

Pastor's Report to Church Council

I still marvel at the fact that three and a half years have passed since I was installed as pastor of Christ Moravian Church. As I have often presented in previous reports to Church Council I would like to first begin this report by expressing the following.

Thanks and Appreciation

I appreciate all of our church members who participate in the life of our congregation through their worship attendance, participation (in Sunday School, choir, band, dieners, youth group, etc.) volunteer hours and financial support of our congregation. I especially want to thank our Leadership Board members for their support and hard work this past year. Chris Vogler continued to serve as Vice Chair of our Leadership Board this past year and I appreciate his support and counsel so much. I want to recognize three outgoing Leadership Board Members who agreed to stay on an additional year under appointment. I appreciate not only their willingness to serve another year, but also for their efforts “behind the scenes” of helping accomplish so much in our congregation in relationship to our building and grounds. Rick Chitty, Joey Gray and Bobbie Russell—thank you!

We are blessed at Christ Moravian Church with an incredible support staff. I am so grateful (as our congregation should be as well) for the many hours that Avis Gray, Jeanie Rothrock, Stephen Holland, Wayne Walker, and Archie Walker give to our congregation in their respective roles. We have many volunteers who give of their time and talent in positions that in many congregations are paid positions. Thanks to Carol Johnson (band), Matt Pace, Ronnie and Amanda Sturgill (Youth Leaders), Sabrina Maksi, (Treasurer and Youth) along with all those adults who help teach in our Sunday school.

Worship Attendance and Membership

Our worship attendance has remained steady through September of 2015. Our average worship attendance has been 107 members.

We rejoice that new members have joined our congregation in 2015. Through the Rite of Confirmation we welcomed Sydney Bitancor, Haley Conrad, and Thomas Crater. Through baptism (and Rite of Confirmation) we welcomed Callie Ferguson and Zoe Parker. In addition we welcomed through Transfer of Membership Sam Dixon and Aaron Rothrock (from New Philadelphia Moravian Church).

Since our last Church Council these members of our congregation have entered into the Church Triumphant: Tim Crater, Cleo Disher, Alva Johnson, Marie Page, Frances McManus, Dick Saunders, Jim Walker and Associate Member, Polyanna Wall. We continue to remember these families in our thoughts and prayers.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care continues to be a high priority in my ministry at Christ Moravian Church. Scheduled surgical procedures, unexpected hospitalizations and the bereavement calls to comfort a family and help prepare for their funeral services happen throughout the year at any given time. I try to visit with members prior to their scheduled surgeries, during their hospitalizations and I try to visit regularly those church members who are living in assisted facilities.

Our congregation every year is greatly affected by loss. Not just our own church members who have passed away, but also many members have also lost dear friends or family as well. I plan to offer in November and December of this year some sessions of study on the subject of grief.

Please know I welcome the opportunity to visit with families in their homes or meet them out and about for coffee, lunch, etc. If you desire a pastoral visit at any point in time, please feel free to contact me.

Provincial Service

Pastors are often called upon to serve in leadership on a Provincial level. Over the years I have been involved in leadership on a provincial level either as an elected or appointed leader. In 2016 I know that I will be serving in provincial leadership these following ways:

1. Member and Officer (Vice Chair) of Salem Congregation Board of Elders
2. Member and Vice Chair of the Provincial Support Services Board (PSSB)
3. PSSB and Clergy Representative on Human Resources and Compensation Benefits Committee (HRCB)
4. Petersbrook Regional Conference of Churches (RCC) representative

Looking Back in Ministry

Through these three plus years of ministry we can highlight some of these things we have accomplished together.

2012-2013

We changed our Rules and Regulations to reflect the desire to move to a single Leadership Board. While we had a "glitch" that resulted in three board members serving under an appointment for a single year, moving forward we will now see one third of our Leadership Board members rotate off each year. Our Central Elder and Central Trustee representatives are elected as their respective terms expire.

2013-2014

We contracted with Church Interiors to begin our Maintenance Projects in our Fellowship and Sanctuary Building. Our Sanctuary is among the most beautiful in all the Triad. We continue to use our Fellowship Building for a variety of church and community functions. We also conducted a three-year capital improvements campaign to help offset the use of our investment income for this project. I will share more about this campaign later in this report.

