



Grace
and truth
came

through
Jesus
Christ

JOHN 1:17



UNITED MORAVIAN CHURCH

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Rev. Nigel Powell, Pastor | Bro. Hugh Abel, Vice-Chair, Board of Elders

Bro. Patrick Bernard Sr., Chairman, Board of Trustees

Dr. Octavio Vazquez, Organist/Choir Director

Watchword for the Week:- Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

Psalm 148: 13

Organ Prelude

Dr. Octavio Vazquez

***Call to Worship & Daily Text....Sun JAN. 5, 2014—**

Rev. Nigel Powell

***Introit**

Chancel Choir

***Processional Hymn #309 "With Praises & Thanksgiving"**

*** Liturgy - Preparatory to the Holy Communion**

¶ All stand

***Hymn "To avert from men God's wrath "**

To avert from men God's wrath Jesus suffered in our stead;
By an ignominious death He a full atonement made;
And by His most precious blood, Brought us, sinners, nigh to God.

He who Jesus' mercy knows, Is from wrath and envy freed;
Love unto our neighbor shows That we are His flock indeed;
Thus we may in all our ways Show forth our Redeemer's praise.

Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive To the voice of my supplications.

If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness you, that you may be feared.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope.

Beloved, draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

We will search our heart and try our ways and turn again to the Lord.

Hear what the Lord says; I am the Good Shepherd; the Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me, and I give them eternal life.

¶ All shall sit or kneel . Silent prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, our only Mediator with God the Father, our mighty Savior and our glorious King, we humbly bow before you and confess our manifold transgressions.

We, your disciples, have often dishonored, in word and deed, the holy Name we bear, and have turned aside from that path of holiness and loving service, in which you have called us to follow. Pardon all our forgetfulness of your great love, our coldness of heart, our frequent conformity to the ways of the world, and our failure to labor for the extension of your kingdom.

Have mercy upon us, according to your loving-kindness; hide your face from our sins and blot out all our iniquities.

Grant us, through the communion of your Holy Supper, the assurance of our pardon, a greater power of sanctification, a closer union with you, and the joyous expectation of eternal life in the heavenly kingdom.

While in penitence we kneel,
Thy sweet presence let us feel,
All thy wondrous reveal.
From the bonds of sin release,
Cold and wavering faith increase,
Lamb of God grant us Thy peace.

A. S. Sullivan

This is what the Lord says: I, even I, am He Who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and will not remember your sins. Go, and sin no more.

¶ All shall stand.

Bread of life, Bread of life,
Christ, by Whom alone we live,
Bread that came to us from Heaven,
My poor soul can never thrive,
Unless Thou appease its craving;
Lord I hunger only after thee,
Feed Thou me, feed Thou me. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Nigel Powell

Birthday/Anniversary #447 “With Your Presence, Lord”

Greeting Song Hymn #680 “Blessed Be the Tie That Binds”

Intercessory Prayers and Songs

Prayer Warriors & Praise Team

Testimony

Sis. Bernalyn Jones Clark

#1st Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 31: 7 - 14

Bro. Terrell Hamm

2nd Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1: 3– 14

Sis. Tiesha Adams

Choral Response #847 “Glory Be to You O Lord”

***THE GOSPEL**

John 1: 1– 18

Sis. Goldine Nicholas

***Response #846 “Praise, Praise, Praise, Praise Be To You, To You O Christ”**

Worship Selection

The Chancel Choir

Hymn #727

"I Do Not Know Tomorrow's Way"

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Sis. Elaine Merchant

***Offertory Sentence:**

For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have. (2Co 8:12)

***Dedication of Tithes and Offering:**

Our Father, you are the God of boundless love that reaches out to all humanity; yet you do not lose any of us in the crowd. Even though we fall short and are undeserving of your love you are still with us. Help us to be more deserving and to give ourselves with love to our friends and others in a manner that glorifies your name. Accept our tithes and offering from the fruit of our labor as our gift to you. Let them be used in a way that will give glory to you. In the name of Jesus. AMEN

Tithes and Offerings Hymn #317 "Brightest and Best of the Star"

***Ascription of Praise #815 (Tune CANONBURY #646)**

The Service for Holy Communion for New Year and Epiphany

¶ All shall stand.

Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

Amen.

Irish (14, M) Hymn 215

Come, let us join our cheerful songs, With angels round the throne:
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues, But all their joys are one.

"Worthy the Lamb Who died," they cry, "To be exalted thus!"

"Worthy the Lamb," our lips reply, "For He was slain for us!"

Jesus is worthy to receive, Honor and power divine;
And blessings, more than we can give, Be, Lord, forever Thine.

¶ All shall sit or kneel.

Prayer by the Minister

*¶ While singing the following, the communicants, **all standing**, shall give the right*

hand of fellowship, signifying oneness in Christ.

Worship (159, A) Hymn 491

We covenant with hand and heart, To follow Christ, our Lord;
With world, and sin, and self to part, And to obey His word;
To love each other heartily, In truth and in sincerity,
And under cross, reproach, and shame, To glorify His Name.

¶ The minister shall consecrate the bread.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and, when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples, and said: Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.

¶ As the minister serves the bread, the communicants in each pew stand to receive it in the hand.

Stephanos (269, C) Hymn 542

Now another stage of travel, Does the new year bring;
Brother pilgrims, be of courage— Christ is King!

All the way is rightly ordered, Though in rugged guise;
See, His presence points the pathway— Christ is wise!

Duke Carmen (167, G) Hymn 579

At Thy feet, our God and Father, Who hast blessed us all our days,
We, with grateful hearts, would gather, To begin the year with praise—
Praise for light so brightly shining, On our steps from heaven above,
Praise for mercies daily twining, Round us golden cords of love.

Every day will be the brighter, When Thy gracious face we see;
Every burden will be lighter, When we know it comes from Thee.
Spread Thy love's broad banner o'er us, Give us strength to serve and wait,
Till the glory breaks before us, Through the city's open gate.

West (582, C) Hymn 53

My Shepherd is the Lamb, The living Lord, Who died;
With all that's truly good I am, Most plenteously supplied.
He richly feeds my soul, With manna from above,

And leads me where the rivers roll , Of everlasting love.
When faith and hope shall cease, And love prevail alone,
I then shall see Him face to face, And know as I am known.

Then I my Shepherd's care, Shall praise, and Him adore,
And in His Father's house shall share, True bliss for evermore.

Covenant (185, A) Hymn 570

To the soul who seeks Him Christ is gracious;
They who wait ne'er wait in vain,
But experience Him a God propitious;
He the feeble doth sustain;
On rich pastures, hungry souls He feedeth,
Those who thirst, to living waters leadeth,
Hears the needy sinner's cry,
And to help and save is nigh.

Swabia (582, K) Hymn 462

Jesus, we thus obey, Thy last and kindest word,
And in Thine own appointed way, We come to meet Thee, Lord!

Thus we remember Thee, And take this bread and wine
As Thine own dying legacy, And our redemption's sign.

Thy presence makes the feast; Now let our spirits feel
The glory not to be expressed, The joy unspeakable.

Now let our souls be fed, With manna from above,
And over us the banner spread , Of everlasting love.

Additional Hymns #324, #413

¶ When the bread has been served, the communicants shall stand and the minister shall say:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you.

¶ All shall partake together, after which all shall kneel or sit.

Silent prayer

¶ The minister shall say and the communicants respond:

By Thy divine presence, by the holy sacraments, by all the merits of Thy life,
sufferings, death, and resurrection,

Bless and comfort us, gracious Lord and God. Amen.

¶ All shall stand.

Pilgrimage (166, A) Hymn 54

Ye followers of the Paschal Lamb,
Draw near and take the cup of God;
Approach unto the healing stream,
And drink of the atoning blood;
That blood for our redemption spilt,
Assuring us of purchased grace;
That blood which takes away all guilt,
And speaketh to the conscience peace.

