

Report to the 2010 Synod of the  
Moravian Church - Northern Province  
from

the Moravian Archives

---

ISSUE IN THIS REPORT REQUIRING ACTION

Request for increased funding for  
the Moravian Archives

The Moravian Archives in Bethlehem is the official repository for archival records of the Northern Province. It is our task and our privilege to collect, to 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 made with Him. Our desire is to pass this history on to later generations.

MAB supports the work of the Church by preserving, processing and making available the records of the congregations and institutions throughout the Northern Province. Since last Synod, MAB received records from the following Moravian congregations and institutions:

Battle Hill Moravian Church, Union, NJ • Board of World Mission • Bethany Moravian Church, York, PA • Camp Hope, NJ • College Hill Moravian Church, Bethlehem, PA • Covenant Moravian Church, York, PA • Covina Moravian Church, Covina, CA • Downey Moravian Church, Downey, CA • East Side Moravian Church, Green Bay, WI • Eastern District Executive Board • Evangel Moravian Church, Tom's River, NJ • First Moravian Church, Dover, OH • First Moravian Church, Easton, PA • First Moravian Church, New York, NY • First Moravian Church, Uhrichsville, OH • First Moravian Church, York, PA • Good Shepherd Community Church, Yorba Linda, CA • Good Shepherd Moravian Church, New Hartford, NY • Haverford (First) Moravian Church, Indianapolis, IN • Lake Auburn Moravian Church, Victoria, MN • Mamre Moravian Church, WI • Interprovincial Board of Communication • Lebanon Moravian Church, Lebanon, PA • Midway Manor Moravian Church, Allentown, PA • Monocacy Moravian Christian Fellowship • Nazareth Moravian Church, Nazareth, PA • Ohio Moravian Ministries Commission • Olivet Moravian Church, York, PA • Palmyra Moravian Church, Cinnaminson, NJ • PEC - Northern Province • Reading Moravian Church, Reading, PA • Second Moravian Church, Indianapolis, IN • Sister Bay Moravian Church, Sister Bay, WI • Third Moravian Church, Philadelphia, PA • Trinity Moravian Church, Utica, NY • Unionville Moravian Church, Unionville, MI • Western District Executive Board

### **Celebration**

MAB celebrated its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007. For this occasion, the missing historical marker in front of the Archives' building was replaced.

### **Outreach**

\* MAB hosted various lectures and programs, including a German-English Singstunde (with Moravian Music Foundation and Central Church). For the German Script Course, see under Education.

\* the exhibit "Early Moravian Printing in America" attracted 442 visitors (2008).

\* a conference on Moravian history and music, together with Moravian College and the Moravian Music Foundation (Oct. 2006)

\* Lanie Graf, asst. archivist, was guest curator of an exhibit on Moravian Festkultur at the Moravian Museum (2008).

\* Lanie Graf and Paul Peucker presented lectures at various occasions at the Archives and at conferences. Paul also presented papers in St. Thomas, Germany and the Netherlands.

After a drop in researchers's visits in 2007 the number of researchers has continued to increase during the last few years:

<i>year</i>	<i>no. of researchers</i>	<i>no. of visits<sup>1</sup></i>
2006	172	447
2007	128	320
2008	141	321
2009	166	361

### **Publications**

\* Lanie Graf developed a time line of 550 years of Moravian history for the 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Unitas Fratrum. The 10 illustrated panels can be borrowed from the Archives; they are also available as digital files on a CD ROM.

\* Our email newsletter, *This Month in Moravian History*, is sent out to more than 800 national and international subscribers every month. The 50<sup>th</sup> issue came out in January 2010.

\* In the fall of 2006 MAB, together with the Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth, published the first issue of the *Journal of Moravian History*. It is the only scholarly (peer-reviewed) periodical on Moravian history in English. The editorial work is done by the MAB staff. The eighth issue will come out this summer.

\* Lanie Graf, together with Jane Burcaw, designed an updated version of the 1780 "Moravian Vine," a display of all Moravian congregations in North America in 2007, the year of the anniversary of the Unitas Fratrum..

