

The Star

Volume 57, No. 1

February 2014

"Everyone Can Find True Love"

Whether you go to the grocery for milk or to the pharmacy for a prescription, you won't be able to avoid Valentine's Day merchandise in the form of balloons, candy hearts, and cards. Ah, yes, a holiday devoted to idealized romantic love. What could be more heartwarming? Yet, as wonderful as romantic love may be it is only one form of love – and an often fragile and volatile one at that. To be fully realized, romantic love depends on the one we love loving us in return. If that doesn't happen, you may find yourself tolerating or enduring Valentine's Day rather than celebrating it.

The unconditional love of God spoken of in the Bible is something quite different. God's love is the most stable of loves. We cannot earn it, buy it, or lose it. God loves everyone. Those who are humble and honest enough with themselves to accept their need for God's love can experience it in the core of their being as they come to know the presence of God/Christ/Holy Spirit within them. Before he died Jesus prayed:

... The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17: 20-23)

Once we have encountered God and accepted (really accept in our hearts, as well as our heads) the truth that God loves us unconditionally, we are free to accept and love ourselves in the same way. Such love also propels us beyond ourselves and compels us to love others without conditions.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4: 8-10)

The experience of God's unconditional love and sharing of that love is the essence of Moravian Bishop Zinzendorf's "Religion of the Heart." This vibrant, powerful, life-giving faith fueled the explosive growth of the 18th century Moravian Church and is reflected in the lyrics of the church's traditional hymns.

Long before the time of the Renewed Moravian Church, such love motivated a priest to give his life for the sake of his sisters and brothers in Christ. His "crime" was officiating at Christian marriages, celebrating Holy Communion and otherwise serving his congregation. According to tradition, St. Valentine was killed by Roman authorities on February 14th. Certainly, as he went to his death he would have recalled Christ's words "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Derek French

Preschool News

Mary Kay Brezinsky



Love is in the air during the month of February at EHMC Preschool. Our classes celebrate St. Valentine's Day by learning about friendship, caring, and sharing. There will be giggles and smiles as the children sort through their Valentine goodies and play friendship games. February is a busy month, as we will also be learning about our founding fathers for Presidents' Day and our dental health.

We welcome visitors to come and see our school and all the wonderful things that happen here. **Registration is in full swing.** Give us a call to schedule a visit in one of our classes. We offer classes in the mornings, 9:15-11:45am: Two Year Old Class (Wed. or Thurs.); Three Year Old Class (Tues. and Thurs.); a 3-day (M/W/F); and a 4-day (M/T/W/F) Four Year Old Program. We offer a "You and Me" class for 2 years and under for those who want to start their preschool experience with their favorite adult. This class is offered on Monday from 9:15-10:45am. You may even join us now to start to get ready for preschool. We also offer a drop-in program Mon/Tue/Wed afternoon from 11:45 am-3:00 pm called "Creative Playgroup" for ages 2 ½ -5 years old. There is a class for everyone! If you have any questions about our programs, please give us a call at 610-868-6242.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Youth News

Chili Cook Off

Come taste what East Hills members cook up! The BCE would like to invite all chefs to join the Senior High class in a "Top That Chili Challenge" on **Saturday, February 15** from 6-8 pm. Menu will consist of various chilis/hot dogs/nachos/corn bread/rolls. Anyone interested in entering a chili, please contact Mandi Ortwein at ortwein111@yahoo.com or 610-653-7198 to register by **February 2**. Tickets: Adults-\$7; Children-\$5 or Family-\$25 maximum. Proceeds will benefit Camp Hope scholarships. For more information or to make a donation, contact Annemarie Soska at 610-758-8876 or sos4am@juno.com.

Star Newsletter

The deadline for information to be published in the Star is now the **TENTH** of every month to enable us to publish the information in a timely manner. We **MUST** have all information by this date or it will not be published. If appropriate, we will hold the information and publish it the following month. Please remember to keep information as brief as possible due to space limitations. Thank you for your cooperation!



Thanks so much for the kind words, prayers and cards given following the death of my father, Warren Fritts, in November. Our family greatly appreciates these thoughtful expressions of hope and caring.