2014-2015

I would categorize the year following our last Church Council as being one that focused upon two specific areas, our **Membership** and our **Finances**.

Membership

We have focused this year on addressing our financial non-contributor list. Our Membership Committee recommended and our Leadership Board voted to move several individuals who were considered to be active members and associate members to our Inactive List because they had not contributed financially to our congregation over several years. Pending possible Leadership Board action later this year, those who were moved to our Inactive List might be removed from our church membership rolls entirely before the end of 2015. Our rules and regulations as a congregation and those as specified in the Moravian Book of Order state clearly the expectations and responsibilities of membership. We have neglected taking action for too long but now our Membership Committee and Leadership Board do an annual review of our church membership. We will probably notice in our church statistics a DECLINE in our total membership.

Finances

Every year we must draw out of our investment income to meet our operating expenses. As we enter our third and final year of our Capital Improvements Campaign I felt it was important to share this update. Members might recall that our initial plan was for the pledges for our Capital Improvements Campaign to be reinvested for future capital improvements and replenish those accounts that were used to fund those projects in 2013. While those funds have helped us cover some major capital improvements and maintenance costs in the past year (replacing an air conditioning unit in the sanctuary building & painting the outside of our sanctuary building) a portion of these funds have also been used to help us meet our basic operating expenses. By doing this, we have been able to retain nearly \$200,000 of our Investment Income rather than depleting those funds even further. To date we have received just under \$100,000 (\$97,707.15) in pledge commitments for this campaign. As we enter this final year of our campaign, we already want to encourage our members to continue giving at their current levels in the years to come by simply applying those funds from the Capital Improvements Campaign to our GENERAL FUND.

I want our membership to know that our Finance Committee and our Leadership Board have devoted several meetings to our financial situation. As a first response, we have asked our Provincial Elders' Conference for a percentage reduction in our Provincial Share and they have graciously agreed to reduce our Provincial Share in 2016. We will see how this reduction affects us in the year ahead. Should we continue to see the same trends (struggling to make ends meet, drawing out of investments to cover basic expenses), further action may need to take place.

Among those things which we might have to consider are selling our church parsonage or potential changes in the way we staff our church.

The Future of our Southern Province

Many challenges are ahead for the Moravian Church of America, Southern Province. In reviewing the most recent Church Directory of the Southern Province there are several congregations involved in the call process and other congregations who are being served by interim pastors and will begin the call process in the future. Over the next few years many of our pastors will reach the age of retirement. Continued thoughts and prayers for our Provincial Elders' Conference are needed as they address the shortage of pastors in our province. Continued thoughts and prayers that God's hand is already at work calling members of the Moravian Church (perhaps some even in our own congregation) to pursue a calling into ministry.

We saw one of our congregations close their doors of worship this past year (Good Shepherd Moravian Church). As congregations continue to struggle due to declining membership, limited financial resources to sustain ministry, etc. we are left to wonder the following: Will there be more churches like Good Shepherd that must close their doors of ministry and outreach in the future?

Continued discussion on the subject of homosexuality (Resolution 12 from our 2014 Synod) will be taking place in the year ahead and I encourage our members if they so desire, to participate. While these discussions have the potential to bring division rather than unity among us, I trust that those who become involved will remember our motto as the Moravian Church:

In essentials unity;
In non essentials liberty;
In all things love

The Future of Christ Moravian Church

I am encouraged when thinking of the future of Christ Moravian Church. While the struggles we are facing are similar to many of our congregations, we are a healthy congregation. Several years ago our Province defined eight characteristics of a healthy congregation. These were the following:

- Relationships (with Christ personally and corporately)
- Mission
- Growth
- Leadership
- Worship
- Cooperation
- Ministry
- Stewardship

In all of these areas, we have seen progress. As shared last year in my Pastor's Report and this year, our greatest challenge focuses upon the subject of stewardship. How can we effectively minister and meet the needs of our membership while recognizing our own financial limitations? Our Finance Committee and Leadership Board is committed to explore and find ways we can continue to be good stewards and help reduce our costs in ministry.

