

# YOU<sup>th</sup> SPIRI

A Provincial Moravian Youth Newsletter

Fall 2007

Leah Weatherman, New Philadelphia, Editor

## Coming soon to a Moravian near you

### Annual Square Dance

(for Middle & Senior High Youth)

At New Philadelphia Moravian Church

(4440 Country Club Rd., Winston-Salem, NC)

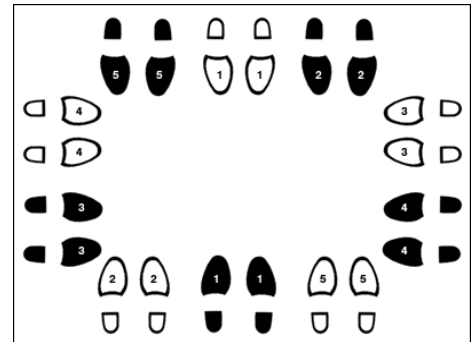
On Sunday, November 18, 2007

Starts at 6:30 pm & party's over at 8:00 pm

**Admission:** canned goods or donation for Sunnyside Ministry

For more information: [john@nPMC.org](mailto:john@nPMC.org)

Hill Billy attire not required but **strongly suggested!** (come on... when else are you going to wear it?)



an' a heel an' a toe.....

an' a heel an' a toe.....

## What's inside...

What a Summer!: From England to Kenya + good 'ol Laurel Ridge (pages 2-3)

More than a Grande Mocha: Morning devotions

that give you things caffeine cant (page 4)

Happy 550<sup>th</sup> Birthday!!!: ugh... could Brad Bennett actually be that old? (page 4)

## What a Summer!!!!

as the motions to Days of Elijah. They also taught me the difference between biscuits and cookies  
(Continued in next column)

### SUMMERCAMP IN ENGLAND (w00t)

by Sarah Atwood

For a week in July I was at a Moravian summer camp in England. It was a couple of hours north of London in the Frontier Center. The Center was a nice building, big enough to hold the eighty-some kids there, age ten to eighteen. We were separated into Juniors, Middles, and Seniors. We were kept pretty much apart from each other, though the groups blurred during free time. We sang hymns in the morning and had Bible studies after that. Our Bible studies included watching a couple of episodes of the Simpsons and an episode of Black Adder. Our entire week was based off of the movie "Happy Feet" (widely regarded as the greatest movie ever). In the afternoon we played games like Rounders. Rounders was completely bizarre- it was basically baseball only one handed. They kept making fun of the American who was trying to play baseball in England. We also had the "Get Lost Game" which involved the leaders leading us to the middle of nowhere, getting us lost, giving us a map, and saying "Good Luck". We built rafts out of empty barrels and wooden beams that we sailed down a nearby river. At night we played the "Torch Game" (American translation-- Flashlight Game). When it was sufficiently dark, we were given slips of paper we had to keep a hold of and we were let loose. Twenty three 15-18 year olds given almost free reign of the camp at night... great isn't it! We had to get from Grassy Area 1 to Grassy Area 2 without getting caught by the leaders with torches. The catch is- in between Grassy Area 1 and Grassy Area 2 is Big Brambly/Thistley/Thorny Area of Doom. We had to give Paul Holdsworth- the Senior Leader- our slip of paper to win. I won once!

I was really nervous about how they would treat me. Would I be the outsider who horribly mistreated their language? As it was, I was fairly popular. They accepted me as though I had been there with the rest for all eight years. A boy, called Jordain, constantly called me "North Carolina" while I called him "Northwest London". They taught me "Bananas of the World Unite" and I taught them the Lovefeast song and the Jude Benediction, as well

(they're basically the same), the proper definition of pudding, how Pixie Stix are sherbert and sherbert is

## Fall Youth Rally

### Middle and Senior High

**When:** October 7, 2007  
3:30 pm - 6:00 pm

**Where:** Fairview Moravian Church  
6550 Silas Creek Parkway  
Winston-Salem, NC

**What:** Rev. Russell May will be speaking on Moravians through time, how the radical faith of our forefathers can inspire and challenge us today.

