

Dear Bethania Moravian Family,

As I write this note to you, I am enjoying my first official day as your pastor and am sitting in my new office here at the beautiful and historic Bethania Moravian Church! I am feeling very blessed to be joining you in this shared ministry as God's family here at Bethania. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you.

To help you get to know me, here is a little bit about me. I was born in Winston-Salem, NC on May 9, 1970. I grew up attending Ardmore Moravian Church, alongside of several generations of my family. I graduated from R. J. Reynolds High and UNC Charlotte. When I was a teenager, I first felt called to ministry, and I became a candidate for ordination in the Moravian Church after graduating from college.

While attending Moravian Theological Seminary, the first person I met on the first day of class ended up becoming my wife. Kelly Huckle, a Moravian from Canada, had come to the seminary in answer to her own call to ministry. We got married after our second year of Seminary and we both graduated with MDIV degrees in 1998. I was ordained a deacon on June 14, 1998, and Kelly and I were both consecrated presbyters May 16, 2004.

Together, Kelly and I served as co-pastors of: Palmyra (New Jersey), Mayodan, First Moravian of Georgia and Fries Memorial. While serving at First Moravian, we "unofficially" adopted our daughter, Lauren, and we "officially" adopted our son, Zachary. Be sure to ask me sometime about how we became parents of these amazing children (well, not children anymore- Lauren is 32 and Zach is 15). They are both true blessings from God.

More recently, while serving as co-pastor at Fries, I also served as the part time Assistant to the President of the Provincial Elders' Conference. Following that I served as Associate Pastor of New Philadelphia Moravian and last month completed an interim pastorate at Unity Moravian. Kelly has been on loan to the ELCA church serving at Holy Cross Lutheran in Mocksville since 2018.

My other home is Laurel Ridge where I been active in the camping ministry, serving as a counselor, chaplain, and dean for many years at both Senior High and Middle High Camp and as one of the leaders of Winter Camp. One of the great joys of my ministry is working with youth and young adults. I also have a great passion for mission work. I served on the Board of World Mission for nine years with six of those years serving as Chairperson. And I have been on mission trips to China, St. Kitts, Labrador, and Jamaica.

Those are the facts and figures about me and the life that I have lived prior to coming to Bethania. That is what we expect to get when we meet someone new. But, as important as they are, they don't really tell you who I am. They are more about the what of my life, not the why. In many ways, the why is more important than the what.

To really get to know someone, without knowing why they do what they do, then you don't really know them at all, you just know about them. So I want to share the why's of my life with you too. I think that it is important for you to know why I've done what I've done and why I am who I am. But for that, you will have to be sure to be in church this Sunday. My sermon for the installation service will share some of the why's of who I am as a pastor and as a person.

After reading all this, you may be thinking that I really like to talk about myself. But the fact is, I don't like to talk about myself much at all. But since I am just joining this church family, I thought it was important that I let you know who I am, because I want to know who you are. I want to know you, because this church, OUR church, it is a family. And the true joys of family is that they know each other, and they love each other. Over these next weeks and months, I'm looking forward to getting to know all of my family here at Bethania Moravian Church. So please don't hesitate to help me to get to know you. And not just the what's about your life, but also the why's.

So when you are ready to tell me the what's and the why's of your life, just let me know. I am in the church office Monday - Thursday mornings and you can find me here or get me by phone or email. My cell phone number is (336) 540-4619 and my email is revjoemoore@gmail.com. I can't wait to hear from you so I can get to know you!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Joe