



# Bethabara Bells

*A monthly publication of Bethabara Moravian Church*

Volume 22, Issue

August 2007

## **Why Celebrate August 13th?**

**The Moravian Month of Blessing, August 1911**

By: Bishop Edward Rondthaler

### **Sharing in the Blessing**

The Moravian Church has been richly blessed. God says 'I will bless thee and thou shalt be a blessing.' That is the secret of our continuance. Where God can use us for a blessing we go; when the blessing fails, we see no particular reason why we should stay. Our enterprise is for Jesus Christ. He has made it a happy one, and has made many happy with us. Often those who have thus been blessed are not members of our Church. They have been educated among us; they have given to our missions among the heathen. They are, in many cases, as good Moravians as if they were members of our Church, for they have shared in our blessing.

The month of August 1727 was our month of blessing. Out of its experiences have resulted everything that we are and all that we can do. People who know the story of August 1727 have learned the secret of Moravian influence in the world.

### **The Beginning of the Blessing**

In the little village of Hernhut, in the German empire, at the beginning of 1727, a couple hundred people were living an humble and laborious life. The most of them were exiles for their faith's sake from the neighboring Austrian Province of Moravia. They had left their fertile fields and pleasant pastures at Zauchtenthal and other places, in order to be able to serve their God with better conscience than they could do it amid the oppressive superstitions of the Roman church. Many of them had come away with



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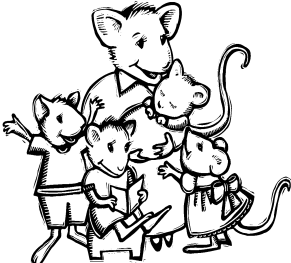
Little they could carry on their backs. The Count Zinzendorf had allowed them to settle on a wild and uncultivated part of his wide estate. There they were, become poor for Christ's sake, as self-sacrificing a people as the world has ever seen. Devout souls from different parts of Germany had settled with them, and they proposed to live together as an earnest people of God.

If only they knew how! That was the rub at the start. Some had one sort of doctrine; others another. Every man watched his neighbor to see if he was as religious as he ought to be. If they had simply lived together to make money, they would have been the most peaceful person in the world, for they were busy and were turning the wilderness land into a garden. But they had sacrificed so much for conscience's sake; they prized their views and modes of living. It made them intolerant towards each other. The prospect seemed to be that they could not continue to live comfortably together. They were very earnest and yet were getting to be very miserable.

### **The Progress of the Blessing**

Then the Pious young Count Zinzendorf took them into his heart as he had taken them into his lands. He talked with each member of the community separately, seeking to impress simple views of Christian doctrine and fellowship. He prayed with them constantly. In a few months this quiet effort for individual souls had its gracious effect upon these earnest but discordant people. They were getting nearer to the Saviour and nearer to each other. The good Count was encouraged, upon consultation, to draw up a series of Christian statements and rules, which form the basis of Moravian "Brotherly Agreements" (now known as the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living) ever since.

After that, these Moravian exiles and their friends were growing from week to week to be more of one heart and mind. Their meetings were very frequent, on Sundays, in the Berthelsford parish church, a mile away, and on week nights in their own meeting place in Hernhut. For some weeks they were talking much in these meetings on the First Epistle of John, praying much and singing heartily together. They were becoming happier



Nursery Attendants

August 5th ~ Edna Blevins

August 12th ~ Fern Hunter

August 19th ~ Jeannie May

August 26th ~ Elva Lara Garcia



**USHERS  
FOR  
AUGUST**  
Beth Whitehouse  
Joel Sapp  
Joey Lineback  
Joel C. Lineback

**GREETERS  
FOR AUGUST**  
**AUGUST 5TH** ~ FRANCES GRIENER & CLARA  
POU  
**AUGUST 12TH** ~ MOIR & FERN HUNTER  
**AUGUST 19TH** ~ JIMMIE RING & RACHEL PIKE  
**AUGUST 26TH** ~ EDNA BLEVINS & CHRIS OR-  
RELL



- 5 Elva Lara Garcia
- 5 Hilda Elizabeth Baca
- 7 Xander Reynolds
- 9 Robert Thompson
- 11 Mary Welborn
- 13 Chris Orrell
- 14 Betty Bailey
- 17 Bet Ellis
- 18 Kyle Sapp
- 19 Jim Kuzmanovich
- 27 Bob Gabriel
- 30 Eduardo Regalado
- 31 Tammy Gupton

**Anniversaries**



- Aug. 2nd ~ Britt & Terry Orrell**
- Aug. 2nd ~ Segundo & Hilda Regalado**
- Aug. 4th ~ Joel & Patsy Lineback**
- Aug. 12th ~ Bill & Dianne Cobb**



