

The Star

Pastor's Perspective

Light in the Darkness

Due to the late October snowstorm our family experienced living without electricity over the course of three days. We coped by cooking on a camp stove, heating water for sponge baths in a turkey fryer, putting on a few more clothes, and reading books to pass time after dark. Fortunately, we had a generous supply of candles. While we could have used flashlights to read, I wanted to save electric illumination for situations in which it was truly needed. Seven candles gently lit the whole kitchen and shed enough light to read comfortably. An added bonus was that the candles' combined output reduced much of the flickering effect a single flame often exhibits.

Most persons are now so accustomed to having light available on demand that they seldom give thought to either its source or its quality. Having to read by candlelight in the shortening days of autumn brought me renewed appreciation for one of the great conveniences of modern life. As we approach Christmas I now also find myself reconsidering the beginning of John's Gospel in light of this experience.

John describes Christ as God's Word, as the life of all humanity, and the light of the world. "The light," writes John, "shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1: 5) God's divine light did not enter the world with the brilliance of a modern spotlight being flicked on. Rather, Jesus' birth had a lot more in common with my lighting of that first candle Saturday evening after the power went out. He came as a seemingly powerless child – a flickering ray of hope in the world's dark night. But that small light was enough to carry the hope of the world. Just as I used the first candle to light other candles until the room was filled with light, so over the course of Jesus' life his light spread out to others – to disciples like James and John, or Mary and Martha. Those first disciples carried Christ's light to countless others. Even the darkness of death could not extinguish God's light. Christ's resurrection ignited the ministries of Barnabas and Paul. Through the Holy Spirit God's light reached our Moravian forebears – and us.

Perhaps circumstances or recent events have dimmed your experience of faith and hope recently. Certainly power outages, a constant barrage of discouraging economic news, high profile scandals, and political rancor do little to lift one's spirits. Add to that one's own personal challenges and things can seem quite dark at times. If you feel a flicker in your faith, why not merge your light with that of other followers of Jesus this Christmas season? Allow their light to sustain yours as you join them in a candle lit worship service, attend Shepherd's Journey, watch the Putz together, or help host homeless women and children. Sharing spiritual light not only strengthens our faith, it may ignite others' faith as well.

People in darkness are looking for light, come, come, come Jesus Christ;
people with blindness are longing for sight, come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure when all people wait are days for the advent of Love.

Sunday Morning Worship Highlights

8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

While people of all ages are welcomed and included in all of our worship services, nursery care is also provided as a choice every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. for infants through kindergartners.

December 4—Second Advent. Advent Lovefeast

December 11—Third Advent. Rebecca preaches. Come support our pastoral intern.

December 18—Fourth Advent. Preparing the Lord's way. The ministry of John the Baptist and its lessons. Gospel of John 1: 6-8, 19-28. Sunday School Christmas Program at 11 a.m. worship.

December 25—Christmas Day. One service only, 11:00 a.m.

East Hills Moravian Church Putz

At EPMC, the Putz is a decoration, a teaching tool and a community outreach program. More than 100 members work together each year to create the Putz for the Advent season.

Children, teens, adults, and seniors make the Putz happen.

A computerized control panel designed and donated by a church member directs the lighting and sound for the Putz. New additions to the putz are some figures, hand-carved in Germany, and Herod's tent, hand-made by a church member.

The EPMC Putz will be open to the public
November 25 through December 30.

Wednesdays and Fridays
6-8 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays
3-7 p.m.

Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Handicapped accessible
Adult, Children's & Spanish version available.

Groups are welcome!

December BCE News



Mark your calendar, save the date....It is time for **EPMC** Family Christmas Caroling.

December 10th at 6:30 p.m.

we will leave from the church. Come out with your church family and help spread some holiday cheer throughout the **EPMC** neighborhood.

Please bring a flashlight. Song sheets and jingle bells will be provided.

Refreshments and fellowship immediately following.



