

# Bethabara Bells

Volume 17, Issue 3  
March 2005

## SPONGES AND SPRINKLERS

Chuck Karmon

**O**n the way to work one morning the Lord planted a thought in my mind that was similar to the scripture used in that days daily text (Luke 6:47-48). He had me comparing "Christians" with sponges and sprinklers.

Sponges were those who come to Sunday School and Worship, take in all the activities, but never dispense what they have taken in unless they are squeezed!

The sad thing about sponges is that if they miss even just one of their regular "soak up sessions" they will become dry and hardened and there is nothing

to be squeezed out of them! After hardening it becomes more difficult to re-hydrate.

There are too many sponges in churches today!

Sprinklers were those who come to Sunday School and Worship, take in all the activities, and spread that which they have collected out to many places. Sprinklers have a constant source of water from which to work with!

Oh to have more sprinklers in the yard of life!

But, the ultimate question in all of this, whether you are a sprinkler or a sponge, is where does your source of water come from?

Jesus said, "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:14

My hope for each of you is that you are, or will be, a "sprinkler" drawing from His well eternal! Spread the good news of Jesus Christ so that none should perish but have life everlasting! Let's be a Great Commission minded church!

So...are you a sprinkler or a sponge?



### Inside this issue:

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### Special points of interest:

- *Holy Week Readings*
- *Easter Sunday*
- *Health screening in April*

## BETHABARA PLAYGROUND

**W**on't it be lovely when our young Bethabara members can play on their new playground equipment? Did you know YOU have the opportunity to help make that possible? The 5th Sunday offering for

the month of May will go towards playground improvements. The Church Board voted to purchase new equipment for the playground! What a sight it will be, and what beautiful music we will hear when we

look out there, to see those little ones playing and laughing... just having a big ole time!





# March 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Provincial Teacher Training <i>Friedland Moravian</i>
6 <i>Fellowship Dinner</i> Dalton Everhart, Jr. Amy/Brad Roberts	7	8	9 Kate McBride	10	11 <i>Women's Symposium</i> <i>Old Salem</i> Suzie LaVenture David Seagraves	12 Make Chicken Pies
13 <i>Fellowship Breakfast</i> ☆ <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Board meets 7pm Sun. &amp; Mon.</div>	14	15	16	17	18 Phyllis Clodfelter	19 Bill/Carole Rosenbaum
20 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Robert/Lovina Thompson	21	22 Joel Sapp	23	24 <i>Maunder Thursday</i> <i>Communion</i>	25 <i>Death Hour Service 2pm</i> <i>Lovefeast</i>	26 Graveyard Clean-up 10am Picnic 12N Egg Hunt 1pm
27 <i>Easter Sunday</i> Service 10:30 am	28	29	30	31 David/Daphne Sams	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Holy Readings 7 pm each night in the Sanctuary</div>	

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR MARCH

**Every Tuesday (unless otherwise notes)**

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

**Every Wednesday (unless otherwise noted)**

5:45 PM—Wednesday Night Dinner  
6:15-6:30 PM—Devotions  
6:30 PM—Bible Study  
6:30 PM—Children's Choir practice  
6:30 PM—ESL Classes  
7:05 PM—Youth Activities  
7:15 PM—Adult Choir practice

**Every Sunday (unless otherwise noted) -**

9 AM—Band practice  
9:45 AM—Sunday School  
11 AM—Worship Service  
4 PM—Harmony Ringers  
5 PM—God's Gang  
5 PM—Bethabara Ringers

**BOARD MEETINGS**

***March 13 & 14***  
***7 p.m.***

## NEWSLETTER NOTES

### *From around the Southern Province*

**J**ohn and Louise Kapp give us this encouraging report from the Virginia mountains: "Willow Hill Moravian Church was truly beautiful for the Christmas Day service this year [2004]. Fourteen stained glass windows had been contributed and installed. The floors of the sanctuary had been refinished. A Moravian star formed of various woods was installed in the new flooring of the foyer. We were very happy that 110 persons came for the Lovefeast and candle service Christmas Day night."

For the past several years Raleigh has been enjoying a unique means of fundraising and fellowship, called "Reaching In-Reaching Out" or RIRO. It's simple. Members host a dinner or other event and bear the cost. Guests, mem-

bers or non-members, are invited and pay a set fee that goes to the church. An RIRO can be a breakfast, lunch, dinner, popcorn and a movie, adult or children's event, or as Raleigh puts it, "The sky is the limit."

Bethania's car show committee reports a very blessed 2004 with various donations including \$9,130 given to the building fund. This year's car show is scheduled for September 24 with several "cruise-ins" also scheduled this spring and summer.