God's blessings,
John & Anne Fritts

Christian Fellowship News & Opportunities

Women's Fellowship

February Meetings: The evening group will meet on **February 4** at 7:30 pm at the home of Jean Bennett, and the morning group will meet on **February 5** at 9:30 am in the church kitchen. Jean Bennett will be acting as hostess for **both groups** this month. Please call her at 610-868-9810 if you plan to attend either meeting. Both groups will study Lesson 5: Moravian Identity – “Chosen but not Exclusive”.

The Spring Rally will be held April 25-27, 2014 in Toronto. Rates are as follows: Double Occupancy - \$115.00 per person; Triple Occupancy - \$77.00 per person; Quadruple Occupancy - \$58.00 per person. The first deposit of 50% is due January 30. Remaining 50% is due March 25. For more information, call Janet Droney at 610-691-1984.

Adult Fellowship Wine Tasting Party

Sue and Rich Kriebs look forward to hosting the 9th annual Wine Tasting Party on **Saturday, March 15**, starting at 7 pm. A full menu of foods and desserts to complement each wine will be prepared and served by the Wingroves, Kriebs, and Mielniks. Glasses for tasting, and other beverages, are also provided. Several local wineries are being considered, but a final selection has not yet been made. For those who have previously enjoyed this event, we hope to see you again. For those who have not, please join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, food, and drink.

Contact Sue or Rich (610-867-5971, or skriebs@gmail.com) for info or to reserve. Cost is \$17 per person, and payment is due by **Sunday, March 9**. **Please reserve early to help us plan the details, and also because space is limited.**

Food Bank Needs

The food pantries at Northeast Ministries and New Bethany are experiencing shortfalls, and we can help whenever we shop for our own food supplies. Bring purchased items to church, and Mission & Outreach will deliver them. Thank you!

New Bethany – peanut butter, jelly, cereal, and canned soups.

Northeast Ministries – canned fruit/veggies, tuna, beans, canned/dry spaghetti, and rice.

EHMC Dart Baseball League

Practice starts at 6:45 pm; games begin at 7:30 pm. Anyone is welcome to come and play or if you prefer, just come in to watch! For more info, contact Wayne Gruver at ufospacehunter@yahoo.com. Our league schedule is as follows {Home (H)/Away (A)}

Feb 3-Christ UCC (A); 10-St. Matthew's (A); 17-Holy Cross Lutheran (H); 24-College Hill (A)

Mar 3-All Star Game (location TBA); 10-Fritz Wesleyan (H); 17-Holy Trinity Lutheran (H); 24-First UCC (H), 31-Bethany UCC (H).

Apr 7-Christ Lutheran (H).

Building Usage Reminder

The ministries of East Hills Moravian Church are the first priority for building usage; therefore, all ministry coordinators/leaders are encouraged to complete a building reservation form for all meetings and events. This will ensure that your required space is available and reserved for your particular event. Thank you for your cooperation.

Reformation and Imperial Europe Tour

Follow in the footsteps of Martin Luther, John Hus, and John Calvin, and see the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Fisherman's Bastion in Budapest, and the Alps in Austria and Switzerland. Join the First Presbyterian Church, Allentown, for an inspirational 11-day tour May 20-30, with an optional 8-day extension May 30-June 6. For more information (including air alternatives) or reservations, go to <http://www.pilgrimtours.com/groups/reformationeurope.htm> or call toll-free at 800-322-0788.

Habitat For Humanity ReStore

The Habitat Donation Center, located at 1053 Grape St., Whitehall, is in need of donations of new or used (good condition) building supplies, home furnishings, or home improvement items for their store. Cleaning out? Contact them at 610-776-7499, on the website at www.HabitatLVRestore.org, or e-mail DonateStuff@habitatlehighvalley.org.

East Hills Men's Club Italian Buffet

Mark your calendars, get your tickets, bring your family and friends and join us for a great night of fun and food on **Saturday, March 1**, at 6:00 pm.