Please know that each of us can HELP by continuing to pray for our church and leaders, get involved with our ministry and support our congregation with our time and resources. Together let us follow our mission statement as a congregation:

Christ Church seeks to be a caring congregation, worshipping God and encouraging one another, as we serve outside the walls of our congregation in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ.

Respectively Submitted,

The Rev. Dr. David A. Marcus, Jr.
Pastor, Christ Moravian Church

Vice Chair's Report to Church Council

I would like to begin by thanking our congregation for another great year of ministry in the West Salem community. Our congregation and church facilities continue to be a community cornerstone, as they have been for the past 119 years. I would especially like to express thanks to our pastor, Dave Marcus, for leading our congregation and ensuring that we continue to answer the ministry demands of our members. Few realize the behind the scenes work that Dave performs to ensure that the needs of our congregation are met. I would also like to thank our church staff for the hard work they perform to ensure that our operations, services, and facilities are the best in the Southern Province. I would also like to thank our church Leadership Board for the difficult work of making decisions that affect the future of our church. It is not always easy to serve on a church board due to the spiritual and emotional demands of many of the issues brought before the Leadership Board. I can assure the church membership that our Leadership Board members are truly leaders, and are always seeking to make decisions that are in the best interest of our church as a whole.

One of the most difficult tasks our board has undertaken is the examination of our membership rolls to ensure accuracy. This work continues, and will be addressed on a regular basis from this point forward. There have been a few questions as to why we are doing this, and have at times created a few hard feelings towards the board. It is part of our responsibility to the province to ensure that these rolls are accurate, and that inactive members or members who are not in good standing are receiving the benefits of being a member in good standing. The most recognizable benefit is burial in Salem God's Acre. We cannot ask Dave to be less than truthful to the leadership of the Salem Congregation when he must verify a member's status upon their passing. We feel that while these conversations are difficult, it is better that we have them now than during a time of emotional hardship. For those members who are eligible, who wish to continue to have a tie to Christ Moravian, but are unable to be full members, we offer an associate membership that offers many of the benefits of a full membership.

The biggest struggle that we face as a board and congregation is that of the financial situation of our church. It has been discussed before that we are great as a congregation in responding financially when a need is recognized. This is proven through the success of the Capital Campaign that supported our facility improvements. Unfortunately, we do not see the day to day operating expenses as a recognized need, and continue to operate at a deficit. I know that this has been standard operations for Christ Moravian for many years, but this practice is not fiscally sound, and will catch up to us eventually if we do not see a significant change in our financial support. Due to these financial shortfalls, the board has been discussing several possibilities for reducing expenses, and generating extra revenue. The Finance Committee has reduced all areas of the budget to the bare minimum, and a deficit continues to exist. If trends remain the same, hard decisions will have to be made in regards to our facilities, programs, and services. Many of these discussions have centered on selling our church parsonage that is now used as an office facility. While no decisions have been made, these are the very real conversations that I want our congregation to realize are taking place in response to our financial situation. For the next budget year, we have asked and received relief from our Provincial Share that has greatly reduced the amount we are asked to pay every year. While this reduction will help our budget, we will still operate at a deficit if giving trends continue at the present level. This reduction is also addressed on a year by year basis, and is not guaranteed for our 2017 budget year. The Leadership Board is doing their part to ensure the financial health of our congregation,

and we ask that the congregation dig deep to ensure that our ministry will continue for another 119 years.

As was stated before, our Capital Improvements campaign has been very successful, and gifts are very much ahead of schedule. While the initial purpose of this campaign was to replenish our investment funds, many of these funds have had to be directed towards other capital projects, and covering basic operating expenses (this is done indirectly due to the fact that we have to draw from this same investment account to cover our deficit). Due to this reality, and the need for increased financial support to cover our normal operating expenses, we ask that members prayerfully consider giving at their current contribution level, but in the future direct those funds towards our general operating account. For those that are able, I would encourage you to refer to our "Grow One Step" initiative to grow your financial contribution to our church ministry. Every little bit helps, and making small sacrifices financially can really add up in the long run. Skipping a weekly Starbucks drink or take out meal can quickly add up if directed towards ministry at Christ Moravian.

