

New Hope Moravian Church - 2897 Sandy Ford Road - Newton, North Carolina 28658 - 828-294-4802 - website

#### God's Evaluation of Your Faithfulness

This month, I'd like to talk with you about God's evaluation of your faithfulness. If you were to stand before God today, would you hear the words of (Matthew 25:21NIV): 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" In God's Church, all are considered leaders in some capacity. Therefore, developing our ministry and leadership skills should be a priority.

In God's Church, we are called to know what's important in our life and what is not important in our life. A faithful follower of Christ knows how to invest his or her time, talents and gifts and resources in the ministries of the Church. Christ calls His followers to bear fruit. A faithful follower of Christ makes his or her life count. A faithful follower of Christ makes significant changes in his or her life and seeks to make a significant difference in the lives of others!

Proverbs 28:20 says, "A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished." This verse contrasts faithfulness with a desire to get rich quick. In this verse, we tend to think of being monetarily rich. But, the author isn't talking about money. He's saying, realize, "there's more to life than the accumulation of money and stuff.

Scripture states: "do not worry." (Matthew 6:25-34NIV) says.... <sup>25</sup> "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? <sup>28</sup> "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

As followers of Christ, our faithfulness is confirmed and demonstrated by our refusal to put our faith

in the riches and desires of this world. Our faithfulness is reflected in our relationship with Christ, rather than the materialistic world. Christ calls His faithful followers to invest their lives in other people. Faithful followers need to swim against the stream of the contemporary culture, which usually ask: "What's in it for me? What are my needs, my desires, my ambitions, my goals, my hurts, my values, my profit; what benefits me?" Faithful followers of Christ, focus more on the needs of others, rather than being absorbed in their own needs!

How do you become a faithful follower of Christ? Galatians 5:22-23 says, "The fruit of the Spirit is ... faithfulness." It's one of the nine fruits. When the Holy Spirit lives in our life, we confirm and demonstrate our faithfulness to God's work in our lives. We demonstrate our faithfulness by accepting the responsibilities God has given to us....We bear fruit for God's Kingdom. Are YOU bearing fruit for God's Kingdom? As you approach Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent this year, take time out of your busy schedules to re-evaluate your life and the work you are doing for God's Kingdom! Christ calls His faithful followers to invest their lives in ministering to other people. Remember, I said earlier, "Faithful followers swim against the stream of the contemporary culture. Faithful followers focus more on the needs of others." Where are you today? Are you committed to being one of God's faithful followers? Are you prepared to give testimony of what God is doing in your life? If you stood before God today, would you hear the words of (Matthew 25:21NIV): 'Well done, good and faithful servant!" I pray these words ring loudly in your presence; I pray God works His work of faithfulness in your life. Brothers and Sisters, let's be found faithful...Let's bring praise and glory to God's Kingdom together!

In Christ Service,

#### **Pastor Betty**



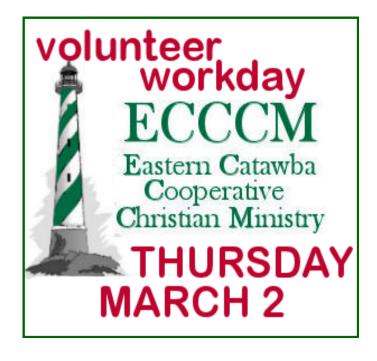
#### St. Joseph's Day

Joseph is a figure of significant importance in the Gospels, the husband of Mary, blessed mother of Jesus, and is venerated as Saint Joseph in the Catholic Church, Orthodox Church, Oriental Orthodox Church, Anglican Communion, Lutheranism and Methodism The feast day of St. Joseph is celebrated each year on March 19.