The Sunday School classes of East Hills Moravian Church cordially invite you to our Christmas program "The First Leon: Uncovering the True

Meaning of Christmas" **December 18, 2011** during the **11:00 a.m.** worship service in the Family Center. Special thanks to our director, Student Pastor, Rebecca Schoeneberger.

East Hills Moravian Church
Presents...

A Shepherd's Journey

For all children aged 3
Through 3rd grade



Sunday, December 18, 2011

6:30—7:45 p.m.

East Hills Moravian church

1830 Butztown Road

Bethlehem, PA

A journey your child will never forget!
Each child should bring two pennies and a small towel and headband to dress in "shepherd's" clothes.

See registration form in this newsletter.



Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

Saturday Evening,
December 24, 2011

4:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
9:30 p.m.

Each of the three worship opportunities we offer on Christmas Eve features the familiar carols and scriptures, the hospitality of Lovefeast, and peaceful inspiration of candlelight.

The 4:00 p.m. service in the Family Center, is a child friendly, yet not childish candlelight lovefeast. Featured musicians will be the Junior Choir and the Hand Bell Choir. **Morning Star soloist is Macy Yost.**

The 7:30 p.m. service is also held in the Family Center and will feature the Senior Choir, Youth Choir, Hand Bells and Brass. **Morning Star soloist is Brenna Ortwein.**

The 9:30 p.m. service will be held in the Sanctuary and features the Senior Choir, Brass and Hand Bells, and **Lauren Soska as Morning Star soloist.**

In observance of the Christmas and New Year Holiday, there will be NO Sunday School on December 25 & January 1.

Preschool News

By Mary Kay Brezinsky



Each year, right after Thanksgiving, our school becomes magical. The children and teachers are all buzzing with excitement in anticipation of the Holiday Season. We hear children singing Christmas carols, gifts are being made and stories of the first Christmas are being told. The Four Year Old Classes are excited to view the East Hills Moravian church Putz with their families.

We come together as a school and a family to enjoy a special gift from the church, that being our Annual All-School Lovefeast. Parents, children, friends and extended family are invited to join the church staff and preschool staff for a lovely celebration of the Christmas season. Pastor Derek, Sue Diehl, Linda Wickmann, and the Sacristans plan a wonderful service for us all to enjoy.

If your schedule permits, please join us on Monday, December 5, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

**A very Blessed and Merry Christmas from the
Preschool Staff**

LOOKING AHEAD...

Registration for the Preschool for the 2012-2013 school year will begin in January. Wednesday, January 11, 2012 from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. registration papers will be taken from church members only. We invite current families, siblings of former students, and church members to register the following week—Tuesday, January 17, 2012 thru Friday, January 20, 2012 between the hours of 9:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. In case if inclement weather, please tune into Channel 69 for weather delays, updates and cancellations.

Registration packets will be made available the week of January 4, 2012. They will be located in the mail slot on the wall outside of the preschool office. Preschool applications will be received in the Preschool office and must be handed to the Director. Applications may also be mailed to the Preschool. For further information, please refer to the copy of instructions posted on the Preschool office door or contact the Preschool at 610-868-6242.

Health and Wellness

News

By Susan Kriebs



FROM BETHLEHEM TO BETHLEHEM - We have already made it to Bethlehem, accumulating over 6,000 miles in half of the allotted time! And there are so many wonderful stories – weight loss, walking instead of eating when stressed, adding regular walks to an otherwise sedentary routine, paying more attention to the amount of time spent walking and distance reached, logging not only miles but amount of veggies eaten! We want to celebrate all of our successes – as a group, and also the many individual successes. **Do you have a story?** May we share your story with our church family? Turn in your story to Kat, Karen, or Susan so we can include it for our celebration in January.

IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE! If you have been adding up your miles but have not yet turned them in to Karen, please do so ASAP. Of course it's never too late to get started, and it's also important to keep going! Don't let the end of our special program stop your effort! Use the New Year as a reference point to gear up – either again or to get you started!

