



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here.

July 2013

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Rev. Bob Undercuffler
Pastor

We are embarked on an awesome summer at the head waters of Christiana creek. And the featured work of this summer, the Ordination of Kate LeFranc and her Installation as Associate Pastor, will impact our church for years to come. Here at the head waters, we know of springs and creeks, and these feed the Christiana and Delaware Rivers, bay and ocean. So it is with our congregation. New, hospitable life springs along our banks.

Here's very good news; **Kate will be Ordained as a minister of the Gospel in the Presbyterian Church (USA) on Sunday, August 4, at 3:00PM at Concord Presbyterian Church in Wilmington.** Kate was reared within the Concord fellowship.

ORDINATION is the act by which the Presbyterian Church sets apart leaders to serve in particular offices. In ordination the church orders itself for the work of ministry. For Presbyterians, ordained ministry is collegial, meaning that it is shared with others and it is non-hierarchical, meaning that it is shared by clergy and laity.

More good news; **Kate will be installed as Associate Pastor for Head of Christiana on Sunday, August 25, at 3:00PM at Head of Christiana.** For the past year Kate has blessed us with her gifts as Outreach associate. Now, as a friend of HOC remarked, "we enjoy the whole enchilada."

INSTALLATION is a celebration that marks the official beginning of Kate's ministry with us as Associate Pastor. The Installation is a significant event in the life of our congregation as well as the presbytery for it reaffirms and celebrates the enduring connection between pastors, the congregation and the presbytery. Brothers and sisters from across New Castle Presbytery will join with us for praise, fellowship and good food.

Here is a song for our whole congregation as life-bringing water flows:

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

Grace to you, and peace –

Bob



Kate LeFranc
Pastor-elect

On June 10, session adopted a new mission statement, to help us focus on who we are as a church and what we would like to be in the future.

Motivated by our love of Christ and neighbors, we follow God through:

Word — *engaging preaching, worship, and study*

Work — *caring service to our community and beyond*

Witness — *enthusiastic hospitality for all people*

Supported by the wisdom of those who have gone before us, worshiping here at the headwaters of Christiana Creek, we look joyfully to the future of God's church in this community.

Our mission begins with God and with Christ, the source of all we are and all we do. Our life together as a people of God can be summed up in three main areas: Word, Work, and Witness.

Word: Our Sunday morning worship service is at the center of our identity as a community, and that worship is centered around the Word of God. As Presbyterians, we believe God's Word is truly experienced when the Holy Spirit animates the scriptures for us in this particular time and place. As we look toward the future, we envision further opportunities for study through expanded Adult Bible Study opportunities coming this fall!

Work: One thing that has most energized the Head of Christiana community is our mission and service work in this community and beyond. This is a holy calling and is central to our identity both now and looking toward the future.

Witness: As we seek to grow in our faithfulness and our presence, our talent for extravagant welcome and generous hospitality will be one of our greatest assets. We witness to the overflowing love of God for humanity as we extend that love to others.

Our worshipping community has a rich history; over 300 years near this body of water that has historically been known by many different names, from Christiana and Christina to Minquas, Elbe, and Sippunk. These waters give us our name as they continue to support all the living things around us.

As we build on that history and look towards our future, let us remember whose and who we are: God's people, driven by Word, Work, and Witness.

Kate

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Katie Gillespie, Clerk

Treasurer, Melissa Witt, reported that the final net proceeds for the Trail Race were \$25,035.

Session approved a new Mission Statement (below), which was inspired by discussions from our April workshop with Jim Moseley, Executive Presbyter.

Our Mission Statement:

*“Motivated by our love of Christ and neighbors,
we follow God through:*

Word — *engaging preaching, worship, and study*

Work — *caring service to our community and beyond*

Witness — *enthusiastic hospitality for all people*

*Supported by the wisdom of those who have gone before us,
worshipping here at the headwaters of Christiana Creek,
we look joyfully to the future
of God’s church in this community.”*

The date for Kate LeFranc’s Ordination is Sunday, August 4, at 3:00 p.m. at Concord Presbyterian Church, 1800 Fairfax Blvd., Wilmington – (302.654.9652).

Installation at Head of Christiana will be Sunday, August 25, at 3:00 p.m.

There will NOT be an 11am worship services at HOC on August 25th.

