

JOY to the WORLD

as the Lord has come

December 2020

ARDMORE MORAVIAN CHURCH
2013 W. Academy Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27103

Highlights

<i>Calendar of Events</i>	<i>Pg. 1</i>
<i>Board of Elders Report</i>	<i>Pg. 2</i>
<i>Board of Trustees Report</i>	<i>Pg. 2</i>
<i>Church Council News</i>	<i>Pg. 3</i>
<i>Birthdays</i>	<i>Pg. 4</i>
<i>Prayer List</i>	<i>Pg. 4</i>
<i>Announcements</i>	<i>Pg. 5</i>
<i>Archivist Report</i>	<i>Pg. 6</i>
<i>Candle Tea Report</i>	<i>Pg. 7</i>
<i>Missions Report</i>	<i>Pg. 9</i>
<i>In Memory</i>	<i>Pg. 10</i>

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6 10:30 AM Worship Service with Daniel Dockery	7	8 Circle Meetings: 10:00 AM - #3 6:00 PM - #5 6:30 PM - #4	9	10	11	12
13 10:30 AM Worship Service with Jason Clubb	14	15 7:30 PM Salem Band Holiday Concert Live-stream	16	17 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast	18 January news articles due	19 9:00 AM Leaf-Raking Day
20 10:30 AM Worship Service with Jason Clubb	21	22	23	24 2:00-5:30 PM AMC Drive-Thru Christmas Eve Lovefeast	25 Christmas	26
27 10:30 AM Worship Service with Jason Clubb	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2

Report from the Board of Elders

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME. "Make Christ the center and foundation of your life, and make it your goal to live each day for His glory." Billy Graham

The Board of Elders thanks all who have shared their gifts, which are enabling us to have worship services where God is praised and honored. Thanks to the Praise Team for blessing the Lord and the congregation each week. Thanks to Charles Paschall for securing the speakers and Cyndi for putting everything in order. We have been blessed by the speakers as they preached the word of God. Also, a new speaker system is being tested, which I believe enhances the worship.

The main focus of the Elders since the last newsletter, together with the Trustees, has been to secure a pastor for the church. We are now in discussion with the PEC concerning their requirements for calling a pastor. We have had several letters back and forth and had a zoom meeting with them on November 23 where David Guthrie basically rehashed the previous letter of September 2 and requested the Joint Board to meet again and discuss our previous reply to that letter in view of his presentation. He further advised that the PEC would be meeting on December 10 and 12. The Joint Board has set a meeting for December 6 to discuss his presentation and hopefully agree on a reply and have it to the PEC prior to their December 10 meeting.

David Guthrie further decided to present the Moravian view as to whether the Bible is the inerrant word of God. This was not expected, but was important for the Joint Board to hear, as this has been a serious concern of the Elders. He made it clear that the Moravian Church does not believe that the Bible is the inerrant word of God. This made it clear that the PEC will not allow the boards to question any prospective candidate concerning his/her belief of the inerrancy of the Bible. This was certainly disappointing to me, and I believe, to many members of the Joint Board. Two members of the Elders had researched this previously and discovered that the Moravians did not believe in the inerrancy of the Bible. This had not previously been admitted by the PEC. The Elders and the church lost one of these members, George Wright and his wife, Norma, as this was against his strong belief that the Bible is the inerrant word of God. Further, David Guthrie, after several requests admitted he believed that Jesus is the only way to salvation.

The Elders have considered other matters and I will be glad to answer any question which you might have concerning the decision of the Elders. This has been a busy time for the Elders, despite the covid-19 virus.

Clive

Report from the Board of Trustees

Copies of the November 2020 Financial Report for the General Operating Fund are available by request from the Church Office.