PLEASE NOTE: ONLY ONE SEATING THIS YEAR

Cost – Adults - \$12.00/6-12 yrs. - \$5.00/5 and under – No charge.

Menu – Antipasto Salad Bar, Italian Bread, Pasta Bar, Marinara Sauce, White Clam Sauce, Stuffed Shells, Hand Made Meatballs, Sweet Italian Sausage, Chicken Mediterranean, Fresh Brewed Ice Tea, Lemonade, and Ice Cream.

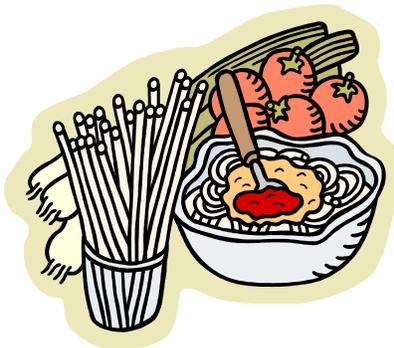
Proceeds from this dinner are used for East Hills mission, ministry, and church-wide fellowship needs. This year's tip basket will go toward the Camp Hope Scholarship Fund, helping youth attend camp.

Ticket Sales – tickets go on sale **Sunday, February 2**. Get them from Bob Wingrove at 610-867-0537 and call soon since a sell-out is expected. If you have a group, you can reserve a table; however, this is not required but helps greatly with the seating.

Help Needed – Friday, February 28, 7:00 pm to set up and prep and Saturday, March 1 during the afternoon for cooking, servers at 5:15 pm for 6:00 dinner, and the all-important clean-up after.

Special Note – those that help with the event can all enjoy the dinner afterwards. Helpers can also get tickets for their friends and family to join them for this informal Buffet Cast Party.

Contact - Bob Wingrove at 610-867-0537 for both tickets and to sign up to help.



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Gifts like: magazines, sport team gifts, jewelry & seasonal decorations, baby & kid gifts, woven treasure, gourmet grocery, custom plaques, personalized stoneware and more.

For magazines:

- ✓ RENEW your existing Magazine subscriptions, ORDER a NEW title, or GIVE the Gift of reading!
- ✓ Over 600 best-sellers for example: *Time* 26 issues for \$15, *Entertainment Weekly* 52 issues for \$25, *Sports Illustrated* 56 issues for \$29, *Golf* 24 issues for \$20, *FamilyFun* 20 issues for \$20.
- ✓ **86 DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS or 59 PRINT AND DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS available download on to your e-readers or I-Pads!**
- ✓ To view our digital offerings, go to **store.gafundraising.com** follow the steps 1-3 listed below, and then click on "Digital Magazines," under the Easy Access Tabs on the left side of the page.
- ✓ Examples of Digital Subscriptions O, (the Oprah magazine) 12 issues for \$24, *Seventeen* 10 issues for \$20, *Guidepost* 12 issues for \$17, *Better Homes & Gardens* 12 issues for \$15, *Outdoorlife* 12 issues for \$14.
- ✓ Examples Print and Digital magazines; *Boating World* 9 issues for \$14, *Men's Fitness* 10 issues for \$15, *Quilter World* 12 issues for \$40, *Christianity Today* 12 issues for \$25, *TV Guide* 56 issues for \$39.

For Gift Items:

- Gift items available such as: Personalized gifts, wreaths, gift wrap, jewelry, college and sport teams' items (such as pillows and blankets), custom plaques and much more.
- To view the gift items follow steps 1-3 listed below and then select your gift category under the Easy Access Tabs on the left side of the page.
- Example of gift items: lunch cooler bags \$10-\$20, collegiate products like a Penn State large cooler \$43.20, gourmet grocery items like chicken cordon bleu (six 7oz \$38.00), personalize stoneware items like family coasters set \$21, custom plaques like arch marker address sign \$104.13, woven treasures like Thomas Kinkade throw \$45, or your photo on a throw \$64, for kids & babies: Rainforest Biosphere Dome Terrarium \$34, personalized baby afghan \$55.

HOW DO I ORDER MAGAZINES AND GIFT ITEMS?