CARE & FELLOWSHIP

Rosi White, Chair



A **Salad Luncheon** will be held on Tuesday, August 13th at 12:30pm in the Chapel Room. Our guest and speaker will be our own author, Clella B. Murray. She has published seven books and is the winner of numerous awards. She will speak to us about her beginning and inspire us with the joy of writing. You can see some of her books at our luncheon, or buy them any time at Barnes and Nobles. We hope you’ll make room on your schedule for this event and join us with a great salad.

Our **Church Picnic** will be held July 28th at 5:30pm, the same day we kick off our **Vacation Bible School**. Join us for the fellowship of a good meal and then attend a class. We’re never too old to learn and have fun doing it! Bring sunshine with you and a dish to share with everyone.

Thank you for your great response to serving coffee on Sunday mornings.

In your prayers, please remember all those who are ill and our caregivers.



We won’t be having a **Caregivers’ Coffee** in July, but we’ll pick it back up on Monday, August 26th at 2:00pm at the church.

God Bless!

The Care & Fellowship Committee

SUMMARY OF CHURCH FINANCES

Steve Graham, Admin. and Finance

Summary of Church Finances as of May 31, 2013

	Actual	Budget	Difference	
Income (including Trail Race)	\$97,381	\$87,675	\$9,706	Includes \$4,500 grant from Presbytery to support Kate's ministry.
Expenses (including Trail Race)	\$71,345	\$71,317	\$ 28	
Net Activity	\$26,036	\$16,358	\$9,678	

While we're doing better than budget, May's congregational giving dropped significantly below budget estimates. The final numbers of the Trail Race shows us with a net income from the race of \$25,035. Please don't forget to support our church during summer vacation season.

Monthly average worship attendance totals to date:

January: 57 February: 53 March: 67 April: 60 May: 55
June: 54

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL & CHURCH PICNIC

Betsy VanCulin

Vacation Bible School begins with a Church Picnic on Sunday, July 28th and continues through Thursday, August 1st starting at 5:30 pm each day with supper and ending at 8:00 pm with a coming together activity. Bring a dish to share on the 28th for the picnic and plan on joining us for Bible School. Bob and Kate will also teach a class for adults based on the "Clean Water for ALL God's Children" theme.

While we explore the Bible stories, we will also have fun with water activities, songs and arts and crafts, and learn about water: a crisis in our time, exploring some perplexing truths about water around the world.

Helping hands are needed. Please speak with Pat Undercuffler or email her at psu.rnc58@verizon.net.

REMINDER: We will be the sole provider for Elkton Community Kitchen on Friday, July 19th. Contact Jim Kline @ 410.398.6014 or ja3k@comcast.net if you'd like to join our team.

Helping Hands are needed so let Jim know if you'd like to help. Many of last year's volunteers are returning, but we always welcome those "first-timers" who want to join our great team effort. You'll be glad you did!



The "Happening" Happy Older Presbyterians

A beautiful day, good food, great companions, an interesting destination and terrific entertainment.; THAT best describes our H.O.P. trip to the Fulton Theater in Lancaster, Pa.

The last few weeks have seen some really unsettled weather, but once again the H.O.P.s were blessed with a beautiful spring day with which to travel to Lancaster, Pa's Fulton Theater for a presentation of **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**. The fine weather plus the scenic ride to Lancaster would have made the trip worthwhile on their own. However, Kay Brook had planned out a super day for us, starting out with lunch at an excellent restaurant within walking distance to the Fulton called *The Pressroom*, situated in a historic downtown building dating from the 1700's. The food and service were excellent, and best of all, we had a large dining room all to ourselves where we were able to linger and enjoy fellowship for nearly two hours.



Following lunch we walked a short distance to the theater. The Fulton Theater, a National Historic Landmark, was built in 1852 and elegantly restored in 1995. The theater was grand in every lavish detail and a perfect setting for a fine musical production of **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**. I believe everyone enjoyed this day. I know I sure did.



