

The Bahnson Buzz

December
2008
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An On-line Publication of the Student Body of Moravian Theological Seminary

One for One—A Shoe Buying Innovation By Christie Melby-Gibbons



For every pair purchased,
TOMS will give a pair of shoes
to a child in need.
One for One.



For every pair of TOMS shoes you purchase, TOMS gives a pair of shoes to a child in need. One for One! No kidding! I bought four pairs of TOMS shoes as Christmas gifts for loved ones this year, each for only \$42-48. Now four children in Ethiopia also have a new pair of shoes.

Did you know that 1,000,000 people suffer from the totally preventable disease—podoconiosis—in Ethiopia? Podoconiosis is a disease transmitted through barefoot contact with silica-rich soil, which causes leg-swelling, open sores, and ulcers. It is prevented not by medicinal injections, but by...dun dun dun...wearing SHOES!

So, if you are looking for a socially conscious gift (which come in a lovely array of colors, styles, and sizes) go to TOMS website and peruse their stock:

<http://www.tomsshoes.com/>

[It's free shipping, too!]



We can join with Deutero-Isaiah (52:7) in saying: “How beautiful upon the mountains are the **feet** of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’”

Gratitude for Our Community Tree By Jeff Jones

Happiest Advent greetings to you all!

Thank you to those of you that have donated ornaments to decorate our Community Christmas tree. We are still accepting your ornaments if you haven't gotten one in yet, so drop one in the little red bucket by the tree or feel free to place it in a bare spot on the tree. All ornaments will be stored and used year to year. If you would like yours back feel free to take it with you before you go home for the Christmas season. Thanks also to those of you who have helped to decorate our Seminary this Advent/Christmas season. You did a great job! Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!



Walter H. Wagner, adjunct professor at MTS, has recently published: *Opening the Qur'an: Introducing Islam's Holy Book.*

**CONGRATULATIONS,
DR. WAGNER!**

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Students Show Creative Side at Artisans' Bazaar By Sheila Sacks

Take seven students and a few hours in between classes, and add knitting needles, glue, tape, a few baking supplies, and plenty of good will. Out of these moments of "Creative Rest," a relatively new gathering of community and crafts on Tuesdays during the semester, came the first semi-annual Hands for Hope Artisans' Bazaar.

The bazaar was started by the Mission and Outreach committee as a way to raise money for a local charity. The crafts were sold through a reverse tithe: 90% of the proceeds was donated to New Bethany Ministries and 10% was offered back to the artisans. Crafts included scarves and hats, jewelry, ornaments and decorations, desserts, pictures, handmade envelopes—even a few angels made from discarded hymnals.



Over a hundred items were purchased; the total amount raised for New Bethany Ministries was \$717.25. The Mission and Outreach committee plans to hold a similar bazaar in the spring to benefit another local charity.

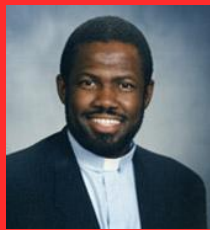
"Creative Rest" is held every Tuesday during the semester, from 1–5pm in the Bahnson Lounge.



"I will turn the darkness before them into light..."
-Isaiah 42:16



Hopeton Clennon to Serve as Chaplain of the Seminary and College



The Seminary is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Chaplain for Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary. Hopeton Clennon, Moravian pastor and bishop, will assume this position as of January 15, 2009...Currently, Hopeton serves as pastor of the Downey Moravian Church, a congregation of over 200 members in the suburbs of Los Angeles, California. He has served in this position since 1999. His upcoming move to Bethlehem will retrace the cross-country route his family took nine years when they relocated to California. From 1995-1999 Hopeton and his wife and 2 children lived in Nazareth, Pennsylvania where he served the Schoeneck Moravian congregation.