**Monthly Scrap Booking Night**  
**August 18th**  
 5:30-11:00pm  
 Contact: Michele

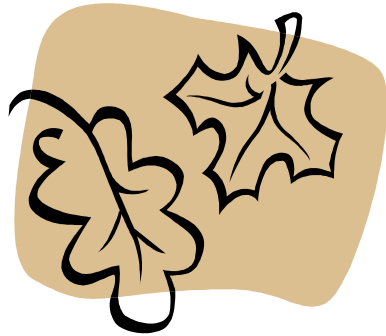
***FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER,  
 5:30 P.M. SUNDAY AUGUST  
 5TH....THERE WILL BE  
 SLIDES FROM VBS, MIS-  
 SION CAMP, AND KATIE'S  
 TRIP TO MORAVIAN CONVO  
 IN PRAGUE, CZECH REPUB-  
 LIC. PLEASE JOIN US AND  
 BRING A COVERED DISH  
 (WITH FOOD IN IT...:-))***

Newsletter submissions should arrive in the church office by the 18th of each month. Any questions? Contact Ashley @ 924-8789

And more united every day. At last there came a Sunday, the first in August, in which the meetings were so crowded and blessed, indoors and out, that the people were ready for any further announcements. The Pastor Rothe sent out the notice: "Come to the Special Communion, Wednesday August 13th, at 10 o'clock!" The intervening days were given to preparation. Two young girls were to be confirmed and the whole Hernhut congregation took their case upon their own hearts, met in evening meetings with them and answered their confirmation questions along with them. On Wednesday morning, August 13th, Count Zinzendorf gathered the people together once more and talked with them affectionately upon the subject of the Lord's Supper. Then they all started out for their walk to the Berthelsdorf church. It was afterwards remembered that some who had not quite gotten over their hard feelings were deeply affected by the way; embraced and forgave one another. So they came to the ancient parish church which still stands as a memorial of the happy day and hour.

**The Climax of The Blessing**

The Communion service proceeded according to the Lutheran ritual which, previous to the Moravian reorganization, was the one which they employed. The quiet happiness of the hour was unsurpassed. Tears and sobs of joy and peace interwove themselves with hymns and prayers and sacramental participation. What one felt, without exception the other felt. Love flowed from heart to heart in great waves of quiet emotion. There was no shout or outward excitement. The blessing was too deep for such manifestations. It was a foretaste what 'eye has not seen or heard, or hath entered to the heart to conceive—the things which God has laid up for those who love Him.' It was one of those days when heaven touches the earth and it was all one great scene of God's love. Zinzendorf said that it was a sudden, inexplicable, transcendent sense of the nearness of Christ to each one in his oneness to all the rest. The separations had passed like heavy clouds—there was a pervasive sunshine of grace and Hernhut was one thing from end to end, in the service of Jesus Christ...



**SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, November 17, 2007**  
Bethabara Moravian Church's Fall Festival --

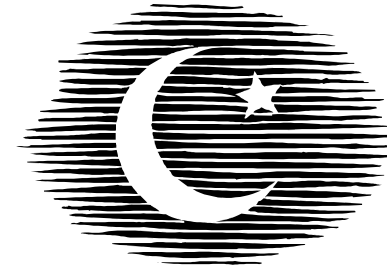
***Bethabara's Marketplace***

Here are some of the features that we plan to have:

- Country Store
- Home Canned Goods (pickles, jams, beans, etc.)
- Silent Auction
- Tasting Table - with items from our cookbook
- Ethnic Foods
- Chicken Pies (of course!)
- Church Throws
- Cookbooks
- Baked Goods - needs lots!
- 2nd Hand, Gently Used items -- start saving now for items to be donated (no clothing, please)
- The Men's Fellowship will provide Breakfast, Lunch as well as the BBQ Dinner
- All donations are welcome (crafts, canned goods, "gently" used items, etc.)

We will also need volunteers in all areas -- to help set up on Friday evening including helping wrap the baked goods; to work the Marketplace on Saturday, and to clean up on Saturday afternoon after the event ends.

Please give prayerful consideration to helping with this fund-raising event for YOUR church. Please contact Cheryl Everhart at 336-655-4159 or Anne Kyle at 336-983-0855.



**Music Under the Stars**

Historic Bethabara Park Band  
Concert & Family Evenings

**Thurs. August 9 6:00~8:30 PM**

Bring your friends, family, and neighbors to Historic Bethabara Park for a series of delightful music and dance. The Bethabara Concert Band performs pop, standards, classical, and jazz. Enjoy hay wagon rides, children's games, ice cream, and hot dogs, and wonderful music by the band.