CELEBRATE WITH US on Sunday morning, January 8 during Church, and after both services when we will provide a light breakfast buffet for everyone's enjoyment. At that time we will acknowledge the successes of those who accumulate the largest number of miles. We will also celebrate the success of all of those who discovered the joy of engaging in physical activity, those who were inspired and motivated by our program to "go the extra mile."

HAVE A SPIRITUALLY MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS! Celebrate God's love for you by focusing your time and energy away from a secular holiday. Simplify gift-giving: encourage your family and friends to draw names instead of buying a gift for everybody. Donate to charities (or EHMC) in someone's name instead of buying meaningless gifts. Use Gift Cards for your purchases, and give them as gifts. Remember to Reduce-Reuse-Recycle. And worship with us on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. Share your love for others with those staying in our emergency shelter site on Saturday evenings – go to Sign-Up Genius and get on the schedule.

Health and Wellness Cont.

PLAN FOR YOUR HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN THE NEW YEAR! Make a few, simple resolutions to change your lifestyle, increase physical activity, improve your nutrition, learn to manage your stress, and simplify your life. Prioritize – focus on those activities that bring the most joy to you and those you love, and those activities that share God's love with others!

DONATE BLOOD: SATURDAY, February, 4, 2012. You can sign up during the month of January.

LEARN CPR: Watch the bulletin, Facebook, and our EHMC blog for announcements about a class to be offered here at EHMC early in 2012.

January Worship Highlights

January 1—New Year's Day. One service only, 11:00 a.m. Rebecca preaches. Come support our pastoral intern.

January 8—Ephiphany celebrated. Holy Communion.

January 15—God's Call. 1 Samuel 3: 1-10

January 22—Repent and Live. Jonah 3

January 29



Cont.

December Birthdays

- 2—Kelly Harms
- 3—Alex Choi
 - John Fuchs, Jr.
 - John Laidlaw
 - Mary Jane Reimer
- 5—Jane Regina
 - Molly Morgan
- 6—Andy Gruver
- 9—Jessica Simmons
 - James Eberly
 - Kyle Caton
- 10—Brenna Ortwein
- 11—Becca Burcaw
 - Eva Glass
- 12—Craig Caton
 - Kelly Smith
 - Joseph Soska, Jr.
- 13—Peter Conzola
 - Marissa Epler
- 15—Robert McVicker
- 19—Erin Burgess
 - Ron Dendas
- 22—Rita Girou
 - Loraine Weiss
- 24—Bertie Knisely
 - Morgan LuBuda
 - James B. VanBilliard
 - Yvonne Gerlach
- 27—Brett VanBilliard
- 29—Robert Koehler, Jr.
 - Noel Sardine
- 30—Amanda Caton
 - Todd Heft
 - Jay Larson
 - Carlton Rohrbach
- 31—Wayne Williams
 - Mark Choi



January Birthdays

- 3—William Matz, Sr.
- 5—Kaelee Alpha
- 6—Ruth Bourguignon
 - Nicholas Harms
- 8—Eric Confer
 - Betty Damm
- 9—Ann Gibson
- 11—Rosanna Rice
- 12—Amy Fuchs
- 15—Harry Girou
- 16—Bill Shollenberger
- 18—Lou Jackson
 - Don Wambold
- 19—Kurtis Shollenberger
 - Ken Stauffer
- 20—Cathy Kline
- 22—Bruce Montgomery
- 23—Janice Schanck
- 24—Chelsea Toth
- 27—James Gold
 - Jodi Evans
- 28—Clayton Creamer
 - Kara Gilbert
 - Janet Dancs
 - William Matz, Jr.
- 29—Jen DeStasio
- 31—Sue Van Billiard
 - Walt Christoff



*With your presence, Lord, our Head and Savior,
Bless them all, we humbly pray;
Our dear heavenly Father's love and favor
Be their comfort every day.
May God's Spirit now in each proceeding
Favor them with his most gracious leading;
Thus shall they be truly blessed
Both in labor and in rest.*

In our ongoing prayers we hold:

