



# BookTalk

CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

DECEMBER 2009

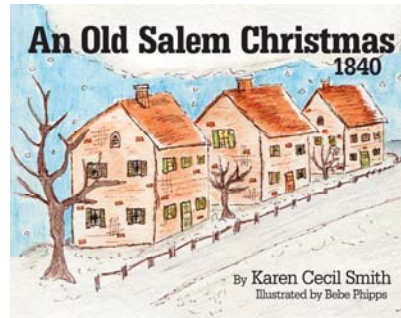
## Moravian customs, history explored Dec. 3

North Carolina author Karen Cecil Smith will speak on her picture book, *Old Salem Christmas 1840* on Dec. 3 at Catawba County Library in Newton.

The 4 p.m. appearance is free and open to the public. All ages are welcome. Books will be offered for purchase and signing.

Deftly written by Smith and fully illustrated by Bebe Phipps, *An Old Salem Christmas, 1840* is the story of a young girl who attends a Moravian Lovefeast at Christmas that year. The girl attends a candlelight service and afterwards savors a sweet bun and a cup of milky coffee.

A Protestant sect that originated in Central Europe, the Moravians had their own distinctive traditions which Smith has faithfully portrayed, making the book a highly



recommended picture book for young readers and a welcome addition to school and community library collections.

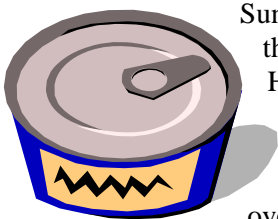
Joining the author will be Rev. Adam Spough and Valerie Westmoreland of New

Hope Moravian Church in Startown. They will appear in traditional clothing to share home-made refreshments and discuss the Old World customs of their community.

## Food for Fines to waive fees, help needy

Your local libraries are kicking off December and the holidays with “Food For Fines” Amnesty Week – a special break for library customers with overdue fines and a gift for area food pantries.

“Food for Fines” allows Catawba County Library and Hickory Public Library customers to pay their fines with food staples. Bring in one non-perishable food item for each dollar in fines, anytime from Monday, Nov. 30 to Sunday, Dec. 6. The collected food will



then be given to both the Greater Hickory and Eastern Catawba cooperative Christian ministries for distribution to needy families.

Fines will be waived on any overdue materials that are returned during this week only. No matter how long ago the materials were due, this is the chance to return them and make them available to other patrons. Donated food may not be used to pay for lost or damaged items.

It is hoped that library customers will respond even more enthusiastically than they have in the past, bringing back books and materials so others can enjoy them, and filling the food pantries to help many in need.

Cooperative Christian Ministries suggests the following food items: canned meats, oatmeal and other cereals, grits, 2-pound bags of flour or cornmeal, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, dried beans and Jell-O.

## Merry time for kids, youth

Several holiday-oriented events are slated at the library this month.

“If you Give Your Kid a Cookie” will involve stories and cookie decorating for elementary-aged children at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 4 in Newton. On Dec. 15, kids are invited to “Stranger in the Woods,” a nature program in involving stories and a winter craft again at 4:30 p.m. in Newton.

Jewelry Beading will be offered at 3:30 p.m. Dec. 10 in Maiden while St. Stephens will host a holiday party for all ages from 3:30-5 p.m. Dec. 18.

Teens will enjoy a craft time at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at St. Stephens and a game night at 3:30 p.m. Dec. 18 at Newton. Check page 2 for a complete roster.



