



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here.

June 2013

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Rev. Bob Undercuffler
Pastor

I am excited by springtime at Head of Christiana — new life and flowers surround us.

Here are four challenges facing our congregation in the coming months.

I call these “4 Must Do’s.”

1. Let us dig more deeply into the scriptures. In doing this, we will nourish our roots as the people of God and learn faithful service. Attentive to the broad scope of the biblical story, we will discover our place and call within God’s story. In coming months and years, there will be more planned opportunities for young and old to feast on the Word through our worship, learning groups, and personal reading and reflection.
2. We have made a commitment to reach out to and engage young adults, so now let us find and dedicate space and caregivers for nursery/toddler/pre-school children. Yes, I believe parents and children (even the youngest) are to be welcomed in our worship and study, but now we’d best prepare and provide a special place and care for them.
3. Now is the time to make our church home more easily accessible. Members and others who would like to take part are unable to navigate the steps and ramps and so no longer attend. They don’t want to make a fuss. They recognize we face an impossible situation: real fixes will be costly, and we feel severely limited by our historic designation. For the sake of a vibrant congregation and lively future, let us find solutions and make this exceptional place accessible for all God’s people.
4. The church basement of the education building begs to be loved. And that is happening! Our VBS (July 28 to Aug1) will use our newly refurbished Gathering Place. Come and see!

Bob



Kate LeFranc
Outreach Associate

As I get ready to go before New Castle Presbytery on June 8 to be examined for ordination, I’ve been reflecting on what ordination means in our tradition. It is not just pastors who are ordained; all of our leaders including elders and deacons are ordained to their unique roles in particular aspects of our church life.

Ordination is not some kind of magical rite; the word itself just means “appointed” or “ordered.”

But it is a recognition of the different roles that we have been called to fill in the life of our church! Each of us has been given particular skills and gifts, and some of those gifts call us to leadership in our community and the wider church.

One of the things I most value about our process within the PC(USA) is that it is not enough for a person to feel called by God in order to begin ministry – that person must also be trained and educated, and their call must be affirmed by a presbytery *and* a congregation to which the person is being called! It does make for a fairly long process, but it also means that by the time I am ordained, I will be surrounded by people who believe that I am being called to this particular ministry at this particular time! What an awesome blessing and responsibility.

There is one note in our Book of Order that explains: “Standards for ordained service reflect the church’s desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life.” (G-2.0104b) I love this language, but what an incredibly high standard! What does it even mean for us to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Christ in *all* aspects of life?!

My first answer is that we are called to be conscious of Christ’s guidance at all times. I know I fall short of this calling, as I suspect most of us do! But I’d love to hear from you – what does it mean for you to follow Jesus in all aspects of your life?

Kate

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Steve Graham, Admin. & Finance

Summary of Church Finances as of April 30, 2013

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income (without Trail Race)	\$59,621	\$52,540	\$7,081
Expenses (without Trail Race)	\$56,226	\$57,054	-\$ 828
Net Activity	\$ 3,394	-\$ 4,514	\$7,908

So for the first four months of 2013 we are doing better than expected. The preliminary numbers for the Trail Race as of April 30th, show us with a net income from the race of \$22,293. There are still some bills and income not yet received. We are anticipating a net number of better than \$25,000. Remember, the Trail Race supports area missions for the homeless.

Monthly average worship attendance totals to date:

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

We'll keep you posted.

CARE & FELLOWSHIP

Rosi White, Chair



We will have a special Coffee Hour on Sunday, June 16th in honor of Father's Day, so please join us to help celebrate the men in our lives.

Kate LeFranc's installation will take place in June; date and time to be announced.

We will hold a Salad Luncheon on Tuesday, August 13th at 12:30pm in the Chapel Room. Start searching now for a great recipe to share so we can all sample the goodies and have fun!

Thank you all for your great response in assisting with serving coffee on Sunday mornings, and for the donations that we've received which really help to defray our costs.

Also, many thanks to the men of this church for serving such a wonderful brunch to everyone on Mother's Day; it was nice to be out of the kitchen for a while.

Please remember those who are ill, and all our caregivers in your prayers.

Caregivers' Coffee — our next meeting will be Monday, June 24th in the Chapel Room.



God Bless You!
The Care & Fellowship Committee

VBS will be held Sunday, July 28th through Thursday, August 1st starting at 5:30 pm each day with supper and ending at 8:00 pm with a **coming together** activity.

VBS will be for “All of God’s Children” and include an adult class lead by Bob and Kate and classes for youth of all ages. There will be additional details forthcoming and requests for volunteers for a variety of activities as we continue planning. Join us in exploring “**Clean Water for ALL of God’s Children**” this summer at Vacation Bible School. Mark your calendars!