**FOR HEALING AND RECOVERY OR STRENGTH TO
DEAL WITH ADVERSITY**

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Ray Hippenstiel; Ruth Bourguinon; Caroline Radchuk; Robert Takach; Shane Burcaw; Beth Meredith; Katherine Schleifer; Allison Shook; Pat Conklin, Deb Gruver.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY & FRIENDS:

Dorothy Sandford; Anita McKeown; Reid McAnanama; Maryalice Gross; Matt Newbold; Dick Kyte; Caroline Jenkins; Mike & Pam Tabery; Jean Kyte; "John"; Nancy Falkenback; Family & friends of Jim Ford; Fran Ford; Barbara Mongilutz; Margaret.

**OUR MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES OR AS-
SISTED LIVING**

Dorothy Lester

Correspondence

Thank you for your many expressions of sympathy upon Dick's passing. I also thank all of you for your notes of encouragement following my recent surgery. It is comforting to know that our members offer support in difficult times.



Sincerely,
Barbara Cressman

A Note from Linda

As of November 30, 2011, I will no longer be your Administrative Assistant here at EHMC. These past six years have been wonderful for me as I worked side by side with many of you in various areas of the life of the church. To me, my position was not merely a job, but a shared ministry with each of you. I will miss that connection, but it is time for me to move on to a different phase of my life and be more available to spend time with my children, grandchildren, and hubby.

Blessings,
Linda

Fellowship Opportunities

Moravian Women's Christmas dinner and festive togetherness will be **Tuesday, December 6** at **6:00 p.m.** at the church. All women of the church are invited to bring a friend and join us. Call Rita Girou, 610-954-9051 or Janet Droney, 610-691-1984 if you are planning on attending, and let us know also what food you will be bringing for the covered dish. We will also have a \$10 gift exchange.

The evening circle will meet Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at the home of Sue Kriebs, and the morning circle will meet Wednesday, January 4 at 9:30 at the church with hostess, Jean Bennett. Both groups will study Lesson 3 in *Adventures of Paul*.

Moravian Travelers

Contact Stan Maculesky, 610-866-1352, to inquire about or to reserve a seat on any of the new trips for 2012, beginning in April. New brochures are available upon request.

Adult Fellowship

Adult Fellowship Game Night is scheduled for Saturday, January 21, 7 p.m. at the home of Steve and Lucy Thompson. Bring a favorite board game and a snack or munchies to share. Beverages, fellowship, lots of laughs and friendly competition provided.

Why Knots

On Sunday, November 27, Pastor Derek consecrated items being taken to St. Luke's Hospital for distribution through various nursing programs. These programs impact children from newborn through teens.

Projects will continue in 2012. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. at the home of Sue Hahn. People who like to knit, crochet or quilt are welcome to either work on projects at home or come to our socials for instruction from our experienced crafters.

For further information about our socials, contact Sue Hahn (610-865-2304 or susanjahn@yahoo.com) or Ginny Yanzsa (610-691-6990 or vlyanzsa@ptd.net).

December Ministry Page

Christmas Eve Ushers

4:00 p.m.

Bill & Debbie Spinney
Don & Joni Wambold

7:30 p.m.

Jack & Jean Skillman
Jim Eckerd, Walker Levan

9:30 p.m.

Greg & Nancy Costa
Jim & Jane Regina

Elder on Duty

4:00 p.m.

Brian Davison

7:30 p.m.

Jon Burcaw

9:30 p.m.

Sue Kriebs

Sacristans

4 Jack & Jean Skillman
11 Eileen Mere, Peter Diehl
18 Steve & Lucy Thompson
24 All Sacristans
25 Harry & Louise Snyder

Counters

4 Dwight Taylor, Lisa Mixon
11 Dwight Taylor, Rich Kriebs
18 Steve Cooke, Rich Kriebs
24 TBD
25 Steve Cooke, Bob Girou

Ushers

4 Joe & Frieda Soska
11 Charlene Trux,
Bruce Montgomery
18 Joe & Frieda Soska
25 No early service

Elder on Duty

8:30 a.m.