Go to **STORE.GAFUNDRAISING.COM**

Our NEW Church ID: 2768554

Then Follow the easy steps outlined below:

1. Click on "Shop Now!"
2. Under 'School or organization online ID' write: **2768554** (that is our church ID)
3. Under 'Support student of your choice' write: **Your First and Last Name**
4. Select your magazine and pay by credit card. Please print a copy of your order.
 - 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.)
 - Shop online 24-7, and pay by credit card and save 4-6 weeks delivery time
 - If you do not have a computer and want to order magazines, gifts or if you have any other questions contact: Denise Kohn-Lesko at dkohnlesko@gmail.com or phone 610-867-8467.

Customers can contact the toll-free online customer service number at 1-800-251-1542.

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All Things Moravian

Women's Winter Retreat

"Around the Labyrinth", **February 8**, 9 am–2 pm at College Hill Moravian Church, 72 W. Laurel St., Bethlehem. All women of BAM Churches and their friends and neighbors are invited to attend this retreat. Please bring a bag lunch and something to share; drinks will be provided. We will also be collecting canned good for the area needy. If you have any questions please contact: Linda Toggart, Spiritual Director, at 610-217-1971. To register, please contact College Hill Moravian Church (Monday – Friday 9 am–1 pm) at 610-867-8291.

Prayer Shawls for Northern Province Synod

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of the United Brethren's Church on Staten Island hopes to provide one prayer shawl for each delegate for Provincial Synod in **June 2014**. A total of 250 shawls are needed and we have commitments for close to 100. If anyone is interested in helping with this endeavor, please contact Kate Reynolds at ksrcreate@embarqmail.com.

Travel To Our Historical Moravian Roots

Central Travelers and the Moravian Archives present a trip to Moravian roots in the Czech Republic and Germany **June 30 to July 11, 2014**. Contact Craig Mosebach at 610-625-4576 or cmosebach@rcn.com for more information.

Mission Opportunity

The Staten Island Moravians are looking for a mission team to assist with their annual clothing distribution which will take place the third or fourth week in August 2014. Volunteers serve Thursday through Saturday setting up and distributing clothing. Mission teams are welcome to come a day or two early or stay a day or two after the distribution to enjoy sight-seeing in New York. Housing and meals provided. Contact Pastor Lynnette Delbridge, 718-442-5215 or pastor@castletonhill.org.

Hope Conference/Renewal Center Summer Jobs 2014

Positions open for support staff at Camp Hope:

- Term dates: June 16- August 16, 2014 (9 weeks)
- Live with other staff members in air-conditioned cabins
- All meals provided
- At least 18 years old, preferably in college
- Lifeguard & food service certifications are reimbursed
- Weekly salaried positions in food service, lifeguard, maintenance, custodial
- NO EXPERIENCE needed. Will train.

Applications are being accepted now with job placement by April 30, 2014

Contact Camp Office for application materials:

Administrator: Stephen Sobczak/Office: Susan Dreydoppel

15 Ridgeway Ave., PO Box 165, Hope, NJ 07844 908-459-4435/fax 908-459-5571

Web site: www.camphope.org email: hopecenter@camphope.org

Advent Moravian Spaghetti Supper

Advent Moravian Church, 3730 Jacksonville Rd., Bethlehem, **Saturday, February 1** (snow date February 8) from 5-7 pm. Cost: Adults-\$9 (\$8 if advance sale ticket)/children 10 & under-\$4. Takeout available at 610-868-0477.

Young Adult Mission Opportunity

March 8–15 serve the Beeston Spring community in Westmoreland, Jamaica by painting houses, schools, orphanages, and doing home construction and repair. Spiritually renew in small group worship and reflection as you interact with elementary-age children during two evening sessions and during track and field sports day. Take in the scenery of Jamaica with excursions to AquaSol Beach, Bluefields Beach, and YS Falls. Total cost \$975. Includes housing, six nights at Camp Hope (near White House in Westmoreland) and one night at Verney House Hotel, a three-star motel in Montego Bay, meals, and excursion entrance fees. Fundraising to offset costs already in progress. For more information contact ED Director of Youth and Young Adults, Cynthia Rader Geyer, text or call 484-554-0102 or email Cynthia@mcnp.org.