The **Feast of the Annunciation** marks the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, during which he told her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Luke 1:26-38





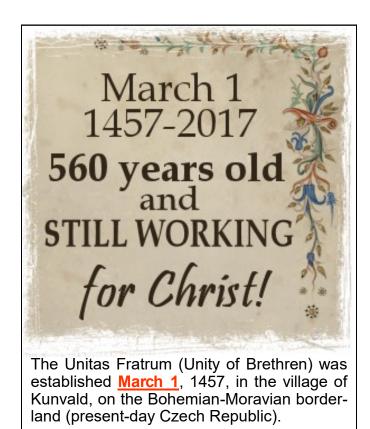
### **SPRING FORWARD**

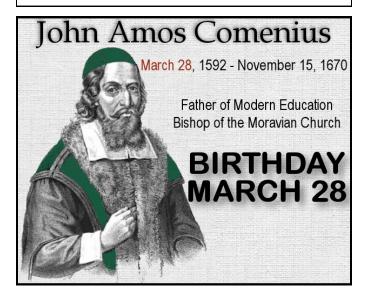
Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. SUNDAY MARCH 12

















Lent begins March 1 with \*Ash Wednesday and ends with the conclusion of the Great Sabbath (Holy Saturday - Easter Eve) - a span of forty days on the church calendar, excluding Sundays. It is symbolic of the forty days Christ spent fasting and praying in the desert while enduring the temptations of the devil. (Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke)

Lent is generally observed as a time for spiritual renewal; a time for Christians to reflect, repent, and pray as a way of preparing their hearts for Easter and the Resurrection of Christ. Although not dictated or required by the Moravian Church, many of the faithful voluntarily commit to fasting or giving up certain types of luxuries as a form of penitence during the season of Lent.

The three traditional practices to be taken up with renewed vigor during Lent are prayer (justice towards God), fasting (justice towards self), and almsgiving (justice towards neighbor).

Counting Sundays, there are actually 46 days in the Lenten penance (season) - Sundays are excluded because each and every Sunday is considered a celebration of the Resurrection of Christ.





#### **DID YOU KNOW**

the first Easter Sunrise Service in recorded history took place in 1732 in the Moravian congregation at Herrnhut in the Upper Lusatian hills of Saxony? ... Thereafter the "Easter Morning" or "Sunrise Service" spread around the world with the Moravian missionaries and is now practiced by most Protestant Churches and even some Catholic Churches. NOW, you do but you can learn even more by clicking here.

For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money, and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it. Ecclesiastes 7:12 (ESV)



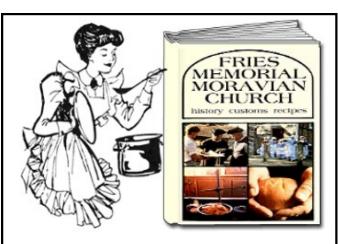
Sunday, March 5th following worship everyone is invited to join Women's Fellowship and the Candle Tea Committee for lunch and an open discussion about Candle Tea. We will talk about 2016 Candle Tea and the upcoming 2017 Candle Tea. Anyone interested in being part of this exciting event or anyone who has suggestions or comments concerning Candle Tea is encourage to join the conversation. Candle Tea happens each year with help from all members and friends of the church.



#### Friday - March 24, 2017

Mary and Larry Schwartz will visit us on March 24. Mary is a PhD psychologist, a graduate of Kent State University, who studied at the Jungian institute in Berne, Switzerland. She worked for many years in a counseling center, focusing primarily on women's issues. Our program for the evening will be based on Mary's memoir, "Coming into Focus". Mary was raised Amish and the book relates her experience as a child, as well as some of her experiences as an adult. Larry is also had a career in mental health and is a musician. Both are very interesting people and dear friends of Dan and Thelma Greaser.

