

THE STAR
AUGUST 2018

Beach Reflections

My family spent a beautiful week on Hatteras Island in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Some might call me boring, but I have no problem with taking the exact same vacation every year. It is familiar; I know what to expect. There is comfort in those gorgeous surroundings and knowing that the constant rhythm of the ocean is unending.

As I sat on the beach one evening early in the week, I reflected on how Church is much the same. I thrive in the familiar worship and fellowship and service. I know what to expect. There is a rhythm to our worship and life together. I suspect there are many others who appreciate the constancy and familiarity of Church.

Each day as we returned to that familiar beach, I was struck by the vast changes. One day the area at the breaking waves was covered in crushed shells that could cut your feet. The next day, that wet sand was smooth and silky. For four days I noticed that there weren't any birds on the beach, except the occasional tern. On Thursday, the beach was covered with sandpipers hunting for crabs. For several days, the waves were calm and predictable. On Friday we didn't dare to enter the water that was churning and breaking so roughly. Spending lots of time in the ocean, we noticed long stretches when we could swim around, keeping our own umbrellas in sight directly in front of us on the beach. Later the same day, we were being pulled roughly, either to the North or the South, ending up far from our family on the beach.

It occurred to me how ridiculous it was for all of this to feel so predictable and familiar to me. The amount of change that occurs on this beach each and every day is almost overwhelming. In reality, I have no idea what to expect from day to day! I was disturbed to think about my earlier Church metaphor. Things do seem to change all around us. Even within our congregation, the changes can be overwhelming. The changes we see in our communities and around our world add to our anxiety and apprehension. Isn't Church supposed to be the place where we know what to expect? The place where we are comfortable?

As I sat on the beach the last day, I experienced a sense of deep peace. I realized that the feeling of familiarity was strong enough and big enough to hold all of the smaller changes. In fact, the change was part of the familiar. It was such a comfort. My prayer is that you will feel that same comfort in being part of our faith community. Even in the midst of changing and uncertainty, the constant is the love that God has for us. The rest is all part of the adventure. I'm grateful to be on this adventure with you!

Blessings,

Pastor Missy

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

2nd Mile Offering – NEMDR

August 5 Birthday Sunday – One Service at 9:30

Greeter(s) – Jean Seibel
Ushers – Jack Boyd, Weida Family, Charly Ribau, Anthony Ribau
Nursery – Julie & Sara Bright, Gail Brown
Counters – Rheta Judd, Chuck Ludivico, Evelyn Hayes

August 12 Communion– One Service at 9:30

Greeter(s) – Beverly Lerch
Ushers – Dan Moser, Clara Floyd, Ruth Chupella, Lorelei Moser,
Carolyn Dancs
Nursery – Sherry & Tabitha Reinhart, Kathy Rohmann
Counters – Brenda Dorward, Donna Peragallo, Martha Schrempel

August 19 Special Music Men’s Chorus– One Service at 9:30

Greeter(s) – Claire Kleppinger
Ushers – Martha Schrempel, Gail Brown, Janet Dancs, Rich Wisnoski,
Shirley Chiles
Nursery – Wendy Leap, Jody Gilvary, Lorelei Moser
Counters – Dave Ambler, Carl Rohmann, Wendy Leap

August 26 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost- One Service at 9:30

Greeter(s) – Ruth Chupella
Ushers – JoAnne Hoodmaker, Beverly Lerch, Gladys Koehler, Don
Smith, Debbie Zechman
Nursery – Ruth Chupella, Eleen Oliech, Hannah Chupella
Counters – Rheta Judd, Sharon Donchez, Blair Bates

Trustee News

There has been a lot of work going on at our parsonage over the last few months. Once Pastor Laura vacated the premises all of the rooms were painted, some electrical work was done and other minor repairs were made. Since Pastor Missy chose to remain in her home near Nazareth, the Board of Trustees set about finding a suitable tenant for the parsonage. We are happy to report that we have signed a lease with Manny & Pauline Ribau to live in the home.

Unfortunately, just as our new tenants were about to move in, the parsonage sustained significant water damage to one of the upstairs bedroom ceilings due to a failure of the central air conditioning system. Most of the damage will be covered by insurance, but it has been decided to replace the 24 year old A/C system at a cost of \$5,995.00. This expenditure is not covered by insurance. The new system will be installed sometime in August and hopefully all will return to normal.

