

# YOU<sup>th</sup> SPIRIT

A Provincial Moravian Youth Newsletter



## New Newsletter

This newsletter has been in the planning stages for a while. It seemed like the time to put the old "Mainline" out to pasture and begin something new. So here it is! This newsletter will be compiled and edited by the Publicity Coordinator of the Regional Youth Council (with the help of whomever else is willing). This year's Pub Coordinator is Maggie Yokley from Friedland Moravian. If you would like to submit an article, e-mail it to her. Articles could include things that are going on in your youth group, movie/cd reviews, poems, etc.

right now!). Read them again. Pray them. Feel the power in them... "Do not be afraid..good news...great joy for all... a Savior..." THE savior. Yours. Mine. The world's. This is big stuff. It means everything! We're not shepherds but all of us are out in the fields in one way or another. The gift of a Savior, the assurance of God's presence with us in our fields is truly something to embrace and celebrate. Blessings to you this Christmas! Glory to God in the highest! May peace and goodwill toward all be a part of your holiday!

## Fall Rally Fun



The weather cooperated as over 200 people from 14 Moravian churches attended the Provincial Fall Middle/Senior High Rally at Bethania Moravian Church in October. Riddick Weber of Fairview led the program on "masks." Other activities included worship, a concert by Sam Gray and Brad Bennett, and pizza. Next year's rally is already scheduled for the first Sunday in October at Advent Moravian.

## Prayer

*Dear Heavenly Father, we pray that you will aid us this year in all that we do. Please allow us to minister to those around us, and allow us to follow your teaching. Lord we pray that you will keep our youth groups strong. Help youth groups to connect with others in the province, and to make the province strong in faith.* - Submitted by Ashley Sizemore

## Blessings of the Holiday Season

**"Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10b-11)** Whether from this translation or some other, these words of the angel of the Lord to the shepherds are very familiar. We hear or read them every Christmas, often more than once. Sometimes passages such as this can get so familiar that their meaning gets lost. Take a moment to read through them slowly (like

## NP Has Square Dance!!

The Middle High & Senior High Youth of New Philadelphia Moravian Church hosted the Annual Square Dance for Crisis Control Ministry on Sunday, November 21. It was a square dancin' good time! More than 120 youth from various Moravian churches were in attendance. We danced many of the typical square dances, including the Virginia Reel, and we also did the Electric Slide and the Macarena. Whew! The youth collected a dozen boxes full of food to be donated to Crisis Control. We extend our thanks to these churches for their generosity, and we look forward to square dancing with you next year!!



## Bible 101 (and a half)

Beginning on Thursday, Jan. 20, 2005, there will be a six-week Bible study for interested senior highs in the youth room at Trinity Moravian Church. Mark Pardue (Friedberg Youth Minister) and Brad Bennett (Director of Youth and College Ministries) will facilitate the study. Why do we need to read and study the Bible? Where did it come from? What difference does it make? How do we go about understanding it? These and other questions will be the topics of the study, which will be discussion format. Consider coming! Bring a friend! It'll meet from 4:00 to 5:00ish for the six-week period. For more information, contact either Mark (336-764-1830) or Brad (336-722-8126) or check the Youth section of the website at [www.moravianboardofce.org](http://www.moravianboardofce.org).

## New International Website for Moravian Youth

One of the outcomes of the Moravian Unity Youth Conference in Jamaica last summer was the creation of an International Steering Committee that hopes to oversee and enable Moravian youth from around the world to get to know each other. A new website has been launched to help this happen. Visit! [www.moravianyouth.nl](http://www.moravianyouth.nl)

## CAMP HOPE VISIT

This past summer I was blessed with the opportunity to attend Camp Hope in Hope, New Jersey. Upon arrival my older sister and I were greeted with open arms and welcoming smiles. For anyone who has ever attended Laurel Ridge, this camp was very different from that setting, but familiar in other ways. The camp grounds were smaller as well as the number of campers. The same ideas had different names. It was obvious that we weren't in North Carolina anymore, on account of the accents. It was a fun filled and God filled week, and worth every mile traveled. Although there were many differences, the love of God and spirit of fellowship were unchanged.

Ali Burcham - Friedberg

## Senior High Camp Preview

Plans are underway for Senior High Camp, 2005! The program leader will be the Rev. Kerry Krauss, pastor of Hope Moravian Church in Hope, Indiana. The theme for the week will explore how to go about holding on to one's faith with all the pressures, temptations and realities of life coming at us. The deans will be the same as last year, Rev. Neil Routh and Miriam Story. Sounds like it's going to be a great week, so watch for the Laurel Ridge registrations sometime after the first of the year and register!

