

## Notes from the Editor

The Vivian Walter Moses Lecture series in Moravian studies is one of the most important contributions that the Center for Moravian Studies makes to the life of the Moravian Church. Since 2001, *The Hinge* has had the honor of publishing the annual lectures so that they may be enjoyed by a wider audience and so that there will be a lasting record for future research. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of the Center for Moravian Studies, *The Hinge* is now available online so that an even larger audience can participate in the theological discussions found in *The Hinge*. To access *The Hinge* online, go to [www.moravianseminary.edu/center/](http://www.moravianseminary.edu/center/). We plan to post past issues on the website in the future.

This year our annual Moses Lectures issue is a double-feature. First we have the 2006 lectures by musicologist Alice Caldwell who discusses her effort to make the Moravian musical tradition a vital part of the worship and life of her Lutheran congregation. She draws upon the 18th century tradition of *Gemeinmusik* (community music) in creating a modern congregational *collegia musicum*. Dr. Caldwell presents some of her research into the Moravian musical tradition in Labrador and shows how that story offers insight and guidance for missionaries to modern America.

The second set of lectures was given in 1999, but they deal with themes that remain relevant in the 21st century. David Schattschneider, dean emeritus, was Professor of Historical Theology at Moravian Seminary for three decades and has had a profound effect on how Moravian pastors understand the history, theology, and practice of the Moravian Church. Dr. Schattschneider discusses how the Moravian story in North America has been viewed by scholars, church leaders, and museums. For non-Moravians, the story basically ends in the early 19th century, but for church leaders the 18th century has been seen as problematic. He advocates for a new approach to Moravian history that does not separate the history of the original Unity of the Brethren from the church of Zinzendorf. He also proposes that Moravians resist the temptation to tell our history in terms of three famous Moravians (Hus, Comenius, Zinzendorf). Instead, we should celebrate lesser known but important men and women who shaped the church that now exists.

In different ways these lectures address the question of how to make legitimate use of the past in creating the church of today. Caldwell boldly claims that a practice that was deeply woven into the life of the 18th century Moravian community and was an expression of the European cultural context can reinvigorate modern worship. Schattschneider challenges modern Moravians with the task of learning from history rather than simply praising or blaming those who shaped the church we now have. Thus, in this issue of *The Hinge*, we are raising the question of how to make the church we have inherited meaningful in the world that we now inhabit.