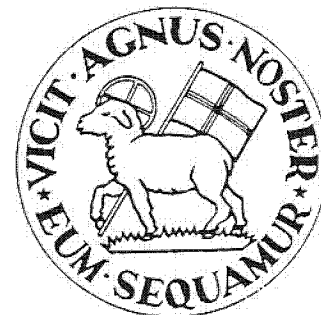
While Good Shepherd continues discussing its future ministry with PEC, recent activities in the congregation have included very successful sales of the cookbook, the Angel tree family, and musical participation by members of other churches in the Christmas Lovefeasts. The

goal remains to have 50 active congregants, and Patty Garner has expressed willingness to continue the discernment process after the end of March.

Headline in the Calvary's February newsletter: "Candle making time is here!!! (and you thought it was soon going to be Valentine's Day)." Yup, we Moravians like to plan for the future as much as learn from the past.

After months of delay, patience testing, and rising costs, construction on Covenant's new fellowship hall and renovation of the sanctuary should now be well under way. The expected completion date is early to mid summer. Keep us posted, Covenant.

*Richard W. Starbuck*

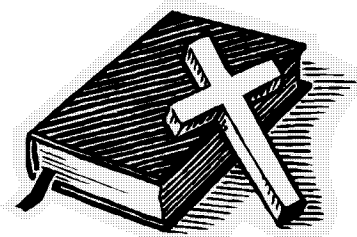


*"Our Lamb has conquered,  
Let us follow Him."*

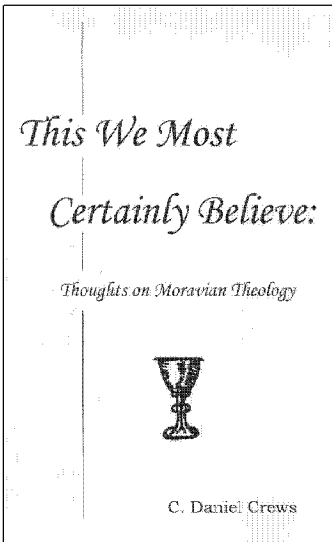
*"We Moravians like to plan  
for the future as much as  
learn from the past."*

## TOP TEN PREDICTIONS FOR 2005

1. The Bible will still have the answers.
2. Prayer will still work.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still inhabit the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost.



*"The B-I-B-L-E, yes that's the Book for me!"*



Get to the HEART of Moravian faith; a new easy reading booklet of the Moravian Archives. On Sale now at the Moravian Book and gift Shop in Old Salem

## BETHABARA NOTES

### New Address:

Tommie Choplin  
OakDale Heights Rm 117  
2500 Polo Oaks Ct  
WS, NC 27106

Marie Choplin  
Brian Center Rm 213  
4911 Brian Center Ln  
WS, NC 27106

Ed Schuller  
6206 Salemtowne Dr

### Summer Camp News

Tripp, Jeannie, and Liz would love to have you join them as they serve as

Counselors this summer at Laurel Ridge! The May family will be at Laurel Ridge, June 18-25. Serving as a counselor can be such a rewarding experience! Won't you consider it??

### Salemtowne Connections

Have you visited the ART GALLERY at Salemtowne? Each month, various artists display their works. The Smith Gallery is located at Bahnsen Hall, outside the Dorcas Dining Room. If you would like to visit Salemtowne to view the Gallery, just let

the folks at the Gatehouse know, and they'll let you in; you may also call 767-8130 if you have any questions.

### Old Town School

WOW! Thank you to everyone who gave so generously for the January 5th Sunday offering. Old Town Elementary School received a check in the amount of \$285.54 from Bethabara. As a result of the Matching Funds Grant, that total has now TRIPLED, for a total of \$856.62.

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

<b>Sunday, March 20</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Holy Week Readings</b>
<b>Monday, March 21</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Holy Week Readings</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 22</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Holy Week Readings</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 23</b>	<b>5:45pm</b>	<b>Wednesday Night Fellowship</b>
	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Holy Week Readings</b>
<b>Thursday, March 24</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Holy Week Readings &amp; Communion</b>
<b>Friday, March 25</b>	<b>2pm</b>	<b>Death Hour Service &amp; Crosswalk</b>
	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Good Friday Lovefeast</b>
<b>Saturday, March 26</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Graveyard Clean-up</b>
	<b>12N</b>	<b>Picnic</b>
	<b>1pm</b>	<b>Egg Hunt</b>
<b>Sunday, March 27</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Fellowship Breakfast</b>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Resurrection Celebration Service</b>

## FOCUS ON READING EXCELLENCE

Carolyn McPherson

Another school year is half over and it is time for the F.O.R.E Book Drive for Old Town Elementary to gear up! Bethabara has agreed to be a part of the drive again this year.