Thank you for your continued support of the church during these difficult days. Please remember that you can place your tithes and offerings in the baskets at the church, drop them off, mail them, or use online giving.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

A good church council was held on 11/08/20. New members elected were:

2021 Church Council Members

Board of Elders

Dennis Adams
Karin Mabe
Charles Paschall

Central Board of Elders

Kaye Brookshire

Board of Trustees

Jim Brookshire
Peggy Crouse
Rick Peery

Central Board of Trustees

Peggy Crouse

Church Council booklets are available from the church office by request.



December Birthdays



- 1 Adelia Bullins
- 3 Amanda Bowles
- 6 Michael Gwyn
- 7 Janice Irwin
- 8 Julie Wilson
- 15 Charles Ebert
Mark Ebert
Robert Thiessen
- 21 Tuta Phelps
Betty Vaughn
- 22 Carolyn Meritt
- 26 Diane Gannaway
Claire Flynn Sellers
- 27 Catie Irwin
Mike Meritt
- 28 Rick Peery
- 31 Pat Seibert



January Birthdays



- 2 Peggy Crouse
- 4 William Mitchell
- 6 Marty Butner
- 7 Carol Ann Bowles
- 8 Glenn Mabe
- 9 Kate Walls
- 15 Emily MacMillan
- 18 Ryan Bethea
Anne Thiessen
- 19 Lee Ebert
- 23 Samuel Woo
- 25 Suzahn Ebert
- 28 Frances Walker
- 31 Joan Rutledge

People for Whom We Are Praying



Members

- James Adams
- Marie Adams
- Amanda Bowles
- Annie Boyd
- John Cranford
- Adam Lefevre
- Ruth Long
- Alice Pierce
- Will Redding
- Bett Warner
- Connie Wester

Friends

- Emily Burge
- Nancy Cooke, Joe Lefevre, & Wayne Reid, family members of Chris Lefevre
- Olive Moore, friends of Ruth Long & MaryAlice Adams
- Tim Scott, friend of Dennis Adams
- Donna Tesh, Michael's mother

*Please remember to contact the church office to add or remove individuals from the prayer list.

Announcements



NOTICE: Christmas card mailboxes have been placed in the Lovefeast Kitchen for your convenience.

Also, remember to pick up your 2021 Offering Envelopes, which are located in the Lovefeast Kitchen too.

Report from Leaf Raking Day

I was glad to see so many individuals participate in the church grounds workday on Saturday, November 21st. It was a good day of raking leaves and mowing grass. The next outdoor workday is scheduled for Saturday, December 19th, starting between 8:30-9:00 AM. This is for both men and women.

~Rick Peery~



2021 Flower Donations

You are invited to make a flower donation for 2021 in memory or in honor of someone. Standard arrangements are \$40.00/each and fuller arrangements are \$50.00/each. Please notify the church office if you have a specific date you would like to reserve.

2021 DAILY TEXTS ARE HERE!

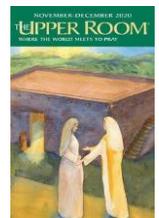
Paperback: \$11 / Large Print: \$13
Contact the church office to purchase a copy.



THE UPPER ROOM (Nov-Dec)

Remember to pick up a copy and note that prices have increased.

Small \$1.25 / Large \$1.75



Salem Band Holiday Concert

Tune in for a new Salem Band Holiday Concert experience! The **Salem Band Tuba Quartet** will present a mix of mostly traditional carols for Christmas and the **Salem Band Saxophone Quartet** will perform popular Holiday favorites with percussion. Selections include a medley of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Go Tell It On the Mountain," music from the Nutcracker, "Santa Baby," a Pentatonix arrangement of "Carol of the Bells," a swinging "Jingle Bells," and the popular "Morning Star Polka."

