

Central Moravian Church
Annual Church Council
January 31, 2021

Zoom Hosts: Ann Raines and Rob Phillips

AGENDA

- a. Call to order – Hopeton Clennon
- b. Prayer and Soloist: *“What Brought Us Together”*
- c. Election of President and Secretary of Church Council
- d. Minutes of the last Church Council
- e. Report of the Board of Elders – Hopeton Clennon
- f. Report of the Board of Trustees – Mary Catherine Tachovsky
- g. Financial reports of the Board of Trustees for 2020 – George Mowers
- h. Presentation of the budget for 2021 – David Charrier
- i. Reports from other organizations, agencies, and societies of the congregation
- j. General business
- k. Report of the Nominating Committee and Elections – Ann Raines
- l. Pastoral comments
- m. Adjournment

Congregational Watchword for 2021

Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for
your anger does not produce God’s righteousness.

James 1:19-20

What Brought Us Together
Insert Hymn Page

Report from Nominating Committee

Church Council Officers

President: Barry Pell
Secretary: Martha Jones

Board of Elders (3-year term):

Kelly Ahn
Peter Behrens (second term)
Pam Larimer (second term)
Priscilla Schueck (second term)

Continuing Elders: Gene Allen, Don Brown, Ken Kodama, Jane Leposa,
Diane Shaw, Mary Shields, Linda Wickmann, and Kathy Williams

Board of Trustees (3-year term):

Beth Boyer
Mary Brown (second term)
David Charrier (second term)
Camie Modjadidi (second term)
Barry Pell

Continuing Trustees: Joan Carson, Jeffrey Long, Jeff Mosebach, Rob
Phillips, Ann Raines, Beth Schlener, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Susan
Trimble, and Sharon Upton

Eastern District Synod Alternate Delegates: Jeff Benner and Caitlin Heckman

Annual Church Council in January 2020 had previously approved the following synod delegates and alternate delegates:

Delegates: June Griffiths, Steve Krawiec, Helen Meckstroth, Robert Phillips, and Diane Shaw.
Alternate Delegates: Bonnie Davis, Camie Modjadidi, and Cheryl Tubio.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Raines, Secretary

Minutes of the Central Moravian Church Council—January 26, 2020

The annual meeting of the Central Moravian Church Council began at 12:28 p.m. with a prayer led by Senior Pastor Hopeton Clennon. Barry Pell and Martha Jones were nominated for the offices of Council President and Secretary, respectively. The election was unanimous and without opposition. A flower bouquet was on the front table in memory of Terry Delph, long-time Church Council Secretary who passed away in December 2019. The singing of “What Brought Us Together” followed.

The minutes of the 2019 Church Council were approved without any change. Nate Fisher, Richard Miller and Rose Warner volunteered to review the minutes of the 2020 meeting.

Hopeton brought forward the report of the Board of Elders. Page 5 of the Annual Report gives much detail about the work of the Board of Elders during 2019. Hopeton specifically mentioned the retiring Elders: Jim Jordan, Ann Raines, and Steve Schlack and thanked them for their service to the Church during their terms.

Anne Zug then gave the report of the Board of Trustees. Pages 21 and 22 of the Annual Report gives more detail about the work of the Board of Trustees for the year 2019. Anne requested that the Trustees in attendance stand to be recognized. She thanked the retiring Trustees for their work on the Board during their terms: Anthony Thompson, Llyena Boylan, and Anne Zug. Anne asked Tracy Robinson to come forward and speak about Iglesia Esperanza. They are moving to a new church which needs much work to update and make ready for his congregation. He thanked Central for the assistance and encouragement. Anne asked Bill Sachs to speak about the landscaping around the church and chapel. He mentioned that bluestone edging will be done near the chapel planting. The bluestone is a gift from Butch Coleman. Anne asked Sharon Upton to come forward to speak about pledging for 2020. Sharon reported that as of January 14, 2020, we have pledges in the amount of \$341,779. This showed an increase of \$18,720 from pledges reported on page 26 of the Annual Report (pledges as of December 31, 2019). These pledges represent 64.5% of the Envelope Giving budget of \$530,000. Sharon encouraged all members to pledge to the work of the Church. Anne then finished her remarks by thanking everyone for their support during her years as Trustee President.

The next part of the council meeting was the

Financial Reports of the Board of Trustees for 2019. George Mowers came forward to deliver this report and began by thanking his counting teams for the careful work they do, each week of the year. He presented an overview of the income from 2019 which showed a net surplus of \$1,220. He also discussed an overview of the expenses for 2019; total expenses were under budget by \$14,537. This resulted in a net surplus for the year 2019 of \$15,757. More detail can be found on page 28 of the Annual Report.

David Charrier brought forward the report for the 2020 Budget. He gave an overview of how the budget is formulated, with details on page 30 of the Annual Report and the budget shown on page 31. Total income is budgeted at \$914,365, showing a 5.11% increase in income. David reported an increase in expenses of 7.05%. Camie Modjadidi moved to approve the budget for 2020. A voice vote was unanimous in approving the budget.

During the reports from other organizations, agencies and societies of the congregation, there were no comments or questions. Barry recognized the variety of groups who support the church’s mission in many ways and thanked them for their involvement.

There was nothing brought forward for General Business.

Ann Raines presented the report of the Nominating Committee. Nominees for a 3-year term to the Board of Elders are: Jane Leposa, Linda Wickmann, Kathy Williams, and Mary Shields (for a second term). Nominees for a 3-year term to the Board of Trustees are: Jeffrey Long, Ann Raines, Beth Schlener, and Joan Carson (for a second term). Also nominated were: BAM Board of Directors - Beth Boyer (second term), BAM Ministries Committee - Rose Warner (second term), Eastern District Synod Delegates - June Griffiths, Don Jean, Jacqueline Jean, Helen Meckstroth, and Diane Shaw, Eastern District Synod Alternates - Bonnie Davis, Steve Krawiec, Camie Modjadidi, Rob Phillips, and Cheryl Tubio. Mary Catherine Tachovsky moved to approve the slate of nominees. This was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Ann moved to adjourn the Council, all stood to second the motion, and at 1:22 p.m. the Church Council was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Martha W. Jones, Church Council Secretary

Board of Elders

The Board of Elders welcomes the election of four members each year for a three-year term. The full complement of 12 elders is supplemented by two pastors bringing the total to 14. Seven elected elders are required to constitute a quorum.

The year 2020 brought with it significant challenges in redefining the practice of worship and the celebration of the sacraments in the age of pandemic. January, February and early March were “normal” months with holy communion services for Epiphany and in Lent, the celebration of Mission Lovefeast, the baptism and reception of new members, and the launch of the winter series of Inquirers’ Classes. Fellowship and education opportunities included Travelers Together on Sundays and Wednesdays, the Soup and Chili Contest, as well as in-person gatherings for the full range of Christian Education programs, Annual Church Council including lunch, and the Birthday Social. Those were the days!

On March 13, 2020, the decision was made to suspend in-person worship services for two weeks. The chapel and sanctuary were scheduled to be closed on March 15 and 22. Subsequently the entire Central Moravian Church campus was closed indefinitely. The Board of Elders expresses deep appreciation for the quick response and decisive action by lay leaders to ensure a safe environment for members of the church and community. Appropriate safety measures were put in place for the office. New ways of community service were developed to facilitate the feeding of the community through the Food Pantry. Members and friends responded with generosity and grace in meeting the increasing needs experienced by our clientele.

New ventures were launched in the technological sphere and the first livestream worship service began on the Central Moravian Church Facebook page on March 29, 2020. Special thanks to gifted members and dedicated leaders for the rapid installation of necessary equipment for our constantly improving presence on the internet. We are expanding our use of the Central Moravian Church YouTube channel and supporting the work of the Sunday School through a channel of their own. We pause to express our deepest appreciation to Will Schwab for his technical expertise and generous gifts of time and effort in leading our

transition to a virtual presentation of worship, music, and other celebrations of our congregation.

We began welcoming specially invited guests into the sanctuary beginning on September 27, which was the occasion for the celebration of Richard Miller’s 25th anniversary as Chapel Organist. The sanctuary reopened for in-person worship on October 11, with a maximum capacity of 85 and a requirement for pre-registration. This continued for 7 Sundays and we closed again on November 29.

In August the Board of Elders approved the creation of a midweek worship service which began broadcast on September 16. Special thanks to Lynnette Delbridge, Richard Miller, and Maggie Wellert for providing leadership for this service.

The year 2020 saw the completion of a 5-year strategic plan and the conclusion of the 275th Anniversary Foundations Campaign. Special thanks to Bill Sachs and Anne Zug for guiding us through another successful campaign, and to Martha Jones for administrative support.

Guest preachers for 2020 were the Rt. Rev. Chris Giesler, the Rt. Rev. Sam Gray and the Rev. Dr. Riddick Webber, with the Rev. Maggie Wellert joining the team of preachers whenever there are five Sundays in the month. The Midweek Lenten Program featured the theme “Faith Journey” and we actually made it comfortably through the first three sessions in the Nitschmann Fellowship Hall. These sessions were led by the Rev. Maggie Wellert, Dr. Micah Sadigh, and the Rt. Rev. Sam Gray. Sessions by the Rev. Dr. Beth Toler, Rabbi Michael Singer, and the Rev. Dr. Lynnette Delbridge were cancelled when in-person gatherings were cancelled. Fortunately, we acquired a church account on the Zoom platform that allowed for interactive Readings for Holy Week.

We offer sincere thanks to the twelve elders all of whom served faithfully and well:

Gene Allen, Peter Behrens, Don Brown,
Elissa Derbak, Ken Kodama, Jane Laposi,
Pam Larimer, Priscilla Schueck, Diane Shaw,
Mary Shields, Linda Wickmann, and Kathy Williams

We started 2020 bidding farewell to Jim Jordan, Ann Raines, and Steve Schlack who rotated off the board after serving the maximum of two three-year terms.

The newly elected elders in 2020 were Jane Leposa, Linda Wickmann, and Kathy Williams. The Senior Pastor serves as President of the Board; we are extremely grateful to Vice President Diane Shaw and Secretary Elissa Derbak for their phenomenal work and dedicated service.

Our Elders are called upon to ensure that the public means of grace are regularly and faithfully dispensed according to the ritual, customs and practices of the Moravian Church. Elders oversee the Christian culture of the members of the congregation and their instruction in the doctrine, history, principles, and usages of the Moravian Church, the Sunday School, and various organizations, agencies, and societies of the congregation. Sincere gratitude is offered to the Sacristan Corps, Music Committee, and Christian Education Committee, among others, for their phenomenal work in these areas. We are particularly grateful for the creativity displayed and rapid response employed in coping with a most unusual year.

Although the Elders decide on all matters pertaining to the admission, dismissal, suspension, and exclusion of members, we prayerfully chose to be guided by the expressed wishes of individual members of our worshiping community. Two other areas of responsibility include determining when, how, and by whom the church buildings and properties may be used and determining what financial appeals shall be taken for causes outside of the local congregation. Requests for the use of facilities declined significantly. Most scheduled weddings were canceled or postponed. Our partners, The Bach Choir of Bethlehem, Moravian Academy, and Moravian College, either cancelled planned events or changed to a virtual format. The good news is that like us, these partners have developed a treasure trove of concerts, ceremonies, and services in digital libraries.

As in previous years, we are grateful of daily opportunities to live out the mission statement of Central Moravian Church. This mission statement states: "Our members are committed to meeting the needs of society and nurturing individuals on their spiritual journeys as we honor our Moravian heritage. We live our lives serving and fulfilling the mission of Christ in the world."

Respectfully Submitted,
Hopeton Clennon, President

2020 Statistics

Births: 3

Savannah Marie Bechtold
Kora Elizabeth Lindsay
Julia Rose Terwilliger

Baptisms: 3

Claire Elizabeth Heckman
Kora Elizabeth Lindsay
Jack Michael Markovic

Receptions: 13

Charlotte Finnerty
Jessica George
Kim Kane
Mike Kane
Logan Farinhas
Nan Frantz
Kevin Lindsay
John Lychak
Liz Lychak
Anthony Markovic
Leigh Markovic
Mike Schlener
Taylor Schlener

Young Children of New Members: 3

Kaylyn George
Ronan Kane
Jack Markovic

Deaths: 16

Charles M. Achenbach
Jane Bannan
Shirley Louise Cox
Marcella Irene Dimmick
Dale E. Earley
Elaine Leone Francis
Alexander J. Glass
Ruth R. Hailperin
Deborah E. Helms
Ann Marie Moyer
Alice Mumbauer
Mark Parseghian Jr.
William D. Schippang
Evangeline R. Sweitzer
Shirley L. Trumbauer
Catherine Weidner

Average Attendance in 2020: 248

(Since March 29, numbers represent digital units
accessing the live stream services)

CD Ministry: 2

Total Membership on December 31, 2020: 970

Care for Creation

2020 began with lots of activity for this new subcommittee of Social Action. Ron Doyle organized a viewing of the documentary The Pollinators at the Banko Cinema at Steelstacks. Over 100 people attended, including Central members and interested folks from all over the Lehigh Valley. A member of the Lehigh Valley Beekeepers Association led a Q & A session following the movie.

C4C voted to donate \$500 to the Monocacy Farm Project, an organic farm organized by the School Sisters of St. Francis on Bridle Path Road in Bethlehem. Produce raised on the farm goes to supply many food banks and meal centers in the Valley, including our own Central Food Pantry. Volunteers are welcome at the Farm Project, to weed, plant and harvest! Contact Joan Carson if you are interested.