4 Jon Burcaw
11 Jay Larson
18 Polly Skinn
25 No early service

11:00 a.m.

4 Jeff Adams, Jon Burcaw
11 Mark & Sarah Choi
18 Christopher & Zachary Beamer
25 Harry Snyder, Bob Hauck

11:00 a.m.

4 Laura Kemmerer
11 Sue Kriebs
18 Brian Davison
25 NO EOD

Liturgist

8:30

4 Lisa Mixon
11 Jean Bennett
18 Ed Zuccarelli
25 No early service

Sanctuary Flowers

4 Janet Droney
11 Dave & Barb Hendricks
18 Rachel Reynolds
25 Poinsettias

Victory House

Tuesday, December 13,
2011

11:00 a.m.

4 Sue Kriebs
11 Ann-Louise Taylor
18 Todd Heft
25 William Kuhfahl

Shopper Jim Dunstan
Kitchen Asst John Fuchs
Shelter Duty, Jim & Jane
Regina
Dessert Connie Fuchs

Crib Nursery

4 Melissa Kaye
11 Melissa Kaye
18 Melissa Kaye
25 Melissa Kaye

Flower Visitor

4 Bob Stewart
11 Joanne VanBilliard
18 Jeff Adams
25 Jean Bennett

December 2011 at East Hills

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30am Worship/Comm. 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship/Comm. 6:30pm Cont. Class 6:30pm Cub Scouts		6:00pm Moravian Women Christmas Party 7:30 pm Dist. Scout Meeting	5:30 Girl Scouts 7 p.m. Men's Bible Study	5pm Jr. Choir 5:30pm Youth Choir 7pm Boy Scouts 7:15 Sr. Choir		Homeless Sheltering
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 6:30pm Cub Scouts		7pm Preschool Adv. Bd.	5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Trustees @ Marz's 7 pm Elders 7 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm Why Knot's	5pm Jr. Choir 5:30pm Youth Choir 7pm Boy Scouts 7:15 Sr. Choir		Homeless Sheltering
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am SS Program 6:30pm Shepherd's Journey			7pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Men's Bible Study	5pm Jr. Choir 5:30pm Youth Choir 7pm Boy Scouts 7:15 Sr. Choir		4pm Candle Light Lovefeast-FC 7:30pm Candle Light Lovefeast-FC 9:30pm Candle Light Lovefeast-Sanctuary Homeless Sheltering
Christma Day 11am Worship	Pastor Derek's vacation	Pastor Derek's vacation	Pastor Derek's vacation	Pastor Derek's vacation	Pastor Derek's vacation	New Year's Eve Homeless Sheltering Pastor Derek's vacation

There is still Time!

Time to order magazines for Christmas gifts!

It's also time to reorder the magazines you read!

It's time to save money! It's time to Support East Hills Moravian Church!

So let's get to it, if you have a current magazine subscription you can reorder your magazine now and have your current subscription extended. You will not receive a duplicate order. The best news is: You will Save money and help our church!

With QSP magazine prices are up to 85% off cover prices and....40% of all sales go to support East Hills Moravian Church!

It's easy, just follow the steps outlined below:

Go to www.qsp.com

Select "just shopping?"

On the shop now page under "School/Organization #" Write **1116202** (This is our own special code number)

If you forget our number select [school or organization finder](#) and write "EAST HILLS MORAVIAN CHURCH" and select PA as the state. Our name and order number will pop up.

Place your order by following the instructions online.

Pay by credit card

On the "checkout page under "Participant First Name:" and "Participant Last Name:" write the name of the person who will get credit for this donation.

Print receipt

You will receive a quarterly statement in the mail showing the amount of your donation to East Hills Moravian Church. (This can be used for taxes).

Remember it may take 4 to 6 weeks to process your order and for QSP to send us a report and a check for your support.

