

Report to Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.
from

The Moravian Archives
2006

The Moravian Archives in Bethlehem is the official repository for archival records of both the Northern Province and the Bethlehem Area Moravians. Because of our history and location we feel closely connected to the Moravian Church in the Bethlehem area.

It is our task and our privilege to collect, preserve and to make available the inspiring history of our Church. We do our work, knowing that our Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of our Church and that in our history we can see Him guiding and leading us. Like the early Moravians we feel that we do not record ordinary history, but that we preserve testimonies of experiences our fathers and mothers had with Him. We want to pass this history on to future generations.

Programs and Outreach

One of the goals we set ourselves in 2006 was to increase the outreach of the Archives, both within the Northern Province as well as in the Lehigh Valley. I feel it is our task to make the public aware of our mission which is to serve our church as well as the general public. In order to increase public awareness we took the following steps:

- * production of a 7-minute DVD on the Moravian Archives (also available for download on our website)
- * launch of a new website in June 2006, which has increased the number of "hits" by a factor of five
- * continuation of our successful electronic newsletter, This Month in Moravian History, which now has more than 600 subscribers)
- * launch of a new scholarly journal, the Journal of Moravian History, in conjunction with the Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth:
- * we sponsored an informational booth at Provincial Synod (June) and at Moravian Days (June/July)
- * second annual yard sale took place in May
- * lectures and programs was held at the Archives (usual attendance ca. 50 people)
- * five open houses were held to improve public image of the Moravian Archives

Education

The Moravian Archives is increasingly used as a educational resource:

- * Lanie Williamson, assistant archivist, developed a program for local schools. She presented this program on archives, Bethlehem history and German script several times in the Bethlehem area
- * classes from Moravian College and other colleges in our area visit the Archives as part of their instruction in historical methods and interpretations
- * in 2006 the Archives had interns from North Carolina, the University of Southern California, Dickinson College and Moravian College
- * the German Script Course took place with 15 participants in June
- * confirmation classes from Central Moravian Church and from Schoeneck Moravian Church toured the Archives

Mission

It is the mission of the Moravian Archives to preserve and to make available the historical records of our church. We have accessioned records from many congregations throughout the Northern Province as well as from individual Moravians. Thanks to a grant received through cooperation with Reeves Library (Moravian College) and the Bethlehem Area Public Library it has been possible to hire Dr. Pauline Fox to organize the records of the Moravian Female Seminary in Bethlehem. This project will be finished in the Spring of 2007.

In January of 2006 Phil Metzger, former librarian at Lehigh University, began to volunteer at the Archives cataloging the Archives' library. Already more than 1500 records are available on WorldCat, an international online catalog of libraries.

More than 40 volunteers are currently giving their time to the Archives by indexing, transcribing, cleaning, sorting and digitizing records.

The number of visits to the reading room continues to increase each year:

2003: 79
2004: 141
2005: 345
2006: 447

Funding

In order to fulfill our mission and to maintain our current programs increased funding for the Archives has been necessary. I am deeply grateful for the increase in financial support received by the Archives in 2006 from the Northern Province and the Bethlehem Area Moravians. In addition, appreciation for the Archives' work is reflected in a 16% increase in donations from the Friends of the Archives.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Bethlehem Area Moravians for their increased support in 2006. This support enables the Archives to preserve the heritage of the Moravian Church, make it accessible for future generations, and to share the inspiring message of faith Moravians have carried with them over the centuries.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Peucker
archivist/executive director

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