C4C members worked alongside members of the Social Action Committee to prepare a Lenten Dinner on March 4th, one of the last dinners before the pandemic.

We had to cancel our Earth Day speaker this year, but we've invited the Rev. Fletcher Harper of Green Faith to join us, perhaps, later this coming year with a Zoom session, or even a sermon if we are back to in-person services.

We continue to offer Green Texts, printed in *The Belfry*, to make suggestions for making our lives and actions more sustainable. And, we thank Mary Jo Hill for her frequent articles in *The Belfry* and her efforts to help us to 'reduce, reuse, and recycle'.

Since the pandemic began in late February/early March, most of our efforts have been focused on the TREX Plastics Challenge. Initially, Weis Markets (who receives all the plastic we collect) was unable to accept any plastic. But our congregation, and the other BAM Church congregations, continued to save their bags and wraps. Once Weis Markets agreed to accept plastics again, but with in-person church services on 'hold', we had to devise a time and place to collect plastic. Someone came up with the brilliant idea to combine our collection with the Drive-by Food Pantry Drop-Off on the 1st Sunday of each month. We've been doing that since August, and each collection brings in 100 or more lbs. of plastic. We have two loyal truck

drivers, John Brethour and Harry Tachovsky, who ferry the weighed, collected plastic to Weis. Central and 4 of the other 5 BAM churches have met the 500 lb. goal that earns a TREX bench. Our committee decided to donate its TREX bench to Camp Hope, and the Camp Hope folks are DELIGHTED! The 6 BAM churches plan to continue this collection effort into the future, so, while we'd encourage everyone to try to use less plastic, please continue to bring your clean, dry plastic bags and wraps to our monthly collections.

We always welcome your suggestions and participation; if you'd like to join our committee, please contact Joan Carson.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Carson, Chair

Christian Education Committee

As with many ministries of our congregation, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented us not only with the hardship of not being able to gather in-person but also the opportunity to learn new ways to stay connected to one another using virtual platforms. While our methods have changed, our commitment to each other and to telling the Christmas story in meaningful ways has not changed. Heartfelt thanks are extended to our Sunday School leaders, teachers and other volunteers who answered the challenges COVID-19 presented with ingenuity, dedication and grace.

Opportunities for Children and Youth

Church Nursery: Our Church Nursery ministry has been on hold since March 15 when in-person worship was canceled due to COVID-19. A set of sturdy concept board books, Baby Believer Primer, based on Christian themes, was ordered and placed in the nursery library.

Children's Sunday School: In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Sunday School program has shifted from in-person gatherings on Sunday morning in the Christian Education building to Sunday School lessons offered on YouTube. Faith Fiegel, our Sunday School Superintendent, set up our Central Moravian Church Sunday School YouTube channel. Along with Sunday School teachers Gayle Dimmick, Jane Corvino, and Laura Corcoran, she has been providing weekly video

lessons which include music, a Bible story, a reflection on the story, a reading of the Bible passage, and, in many cases, a craft project or the story presented in a visual and creative way. These virtual Sunday School lessons have been well received by our children and families. Twenty-one people have subscribed to the Sunday School YouTube channel. The average for weekly views for the thirty-nine weeks this ministry has been offered is seventeen with an average of thirty-two views in the spring, fifteen in the summer, and nine in fall. Although Sunday School in normal years takes a summer break, our Sunday School video lessons this year continued through the summer. Rally Sunday in September included a Zoom meeting for families and teachers.

Youth Sunday School: In January through mid-March, our Youth Sunday School class of two members began a study of world religions and had looked at Hinduism and Buddhism. Lynnette Delbridge led these sessions with Steve Krawiec, Peter Behrens, and Camie Modjadidi taking turns as our second adult. After in-person Sunday School meeting ceased in March, we stayed in touch with our two members with monthly phone calls through May and a check-in the late summer.

Friday Fun Night: We held our regular Friday Fun Night meetings for preschool and elementary age children in January and February. We are grateful for the ministry of our regular Friday Fun Night Team: Michella Cardoso and Pat Metcalf, supper; Jane and Lou Leposa, Karen Brady, Jessica George, and Sara Mass, nursery and preschool; and Grace Budier, Kristen Mauer, Carol Holbert, and Lynnette Delbridge; elementary age.

In the place of in-person Friday Fun Night, Zoom meetings were offered in May, September, October, November, and December. Attendance has ranged from 2 to 7. In the spring, Grace Budier continued to serve as one of our leaders. In the fall, Carol Holbert (crafts) and Lynnette Delbridge (Bible story, games, and songs) provided leadership for our Zoom gatherings. Elissa Derbak often served as our second adult.

Bibles for Children and Youth Active in Sunday School: We ordered and had shipped to the homes of our active children/youth, age-appropriate Bibles. Preschool children received the My Very First Bible with words by Lois Rock and pictures by Alex Ayliffe.

Elementary age children received First Bible Stories illustrated by John Dillow. Youth received the Good News Translation. Story Bibles were also ordered and shipped to our Sunday School teachers for use in their video Sunday School lessons. We hope families will use these Bibles to read the stories that go along with our Sunday School and Friday Fun Night curriculum and also to enjoy them as storybooks to read for pleasure and at bedtime. Altogether, approximately 31 Bibles were purchased and shipped to our families and teachers.

Youth Group: Our Youth Group typically meets on Sunday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. in Nitschmann Hall, September through early June. Weekly in-person Youth Group activities took place January through early March and included our favorite overnight annual Lock-In in January. In-person Youth Group activities ceased in March but our Youth Group leadership team (Grace Budier, Grace Helfrich, Charlie McDonald, and Lynnette Delbridge) continued to meet together by Zoom to plan and then to offer weekly Youth Group Zoom meetings through May for our Youth Group members. Zoom attendance varied from 3 to our entire active group of 10 youth.

During the Summer, our team leaders moved on to new phases in their lives. Grace Helfrich married and moved to VA. Grace Budier grew in her new job responsibilities as a clinical counselor and Charlie McDonald faced increased responsibility at his seminary field placement at Emmaus Moravian Church. All of them needed to step back from weekly responsibilities for our Youth Group.

In the fall, the group agreed that with Zoom fatigue from school, meeting twice a month virtually would be preferable to meeting each week. The group was able to meet outside once each month in September and October. Activities that the group particularly enjoyed were our November Friendsgiving and December Christmas party. In November, snacks to represent our typical Friendsgiving meal and in December, Secret Santa gifts and Christmas treats were delivered to each Youth Group member. During Zoom meetings group members ate, opened gifts, shared news, and played some online games. Attendance at Zoom meetings continued to range between 3 to all 10 of our active Youth Group members.

Since August, Youth Group members, two at a time, assisted with the monthly Drive-By Sundays, carrying

bags of plastic for recycling from the front to the back of the Church Office building. We are grateful for this collaboration with the Care for Creation Committee.

Lynnette Delbridge and Youth Group member Hannah Recchiuti-Quier provided Youth Group leadership in the fall. Andrew Meckstroth, Charlie McDonald, and Karen Ferrey served as second adults for various Youth Group meetings.

Journey to the Cross and Beyond: Lynnette Delbridge and Andrew Meckstroth prepared a virtual version of Journey to the Cross and Beyond for the 11 days leading up to and including April 11, 2020. Each day, they posted on Central's Facebook page short videos demonstrating the daily activity with a reflection and prayer. The video presentations were geared for both children and adults. The scripts for each day were posted on Central's Website on the Sermons page and included specific versions with pictures for children and for adults. These scripts offered a picture, a description of the activity, scripture, and a reflection to read and ponder.

Vacation Bible School: We have always wondered what it would be like to develop our own Vacation Bible School program from scratch – Bible stories, skits, songs, daily posters, and related activities for science, art, and snack. The COVID pandemic gave us the opportunity to meet the challenge! Pastors and volunteers from six congregations worked together to offer a virtual VBS that served approximately 75 children, 17 of whom came from Central. These congregations were Advent, Central, East Hills, Edgeboro, and Palmer Moravian Churches, along with Ziegels Lutheran Church. Emmaus Moravian Church used our videos and materials later in August.

Videos and soundtracks for each day were available on the Moravian Vacation Bible School YouTube channel and a Zoom VBS meeting was offered each morning at 10 a.m. for those families with children who wanted to interact. The daily offering included a telling of the Bible story with our puppet, Sparky; a theme song for the week and a specific song for each day; science, art, and snack activities. This year, we added a daily message from one of our nurses. Boxes with supplies for the week were mailed or delivered to each child.

The theme of the VBS was "Jesus Heals" and stories appropriate for children that went through the COVID-19 pandemic were:

- Jesus heals a girl by touch – Mark 5:21-24, 35-43
- Jesus heals a girl from a distance – Mark 7:24-30
- Jesus heals relationships – Luke 19:1-10
- Friends can bring others to Jesus for healing – Mark 2:1-12
- Jesus welcomes people to share and enjoy food together – Mark 2:13-17

Central members were well-represented in the effort with Bob Wascura providing our science activities; Carol Holbert our art activities, and Lynnette Delbridge providing scripts, music activities, and Bible story resources to go in the materials packets. We also appreciate assistance from Graydon Wascura, Helen Meckstroth, Carol Delbridge, Braydon Holbert, and Katie Owens who helped in various ways in taping and/or preparing materials packets.

Camp Hope: In-person participation at Camp Hope was not possible this year but the Camp Hope staff did offer a "Camp in a Box" option. We offered to help cover part of the cost of these boxes for our children and one did choose to receive a box from Camp Hope.

Advent Workshop: In place of our in-person Advent Workshop, we offered "Advent Workshops in a Box." A registration form was available online both through our Church's Constant Contact and emails to our families with children and youth. Families could "order" the activities that they felt would be appropriate for their ages and interests. Carol Holbert did much of the work to find and prepare activities that could be sent out in a bag and done by families at home. New activities this year included making a paper Advent wreath, peg people, cone angels, baby Jesus in a blanket, puppets, and star streamers. Our Advent Workshops in a Box went out to 16 of our families. Lynnette Delbridge and Susan Trimble also assisted with this project.

Adult Christian Education Opportunities: During COVID-19, the Friendship Bible Class and the Comenius Sunday Class have not been meeting. The following adult options continue:

Comenius Tuesday: Comenius Tuesday participants read and discuss a wide variety of books and resources and explore the Bible, biblical archeology and anthropology, progressive Christianity, comparative religions, and environmental morality. Group members seek to deepen their understanding of the Bible and its metaphorical implications for their personal and

communal development, expand their concept of spirituality, and apply those learnings to the mission of the church. This discussion group, led by AnneMarie Whildin, meets on Zoom every other Tuesday, September through early June, at 9:30 a.m. Steve Krawiec hosts the Zoom meetings.

Stories for Life: In January and early February, in cooperation with the Social Action Committee, this group, led by Pastor Maggie Wellert, was part of the 2020 Travelers Together series, reading and discussing Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus by Jim Wallis.

During the rest of the year, class members explored major stories about our ancestors in the faith from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and the New Testament in hopes of growing more deeply into their own personal faith stories today. These stories follow the Narrative Lectionary. Taught by the Rev. Maggie Wellert, this class meets on Sunday mornings by way of Zoom at 8:30 a.m.

Wisdom Way of Knowing Prayer Circles: Led by the Rev. Maggie Wellert, participants in this group join together by way of Zoom once a month for a time of gathering, body prayer, chanting, sung prayer, contemplative prayer, a short time for a wisdom teaching, a lectio divina reflection on a saying from the *Gospel of Thomas*, and a sharing or debriefing time at the end.

Men's Bible Study: The members of this group engage in a free-spirited, ecumenical, discussion-oriented Bible Study each week. The group is open to men of all ages, professions, and church backgrounds. Currently meeting by way of Zoom on Wednesday mornings, the group is led by David Wickmann.

Committee Work – Thinking and Planning

- In addition to our usual annual work such as overseeing our budget and program offerings, we made the decision to purchase age-appropriate Bibles for our active children and youth.
- We planned to have The Rev. Cynthia Geyer, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Eastern District, to come and lead our congregation in a workshop on April 18, 2020. This “Growing Young” workshop, with materials from the Fuller Youth Institute, is intended to help congregations look more intentionally at ways to foster and nurture ministries with and participation from our families

with children, youth and young adults. The workshop was canceled due to the COVID pandemic.

We thank the active members of the Christian Education Committee for their steadfast dedication to our Christian Education ministries and their support of our volunteers and leaders as they learn and develop virtual approaches for deepening our sense of community and growth as people of faith.

Peter Behrens, Michella Cardoso, Faith Fiegel, Carol Holbert, Steve Krawiec, Jane Leposa, Susan Trimble

Respectfully Submitted,
Camie Modjadidi, Chair
Pastor Lynnette Delbridge

Church Family Life Committee

Church Family Life had two activities last year before the pandemic closed things down. We had a soup and chili contest in January. It was not well attended and our group made a decision that we would not repeat it. In February we, in conjunction with the Busy Workers, held the Church “Birthday Party.” This is a very popular event and well attended. As it turned out, this was our last activity for 2020. We have lost a few members of our committee from moves out of the area. We welcome new members to our group.