Satisfaction Guarantee: Toll free customer service number for QSP (800-678-2673)

For questions related to this East Hills Moravian Church fundraiser, contact Denise Kohn-Lesko at dkohnlesko@yahoo.com or phone (610)867-8467

January Ministry Page

Sacristans

1 John & Connie Fuchs
8 Bob & Rita Girou
15 Rob & Lynn Greenawald
22 Bob Hauck/Polly Skinn
29 Jim & Lucia Knerr

Ushers

8:30 a.m.

1 No Early Service Today
8 John & Ellen DeStasio
15 Bob & Rita Girou
22 Earl & Lou Jackson
29 James & Anna Koehler

11:00 a.m.

1 B. Montgomery, Y. Gerlach
8 Steve & Nicholas Cooke
15 Greg & Nancy Costa
22 Dave & Patti Evans
29 Bertie Knisely, Bob Sauers

Liturgist

8:30

1 No early service
8 Joe Csrenko
15 Eileen Ackerman
22 Eileen Mera
29 Ed Zuccarelli

11:00 a.m.

1 Peter Diehl
8 Sue Kriebs
15 Bertie Knisely
22 Jay Larson
29 Joyce Signarovitz

Crib Nursery

1 Melissa Kaye
8 Melissa Kaye
15 Melissa Kaye
22 Melissa Kaye
29 Melissa Kaye

Counters

1 Steve Cooke, Bob Girou
8 Todd Heft, Yvonne Gerlach
15 Todd Heft, Yvonne Gerlach
22 Todd Heft, Debbie Spinney
29 B. Montgomery, Debbie Spinney

Elder on Duty

8:30 a.m.

1 TBD
8 TBD
15 TBD
22 TBD
29 TBD

11:00 a.m.

1 TBD
8 TBD
15 TBD
22 TBD
29 TBD

Sanctuary Flowers

1 TBD
8 Jen & Steve Cooke
15 TBD
22 TBD
29 TBD

Flower Visitor

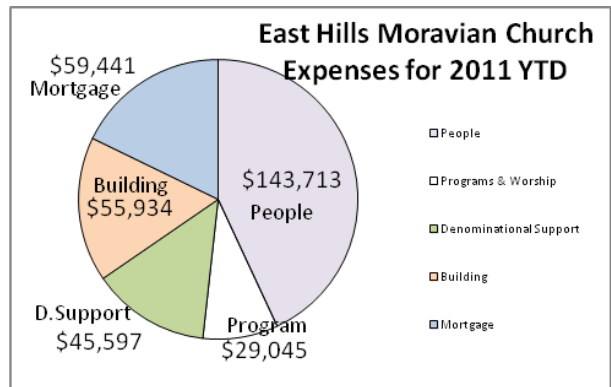
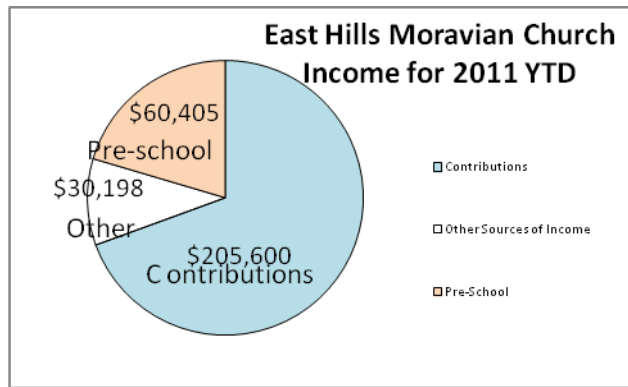
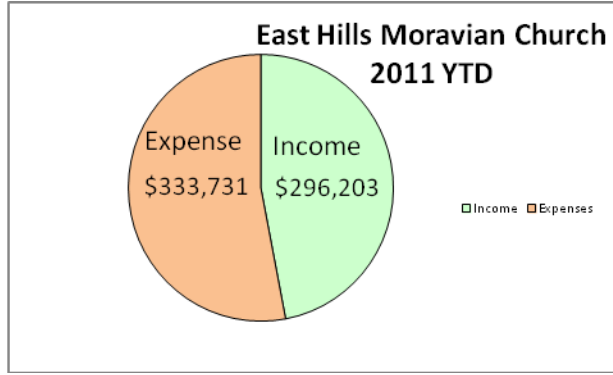
1 Ellen DeStasio
8 Lou & Earl Jackson
15 Barb Levan
22 Marcia Mielnik
29 Bruce Montgomery

