Lehigh students, Andrew Stahlhut and Samantha Ber- 
man, are cataloging the books from the congregational li-
brary (see article on page 3), under the supervision of Le-
high library staff as well as Moravian Archives’ volunteer,
Phil Metzger. Kristine Mayer is processing personal collections 
and David Zboray is working on the architectural drawings 
and hand-drawn maps. Unfor-
tunately, Samantha and 
Kristine are graduating this 
year and will be replaced with 
other students in the fall. 
The project is coordinated 
and headed by Lois Black, 
curator of special collections 
at Lehigh’s Linderman Library. 
“This project is a wonderful 
opportunity for the Archives to 
get a lot of work done,” com-
mented archivist Paul 
Peucker; “A grant like this was 
long overdue.”

In Memoriam: Vernon Nelson

While walking to a lecture at the Moravian Archives on 
January 26, 2010, Rev. Vernon H. Nelson was hit by a car. He 
passed away later that even-
ing. A memorial service was 
held at Central Moravian 
Church on February 27th. 
Br. Nelson began his work at 
the Bethlehem Archives in 
1961 as assistant archivist. He 
was director from 1961 until his retirement in 2004. He 
taught numerous scholars the 
ins and outs of 18th-century 
German script and many schol-
ars are grateful for the re-
search guidance he provided. 
In 2003 Br. Nelson was pre-
sented with a Festschrift in 
his honor. A reprint of this 
book, The Distinctiveness of 
Moravian Culture is planned 
for later this year.

Special points 
of interest:

- Moravian Archives begins 
work on $90,000 project 
- New exhibit in Archives’ 
gallery 
- Online book catalog 
contains almost 7,000 titles 
- Archives’ volunteers 
gave total of 1,918 hours 
- Lehigh University Press 
publishes new Archives’ publication

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A Word from the Archives’ President

With a thankful heart...

So much of what occurs in and around the Moravian Archives creates a thankful heart.

We celebrate the contribution to the Moravian Archives of those very special people who have “entered the nearer presence of our Lord and Savior” during the past several months. A huge debt is owed to these gracious souls who dedicated so much of their lives to our greater Church and the mission of its Archives. We are encouraged with the new members of our Board of Directors who bring their special gifts of skills and experience. A legacy and a promise combine on parallel courses.

All the while we enjoy the benefits of an outstanding director, staff, volunteers and friends of the Archives. Through all of these fine people, our Archives reaches researchers and writers, educators and academics and into the lives of our congregations.

With a thankful heart we search for new ways for our heritage, our history, to direct us towards a more complete understanding of our purpose and mission.

Thank you to all who make our Archives a place of learning, exploration, understanding and spiritual renewal and focus. Our history, which we have in common, is most certainly an uncommon heritage. We strive to find new ways to uncover how our past can affect our future in a positive and enlightened way.

Mike A. Long, President

Exhibit and Art Contest

At Friends’ Day in March we opened our new exhibit, “The Health of Thy Countenance” in our large gallery. Combining 18th century portraits with photographs from our collection, the exhibit illuminates a sermon by Zinzendorf which focuses on the Moravian idea that our facial expressions reveal the state of our souls.

In conjunction with the exhibit we are holding an art contest for adults and teens based on the same theme. The entries are rolling in and are on display in our small gallery. The contest entry form is on our website. We will accept entries through August 31, 2010. At the beginning of September they will be judged and the top three winners in each category will be announced at a reception open to the public on September 21 at 7:00 pm. Cash prizes generously donated by Long Funeral Home and Nazareth Veterinary Center will be awarded at that time.

Volunteer Profile: Marsha Fritz

The Moravian Archives is extremely fortunate with its talented pool of volunteers. Marsha Fritz is a new volunteer who adds another level of depth and expertise to our pool. Before moving to Bethlehem in 2006, Marsha lived in Chestertown, Maryland, where she worked as an architect for 25 years and owned her own firm which specialized in historic preservation.

Upon moving to Bethlehem in 2006 Marsha was immediately attracted to the Moravian architecture downtown.

When she accepted a position as Director of Collections and Public Programming at Historic Bethlehem Partnership, she was excited about the opportunity to look after some of the old buildings she initially admired. Marsha was recently appointed to the Downtown Bethlehem Historical & Architectural Review Board (HARB). As a resident of West Bethlehem, Marsha tells us she is having fun researching her home and others in her Mt. Airy neighborhood.