I understand that financial stewardship is a very touchy conversation, and one that I do not enjoy having to write about, but unfortunately, this is the biggest issue facing the future of our congregation. The Leadership Board is always appreciative of the congregational support that we receive through prayer, time, talent, and treasure. We also feel that it is our job to be open and honest with the congregation regarding the issues that affect our church. As always, I welcome any comments and questions regarding the work of the church Leadership Board, and I would hope that if anyone has further suggestions or concerns that they would be willing to discuss those with our board members, or with me. The Leadership Board was elected to serve our Lord, our Church, and our Congregation, and we would not be doing our jobs if we did not welcome feedback from our church members.

I want to thank the congregation for allowing me to serve as the Vice Chair of the Leadership Board, and I would like to assure the congregation that the board strives to make the best decisions to create the best outcomes for our church. I really think that if we come together and support our general fund as well as we support our special projects that we can ensure the financial stability of our congregation for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Vogler
Vice Chair

Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2015

Building & Equipment Repairs:

- Painting the outside of the main building was completed in May 2015
 - A new air conditioning unit (heat pump) for the main building to replace one of the older units will happen in 2016.

Capital Improvement Fund:

As of 09/30/15, there is a balance of \$52,921.56 in the Capital Improvement Fund. At this point in time, 65% or \$97,707 of the total renovation costs of \$150,830 have been recovered through contributions to the Capital Improvement Fund.

Investments:

- Ameriprise Account made up of various investments has a 09/30/2015 balance of \$94,579.08
- Moravian Ministries Fund has a 09/30/15 balance of \$92,529.40
 - Took \$20,000 out of the account in August 2015 to cover general expenses
- Capital Bank Money Market Fund (aka The Organ Fund) has a 09/30/15 balance of \$5,679.25
 - During 2015, borrowed \$22,000 out of the account to cover expenses w/plan to transfer all or majority of money back into the money market account before year end.

As you can see this money can be used to help cover operating expenses, special needs and renovation projects, but we don't want to deplete the funds entirely or we could lose our "safety net". If we continue borrowing money at a rate of \$42,000 per year from the investments to cover operating expenses, we only have 5 years of reserves left. It will be even less if we have any unusual repairs or expenses. This is why every member's stewardship is so important.

Missions and Outreach:

Around 1.5% of our annual budget before our Provincial Share goes toward Mission and Outreach. Of our Provincial Share, about 10% goes to the Board of World Missions, which helps with missions all over the world including Sierra Leone and Michael Tesh and Ray of Hope.

Even beyond CMC's operating budget, there are groups and individuals who contribute time, talent and treasure to the following: Michael Tesh and the Ray of Hope Orphanage, Sunnyside Ministry, Crisis Control, the Marx family, the prison ministry and others. We also have a thriving Prayer Shawl ministry. Our Youth participate in various missions such as annual mission camps, Christmas caroling and cleaning stones in God's Acre. The Women's Fellowship supports several mission and outreach projects as well. All of this is a portion of our stewardship that does not appear on any financial report.

Provincial Share Relief in 2016

In 2015, the Leadership Board requested relief on our 2016 Provincial Share. After going thru the process, we were granted a reduction in our Provincial Share from 20% to 15%. This resulted in a decrease of \$21,282 from our 2015 share. Hopefully, this relief will give us a chance to rebuild our cash flow.

When churches receive relief or do not pay their share at all, it affects everyone in the Province at some level. At the Provincial Stewardship Dinner, we learned that the Province received a one-time payment from an emergency fund of approximately \$142,000 to balance their 2016 budget. As our new Provincial CFO, Robyn Glance, can tell you, the Province and their agencies have made and are making more cuts in their expenses and budgets. For some agencies, this means changes in staffing either by cutting hours or not filling open positions. Laurel Ridge will be selling timber and have adjusted their rates to encourage more business. Agencies are making cuts where they can without cutting the services offered to the Province.

Just in case you think that you do not use any Provincial services, you do. Every time you open your Sunday School book or daily text, ask the Archives or Moravian Music Foundation for information, go to Laurel Ridge, have a minister in the pulpit, even our own, we use Provincial resources that the Provincial share helps pay for.

Special Church Funds

There are funds that we can contribute to at any point during the year. We can also specify memorials or honorariums to go to these funds.