We will collect new books for first graders again. Contributions are, of course, not limited to the suggested titles. As of the end of January, there were 118 children enrolled in the first grade. If we

collect a few more than these, the extra will be given to the Old Town library or to the individual teachers who need to build their class libraries.

Boxes for collection will be available Friday, April 1st and picked up Friday, May 13th.

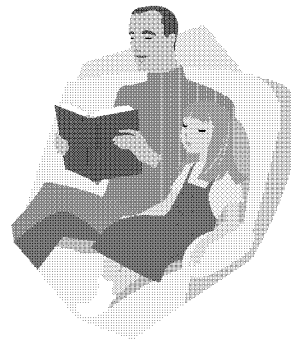
[www.bookhive.org/](http://www.bookhive.org/)  
(for book suggestions)

### Some suggested titles:

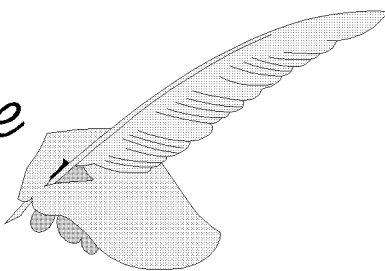
- Green Eggs and Ham*
- Martha and George*
- I Can Read with My Eyes Shut*
- Three Kind Mice*
- Best Friends Think Alike*
- Owl Moon*

Old Town Elementary  
School

*“F.O.R.E Book drive,  
helps further education  
and excitement in  
reading!”*



*From the  
Pastor*



# The Pastor's Class

The Pastor will be beginning a special study class in March on the ***Covenant for Christian Living***. The classes will meet each week in the Social Room.

The first class will begin on **Wednesday, March 9th at 2:00pm** (for approximately 1 1/2 hours). A separate class will begin on **Thursday, March 10th at 6:30pm**.



*The Synod is the highest constitutional body of a province of the Moravian church*

*“At Synod, ministry groups and committees will provide opportunities for education and the exchange of ideas as delegates address important areas of church life.”*



*What will take place at Synod?*

## SYNOD 2006

*What's it all about?*

Next year's synod of the Southern Province will be held April 19-23, 2006 at the Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, NC. The conference center is located near I-40 and is set among 1200 acres in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains with housing for all delegates in comfortable lodges. A central lodge includes a bright, airy dining room overlooking woods and streams, as well as open areas for informal time together.

*What will take place?*

Synod 2006 will include worship, plenary sessions, ministry groups or committee work. (Ministry groups consist of 10-12 people who focus on a suggested area and who may propose legislation or formulate a report.) Prayer and worship will be focal points of each day. Business, elections, and consideration of resolutions will be addressed in the plenary sessions. Vote counting will be expedited with the use of computers.

*Who goes to Synod?*

All **pastors under call** are delegates for synod. Every congregation has **one lay delegate for every 125 adult communicant members**. **Small congregations** are entitled to **one delegate in addition to the pastor**. **Provincial boards and agencies** are also represented, as are **retired pastors** and certified, full-time **DCE's**.

Each congregation will have a church council in the first months in the coming year. The election of a delegate must be by a majority vote. This also includes alternates.

The delegate must be a member in good standing **f r o m t h e** congregation in which they are elected. This person needs to be at the core of the membership.

A congregation needs to send a delegate who has a **l i f e s t y l e o f** worship, study, service, giving and love for others. The Synod and church deserves the strongest and most dedicated servants of Christ.

*How do delegates prepare for Synod?*

Although synod offers a time for governing, education and building community, the emphasis of the synod is to **seek God's direction for the Moravian Church**. Prayer, worship, and bible study are essential as delegates prepare themselves spiritually for work prior to the synod and once it is in session.

Delegates will choose a preference for participation in a ministry group which holds interest for them. It is the delegates responsibility to read and study introductory material, give devotional time in preparation for synod, and attend all sessions of synod from April 19-23.

Delegates will receive copies of reports submitted by all provincial agencies and institutions, proposed legislation, a sample ballot, and information on individuals nominated for election to provincial positions. They should prayerfully read and consider all material before synod begins.

Pastors are to meet with delegates before synod to discuss the processes of

# SYNOD 2006

synod and to define the purposes of provincial boards and agencies. This is a good time to ask questions about the procedures for conducting business and voting at synod. Orientation will be offered for those interested in learning more about parliamentary procedures.

