

DECEMBER 2017
New Hope Moravian
Church



New Hope Moravian Church - 2897 Sandy Ford Road - Newton, North Carolina 28658 - 828-294-4802 – [website](#)

2017 Watchword

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:5-6 (NRSV)



The Greatest Story Ever Told!

Have you ever stop to think how “*Christmas is full of surprises and new discoveries?*” Somewhere in my reading this week I ran across this statement: While it may be true; it doesn’t have to always be true. Christmas poses a challenge to those of us who have heard the story since we were children. After you have attended 30 or 40 Christmas pageants, heard and sung the same Christmas carols, listened to many Christmas sermons, and

watched the miracles of Hallmark’s Christmas movies we could ask, “*What’s left to be said that hasn’t already been said, sung, or acted out before?*”

After all, if you know about Christmas at all, you know about Mary and the angel Gabriel, about the dangerous journey to Bethlehem, about Caesar’s decree, about Herod’s insane jealousy, about the inn with a “No Vacancy” sign, about the angels and the shepherds, and about the mysterious Wise Men from the east, and the last-second flight into Egypt. All of these stories are so familiar that perhaps, when we hear them again and again, we don’t really hear them at all because we’ve heard them all before. We hear but...we don’t hear. This can indeed be a problem. Familiarity can breed a casual lack of interest. During the season of Advent, I strive each year, to learn and discover something new. The story of “Jesus” birth is full of unexpected miracles, all unwrapped for us to see; if we will only allow ourselves, yet another year to hear the greatest story, ever told to all mankind: “*That God the Father sent His Beloved Son Jesus to invade human history in the form of a tiny, helpless baby.*”

So, today, I’m saying, “ready or not” the season of Advent’s unfolding miracles is upon us! We also start a new Church calendar year reflecting on the meaning of Jesus’ incarnation, ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection; all done for us. In the season of Advent we focus on the threefold coming of Jesus Christ to the world in the flesh (fully God but fully human in every way). We reflect on God’s holy Word. At this time each year we should ask ourselves the question the great Reformer Martin Luther asked as he pondered the rich meaning of the Christmas story, “*Why would the Lord of all the universe care enough about us mortals to take our flesh and share our woes?*” (Roland Bainton (ed.), Martin Luther’s Christmas Book (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1948), 5).

Year after year, we are all told by our parents, our grandparent, our preachers, and our teachers, “*There are no bad questions or lack of new discoveries.*” While this may be true, it is also true some questions and discoveries serve a greater purpose than others. So, “*Why did God care enough about us mortals to take on our flesh and share our woes?*” I believe in this question, we discover two vitally important purposes in our life.

First, during Advent, we need to move beyond the manger and connect the dots to the Cross of Jesus Christ...When we do this; we discover that it draws us into a closer personal relationship with our Creator. I've always admired Luther's passion and his way with words...He often said, *"The manger and the Cross are made of the same wood."* What does he mean; my take on this is...They are both made by wood stained with the blood of the sin and disobedience of God's creatures. They are also stained with the sweat and tears of our personal God who cares about his entire creation. God the Father's sovereign care and compassion is presented in His action and decision to send His Beloved Son, Jesus and bridge the gap between us and Himself. Sadly, God's human creations like Adam and Eve, and yes even us, have at times brought distance and separation between us and our Creator. At times, we have tried to go our own way and therefore, we have forgotten to hear, heed, listen, and obey God's Precepts.

The second purpose served by asking the question, *"Why would the Lord of all the universe care enough about us mortals to take our flesh and share our woes?"* It leads us to consider all the ways in which God comes to us. The season of Advent gives us four weeks prior to Christmas Day; to not just focus our eyes only on the tiny baby Jesus cradled in the manger, but to open up God's Word and discover all the ways God comes to us. Our God splits the heavens-wide-open and comes down not just during the event, we celebrate on Christmas morning. The purpose of the season of Advent is not so the Church can transport itself back some two thousand years ago and pretend to be first century Jews who are waiting for their Messiah to be born. We live in the twenty-first century. So let us believe more firmly the truth that God has already come to us, is continuing to come to us, and will one day come back to us.