¶ The minister shall consecrate the cup.

After the same manner also, our Lord Jesus Christ took the cup, when He had supped, gave thanks, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is My blood, the blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

¶ As the minister serves the cup, the communicants in each pew stand to receive it in the hand.

Seelenbrlutigam (68, A) Hymn 370

Bliss beyond compare, which in Christ I share;
He's my only joy and treasure;
Tasteless is all worldly pleasure
When in Christ I share bliss beyond compare.

Jesus is my joy, therefore blest am I;
Oh, His mercy is unbounded,
All my hope on Him is grounded;
Jesus is my joy, therefore blest am I.

Dix (581, H) Hymn 94

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led to Thee.

As they offered gifts most rare At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee our Heavenly King!

Holy Jesus, every day, Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

Ellacombe (151, R) Hymn 97

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, To set the captive free,
To take away transgression, And rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy, To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy, And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing, Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, Were precious in His sight.

Lindsey House (590, A) Hymn 269

In these our days exalt Thy grace,
Thy precious gospel spread;
That for the travail of Thy soul
Thou mayst behold Thy seed.
O may Thy knowledge fill the earth;
Increase the number still
Of those who in Thy word believe,
And do Thy holy will.

Hereto we gladly say, Amen;
We have this truth avowed,
That we in spirit, body, soul,
Are bound to serve our God,
Who touched, and drew, and wooed our hearts
And conquered us-by love;
To Him we here have pledged ourselves,
O may we faithful prove.

Wareham (22, II) Hymn 38

My song shall bless the Lord of all,
My praise ascend to His abode;
Thee, Savior, by that Name I call,
The great supreme, the mighty God.
Without beginning or decline,
Object of faith, and not of sense;
Eternal ages saw Him shine,
He shines eternal ages hence.

Additional Hymns #415, #502

¶ When the cup has been served, the communicants shall stand and the
minister shall say:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, Drink of it, all of you. This do, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of Me.

¶ All shall partake together, after which all shall sit or kneel.

Silent prayer

¶ The minister shall say and the communicants respond:

O Thou Lamb of God, Who takest away the sin of the world, Give unto us Thy peace. Amen.

¶ All shall stand.

Sacrament (107, C) Hymn 282

As oft as we enjoy this blessing, Each sacred token doth declare
Thy dying love, all thoughts surpassing; And while we
Thee in memory bear, At each returning celebration,
We show Thy death for our salvation.

¶ The minister shall say and the communicants respond:

As often as you eat this bread, and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death,

Until He come.

¶ While singing the following, the communicants shall give the right hand of fellowship, signifying renewed dedication and unity of purpose in the service of Christ.

Covenant (185, A) Hymn 589

We who here together are assembled,
Joining hearts and hands in one,
Bind ourselves, with love that's undissembled,
Christ to love and serve alone.
O may our imperfect songs and praises
Be well-pleasing unto Thee, Lord Jesus.
Say: "My peace I leave with you."
Amen, Amen, be it so.

¶ The Elders will remove the elements:

Hymn # 255 R.B. "Onward, Christian Soldiers"

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle see His banners go!

*Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.*

Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.

We are not divided, all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
But the church of Jesus constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never gainst that church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.

Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.
Glory, laud and honor unto Christ the King,
This through countless ages men and angels sing.

Benediction

The Lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace;

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn #581 (Red Book) "Standing at the Portal"**

Standing at the portal, Of the opening year,
Words of comfort meet us, Hushing every fear;
Spoken thru the silence, By our Savior's voice,
Tender, strong and faithful, Making us rejoice.

Refrain

*Onward, then, and fear not, Children of the day;
For His Word shall never, Never pass away.*

"I, the Lord, am with thee, Be thou not afraid;
I will help and strengthen, Be thou not dismayed.
Yea, I will uphold thee, With My own right hand;
Thou art called and chosen, In My sight to stand."