*Stay for the Dance Band after Every Concert*

**Open Dates for Sanctuary Flowers**

*If there is an open date, please sign up for Sanctuary flowers in the vestibule...*

August 26th

October 21st

October 28th

December 9th

December 23rd





## Bethabara Calendar of Events August 2007

**August 5-11** ~ Junior High Camp #2

**August 9** ~ Bethabara Park Concert

**August 12th** ~ August 13th Communion

**August 13th** ~ August Thirteenth Celebration; 7pm  
Special Communion @ Bethabara  
Gemeinhaus

**August 12-18th** ~ Junior High Camp #3

**August 15th** ~ First Teacher Work Day WSFC Schools

**August 17th** ~ 550th Celebration Youth Rally

**August 18th** ~ Scrapbooking Night & Men's Breakfast  
& Work Day

**August 19th** ~ Children's Lovefeast

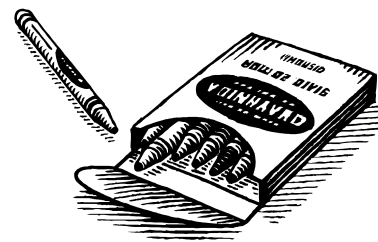
**August 24-26th** ~ Youth Retreat @ Laurel Ridge

**August 27th** ~ WSFC Schools first day

**August 29th** ~ ESL Begins

### Upcoming 550th Events

**August 13**—We will celebrate Holy Communion in the Saal on **August 13th** at the Bethabara Gemeinhaus at **7:00pm** following a season of prayer and song. You will be invited to offer petitions for the renewal of our provincial ministries and new missions in keeping with the **550 Mission Challenge** for the coming years. Following communion we will walk to **Bethabara Church** which will commemorate the walk our forbears made from Berthelsdorf to Hernhut and celebrate our unity of purpose in a **Lovefeast at 8:00pm**.



It's that time of year again! Old Town School needs our help in collecting basic school supplies. This includes pencils, pens, notebook paper, single-subject spiral notebooks, Crayola crayons, glue sticks, school glue, rulers and pocket folders. There are several stores that are currently having a sale on school supplies, so you can really get a lot for just a little money.

They also need items like Kleenex and Hand Sanitizer Gel in pump bottles. Many of the classrooms are in trailers and those students do not have the convenience of frequent hand washing, so they use the Hand Sanitizer Gel instead.

Please consider helping the children at Old Town School again this year! They really do appreciate everything that Bethabara Moravian Church has done. Many of the students at Old Town are underprivileged and would not have the proper school supplies without our help. There will be a collection box in the front vestibule.



I would like to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone who participated in Vacation Bible School this year. So many of you worked very hard to make this such a memorable Bible School for our children. On Thursday when we had completed the tabernacle I overheard some of the kids saying, "I can't believe we did that." What an awesome feat for us as adults to bring the Bible to life for them and for the kids to see that if you push yourself and work without ceasing you can accomplish the impossible. I know that when many of us saw the plans for the tabernacle we thought there is no way we can do this, but we did do it! I am very grateful for the time spent pre Bible School preparing the "pieces" - thank you, thank you, thank you! God has blessed our church with very talented people and many of you used your talents to help teach our children.

Many of our children brought visitors to participate all week and I thank you for reaching out to your friends and inviting them to share in our experience. I hope you all take time to reflect on the week at just what we did do and how all of the pieces fit together to make the tabernacle. A church is lot like that—it takes all of us doing our "part" to make it work—no matter how big or small! You guys are so awesome and I hope you all realize that you are loved by many adults. Thank you for being part of Bible School! God Bless you all!!!  
Kristy Sapp

## ANNUAL YOUTH RETREAT



Our annual Youth Retreat to Laurel Ridge is August 24-26. It is open to all youth 3rd grade - 12th grade. If anyone younger would like to attend he/she needs a parental chaperone. We will leave at 4:00pm on Aug. 24 from the church - bring money for dinner! We will enjoy the weekend together studying God's word and recreating on the Mountain. Bring your Bible, sleeping bags or bed linens, toiletries, comfy shoes to hike in, fishing rods, sunscreen, bug spray, a jacket, snacks and drinks to share, and any fun games you have. If you are planning to attend you need to sign up by Sunday, August 19. Watch the bulletin for more information about the programming!! Also, if you are an adult and would like to chaperone contact Kristy or Joel Sapp - 231-2602. Can't wait to have a "Mountain top experience" with our youth!