

Report to Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.  
from

The Moravian Archives  
2008

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*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.*

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During the year 2008 the Archives received 102 additions to the collections which included:

- ★ 1576 hymnbook from the Unity of Brethren (currently oldest hymnbook from our church in our collection)
- ★ an 1821 tax collectors' book of Leonard Frankenfield (Northampton County)
- ★ silver communion set for private communion, given to Rev. Henry Fluck by the Ladies Aid Society of Westside Moravian Church, 1915
- ★ papers from the Horsfield family (first storekeeper in Bethlehem)

*Highlights from 2008*

- ★ thanks to a grant received in 2007 the catalog for the book holdings and the finding aid for the archival holdings are now online.
- ★ 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.
- ★ we developed an updated version of the "Moravian Vine," a display of all Moravian congregations in North America.
- ★ a group of over 40 volunteers gave us a total of 2,077 hours (2007: 1,642 hours).
- ★ we were pleased to have a great number of Eastern District Synod delegates attend the "Happy Hour" at the Archives (June).
- ★ Lanie Graf, asst. archivist, was guest curator of an exhibit on Moravian Festkultur at the Moravian Museum
- ★ we strengthened our cooperation with Historic Bethlehem Partnership, resulting in an exhibit (see above), the celebration of a reconstructed 18<sup>th</sup>-century birthday event at the Gemeinhaus (Sept.), a training session for HBP tour guides (Oct.). In addition we, provide research assistance and contributed objects to various HBP exhibits.
- ★ the Moravian Archives organized a conference on Moravian history and music, together with Moravian College and the Moravian Music Foundation (Oct.)
- ★ the Archives hosted a German-English Singstunde (Dec.), together with Central Moravian Church and the Moravian Music Foundation

- ★ the archivist taught courses in Moravian History and in Archival Studies at Moravian College.
- ★ Lanie Graf, assistant archivist, presented our educational outreach program on German script at eleven middle and high schools throughout the Lehigh Valley.
- ★ the exhibit “Early Moravian Printing in America” attracted 442 visitors.
- ★ more than 3000 books from the Archives’ library are now cataloged and accessible through the international WorldCat system (web based).
- ★ the archivist was invited to present the 2008 Moses Lecture in Moravian Studies: “Beyond Beeswax Candles and Lovefeast Buns: The Role of History in Finding a Moravian Identity.”
- ★ the lectures and other programs at the Archives are well attended by church members, students and faculty of Moravian College as well as by members of the public.
- ★ our electronic newsletter, *This Month in Moravian History*, reaches an international audience of 775 subscribers every month.
- ★ the *Journal of Moravian History*, continues to be published in close cooperation with the Moravian Historical Society. Issue 4 came out in the summer, issue 5 is in print.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Bethlehem Area Moravians for their continuous support during 2008. 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

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**Staff:**

Dr. Paul M. Peucker (archivist)  
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 Claire M. Klatchak (office manager)