

Notes from the Editor

This issue of *The Hinge* is longer than usual and it follows a different format because we have a special Moses Lectures double-feature. The 2005 Moses Lectures in Moravian Studies sponsored by the Center for Moravian Studies at Moravian Theological Seminary were given by Albert Frank in Bethlehem, Pa., Winston-Salem, N.C., and Dover, Ohio. In those lectures Br. Frank discussed the process of writing his authoritative study of the hymns in the 1995 Moravian Book of Worship. Since these lectures were largely informative rather than provocative, they did not lend themselves to the normal *Hinge* format of including responses to the lectures. Instead, the editorial board decided that this would be a wonderful time to publish Daniel Crews' 1997 Moses Lectures, which had not been previously published.

Br. Crews discusses the life and work of Luke of Prague, the most significant Moravian theologian before Comenius. Since Luke used hymns as well as catechisms and confessions of faith to express the theology of the Unity, it seems appropriate to include these lectures with those of Br. Frank. Both lecturers offer to the contemporary Moravian Church the wisdom and insights of previous generations of Moravian theologians, hymn writers, and liturgists.

The pages that follow demonstrate that our church has engaged in deep and productive study of Scripture and the Christian life through the centuries. In these days of theological controversy and political turmoil, we can learn a great deal from our ancestors who knew how to express theology in poetry and music. For many readers this may be the first opportunity to read a substantive discussion of the Moravian Church's understanding of the differences between things essential, things ministerial, and things incidental. This understanding of doctrine and practice can be beneficial to the Moravian Church today, and it can be a gift that we give to the larger Christian Church.

Also in this issue we have a sermon preached by one of the prominent scholars of African American religion as part of the Clark Thompson Lecture series at Home Moravian Church. We are grateful to Dr. Pollard for sharing his thoughts and words with us. We also have letters to the editor.

2006 will be an important year for the Moravian Church in America. Both provinces will hold synods. Synods are the highest governing authority in the Moravian Church, and it is important that delegates be informed and prepared for synod. The websites of both provinces contain useful information about the governance of the Moravian Church. In 2006 *The Hinge* will be devoting issues to how Moravians read Scripture, revitalizing Moravian worship, and justice for women.