During the season of Advent, we certainly should take time within our congregation and our families to celebrate God's coming to us on Christmas morning. However, at the same time we need to embrace and recognize the fact that our God who is beyond time and space comes down to us each and every Sunday morning to deliver the fruit of His Son's crucifixion and resurrection over two thousand years ago through His Word and Sacraments. He comes to us through His living Word, through the Sacraments, and yes, even in the circumstances and people around us! Let us not forget, that each day, we receive God's promises through Christ Jesus. We receive, *"Immanuel, God with us," right now!* As we live in a world where human sin, suffering, and brokenness is all too evident; yet in this broken world, let us continue to seek God's peace on this earth. Therefore, it is imperative, we embrace God's promise of Jesus Christ to restore our brokenness and help us live our lives until Christ' returns for His Church. All God's promises are revealed in His creation and His victory over sin, suffering and death, and in His coming again to us in glory, just as He said.

The truth that God cares enough for us mortals to take on our flesh and share our woes is shown to us in the "Greatest Story" ever told to all mankind! A story that despite how many times we hear it; I believe we are eager to hold-fast to its meaning! Its promises for us! I believe...we eagerly wait to celebrate. So, this year, let's make new discoveries of God's great love for us as we hear the "Greatest Story" ever told once again. Let us celebrate God's revelation to us through His Word and His Sacraments. As members of His Church we should equip ourselves to share this "Good News" with others who live among us, who have questions regarding suffering, and despair in the world. Let us share Advents' new discoveries as we share the *"reason for the hope"* we have, as we rest in peace and great assurance that our Lord Jesus Christ be coming again soon.

In Christ,

Pastor Betty

NEW HOPE MORAVIAN CHURCH
35th Annual Candle Tea & Christmas Bazaar



EXPERIENCE THE SEASON
Saturday, December 2, 2017
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Christmas Music Performed by
New Horizon Band & New Hope Moravian Band
Soloists: Meggie Bumgarner & Kimberly McDonald

- ❖ Putz, A narrated Nativity set to Music
- ❖ Beeswax Candles
- ❖ Moravian Sugar Cake & Cookies
- ❖ Stained Glass & Tin Ware
- ❖ Baked Goods
- ❖ Handmade Arts and Crafts
- ❖ Old Salem Quilt raffle
- ❖ Moravian Chicken Pies, Apple Pies, Pecan Pies & Moravian Slaw
- ❖ Silent Auction

No admission is charged, however, you are invited to bring
canned goods and staple groceries for the ECCCM food pantry.

2897 Sandy Ford Rd., Newton, NC
Between Startown & Robinson Roads, East of Catawba Country Club

828-294-4802
newhopemoravian.org

Candle Tea and Bazaar Last Minute Info

Set up: Thursday- (today) at 1:00 until approximately 6:00.

Friday - all day setting up/cleaning, 9:00 AM until finished and all vendors have set up their tables. Please bring a light lunch item, so you do not have to leave.

******All craft items must be at the church by lunch on Friday, Dec. 1. ******

You must price your items. There will be price tags and pens in the sanctuary in case. If you need help with pricing ideas, see Pat, Ann, Cheryl, or Thelma.

*****Bakery items should be delivered to the church on Friday as soon as possible.****

You must price your items.

***** Please bring all quilt tickets & Money on Friday even if not sold. ******

Unsold tickets can be sold on Saturday.

On Saturday:

All workers should arrive by 8:00 AM. Please park to the right & behind the church. Come in Sunday School wing door. It will be unlocked for a bit or manned. Most workers have specific jobs but if you do not have a specific job, please contact Pam Prevatte.

Choir room –Will be worker & Musician break room. Make & wear your nametag. There will be chairs and water in the Choir room for when you need a break during the bazaar. If you want to bring a light snack, you can leave it there. **Do not leave** purses or cell phones in there as it will not be locked.