Respectfully Submitted,
Martha Griffis, Chair

Congregational Care Committee

The function of this committee was described as focusing on the well-being of the congregation, including body, mind and spirit; sponsoring events or ongoing ministries to improve the lives of individuals, and providing opportunities for growth and connection within the community. In its endeavors to find ways to accomplish the well-being of our congregation, this committee has been discussing programs we can promote, particularly in coordinating with other church committees, to improve lives. Our committee members are participating in a pastoral care course which is part of a Lay Ministry program at Moravian Theological Seminary taught by Pastor Maggie Wellert. Then we plan to implement ways for the committee to provide

intentional care for our congregants and their needs at times as specified by the pastors. The committee meets bimonthly.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Brown, Chair

History Committee

Central's History Committee has now completed its fourteenth year of work. In 2020, the committee primarily focused on trying to move our capital campaign projects forward. Bids have been received for the Patricia Smith Collection Room in the church basement for both the HVAC unit and the construction costs. Unfortunately, they are higher than we had hoped, so ways to trim the project are currently under consideration. The Buildings & Grounds Committee has given us the go-ahead on carpentry work to create an exhibition cabinet using existing shelving in the West Room (northside). And we are awaiting B&G approval to upgrade the lighting in the West hallway, so that we can exhibit prints, drawings, and photographs.

Many of the Committee's projects have been put on hold by the pandemic, including selecting historical images for the Central Church calendar and tours for Musikfest and the Holiday House Tour. Most disappointing of all was having to make the decision to cancel the October Historical and Cultural Tour of Jamaica to be led by Pastor Clennon. This tour will be rescheduled as soon as it safe to do so. We were able to pull off one special event—a driving tour of “Lost” Moravian sites in Bethlehem and Nazareth in October. Committee members Jeffrey Long and Paul Peucker served as tour guides, along with Scott Gordon (Lehigh University) and Susan Ellis (Moravian Historical Society). Many of the nearly 30 participants expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to get out of the house and learn new things in a socially-distanced setting.

The History Committee was deeply saddened by the passing of Committee member Debbie Helms in September.

The Committee meets every other month on the second Monday evening. Anyone who might be interested in our work is encouraged to contact Diane Shaw.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Shaw, Chair

Committee Members: Gene Allen (Elder rep.), Mary Brown (Trustee rep.), Hopeton Clennon, Jan Cole (Trustee rep.), June Griffiths, Debbie Helms, Mary Jo Hill, Jeffrey Long, Hank Naisby, Barry Pell, Paul Peucker, Carol Reifinger, Nancy Rutman, Priscilla Schueck (Elder rep.), Bart Shaw, Diane Shaw (Elder rep.), Mary Shields (Elder rep.)

International Student Care Committee

The International Student Care Committee partnership with Moravian College, blessed by the Barnette scholarship fund, welcomed its first international students in fall 2016. The inaugural two students graduated in three years in 2019. By the start of 2020, we were blessed with two students enrolled (one freshman, one junior) in the undergraduate program, and one student who had earned a scholarship for a Master's Degree at Moravian, as well. There was one more student we hoped would matriculate in the fall of 2020. Things were financially tight, but filled with hope and joy at this ministry.

Then came COVID. Classes went online. Campus facilities were closed, although dorm rooms with some food delivered were available to international students. All jobs (visa requirements allow jobs on campus only) disappeared. Not only was the educational opportunity different, support for food and incidentals became a major issue. The graduate student, who was sharing housing with friends, found himself without roommates and without financial resources to pay for rent and food.

Thanks to the generosity of committee members, many other donations from church members and a grant from the Larger Life Foundation, we have been able to support the needs of these students. Unfortunately, the new student we anticipated welcoming in the fall of 2020 was unable to secure the necessary visa at this time. Steps have been taken to provide her with an interim educational opportunity in Tanzania until such time as visas will once again be approved, hopefully in time for matriculation in the fall of 2021.

In the meantime, Nahum Pradham (the junior) continues his studies as a music therapy major, anticipating graduation in May, 2022. Lucy Ngara is

successfully pursuing her degree in business, anticipating graduation in May, 2022. Jackson Mlimuka, the graduate student, completed his Master's Degree in December and has returned to Tanzania.

Despite the challenges that COVID has wreaked on these students and on our ability to properly support them, we remain grateful for congregational care, the continued partnership with Moravian College, and the endowed scholarship that the Barnettes have so graciously provided. We invite your continued prayers and backing for this vital ministry.

Committee Members (Mamas and Papas): Myra Jones (Edgeboro Moravian Church), Linda and Jack Thomas (College Hill Moravian Church), and Central Moravian Church members Lyn Chynoweth, Shelia and Hopeton Clennon, Elissa Derbak, Margaret and Steve Krawiec, Pam Larimer, Alice and Craig Mosebach, Jeff Mosebach

Respectfully Submitted,
Lyn Chynoweth, Chair

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee's mission is to welcome and embrace new members while encouraging the involvement of all members in the life of the church through faithful worship, service, and fellowship. The committee, which reports to the Board of Elders, also engages in outreach to attract visitors and new members.

Most of the committee's planned activities in 2020 were casualties of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic; however, the committee did collaborate with the office to create the portrait section of our 2020 triennial pictorial membership directory, and for the ninth year, mailed Christmas cards to distant members of our congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Sachs, Chair

Committee Members: Lyn Chynoweth, Hopeton Clennon, Lynnette Delbridge, Elissa Derbak, Janice Ostock, Bill Sachs, and Beth Schlener

Mission Committee

Tanzania

The Mission Committee of Central Moravian Church supports and provides oversight of the international mission efforts approved by the Joint Board of Elders and Trustees through groups, organizations and individuals. In carrying out this mission, the Mission Committee partners with the Board of World Mission. The most historic of these efforts is work in Tanzania. Mission work included the building of churches, supporting the construction and maintenance of wells, sending medical supplies and the care and education of orphans. Adopt A Village is a partnership with BWM and Central Moravian Church, and it has been faithfully supervised by Central Members Bill and Peg Hoffman. Their devotion over many years has been greatly appreciated by the Mission Committee and the members of Central Moravian Church. Their reports and letters have kept this important work before all of us to share in and feel committed to the mission work. Many additional church congregations have joined us in sustaining the work of the AAV program and we express our deep appreciation to these partners and to the Board of World Mission.

Bill Hoffman provides the following Church Council Report regarding Tanzania 2020

Sikonge Partnership 2020

Bill and Peg Hoffman made their 33rd trip to Sikonge, Tanzania, in support of Central's partnership with the Sikonge Moravian churches in June of 2019. Due to restrictions on travel to the country by people from the United States, no visitations were made in 2020. It is unclear if these will be able to continue in 2021.

Communication with the protagonists of the orphan program in Sikonge has been non-existent since early April 2020. At that time, the schools had been closed and travel restrictions imposed. No data was reported. The vehicle used by the Mamas to visit the distant villages, serviced under contract by the hospital, has been unavailable since the beginning of 2020.

Kefas Kabata, who is in charge of the Tabora program, wrote in November 2020, that the orphans there were doing well, but that the primary and secondary schools were still closed.

There has been no reported activity about either well or church construction. Funds for the Parker scholarships to the Lusangi Bible college remain unchanged since the school is closed. One student who had been given a college scholarship from a Central donor acknowledged it with thanks. No information is available about the evangelism of the Sukuma.

Pastor Hopeton has been in contact with the young lady given a four-year scholarship to Moravian College. She had been anticipated to matriculate in September 2020 but difficulties in procuring the necessary documents have delayed her enrollment. Covid 19 permitting, she will begin her studies this coming September.

Donations to the orphan program have decreased dramatically. Realizing this, the Mamas made significant changes to the program to conserve funds in early 2019. Central's Mission Committee made several additional suggestions to extend the life of the program, which were relayed to Sikonge last winter. No reply has been received.

As difficult as communication with Tanzania has been for the last year, one must believe that the situation for those in the country must be severe. The Hoffmans and the Mamas of Tanzania give our thanks to Central Moravian for their continued support of the Sikonge partnership in these most difficult times.

New Request Funded

In addition to the ministry of the Adopt a Village Program, a project request from the Board of World Mission was approved by the Mission Committee this year. The request was for assistance in building a kitchen for the Bishop Kisanji Girls Secondary School in Kigwa village in Uyui district which is east of Tabora. It is noteworthy that the request added that Bishop Hopeton Clennon had visited the school. Since the Mission Committee funds have been specifically designated for other purposes in Tanzania and Nepal, funding for this need came from the Central Church Unrestricted Gifts Fund.

A second area of ministry was established in Nepal and Central Moravian Church continues to provide ongoing support especially for the education of children. Craig and Alice Mosebach have been the members of our congregation providing oversight of this ministry.

Craig Mosebach provides the following report on the Mission Support to Nepal 2020

Nepal 2020

Central's work with the Nepal mission started in 2009 when the Revs. Vani and Shanti Pradhan returned to Nepal following their graduation from Moravian Theological Seminary. Vani had been an intern at Central during her Seminary studies.

School news: 2020 the Year of the Pandemic

Our Hopes and Challenges

This is the 9th year of Moravians serving the Nepali community through education. In these nine years the school has grown from a kindergarten of 47 students to 145 students now through 5th grade, from 13 staff to 40 staff, and from one building to three buildings. Likewise, it has established a fine reputation, but some challenges of being in rented space continue.

Space constraints have limited our intake. Most parents are seeking a proper and bigger school infrastructure and facility. However, during this pandemic, many parents have appreciated the effort put forth by the school in bringing some normalcy and continuity to children's education. Lockdown has restricted not just their movement but socializing with their peers. But coming to virtual class and seeing their teachers and friends has meant more than we ever thought.

International Kindergarten – purchased in July of 2011 with enrollment of 47 in two levels of preschool and two levels of kindergarten.

- current enrollment is about 80 with a waiting list.
- tuition aid for children of Moravian families, funded by donations to Central through the Mission Committee, is currently providing half tuition for 3 Moravian children in attendance. Five children who were on tuition aid have graduated from the kindergarten and gone on to elementary school at Shristi Academy.

Shristi Academy – founded by Vani and Shanti after gaining a license from the Board of Education in 2016, now has 5 grades with about 65 enrolled. Hiring teachers is still a concern for Vani, the Principal.

Please pray for:

1. IKG and Shristi Academy: To continue offering classes without issues during this pandemic. Start praying and planning about post-covid situation when the school begins to reopen physically.
2. Teachers: To remain strong, healthy, motivated and happy.
3. Parents: To be open to support the school through their involvement and payment of fees.
4. Management and Admin team: For strength, wisdom and discernment as we work under much stress at various levels.
5. Landlords: Pray for the three landlords that they may understand the challenges of raising monthly school fees from students. That they may be flexible in monthly rental deadlines.

New Ministry Fund

Each year, the Mission Committee has been receiving requests for new ministry opportunities. This year the committee agreed to begin a fund designated as a reserve to apply to new requests. The Central Moravian Church Congregation generously supports Mission in the Annual Budget in the amount of \$12,000. The distribution of this year is as follows: \$8000, Tanzania, \$2000, Nepal, and \$2000 New Mission Requests.

Although the focus of the committee will remain our obligations in Tanzania and Nepal, the opportunity to engage in other important ministry is an exciting prospect.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Chair

**Sikonge/Tabora & Nepal Ministries
Income, Expenses and Balances**

Music Committee

2020 was a very unique year in the music ministry of Central Moravian Church. The mission of the music program embraces the mission statement of Central Moravian Church as we strive to be an effective and living example of our Moravian heritage by creating innovative musical offerings with a standard of excellence in the spirit of evangelism. This year's offerings mostly came in the form of virtual presentations, and by doing so, we were able to minister to both our congregation and to those outside our congregation and geographic area. This year also brought increased responsibility in helping to prepare Google slides for online worship and submitting weekly reports to copyright holders through Onelicense.net for performance licenses so we can livestream songs and hymns that are not in public domain.

Under the superb leadership of **Llyena Boylan**, the Music Committee met six times, mostly via Zoom. Part of this year's responsibility of the Music Committee was to implement a Music Protocol for Covid-19. Based on scientific findings, it was essential that singing and instrumental playing be restricted to only one singer and one wind musician per service. This Music Protocol was affirmed by the Board of Elders in August 2020.

I am deeply grateful for the dedicated and talented members of our Chapel Choir, Church Choir, and Central Brass Ensemble who were able to meet in January, February, and part of March. I am very thankful for **Richard Miller** who this year, created beautiful online Musical Meditations, composed and arranged many of his own musical offerings, and was a vital part of the Wednesday evening worship services. Special thanks to **David Charrier** for his beautiful singing during many of these musical offerings as well. **Caitlin Heckman** and **Colin Worrich** played the trombone for our morning online worship services as they alternated the second and fourth Sunday of each month.

The Bethlehem Area Moravian Trombone Choir, under the direction of **Don Kemmerer**, played for our New Year's Eve and the first Sunday in Epiphany worship services.

Our CDs and book continue to sell in the church office and through our website. **Kelly Knapp** is responsible

for filling CD orders and giving complete financial records of the CD account to **George Mowers**, the Music Committee, and to the Board of Trustees.

