

# LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 18, 2007

*Bethabara Moravian Church believes because of the love of Jesus Christ revealed in us, that Jesus is "the way, and the truth, and the life and no one comes to the Father but by (him)." John 14:6*

*Bethabara Moravian Church leads people to an active relationship with Jesus Christ by providing a path of worship, prayer, and knowledge of God's Word through our*



## Watchword for the Week

*And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus alone.*

*Matthew 17:8*

Y alzando ellos los ojos, a nadie vieron sino a Jesús solo.

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

**BAND PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**HYMN**                      Jesus' Name, Jesus' Name                      Page 324

**THE SCRIPTURE**                      Luke 9:28-36                      Page 900

**HYMN**                      Jesus, on the Mountain Peak                      Page 325

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**MORNING PRAYER**

**THE CHURCH IN GIVING**

Receiving of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory Anthem

The Doxology

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**                      "Dazzling White"                      Rev. Tripp May

**HYMN**                      When Morning Gilds the Skies                      Page 552

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in appreciation of Long  
Time Bethabara Band Helpers-Dr. Sam Long and Gene Nail*

*~Trumpet Players~*

*From the Bethabara Band*

## ~ SCRIPTURE LESSON ~

Luke 9:28-36

28 Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And as he was praying, the appearance of his countenance was altered, and his raiment became dazzling white. 30 And behold, two men talked with him, Moses and Eli'jah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32 Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, and when they wakened they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33 And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths, one for you and one for Moses and one for Eli'jah" - not knowing what he said. 34 As he said this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35 And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" 36 And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silence and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

Today's Greeters.....Dick and Eva Morgan  
Today's Nursery Helper.....Kristy Sapp  
Greeters February 25, 2007....Marion Yokley and Edna Blevins  
Nursery February 25,2007.....Shannon Lineback

## DE LA LECCIÓN DE SCRIPTURE

Aconteció como ocho días después de estas palabras, que tomó a Pedro, a Juan y a Jacobo, y subió al monte a orar. 29 Y entre tanto que oraba, la apariencia de su rostro se hizo otra, y su vestido blanco y resplandeciente. 30 Y he aquí dos varones que hablaban con él, los cuales eran Moisés y Elías; 31 quienes aparecieron rodeados de gloria, y hablaban de su partida, que iba Jesús a cumplir en Jerusalén. 32 Y Pedro y los que estaban con él estaban rendidos de sueño; mas permaneciendo despiertos, vieron la gloria de Jesús, y a los dos varones que estaban con él. 33 Y sucedió que apartándose ellos de él, Pedro dijo a Jesús: Maestro, bueno es para nosotros que estemos aquí; y hagamos tres enramadas, una para ti, una para Moisés, y una para Elías; no sabiendo lo que decía. 34 Mientras él decía esto, vino una nube que los cubrió; y tuvieron temor al entrar en la nube. 35 Y vino una voz desde la nube, que decía: Este es mi Hijo amado; a él oíd. 36 Y cuando cesó la voz, Jesús fue hallado solo; y ellos callaron, y por aquellos días no dijeron nada a nadie de lo que habían visto.

### **DIRECTORY PICTURES**

The pictures for the directory will be on March 5th and 6th. You will need to register for your time on the 18th and 25th of this month. You will receive a free 8x10 portrait for participating, and a free directory. Cash, check, and credit card will be accepted.

## Upcoming Events

**DIRECTORY PICTURE SIGN-UPS-** Sign up for directory pictures will begin today and continue February 25th. Pictures will be made March 5th and 6th.

**ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE-** February 21, 2007.  
Band Prelude at 7 :15pm; Service at 7:30 pm.

**CHURCH RETREAT AT LAUREL RIDGE-** June 8-10, 2007.  
We have 12 rooms reserved for our retreat. The last day to register is **March 1, 2007.** (call our office for rate info). **Registration Deadline is now March 6th, 2007. \$100 per room deposit required.** See Tripp May for details.

**HOLY WEEK-** Palm Sunday is April 1. Easter is April 8.

**YOUTH SUNDAY** - April 29, 2007.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** - July 15—19, 2007; 6-8:30pm.

The theme is “1440 B. C., Build a Holy Place.” We will build a 1/2 scale Wilderness Tabernacle.

**YOUTH MISSION CAMP** - July 22 27, 2007 at Laurel Ridge. We will do a local mission project before we go.

**YOUTH RETREAT AT LAUREL RIDGE** - August 24 - 26, 2007.

## *Today at Bethabara:*

9 a.m. ➤ Band practice	12:15 pm ➤ Confirmation Class
9:45 a.m. ➤ Sunday school	3:00pm ➤ Bethabara Bells
11 a.m. ➤ Worship service	5:00 pm ➤ Middle & High School Youth
Coffee Hour follows	7:00 pm ➤ Church Board- Spiritual Meeting