Sanctuary/Candle Tea- This year the New Horizon Brass Band will join ours. Meggie Bumgarner and Kimberly McDonald, both of whom grew up at New Hope will perform solos and duets with & without Phyllis. All three will rotate approximately every 10 minutes. Nancy Miller will do brief speaking part between groups. Handouts will be available with Moravian Christmas Traditions, Map of Candle Tea/Bazaar with What Moravians Believe & Invite to Christmas Eve Services. The sugarcake & coffee will be served a bit differently, but all who want it will have some.

After Bazaar-Please be plan to stay until the bazaar is over and help with putting the church back in order for worship, etc. Goes faster if we have a lot of people. Remember that all classrooms have to be returned to their original state, Sanctuary & bathrooms cleaned. Yes, we all will be very tired, but “Many hands make light work”.

The Women’s Fellowship wants to thank you all for your support and participation. Even though this yearly event is coordinated by the Women’s Fellowship, it is a church wide project and could not be done without all you. Many thanks to all our men who help, as well.

Worship Committee News:

Sunday, December 3- Worship Comm. meets right after worship.

Sunday, December 24 is a Busy Sunday for Our New Hope Family:

Helpers for Christmas Eve Services

Pastor Betty has said many times “it takes many hands when serving our Lord”. The following are those who have volunteered to help with our Christmas Eve Services. The following tasks fall under the Worship Committee. Please let Jane know (828-639-0061), if a problem arises in your serving.

Parking Gents: meet in vestibule at 4:15 and 7:00 for parking vest, please bring a flashlight -John Furmage, John Prevatte and Jeff Beck

Ushers:

Ann Carr and Shannon McDonald greet and hand out bulletins at sanctuary door for both services – 4:30 and 7:00

Donna Marie and Mark Bumgarner assist with collecting offering – 4 ushers for offering at both services

Nursery:

Brenda Nogales and Donna / Margaret Schultz and Claire - which service to be decided
Ashley Larson will assist at the 5:00 service (4:45) / Any Brown may assist at the 7:00.

Luminaries: Jane and Steve Bumgarner

Still Need The Following:

Straighten & freshen Sanctuary between services and after second-

Straighten & re-stock bulletins for second service-

Thank you for sharing your time and your gift of hospitality to those who attend our Christmas Eve Services.

The Catawba Valley Community Chorus Christmas Concerts

Enjoy the sounds of Christmas with this wonderful community choir. Our own Margie Furmage, Carolyn McDonald, Ned and Jamie Setzer all perform in this chorus. Round up your friends and family and enjoy this lovely event.



Friday, December 8, 2017 at 7:00PM

**The Church of Epiphany – Episcopal
750 West 13th Street, Newton, NC**

Sunday, December 10, 2014 at 4:00PM

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church
3216 West Main Street, Claremont, NC.**

**These concerts will include a mix of secular and sacred Christmas music.
Each concert is free with a free will offering accepted.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE



The study of what other Christian denominations believe began Sunday, Sept. 17th and concluded last Sunday. We studied “Christianity’s Family Tree”, a Adam Hamilton’s video presentation with discussion led by Dwayne Hutto. It covered 8 Christian denominations and their faith traditions- Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism, and Methodism. This series certainly was inspiring.

Many Thanks to Dwayne Hutto for all the work, research and inspiring presentation of the material! Be watching for more news on what’s next for the “Fellowship Hall Friends Class”

PASTOR BETTY'S SPECIAL SERVICE

Sunday, November 12

Thank you, thank you, thank you, to all of those whose brought food (*and what a spread we had!*) and helped serve and clean up after Pastor Betty's Presbyter Consecration reception on November 12th. It was a wonderful turnout and I believe we made Pastor Betty and all of New Hope proud.

Also, many thanks to those who came out for church cleaning day. It looks fantastic!

In Christ's service,
Margie Furmage

ECCCM Christmas Card Fundraiser

2017 Christmas Honor Cards are available now! Help feed the hungry in our area while honoring a loved one for Christmas!

Original artwork by Newton artist Paulette Moss

See options by other local artists, one of a more contemporary design and one of a more traditional design.