Musical highlights from 2020 include:

- A virtual Advent and Christmas Organ Concert.
- A virtual Christmas Contemplative Service.
- The acquisition of a beautiful Young Chang baby grand piano for the Old Chapel.
- Musical Moments created by **Becky Lepore**.
- Musical Meditations created by **Richard Miller**.
- Celebrate Christmas Eve with Central Moravian Church: a montage of Christmas Eve music and photos. (Special thanks to **Will Schwab, Tim Brady, Mike Riess, Linda Wickmann, Sophie Freund (and to mom JoAnna Freund), Kaylyn George (and to mom Jessica George), The Mainstreet Brass, Rebecca Brown and Mary Ogletree, violinists, and as always, to Hopeton Clennon, Cindy Gibson, George Mowers, Kelly Knapp, Llyena Boylan, and Alice Mosebach**.)
- A virtual harp recital in the Old Chapel performed by **Andrea Wittchen** on Monday, September 21.
- A virtual chamber music recital in the sanctuary performed by **Rebecca Brown and Mary Ogletree, violinists, and Becky Lepore, organ** on Monday, October 19th.
- **Domenic Salerni** and friends presented a beautiful chamber concert in the Chapel on February 23.

Special thanks to **Deborah Leyshon-Brandt** and **Jeanne Bednarik** as Deb directed the choir and Jeanne played for worship services in February and early March while Becky Lepore was on medical leave. Special thanks to **Luke DiGiacinto** who played for the 9 a.m. service while Richard Miller was also away on medical leave in early March.

Special thanks to those who have served as hymn leaders during the ever-evolving and sometimes frustrating configuration of online worship, especially during the summer and early fall. Because of the complexities of a sound system that wasn't equipped to serve the needs of online worship, in order for the organ to be heard, the organ needed to be played at a very loud volume, which made it nearly impossible for singers to hear themselves! There is deep gratitude for all of those who sang for both Richard Miller and for Becky Lepore over these many months, and great appreciation for the patience of congregation members as we "learn as we go!"

I'm blessed beyond measure to be a part of this extraordinary congregation!

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Lepore, Minister of Music

Music Committee members: Llyena Boylan, chair;
Rt. Rev. C. Hopeton Clennon, Mary Brown, Dave Charrier, Louisa Frey, Ken Kodama, Richard Miller, Alice Mosebach, Hank Naisby, Becky Lepore, Tom Tenges

Social Action Committee

In a year of unexpected and unusual challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are so grateful and encouraged by the strong and dedicated members of our church in promoting good partnerships with our community and church agencies as well as creative projects that raised awareness in the areas of environmental concern, homelessness, hunger, racism and poverty.

We continue to value the good ministry of many agencies in the area and beyond and are fortunate to work with them.

A List of our Community and Church Partners and our Ministry Together in 2020:

- **BAM Freezer Ministry:** This ministry regularly provided delicious frozen food for distribution at our Food Pantry. We contributed \$300 to this ministry.
- **BASD lunch distribution:** 6 members of the committee handed out lunches to BASD children at the BAM offices 2 days a week for 2 months during the summer.
- **Bethlehem Emergency Cold-Weather Shelter at Christ Church UCC:** The shelter provides dinner, sleeping quarters and breakfast for homeless men and women, with a maximum of 75 guests. With Covid, the shelter closed early in March of 2020 - but provided sleeping bags and tents to the homeless. With revised procedures and a different space in the church, the shelter was able to open again this November. Volunteers provide dinner and a bagged breakfast, but the only contact with guests

is handing out meals through a plexiglass shield and talking through that shield. Paid security guards now handle all interactions with guests. Central still takes care of the 3rd Saturday of the month. Rose Warner and her kitchen prep crew have been preparing the meal in Central's kitchen, where they have more room to socially distance. Rose then brings the meal over to the shelter. A group of 3 to 4 volunteers, led by Janice Ostock, work at the shelter itself - passing out dinners and cleaning up afterward. We hope we can complete this season without closing, and that next year will allow more interaction with our neighbors. If you are interested in helping with cooking, please contact Rose Warner at rosaliepwarnar@gmail.com. If you are interested in serving meals, please contact Janice Ostock at janice.ostock@gmail.com.

- **Bread for the World:** \$400 was donated for the membership fee. Michael Brennan and Bonnie Davis created and distributed postcards to the congregation.
- **Care for Creation:** see separate report.
- **Central Food Pantry:** see separate report.
- **Central Santa:** Instead of our usual pink and blue and green cards with children's names and sizes (for warm, winter clothing and books), Central Santa became a fundraising project this year. Sending a financial donation was probably not as much 'fun' as shopping for jackets, or cute little outfits for children, or picture books, but, even so, our congregation responded. You donated \$7,185, with \$2,550 going toward \$50 gift cards for 51 Esperanza children, and a check for \$4,635 donated to Community Services for Children's Family Emergency Fund. This fund helps families to pay rental, utility, and grocery bills. In addition, the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority from Moravian College contributed 70 children's books for Community Services; CSC will provide the books to children in their weekend 'backpacks'. We thank the congregation for such generous support of these needy Lehigh Valley children and families.
- **Church World Service:** A virtual CROP Walk in October was promoted, and over \$2,500 was raised from Central walkers and member contributions. Thanks again to Helen Forasté for her continued CROP Walk leadership.

- **Cynthia's Boutique** was off to a good start at the beginning of 2020, serving clients inside the “shop” during the months of January and February. Everything came to a halt during the shutdown in March as a result of the pandemic. In late July, Gina Kelechava consulted with David Wickmann and Pastor Lynnette and decided to sort stored summer items in preparation for clothing distribution in conjunction with Food Pantry on the 3rd Friday and Saturday of the month of August. One of the current volunteers and a few new ones were recruited to help sort and distribute. Since clients were not able to enter the building, tables and clothing racks were brought to the parking lot with social distancing practices in place. This routine continued monthly until the end of the year. Clients were very appreciative of the effort and the clothes, accessories and household goods they received. We thank new volunteers Connie Pierce and Louisa Frey and we look forward to the return of Charlie McGorry as we hopefully return to some normalcy soon.
- **Esperanza Weekend Snack Project:** \$168 was donated for cheese sticks for Donegan children to be added to a weekend bag of food, along with food from other Moravian churches. Due to vacations from school and curtailment of classes, Pastor Tracy reported that fewer numbers than he had imagined have accessed this project. We will be connecting with Tracy in January to reassess the situation.
- **Fair Trade Coffee Project** (monthly sales of coffee and other products which benefit small farmers working sustainable farms, promotion of this idea of commerce): Beth Davis has done an amazing job on this project. Sales are in the church vestibule on the second Sunday of every month. She has been offering recycling of all Equal Exchange product packaging to customers through TerraCycle. However, due to the pandemic, this ministry was stopped in March.
- **Green Faith:** We contributed \$200 to this interfaith and international organization. Green Faith enables people from many different religious traditions to work together as advocates for the health of our planet.
- **Lenten Dinner:** Members of the SAC hosted and prepared vegetarian dishes for the final dinner, as well as salads and desserts.
- **Luminaria Night:** The Social Action Committee helped ‘light up Bethlehem’ again this year. We ordered 80 luminaria and a large group of friendly volunteers assisted with putting together the luminaria, wheeling them out to Main and Church Streets in the Food Pantry wagons, and lighting the luminaria at dusk. What a lovely sight, even during a pandemic...maybe especially during a pandemic! All proceeds from luminaria purchases go to New Bethany Ministries, one of our community partners. There were 250 neighborhoods that participated in Luminaria Night this year, and New Bethany is already planning for next year’s event. We welcome helpers of all ages for this fun outdoor event. Make plans to join us in December 2021.
- **Meals on Wheels:** This year we donated items for new clients that would be helpful such as paper, pens, flashlights, dishcloths. Seven cartons of items were dropped off at the Food Pantry drop off day and were greatly appreciated by MOW.
- **Monocacy Farm Project:** We receive fresh produce for our Food Pantry from the Monocacy Farm Project each month and we contributed \$500 to this ministry.
- **Moravian Open Door:** We contributed \$200 to this ministry to homeless seniors in Manhattan, run by the Eastern District of the Moravian Church.
- **New Bethany Ministries:** \$300 donated, participated in Luminaria night. Since March, the participation of our volunteers who help prepare lunch meals have been restricted by Covid-19.
- **Second Harvest:** We contributed \$500 to this ministry which provides a large share of the food we distribute through our Food Pantry.
- **Victory House** volunteers have made meals, \$200+ was donated for warm hats, umbrellas, and gloves in December. Members also donated additional items.

Due to the pandemic, this years SAC program “**Central Chautauqua**” made major changes. We moved from an all day in person program at the church to having four ninety minute ZOOM presentations at noon four consecutive Sundays, September 13 - October 4. It was based on the theme “Resiliency: Faithful Endurance During Pandemics and Other Difficult Times”. The topics were: how the Moravian

Church and Community dealt with the Yellow Fever and the Spanish Flu and how these inform us about this current pandemic (Dr. Paul Peucker); How to find meaning in Suffering - Lessons through the Lens of Time (Dr. Micah Sadigh); Spiritual Resiliency (Pastor Maggie Wellert); and a Round table discussion between panelist and audience. We completed a participant survey which indicated a high degree of satisfaction with the format, topics, and speakers and participants asked for more programs. Number of registrants was 120 people.

The Social Action Committee sponsored our annual discussion class called **Travelers Together** in January and February 2020 focusing on the book *Christ in Crisis: Why Do We Need to Reclaim Jesus* by Jim Wallis. This year's class was taught by Hank Naisby and the Rev Maggie Wellert. The book argues our cultural and political crisis largely stems from how the American church has become disconnected from the teachings of Jesus Christ. Through asking and discussing eight key questions central to Jesus teachings, Wallis challenges us to not be afraid to act on courage and hope.

At the end of 2020, we began to work collaboratively with the Christian Education Committee to plan the 2021 Travelers Together class, based on what we learned from the Central Chautauqua program. The format will be based on the theme of "Our Racial Awakening and Healing Journey: Join Us at the Table". We will have four ZOOM presentations 4 consecutive Sundays from 1/3/21 through 1/24/21. We will follow general guidelines to register and present these four programs which we developed for our Central Chautauqua program this September.

We greatly appreciate and sincerely thank our amazingly dedicated committee and congregation for a successful year of caring, sharing and action, under very difficult and unusual circumstances.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Hoelman, Dick and Judy Williams, Co-Chairs

Joint Board

The Joint Board of Central Moravian Church consists of the Board of Elders and the Board of Trustees. Meetings are held on an as-needed basis for the transaction of business that requires the action of both Boards. Meetings may be called by either Board. The

Joint Board meets each February for orientation and to welcome to new members. The Orientation Handbooks were distributed to new members and continuing members received updates for filing in their binders. We thank Senior Pastor Hopeton Clennon for his overview of the materials and to George Mowers and Kelly Knapp for keeping this information updated for our use. In 2020, the Joint Board convened on February 2 following the 11:00 service. Jeff Zemsky, Moravian Academy Head of School joined us to update the Board on interesting happenings at the Academy. Our partnership is strengthened by a continuing collaborative relationship with the school under Mr. Zemsky's leadership.

At times, issues that are brought before both Boards are handled at the regular separate meetings of Elders and Trustees. An example of such an issue is the approval of the proposed budget for 2021. It is customary to have a Trustee attend each Elders' Meeting and an Elder to attend each Trustees' Meeting. When special items are presented for review by both boards, additional Board Members may attend as appropriate.

The extraordinary circumstances presented by the Covid 19 Pandemic led to some major disruptions in business as usual. Challenges led to opportunities for new ways of meeting and decision making. Since March, meetings have been virtual with the benefit of excellent attendance of Board Members. Collaboration between the Board of Elders and the Board of Trustees continued through the creation of Ad Hoc Committees to address the complications of living the mission of the church during the pandemic. The first Committee was a Pandemic Emergency Response Committee. Members of the Executive Committee, staff, and key members of different Committees and service groups of Central Church were called together to respond to the new realities of a pandemic with a focus on the safety of members of our congregation and their families, the staff and their families and the larger Bethlehem Community as a whole. The decision to pause in person worship was extremely difficult. The earliest days of spring led to a set of conditions that the Boards had never faced. Our focus was on providing worship, essential outreach to the community especially in distributing food, keeping the church offices closed, and managing the temporal affairs of the church remotely. As these goals were gradually met, and the use of virtual meetings was initiated, this first Ad Hoc committee was dissolved.

The second Ad Hoc committee was the Strategies for Reopening Group led by Pastor Hopeton. Again, this committee was composed of elders, trustees, staff, sacristans, and members with medical expertise and community knowledge. This committee worked through the summer to establish ways to return to in person worship and office work safely. As restrictions were lifted and the incidence of infection was reduced, the church opened for limited attendance and use by small groups. Again, the goal of the committee was met, and the committee disbanded as Staff, the Joint Board, and Standing Committees once again resumed the general governance of the church through virtual meetings.

A third Ad Hoc Committee, the Streaming Central Moravian Services Committee, was created to find better ways to provide quality Worship Experience for our Congregation. An unexpected development was the appeal of online services to a wide community beyond our church membership. The Joint Board agreed that once the ability to return to normal attendance at Worship and Events returned, there was value in maintaining the improved ability to stream services across the country and even the world. This ability required additional equipment and talent to raise the quality and stability of streaming Church Services. The cost was determined, and the Joint Board agreed to make an appeal to the congregation to support the initiative. The response was overwhelmingly generous, the work was begun, and continues as the committee monitors the progress of streaming capability.