\* a selection of papers, presented at the 2006 Moravian History Conference were edited by Heikki Lempa (Moravian College) and Paul Peucker and published under the title *Self, Community, World: Moravian Education in a Transatlantic World* by Lehigh University Press.

\* Both Lanie Graf and Paul Peucker published articles on Moravian history in various journals and dictionaries.

### **Staff**

\* Since last Synod Claire Klatchak joined the Archives' staff as office manager in September of 2007.

---

<sup>1</sup>In our statistics we differentiate between the number of researchers that come to the Archives and the number of visits they make during a year.

\* More than 40 volunteers help us with various projects. A project that was started in 2004, indexing the memoirs and obituaries in *The Moravian* since 1857, was completed in January of 2010.

\* staff members attended various continuing education events, such as workshops, seminars and conferences.

### **Educational Programs**

\* Lanie Graf, assistant archivist, developed an educational program on archives, Bethlehem history and German script. This highly successful program was presented in many of the middle and high schools in ten school districts throughout the Lehigh Valley.

\* Paul Peucker is an adjunct professor at Moravian College and teaches classes on Moravian History and on Archival Studies. Many college classes visit the Archives for a general introduction to the archives.

\*The German Script Course is so popular, that we were able to host two courses during the summer of 2009.

### **Grants**

\* the Archives received a grant of \$15,000 for our Records Online Project. This resulted in online access to our finding aids as well as to our book catalog.

\* CLIR grant with Lehigh University (\$90,000) for processing personal collections, architectural drawings and views, records of the Bethlehem businesses, and the early congregational library. This project began in February 2010 and will continue for two years.

\* The Archives received a preservation assessment grant from CCAHA of Philadelphia to help us to identify preservation needs and to apply for funding.

### **Collections**

\* thanks to the work of two librarian volunteers, almost 6,500 titles in our book collection have been cataloged

\* Both the book catalog and the finding aid for the archival collections are searchable on our website.

\* many gaps in our book collection were filled in the past years. Recent acquisitions to the archives' library are listed on our website.

\* a 1576 hymnbook from the Unity of Brethren was donated to the Archives (currently oldest hymnbook from our church in our collection).

\* the records from the Female Seminary (Boarding School for Girls) were fully processed. A finding aid is now available on our website.

\* various church registers, such as the register from First Moravian Church (South Bethlehem, now Advent) were professionally restored. The restoration was sponsored by congregations and individuals.

\* our tall case clock (ca. 1810) was restored

### **Facility**

\* the entrance area was renewed. The facility is more welcoming to visitors as well as more functional.

\* the roof was replaced with financial support from the Province, Bethlehem Area Moravians and United Brethren's Church on Staten Island.

\* the alarm system was replaced with financial support of United Brethren's Church on Staten Island.

\* A general overhaul of the reading room as well as a few other improvements to the archives' building are envisioned for the near future.

\* The computer system was upgraded in 2009.

**Finances**

Currently, MAB receives 24% of its funding from the Province (including Larger Life Fund). This is a significant increase compared to the 17% as mentioned in my 2006 report. 14% of our funding comes from Bethlehem Area Moravians. Like most other institutions our endowment took a hard hit during the financial crisis. Currently investment income covers 33% of our budget. The remainder comes from programming and is raised from the Friends of the Archives. In the past four years we raised a total of \$160,800 from our donors.

In 2005 we started a capital campaign which has resulted in \$223,850. Last year the campaign was put on hold because of the financial crisis but will be continued in the near future.

In order to continue our work for the Northern Province and to fulfill our mission as the resource center for Moravian history in North America we need to improve our financial basis. Unfortunately, contributions from the Church lag behind our needs to support staff, the property and preservation efforts. It is our wish that the Northern Province increase its funding of our institution, keeping in mind that we exist solely to collect and preserve the records of the Moravian Church and its related institutions for future generations.

respectfully submitted,



Paul Peucker  
Archivist

---

Moravian Archives, 41 W. Locust Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. Tel. (610) 866-3255, Fax (610) 866-9210.  
email: [info@moravianchurcharchives.org](mailto:info@moravianchurcharchives.org) [www.moravianchurcharchives.org](http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org)

For more information about the Archives, visit our information stand during Synod. Please feel free to visit the Archives for a tour of the gallery and the vaults.