6:30 PM



#### Moravian Recipes

for Lovefeast Buns - Sugar Cake - Sugar Cookies - Hot German Potato Salad - Moravian Slaw - Fried Green Tomatoes - Potato Rolls and dozens of other tasty treats can be found in this timeless Moravian Masterpiece. The book, published many years ago by the ladies at Fries Memorial Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, is now out-of-print but, you can still

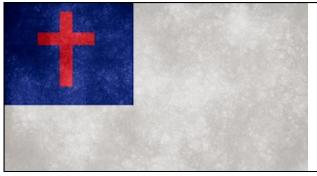
read it online FREE by clicking here.



in essentials, <u>unity</u> in non-essentials, liberty in all things, love

Just what is unity? What are the essentials?

**Curious? - Click Here** 



- the cross symbolizes the crucifixion and the red symbolizes the blood Jesus shed on Calvary.
- the blue represents the waters of baptism as well as the faithfulness of Jesus.
- the white represents Jesus' purity.
- a white flag is linked to surrender, a reference to the Biblical description of Jesus' non-violence and surrender to God.



## Synod 2018

## Moravian Church in America Southern Province

What is the work of a Provincial Synod? It elects its executive board (the Provincial Elders' Conference, lay and clergy members) and bishops. It gives oversight and direction to all provincial agencies and institutions and elects their boards, examining also the financial status of each. It gives direction for church publication

needs, plans for the church's witness in the years ahead.

General supervision is given to the congregations by the synods. Reports by the bundle, of course, are brought to the synods for action; and bundles more are taken back to the congregations and agencies for implementation.

Synods fashion programs for the intersynodal years, some of them financial, others for church growth, youth work, camping, or social action. Considerable confidence in the Lord's leading is attached to the synod election of provincial elders and bishops, without nomination or campaign speeches.

Synods are conducted every four years

#### New Hope Representatives for Synod 2018 Chosen by Church Council

Delegate: Tom Schultz ~ Alternate: Fay Ayers



#### 2017 Conference

April 22, 9am - 2pm
Friedberg Moravian Church
PlanetReg.com/AgingWellConference
Online registration and print registration form at the link

Only \$15! \$10 for pastors, educators, students (price includes lunch)

#### A ministry of

















Sponsored by the Moravian Board of Cooperative Ministries, the 2017 Conference on Aging Well will be conducted at Friedberg Moravian Church (Winston-Salem) on April 22. <a href="Pam Prevatte is our New Hope representative">Pam Prevatte is our New Hope representative</a> and has asked for suggestions you may have for her presentation. Links to the conference: <a href="bulletin insert">bulletin insert</a> - <a href="social media graphics">social media graphics</a> - <a href="facebook page banner">facebook page banner</a> - <a href="mailto-online">online registration</a> - <a href="print registration">print registration</a>.

The Aging Well Team, a ministry team of the Board of Cooperative Ministries, works to address the needs of the Older Adults in the Southern Province. We help congregations recognize the need for and then find meaningful ways of providing programing and resources for their members who are older adults, as they age and deal with a variety of challenges.

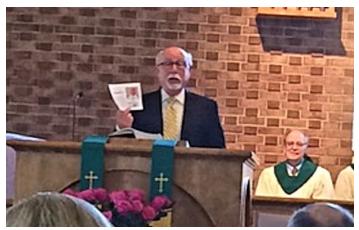
The Aging Well Team sponsors the "Senior Friends" Fall Rally and Spring Retreat. The 120 participants (from 20 congregations) at the Fall Rally in October identified their needs and interests via questionnaire. Based on those responses, the Team has planned this one-day Aging Well Conference, which takes the place of the Spring Retreat in 2017. With top speakers in their field, this conference offers very helpful and educational sessions for the participants.

#### New Hope Anniversary Celebration A HUGE SUCCESS!

Submitted by Clark K. & Lois L. (Staff Reporters)

Sunday, February 12th, the New Hope church family and guests celebrated their ministry of 34 years. Reverend John Rainey, a former pastor of New Hope, delivered the special message during the service. Pastor Rainey is recently retired, and he reminisced about his time at New Hope, and how there was always a feeling of togetherness. He emphasized "togetherness" in his sermon – as a congregation and as the body of Christ, sharing in all aspects of our ministry. Pastor Rainey's wife, Donna, accompanied him during the visit to New Hope.