## *Happening this week: Remember, check the bulletin board*

<b>Wed. Feb 21</b>	<b><i>Ash Wednesday</i></b>	
	11 a.m.	Day of Prayer service – Home Moravian
	5:45 p.m.	Wednesday Fellowship Dinner
	6:30 p.m. to 7:15 pm	➤ Bible Study/Prayer Time ➤ ESL/ Conversational Spanish class <b>NO CHOIR PRACTICE TONIGHT</b>
	7:15 p.m.	Band prelude
	7:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday service: <i>Sanctuary</i>
<b>Feb 22- Thurs</b>	2:00 pm	Bible Study and Prayer
<b>Feb 25 - Sun</b>	12:15 pm	Confirmation Class continues
	3:00 pm	Bethabara Bells
	5:00 pm	Middle & High School Youth

### **OUR MEMBERS IN CARE FACILITIES: CARDS & VISITS APPRECIATED**

Sara Cooke *Friends Home Greensboro*

Sarah Holland *Forest Heights*

Leona Chatham *Vienna Village #F57*

Edith Kudelka *Independence Village*

Marie Choplin *Kerner Ridge*

Ann Roberts - *Vienna Village #25 B*

Tommie Choplin *Britthaven/K-ville*

## WE LIFT IN PRAYER

Bernice Anderson- *congestive heart failure*

Polly Applefield

Nell Barnard-*Rachel Pike's sister-  
Cancer treatment*

Katie Boyles- *leg injury*

Lillie Boyte -*2 yr old child with cancer (from Suzie LaVenture)*

J. C. Bruce –

Emily Cline *great niece to Rosenbaum's*

Hillary Cobb – *Bill's brother*

Denita Duncan

Tom Dunn- *Friend of David & Daphne Sams- stomach cancer*

Family of Grayson Foley

Betty Fox-

Juanita Fulp-  
*mother of Patsy Lineback*

Jennifer Gragg

Frances Greiner-

Don & Carol Griffin

Family of Josh Hansley

Stephanie Hedrick -(in hospital)  
*great niece to Rosenbaum's*

Sarah Holland

Mary Lou Hutchins –  
*Rachel Pike's sister- dementia*

Maria Jimenez- fell on Sunday

Jack Long –

Maxine Pyrtle-  
*Sister of Jake Blackburn*

Jesus Ramirez- pneumonia  
*Baptist room 1103 Ardmore*

Carolyn Redding

Gay Nell Reich

Dresden Reynolds- "RSV"  
*622 Ardmore*

Flora Sapp

Rick Sapp- *in Kuwait*

Norma Segraves

Judy Smith-*sister of Jeannie May*

Lois Stainback – *Katie McBride's sister*

Lovina Thompson

John Welch

Shereé Williams-*granddaughter to Kate McBride*

Montgomery Wooten-

## GRANDMA MOSES EXHIBIT

Out of the many people from our group who expressed an interest in going to the Grandma Moses Exhibit, the date that will work the best is Friday Feb. 23. We could meet at the church at 10:30am to go to the exhibit and then go back to lunch from there. You may participate in one or both of the events.

Please RSVP that this date will still be okay with you, and if you plan to go to lunch afterwards as well. I look forward to seeing you.

Carolyn Redding

### 2007 DAYS OF PRAYER

Wednesday

**February 21**

HOME MORAVAIN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Maria Theresa Palmer, speaker

10:00 AM Coffee Hour;

10:45 AM Music

11:00AM Worship

Nursery Provided

Sunday

**February 25**

CHRIST MORAVIAN CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Lane Sapp, Speaker

4:00PM *Lovefeast*

Nursery Provided

# The Birth of the Moravian Church 550 Years Ago

by Craig D. Atwood

*John Comenius Visiting Professor of Moravian Studies, Wake Forest University School of Divinity*

The Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum) was founded in the woods of Kunwald in eastern Bohemia 550 years ago. Since most Moravian congregations hold special observances on July 6 each year to commemorate the martyrdom of the John Hus, many people assume that our church was founded by him. Hus' courageous witness is important for Moravians, but he was burned at the stake forty years before our church was founded. During this anniversary year, we should recall the work and witness of Gregory the Patriarch who first called together a small band of believers into a Unity of Brethren.

It might help to briefly review what happened after Hus was arrested and convicted of over thirty counts of heresy. In 1414, Hus' friend and student, Jakoubek, took the revolutionary step of allowing lay persons to drink from the chalice in Holy Communion. For over 200 years, the Catholic Church had reserved the cup for the priests, but the Hussites believed that the entire church (including women) should have the benefits of full communion. The Catholic Church changed its doctrine and practice in the 1960s, but in the 15th century both the Church and Empire were willing to kill those who offered the cup to ordinary women and men.

The Hussites successfully defeated five crusading armies sent to force them to obey the Church of Rome; however, they disagreed over how far to reform the church. The stronghold of the most militant Hussites was called Tábor. The Taborites were the first Christians to celebrate the sacraments in a Protestant fashion, and they wrote the first Protestant catechism. The more conservative Hussites were called Utraquists, and their leader, Jan Rokycana, preached at the Týn Church in Prague. At the Council of Basel in the 1430s the papacy agreed to allow the Utraquists to serve communion "in both kinds"

(bread and wine) and to administer their own church if they would assist the Catholics in a military campaign against the feared Taborites. The radicals were mercilessly slaughtered in battle.