Save The Date

Friday March 7, 2014, snow tubing at Blue Mountain w/Edgeboro Moravian; 6:00-9:00 pm-- come when you can. Cost: \$17 + waiver by 2/26 or \$21 at the door. (Must be 36" tall.) To come and watch is free/small donation!!!! Hot dogs, soda, water, and desserts provided. Bring other munchies to share. Contact Blake Messman @ 610-954-5173 for info. Bring your friends!

Annual Report from the Executive Director of Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.

The annual meeting of Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc. will be held at College Hill Moravian Church, 72 W. Laurel Street, Bethlehem, on Tuesday, **February 18**, beginning at 7:30 pm.

I am pleased to offer this report to the six BAM Churches that highlights the activities of 2013. BAM continued to make advances this past year to strengthen the organization and in fact to make some significant progress toward delivering on our mission. There were some new opportunities identified this past year. This was accomplished in an environment of restrained revenues at the government and reimbursement level while we are seeing increased pressure in almost all of our expense areas. We are being told that there is little inflation in the system; however I am not sure that I agree with this. Costs are accelerating while pricing leverage is stalled. All of the BAM entities continued to deliver on their mission statements. My personal thanks to Dan Soos, Jack Lightcap, Brenda Dorward, Roy Boehm and all of the BAM staff; as well as Brad Senick and Peg DeAngelo and the MDC staff; and Tracy Patton, John Calzola and Kristel Seagraves and the MVB staff.

BAM

Ministries Committee The BAM Ministries Committee is working better than I have ever witnessed since joining BAM many years ago. I see a genuine sense of cooperation and goals within the committee. Accomplishments for 2013 include grants to: the Board of World Mission Summit meeting, Habitat for Humanity, Edgeboro Moravian Church VBS equipment, Jamaica outreach, Moravian Open Door, Youth Fellowship grant, Bethlehem Emergency Shelter and a BAM Cooperative Ministries grant. The Committee is now using our Board Effect web portal, which I believe is helping them stay organized. Also, high marks go to Rev. Janel Rice who is currently chairing the committee for maintaining regular communication with the members and urging them forward.

BAM Board

The BAM Board completed its annual board self-assessment during their annual retreat, earlier this fall. The retreat included a status report of the BAM strategic plan, a visioning session, and the self-assessment update. The strategic plan report indicates that all initiatives are moving forward and most are achieving measurable progress. The visioning

portion of the agenda included a healthy discussion of opinion from the board members. Once the self-assessment results are tallied they will be shared with the board and compared to prior self-assessments to measure areas of strengths and weaknesses.

A result from a prior retreat indicated the desire for the board to receive education relating to the various partners of our entities and topics and how they are affecting BAM. So during 2013, different guests were invited to address the board and provide this education. I believe it's fair to say that the board is enjoying this new topic on our agenda. We have also been taking less time with administration reports. Information is presented early before meetings through the board web portal. Board members review this material ahead of time and are asking questions about unclear items. All this has allowed the board to concentrate on more global issues and governance items. Clearly this is a major step in the right direction. As the BAM organization has become more complex, this type of evolution will allow the board to adapt to its proper role.

Committee work The committees have been working for over a year now. Their activities are making the Board meetings flow much smoother and more efficient. The audit committee has worked through a full audit cycle and appears to have gained a good grasp on their responsibility. The members of the audit committee have agreed to serve another term and have been appointed by the board. I expect they will build on their successes this year. The Nominating Committee has been meeting regularly and has been active in presenting reports at several board meetings for action. It is safe to say that their work is very important since the committee presents individuals for all board and committee appointments. I believe their next task will be to begin identifying individuals to place in queue for seats, which may become open. Additionally, the Finance Committee has gotten itself into a rhythm and has in fact recommended new investment guidelines to the board. This was an important undertaking since the old version of the guidelines was quite outdated. The board later approved the new guidelines. All committees have advanced a great deal since the adoption of the committee charters a few years ago. I feel this is one more step in the growth of the board and the organization.