&

Concert by "The Acoustic Blend"

**Why:** See old and new friends, worship, learn some really cool stuff & of course PIZZA!

**How Much:** \$5 – your leader makes group reservations through Brad Bennett –  
[bbennett@mcsp.org](mailto:bbennett@mcsp.org)

sourbet, and to say "torch" not "flashlight" (due to the fact that flashlights do not flash). The English and Northern Irish kids were brilliant to hang with, and I miss them a lot. It was a fantastic experience.



## Ray of Hope Orphanage, Kenya

by Leah Weatherman

This past summer Hannah Spring, Roman Nelson, Molly Wheeler, and I went on a mission trip to Shimba Hills, Kenya. We had a group of 14 people total and eight of us stayed for an entire month. We lived and worked at an orphanage run by Michael Tesh, who is from Christ Moravian. Our group had several projects, for the first two weeks part of the group went on a medical mission trip with a group from Virginia. They brought clinics to several different villages eventually making their way back to the orphanage base for a two-day clinic. While that was going on the group back at the orphanage had their work cut out for them kicking off the projects that we would be working on all month long.

One of our projects was to do maintenance and to build on to the compound. We helped our septic system expert Stewart, who was from Virginia, in building Ray of Hope's first septic system so that in the near future flush toilets will be available. This will help the compound be more sanitary and will help to fertilize the soil. Our second building project was to help with the chicken house. Ray of Hope is planning to buy 3,000 chickens so that they can sell the eggs to the community. This money would enable Ray of Hope to be self-supportive and there would no longer be a dependence on donations to keep the facility running. We also did some gutter-hanging and painting around the base.

**(Continued on next Page)**

### **(Ray of Hope Continued)**

Another job that we had during our month's stay was to visit two of the near-by schools. We did this to build a relationship between them and Ray of Hope for future outreach. We would visit three times a week and play games with the students. This was probably one of my greatest joys of the trip. We successfully introduced ultimate Frisbee and enjoyed the new friendships made at these schools. We were not allowed to preach about the Gospel except on Friday afternoons when the Muslim

students would leave early for Mosque. This was an awesome experience for me because we had to build friendships and use our actions to demonstrate Christ's love, which is such a powerful witness. On Fridays we could have devotion with the Christian students and teach them new songs.

We also worked at Ray of Hopes pre-school which serves about 60 to 90 kids every weekday. This was greatly appreciated by the teachers who can have 30 kids per class. The pre-school is a great ministry because the children, ages 2-10, each get one meal of porridge and a Christian devotion during the day. The porridge or Ugi, no I'm not really quite sure that's how it's spelled, might be a child's only meal that day.

What probably impressed me most, however, was the orphans that live at Ray of Hope. They come from troubled backgrounds and originally had health problems, like starvation, when they arrived at Ray of Hope. Meeting these young Kenyans today, it is hard to imagine. These are some of the most independent and God-loving youth that I have ever been blessed enough to meet. They live without so many of the luxuries that we have here and yet their faith is so real and strong, perhaps it is because they have already seen God help them through so much. They made more of an impact on my life than I ever could have expected to have made on theirs. Sometimes I still can't believe that I had this amazing opportunity to reach so many people with the love of Christ and also to be changed by the love I received in return.



## Laurel Ridge Senior High Camp

by Corinne Serfass

Senior High Camp is a fixture on my summer schedule. I haven't missed a year of camp since I was too young to remember, and now that I am in high school, I find I need the week of spiritual community more and more.

**(Continued in next column)**

That is why, when I came down with an awful fever/cold/we-didn't-know-what-I-had-other-than-the-fact-that-I-was-REALLY-sick, I told my mother that I was still going to camp. "I'd rather be sick there than here," I said to her, pleading.

I don't actually remember getting up the mountain, just appearing there, bleary and disoriented, and being sent to Nurse Suzie. I don't know what she did, but whatever she put me on (I'd like to think it was an uncanny mix of medicine and Moravian love) worked – while I didn't really get better, I was able to function well that week.

My sickness, other than explaining why I slept so

well on the camp mattresses, really made me think about why I was up at camp. Normally, with all my wits about me, I was dragged into the quiet feuds that are, inevitably, a part of teenage life. This year, with my sickness making me, quite frankly, too tired and too annoyed to deal with the trifling insecurities of some of my peers, I found myself, instead, drawn towards my small group.