The Taborites and Utraquists were the two parents of our Moravian Church. Gregory the Patriarch was the nephew of Rokycana, the Utraquist leader in Prague. He and his friends were so moved by Rokycana's preaching that they copied his sermons down word for word so they could study them. They also read the works of the Taborites and believed that there was truth in what they preached as well. Rokycana encouraged his nephew's quest for true faith by giving him some of the works of Peter Chelcicky to read. Peter had heard Hus preach and had lived through the exciting and dangerous days of the Hussite revolution. He was the link to the Hussite Reformation that Gregory had been seeking, but he was an old man in the 1450s and died shortly after the Moravian Church was founded.

Peter is not famous today, but the Moravian Church was founded on his ideas. He proclaimed that the feudal order of the Middle Ages (nobles, clergy, and serfs) was pagan rather than Christian. The true Church of Christ is a brotherhood (and sisterhood) of those called by Christ. It is a community of sacrificial love, not coercive power. Peter also argued that the mark of a true Christian is the commitment to live according to the law of love revealed in the Gospels. Christ called us to love our enemies, Peter argued. How can you love someone and kill them at the same time?

Gregory took Peter's ideas so seriously that his uncle was afraid that he would be arrested because of his heretical beliefs. He was able to get permission for Gregory and his companions to move to the isolated village of Kunwald where they would be unnoticed as they experimented with a church based on the example of the early Christians. Gregory called his group the Unity of the Brethren (in Latin: *Unitas Fratrum*), but today we call it the Moravian Church.

Gregory also traveled constantly, inviting former Taborites and Waldensians to join his Unity. Much of the doctrine of the Unity had its roots in the Taborites, but the Unity rejected the militancy of Tabor. Gregory and his followers were very strict pacifists in a very violent world. Neither the Catholic Church nor the Utraquists could tolerate a small band of devout men and women trying to live according the Sermon on the Mount.

Since there was no hope for reconciliation with Rome or the Utraquists, Gregory decided in 1467 to establish a separate priesthood for the Unity of the Brethren. They used the lot to choose three men from among twelve respected elders to serve as priests. A fourth person was chosen to serve as Senior. There was a legend that one of the people who helped ordain the first Moravian bishop was a Waldensian bishop named Stephen, but modern research has shown that was unlikely at best. Stephen was under arrest at the time of the consecration.

The Unity was reluctant to use the word “bishop” because it was associated with oppressive structures of the state church. Our Moravian Church was the first “free church” with regular orders of ministry to be established in Western Christianity. Long before the United States’ First Amendment, the Moravian Church consistently and persistently taught that it is wrong to use secular power in matters of faith.

Discipline in the Unity was strict, but not cruel. Erring members were reminded that they were welcome to join the state church if they wanted to live like “worldly” people rather than like followers of Jesus. The Unity provided detailed instructions on ethical living that included everything from proper business practices to how to discipline children with love rather than fear. Each congregation had lay leaders, called Judges, to assist the pastor. There were Sister Judges for the women, which was a practice centuries ahead of its time.

When Martin Luther began his reformation of the church in Germany in the 16th century, the Unity sent a delegation to meet with him. Luther published a German translation of the Unity’s catechism in 1523. This was the first Protestant catechism ever to be printed. Luther’s more famous Small Catechism appeared five years later. The Brethren’s hymnal was also translated into German and republished several times. Many of those hymns are still sung in Protestant churches.

The Unity of the Brethren founded by Gregory was never large, but it was one of the most important churches in early modern Europe. Unfortunately, it was always illegal (except for a brief period, 1609-1618) and subject to severe persecution. During the Thirty Years War, the Unity was virtually destroyed. August 13, 1727 marks the rebirth of the Moravian Church under the leadership of Count Zinzendorf, but that is a story for another day.

*We are so glad you came to worship with us today.  
We pray our service was memorable and meaningful for you in every way.*

*Nos alegramos tanto de que Ud. haya decidido adorar a Dios con nosotros hoy.  
Rezamos que nuestro servicio sea memorable y significativa para Ud. en cada*

*In Essentials, Unity; In Non-essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Love.*



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*Bet Ellis, Band Director*

*Hilda Regalado, Latino Ministry  
Leader*

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*Ashley Dollyhite Administrative Assistant*

*Diane Cobb, Treasurer*

*Gayle Reid, Assistant Treasurer*

*Kristy Sapp, Financial Secretary*

*Nellie Gonzaga, Child Care Attendant*

*Jo Beth Boyles, Custodial*

 One License # A-711006

**Sunday School  
Attendance for**

**02/11/07**

**56**

**Worship  
Attendance**

**02/11/07**

**95**

## **SPECIAL VALENTINE'S THANKS**

*“Thanks to everyone for all the wonderful Valentine’s I have received. I appreciate all love and concern you have shown me.”*