Next month takes the Happy Older Presbyterians to the Dickinson Plantation in Dover. So before that summer malaise takes charge of you, find a brochure in the Narthex and SIGN UP to join us on July 10th

HOC CALENDAR — June Happenings

Mon.	Jul	1	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission
Mon.	Jul	1	7:00pm	Building & Grounds Commission
Thur.	Jul	4	Have a safe and relaxing Independence Day!!!	
Sun.	Jul	7	9:30am	Liturgist's Workshop
Tues.	Jul	9	9:00am	HOP trip to Dickenson Plantation
Tue.	Jul	9	4:00pm	Worship Commission
Fri.	Jul	12	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Mon.	Jul	15	6:30pm	Session
Fri.	Jul	19	12:00pm	HOC Sole Provider @ Elkton Community Kitchen
Sun.	Jul	21	9:30am	Liturgist's Workshop
Wed.	Jul	24	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's
Sun.	Jul	28	5:30pm	Church Picnic & Vacation Bible School



On Sunday December 1st at 4:00pm we will have a "Concert by Candlelight" sponsored by the Evangelism Commission and featuring the Brandywine Harp Orchestra.

There is no admission fee, but there will be a free-will offering. Following the concert there will be fellowship with light refreshments.

The Brandywine Harp Orchestra (brandywineharps.com), consisting of about a dozen harp players, has a good following, so carpooling is encouraged.



IN JESUS, WE STAND BEFORE GOD CLOTHED IN COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS, AND PATIENCE, AND WEARING THAT FINAL, PERFECT ACCESSORY: CHRIST-LIKE LOVE!

July Birthdays



Jul	2	Erin DePaul	Jul	10	Sarah Tipton
Jul	3	Travis Christian	Jul	13	Esther Bowser
Jul	8	Katherine Brook	Jul	26	Kelley DePaul
Jul	9	Debbie Reeves	Jul	28	Virginia Cullum
Jul	10	Betty Kackley	Jul	28	Aileen Murray
Jul	10	David Price			



**Head of Christiana
group heading to
Wilmington Blue Rocks
game on August 12, 2013.**

The selected date for the Blue Rocks game is **Monday August 12, 2013, at 7:05pm**. The doors open at 6:05pm; everyone can carpool or just arrive whenever they would like.

Mark Mankin has the tickets and parking passes now which he has paid for already so he need folks to email or call him to let him know they **definitely** want to attend. If so, please get your check or cash for each ticket (\$17.50 each) to Mark as soon as possible.

Mark will put your tickets and parking pass in an envelope and hand it to you at Church prior to the game in August.

The tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis so you must contact Mark quickly if you're interested to be assured you'll be able to attend the game. If you've already expressed an interest to Mark, please confirm your attendance by letting him know and by getting your payment to him as soon as possible.

Contact Info:

Mark Mankin: 302.292.8377

Email: mankin579@comcast.net



We Were There for Kate's Ordination Examination

My attendance at the Presbytery Meeting was to support Kate as a candidate for ordination as pastor in the Presbyterian Church. The questions posed to Kate were intense and challenging; however Kate's answers were thoughtful and considered. She acquitted herself well and with dignity and poise. In total, observing the democratic process of the Presbytery gathering was enlightening, and it was a valuable experience for me as a member of Head of Christiana. *Betty Kackley*

As a younger part of the Head of Christiana family, I was very happy to be in town to be able support Kate and Head of Christiana. Having followed Kate on facebook, I knew that her faith was strong and it was even more evident when she answered all the hard questions asked of her. I felt very moved to speak on her behalf and show my support. I look forward to seeing Head of Christiana continue to grow and walk in faith with Kate. *Aileen Murray*

Kate expressed strong faith and determination during her examination by New Castle Presbytery. I was proud to speak in her favor. *Rosi White*

One of the most remarkable events in Kate's review in New Castle Presbytery's meeting was the outstanding manner in which she handled the questions from the audience - especially those which were less than complimentary. She was positive throughout and did not lower herself to the level of some of the questioners. It was great testimony to her ability and I look forward to her continuing contribution to Head of Christiana Church. Welcome Kate!! *Ed Cairns*

In Kate's presentation, she made clear her commitment to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life. That high standard is embedded in our Book of Order (G-2.0104b) and from our 9 months serving together with Head of Christiana, that is not just a standard, but Kate's way of life. This will be a grand adventure of trust and service. *Bob Undercuffler*

I think that Kate conducted herself very well in answering questions that were asked of her during the examination. I am glad that I was able to be present to represent our church and to support Kate. *Julia Busick*