The Joint Board thanks our Pastors, Hopeton, Lynnette, and Maggie, our Minister of Music, Becky, and Chapel Organist, Richard, our dedicated office staff, Cindy, Martha, George and Kelly, our facilities manager, Jeff Griffis, and custodian Spencer, all of our sacristans led by Tim Brady, and Nate Bissey, our Food Pantry helpers led by Dave Wickmann, and the many other dedicated volunteers who are responsible for our worship services, our buildings and grounds, and our programs and activities. Central Moravian Church is indeed fortunate to have a church community committed to living the mission and vision of the church with resilience and determination despite this difficult year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Catherine Tachovsky, President, Joint Board

Joint Board Recommended Policy regarding Terms for Chairs of Standing Committees

After discussion at both the Board of Elders Meetings and at the Board of Trustees Meetings the following statement is endorsed.

The Joint Board recommends that all Standing Committees follow the protocol of having terms for Chairs of Standing Committees. The model used for Board Members of two terms of three years each is recommended. Each committee is encouraged to select their Chair. If unable to secure a chair, the Senior Pastor and President of the Board of Trustees will assist the committee to fill the vacancy. It is suggested that this change begin in January 2021. In order to allow for adjustment to the new concept of terms, each long serving chair may consider themselves in year one of a second term allowing for three more years of service. If a chair is recent to the committee, for instance in the midst of a first term, the committee can determine when the term terms should conclude. The current chair may choose to step out of the responsibility sooner if that is their wish. If extraordinary circumstances are present, the committee may offer an extension of the term. However, committees are encouraged to explicitly consider leadership at three-year intervals and actively consider the merits of multiple candidacies. As is true of Board members, after a one-year absence the Chair may be reconsidered to serve. Chairs are heartily encouraged to remain on committees after serving as the chair of the committee.

The rationale for this course of action is twofold. First, some chairs seek relief from the responsibility of acting as chair after many years of service. Some candidates asked to serve as chairs are reassured if they know there is a term for which they are agreeing to take on the responsibility. The second benefit is the value of using the leadership skills of others on the committee over time. The Joint Board acknowledges and appreciates the many Chairs who have given their time and talents to Central Moravian Church over the years. It is hoped that the provisions for three more years and the possibility of an exceptional situation will work for all committees.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Catherine Tachovsky, President, Joint Board

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees consisting of 14 members of the church, elected by Church Council meets monthly. Eight members constitute a quorum. A president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary are chosen from among their number annually. The Trustees are especially charged with managing the temporal affairs of the church. Their duties include ensuring the prompt payment of all salaries, invoices, and Provincial and District obligations. The expertise of Trustees in business, management, law, marketing, education and general leadership skills is greatly appreciated. Each trustee may serve a term of three years with eligibility for election to a second three-year term. In February 2021, Jan Cole and Steven Krawiec will conclude their second terms as trustees. Trustees have been blessed by the time and talent Jan and Steve brought to the Board, and we will greatly miss their presence at our future meetings.

The Pastors are important attendees at Trustees meetings as non-voting members. The monthly agenda generally includes a report from the Senior Pastor, the President of the Board, and the attending Elder. A key focus of the agenda is the report of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer. The Financial Secretary is not an elected board member, has non-voting status, and attends meetings as invited. The Financial Secretary and the Treasurer receive, record and deposit the receipts and disburse monies with the authorization of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees also have charge of all funds of the Church, exercising the greatest of care to invest the funds prudently and use the income properly. The Trustees must also keep all church owned and leased property in good repair and attractive condition. Reports of other standing committees assist the Trustees in oversight of the church's operations.

With sincere gratitude, I thank those who served as the officers of the board this year, Rob Phillips, Vice President, David Charrier, Treasurer, and Joan Carson, Secretary. Their work in this unusual year has been immensely important. They have worked diligently with Hopeton and I together with Diane Shaw, Vice President, and Elissa Derbak, Secretary, as the Executive Committee of the Church to manage concerns that arose between the meetings of the full Boards. Cindy Gibson, Martha Jones, George Mowers and Kelly Knapp are especially thanked this year for

adjusting to the unique challenges of working remotely or on rotation in the office in order to insure the business life of our church was conducted seamlessly. The Trustees are also grateful to our Facilities Manager, Jeff Griffis, and custodian, Spencer Schlack for their work in keeping our buildings sanitized and safe in response to the pandemic and in general good repair in cooperation with the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

In summary, this was a year like no other. The Trustees focused on keeping our pastors and staff safe, and fully compensated. We worked to collaborate with our campus partners to find ways to continue our relationship in altered ways. Finally, and most importantly, we strove to serve the congregation we represent by ensuring everyone's safety with a foremost commitment to essential spiritual nurture through worship, music, education, and fellowship. The trustees are deeply appreciative of the support of the congregation. Your generosity to the church and its mission by continuous contributions, fulfilled pledges, and extra giving was so necessary to make Central Moravian Church even stronger through a very difficult time. Thank you, and God bless you, everyone.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Catherine Tachovsky
President of the Board of Trustees

63 W. Church St. Property Committee

Under the guidance of Trustees, and in cooperation with the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Property Committee provides oversight of the 63 West Church Street Central Church owned property, currently rented as a residence, and in the past used as the Central Moravian Church parsonage. When the Parsonage was not needed for current pastors in 2011, the decision was made by Trustees to rent the property. A long-term lease was drawn up and continues today. The Property Committee manages matters related to the lease, rent, and future planning. The Facilities Manager, who is a member of both committees, refers all maintenance needs to the Building and Grounds Committee. The Property Committee meets annually or on an as needed basis.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Chair

Ad Hoc Virtual Streaming Committee

At the June meeting of the Board of Trustees, the need for new and improved equipment for continued streaming of virtual worship services was recognized. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to develop a plan to improve the technology.

A “Request for Proposal” was sent to three vendors. Each vendor made a site visit to look at the Sanctuary before submitting their proposal. Those proposals went through a rigorous review with follow-up questions to the vendors as well as reviews of recommendations from other churches who utilized them for similar improvements. One key point the committee stressed with the vendors was that we have a historical building and wanted to maintain that integrity. Prior to making our decision, it was evident that this project would benefit in consulting with other Central Church committees: Buildings & Grounds, Budget & Finance, Board of Elders and Board of Trustees. We awarded the contract to Haverford Systems October 1, 2020. The challenges of mounting two cameras under the balcony and two above the front columns were significant. Technicians crawled under the choir loft to wire the two cameras under the balcony. One camera is primarily aimed at the upper and lower pulpit; the other is aimed at the baptismal font. 270 feet of cable run from the cove above the front columns where two more cameras are mounted through the attic and down to the work space in the southwest corner of the balcony. The front cameras are both aimed at the choir loft. To ensure a safe work station, a platform had to be built over the last pew to make it large enough for the computer system and seating. Another challenge then emerged: the sound system in the Sanctuary needed to be recalibrated before we could “go live.” This will be completed in mid-January. The new system will allow the Streaming Technician to zoom to the upper and lower pulpits as well as other activities that may take place at the front of the church; the two front cameras have the ability to capture the organist, the choir, as well as a soloist. This was an exciting endeavor to see an idea take shape and grow into something that will serve Central Moravian Church and its outreach mission for years to come. Our deepest appreciation is extended to all of our members and friends of Central Moravian Church who made donations to cover the expenses of the new equipment and installation process. Your support made this initiative possible. My heartiest thanks to committee

members Pastor Hopeton, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Rob Phillips, Steve Krawiec and Will Schwab. Thanks also to Jeff Griffis and Tim Brady for their assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Charrier, Ad Hoc Streaming Committee Chair

Audit Committee

Central Moravian Church retained Campbell, Rappold, and Yurasits (CYR) to audit our financial records and practices for the 2019 fiscal year. CYR has a long relationship with Central which gives them a deep understanding of our finances and keen insight into any anomalies.

A clean report was issued for 2019 – as in prior years there are no concerns about our accounting and internal controls. A copy of the report is available from the church office for review. George Mowers or I welcome any questions you may have.

The committee expresses thanks to George Mowers and Kelly Knapp. Their competency and willing support to the staff and congregation is remarkable.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Phillips, Chair

Committee members: Hopeton Clennon, Steve Schlack, Beth Schlener, Kathy Williams, George Mowers.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

The Buildings and Grounds Committee meets once monthly and helps to guide the maintenance and capital project efforts for the Moravian buildings assigned to the care of the church. The committee works in conjunction with the church staff and the Facilities Manager, Jeff Griffis.

In this past year, we started by looking into improvement projects that were part of the Stone House Report. Since a number of those projects involved electrical work, there was an electrical survey done of the sanctuary to ensure we had appropriate electrical capacity. However, with the emergence of COVID-19, and the need to suspend services, the

committee shifted our focus and worked with others to help bring robust live streaming capability to the sanctuary. There were also upgrades made to the filters used on HVAC units within the church, and there is ongoing analysis of improvement to the air flow and air quality. Other projects have been replacement of signs around the campus with a consistent design / logo, and input into the Moravian Academy project in the Christian Education building. We continue to evaluate options for historical storage and displays in the sanctuary, and are looking to improve the lighting of the pulpit area in the sanctuary.

We look forward to continuing our mission throughout the coming year and implement new energy saving ideas and projects. Hopefully we can soon all enjoy being together again in our wonderful buildings.

Many thanks to members of the committee and to the church staff for their time and effort in helping us to accomplish our mission.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Schlack, Chair

Emergency Preparedness Committee

In May 2020, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, President of the Trustees and Joint Board, established the Emergency Preparedness Committee as a new standing committee. Covid 19 prompted this action. The charge of the committee was to create a manual that outlines protocols to address a variety of potential emergencies. This committee will function in perpetuity as situations, best practices and accountabilities change. Ken Kodama, Elder and Camie Modjadidi, Trustee were named co-chairs. Hopeton Clennon, Ann Raines, Kathy Williams, and Terry Worrich are committee members.

The committee met on a regular basis via Zoom starting in June 2020. A large variety of materials including, but not limited to, documents from the original 2014 committee, Provincial Elders Conference, GuideOne insurance, fellow Moravian entities, and other relevant entities were thoroughly reviewed. In developing the Emergency Response Manual, in depth consideration was given to our congregation's safety and care, the Moravian Church as a whole, insurance requirements, legal

requirements, and implementation impact. The Emergency Response Manual was presented to the Elders and the Trustees at their respective December meetings for a first reading. The Manual will be reviewed in depth during the January meetings. Once approved, the Emergency Preparedness Manual will be adopted in electronic as well as hard copy format.

We would like to acknowledge and extend our sincere gratitude for the committee's expertise and dedication.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Kodama and Camie Modjadidi, Co-Chairs

Foundations—The Campaign for Central Moravian Church's 275th Anniversary: An Update

With the conclusion of the fifth and final year of Foundations—The Campaign for Central Moravian Church's 275th Anniversary, we would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to everyone for your participation and generous financial support. Our campaign goal was \$825,000, which has been exceeded by a significant margin. By the end of 2020, we had received \$846,698.91, or 99% of the pledged total of \$854,728.91. An additional \$6,450 is expected from automatic payments scheduled for the coming months, resulting in a total in excess of \$853,000.

Of the 210 pledges received during the course of the campaign, 94%—or 200 pledges—have already been fulfilled with most of the remaining pledges expected to be fulfilled in the coming months, bringing 100% fulfillment within reach.

We are grateful for everyone's generous support in helping us reach 100% of our campaign goal to ensure a solid foundation for future generations. Your generosity and commitment to securing Central's future has been truly awesome! Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Zug and Bill Sachs, Campaign Co-Chairs

Fundraising Committee

I hesitate to begin this report with the obvious statement, but it is what we have all experienced. 2020 has been like no other year. Covid 19 has impacted all aspects of our lives. It has also helped us look at things in new ways and reaffirm how important our church family is to each of us. With all this being said, the Fundraising Committee continued its work to support Central Moravian Church's mission. Most of our 2020 projects had to be canceled due to Covid 19. We were able to continue the bulletin sponsorships and the *Let Us Go Over To Bethlehem* book sale. Thankfully, with the generous support of our congregation, we were able to meet our 2020 goal of \$7,000.

The committee continues to brainstorm new projects as well as discuss how we can continue our favorite ones. Please look for announcements that will share these projects. The committee wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to our congregation for their unwavering support. We are hopeful that 2021 will bring control of the virus and brighter times for everyone. The committee is committed to our church family and mission.

I would like to take this opportunity to give my sincere thanks to the members of the committee who in such unprecedented times, joyfully gave of their time, talents, and resources. It was a privilege to be on this committee with these remarkable individuals.

Committee Members: Hopeton Clennon, Lyn Chynoweth, Don Jean, Jacque Jean, Pam Larimer, Hank Naisby, Rob Phillips, Ann Raines, Carol Reifinger, Priscilla Schueck, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Mike Wall, Anne Zug

Respectfully Submitted,
Camie Modjadidi, Chair

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee meets on a quarterly schedule in January, April, July, and October to evaluate the performance of the Church's portfolio and make purchases, sales, or any needed adjustments. Members of the committee include Anne Zug, Mary Shields, Hal Smith, David Weikert, Anthony Thompson, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, and Don Brown.

The committee is assisted by Wayne Achey, a Senior Vice President of Investments at Merrill Lynch, and a Central member. This year of distance meetings, we chose to ask Wayne to prepare an evaluation of the portfolio on a quarterly basis and email it to committee members, along with any recommendations for adjustments and purchases/sales. This way, the members had adequate time to evaluate any recommendations for approval or rejection before they were asked to respond.

Monthly investment reports of the portfolio from Merrill Lynch are provided to each member of the committee and also to the Financial Secretary. Investment results are shared with the Board of Trustees through the Financial Secretary's monthly Board report. The Board is also informed on the Committee's actions by reports on the quarterly meetings.