Please click on this link to find out

more: <http://www.ecccm.org/christmas-honor-cards/>.

God's blessings to you and yours this Christmas Season!

Church Board of Elders

Elections were held at the Church Council on November 5. The following were elected for three year terms: Dwane Hutto, Carolyn McDonald and Roxanne Mosses. They will replace the outgoing Board Members: Margie Furrage, Shannon McDonald and Denise Beck.

The Board retreat for 2018 will be held on Friday January 12th and Saturday January 13th. Outgoing members are asked to be present for the Friday meeting, along with the 2018 members. This will make the transition easier. The Saturday meeting is for the members serving 2018 and beyond. More details will be discussed at the December Board meeting. The retreat sets the schedule and focus for the year. Committee chairs are established also.

Many thanks to Margie, Shannon and Denise for your dedication and service to New Hope over the past three years.

Urgent Prayer Concern from The Moravian Unity Mission Conference

From Bishop Sam Gray:

At the Unity Mission Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, November 15-20, stories were shared of situations of violence and persecution in some parts of the Moravian world, particularly in South Asia.

It was agreed that participants in the conference would ask the congregations in their provinces or areas to say a special prayer for people facing violence and persecution because of their faith. The day that was agreed upon was **Sunday, December 3rd (the First Sunday of Advent)**.

Please ask the members of your congregations to include this concern in their prayers, especially this Sunday.

Grace and peace,

--

Sam

The Rt. Rev. Samuel Gray
Director of Intercultural Ministries and New Work
Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in [North America](#)
[500 South Church Street](#)
[Winston-Salem, NC 27101](#)
[336-773-1732](#)

2018 Unity Prayer Watch

This is an unbroken stream of prayer by Moravians around the world and all year round. We will receive more info in the January Newsletter. You will be given ideas of what to pray for during the time frame (usually 30 minutes) that you sign up for. Watch for signup sheet on bulletin board.

Unity Prayer Watch Schedule January 1-January 18, 2018:

January 6	New Hope (NC)Midnight – 6am
	Messiah.....6am - Noon
	New Covenant FellowshipNoon – 6pm
	Unity.....6pm - Midnight

2018 Church Helpers Needed

New signup sheets will be posted soon for the 2018 year on the bulletin board. The kinds of helpers we need are as follows:

- Church Cleaning**
- Lay Readers of Bible Verses during Worship**
- ECCCM Volunteers**
- Flowers placed in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of someone**

Then there are the event based signups that are for something specific.

If you would like to participate but are not at the church on a particular Sunday, please call the office and we can put your name down for you.

Thank You!

For Example:



Cleaners Needed for 2018

Watch for new sign-up sheet posted on bulletin board. More than one family can work together. All cleaning supplies are provided, but some prefer to bring their own favorite ones. Preschool does a good job of cleaning their areas, but you do have to check anyway incase others have used the building after school.

Please consider a turn at keeping God's House spick and span.

Camp Laurel Ridge Highlights for December Newsletter

<http://www.laurelridge.org/upcoming-events.html>

Here are some key dates to remember:

December 1-3, 2017 – Moravian Mountain Christmas

December 26-29, 2017 – Winter Camp

- 2017 has been a great year for Laurel Ridge and the ministry of camps and retreats on the mountain! Thank you for attending camps, retreats and conferences and for supporting Laurel Ridge faithfully!
- Your Family Tradition for Christmas returns the weekend of December 1-3, so make plans now to join us for Moravian Mountain Christmas! Friday night movie, Saturday celebrations of Christmas - "Moravian Style", visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus, hayrides, gingerbread contest, Sunday worship... so much family fun on the mountain! All activities are free, meals and lodging available at seasonal rates. Call us today to reserve your space!
- Winter Camp 2017 is just around the corner and you don't want to miss it! Middle High and Senior High students will gather for the last camp of the year at Laurel Ridge and enjoy fun games and outdoor activities, including zip lining. Revs. Joe & Kelly Moore will be leading the discussion times covering the 12 Days of Christmas in just 4 days! Register online today, \$155/person – laurelridge.org
- Unity is the Theme for 2018 – Ephesians 4:3, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Summer 2018 Theme – In Essentials UNITY