The musical talents of our church were on full



display to the glory of God. Wonderful brass music from our church band, joined by some members of the New Horizon Band, greeted everyone



as they gathered in the sanctuary. This was followed by two captivating selections from the bell choir. Music Director, Phyllis Little, played a beautiful piano prelude as the chancel choir as-



sembled at the front of the church and sang an a-cappella call to worship, "God Is Here", which Pastor Rainey later referred to in his sermon. There was spirited singing from the congregation during the distribution of the lovefeast. The choir continued the music during the partaking of the lovefeast with two inspiring anthems, "Come Christians Join To Sing" and "It Is Well With My Soul".



After the service a reception to honor Pastor Rainey, Donna and New Hope's 34 years of ministry was held in the fellowship hall. Members of the congregation out did themselves with the wonderful selection of heavy hors d'oeuvres that were provided. Everyone really enjoyed the food and the fellowship, which was evident by their desire to linger and socialize.



## 34TH Anniversary Celebration





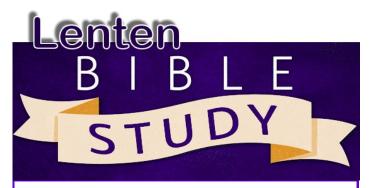
Thank you to all of those who prepared and helped set out the food at the anniversary reception on Sunday. As is New Hope's custom, the food was bountiful and oh so yummy! We had a wonderful turn-out. The room was filled with laughter and the love that was shared was evident on the faces of the members and guests. We missed those of you who were unable to attend and hope that you will be able to join us on Feb. 26th for the "Poor Man's Supper" after worship. This will be another special event in the life of our church with the visiting of the Reggie Saddler family. Please make your plans now to attend.

Again,

many thanks for the help and wonderful fellowship.

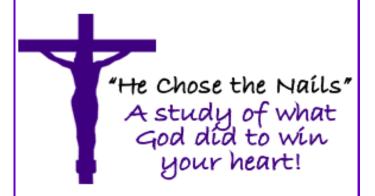
Margie





During this Lenten season you are invited to explore the many gifts that Christ provided for us by His crucifixion. The hill of the cross is rich with the gifts of God's grace. If we pause and listen to God's voice we might hear Him whisper, "I did this just for you".

Please join us Sunday, March 19th, in the fellowship hall at 10:00 for our first session of the bible study by Max Lucado.





a complete list of committees with descriptions and chairpersons

If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter or any other future emails from New Hope Moravian Church, CLICK HERE to have your name removed from our list.



A Special Thank You

to our own Carroll Williams and other members of the **Catawba Valley New Horizons Band** who graciously volunteered to help us out February 12 and on many other special occasions here at New Hope Moravian Church. You can learn more about the band by clicking here.



A sign-up sheet to reserve your pies will be posted on the bulletin board. The congregation will be given first opportunity, then we will begin to call those on the call list. Please make sure you reserve your pies in advance!

Pie-Making Session March 9-10 & 11
\*This is the last pie-making session until fall



#### THIS NEWSLETTER MAY CONTAIN ERRORS

If so - point them out in an email.

If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. Proverbs 15:31 NLT

# Caregiver Support Group for New Hope

In our world, in our own family, in our Church family, and in our community, we find ourselves and others becoming caregivers. As our parents age and live longer lives, the more we find that care is often needed by their children. We want our loved ones to be able to face this stage of their lives with dignity as they find they are not able to do the things they once did. Caregiving is a demanding responsibility that results in exhaustion physically, mentally, and emotionally. Often, there are also financial concerns. The purpose of the Caregiver Support Group at New Hope is to bring people together who are facing this challenge in order to share information and support one another.