# JAMAICA MISSION 2004

Our youth mission trip to Jamaica, July 1-9, was honestly life changing. The country is a beautiful place but overcome with poverty. When the kids, who were out for their summer vacation from school, came over to the camp site to help out and play with us, it really hit me how little they have and also how sickeningly much we do have. The clothes they have are torn and usually not the right size. Their home lives appear to be not that great, often living with whatever family they have living that has not abandoned them. But despite that, they persevere. They have dreams and aspirations. And they go to church and have fun.

It was wonderful to get to meet fellow Moravians in Jamaica. Their devotion to their church and Lord is amazing. Women walk miles to get to church in their hats and in the heat. The church service I attended was so much fun and such a good experience. They welcomed us with open arms and song. We participated in their communion. I also enjoyed getting to see and use the little black hymnal that the Moravian church used to use.

Even if it was hot and humid, I loved the work we did. It was great interacting with the people down there but even more doing something for the Lord. He helped us get down there and made the trip incredible. I believe our actions of everything from watching one of the cook's daughters, to painting houses to playing cricket with the local kids was a testament to our faith and God. I hope that our trip glorified him in ways we can't even imagine.

Amanda Ketner - New Philadelphia

As a result of our mission trip to Jamaica in July, our eyes were opened to the real world that we so often hear about, but never quite believe exists. We all have learned a lot about ourselves, each other, and our spiritual relationship with God. We have all come to depend on God on a daily basis, and have great appreciation for all the things in life that we once took for granted. We now appreciate something as small as water pressure to something as large as the opportunities we are offered in life. Because of our congregation, they have single-handedly changed the lives of each youth member, and each of those who led us in Jamaica. We have learned a lot down in Jamaica, and have also taught more than we realize. We all have been living testimonies to Jesus Christ, and spread the Lord's word, whether it be through speech or through our simple everyday actions. Our ways of spreading the Lord's work through speech have gone from answering "yes I believe in God" to having a deep in-depth conversation with one of the native people. Our actions of spreading the Lord's word have ranged from painting schools, numerous houses, scraping and painting walls of Camp Hope, moving piles of rocks for later concrete use, handing buckets of concrete to constructions workers, playing soccer with the kids, playing cricket with the kids, or sitting down and teaching a child a new card game for them to play. Camp Hope now has hope because of those Christians who are living sacrifices of the Lord. May his grace fall upon all of those who helped in any shape or form in the mission to Camp Hope, and all of those who we helped.

Ross McNeil - New Philadelphia



*IF YOUR GROUP IS PLANNING TO GO ON A MISSION TRIP (OR DO MISSION ON THE MOUNTAIN AT LAUREL RIDGE THIS SUMMER), LET US KNOW.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Advent

by Thom M. Shuman

if you came in the spring,  
we could expect newness,  
bright yellow flowers  
to soften your path,  
the songs of birds  
to herald your coming.

but you came in  
winter's despair;  
the chill of complacency  
settled upon us.

if you came in summer  
we could expect you  
to be bronzed,  
blonde,  
stepping from the sea;

but you came  
in a stable,  
a wrinkled baby  
with animals your midwives,  
and angels your playmates.

help us to set down  
our parcels of expectations  
to reach down and scoop  
you up in our arms,  
your laughing breath  
giving us life.  
Amen.



Thanks to Brent Smith (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-25-2003

I DIDN'T THINK THEY MADE MOVIES BACK THEN

---

## NEW SONG DEPARTMENT

One of the more popular worship songs the past few years in Moravian youth circles has been one by Tony Congi called, *It's Amazing*. Another one has surfaced that could become just as popular. Watch for it! It's called, *Only You*. Here are the words:

Who can calm the sea and the thunder  
Make the morning gray skies  
Turn to blue? Only You  
Who can change the wind and the water  
Have the sun and star shine  
With the moon? Only You

Only You can change the heartache  
Make the world brand new  
What can fill the lonely heart  
When it's blue? Only You

Who can scale the walls of a mountain  
Fly the wind where eagles  
Seldom flew? Only You  
Change the course of rivers through valleys  
Cover the meadows  
With a dew? Only You

Who can leave my mind full of wonder  
Change my life to something  
So brand new? Only You  
Who can fill the void of my heartache  
With a love the world  
Can't produce? Only You

This Newsletter put together by Maggie Yokley, Publicity Coordinator of the Regional Youth Council, and Brad Bennett, Director of Youth and College Ministries. Submissions can be made to:  
Maggie - [thecastleofaaargh@hotmail.com](mailto:thecastleofaaargh@hotmail.com)  
or Brad - [bbennett@mosp.org](mailto:bbennett@mosp.org).