Unity is the theme for 2018 at Laurel Ridge! Ephesians 4:3, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." All year long we will focus on the importance of unity within the body of Christ. "Uniformity we get in trees and hedges hacked, cut, and clipped, so as to reduce them to a common size and shape. "Unity" without uniformity we get in the trees of the forest, all growing according to the course of nature, of diverse shape, and size, and worth, but dependent for their wild strength and beauty on the same genial influences of nature, as they stretch out their thousand branches and myriad leaves to catch the light, and air, and dew, and showers of heaven." (Anonymous)

*The camp will send monthly and periodic updates for use in your announcements, bulletins and newsletters.
Thank you for promoting Laurel Ridge in your community!*

Contact Us Laurel Ridge Camp, Conference & Retreat Center

124 Pendry Drive Laurel Springs, NC 28644

(336) 359-2951

info@laurelridge.org

Visit us on the web: www.laurelridge.org



Salvation Army Stockings Collected

Thank-you to those who have filled and turned in 15 stockings already. There are still 10 stockings that need to be returned ASAP so that they can be delivered by the deadline. These stockings will be distributed by the Salvation Army Staff to those children in need.

The children and parents will be blessed by your generosity.

Karen Warren and Your Mission Committee

MORAVIAN DISASTER RESPONSE

New Hope Members have now made a total donation so far of approximately \$950.00 to this cause. How generous and caring our little church is. Way to go New Hope!!!!

Donations to help support MDR as it partners in the recovery can be made online by going to moravianmission.org/give. Please use the online giving form, and in comments designate the Donation for "Moravian Disaster Response". Donations within the U.S. can also be sent directly to the Board of World Mission at the address below. In the memo line of any checks please write "Moravian Disaster Response".

Board of World Mission, PO Box 1245, Bethlehem, PA 18016

NOTE: We are requesting funds be designated for general disaster response to allow the BWM to respond with the flexibility needed in this ongoing situation. All funds under this designation will be used for disaster response.

Volunteer

If you are interested in getting information on joining teams to help in the recovery and rebuilding efforts for this, or other disasters, please [use this link](#) to enter your contact information, and the BWM will follow up with you regarding any specific opportunities to get involved.

Please contact the BWM with any questions. Southern Province Office: [336.773.1732](tel:336.773.1732)

Justin Rabbach
Director of Mission Engagement
Board of World Mission
justin@moravianmission.org

Music Notes

December is here and the chancel and handbell choirs are busy practicing for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Lovefeast services on December 24th, which is on a Sunday this year. December 24th will be a full day for many of us with morning worship for the 4th Sunday in Advent and then the two Christmas Eve services at 5:00 & 7:30 PM.

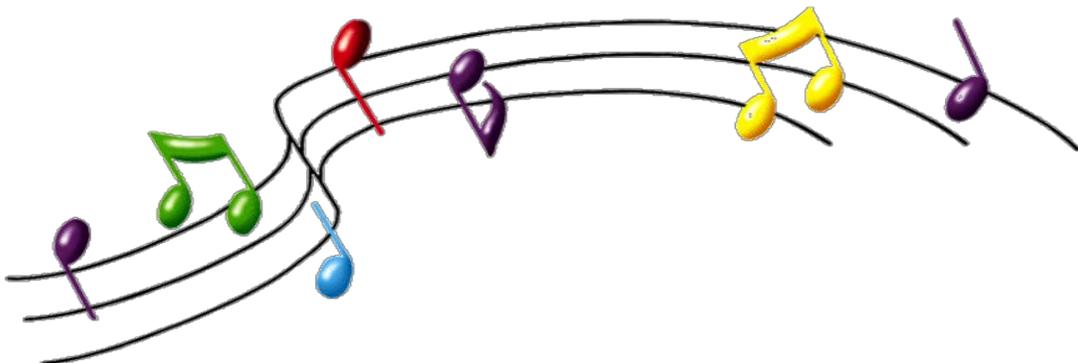
We graciously welcome Trevor Bumgarner back from NY as our guest conductor again for the Christmas Eve services. He will arrive sometime on Thursday, December 21st. The Chancel Choir will rehearse with Trevor before the lovefeast services on a date and time to be determined later.