Many of us began to realize last year just how many of us there are who are facing this challenge. We decided to meet and see if we could help each other out with our individual situations. We began meeting once a month and were surprised how many people there were who had valuable information to share. It did not matter if each person was facing problems currently or if someone had lost parents or

if someone could see the need for information in the future. Each and every one of us brought different information and knowledge of available resources to the group. This sharing of information was helpful and useful, and we discovered that we are not alone in the responsibilities that we have. Sometimes we talked about one persons issues. Sometimes we all shared. We discovered we could lean on each other and get fresh ideas from each other.

As the holidays approached we decided to not to meet again until 2017. We are there and plan to resume the meetings on March 5 at 4:00 in the afternoon. We will continue to meet on the first Sunday of the month for the next 3 months. We will discuss the convenience of this meeting time for the group. If you joined in before, please come back to continue to share. If you think that this group can be of help to you, please come and see if you can find help and support for your situation.

Another benefit to this group is that we are learning information to share with our children, so when they find themselves in our situation, they will be better prepared to face this challenge.

Pam Prevatte

Meeting March 5 - 4:00PM Meeting April 2 - 4:00 PM Meeting May 7 - 4:00 PM



#### **IMPORTANT**

The Interprovincial Board of Communication has recently notified us of a significant increase in magazine returns for incorrect or insufficient address. If you <u>ARE</u> a member of New Hope and you are <u>NOT</u> receiving *The Moravian* - <u>click this link</u> and let's update your mailing address.

Subscription to this magazine is <u>free</u> to all active members of New Hope Moravian Church



with school supplies—money—or just WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT Thank You!



The Service and Witness Committee now has two parts. Hospitality, lead by Margle Furmage and Mission, lead by Dan Greaser. Following is a brief statement regarding the focus of the Mission Committee:

The New Hope Rules and Regulations document calls the church to "Impact our community and the lives of people in it" and to do this by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Mission Committee will emphasize relationship building as the primary way the church will go about sharing the love of Christ. This is a two way process. We will be changed by engaging in meaning relationships in the community and we hope change will take place with those we come in contact with. We can start this process right away. Here is how:

Meet and have a conversation with at least one person, outside your normal circle of contacts, each week. Focus on listening, learning, and understanding them and then share about yourself and what is important in your life.

We hope to develop this process further, to give you ideas and examples, but let's not overthink this. The important thing is to try new behaviors and trust that the Holly Spirit will be involved in the process.

We will continue to be involved in Service Projects such as ECCCM and Corner table plus new ones. We will also be looking to you for ideas of where New Hope might help fill a significant need in the community, whether in cooperation with an existing group or starting something new.

In summary let me borrow from the Mennonite Church Vision for Healing and Hope.

"God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holly Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world."

Submitted by Dan Greaser Chairperson of Mission Committee





"The Giannini Brass"
Saturday, March 25, 2017, 3:00 p.m.

Calvary Moravian Church 600 Holly Ave NW Winston-Salem, NC 27101 Free Admission ~ Love Offering



## Who said it?

"I escaped only by the skin of my teeth"

- a) William Shakespeare
- b) Mark Twain
- c) Benjamin Franklin
- d) None of the above

If you answered (d) none of the above, you are correct. This age-old quote used to describe a situation from which one barely managed to escape comes from the Holy Bible (Job 19:20).



New Hope church family and guests received a true blessing from Reggie Saddler and his family at worship service this past Sunday, February 26th. The Church was filled with uplifting beautiful harmony as he and his family sang familiar hymns and gospel selections. Mr. Saddler also told of his life experiences before and after he accepted Christ as his Savior. During his presentation those in our church family who had served our country in the armed forces were recognized. Laughter, love of the Lord and a feeling of unity filled the sanctuary.

Following the service all were treated to a "Poor Man's" luncheon of pintos, bbq, slaw and cornbread with homemade pound cake (thank you Margie Furmage!) topped with strawberries and whipped cream, YUM! The food was outstanding and no one went away hungry. The air was filled with good fellowship and warmth as we ate together.