The following table indicates the opening and closing balances of our managed funds as well as amounts that were withdrawn from the accounts to help cover church expenses in 2020. Our funds dropped 17% at the end of March due to the COVID influence, however, the market came back to normal levels by the end of the year. The Steps Fund is with the Moravian Ministries Foundation, and is managed by Abbot Downing Co. The Growth Funds consist of Mutual Funds and Exchange Traded Funds that are designed for long term growth.

The Investment Committee operates within a set of guidelines that help keep the investments balanced in a combination of stocks, bonds, and funds that promote diversification to help balance risks. These guidelines were updated in 2017. Many thanks to the committee members who help keep our portfolio strategy on course.

Respectfully Submitted,
Don Brown, Chair

Landscape Committee

The Landscape Committee was organized this year to maintain and enhance the new landscaping on the church campus created by a capital project funded by Foundations—The Campaign for Central Moravian Church’s 275th Anniversary.

The committee is responsible for the plantings between the sidewalks around the Sanctuary and the Sanctuary wall, including the ivy bed on the west end between the sidewalk and Main Street; the Chapel Green; the planting along the west wall of the Chapel beginning with the viburnum and extending to the stone wall bordering the entrance to the Chapel basement; and the four Seven-Son Flower trees planted between the Moravian College president’s house and the parking lot behind the office.

Most of the committee’s anticipated work in 2020 was a casualty of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. However, a number of projects that did not require assembling as a group were completed, including the first of three planned rejuvenation prunings of the overgrown viburnum along the west wall of the Chapel; removal of invasive plants and overgrown shrubbery in the area between the viburnum and the side entrance to the Chapel; and the planting of a tulip border in this newly cultivated area. Periodic maintenance, primarily weeding and pruning, was carried out by individual volunteers during the year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Sachs, Chair

Committee Members: Hopeton Clennon, Butch Coleman, Jo Ann Haines, Pam Larimer Jeffrey Long, Bill Sachs, Vickie Ziegler Thompson, Sharon Upton, Ellen Wyckoff, John Wyckoff, and Anne Zug

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee held monthly meetings throughout 2020. In addition to continuing projects from 2019, we supported the staff as they adjusted how work gets done as a result of pandemic restrictions.

The speed and grace our staff demonstrated in adjusting to the pandemic is remarkable. Those who

could, transitioned to working from home. The custodial staff adjusted schedules as needed to maintain our campus, ensure new cleaning protocols were implemented, and maintain social distancing while at work. Becky Lepore and Richard Miller provided us new online music options to keep us connected to church when we couldn’t come to church. Our pastoral staff transitioned to online worship within two weeks of the unprecedented in-person gathering restrictions.

The flexibility and creativity Central Moravian Church staff demonstrated throughout the pandemic allowed us to continue and expand our many ministries. We had no reductions in staff or wages as a result of the pandemic.

After almost two years of faithful service, Jorge Zapata resigned from the custodial staff in fall of 2020. Spencer Schlack and Jeff Griffis have developed a plan to continue caring for our campus. The current reduced facility usage allows us to maintain cleaning and maintenance standards. Additional cleaning has been added to the office schedule as well as sanitizing protocols following sanctuary usage by Central or our partners.

In the first half of 2021 the committee will consider if changes should be made to the facilities staff and job descriptions to best support the congregation and care for the campus when operations return to normal usage.

All benefits were maintained including retirement programs and health insurance for full time employees.

Job descriptions, the employee handbook, and employee policies are living documents. We have updated them in 2020 and will continue to do so in 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Phillips, Chair

Committee: Hopeton Clennon, Ann Raines, Diane Shaw, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Kathy Williams

Stewardship Committee

2020 Results: The 2020 church operating budget called for envelope giving* of **\$530,000**. The total amount given by members and friends by December 31, 2020, was \$463,991. This represented 87.6% of the church operating budget.

2021 Budget: The proposed 2021 church operating budget calls for envelope giving *of \$510,000. The stewardship letter was mailed in October 2020 to 534 church household members and friends. The 534 pledge cards mailed is less than the number of total church membership because the letter is not sent to those not confirmed, and only one letter is sent to a household. As of December 31, 2020, \$354,959 has been pledged by members and friends. This represents 69.6 % of the proposed 2021 church operating budget.

*Envelope giving is defined as cash contributions from members and friends.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Upton, Chair

Contribution Analysis

Budget and Finance

Financial Disclosure

2019 Budget Overview

Proposed Budget

Letter from Elizabeth Miller

Letter from David Bennett

Our Common Ministry

Funding of our Common Ministries

BWM

Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.

On behalf of the entire BAM Organization, I hope this annual report finds you and your family healthy and well.

This annual report will be a much different report than I have previously submitted. In a normal year, we would talk about improvements to the historic district, various ministerial outreaches and discussions of what the Moravian Membership could expect in the next year. We would present statistics, ratios and various other metrics and the report would read more like a summary you would find in a business journal.

But this year certainly was not a normal year as we experienced a global pandemic that has impacted every aspect of our lives, both personal and professional. In drafting and redrafting this report, I think a more personal tone is warranted as I hope to adequately capture the efforts of the staff at the Bethlehem Area Moravians, the Moravian Development Corporation and Moravian Village as we dealt with the impact of Covid-19 and serving the Community at Large.

Firstly, I want to acknowledge that there are individuals reading this report who have been personally touched by Covid-19 and in some cases, have even lost a loved one. For those individuals, please know you are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult season.

As an Executive Team, we identified the risk of this pandemic much earlier than most. Our first conversation as a group occurred in very early January, when we noted the reports in the medical community out of Asia of the coming pandemic. At that time, we tried to stock up on much needed medical supplies for Moravian Village. Even at this early stage, supplies of appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) were nonexistent and in 45 days, on March 12, 2020, we started our community lockdown process at Moravian Village and Moravian Development Corporation.

The March 12th date is an important date for us as we made the decision to start to close our communities to outsiders. It was also our first (of many) major Covid decisions made.

They do not give a manual in how to manage in a global pandemic. None of us here have ever even

remotely experienced something like this. In many cases, we were creating procedures and policies with the hope they would work, not knowing for sure they would.

The overriding fear, and fear is the appropriate word here, is how can the little Bethlehem Area Moravians hold the line where much bigger entities could not? How could we prevent the high mortality rates being seen throughout the nation, with our limited staff and limited access to supplies?

Sometimes presented with a complex, overwhelming problem, one in which an answer for it does not exist; the way to address it is by simply defining what you stand for as an Organization and how you were going to act.

We used the phrase, "The next 10 weeks would define us for the next 10 years". Looking back, we may have been a bit optimistic that this pandemic would only last 10 weeks. But the thought still was valid. As an Executive Team, we wanted there to be no doubt where BAM and its affiliates were during this crisis and what we stood for.

- We would be present. We considered all of our entities to be Essential and we assumed the caretaking responsibility for our patients, residents and employees.
- We would put people over profits and acquire whatever was needed, at whatever cost to protect our charges.
- We were going to be bold and aggressive in all of our actions, acknowledging not all of our policies would work. But we would not fail because of our inaction.
- And most importantly, for every decision we would ask ourselves a simple question: Does this protect and put our residents and our employees first?

That is it. Four rules of the road for our Directors and Managers. That is how we were going to manage in this pandemic. These were the rules we were going to live by.

Below is the summary by Entity of how we implemented these rules.

Moravian Development Corporation

Of all the Entities, the Moravian Development Corporation was the one where we were the most

fearful of being impacted by Covid-19. The Development Corporation consists of 7 Moravian Houses and over 20 properties that are rented to lower income individuals and group homes for individuals with mental challenges.

None of these properties are set up to deal with a Covid crisis. It is high density living. It is the exact environment that Covid can spread rapidly if unmonitored and unchecked. Our employees at MDC consist primarily of property managers, maintenance men and social workers, and now we were asking them to be on the front lines in finding and containing any potential outbreak.

I think it is important to also acknowledge what was going on this spring in the subsidized housing community. In the Lehigh Valley, many section 8 housing groups closed their offices and went virtual. Maintenance would be conducted on an emergency basis only and there would be no staff on site. As of the end of November, many Low Income Housing facilities in the Lehigh Valley are still in this mode. The people who lived in these facilities were left to fend for themselves, with very little management assistance. We would not manage this way, we would be present each and every day for our residents.

Also in the spring, our Northampton County partner was forced to suspend their noontime meal to the senior center due to the lockdown. For many of our residents, this was their primary hot meal of the day and sometimes the only social interactions they had. Unlike the families at the Moravian Village, most of our residents have very little of a family social net to lean on and many are completely alone.

Not only was the MDC staff faced with the challenge of protecting our residents from Covid-19, we also had a population that was now food insecure and at risk for depression due to their isolation from the outside world.

The MDC staff did an exemplary job managing these crises. We leaned heavily on our partnerships with the food bag ministry out of Central Church and the BAM freezer ministry to establish and stock an in-house pantry for anybody who was hungry.

This was an important outreach as many of our residents were fearful to even venture out of the building and had no way of replenishing their personal

food supplies. With help from our Churches and BAM Partners and Food donations from Moravian Village and funding through the Development Corporation, we were able to fill this gap and provide meals to all that needed them.

I am pleased to say that through October, we only had one confirmed case of Covid-19 in our continuum this year. More importantly, the MDC staff were there and present for people who had nowhere else to turn. My grateful thanks to Mike Garganta, Margaret Deangelo and the rest of the MDC Staff for their efforts.

Bethlehem Area Moravians

The BAM Organization played a key role in the management of the crisis by providing logistical and financial support to our affiliates and our partners. Operationally, we allocated most of our managerial staff to work at MDC or MVB and basically “held the line” at BAM with no new capital projects or initiatives.

That is not to say we stood on the sidelines. With all of our capital projects deferred for the year, we redeployed these resources. Our goal here was to issue grants which provided immediate relief to our Bethlehem Community.

The very first grants we issued were to the BAM Freezer ministry. In 2020, BAM and the Ministries committee issued \$17,000 in cash grants and purchased a new freezer to support their goals of feeding the hungry. It is estimated that the BAM Freezer ministry will issue almost 20,000 meals this year to people in need.

We provided rental forgiveness to those individuals who reside in BAM properties. Many of these individuals are hardworking, middle class folks who suddenly found themselves unemployed when the State went into lockdown. To make matters worse, due to the State’s unemployment office being overwhelmed, they were forced to wait weeks and even months to get financial help. BAM issued over \$38,000 in rental forgiveness to relieve at least a little bit of their financial burden and allowed them to concentrate on their family’s needs and not worry about rent.

BAM played a key role in securing scarce medical supplies for Moravian Village. Leveraging its own

contacts, BAM was able to secure and fund over \$25,000 in medical supplies, including the very scarce N95 masks, used by our nurses caring for our residents.

The BAM Organization did not just provide financial support, they also offered its facilities and coordinated volunteers for service. This summer, the Bethlehem Area School District asked the BAM Organization to use its office site as a distribution hub for its summer meal outreach for its students. Meals were provided by the BASD and stored at the 561 offices and BAM staff and volunteers from the 6 Churches provided bagged meals to the community two times per week. On average, we distributed food to 30-40 families per day. I thank Jessica Kessler, BAM Executive Assistant, for coordinating these efforts.

BAM also provided \$8,000 in unrestricted support to Camp Hope this year to partially offset their own losses from not being able to operate their summer programs this year.

Via the BAM Ministries committee, the Ministries Committee issued a grant in the amount of \$15,000 to assist the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter in their own Covid-19 Response.

Moravian Village of Bethlehem

The Moravian Village, its Directors and employees are at the forefront of the Covid-19 fight. In 2020, MVB was the lead Organization with both BAM and MDC taking a secondary role. It was MVB and their staff who crafted our Covid protocols, they provided ongoing leadership on best practices and regulations. The MVB Executives and Directors took the lead, ensuring best practices were implemented at both BAM and the Development Corporation.

At times, MVB shared its limited resources providing MDC with medical protection equipment to make sure the staff there were adequately protected.

One of the hardest parts of our job at Moravian Village was dealing with the ever-changing regulations and restrictions. Sometimes, new restrictions and guidance would be issued in the morning by one governing body, only to have a secondary governing body issue contradictory guidance in the afternoon. It left us in the position if we adhered to one set, we were in direct conflict with another.

I was very proud of our response in the spring of this year to fight through our initial Covid surge and for 80 days, we held the line on keeping Covid completely out of our continuum. But like over 98% of the skilled nursing and personal care homes in the State, in late May/Early June, we experienced our own outbreak. And with our own internal outbreak, we also had a number of staff also out due to contracting or being exposed to Covid-19.

That was a very difficult time for us as we poured so much effort and resources, and really ourselves, in doing everything we could to prevent this scenario. This had a shocking impact on staff and there were really two ways to go here.

The staff could have folded and risked the outbreaking spreading to our entire facility. Or the remaining, unexposed staff would do whatever it took to contain the spread.

I am proud to say that the staff rallied to the cause. Through their efforts and their sacrifices, we were able to quickly contain our outbreak and prevent the outright spread that affected many skilled nursing facilities. As of the writing of this letter, we are currently Covid free in all parts of our continuum and have more days Covid free after our initial outbreak vs. before our outbreak. I would like to thank Marvin Garanda (Nursing Home Administrator), Richard Bach (Assistant Nursing Home Administrator) and John Calzola (Vice President) for their efforts.