Both handbell and chancel choir will have warm-up times before the lovefeast services on Sunday the 24th. It will probably be between 3:45 and 4:30 PM. Specific times will be determined closer to time.

As we prepare for our Advent and Christmas Eve services and the busy month, please be in prayer for each other as we celebrate the coming of the Christ child in word and music.

Wishing each of you a very blessed Christmas season,

Phyllis Little, Music Director



Pray Every Day December, 2017

1. Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Pray for Kevin and Charity and earthquake recovery in their area.
2. Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Pray for Dusty & Christin Harrison in Campus Ministry at Clemson University.
3. Sunday. Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Pray for Phil & Eunice Raiford with the Mixe in Mexico.
4. Be like those who are waiting for their master. Pray for Phil and Ashley Sineath in Campus Outreach, AL.
5. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. Pray for Allen and Deedee lobst in Spain in campus ministry.
6. I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged. Pray for Dr. Louis and Susan Sutton with WEC (World Evangelization for Christ).
7. The earth, oh Lord, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes. Pray for Charlie & Vickie Brent in campus ministry in TX.
8. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain me in a willing spirit. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent in Croatia in campus ministry.
9. The Lord shows favor to the humble. Pray for Michael, Cecilia, Love, and Blessing Tesh in Kenya.
10. Sunday. There are many members, yet one body. Pray for Drs. Bill and Peggy Hoffman with HIV/AIDS ministry.
11. The Lord bless you and keep you. Pray for Alas de Socoro in Honduras.
12. My tongue was saying of your promise, for all your commandments are right. Pray for Ed Dehnert and Barb Weide Alaska Bible Seminary,
13. I gave them my sabbaths, as a sign between me and them. Pray for the Woo family.
14. Because you are children, God sent the Spirit of his son into your hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Pray for Rob and Anne Thiessen, in Mexico.
15. Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed. Pray for Brian & Heather Marx with MAF.
16. Woe to those who plan iniquity, because it is in their power to do it. Pray for Steve & Ann Marx with MAF.
17. Sunday. May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless. Pray for Safiatu and Mohamed Braima in Sierra Leone.
18. He is mindful of his covenant forever. Pray for the Moravian Volunteer Resources.
19. Stand firm, and you will win life. Pray for Moravian Disaster Response.
20. There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. Pray for Ruth Snyder and Claire Wilson with "Changed Choices."
21. I hope for your salvation O Lord. Pray for Adopt A Village Program in Tanzania.
22. Far be it from us that we should rebel against the Lord. Pray for our retired ministers.
23. Know that I am with you and will keep you where ever you go and will bring you back to this land. Pray for the Mission Areas of Sierra Leone and Peru and the Mission Province of Cuba.
24. Sunday. The mighty one has done great things for me, and holy is his name. Pray for the peace of Israel and the Jewish people.
25. Christmas. The Lord your God is a devouring fire, a jealous God. Pray for Star Mountain and the people of Palestine.
26. He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth. Pray for BWM and staff.
27. A bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench. Pray for the Unity Women's Desk.
28. A shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. Pray for the Medical Clinic and Church in Ahuas, Honduras.
29. The good news is proclaimed to the poor. Pray for Rev. Chris Thore and disaster relief in North Carolina.
30. From his fullness we have received, grace upon grace. Pray for the Armando Rusindo Mission Foundation.
31. For God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Pray for 15 Mission Areas and 5 Mission Provinces of the Moravian Unity.

Helengulledge1090@gmail.com

MERRY CHRISTMAS

December 2017 NEWSLETTER

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