- **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND:** cover any and all improvements, repairs or renovations needed on the property
- **SPECIAL MUSICIANS FUND:** Used to pay professional guest musicians or give an honorarium to non-professional guest musicians when "in-house" musicians are not available
- **LAUREL RIDGE CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND:** pays half of the cost for our children to attend summer camp; 2015 Summer Camp fees were \$185 for weekend (younger children) and \$385 for week (older children)
- **YOUTH FUND:** covers the costs for the youth programs and mission trips; funded strictly by donations and fundraisers
- **BAND/ORCHESTRA FUND:** used for choral books or other items needed by the band or orchestra
- **ORGAN FUND:** Established in 1996 by the Centennial Committee for continued maintenance or replacement of organ
- **MISSION FUND:** This fund covers any miscellaneous mission projects for the church
- **MICHAEL TESH/RAY OF HOPE ORPHANAGE FUND:** for Michael Tesh and the Ray of Hope Orphanage
- **OUTREACH FUND (AKA the Pastor's Discretionary Fund):** Provides assistance to anyone, including members, who come to the church office requesting help paying their utility or other necessary bills
- **LOVEFEAST FUND:** used to cover unusual lovefeast expenses or earmarked for a particular need that may arise, such as purchasing new mugs, linens, etc.
- **CE FUND:** used to cover the purchase of Sunday School material; CE related events such as August picnic, Advent Event, Bible studies, etc. Main source of funding is Sunday School donations.

ACH Drafting

CMC offers ACH drafting so we can have our church donations automatically drafted from our account. If interested, the paperwork is available from the treasurer.

Sincerely,

Sabrina L Maksi
Treasurer

Everything You Wanted To Know About The Provincial Share

What is a Provincial Share?

A Provincial Share helps support the ministry in the Southern Province and worldwide Moravian Church. Every congregation is allocated a Provincial Share annually.

Is there a list of what these ministries are that we help support with our Provincial Share?

The whole list is contained in our annual budget but among those things that we support through our Provincial Share are the following:

- Minister's Pension Fund
- Moravian Theological Seminary
- Interprovincial Board of Communication (Moravian Magazine)
- Board of Cooperative Ministries
- Laurel Ridge
- Archives
- Board of World Mission
- Provincial Elders' Conference
- Financial Office

How is our Provincial Share calculated?

In recent years a new methodology has been incorporated that has actually REDUCED our Provincial Share. In this new methodology an evaluation of a congregation's past giving capacity along with the INCOME of a Church over a three-year period determines the Provincial Share. INCOME in a church is considered to be the following:

- Offering Plate Collections which are:
 - a. Regular pledged tithes and offerings of church members
 - b. Unpledged tithes and offerings of church members
 - c. Offerings/Donations from non-members of the congregation
 - d. All loose offerings
- Memorial Gifts not designated to a specific non operating cause
- Fundraising Income not designated to a specific non operating cause
- Transfers into the Operating Account from Investment accounts
- Income on Operating Funds (interest on fund checking accounts)
- Rental Income if not designated for a specific non operating cause

So how has this new methodology reduced our Provincial Share?

In the past our Provincial Assessment was based upon our annual budget and membership statistics and this resulted in about 23% of our annual income being allocated for our Provincial Share. In our new methodology the minimum a congregation is allocated is 10% and the maximum allocated is 20% of their annual income. (See income clarification in question above)

What percentage of our annual income is allocated towards our Provincial Share?

We have been one of the congregations that were at the maximum of 20%.

Has this been difficult for us as a congregation to pay?

Yes it has been very difficult. We are a congregation that has typically had to draw out of our investment income to meet basic operating expenses every year. This draw varies from year to year but we recognize that we no longer can support our Provincial Share at this 20% figure.

Is there anything we can do or the Provincial Elders' Conference (PEC) can do to assist us in helping reduce our Provincial Share?

This year we appealed to the PEC to have a PERCENTAGE REDUCTION of our Provincial Share that would allow us to not have to draw as much investment income annually to meet our operating expenses.

How did this process go?

The PEC responded to our request. They have reduced our Provincial Share to **15%**. This will result in us having to pay **\$22,081** LESS in our Provincial Assessment in 2016.