This is a free concert with live online donation options for our annual charity partner, Sunnyside Ministry, and your Salem Band. You can access the concert starting at 7:00 pm at the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/NewPhiladelphiaMoravianChurch/live/>

Archivist Report

Moravians are known for their documentation and the Archie K. Davis Center houses documents dating back to 1753. Documents from Ardmore Moravian Church are taken periodically to the Davis Center and are preserved for future generations. Many people (Moravians and Non-Moravians) go to the Davis Center to do research for many different types of projects – their family genealogy, their college thesis, a book they are writing, how to restore historical buildings, general knowledge of interest, etc. Many of the documents have been summarized and issued in the 13 volumes of books entitled “Records of the Moravians in North Carolina.” Copies of these volumes are located in the Church Parlor. Another book “With Courage for the Future: The Story of the Moravian Church, Southern Province” published in 2002 has many references to Ardmore Moravian Church and people associated with Ardmore.

Following are examples of items requested by the Provincial Archivist to be retained in the Archie K. Davis Center in Old Salem:

- Board of Elders meeting minutes
- Board of Trustees meeting minutes
- Congregation Council meeting minutes
- Year-end reports given out at Congregation Councils
- Year-end financial reports
- Budget reports
- Directories of members
- Memoirs
- Histories of the congregation
- Histories of congregational organizations
- Special brochures concerning any facet of church life
- Programs and printed materials used for anniversaries, dedications, etc.
- Church registers (of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, etc.)
- Congregation diaries
- Building plans for church-owned buildings
- Minutes and year-end financial reports from organizations within the congregation
- Newsletters

Submitted by: Peggy Crouse

ARDMORE MORAVIAN CHURCH CANDLE TEA

The year 2020 has been “A Different Year,” to say the least, and many activities had to be cancelled – including the Candle Tea. This is only the second time since 1982 (except one morning for school groups) that we have had to cancel. This report captures “snip-its” from our previous years.

The Candle Tea emphasis is placed on the outreach to children hoping they will experience the Lord’s love through the love shown by the congregation. I often stated that if one child receives a positive feeling about attending church, then the Tea has been a success - and we have seen and heard of such instances. We experienced children coming with their class and then bringing their family back. One little girl came with her class, then brought her family back Friday night, and then her father insisted that her grandparents come. The grandparents, by the way, arrived from Virginia Saturday morning and were rushed over before getting out of the car. We have had a child, while riding in a car, see the Church and told her mom she had to stop and go inside to see what she saw earlier that morning. Rev. Neil Routh wrote an article for the newspaper’s “Message of the Week”. I would like to share a portion of that article:

“.... I took the role my wife often plays for this class – I became a parent-driver for a kindergarten class field trip to a Moravian Candle Tea. It was a wonderful way to spend an afternoon. My wife had clued me to take note of how wonderfully sharp and clever these little folks would be. She even warned me that some had survived such difficult home experiences and their needs are so great that it might tear my heart into to know what they had endured.

As soon as I arrived, I went to the table where my son was eating his lunch and sat in one of the kindergarten-sized chairs. The ten or twelve children sitting nearby immediately began to ask me questions as they chirped with excitement about their outing. Before I really noticed, one of the little folks had snuggled up under my arm and embraced me. He wanted to be sure he was riding in my car. His joy was contagious. I was happy when I found out we would be riding together.

When we arrived at the Candle Tea, he made sure that he had one of my hands as we walked to the front of the building and through each exhibit. As we sat at the first stop in the Candle Tea tour, which was in the sanctuary of the church, he talked to me in a soft voice about all the Moravian symbols. He was so surprised that I knew so much about the Advent Star, the Advent Wreath and the Love Feast Candle. I explained to him that I am a Moravian minister. He told me he thought that was “really cool.”

A conversation unfolded in the hallways of the church, as we moved between exhibits. After a few exhibits, he told me he wanted me to know something. Very proudly he said, “I like you a lot, because you must be from heaven.” I was so deeply flattered that I did not have a response. After a while, however, it dawned on me that he was connecting the experience of the Candle Tea with heaven. Since I happen to be a Moravian minister maybe he assumed I was from heaven. Being at this Candle Tea for him was an experience of heaven. Somehow, he was attempting to thank me for his experience. His gestures humbled me greatly.