### *What happens then?*

At synod, ministry groups and committees will provide opportunities for education and the exchange of ideas as delegates address important areas of church life. These groups may prepare resolutions concerning specific topics and present them on the floor of synod. Resolutions adopted by synod become important directives that affect congregation's contributions to the provincial budget and the activities of agencies. A booklet is published after synod containing all adopted resolutions and reports, and given to each pastor and congregation.

The **Synod** is the highest constitutional body of a province of the Moravian Church. The *Book of Order* lists some specific

responsibilities of Synod:

- ✓ Worship and pray together, seek God's guidance
- ✓ To consider the affairs of the province administered by the Provincial Elder's Conference and other provincial and inter-provincial boards and agencies, to give direction to these boards and agencies.
- ✓ To legislate matters regarding constitution, worship and congregational life.
- ✓ To hold elections for provincial and inter-provincial boards and agencies for bishops and for delegates to the Unity Synod of the Moravian Church.

### *Synod 2006 Timetable*

**Spring 2005** - Congregations elect delegates at Church Council before June 1.

**Summer 2005**-Delegates begin reading reports from agencies and institutions and begin concentrated preparation for synod.

**Fall 2005**-Pastors and delegates meet together for orientation. Pre-synod meetings begin. Dele-

gates receive assignments for ministry groups.

**Devotional Preparation**- Concentrated preparation for synod April 1-22, 2006.

**Synod-April 19-23, 2006** Arrive at Blue Ridge on Wednesday morning.

Do you have questions? Do not hesitate to contact Pastor May.

CONTINUED



*Synod 2006 will include worship, plenary sessions, ministry groups or committee work.*

## The Resurrection of Jesus

Matthew 28:1-10 (NIV)

The disciples were very sad over the death of Jesus. It seemed that all of their hopes were gone. Jesus now lay in a tomb. But they were about to get some wonderful news. Read in Matthew 28:1-10 (NIV) what happened when some of his followers went to visit the tomb. Then unscramble the words below and fill in the puzzle. The letters in the circles will tell you what the angel had to say.

AKEARQUTHE	<input type="text"/>
NGALE	<input type="text"/>
ENHVEA	<input type="text"/>
CABK	<input type="text"/>
TONSE	<input type="text"/>
ARGUDS	<input type="text"/>
AIFRAD	<input type="text"/>
ESE	<input type="text"/>
LTEL	<input type="text"/>
OWENM	<input type="text"/>

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Tripp May, Pastor  
Chuck Harmon, Pastoral Assistant  
Tom Manning, Director of Music  
Bet Ellis, Band Director  
Bill Rosenbaum, Church Board Vice-Chairman  
Rachel Weavil, Administrative Assistant

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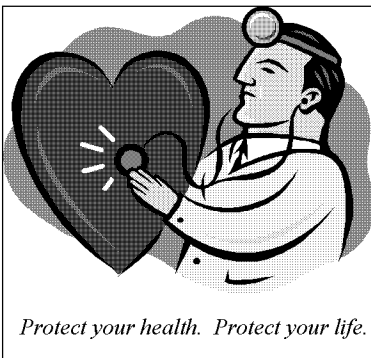
WE'RE ON THE WEB:  
[WWW.BETHABARA.ORG](http://WWW.BETHABARA.ORG)

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In Essentials, Unity;  
In Non-essentials, Liberty,  
In All things, Love

## Life Line Screening

Protect your health. Protect your life.



*We will host a screening on Thursday, April 7th.*

*Call **1.800.324.1851** for more information or to pre-register. The cost is \$35-\$45 each or all four for only \$129*

### Got 10 minutes?

Do you have high cholesterol? Do you smoke? Do you eat fatty foods often? If yes, you may want to consider being screened for stroke risk. Life Line Screening screens the carotid arteries as up to 75% of all strokes are linked to plaque build up in the carotid arteries.

### Got 10 minutes?

Do you have high blood pressure? Are you more than 30 pounds overweight? Are you male? If yes, you may want to consider being screened for abdominal aortic an-

eurysm risk. Life Line Screening screens the aorta for aneurysms as warning signs are vague and if ruptured, they are 80-94% fatal.

### Got 10 minutes?

Do you have diabetes? Are you legs sore after walking a short distance? Are you over 55 years of age? If yes, you may want to consider being screened for peripheral arterial disease (PAD) risk. Life Line Screening screens for plaque build up in the legs as only 25% of the 8 million persons with PAD are receiving

treatment.

### Got 10 minutes?

Do you avoid milk products? Have you been taking steroids for an extended period of time? Is there a lack of weight bearing exercise in your daily routine? If yes, you may want to consider being screened for osteoporosis risk. The FDA has now approved osteoporosis screening for men! More than half of the 1.5 million people Life Line Screening serves are at moderate or high risk for bone loss.