

# Lancaster Moravian Logos

2011 Congregational Watchword: Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that I need. Proverbs 30:8



January 2011

## 2011 - A Year of Decision

People must make some difficult decisions in their lives, sometimes forced to choose between alternatives that offer no preferred or guaranteed results. Anxiety and uncertainty arise, with procrastination as the frequent result. Some label their delaying tactics as 'waiting for a miracle.' Too often it is simple avoidance empowered by fear.

"Should I continue to rent an apartment or take out a big 30 year mortgage to buy a house?" "I have a job that is steady and pays the bills; dare I quit to seek the vocation that I really love?" "Having lost one spouse, should I risk that whole dating, love, and marriage scene again?" "Is it time for me to turn in my driver's license and depend on others for transportation?" "Should I support taking powerful steps that might offer our congregation a bright new future, or should I just pray that it lasts longer than I do?"

There are no easy answers to such questions, yet God offers us choices like these and many, many more. Such choices give us some power over the direction of our life. But there is a cost to that power and freedom - we have to take some responsibility.

I used to think that it was important, even ideal, to get all of the answers to the questions of our lives correct. As I have matured in my life with the Lord, he has led me to understand our human situation quite differently. He has made it clear to me that being faithful in our decisionmaking is good, but having the guts to simply make a choice (deep desire to serve) and the courage to move ahead (trust that he will stick with me) is the *most* important thing.

Life with Christ is a process, not of perfection, but of willingness and commitment to make difficult choices for him and then take our share of the responsibility.

That goes against our culture. We would rather that others make the tough decisions. And then if things don't work out the way we expected, our culture immediately looks for someone to blame.

God calls us to move beyond that liability based way of thinking. We are called to make decisions based not on who might later be blamed, but based in the hope of greater life for all. In fact, that is what the Kingdom of God is all about!

We are not to be buck passers. We are not called to be lukewarm. We are called to boldly try; doing so with a passion based upon our deep relationship with and love for God and his way of doing things.

If we try something and don't get it "right," God can still bring good out of our failure. One way he does that is by teaching us from our miscue. (After all, we do learn much more from our failures than from our successes.) Maybe our early setback simply eliminates one of the choices and now we are freed to try another!

But if we are afraid to try, what can the Spirit do with that? How do we learn or grow from doing nothing? How is the Kingdom advanced by fear or apathy?

We are a people of responsibility. We have made the choice to pay our bills and taxes. We are committed to honor our parents and raise our children the best that we can. We dutiful-

ly keep our houses repaired and save for our retirements. We faithfully give to help the poor, hungry, and downtrodden among us.

Yet there is one decision that we have avoided like The Plague. We have long treated our congregation's membership and financial situation like a so called "Elephant in the Room."

Oh, sure. A few of us have shouted out warnings for years, but offered no solutions. Some of us have visited and invited others to join us. Others have prayed with all their heart. But few have been willing to make the difficult decisions based on what *is*.

The A.I.D. team (Assessment, Intervention, & Development) from the Eastern District of the Moravian Church will be coming to help us with that in early February. As 'outsiders,' I know that they will be able to help us see ourselves as we are - both our strengths and opportunities, along with our weaknesses and fumbling.

With their guidance and the continued focus and increasing unity of our Joint Board, I think that we can face *The Big Decision* in 2011 - Are we resigned to our own continued decline and eventual death, OR are we now ready to choose new life by taking a chance for God?

*If and when* we can answer that question, then all of our other decisions will become much easier and flow naturally.

To the question of *if*, I say "Yes," and to the question of *when*, I say "2011." What do you say?

-Pastor Dean

## Prayer Concerns

Grace Lesher, Dolly Bechtold, Virginia Ulrich, Ann Knapp, Mary Parson (Gina Dague's aunt), Miriam Jenkins, Leslie Stein, Anna Long (Cindy Rowe's mother), John Evans, Donna Rathmond (friend of the Evans') Gail Bodish, Danielle Tshudy, Debbie Lynch (friend of Sue Krackow), Cindy Vallar (Sara Aker's daughter).

## Worship Attendance

Nov 28	Anniversary Lovefeast #264	80
Nov 28	Heritage Chorale concert	200
Dec 5	Sunday Worship	63
Dec 12	Sunday Worship	64
Dec 19	Lessons & Carols Service	93
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Vigils	335 / 231
Dec 26	Sunday Worship	44
Jan 2	Epiphany Communion	41



View of roof activity from church office.