Is this GOOD News or BAD News for our Province?

It is GOOD that our PEC understands that our congregational giving patterns have changed and that they have responded accordingly not to place as large a burden upon us in helping to support our province. It is BAD that our PEC must find additional ways to reduce costs in the Provincial Budget and that some of our wider ministries might suffer as a result.

Are there other congregations who are doing the same thing?

Yes. There are other congregations in the Southern Province who are facing similar struggles and follow the same procedures we do in seeking assistance. Our hope is that our congregations recognize the importance of our provincial ministries. In addition we hope individual congregations will communicate the importance of stewardship and our connection to ministry that takes place beyond our walls that we help support together.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
2015 ANNUAL REPORT
 Elizabeth Peddycord - President

Purpose of the Women's Fellowship

The purpose of the Women's Fellowship shall be to further the work of the kingdom of God by uniting the Women of the Moravian Church in spiritual fellowship with a program of Bible and Mission Study, prayer, education, service and giving.

Our women are made up of three circles. One meets monthly in the evening and one quarterly evening meeting. Our third circle is now more of a Home circle that has no formal meeting; however, continues to be a vital part of our activities by attending our general meetings and very faithful in caring for our special friends.

We have a general meeting four times a year: January, April, July and October with an Executive meeting in January with a call one, when needed.

We are part of the Southern Province Women's Fellowship and contribute to the provincial budget.

Our fundraisers, Chicken Pies, Pecan Sales, Fall Event allow us to be very benevolent. In 2015 the Women's Fellowship:

- Sponsored a Day of Prayer lovefeast that was well attended.
- Cleaned and decorated grave squares in God's Acre, with the help of men and children, on Easter Saturday, as assigned.
- Prepared a light breakfast for our band members to enjoy before making their rounds on Easter Sunday morning.
- Held the annual Salemtowne July birthday party providing cake and Dixie cup ice cream. Someone played the piano and we socialized with the residents.
- The kitchen supplies of our Fellowship Building are inventoried and many purchased by our WF. However, there are some gifts of items needed donated by other members.
- Prepared snack bags for those less fortunate to be given either from our church or handed out to those on the street.
- Contributed cakes twice in September to the prison ministry.
- Held an annual Fall Festival, regularly designated last Saturday in October, which included a huge basement sale, light breakfast, lunch, chicken pies, baked goods, our ladies crafts and outside vendors.
- We offer a meal, reception or memorial to the families of deceased members. Our ladies do a wonderful job of meeting these needs of bereaved families.
- We close our year with our annual Candle Trim dinner where ladies and men trim the beeswax candles, poured by our church members, to be used at our Christmas Eve lovefeast services.
- High on our priority list is caring for our special friends with cards, calls and visits.

Our organization is stronger because of the outpouring of support that we receive from our total church family.

**CHRIST MORAVIAN CHURCH
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT
TO THE ANNUAL CHURCH COUNCIL
2015**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE SPONSORED PROGRAMS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES:

- * The CE Committee continues to fill the role of DCE.
- * Sunday School Opening Exercise each Sunday
- * Sunday School Teacher Recruitment
- * Children's Church Leader Recruitment
- * Graduate Recognition Sunday
- * Older Adult Recognition Sunday
- * Gemeinschaft Program
- * Bible Studies
- * Sponsored Easter Egg Hunt and lunch
- * Provided scholarships (half of the fee) for summer camps for children of the congregation; money comes from donations and fund-raisers sponsored by CEC or the Youth
- * On Mother's Day and Father's Day donated \$50 honorariums to Board of World Missions for Nepal relief
- * Sponsored a picnic and ice cream social at the end of August followed by a sing along
- * Quilt raffle that raised almost \$800 for the Laurel Ridge Camp Scholarship Fund
- * For Clergy Appreciation Sunday in October 2015 gave an honorarium to Sunnyside Ministry for the Kimball and Marcus families
- * Prayer Shawl Ministry; shawls have been distributed to people for illness, deaths, births, weddings and scarves to high school and college students
- * Participated in Samaritan Ministry's Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes which will be delivered to a distribution center in late November or early December
- * Advent Event luncheon and Christmas Tree decorating
- * Sponsored Christmas card shoeboxes for our special friends and shut-in members delivered by youth during Christmas caroling
- * Sponsored outing to see the Winston-Salem Dash baseball team play
- * Offers free devotional, Our Daily Bread, on a quarterly basis
- * Continue to pay for or reimburse Sunday School teachers and youth leaders for seminars or classes they attend relating to their areas