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. More details will be forthcoming.

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!



“Cicada-geddon” They’re B-a-a-a-ck



Periodic cicadas are emerging en masse from North Carolina to Connecticut as we speak. Billions of them!!! Their eyes blood red, and their bodies the color of the blackest night; they’re crawling out of the earth to launch an invasion that took 17 years to hatch! These cicadas are known collectively as “Brood II.” Last year Brood I emerged in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee. There are 15 broods concealed in the ground around the United States. Twelve of these broods have a 17-year cycle; 3 have a 13-year cycle. They are an unending smorgasbord for birds, dogs, and other protein-craving connoisseurs. But predators hardly make a dent in their countless legions.

This army was born when Clinton was in office (1996). The eggs were laid in the branches of trees where they developed for a few weeks before hatching and heading underground where they spent the next 17 years sucking fluid from the roots of trees. Soon you’ll be hearing the love song of the adult males and the clicking of the female’s wings as they flirt back. A cacophony of “music” fills the warm days and nights and signals that summer is here. They mate and die soon afterward. Their time on earth is very short, but their lifespan of 17 years makes them the longest living insects known. You have to be in awe of these creatures—their tenacity is profound; their story unrivaled.

Old New Castle.....May 14, 2013

Sixteen intrepid Happy Older Presbyterians gathered at this jewel on the Delaware on a beautiful day in May, starting at the Old Courthouse where we were greeted by our own David Price (A.K.A. Sven Skute), who showed us the wonderful old courthouse and greatly enriched our knowledge of New Castle and Delaware history.

O.K... By now you've guessed that David is not really a Skute in disguise. It so happens that David played the part of Sven Skute in a recent, delightful play about how this very early Swedish American became the scapegoat for losing New Sweden to the Dutch Peter Styvesant in 1655. It all worked out O.K. in the end though. Sven & his family moved to Philadelphia and prospered along the banks of the Schuylkill River.

This was a true story and indicative of the fun things we learned that day.

Following the Courthouse, we toured the George Read house, a lovingly restored mansion originally built by the son of the George Read who signed the Declaration of Independence. A huge home overlooking the Delaware River, it is said Mr. Read wanted it to be the largest house in Delaware when he built it. Our docent gave us a tour not only of the living quarters, but also of the "working quarters," giving us an overview of how a house like that was managed in earlier times. A big job, to be sure.

Following the Read House tour, we had lunch at Jessop's tavern where Pastor Bob demonstrated how he could recite the Books of the Bible backwards!

After lunch, we again met with David Price who was kind enough to give us an interesting walking tour along the old houses on the Strand and culminated at the beautifully maintained New Castle Presbyterian Church, built in 1707. It was a remarkable day in a remarkable place.

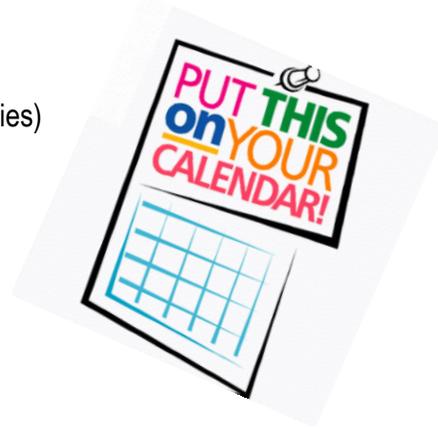
It's great to be a "Happy Older Presbyterian." Truly, a loving God looks over us.

Next Month: Weds, June 12 — The Fulton Theater



HOC CALENDAR — June Happenings

Sun.	Jun	2	11:00am	Recognition Sunday
Mon.	Jun	3	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission
Mon.	Jun	3	7:00pm	Building & Grounds Commission
Wed.	Jun	5	5:30pm	Care and Fellowship Committee (Bag Cookies)
Mon.	Jun	10	6:30pm	Session
Tue.	Jun	11	4:00pm	Worship Commission
Weds.	Jun	12	9:00am	HOP trip to Fulton Theatre (Lancaster)
Fri.	Jun	14	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Sun.	Jun	16	12:00pm	Father's Day Coffee after worship
Mon.	Jun	24	2:00pm	Caregiver's Coffee (Chapel Room)
Wed.	Jun	26	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's

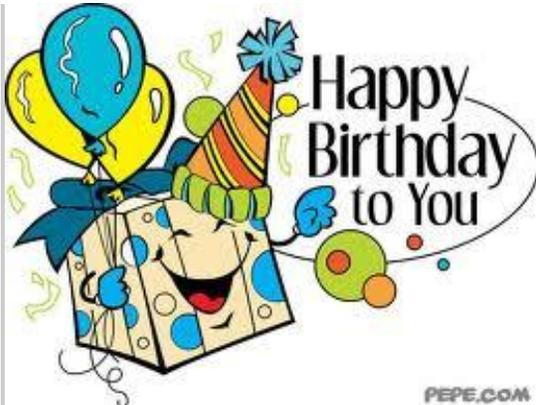


On Sunday December 1st at 4:00pm we will have a "Concert by Candlelight" sponsored by the Evangelism Commission and featuring the Brandywine Harp Orchestra. There is no admission fee, but there will be a free-will offering. Following the concert there will be fellowship with light refreshments. The Brandywine Harp Orchestra (brandywineharps.com), consisting of about a dozen harp players, has a good following, so carpooling is encouraged.