## January Birthdays

1/1	Sheila Thomas	1/18	Joe Schulter
1/5	Art Shoemaker	1/19	Mary Lilly
1/8	Abigail Wolf	1/22	Nickolaus Bodish
1/9	Tom Rymar	1/23	Arlene Brauner
1/15	Jane Dzubinski	1/30	Hannah Dague
1/15	Pastor Dean	1/30	Joanne Zimmerman
		1/31	Elaine Sturgis

## Wedding Anniversary

1/19 Tom & Donna Goserud (37 years)



The Decor committee and other volunteers decorating the sanctuary for the Christmas season.

## 4th Quarter 2010

### Share the Bounty Contributions

Youth New Fashion	\$145.00
Water Street Ministries	\$187.00
Moravian Open Door	\$523.80
Mississippi Mission Trip	\$455.00

## November 2010 Treasurer's Report

	November 2010	Year-to-date
Income	22,677.91	160,777.92
Expenses	<u>17,410.30</u>	<u>190,716.11</u>
Gain/(Loss)	5,267.61	(29,938.19)

Amount transferred from Trust Fund:

\$0	\$35,000.00
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*Mississippi Mission Trip*  
*January 1 - 9, 2011*

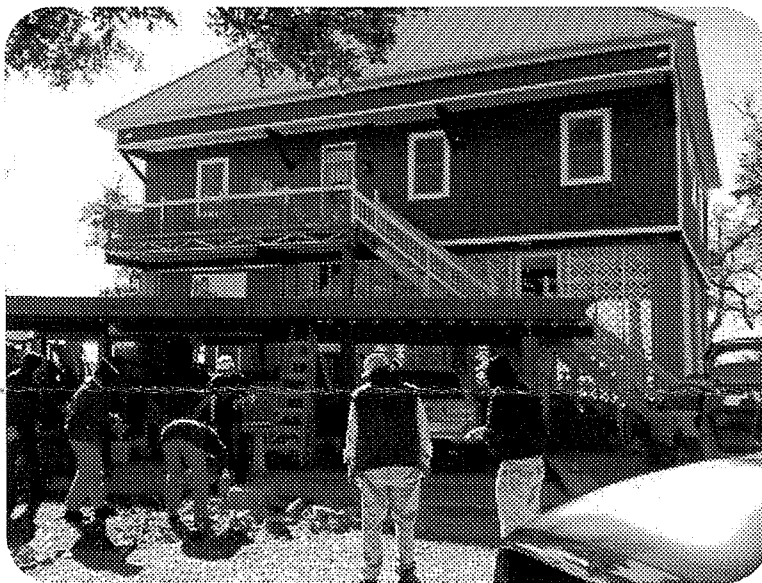
The members of this year's mission team:

Charlie Graybill *	Brad Baxter
Fran Sangrey	Fay Hill *
Tom Rymar *	Janis Easton *
Ann Law	Ted Dzubinski
Barb Hartley *	Addison Rymar *
Dean Easton *	Joe Schulter

\* Also a member of our 2010 team.



Happy New Year! At 6 AM on January 1, the Mississippi crew prepares to hit the road.



Arriving at the job on day 1, Monday 1/3/11. This is one of the houses our team will be working on in the coming week.

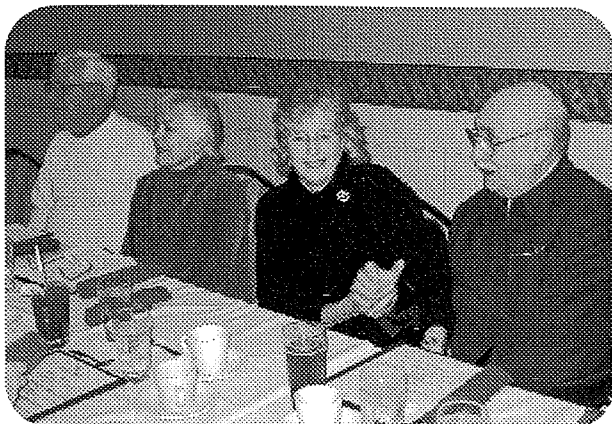
*Welcome...*

to our newest members,  
received December 26,  
2010: Terry Gutshall, Kevin  
Gutshall, and Tom Rymar.

Men's Fellowship January Planning Meeting  
for upcoming Pancake Breakfast

Join us for a short planning meeting to be held in Fellowship Hall on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 7 PM to discuss details of the Pancake Breakfast. This should be a short but important meeting. If you have questions, please contact Sam Nolt 397-1155 or John Rowe at 569-9940.





