

# *The Bethania Gazette*



*The sisters and brothers line the aisles to receive the Sacrament of the Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026.*

## *Bethania Moravian Church*

**Serving God and Serving You Since 1759**

✻ **March 2026** ✻

# Bethania Women's Fellowship

## CHICKEN PIE SCHEDULE

**All Begin Times: 8:30 AM**

March 10th: Dough Crew Only

March 11th: Chicken Pie Assembly

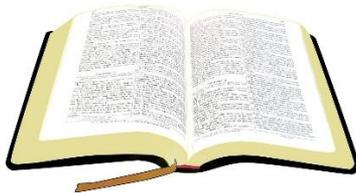
April 25th : Chicken Pie Supper – 5:00 - 7:00

*(Frozen Pies Available, Limit of Four, Dine-in or  
take-out)*

Meal: \$15 per person

Pies: \$15 per pie

## NEW BIBLE STUDY!



Come and study Paul's letter to the  
Philippians led by Sr. Wilma  
Harvey. Every Wednesday evening  
at 6:30 starting April 15<sup>th</sup>!

# Spring Fling

Join us for a time of fellowship, food, and fun!  
Taco Bar!

Their guests will also include Mizpah Moravian and Bethania  
AME Zion!

**Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

United Baptist Church  
5815 Murray Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27106



**The FREE community meal** will be on March 21<sup>st</sup> at  
10:30 AM.

The menu will be Loaded Baked Potato Soup with Corn  
Muffins and Homemade Oatmeal Cream Cookies.

This FREE community meal will happen the third Saturday  
of every month at 10:30 AM.



Come join in the fellowship with your sisters and brothers from Bethania Moravian Church!

ALL are welcome and invited!

The first Thursday of every month. The next one will be **March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026!**

**Mama Zoe's  
9:00 AM**



Every Sunday morning from **9:30-10:30 in the fellowship hall!**

Join our rapidly growing Sunday School class as we watch "The Chosen" followed by a conversation led by Pastor Linda!



We will be putting flowers on the older graves **Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00** at the picnic shelter. Everyone is invited to come and help. All donations of extra flowers, greenery etc. will be appreciated. We will clear the graves Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00.

*In Memoriam*



**Phyllis Sutton O'Keef**

*♪ Previous organist of Bethania Moravian Church ♪*

**February 15, 1950 — February 22, 2026**

With deep love and profound sorrow, we announce the passing of Phyllis Sutton O’Keef, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, friend, musician, teacher, and faithful servant of God. On February 22, 2026, Phyllis passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family and her constant companion, Bishop.

Born February 15, 1950 in Clinton, NC to Garland Cleo “Tom” and Margaret Wiggins Sutton, Phyllis LaRue was their cherished only child. Margaret had been the oldest of ten, so one child of her own was plenty. A family joke was that at her birth, Margaret looked down at Phyllis and said, “We’re going to raise her to be a Pastor’s wife.” And, it was evident that Tom and Margaret did a fantastic job fulfilling that goal. Music was woven into the tapestry of Phyllis’ life. From an early age, Phyllis’ extraordinary gift for music was evident. She began piano lessons at the age of 6 and progressed quickly, laying the foundation for a lifelong passion that would bless countless lives. At the young age of 12, Phyllis began her first role serving as a church pianist. Phyllis loved to sing, and began to learn more instruments as quickly as she could.

After high school, Phyllis attended North Carolina Wesleyan College, majoring in Music Education, with a focus on organ as her instrument. During her college years, she met and formed an unbreakable bond with her lifelong friend, Raye Suitt Long — a friendship that remained a treasured gift throughout her life. While at Wesleyan, she met her future husband, Robert David “Bob” O’Keef. During college, while the two were dating, Bob gave Phyllis a puppy. Phyllis, Raye, and the dog all lived together in their dorm room. When asked about having a dog in their dorm room, Phyllis justified this by saying, “It wasn’t a dog, it was a puppy!”

Following graduation, Phyllis began teaching in the public school system, sharing her love of music and learning with her students. At the same time Bob pursued his calling to ministry at Duke Divinity School, Phyllis stood faithfully beside him, even if at first she doubted he had actually been called to the ministry. The two

wed in 1974 and together, they built a life centered on faith, family, and service. They fought occasionally, unless they were driving in which case they fought constantly.