Late in our tour, after we had seen how the colonial Moravians made Christmas cookies, tin ware and Advent Stars, he began to explain something about his family. I could not make it all out very clearly. He was missing his two front teeth, so he whistled as he spoke. The best I could make out was that there was something troubling going on at home. With great resolve he told me that he could not wait to get to heaven, because then we would all be together with the people who love us and there will be nothing but joy.”

Each year I ask for the Lord's guidance during the Tea and ask Him to direct it. It is obvious to me that He answers that prayer. I have shared in the past, specific incidents where it was obvious that His hand was present.

I have told myself many times while scheduling volunteers to work, that if need be, I would close down a room. I have not had to do that. The Lord provided us with the strength, stamina, and "last minute and flexible" volunteers. There were times that the schedule was not filled as the day started. And there was the year that the flu was making its round and people were calling me the morning they were scheduled to work saying they were sick. This happened on a day that the schedule already had "holes" in it. Under His direction and coordination, you were flexible, available to help when and where needed, showing up unexpectedly (when help was needed) saying "I'm available, what can I do?" and seeing and doing what was needed. That's what accomplished the Tea and I want to personally thank each and every one of you for listening to His guidance and helping. The presence of God was also seen each year in the warmth and friendliness demonstrated by congregation members and visitors – especially among all the young children.

Each year, I called just about everyone in the Church Phone Directory. I also called visitors who seemed to be attending regularly. Notices were placed in the newsletters and I personally asked people as I saw them at Church. Traditional period dresses were handmade by the ladies when the Candle Tea first started. Can you believe some of the ladies can still wear their original dress? Later, skirts made from sheets were used which ladies wore with a white blouse, apron, and cap. The men would tuck their dark trousers inside white socks and turn their white shirt collar in so as to appear wearing colonial attire. In the earlier years, we had 115 to 130 volunteers helping. In the more recent years, we had 70 to 90 faithful volunteers. Many of them stayed with an exhibit all day and for all the days of the Candle Tea.

The financial part of the Candle Tea has also been a blessing. Workshops held to make crafts to sell, provided fellowship among the ladies. Ladies even made chicken pies for years. The Board of Trustees graciously provided \$3,000 as "seed money" which was used to finance "up-front" expenses for craft supplies and Candle Tea expenses. Not only was the "seed money" returned to the Church Operating Fund, additional financial blessings were distributed for community outreach, mission projects and special needs of the Church.

I hope you can look back at your participation and see many more blessings than I have listed in this report. Although we don't know what 2021 will have in store for the Candle Tea, I know the Lord will provide a special way for us to show and share His love with children again.

Again, I thank the Lord for his direction and guidance for the Tea throughout the many years and for each of you who helped. We were not the ones who made the Tea work – we were just the instruments that the Lord used. There is no way the Tea could be accomplished without Him.

In Christian love,
Peggy Crouse

Missions Report



Our mission trip was during February this year. We had 23 people attending. We offered dentistry, ultrasound imaging, medical office visits, pharmacy, and lab. We also had several translators with us. This year we had five clinics in all. We also had a construction team who successfully finished the second floor on an elementary school. Thanksgiving was in order because we arrived safely back into the states prior to the virus pandemic. I had a follow up PowerPoint presentation in the fall with another ethnic dinner with some new recipes. Thank you all for your support.

~Adelia Bullins~

There are lots of ways to see what's happening at Ardmore Moravian Church. Get connected today!



Facebook



ardmoremoravian.org



Instagram

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

If you would like to include any information in the AMC newsletter, please submit it, by email, to the office by the 15th of the month to be included in the next issue. Please make sure your information is “print ready”. Items submitted can be event information, announcements, and articles. All items submitted may be reviewed for accuracy and content.

In Loving Memory

of

Benjamin Gray Nelson

(February 2, 1939 – September 25, 2020)

If you would like to express your condolences, you may send them to:

**Jonathan (son) & Amy Nelson
1400 Misty Glen Lane
Clermont, FL 34711**

and

**Beth (daughter) and Eric Fels
1400 Pump Road
Henrico, VA 23238**