Charlie & Eddie Graybill, Nelda & Art Shoemaker enjoying the 2010 Men's annual dinner.

## Moravian Women

Moravian Women will be meeting on Thursday January 6th at 1PM in the church parlor. We will be discussing patience. The lesson on Fruits of the Spirit will look at Catherine Weidner and how she showed the gift of patience.

Our mission study is on Spiritual Awakening as told by Lisa Mixon, Director of People in Mission.

All women of the congregation are welcome to join us for spiritual growth and fellowship.

- Nancy Sturgis

## Men's Annual Dinner @ Oregon Dairy

The officers of the Men's Fellowship group would like to invite our fellow journeymen and their guests to join us at our Annual Dinner at Oregon Dairy located along Oregon Pike (Route 272). Come hear what is being planned for this year's activities and take advantage of a bountiful Lancaster County Buffet at the same time. Oregon Dairy's management is offering the option of their famous buffet or menu ordering for those counting their calories.

Our deadline to sign up is January 16, 2011. We are limited to the first 40 names, so mark your calendars and sign up on the sheet located on the church bulletin board under Men's Fellowship section. You may also contact Sam Nolt 717 397-1155 or John Rowe 717 569-9940 for more information on this event.

So, mark your calendar for Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 5:45 pm at the Oregon Dairy Restaurant for a fun filled evening.

-John Rowe

## Third Sunday Choir

The new year is a time for new beginnings, so this year we will try a new choir venture. On the third Sunday of each month, we will bring the choir downstairs and invite any one who would like to sing, to join us. We will rehearse downstairs, in the front of the sanctuary at 9:15 that Sunday morning. The anthem will be easy. It may be unison or in parts, but you do not have to read music to sing with us. It may be a hymn, or an old favorite, or a new selection. Regular choir members will be a part of this group and will lead us along, so participation will not be difficult.



*The Heritage Chorale in concert November 28th.*

Our first time to try this will be Sunday January 16, and we will sing "O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem." This is an old southern gospel song written by Adger M. Pace, with music written by R. Fisher Boyce in 1940. It became popular through Bill Gaither and other recording artists.

Suggestions for future selections are welcome. If you have in mind an old favorite or a new favorite you would like to hear, please share it with me. See you on the third Sunday at 9:15 am!

- Joy Ide

## Mail Box

Dear Friends,

Advent greetings to our brothers and sisters at Lancaster. Recently we held our annual stewardship emphasis. Our theme this year was *Building for God*. One of the steps along the way was the roof. We understand that you are in need of roof repairs. This gave us an opportunity to collect an offering for you. Enclosed please find checks and cash totaling \$1,020. Please use it for your roof repair. We are glad to help our brothers and sisters in the wider Moravian church.

Your brother in Christ,  
Richard Theirolf, Pastor  
Moravian Church of Lebanon

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Thank You!

I would like to thank the congregation for the generous bonus I received on December 19. Thank you for thinking of me at Christmas time. It is a pleasure to be here with this congregation.

-Joy

Thanks to Joanne Zimmerman, Eddie Graybill, and Janis Easton from the whole mission team for preparing and serving the dinner at our pre-trip training meeting on Dec 27th.

We invite you to pray for us while we are gone. You might pray for our safety, our opportunities to serve, or even better, those whom we seek to serve.

-Pastor Dean

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you,  
to all of the craft elves who tirelessly worked at bazaar workshops! You all are the best!!!

-Susie & John Evans

Thank you all for the generous Christmas gift I received on "Egg Nog Sunday." It fits perfectly and is my favorite color, too -- how did you know?! Seriously though, your gift is much appreciated and I enjoy working with/for you all. Blessings for the new year,

-Diana

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I would like to thank you so much for providing 20 Christmas gifts for our residents. The Christmas holiday is very special to our residents and it is through people like you, within our community, that help make this holiday special for them.

We appreciate your hard work, thoughtfulness and kindness in remembering the residents of Conestoga View. May you all have a very Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Zufall, Administrator

Thank You

Janis and I want to thank you for all the cards, gifts, and other expressions of love, gratitude, and hope that you have shared with us this Christmas season. You have become family and we love each and every one of you - from Virginia at 104 to Aidan at 3 and everyone between. We are pleased to be called here as we work together with you - shoulder to shoulder - tackling whatever life presents us as a congregation. God calls us to help each other in our struggles and to rejoice together in our blessings. We are pleased to do both with you.

-Pastor Dean