Initially, I was pleased by my small group. Led by John Rights and Maxine, it held mostly people I knew before, and more than a couple RYCers. I instantly felt at home, although we didn't open up as quickly as groups sometimes do. As the week progressed, the group blossomed, each member maturing from a delicate bud, unsure of speech, to strong and stable plants, rooted in faith, and not afraid to say what was on our mind. Most of that credit has to go to our leaders, for nurturing our tender mental states into surety, but a large amount also has to go to one of the group members. We rarely discussed the assigned topic (don't tell Otto!) but instead answered his many questions about faith, which centered on tenets I hadn't thought to question before, but upon examination, were fundamental to our faith. I often lamented the miniscule time I felt we spent with our small groups – we had so much more to debate, discuss, and ponder.

Looking back, I realize that was probably for the better. I left camp cured not only of my sickness, but also

of my inability to ask myself the hard questions about faith and life. I'm glad our group had questions left over; I ask myself them whenever I feel too sure of myself. This makes me realize there is always more to learn. I know now that compared to posing a challenging question to a group, posing it to myself is the far more difficult task, and that it is harder still to accept and understand the answer. I've carried that into the school year with me. I've let that little part of the mountain hold a place in my heart to keep me sane, to keep me constantly thinking things through, and to keep me faithful.



## Starbucks not cutting it?

Need a morning pick-me-up with a little more... spirit?

### Try an oldie but goldie: The Moravian *Daily Text*

**Set up:** 365 days of an Old Testament Verse and a New Testament Verse supplemented with two hymn verses and selected passage readings. It is also wrapped up each day with a prayer.

**Pros:** Tried and true, first published in 1731 The *Daily Text* is read by 1.5 million people worldwide. It's short, simple, yet powerful... perfect for a quick morning devotional.

**Cons:** There is not really any commentary for those who prefer that kind of thing.

### Yourspace at Jr High Camp!

Carrie Bandwagon

Myspace.com can be good or bad, depending on how you look at it or use it. At Junior High Camp this summer we had myfaithspace.com as the program which allowed us to use some of the basics of the website as a way to look at ourselves, our relationships and our faith. The evening total group had youtubeish videos to introduce the

material made by some pretty weird ministers. But it was fun and I learned a lot. Can't wait until next year!

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YOUNG JESUS FOUND THIS TO BE A GOOD THING IN GENERAL ... THOUGH A LITTLE AWKWARD AT TIMES

Send future articles to Leah at:  
[bonesrising@aim.com](mailto:bonesrising@aim.com)

## **OR try something a little different: *7 Minutes with God***

**Set up:** 70 devotions with a weekly topic and a different focus for each weekday: bible reading, prayer, fasting (and were not talking food here), action, praise, and journaling.

**Pros:** *7 Minutes* was written by students for students, so it might speak to where you are now more than other devotions. You should be able to finish a reading in 7 minutes (hence the title) and if you need variety, the daily change of focus keeps things interesting.

**Cons:** This devotional might be considered an acquired taste. It's like the guacamole of morning devotionals.

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## **PRE-JUNIOR CAMP**

By Stephanie Davis

This summer I went to Laurel Ridge to volunteer for a counseling job at pre-junior camp 1&2. The age group for the pre-junior ranges anywhere from 6 to 8 years old. The kids arrive at 3:00 pm on either Sunday or a Friday. It would be non-stop moving around til they left at 3:00 pm on either Tuesday or Sunday. For most of the kids at camp it would have been their first time being at Laurel Ridge or even their first time away from their parents. So as a counselor you would have to be with them all the time.

All the little kids look up to the counselors. To be a good role model you had to watch your every move. Being with so many different kids and helping them along with their camp experience is a great way to better yourself. Helping the different kids strengthen their relationship with God is a great joy. I loved being with those kids every moment of every day they were there. Even though at times they would be rough it was just another chance for you to teach them a new thing. I loved counseling and i would for sure do it again.



**Sunday, November 4, 3:00 p.m.**

**Wait Chapel, Wake Forest University Campus**

Come celebrate 550 years as a Moravian Church with Moravians and friends on Sunday afternoon, November 4<sup>th</sup>! There will be a great worship of thanksgiving and praise including a HUGE brass band, along with scripture, prayer, spoken word, old and new music. Make plans to attend this historic event!