CEO's Thoughts on 2020, Employees and the Staff

We are currently living through historic times. 2020 has seen a global pandemic that seems there is no end in sight, a stock market and economic meltdown, a reckoning with the Country's history of racial injustice, riots in Portland, Seattle and most recently, Philadelphia and finally a very contentious Presidential cycle that seems to pit neighbor vs. neighbor because they have different political ideas. The lack of civility in this time is striking to me and in some aspects, with all the negativity in the world; it is difficult to not give in to despair.

And through all these dark times, I have seen the absolute best that humanity has to offer in the employees at Moravian Village, the Moravian Development Corporation and BAM.

I see a very tired and emotionally drained workforce show up each and every day, and they have been doing this since March. They did not have the luxury of working from the safety of their home. They did not have the luxury of working reduced hours. In fact, I think most of the staff would welcome with open arms going back to working just the standard hours instead of the many, many hours of overtime we are currently working. Some of us have left our families to live on site so we would have a 24/7 coverage.

You also have to remember in the early days of this pandemic, we did not know how this was transmitted, we did not know how virulent this was and there was a real concern among the employees of contracting something and taking it back to their own families. And through it all, they showed up. They showed up because they care, because the mission is important, because they are having a direct beneficial impact to their community. Their individual efforts are contributing to a larger, overall response that is protecting the community.

I am humbled to be the CEO of this Organization and to be associated with these employees. The word hero has been thrown about so much in the last few months, it is almost cliché'. There is nothing cliché' though about what they are doing here. What they do is hard. As one of our residents here once said, the work they do is "soul crushing" hard and that is the proper term to use. They have struggled and they have persevered and the Moravian Community in Bethlehem has been well served by the Employees here at BAM and the Affiliates and it is my hope that the Moravian Community is as proud of them as I am.

A Final Thank You

I wanted to specifically acknowledge my two Executive Directors, whose efforts have been instrumental in our success this year. Brad Senick (BAM Chief Operating Officer) & Tracy Patton (Executive Director, Moravian Village)

The two of them have the toughest, thankless jobs in the Organization.

As Operating Officer, Brad is in charge of all aspects of the Operations of the three companies. This job is difficult enough in normal times, but it is next to impossible in these times. His greatest contribution this year was his ability to find medical supplies,

where none could be found. While other Organizations struggled to obtain the necessary PPE for their staff, through a lot of effort, and maybe a bit of cajoling, Brad was able to get the supplies which protected our staff.

Brad also had the unenviable task of trying to complete a capital expansion project at Moravian Village in the midst of a pandemic. Brad was able to complete this project in late October of 2020. If it wasn't for the delays from the Government Lockdown, the project would have been on time and on budget.

Tracy Patton is the Executive Director of Moravian Village. She has been the undisputed leader of our pandemic response in the Entire Organization. She has worked more hours than I can count making sure we are doing our absolute best to protect our residents. Leadership is something that cannot be taught, it is ultimately something that is inside you. Tracy is looked at by the employees as the Leader of Moravian Village. She has inspired them in the dark times and held things together in a healthcare industry where everything else has been falling apart.

Brad and Tracy are the best of the Organization. There is not a doubt in my mind that through their direct efforts, they have saved lives this year. They have my utmost respect and my gratitude that they have chose to share their gifts and their talents with us.

On behalf of the entire BAM Organization, I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy Holiday Season.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan Soos, CPA
Chief Executive Officer
Bethlehem Area Moravians

What Bam Is Doing to Address the Covid-19 Crisis:

Moravian Development Corp (the Moravian Houses)

1. Delivery of Meals to homebound residents and residents self-isolating due to Covid-19.

2. Call each resident 2x each week to check on them. If they are self-isolating, this is every day.
3. Expansion of Chaplaincy outreach to our residents to provide spiritual support.
4. Expansion of social distancing activities such as exercise videos, room bingo, etc.
5. Maintain full complement of staff to act as emergency support to the residents if needed.
6. Adopted the Family First Act for employees which extends Covid related benefits to employees. Due to limited staffing, MDC was not required to extend this benefit.

Moravian Village of Bethlehem

1. Overall global leader for the BAM Organization. Established screening protocols for BAM/MDC.
2. MVB Kitchen has been making extra soups and meals to serve at the Moravian House and BAM Freezer Ministries. MVB has crossed over 2,350 donated meals since mid March to the end of October.
3. MVB donated healthcare supplies to MDC to protect its workers.
4. Established a Covid exclusive wing in healthcare to take care of any MVB residents or patients who contract the virus. This Covid Wing has been closed since mid July but stands ready to accept residents in need.
5. Converted Upper Deck eatery into a mini grocery store and sell kitchen staples at MVB Cost to our residents and employees.
6. MVB will assist BASD with distributing food to its low income kids. MVB utilized the 561 parking lot and staffed it with volunteers/paid staff every Monday and Wednesday for the summer. This program was a success due to the volunteer support of the BAM Churches. Representatives from the BAM Churches distributed approximately 50 meals a week through the BASD summer lunch program.
7. MVB Provided every full-time staff (with the exception of Executive Management) a \$500 Covid

bonus and every part-time staff person a \$250 Covid bonus.

8. MVB applied for and received State of PA Hazard grant funding for our employees who make less than \$20 an hour. MVB matched these funds and expanded this benefit to all direct healthcare employees.

Bethlehem Area Moravians

1. Reallocated staff to assist MDC/MVB in their Covid-19 Efforts.
2. Granted rent relief to all renters in their continuum in the amount of \$1,000. Many of these individuals who rent from BAM were deemed nonessential by the State of PA and have not worked since mid March. This grant allows them cash flow flexibility until unemployment is received. Total grant was \$38,000.
3. Via Mincom and the General Board, \$20,000 to the freezer ministry to support their food Outreach.
4. Has sourced, purchased and donated medical supplies to Moravian Village. Total Grant \$25,000.
5. Has funded additional security for Moravian Village during this crisis. Total Grant \$25,000.
6. Organized various sewing teams to make masks and gowns for MVB's healthcare employees and residents. All MVB employees have a homemade mask. Extra masks have been distributed to some employee families who expressed need. BAM has also funded the sewing of reusable gowns for the nursing staff.
7. Adopted the Family First Act for employees which extends Covid related benefits to employees. Due to limited staffing, BAM was not required to extend this benefit.
8. Via Mincom, granted \$8,000 to Hope Conference Center for their Covid Relief.
9. Via Mincom, granted \$15,000 to the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter to fund their own Covid-19 response.

The above items are the major outreach efforts of the Managers and Staff of the Bethlehem Area Moravians and its Affiliates. However, there are many day to day outreaches performed in assisting our resident groups that are not listed above.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan Soos, CPA
Chief Executive Officer, Bethlehem Area Moravians

BAM Almoners Fund

The Almoners Fund is managed by Board Members elected by each of the six churches of the Bethlehem Area Moravians (BAM). The Board works quietly and confidentially to carry out the purpose of the Fund and responds to requests made by the pastors of the local congregations to assist members who are in temporary financial need.

The Board meets four times a year. This year, due to COVID restrictions, all requests for financial need were handled by email vote.

The Program, which provides \$1,500 for each BAM congregation to assist the Pastors with requests for immediate financial assistance, was continued again this year. These discretionary funds are administered by the pastors and are not to be used for the congregation's general or benevolence budgets. This program does not replace the current Almoners program, but supplements it. Requests for larger grants or short-term assistance are handled through the normal process.

During 2020, the Almoners expended a total of \$21,818.00 to assist three individuals in financial need. Some were one-time grants, while others were for a set period of time. Of those assisted, two were from the Central Moravian congregation.

Financial gifts, no matter how large or small, are always welcome.

BAM Almoners Fund, Inc.
561 East Market Street, Suite 1
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Respectfully Submitted,
David A. Williams, Board Representative

Birthday Greeters

Our team of volunteers has joyfully engaged in sending birthday greetings to members of Central Moravian Church on behalf of the congregation, during an extremely unusual year. Each month, volunteers are provided with a list of names, addresses, and birth dates, along with sheets of postage stamps. Some volunteers purchase their own cards while others use cards with the Moravian birthday hymn provided by the church. We are currently working with a skeleton crew. We look forward to returning to a full complement of volunteers as soon as the constraints of the pandemic come to an end. Happy Birthday!

New volunteers are welcome! Please contact me at 484-895-5147 or shmoel@aol.com.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelia Clennon, Coordinator

Blood Bank

The Central Moravian Church Blood Bank is a service for all Central members. It provides free blood products whenever they are needed for our Church members. **You do not have to be a donor** to receive this service. However, donors are the key to making this service successful for the community. Whole blood donations may be made once every 8 weeks. Platelets may be given every 8-days, up to 24 times per year. Every day 450 donations of blood products are needed to supply the needs of our area hospitals.

Our donors in 2020 made 56 donations to the Miller-Keystone Blood Center and surpassed our goal of 50. This is a heroic event for the year of the pandemic. Our goal for 2021 is 50. Let's make our goal again!!!

Thanks to all heroes for their wonderful gift to our Church Blood Bank and the community. **We are always looking for more donors to help support this great cause.**

Below is a list of donors and the number of donations they made in 2020:

Boyer, Frank	1
Chynoweth, Lyn	5
Delph, Ginny	3

Dimmick, Gayle	2
Goodman, Jennifer	2
Hochella, David	2
Hochella, Grace	2
Magann, Pat	1
Mosebach, Craig	12
Ostock, Elena	1
Phillips, Rob	3
Raines, Peter	1
Royer, Katie	1
Schlener, Beth	1
Tenges, Tom	2
Wascura, Sarah	16
Woodring, Sallie	<u>1</u>

Total 56

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Mosebach, Coordinator

Busy Workers' Society

Busy Workers started 2020 very well. In the month of January, we distributed seven prayer shawls. Our first monthly meeting was held in January. We discussed the success of our 2019 Christmas sale. Since the beginning of March, we have not met on our usual Wednesday mornings on the lower level of the Old Chapel due to Covid-19. Our two major sales, Plant and Attic Treasures Sale in May and our Christmas Sale in December, never took place due to state Covid-19 restrictions. Normally the proceeds from these sales enable us to support charities from Bethlehem to Tanzania, Nepal and Star Mountain in Ramallah, Palestine.

These are our charitable contributions for 2020:

CMC 275 th Anniversary Campaign	\$2,000
CMC Discretionary Fund	1,000
CMC Jamaica youth trip	500
Birthday Social	192
CWS CROP Walk	250
Esperanza	500
Moravian Archives	500
Memorial, Catherine Weidner	100
Moravian Theological Seminary Scholarship	1,500
New Bethany Ministries	250
Paul Silwonka	250
Sanctuary Flower Fund Donations	553
Staff appreciation funds (4)	200

Star Mountain Rehab Center for Children	250
Truth for Women	500
Unity Women's Desk	600
Victory House	<u>250</u>

Total: \$9,395

Misc. Operating Expenses for 2020 \$1,792

Busy Workers have donated \$553.00 for sanctuary flowers in memory of departed Busy Workers and friends. Thank you, Mary Jo Hill, for making sure that we have flowers every week for the pulpit.

We have given 467 prayer shawls to date. Thirty-seven shawls were given in 2020. Prayer shawls are given to those who are ill or who have suffered losses in their families. If you know of someone who would benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, please contact one of the Busy Workers or one of our pastors.

Busy Workers' philosophy in making donations is taken very seriously. We have organizations to which we give on a yearly basis. Usually, discussions take place in the month prior to authorizing the donation. The following month we vote to approve the donation to be made. This year we accomplished our business by email. Our goal was to try to help organizations that were stressed in this unusual economy. Unfortunately, the amounts distributed were greatly reduced.

In September, we were approached by Charlene Donchez Mowers, President of Historic Bethlehem Museum and Sites, inquiring if we would be interested in joining them in a Christmas Sale of our crafts and greens at Burnside Plantation the end of November and the beginning of December. We decided that participating with them would be beneficial. We could not hold a sale in the Chapel with Covid-19 restrictions. Historic Bethlehem would hold their sale in the barn with all doors and windows open. This made our decision easier for us to attend. We want to thank Charlene for thinking of us.

Thank you to the members that made wreaths and swags for us to sell to our congregation and at Burnside Plantation.

Next year, 2021, will again be a challenge, as cases of Covid-19 are increasing again after Thanksgiving. We hope that the vaccines will provide protection from the virus and will make a difference in our lives.