If you were unable to attend this event, you missed an inspiring service and time of enjoying each other's company. You were missed!

This was truly a special day at New Hope, one that will be fondly remembered.



Reggie Saddler Family



Poor Man's Dinner



Reggie on Guitar



Amen Corner

Staff Reporters: Clark K. & Lois L.

- 1. Ash Wednesday- faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Pray for Kevin and Charity in the Middle East.
- 2. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Pray for Charlie and Vicki in Texas.
- 3. Indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Pray for Phil and Eunice Raiford in Mexico.
- 4. Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have told your people. Pray for Robert and Anne Thiessen in Mexico.
- 5. Sunday. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice. Shout for joy, all you upright in heart. Pray for Dusty and Christin Harrison in Inter-Varsity ministry at Clemson.
- 6. You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and the household of God. Pray for Michael and Cecilia Tesh in Kenya.
- 7. Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God. Pray for Louis and Susan Sutton, Singapore.
- 8. Your sorrow will be turned to joy. Pray for Steve and Ann Marx (MAF Headquarters, ID)
- 9. The Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. Pray for Philip and Ashley Sineath (Campus Outreach Ministries).
- 10. Everyone who hears these words and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on a rock. Pray for the Woo family.
- 11. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. Pray for Brian & Heather Marx (MAF, Indonesia).
- 12. Sunday. Become imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Pray for Safiatu and Mohamed Braima in the Mission area of Sierra Leone.
- 13. Those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be treated with contempt. Pray for the Antioch Project ,Jill Kolodziej, Director, and Servants in Nepal.
- 14. You have been a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. Pray for Ed Dehnert and Barb Weide, Alaska Bible Seminary, Bethel, AK.
- 15. Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. Pray for Drs. Bill and Peggy Hoffman with HIV/AIDS ministry in Tanzania.
- 16. Now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face-to-face. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent serving with Campus Crusade. Croatia.
- 17. Teach me your way, O Lord that I may walk in your truths. Pray for Ruth Snyder and Claire Wilson with "Changed Choices."
- 18. Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior. Pray for Adopt-a-Village Program in Tanzania.
- 19. Sunday. Oh come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our maker! Pray for the Mission Areas of Sierra Leone and Peru and Cuba Mission Province.
- 20. God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may share every good work. Pray for the food program in the Sierra Leone Moravian church.
- 21. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity. Pray for Annie B. Mission with Star Mountain in Palestine.
- 22. How great are God's signs, how mighty his wonders! Pray for Western Tanzania mission outreach to Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi.
- 23. The nations that are left shall know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruling places. Pray for BWM board and staff Sheila Beaman, Sam Gray, Jill Kolodziej, Judy Ganz, Ex. Dir., Deb Swanson, Justin Rabbach, and Rex Knowlton.
- 24. Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Pray for wisdom for BWM Directors' meeting in Winston-Salem, NC.
- 25. God put his power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at the right hand in the heavenly places. Pray for Allen and Deedee Iobst in Spain in campus ministry.
- 26. Sunday. There is hope for your future, says the Lord. Pray for Joe Jarvis and the work with Cuban Moravian Church.
- 27. The Lord will not let your foot slip; he who watches over you will not slumber. Pray for volunteers who run soup kitchens and feed the hungry.
- 28. Whatever you do, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God the Father. Pray for Rev. Chris Thore and disaster relief in North Carolina.
- 29. The Lord is my portion, therefore I will hope in him. Pray for the Medical Clinic and the church in Ahuas, Honduras.
- 30. If you wish to enter into life, keep the Commandments. Pray for the advisory board of the Unity Women's Desk.
- 31. You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them. Pray for the leaders of our mission efforts; for the Mission Societies and those that support them.

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Ephesians 6:18)