Join us for a special Father's Day Coffee on June 16th to celebrate the men of HOC.

June Birthdays



Jun	1	Sallie Christian	Jun	14	John Brook
Jun	1	John Slack	Jun	16	Clella Murray
Jun	1	Michael DePaul	Jun	16	Lew Riess
Jun	3	Carol Cole	Jun	17	Deborah Harper
Jun	4	Ronan DePaul	Jun	17	Corinne Marquess
Jun	6	Jim Sawyer	Jun	19	Sarabeth Gillespie
Jun	7	Jim Herrington	Jun	25	Elizabeth Gallaher
Jun	9	Kristen Riess	Jun	25	Al Harper
Jun	10	Dawn Brautigam	Jun	29	Mary Lou Oakes
Jun	10	Clarence Cox			



PCUSA@UD

University of Delaware

PRESBYTERIAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

2013 SPRING CLEAN-UP DAYS

The Presbyterian House at 157 W. Main St. in Newark provides comfortable, substance free, off-campus housing for students, and a meeting place and important income for our growing Campus Ministry.

Please come help prepare the house for our new crop of students.

When: THURSDAY May 30, 2013 9AM – 12 Noon

SATURDAY June 1st, 2013 8AM – 12 Noon

Monday 27th, Tuesday 28th, Wednesday 29th, or Friday 31st – (by “appointment”)

Where: University of Delaware
Presbyterian House (PCUSA@UD)
157 W. Main St, Newark, DE
Overflow parking at First Presbyterian Church, 292 W. Main St., Newark

What: Serve God by supporting Campus Ministry
Enjoy fellowship
Distribute furniture by room as needed
Clean: 3 bathrooms
7 bedrooms
Halls and stairways
Basement
Kitchen
LR, DR, Laundry
All floors especially new kitchen floor
Baseboards throughout
Under baseboard heaters
Windows
Back porch (will require disposition of
misc items and supplies)
Utility closet (cleaning supplies, misc tools)
Front porch
Minor repairs



Yard Work - general clean-up and mowing

**Contact Roger Jolly, 302-239-3547 or jolly6800@gmail.com
with questions or to sign up (or just show up!)**

HEAD OF CHRISTIANA CHURCH PRINTS

We have some of the numbered, limited edition prints of the historic Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church available for sale. The artwork was done by noted artist, Geraldine McKeown, for our 300th Anniversary. We have one hanging in the lounge in case you haven't seen it yet.

The prints are available in two sizes: 8.5" x 11" and 16" x 20".

There were 200 prints made in each size.

The smaller print is \$35.00 and the larger one is \$70.00.

All proceeds go into the general fund of Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church.

Contact a member of the Administration and Finance Commission (Ed Cairns, Ed Crispin, Steve Graham, Jim Kniskern, Alex Oakes, or Merle Slack) to purchase one for your own.

Geraldine McKeown is a native of Maryland and has been painting since she was a child. She lives in an 1855 farmhouse of her Irish ancestors situated on land that's been in her family for seven generations. Her paintings reflect her deep sense of heritage and love of the rural Maryland countryside.

Geraldine studied art at Towson University and the Barnes Foundation and began her study of watercolor with the legendary teacher, Ed Whitney. She has taught watercolor for over 20 years.

An accomplished watercolorist working in traditional realism, her paintings reflect her intense interest in composition and design and the interplay of light and shadow. As a result, she has been the recipient of numerous regional and national awards including the BWS Silver Medal for watercolor and a number of other awards including being selected to exhibit in the prestigious Arts for the Parks National Competitions.

Her watercolors have been featured on the covers of "At the Head of the Bay: A Cultural and Architectural History of Cecil County, Maryland," and Red Top Boots. Her paintings are also featured in the publications "The Best of Watercolor I and II" by Rockport Press and "Artistic Touch III" by Creative Art Press.

Geraldine is an elected signature member of the National, Baltimore, Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia Watercolor Societies. Her paintings are in numerous private, public and corporate collections. A highlight of her career was when she presented a watercolor to Oprah Winfrey.