At the Archives Marsha is organizing our subject files so that they are more useful and accessible to researchers. Along with Heather Reinert, Marsha was key in preparing our new exhibit, “The Health of Thy Countenance.” It simply could not have been done without her technical expertise. Marsha says when she was looking for a volunteer opportunity earlier this year, the friendly staff and atmosphere at the Archives seemed a perfect choice. We are glad she picked us!
Oldest Library of Bethlehem Reconstructed

As early as 1751 Moravians in Bethlehem established a library for the congregation that existed well into the 19th century. The congregational library contained a wide variety of topics: agriculture, bookkeeping, architecture, mathematics, technology, religion, home economics, linguistics, etc. Many of the books were purchased for the library, while others were donated by members of the congregation. The library reflects the interests of early Moravians and gives us insight into the information needed to establish Bethlehem and the other Moravian communities in the New World.

During the early years the congregational library was probably located in the Gemeinhaus. In 1819 the library, together with the archives and the bookshop, was moved into the Old Chapel, as that space was no longer needed as a sanctuary upon completion of the new church. In 1827 the library was moved into the northeast room on the first floor of Central Church. We know that the congregational library was completely cataloged in the 1850s and book plates were pasted into each book. This catalog currently serves as our source to reconstruct the congregational library.

The books from the congregational library are now part of the book collection of the Moravian Archives, mixed in with many other books from various provenances. Thanks to the CLIR grant the Archives recently received (see page 1) it is possible to identify the books from the original congregational library, to catalog them and to place them in their original order as a separate collection. We do not know how complete the congregational library still is but it seems that a large percentage of the books is still here. The book catalog can already be searched online (see article on page 4). By typing “conglib” as search term, all the titles cataloged thus far will be listed.

The congregational library was not the earliest library in the American colonies, but it is definitely a very early library. More research needs to be done on this library and on the reading culture of early Moravians. It is our hope that this cataloging project will encourage scholars to use this collection!

New Publications from the Moravian Archives

Issue 7 of the Journal of Moravian History contains articles on Moravians in Australia and Nicaragua, on Zinzendorf’s plan to write a church history, on his theology of the Side Wound and a reproduction of a map of the Indian mission station Friedenshuetten on the Susquehanna. Friends of the Archives can order individual copies for the reduced price of $22.50. The reduced subscription price is $50.00/year. More information is available on our website.

Self, Community, World is an edited volume with selected papers, presented at a recent Moravian History Conference at Moravian College. Topics cover music, art, education, the practice of “speaking,” the Enlightenment, Zinzendorf, Comenius, Jablonski and Lessing. A list of contents is available on our website.

Order now from the Archives for the reduced price of $47.50 (regular price $55.00).

Volunteer Party 2010

The Archives’ annual volunteer pizza party took place during National Volunteer Week, on Tuesday, April 20. Our reading room was packed with more than 50 volunteers who serve in a variety of ways: from recycling and woodworking, to cataloging, researching, or working at our yard sale. We are grateful for each and every one! Our volunteers clocked a total of 1,918 hours this past year, which is nearly the equivalent of another full-time person! Paul also highlighted three volunteers who donated the most hours: Anne Howlett, 163 hours; Marga Yuhas, 168 hours; and Phil Metzger, 379 hours! This year, besides our annual pizza party, we treated our volunteers with a “make your own sundae” station featuring ice cream generously donated by Bill Burkhardt, owner of Bethlehem’s landmark ice cream shop, “The Cup.”
Upcoming Events at the Archives

German Script Course
June 21 - July 2, 2010, in the reading room of the Archives. Please note that the Archives will be closed for research during this time.

Art Contest Reception
September 21, 2010, 7:00 pm, reception in the Moravian Archives (see article, p. 2)
The winners of our teen and adult art contest will be announced.

Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music
October 14-17, 2010, at Moravian College (see below)

German-English Advent Singstunde
November 30, 2010, 7:00 pm at the Old Chapel (on the campus of Central Moravian Church, Church and Main Streets in Bethlehem)

“The Health of Thy Countenance”
Through December 31, 2010; exhibition at the Moravian Archives

For updates, visit www.moravianchurcharchives.org/events.php

Memoirs Project Completed
All the memoirs and obituaries found in The Moravian since 1857 are now indexed in our database. Thanks to the work of many volunteers this project, that began in 2005, is now completed. Soon the database will be made accessible on the Archives’ website.

We are currently preparing a new volunteer project: indexing the names in the church registers. The Archives holds almost 200 church registers, each containing entries on baptisms, weddings, and funerals. If you are interested in helping to index the names in these registers, please contact Claire Klatchak at the Moravian Archives.