Financial Update

For the period January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018; total income received was \$87,738 vs. a total of \$94,474 received over the same period in 2017. Total expenses for the period stated were \$118,315 vs. a total of \$117,105 in 2017. Please continue to make your pledged and non-pledged contributions through August and into the fall months. Thank you!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 David Owens
Clara Floyd
- 2 Robert Floyd
- 3 Keith German
- 4 Jeff Kessler
- 7 Lorelei Moser
- 8 Ricky Santee
Jack Boyd
Courtney Weida
Abbey Boyd
- 9 Jesse Chupella
- 11 Alexander Fattore
- 12 Georgene Dooley
- 13 Jane Ferenczy
Corinne Hayes
- 19 Karen Fattore
- 20 Deborah Weirbach
- 21 Douglas Dooley
- 23 Stephen Salvesen
- 24 Patricia Sporka
- 26 Hunter Stom
- 28 Debra Fritz

CHILDREN:

- 4 Anthony Ribau
- 9 Carli Markle

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 James and Karen Broughal
- 10 Leonard and Gladys Anthony
- 11 Michael and Marsha Venanzi
Stephen and Julie Bright
- 15 Gerald and Erika Still
- 16 Donald and Mary Harris
- 18 Manassi and Melodie Antonis
- 21 Richard and Mollie Santee
- 25 Evans and Eleen Oliech
- 29 Drew and Jayme Woodward
Stephen and Roberta Farkas
- 30 Kyle and Amanda Fatzinger



The July 2nd Mile Offering will be given to Angels in August. The total as of July 22nd is \$327.00. The August 2nd Mile Offering will benefit NEMDR.

Don't forget to sign up to sponsor flowers and bulletins. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex!

Thank you

"To my Advent Family: I want to thank everyone for their cards and prayers as I underwent surgery and am continuing with my recovery from knee replacement. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. Love, Carlolyn Dancs"

"I am doing much better. Thank you for all the cards and notes I received while recuperating." Marguerite Hamlin

ALL THINGS ADVENT MORAVIAN

SINGERS NEEDED for Moravian Hall Square Communion Service



Advent's pastor and choir have volunteered to participate in Moravian Hall Square's communion service on Sunday, August 5, at 2:30 pm. Any interested singer is invited to join us. We will provide music during the serving of communion.

There will be a rehearsal on August 5th, after our 9:30 am worship service; approximately 10:30 – 11:30. Then you may join us as we go out for a quick bite to eat or return home and meet us at Moravian Hall Square at 2 pm. Contact Donna Ambler if you have any questions. 610-865-7853.

Handbell Rehearsals Begin

Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, August 29th at 6:30 pm. We will start with our "polishing party," followed by ringing some new music. There will be no rehearsal on September 5th as Donna will be on vacation. Rehearsals resume on September 12th.



Men's Chorus

All men with an interest in singing are invited to attend rehearsals for an August Men's Chorus. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings, 8/8, and 8/15 at 7 pm (and possibly some Sundays after the worship service). The Men's Chorus will sing in church on August 19. If you like to sing, there is a part for you!! Contact Donna Ambler with questions.

Flower Donations



When sponsoring donations for flowers, please write a separate check out to Advent Moravian Church and write in the memo on the check "flower donation". If it is cash, please put it in a separate envelope and write your name and "flower donation" on the envelope.

ALL THINGS MORAVIAN AND BEYOND

News from Synod

Northern Province Synod met in June on the campus of Moravian College. Sister Terri Boyd and Brother John Egerton were our delegates, and Brother Rick Santee served as the Chairperson for the gathering. It was a time of connecting with Moravians from across our province (the upper half of the U.S. and Canada), learning from one another, and making important decisions for the next 4 years. We elected members to our Provincial Elder's Conference, including the re-election of Sister Betsy Miller as President. We elected folks to serve the many agencies and boards of our province. We also passed some legislation that moves us into the future with great hope. Here are some highlights:

- * Following the same vote of our Southern Province in April, we voted to enter into Full Communion with the United Methodist Church. This is an affirmation of the larger Body of Christ and fitting with the ecumenical spirit of our denomination.
- * Congregations are encouraged to identify funding for educational training for our lay members involved in congregational ministries.
- * Congregations are encouraged to identify needs in our community that are not being met. To the extent that we have gifts and resources to meet those needs, we may find a new sense of mission. A Day of Service is also being planned, when congregations all throughout our province will engage in mission and service simultaneously as a witness to our communities.
- * We are encouraged to consider how we might partner with the growing church in Peru to support their ministry and form relationships. (Our Northern Province is the supervising province for the mission area of Peru.)
- * We also witnessed to Christ's love for all people and the grace-filled nature of the church by adopting legislation that speaks out against racism, calls for the humane treatment of immigrants, promotes responsible weapon ownership, and show care and concerns for people of all gender identities and victims of violence.

The Synod is the highest governing body of our church. Representatives from all our provincial congregations worked, worshiped, and prayed together to do God's work. Please continue praying for our denomination and its work in the world!

Save The Date – BAM Picnic

Plans are underway for our annual BAM picnic on September 9th at Advent Moravian Church from 4:00-7:00p.m. Be sure that we will have lots of opportunity at the picnic to eat good food, enjoy good conversation, and spend time getting to know all many of our Moravian brothers and sisters from our Bethlehem Area Moravian Churches.



Habitat for Humanity

Bethlehem Area Moravians will be helping with the Habitat for Humanity Build on September 13 (Thursday) and September 22nd (Saturday.) We can use up to 8 volunteers on each day. Beginners are welcome! If you would like to volunteer, create an account at <http://habitatlehighvalley.volunteerhub.com>. If you have participated in the past, you only need to update your password. A safety waiver is required. For assistance or additional details, contact Harry Tachovsky at harry.tachovsky@gmail.com or 610-691-3737.