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

- * At the request of the children's Sunday School teachers and with the help of The Resource Center found new materials and literature for the Early Elementary, Elementary and Jr/Sr High classes
- * Sponsored Sunday School Promotion in August during Opening Exercise
- * Children's Christmas Program

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

- * Have 2 representatives on the Regional Youth Council (RYC) for the Province: Emma LaBella and Sydney Bitancor
- * Youth are involved on a Provincial level through RYC events
- * Helped CE Committee with the Easter Egg Hunt and lunch
- * Led several Opening Exercises as well as planned and led the service for Youth Sunday in May 2015 and reported on mission camp during a service in August 2015.
- * Planned and led the Thanksgiving Eve service for 2014 and will do the same in 2015
- * Sponsors monthly lunches after church to raise funds for programs and mission trip
- * The Grateful Choir has continued with their mission by paying "surprise" visits to share their music and God's love; sang the National Anthem at the WS Dash Baseball game in May 2015
- * Participated in a 30 hour Famine to raise money for World Vision Services
- * Cleaned grave stones in God's Acre for our members
- * Sponsored a car wash to help raise money for the Laurel Ridge Camp Scholarships

- * Mission Trip at the church in July during which they worked with the West Salem Neighborhood Association on various projects in the neighborhood (yard work, community garden, painting bedroom & bathroom for a family, emptied & demolished 2 sheds and cleaned debris from lot); worked at Samaritan Ministry; worked at Sunnyside Ministry; purchased and donated food items for Sunnyside and personal care items for Hawley House
- * Participated in CROP Walk to raise money to feed the hungry through Church World Services
- * Annual Christmas Caroling and delivery of Christmas card boxes
- * Sponsors luminary fund-raiser so members can honor past and present Christ Church members with luminaries during the Christmas Eve Lovefeast; also set out and clean up luminaries before and after services
- * Had some fun events such as WinterJam concert; pool party at Jo Brown's house; youth retreat for parents and youth to a cabin in Pigeon Forge, TN; movies; corn maze at The Children's Home
- * Will help the West Salem Neighborhood Association with their Annual Pancake Breakfast on December 5, 2015
- * Sponsored a couple Family Game Nights and will schedule more during 2016; these are open to the entire congregation and held in the Youth Hut (Fellowship Building basement)

MARVELOUS MORAVIANS

- * Marvelous Moravians continues to be an active group
- * Had several outings during the year:
 - o February – Carolina Aviation Museum and lunch
 - o April – West Jefferson Cheese Factory and lunch
 - o May – Andy Griffith Museum and lunch
 - o July – Gospel Jubilee at Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre in Wytheville, VA
 - o September – Farmers Market and lunch at Moose Café
 - o October – Hiddenite Gem Mine and lunch

FINANCES

The bank account balances for the CE Account and the Youth Account are printed in the monthly newsletter. **The main source of funding for the CE Account is thru Sunday School donations.** The church budget does include a line item of \$1,000 for CE if it is needed. The CE Account contains money for the following:

- General Expenses: covers the cost of all Sunday School materials (approximately \$350 per quarter), CE-hosted functions, continuing education for SS teachers or youth leaders, etc.
- Laurel Ridge Camp Scholarships: covers half the cost for our children and youth to attend summer camp; funded by donations and fund-raisers. Full camp fees for 2015 are \$185 for weekend and \$385 for full week.
- Marvelous Moravian: this is money raised by the MMers' for their activities
- Orchestra/Band Fund: money donated for use by the Sunday School orchestra or the band
- Special Musicians Fund: money donated to pay for guest musicians who perform with the Adult Choir
- Prayer Shawl Ministry: money donated to cover expenses related to the Prayer Shawl Ministry

Respectfully submitted,

**Sabrina Maksi
Chair of Christian Education Committee**