For the year before us, O what rich supplies!
For the poor and needy, Living streams shall rise;
For the sad and sinful, Shall His grace abound;
For the faint and feeble, Perfect strength be found.

He will never fail us, He will not forsake;
For His eternal covenant, He will never break.
Resting on the promise, What have we to fear?
God is all sufficient, For the coming year.

Organ Postlude (Congregation Seated)

Dr. Octavio Vazquez

#Means the lesson is read responsively. * Means that the congregation stands.

WELCOME

On behalf of the United Moravian Church I extend a warm welcome to our worship service today. Visitors, we are especially glad that you are here with us. Please join us for a moment of fellowship in the Social Hall after our worship. We invite you to worship with us again and please join our fellowship if you are seeking a church home. May God bless you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS JANUARY 5, 2014

- We are saddened to report the passing of Sis. Eunice Benjamin, mother of Asment Benjamin & mother-in-law of Brendalie Jones. The funeral was this past Friday.
- The funeral service for Bishop Robert Foster is set for Thursday January 9, 2014 at New Beulah Moravian Church in Mandeville Jamaica and will begin at 11:00 am. Interment follows at Bethabara Moravian Church Cemetery.
- Bro. Donovan thanks the Elders and all who attended his son's baptism service.
- The Stewardship Committee will meet tomorrow at 6:30 pm. The Rev. Gary Marsh will join us. All members, please make an effort to attend.
- The Bible Study group will resume this Wednesday.
- The Joint Board will meet on Sat. Jan. 11th at Noon to complete the preparations for the Council Meeting.
- The Battle Hill Community Moravian Church will install their new pastor, Rev. Lilleth George on Sunday, Jan. 12th. Please pray for this congregation as they begin a new chapter in their congregational life.
- The Annual Youth Ministry Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday January 18th at 9:00 am. The guest speaker shall be Rev. Fitzgerald C. Henry of Little Rock Baptist Church in Brooklyn. Tickets are available at \$20 & \$10 for adults and youth respectively. Please get yours today.
- The members of the Nomination Committee for new board members are: Bro. Hugh Abel, Sis. Etta Chambers and Sis. Mozzell James.
- Our election of Board Members at the upcoming council meeting is to elect 3 Elders and 4 Trustees. The members that must step down are Bro's. Hugh Abel, Eldridge Brown and Sis. Goldine Nicholas (Elders), Bro. Melverton Newell, & Sis's. Etta Chambers and Marsha Henry (Trustees). Sis. Eleanor Samuel is up for re-election.

- The Annual Congregation Council Meeting will be held on Sun. Jan 19, 2014. **On that day, worship will begin at 10:00 am.**
- We will focus more on our mission vision for the entire 2014 year; **In an atmosphere of love and unity, we seek to spread the Gospel through worship and service to all people.**
 - a) During January and February we will invite all our groups to assist us in cleaning up our whole church compound.
 - b) In March we will begin a focus on Evangelism and in May we will begin a deeper focus our Stewardship. You will get greater details at our Council Meeting on Jan 19th.
- Sis. Aska, the leader of the Prayer Warriors and Evangelism Committee, is in touch with a group of Moravians who are praying for all our Moravian churches in New York. That group will meet here to pray with us at United on Feb. 1st from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. The leaders of that prayer group are Sis. Karen Gage Reid of John Hus & Rev. Wellesley Ferguson.
- The new Boards of Elders and Trustees will be commissioned on Sunday February 9, 2014.
- **Quantities of the 2014 Daily Text are limited. The remaining copies are the small paperbacks at \$12 and the children's version for \$9.00 each. Please see Bro. Meanwell Browne to get your copy today.**
- Please submit all outstanding monies for the Anniversary journal to Sis. Blondel.
- The computer the Trustees rely on to maintain UMC records needs to be replaced. They are seeking donations of \$700 towards the purchase of a new one and are thankful and grateful to all who are able to assist.
- We invite you to become a communicant member of this congregation. All you need to do to get started is to submit a membership application to the church office or any member of the Board of Elders.
- Two pieces of jewelry were recently found in the church. One is a chain with an initial charm on it. A hoop earring was also found. Please contact the church office if either one is yours. We still have a gold earring with an attached design in our possession as well.
- We have placed envelopes and additional information on the rack for those interested in donating to the Moravian Open Door.
- **The Moravian Women Ministries** has started a project that will complement the monthly community dinner outreach. This is an endorsed project by the Elders Board. The plan is to distribute snack/easy to eat foods that do not have to be cooked, and small toiletry items on the outreach day. The collection of items has begun and will continue for quarterly distribution. **The first distribution is planned for the fourth Sunday of this month. Please be sure to bring in your donation by Sun. Jan. 19th.** These packages will be handed out to anyone who wishes to have them. The congregation is asked to donate items for this cause by placing them in the barrel that is provided. Also, please solicit donations from other sources.

