGAN COMMISSION REPORT

The Organ Committee met for the initial time on Thursday, November 17. The issues regarding the needed organ repairs and restoration of the organ were reviewed, and the various options for addressing the needs were outlined.

Strategies for researching the different options and methods for funding them were outlined in general, and assignments were made to research the alternatives. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 16, 2005.



YOUTH NEWS!

HEY THERE ALL BETHABARA YOUTH!

✝ Christmas Caroling

December 18

All ages, choir members, band members, no choir and non band members are invited to bring a bag lunch to eat after our worship service; we leave to carol to our shut-in/homebound members at 1:15 p.m.. We need everyone's voices to offer cheer to our members who are not able to come to any of our holiday services.

✝ Youth Movie Event

December 18

Attention Bethabara Youth: On Sunday, December 18, we will go see "Chronicles of Narnia", a film based on the series by C.S. Lewis. The cost of the ticket is **FREE**, but we need to know how many to purchase by **Sunday, December 11 at noon!** If you are interested in going, let Kristy Sapp know by December 11.



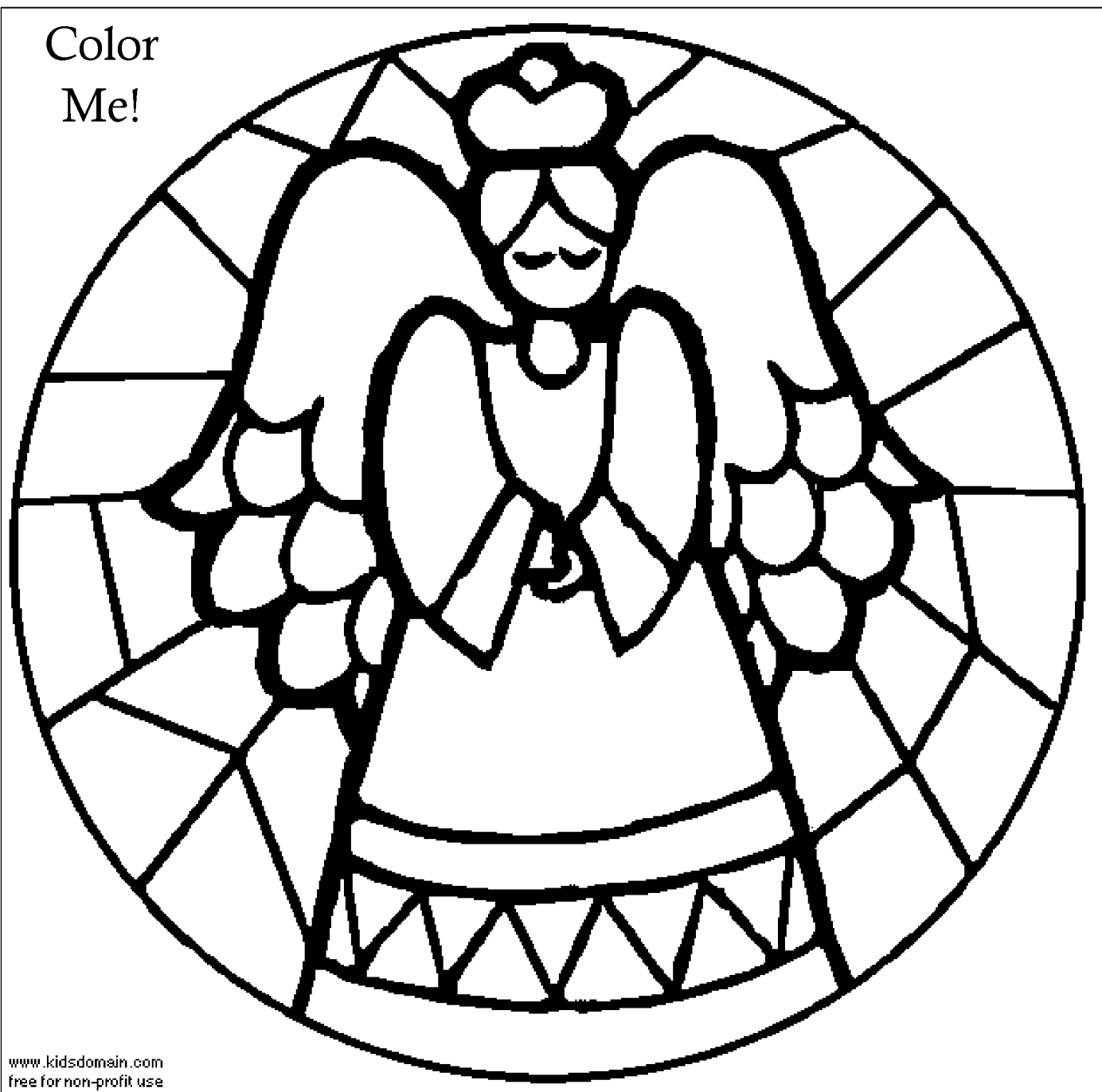
Just for Kids



What *Christmas Carol* is a favorite of parents?

SILENT NIGHT!!

Color
Me!





2100 Bethabara Road

Winston Salem, NC 27106

TRIPP L. MAY, Pastor

336-971-4725 *CELL*

336-924-8689 *HOME*

924-8789 *OFFICE*

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DECEMBER