Moravian Development Corporation (MDC)

New Projects In 2013, our recently acquired two-unit building on Center Street, was completely renovated. Both apartments are currently rented. This is our second two-unit rental in the City, which is offered to moderate-income individuals. All of our non-HUD/PHFA buildings are fully leased and serving our mission. In Addition, during 2013 we were approached by SPIN. SPIN is an organization, primarily operating in the Philadelphia area that provides services to individuals with development disabilities and autism. The organization accepted a state contract in the City of Bethlehem formerly administered by Lehigh University. MDC was selected to provide three group homes to each be occupied by three SPIN clients. This activity continues to solidify MDC as a trusted partner for organizations providing services to folks with mental disabilities.

Real Estate Matters During the year, MDC replaced the elevators in Moravian House I as well as the roof top cupola that houses some of the elevator equipment. As reported last year, the elevators were becoming unreliable with recurring downtime and stalled operations. Once it was decided to replace/upgrade the units, the renovation of the copula also was required. The roof top work was further complicated by the fact that we have cell phone antenna and cables that run across the rooftop of Moravian House I. MDC staff worked thru this complicated project while trying to cause as little inconvenience to our

residents as possible. Accolades go to Brad Senick and his team for a job well done. There are a number of other high cost/ important projects that need to be completed at Moravian House I, II and III. Figuring out how to pay for them becomes an interesting puzzle since the government has sought to limit rent increases and restrict withdrawals from the replacement reserve accounts. MDC has been fortunate to receive a grant from the City of Bethlehem in the amount of \$140,000 for certain critical projects at Moravian House II to be completed in 2014. MDC also received a grant from the William C. Rybak Handicapped Citizens Fund of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation to pay for handicap thermostats in certain units. We will continue to apply for assistance when we can match a need to a donor. But we must acknowledge that some of our buildings are old. Moravian House I & II, date back to the 1970's. They have been well maintained and are in good condition, but will increasingly need more investment. We will also need to look at general common areas for updating, decorating and reconfiguring.

Periodically a HUD contractor inspects our buildings. They review the buildings for safety, maintenance and cleanliness. We call this a REAC inspection. Our buildings have consistently scored high with these inspections. The inspector looks into every nook and cranny you can imagine. I sometimes hear stories about some inner city buildings scoring very low and requiring HUD intervention. The REAC inspection for Moravian House II occurred this fall and the result was a score of 100%, or perfect. We have never scored this high nor have I ever heard of a building receiving 100%. This is something to celebrate and speaks to the dedication of Dennis Schoeneberger and the entire maintenance staff at MDC. Well Done!!

Moravian College Housing Inc. (MCHI)

As I stated for the past three years, MCHI is paying down its debt and managing its expenses. Our opportunities for the future lay in the refinance of our debt.

This past summer, the Moravian Music Foundation housed and fed its festival attendees at MCHI. Feedback from the event indicated that the Foundation was well satisfied with the accommodations. We have a reservation at this moment to host the Moravian Church Eastern District Conference in July 2015. Richard Siter coordinates on behalf of MCHI as he has for prior conferences.

Moravian Village of Bethlehem (MVB)

This past year has seen a great deal of change in the Health Care Center of Moravian Village. We have converted our 22 bed assisted living unit to skilled nursing beds. This is a strategic move on our part and places us in a position to receive more skilled nursing patients and open this wing to another specialty. While we were seeking all approvals for this conversion we upgrade the 22 rooms with modern flooring, new decorating, new common space and other upgrading to comply with nursing regulations.

Our east wing on the second floor of the Health Care Center has also been upgraded and converted into our new Cardiac wing. Ann Marie Labeau, a nursing manager with cardiac experience has been hired to run the unit. She has established a caring staff and developed a first class cardiac program. She is beginning the process of guiding our nurses through Cardiac certifications. Patients with heart conditions and heart related diagnoses are becoming more prevalent at MVB. This is a specialty that we can now offer the community and our hospital partners. This unit follows in the footsteps of our wound unit on the south wing of the second floor. Our wound unit celebrated its 5th anniversary this fall. We are very proud of the outcomes that our wound nurses deliver and the specialty care they provide.