PRAYER BREAKFAST

w/Guest Speaker Rev. Fitzgerald C. Henry

of Little Rock Baptist Church, Brooklyn NY

United Moravian Church

200 East 127th St. , NYC

SATURDAY 1/18 @ 9AM

\$20 Adults | \$10 Youth

www.unitedmoravian.org

"The Blood Prevails"

Youth's of United 2014



**PRAY AND GIVE SUPPORT TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS
AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**Sis. Miriam Muller
Sis. Vivika Thomas
Sis. Winifred Thomas
Sis. Alicia Benjamin
Sis. Bernice McLean
Sis. Anna Bishop
Sis. Muriel A. Sealey
Sis. Eva Joseph
Sis. Iris Woodley
Bro. Luvey Williams
Sis. Anne Browne
Sis. Carmelita Keith
Sis: Minerva Joseph
Sis: Ludwina George
Sis. Hyacinth Pelle
Bro. Al Thomas
Sis. Madiana Baptiste
Bro. Berwin Roberts
Sis. Jocelyn Jeremiah
Bro. Tralane Donovan**

Listening to the Sermon

Use the space provided below to make your personal notes. Reflect prayerfully and thoughtfully on them over the coming week. Seek the help of the Holy Spirit to apply God’s truth to your heart and life.

SERMON TITLE

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Main Points to remember

1.....

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2.....

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Having heard the sermon, I have decided on the following:

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January Birthdays

Bro. Mayers A. Turner	6 th	Sis. Peggy Williams	19 th
Sis. Inez Atkinson	9 th	Bro. Amare Turner	21 st
Sis. Leana Palmer	10 th	Bro. Samuel Goudie	21 st
Sis. Eldra Drew	13 th	Bro. Patrick Bernard Sr.	22 nd
Rev. Nigel Powell	16 th	Sis. Esmie Fraser-McLeod	25 th

A message from the Eastern District, Northern Province

Young Adult (18 – 30 y. o.) Mission Opportunity

Service, Spiritual Renewal, and Scenery. March 8th – 15th serve the Beeston Spring community in Westmoreland, Jamaica by painting houses, schools, and orphanages, and or doing home construction and repair. Spiritually renew in small group worship and reflection and as you interact with elementary-age children during two evening sessions and on their track and field sports day. Take in the scenery of Jamaica with excursions to AquaSol Beach, Bluefields Beach, and YS Falls. Total cost \$975. Includes round trip flight from New York, Kennedy Airport, housing, six nights at Camp Hope (near White House in Westmoreland) in large dormitory-style single-gender rooms with bunk beds and stall showers and one night at Verney House Hotel, a three-star motel in Montego Bay, meals, typical Jamaican cuisine with accommodations for personal dietary restrictions, and excursion entrance fees. Fund raising to offset costs already in progress. For more information contact Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Cynthia Rader Geyer.

2014 COMING EVENTS

Jan. 12 th	Worship Service - Pastor
Jan. 18 th	Youth Prayer Breakfast
Jan. 19 th	Worship Service - Pastor
Jan. 19 th	Congregation Council Meeting



There was no room at the inn...