Our hope is to meet as soon as it is safely feasible. New members are always welcome, whether we meet in person, or via zoom. Several of us are working on crafts from home. Normally we would meet on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Old Chapel. Hopefully, 2021 will be a better year for all of us. Fellowship plays an important part of our morning gatherings. Feel free to contact us.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jacqueline Adams, President
Linda Thudium, Vice President
Marianne Allen, Secretary
Sallie Woodring, Corresponding Secretary
Sue Jones, Treasurer
Beth Boyer, Assistant Treasurer

CD Recording Ministry

The recording committee ceased its weekly duties as of the March 2020 suspension of Sunday services by church leadership due to the Pandemic. After many years of service to the congregation, it has been decided, due to the move to virtual broadcasts, to retire the recording committee. Currently, our services have been and will continue to be broadcast virtually via the internet and are archived through the Central Church's website (YouTube and Facebook) Many, many thanks to all who have been involved in the recording ministry since it was originally formed by the late Susan Spitzig who saw the need to bring this outreach to those Congregants who, due to infirmity or logistics, were unable to attend services. Sister Spitzig originally recorded and mailed copies of our services using audio cassette tapes. Eventually, the recording capabilities were upgraded to Compact Disc and most recently to flash drive technology. Thank you, to the latest committee members, Dan Diehl, Bob Wasura and David Lauer for their dedicated service to our congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Worrich, Coordinator

Flower Distribution

The Flower Ministry distributed 44 bouquets in January, February and mid-March. After that, committee visitation to patients in hospitals and to nursing home residents was curtailed. Graciously, our

Pastors took bouquets on their visits to those folks. As COVID-19 continued, the people who generously gave altar flowers for the virtual services were encouraged to pick up their floral offerings at 12 noon on Sundays. We are grateful to the donors of the flowers and to the Pastors for their assistance, continuing this ministry during this most different year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dorothea Lovis and Cheryl Tubio, Co-Chairs,
Nina and Joe Schaffer, Substitute Visitors

Food Pantry

The Year 2020 started as a normal year, we received our usual amount of food to distribute and our clients were the same as before. But March 15, 2020, turned us all in a different direction. The Nation and the community were starting to move into completely new territory with the realization that a pandemic was upon us. The only thing we knew was if there were families that needed food before, there will certainly be the same moving forward and likely more. We developed a protocol to serve the community. Masks were required. Hand washing was encouraged. Social distancing was required. We thought we would do OK with one service day each month. However, on March 21st, the parking lot was filled with persons needing food and the cars in the parking lot were overwhelming our space. It did not take long for us to realize the seriousness of the pandemic and the importance of the food pantry being open. One of the important things we came to understand was that almost immediately our service numbers increased by about 45% from approximately 100 households served each month to 145 each month. After the service on the third Saturday of March we understood we needed to be open more often.

By April we had a plan in place to be open the third Saturday and the preceding Friday. We encouraged our clients to have an appointment so we could reduce the congestion in the parking lot. And so it continued month to month. Each month we learned something new that would help with serving our clients. It always was important to treat each client with the greatest respect, and in so doing, it was important to have a little conversation with each client if possible. We used to do that while "shopping" with the clients inside the food pantry, but now that was not possible. While most area food pantries used a pre-bagged

service, we made the intentional decision to continue to give each client the opportunity to choose. To do this we needed to have a list of available food in Spanish, as well as English. We have been fortunate to have three Spanish speaking volunteers, Robert Adams, Priscilla Castro and Alex Hernandez. We discovered translation apps and started to learn our next lesson. Each place of origin had its own dialect and often the app did not have the correct translation. Previously we could point to cans and boxes on the shelf to help communication, but now the clients were no longer invited into the pantry, so we developed a “menu” of available items in U. S. Spanish. But even that was not working 100 percent. Each place of origin has its own words for various products. We are still working at this, but we have found an app which is doing a pretty good job and two of our volunteers knew Puerto Rican Spanish. This system works fairly well and we have come to rely on other clients to help with translation when needed.

There are many stories to tell about needs we had which were always addressed, sometimes in very unusual ways. The best story happened when we were completely out of cereal. One of our members saw a tractor trailer parked across from the church office. She stopped to offer help, thinking the driver was lost. No, he wasn't lost, he was looking for the Central Moravian Food Pantry and had a pallet of cereal which he would like to unload before he could get another load. Pam Larimer and the driver unloaded enough cereal for many months to come. This was just one of many stories of how God provided when the need presented itself.

We have been blessed with working in a community and within a church that understands the need for food in our community. We have received food donations from Second Harvest, Moravian Academy, many local businesses, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and of course the members and friends of Central Moravian Church and the Bethlehem Area Moravians. All in all, we are well supplied from month to month. We have also been able to purchase some items from local farmers using the donations that the members and friends of Central Moravian Church have given to us.

All of this has meant that our storage capacity has been stretched to the maximum. We received the donation of a freezer from Bonnie Davis and Michael Brennan. And even then we have needed to use, on a temporary

basis, refrigeration units located in various other locations on the church campus.

The bottom line is, we would not be able to do this without the service of a group of volunteers who send out emails, unload trucks, pack bags and staff the monthly “drive by.” We are inspired by the teaching of Jesus who spoke about the hungry, the naked and the lonely. Many of us have become “friends” with our clients. Yes, we have been careful, and yes, we have been challenged, as has everyone with the implications of the Pandemic.

Occasionally persons call for food assistance. Much appreciation is extended to the office staff who assist persons with their emergency food needs. Special thank you to Cindy Gibson and Martha Jones who assist these persons by opening the food pantry when a volunteer is not available, and who also receive donations from time to time.

This past year we distributed 45,618 pounds of food received from Second Harvest. We are grateful for this relationship. And also this year, you, the members of Central Moravian Church donated 10,983.1 pounds of essential food and household accessories. THIS IS 2.9 times the donations for 2019 which were 3,784.8 pounds. Yes, you, the members of Central Moravian Church, and the other Bethlehem Area Moravian Churches, have most certainly responded to the community need.

Currently, we have a volunteer corps of 23 persons who typically serve for one to four hours one day a month. Many thanks to all who volunteer; this year we accumulated 604 volunteer hours, an average of 50.33 volunteer hours per month.

If you might be interested in participating in this ministry, we would appreciate adding your name to our ever changing list. Each month all receive an email to describe opportunities in any given month. Training is available for all new volunteers so all will be clear about our expectations So, if you feel a nudge in your soul to help, let us know by calling 610-730-1650. If I am not able to answer, leave a message and I will be in touch with you as soon as I am able. I can also be reached by text at the same number. The email address is wickmann.david@gmail.com.

It is important to remember that we join with Cynthia's Boutique whose ministry is to collect and distribute,

free of charge, clothing to anyone who needs it. The clothing ministry and the food ministry are perfectly complimentary. We thank the volunteers of that significant ministry for their service to the less fortunate of our community.

Finally, let me say THANK YOU to the members of Central Moravian Church who provide the facilities for these ministries to exist. Much of our mandate to serve comes from Matthew 25 where Jesus calls his followers to find needs in their community and do what they can to meet these needs. I believe that is what we are doing.

Respectfully Submitted,
David L. Wickmann, Volunteer Coordinator

Knitting into the Mystery

“Knitting into the Mystery” meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the church office conference room at 12:30 p.m. Open to all knitters, experienced or novice, we enjoy both sharing time, as well as meditative knitting to music. Shawls are donated to the Busy Workers’ Prayer Shawl Ministry. Although we met only several times in 2020, many of us have been knitting at home and giving our shawls to the Busy Workers for distribution. We are planning to meet in an alternative fashion beginning in 2021, until we are able to meet safely in the church again. Please contact me if you are interested.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Rannels

Moravian Ladies Sewing Society

Each year the Moravian Ladies Sewing Society shares the profit from the sale of our Polly Heckewelder dolls to benefit Moravian Church causes. From the profit we make by selling our dolls, we make contributions to church and other Moravian causes. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have not met in person since early March. Our demonstrations of how we sew Polly Heckewelder dolls have all been canceled. The demonstrations are one way we let people know the Moravian Ladies Sewing Society still makes Polly dolls as they have been since 1872. The Polly Heckewelder doll is the oldest continuously made

cloth doll in America. One of our goals is for our doll to be as popular among Moravians as she is with doll collectors! As orders for Polly dolls are at an all time low, we encourage you to think of ordering one. Some of our sewers have been sewing at home. In addition to sewing masks that have been contributed to various organizations, we have even been sewing on and are working on making dolls.

When we are able to meet in person again, we welcome any sewers to join us to observe, work and enjoy fellowship any Tuesday morning (September-June) from 9 until 11:30 a.m. in the church office conference room, 73 W. Church Street.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Brown, President

Moravian Meals on Wheels

(MMW) is a ministry to support those who are ill, grieving, just home from the hospital, or a happy occasion such as the birth of a new baby, by having meals prepared for them. Please let us know if you would like our services or know of someone who could use our help.

We have not been able to function in 2020 because of Covid-19 and will not resume until conditions are safe.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dorothy Stutzenberger, Coordinator

Moravian Women

Moravian Women encourages fellowship among all women of Central Church. We also aid in the spiritual, missionary, social and financial work of the church at home and throughout the world. Central Moravian Women currently consists of three circles of women that meet monthly at various locations and times. A planned program of service projects, study, prayer and fellowship supports growth in Christ and in His service. Financial contributions are made to local and denominational causes, the congregation, and Provincial Women’s Board projects. The current pandemic has negatively impacted the occurrence of monthly circle meetings as well as the number of service projects/benevolences disbursed for 2020.

2020 Moravian Women Activities:

1. A homemade soup sale was held on January 18, 2020, for the congregation.
2. The Eastern Region Moravian Women Fall Workshop “Door Shut/Window Open” was held via Zoom on September 26, 2020.
3. Moravian Women organized the Annual Tanzanian Orphan Appeal held on 10/25/20. Donations for this project support the well-being of thousands of orphans throughout many villages in Tanzania. As of January 4, 2021, Central members have generously donated \$1,360.00 for this project.
4. The Unity Prayer Watch, coordinated by Cheryl Tubio, occurred on 12/6/20.
5. Moravian Women contributed \$300 to Central’s Food Bank.
6. Staff Appreciation Gifts totaling \$200 were appropriated in December 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jacqueline Jean, President

Peanut Makers

The Peanutmakers were organized in the early 1970’s to roast peanuts and cashews to sell as a fundraising effort supporting various church ministries. Over the years we sold thousands of pounds of nuts, distributing the proceeds to fund many ministries and we are grateful to our many supporters.

For the past year and a half we have not been able to be active for a number of reasons; individuals health issues, scheduling challenges, and most recently the COVID-19 Pandemic. We hope to start up again in the future as we know many of us miss the nuts! For now, we have decided that the money we have on hand should be put to good use. As Central expands their ministry to include a permanent virtual format which will be reaching those who cannot be with us in person, and more people throughout the world, we want to support this ministry.

\$2,812.87, which is the balance of funds we have in our account, is to be used for defraying the costs of

installing permanent equipment that will allow for the virtual broadcast of Central’s weekly Sunday services.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jean G. Jackson, Tim Brady, Coordinators

Prayer Chain

During the pandemic, I have continued to send prayer requests as I receive them, from members or one of the pastors. We still have a large group on our prayer chain, I believe 68 members praying for those in need. I always add the prayer concerns from Sunday morning services. It has been an important ministry, especially this year when we could not be together in church. If you have a prayer concern for a family member or friend, please contact me and I will be glad to add them to the prayer list (mgrandma13@gmail.com or 484-707-4680). I check the obituaries each morning and also get requests from the staff. It is a great way for our congregation to keep informed of who is ill or if someone has passed away.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, send me your email address and I will add it to our list. This is a ministry that I am very happy to be a part of.

Respectfully Submitted,
Miriam Devey, Coordinator

Putz Committee

“When it’s darkest we can see the stars. They’re always there. You just gotta remember to tip your head back and look up.” - Muhammed Ahmed

This quote sums up the Putz for 2020. In January, the Putz Committee met and came up with a plan for the year not knowing in a couple short months factors outside of our control would completely obliterate the plans we made. As the year progressed, the committee came to the conclusion that we could not safely host our traditional Putz. With that decision made, we embarked on a new path to look at alternatives to try and preserve the experience of visiting the Putz in a safe manner during the pandemic. This led us to the creation of a virtual Putz.

The virtual Putz consisted of pictures of various scenes from past Putzes at Central, photos of people's Putzes from their own homes, and video of scenes from modern day Bethlehem all edited together to tell the story of Christ's birth.

This completed video was then posted to Central's YouTube and Facebook page. Since the video was uploaded, we had almost 2,200 views. The people viewing the virtual Putz came from seven different states and South Korea.

The virtual Putz also gave us a new opportunity to tell the story of Christ's birth. Hye Rin Kim had the idea of adding Korean subtitles to the video and led the translation efforts to create them. This permitted people whose first language is Korean to better understand the story we are telling and to help share this tradition with them.

The Putz Committee would like to thank everyone who has helped create the virtual Putz as well as all of the volunteers that have helped construct the Putz each year gathering moss, setting up the stage, constructing the scenes, and hosting the Putz for our guests. Without your help, it would not be possible to have a Putz. We are looking forward to the end of the pandemic and having an in-person Putz again in 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Will Schwab, Chair

Spiritual Companionship Group

The Spiritual Companionship Group has met since June of 2018 and meets monthly on the second Wednesday from 12:30 - 2 p.m. in the church office conference room. We meet to have a time of quiet meditation in which we listen rather than talk.

As we begin our meeting, we have a time of sharing in which we might speak about where we are in our spiritual journey. Then, a spiritually insightful passage is read after which we go into silence for 30 minutes. We then share whatever thoughts have come to us during the quiet time. We are there to share, not discuss or evaluate anyone's offering. It is a peaceful experience which allows us to get out of the busyness of our world and just BE with God.

We have not been able to function in 2020 because of Covid-19 and will not resume until conditions are safe. If you have questions, please contact Dorothy Stutzenberger at 610-865-5956 or dhscls@msn.com.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dorothy Stutzenberger

Twenty Minute Society

Because of the pandemic, The Twenty Minute Society was unable to meet in-person. However, \$975 was distributed as needed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Thomas, President
Officers: Beth Boyer, Tekla Culpepper, Barbara Heske, Margaret Krawiec