January 2012 at East Hills

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NEW YEAR'S DAY 11am Worship						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:30am Worship/Comm 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship/Comm 12pm Handbells 2:30pm Knapouting 6:30pm Cub Scouts	6:30pm Dart Ball		5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7pm Men's Bible Study	5pm Jr Choir 5:30 Youth Choir 7pm Boy Scouts 7:15pm Sr. Choir		Homeless Sheltering
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 12pm Handbells 6:30pm Conf. Class	6:30pm Dart Ball	7pm Nursery School Adv. Bd.	5:30 Girl Scouts 7pm Elders 7 pm Men's Bible Study 7pm "Why Knots"	5pm Jr Choir 5:30 Youth Choir 7pm Boy Scouts 7:15pm Sr. Choir		7pm Adult Fellowship Game Night Homeless Sheltering
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 12pm Handbells 6:30 Cub Scouts	6:30pm Dart Ball		5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Trustees 7pm Men's Bible Study	5pm Jr Choir 5:30 Youth Choir 7pm Boy Scouts 7:15pm Sr. Choir		Homeless Sheltering
29	30	31				
8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 12:15pm Church Council 6pm Bible Study 6:30pm 8th Gr. Conf. Class	6:30pm Dart Ball					

East Hills Moravian Church 2011 Third Quarter Financial Status

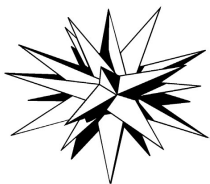
Income	YTD
Contributions	\$205,600
Other Sources of Income	\$30,198
Pre-School	\$60,405
Total Income	\$296,203
Expenses	YTD
People	\$143,713
Programs & Worship	\$29,045
Denominational Support	\$45,597
Building	\$55,934
Mortgage	\$59,441
Total Expense	\$333,731



These charts represent EPMC financial status through the third quarter of 2011. The totals presented exclude Directed Fund accounts and Memorial Funds. Also not included are Cash Card Program and the Craft Faire receipts and expenses.

Contribution income through 3rd Quarter 2011 is \$14,700 less than 2010 through the same period. Mortgage loan prepayments have been suspended pending improved contributions. Parsonage rent income has resumed as of September 1, 2011. An investment of \$2,716 was needed to perform minimum repairs and refurbishment of the parsonage. More maintenance of the exterior is needed to maintain the doors and windows.

Robert Mielnik
EPMC Treasurer



East Hills Moravian Church
1830 Butztown Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017-3210

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Our Mission: To Know Christ and to Make Him Known

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Insert: Shepherd's Journey
EHMC 2011 Financial Status

The True Meaning of Christmas

A few years ago, my Christmas season centered on the arrival of a baby—our second child, due December 23. Exhausted with pregnancy, I skipped out on holiday gatherings, did less decorating and baking than usual, didn't send cards and didn't plan a holiday dinner, assuming—correctly, it turned out—I'd be in the hospital then.

It was a strangely quiet Christmas season, with our focus on the impending arrival. But once our baby was born, in the last hour of Christmas Day, all the missed parties, caroling, cookie-indulging and even present-opening paled in comparison. All that truly mattered was God's gift to our family of this one very special baby.

Isn't this how Christmas should *always* be? Seasonal activities are fun but hold meaning only if they deepen our focus on the coming of one very special Baby—the Christ-Child. Hold him in your heart this season, as I held my newborn that Christmas night. If the hustle and bustle distracts you from the Baby, put an end to it. If traditional activities prove more stressful than joyous, consider what you can let go of to embrace the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of Jesus, God's gift of love.

—Heidi Mann