A native of Jamaica, Rev. Clennon earned a BA in Theology at the University of the West Indies and a Diploma in Ministerial Studies at United Theological College of the West Indies. A member of the Seminary Board of Trustees from 1994 to 2006, he brings twenty-five years of experience in five distinctly different pastoral settings: two in Jamaica and three in the United States (Washington D.C.; Nazareth, PA; and Downey, CA)...When asked what energizes him about serving as Chaplain of the Seminary, Hopeton responded, **"the absolute thrill of working with students on the verge of making a huge impact on society. On the one hand, I will be rubbing shoulders with and benefiting from students, lecturers, and administrators who are on the cutting edge of theological exploration. On the other hand, I will be a partner in a new transformational missional movement at the premier theological institution in the Moravian Unity. I have spent over 25 years as a worship leader, preacher and prayer partner in Moravian churches. I am energized by the thought of spending the next phase of my ministry serving with those who will themselves be leading others."**

...His wife Shelia, who is a special education teacher, and daughter Danielle, currently in the 10th grade, plan to join him at the end of school year in June. His son, Andrew, will remain an undergraduate at California State University Long Beach with his first visit to Bethlehem over CSUs Spring Break in late March.

We will hold all of the Clennons in our heart as they prepare for major life changes, and look forward to their joining our community.

The Low Carbon 12 Days of Christmas: This Christmas Let's Keep Coal Out of Our Stockings!

1. **Send Electronic Christmas Cards:** Sending your Christmas greetings electronically is good for Creation because it saves trees. If you want to send a personal Christmas greeting to close friends and family, use recycled paper to make your own Christmas Cards.
2. **Make Your Own Decorations:** This can become a wonderful family tradition. Use recycled materials or natural materials like pinecones, leaves, vines. Making your own Christmas wreath out of materials you collected is carbon neutral and positively fun!
3. **Buy a Living, Local Christmas Tree:** Start a tradition of planting your Christmas tree in your yard or on your church grounds after Christmas. You can even put a message in a bottle underneath the tree thanking God for the year's blessings. Your planted tree becomes a Christmas gift for creation and a living family memory for years to come!
4. **Use LED Christmas Lights:** These lights use around 90% less energy than incandescent Christmas lights. Look for lights that are Energy Star approved. Remember to conserve energy and not to leave them on all day or overnight.
5. **Do Your Christmas Shopping with Reusable Bags:** Less plastic bags means less energy is used to produce them, and therefore less carbon is released into the atmosphere.
6. **Give Responsibly:** Buy gently used gifts like books and toys or nonmaterial gifts like a national parks pass or event tickets rather than products. If you are good at making crafts, consider making gifts for your loved ones.
7. If you buy traditional gifts, minimize your carbon foot print by purchasing **Local and energy efficient** gifts that are **minimally packaged**. Click www.ncecojustice.org/greengifts.htm for ideas.
8. **Use Reusable or Recycled Gift Wrap:** You will save energy by reducing the need to produce wrapping paper and help reduce global warming pollution.
9. **Practice Alternative Giving:** Donate to a charity in a friend or family member's name.
10. **Limit Your Travel:** If you need to travel to be with family ride with other friends and family to reduce the per person carbon emissions or take the train. In general, driving results in fewer carbon emissions than flying, especially when driving a moderately fuel efficient vehicle at or below the speed limit with properly inflated tires.
11. **Serve Local Food for Christmas Dinner:** Consider serving a locally raised main course, but if a local ham or turkey is too pricey, serve a few side dishes made with local vegetables. This is a tasty way to reduce the number of miles food has to travel to get to your plate, which in turn helps reduce carbon emissions.
12. **Remember Why We Celebrate!** Christmas is a time to celebrate God's gift of Jesus Christ, a savior who will bring peace to Earth (Luke 2: 11-14), through whom all things came into being (John 1:3) and through whom God reconciled all things (Colossians 1:19).

From the National Council of Churches of Christ Eco-Justice Programs. Visit: <http://www.ncecojustice.org/index.htm>.

Want to add to *The Buzz*? Send your ads, photos, personal writing extracts, news, original poetry, etc. to the artistic editor of *The Bahnson Buzz*: Christie Melby-Gibbons.

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