In 1987, MORAVIAN OPEN DOOR began its ministry to provide a home for homeless adults in Manhattan, NYC.

Today, Moravian Open Door provides safe and affordable transitional housing for 41 homeless adults in single and double rooms. It provides daily breakfast and supportive services to rebuild lives, to obtain jobs and benefits, with the goal of finding permanent affordable housing and learning the life skills to maintain it.

Residents at Moravian Open Door pay small monthly fees (often much of their limited income); this covers only about 50% of the operating costs for the facility and its staff.

Moravian Open Door receives no government funds. Donations from individuals, congregations, and other private sources must cover the rest of operating expenses.

Your contribution to the "No Room at the Inn" offering can help Moravian Open Door, the only urban social ministry of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church.

Please consider a gift this season.

Moravian Open Door
347 E. 18th Street, New York, N.Y. 10003
www.moravianhouse.org



Busy Bees Organization at U.M.C
75th Anniversary Celebration
Memorial Weekend Trip to Lancaster Pennsylvania
Sat. May 24th - Mon. May 26th 2014

Show - Moses **Fun day- Hershey Park**
Shopping - Tanger Outlets
Transportation - Hotel - Dinners- Breakfast -Gratuities

2nd payment \$250 due by 1/26/14

Final payment due 4/6/14

Rooming Options:

Double: \$445 Triple: \$435

Quad: \$425

Children: under 12 \$235 age 13 -18 \$375

(all rates are per person)

Make all checks payable to
United Moravian Church

Leaving from United Moravian Church @ 8:30 am.

For more information please contact
Sis. Alma Thompson or any Busy Bee member or the
church office at 212-722-2109.

2013 BOARD OF ELDERS		
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Sis. Goldine Nicholas Secretary/ Music Ministry Liaison		10452, 10456, 10457
Bro. Eldridge Brown Usher Board Liaison		Queens, Brooklyn, Long Island
Sis. Gail Simon Sunday School/ Gospel Choir		10451, 10454, 10455
Bro. Oswald Steele Social Hall Coordinator/ M.M.F		New Jersey, 10475, 10473, 10472
Sis. Claire Martin-McKay Y.A.C. & Y.O.U. Liaison		10462, 10469
Sis. Blondel Jones-Grant M.W.M. / Island Groups		Manhattan
Bro. Charles Donovan Sick & Shut In		10470, 10474
Sis. Mercelle Mason Groups Liaison		10459, 10460, 10467

2013 BOARD OF TRUSTEES		
Name	Telephone	Title
Bro. Patrick Bernard		Chair
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Sis. Winnifred Farquharson		Financial Secretary
Bro. Iva Grant		
Sis. Marsha Henry		
Sis. Simone Merchant-Taylor		

Bro. Mayers Turner

Maintenance Committee

Becoming new people

On this day before Epiphany, let's consider what a baby born in a manger revealed to the world. You see, this is no mere child. This child can change who we are.

Isn't that what each of us really wants as we begin a new year? Don't we want to know deep in our heart that our life is more than just to exist for some period of time? Don't we want to know that our life matters?

A child was born, and we are given the opportunity to believe that this child has a power to offer us a choice. Yes, we're born into this world and live as a part of this world, but through the Christ child we have the invitation to live as a member of God's family. We are children of the dust who have the potential to claim a place as children of the Divine. When each of us came into this world, we brought with us an amazing amount of potential: to work, to love, to play, to create, and to contribute.

We know all too well how to live lives filled with inner conflict, manifest through anger, resentment, fear, hatred, guilt, and rejection. The revealed Christ child provides access to an enormous spiritual potential that offers a choice to manifest in us an out-of-this-world capacity for love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and understanding.

By the power of God's gift through the Christ child, we can be changed into new people. The Christ child reveals God's love for us and helps us choose to reveal our own self as God's children.

*Kurt Liebenow, pastor, Christian Faith Moravian Church,
DeForest, Wisconsin*

The Moravian Church

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 5, 2014



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