Bob and Phyllis welcomed their son, Paul, in 1978, and their daughter, Leigh Anna, in 1979. As a Pastor's family within the United Methodist Church, they served many congregations throughout the North Carolina Conference. While Bob served as Pastor, the kids begrudgingly went along for the ride, Phyllis shared her musical and spiritual gifts with numerous churches and schools, touching lives and developing lasting friendships across the region. Bob and Phyllis also served churches in the Western North Carolina Conference, as well as Anna Maria Island, FL. Phyllis and Bob were honored with the Outstanding Alumni Award from Wesleyan for their service to humanity.

Phyllis' greatest joy was her growing family. Leigh Anna married Kyle Voigt in 2008. Paul married Andreea Mihalache in 2009. In 2010, she welcomed her first grandchild, Gregory Voigt, followed by granddaughter Lynnleigh Voigt in 2013 and in 2015, welcomed granddaughter Islay O'Keef. Being "O'Ma" was one of her most treasured callings.

Throughout her life, Phyllis always found ways to be involved in musical communities. In addition to being a public school teacher, a choral director, organist and choir master, a composer, she was a member of the North Carolina Master Chorale, Ring Sarasota, the North Carolina Music Educators, and the American Guild of Organists.

In June 2025, Phyllis was diagnosed with Glioblastoma Multiforme, a highly aggressive form of terminal brain cancer that there currently is no cure for. She accepted this difficult news with grace, peace, patience (well, some...Just ask Bob), and unwavering faith. Phyllis fought courageously, making the most of each day and cherishing time spent with family and friends. Her strength,

dignity, and enduring love were an inspiration to all who walked alongside her.

Phyllis will be remembered for her gentle spirit, stubbornness, steadfast faith, keeping of everything, extraordinary musical gifts, memory of an elephant, generosity, being perpetually late, and deep devotion to her family. Her life was a melody of service, love, and grace — a wonderful song that will continue to echo in the hearts of those she touched.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Bob; her children and their spouses Paul and Andreea O'Keef, and Leigh Anna and Kyle Voigt; her cherished grandchildren, Gregory, Lynnleigh, and Islay; her best friend Raye, along with extended family, countless friends, church members, former students, and loved ones whose lives were enriched by her presence.

Just as she was late to her own wedding, Phyllis will also be late to her own funeral because, in her final act of service, she has donated her body to science.



## *Ash Wednesday at Bethania*



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*Sister Lawana receives the imposition of ashes from Pastor Linda, a reminder that from ashes we come and to ashes we will return.*



*Brother John Bell partakes of the Sacrament of the Holy Communion by intinction, assisted by Sister Vicky and Brother Eddie Hamby.*



*The lovely music was provided by our very own organist, Alex Coulson. What a blessing his gifts bestow upon us all, and what a blessing he received from YOU on his first Ash Wednesday service!*



**From Br. Dave Merritt**

Thank you for your participation in the “*Beanies for Bean*”, and our thanks for your support of the Crop Walk in 2025. In both events we exceeded our expectations and the goals we set for both! Many heartfelt thanks to all your support and being a collection point for “*Beanies for Bean*”!

# The Day of Prayer Schedule

*Sponsored and Organized by the Provincial Women's Board*



**March 4**, 11:00 A.M. Ardmore Moravian, Speaker: The Rev. Craig Troutman. Refreshments will be served at 10:00 A.M. The service will be live streamed online: [www.FACEBOOK.com/ArdmoreMoravian/videos](http://www.FACEBOOK.com/ArdmoreMoravian/videos)

**March 11**, 11:00 A.M. Fries Memorial Moravian, Speaker: The Rev. Angelica Regalado-Cieza. Coffee hour at 10 A.M. Service will be live streamed <https://www.youtube.com/@friesmemorialmoravianchurc4962>

**March 18**, 11:00 A.M.. Fairview Moravian, Speaker: The Rev. James Newsome. The service will include communion and will be available on YouTube and FaceBook.

**March 25**, 11 A.M. Konnoak Hills Moravian Church, Speaker: The Rev. Judy Knopf. Lovefeast. The service will be livestreamed at <http://www.khmaravian.org/> Select "YouTube Chanel" at the top.

**March 29, Palm Sunday**

**April 5, Easter Sunday**

*Published by The Provincial Women's Board, Moravian Church of America, Southern Province.*

# March Birthdays

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

**1<sup>st</sup>** Wade Peeples

**5<sup>th</sup>** Rylee Swaim

**12<sup>th</sup>** Judy Tuttle

**17<sup>th</sup>** Carol Brown

**21<sup>st</sup>** Susan Cross

**21<sup>st</sup>** Alma Flynn

**30<sup>th</sup>** James Dove

*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. Amen.*