Occupancy In our nursing unit, with the conversion of our 22 bed assisted living unit to skilled nursing beds; our occupancy has slightly trailed our budgeted goals in the fall. We expected there would be a fill up period, but it took a little longer than originally expected. I am happy to write that as of now, we are back on target. We are budgeting slightly over 3000-bed nights and about 950 admissions in the skilled unit for 2014. These are both big numbers and require amazing effort to materialize. With 118 skilled beds, the MVB Health Care Center is larger than some community hospitals.

In the independent living side of the building, we have a hand full of vacant apartments and cottages. Our marketing efforts are ongoing and geared to invite prospective residents into MVB. We expect to exceed budget for 2013.

Programs/Projects As I reported last year, the MVB community then celebrated the completion of the Gallery, the project that connects the Independent Living building to the Health Center without traversing thru the dining room. The Gallery is phase 1 of a 3-phase expansion. During 2013, Phase 2 started. Phase 2 is the construction of a second dining venue for residents and an appropriate lunch space for our staff. Certain exterior HVAC equipment has been moved and the large garbage compactor has been relocated in order to make way for the future construction. Construction drawings are now in process for both the 2nd and 3rd phase of the expansion. We hope to be in a position to begin construction sometime during the first half of 2014 on Phase 2 only. The basement of Phase 2 will include a second commercial kitchen. This new kitchen will service the health care building and the tray service required by some of our shut in residents and assisted living residents.

MVB is well along with the implementation of our electronic medical records package. The implementation process has been a bit rocky at times. But as of this writing, we seem to have emerged from most of the difficulties and believe that we will have successfully digested the process and package by early spring. This automation was a necessary step in our bid to remain a cutting edge skilled nursing facility with hospital-like services.

A new development I wish to announce is the bundling program, which St. Luke's Hospital has entered into with CMS (Medicare) and Remedy Partners. This is an innovative program designed to decrease Medicare reimbursement on certain "episodes of care". I think most people understand that there is intense effort at the federal level to reduce medical costs. This is one program with that goal in mind. MVB has been selected as the hospital's "Preferred Partner" for many of these "episodes of care". At MVB, we consider this to be an honor and a verification of the high level of care we deliver and quality of our outcomes. This program gets under way in earnest for us in 2014.

Memory Support and Assisted Living Expansion In early 2012, the City of Bethlehem Planning Commission approved our plan for the memory support and assisted living building. The objector appealed that planning approval to Northampton County Court. The court found in our favor. The objector then appealed that decision to State Commonwealth Court. That court found in our favor. Then the objector sued MVB directly. We are now in the process of defending ourselves in this new litigation.

David M. Roth, December 2013



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/4 Eric Evans Bradley Gilbert	2/11 Nathan Bowden Cheyenne Creamer John Peters Bob Wingrove	2/20 Joshua Kemmerer
2/6 Alexander Emmons Nancy Gross Julia Pinter Bill Schankel Grace Taylor	2/12 Pete Diehl Bob Stewart	2/23 Ellen Choi Ethan Harms Paul Kline Walker Levan
2/7 Gavin Stellato Deborah Turton	2/13 Jeff Adams	2/24 Joyce Eckerd Carole Zieger
2/8 Greg Bowden Paul Lutz Marcia Mielnik	2/14 Alexandra Gaugler	2/25 Shannon Griffing-Johnson Daniel Hull
2/9 Amanda Koehler Christine Trux	2/15 Earl Jackson	2/26 Sandra Gichiengo Sarah Soska
	2/16 Rory Morgan	2/27 Jonah Ortwein Nancy Walz
	2/18 Mikayla Bowden Karen Davison	2/28 Deborah Spinney David Thompson
	2/19 Francis Goyanes Brandon Koehler	

The Monthly Ministry Information will no longer be published in the Star. Sacristans, Elders, Ushers, Counters, Liturgists, and Flower Visitors please refer to your individual schedules. We will continue to publish this information on a weekly basis in the announcement section of the Sunday bulletin.