



# The Looking Tree

*Love lives here, Love flows from here.*

May 2013

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Rev. Bob Undercuffler  
Pastor

I began this day singing, “*I’ve come this far by faith.*” For me, singing songs around the house is fairly normal, but I reached far back into my memory bank for this one. “*I’ve come this far by faith...*” Those were all the words I remembered. But those were all the words I needed to begin the day on a good path.

Now I write for **The LookingTree** and that saying seems so apropos. I Googled that phrase and here’s the first stanza of the Gospel song:

*We’ve come this far by faith  
Leaning on the Lord  
Trusting in His Holy word  
God never failed me yet  
Oh we can’t turn around  
We’ve come this far by faith.*

Yes, so appropriate for **We** have come this far by faith. **We** -- members of Head of Christiana who love this church -- pray for this church, and support this church in a wide variety of ways. **We’ve** come this far by faith!

And now we are poised to make a giant leap into the future. This Sunday, April 28, at a special meeting of the congregation, immediately following worship, our congregation will have the opportunity to vote to call Kate LeFranc as Associate Pastor of Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church. Kate too, is on a faithful journey to Ordination. It has been gratifying to have Kate work among us for these past eight months as Outreach Associate. Now, in faith, we unite in ordained pastoral leadership.

Last year, in the May issue of **The Looking Tree**,  
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Kate LeFranc  
Outreach Associate

It has been a strange and providential road that brought me to Head of Christiana. After growing up in Wilmington, I never thought I would end up back in Delaware! But in 2010, I found myself back with my parents after a (pretty amicable) divorce, making coffee at Brew Ha Ha where I had spent so much time as a teenager. I had met Nona

Holy, the campus pastor at UD, through the presbytery committee on preparation for ministry, and then one day out of the blue, I got a call asking if I wanted a job!

So I found myself working in campus ministry, even though I would never have chosen that myself. But that job has been an incredible experience in itself, and last spring I was able to lead a mission trip to Honduras. The other adult on that trip was our executive presbyter, Jim Moseley, who I met for the first time on the day we were leaving the country. Jim and I spent a lot of time on that trip trading visions for the future of the church. And then about a week after we got back, I got an email asking if I would be interested in guest preaching at Head of Christiana — apparently Jim had passed my name along!

You know the rest of this story. You welcomed me warmly, and as I continued to discern with Bob, envisioning the possibilities for what church might be, this community stepped out on faith to create the position of Outreach Associate. We have built relationships, and we have begun to dream of a future for ourselves. And now we are leaping joyfully into that future!

Sometimes the journey is not linear, or logical, or exactly what we would have planned. I know I never would have foreseen this path when I started seminary 7 years ago!  
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## BOB'S THOUGHTS *cont'd*

I described 5 reasons why I liked Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church ... and so believed there was a healthy future for you. The 4<sup>th</sup> reason was this: ***"You have high regard for the congregation's past, actively participate in the present, and I believe you have the courage to try new approaches to ensure a healthy future. You crave, and deserve, much more than survival. Thriving is where God is leading you."***

So yes, we sing in harmony: *"We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord. Trusting in His Holy word God never failed us yet. Oh we can't turn around. We've come this far by faith."*

Grace to you, and peace,

*Bob*

## KATE'S THOUGHTS *cont'd*

But I have been blessed to meet some amazing people on my journey—mentors and colleagues and friends—who have inspired me and enabled me to keep following; stepping out in faith even when I couldn't see the path.

And now I am thrilled to make this next leap with the people of Head of Christiana. You have inspired me with your hospitality, your generosity of spirit, and your enthusiasm for the ministry of the church. I am humbled by the trust you have offered me, to journey with you into the unknown.

There are exciting things in our future! We draw on 300 years of accumulated wisdom, a breadth of talents and passions, and a strong faith that will carry us forward in this next adventure. Thank you for the opportunity to make this journey with you.

*Kate*

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*Katie Gillespie, Clerk of Session*

On April 6, 2013 Session gathered with Jim Moseley, Executive Presbyter, and Roberta Bell from the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry, and confirmed our commitment and the procedures for Kate LeFranc's ordination. Among the procedures is the establishment of the position of Associate Pastor and calling Kate to that position, which requires a vote from the congregation; therefore, there will be a congregation meeting of Head of Christiana on April 28, 2013, following the morning worship for aforementioned purposes.

Welcome new members, Becky DiGiovanni and Brian and Linda Huffman, who joined the congregation on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2013.



**A crew of Head of Christiana men, led by Bill Witt, will prepare Brunch for Mothers and Women and Girls in Chapel Hall immediately following worship on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. MEN — the crew is still being assembled and your assistance is needed. To volunteer, contact Bill Witt at 443.553.3995 or [billwitt@comcast.net](mailto:billwitt@comcast.net).**

# WORSHIP COMMISSION

*Merle Slack*



Pentecost Sunday is May 19<sup>th</sup>. The Worship Commission is requesting that the congregation bring in a potted geranium to decorate the sanctuary that morning. Just place it on the stand when you arrive.

The potted plants will then be planted outside in the flower beds to honor the birthday of the Christian church.

Also...don't forget to wear red!!!

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*Katie Gillespie*

Recognition Sunday will be June 2. We will be "recognizing" all God's children and sharing. So bring your own and your family's church heirlooms to church that day – Bibles, crosses, attendance pins, other jewelry, knick-knacks, etc. Let's make it a great time for sharing! More details will be coming.

**REMINDER:** We will be the sole provider for Elkton Community Kitchen on Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. Contact Jim Kline @ 410.398.6014 or [ja3k@comcast.net](mailto:ja3k@comcast.net) if you'd like to join our team.

We'll meet once in May for planning and assignments, and will then procure, prepare and serve on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We have many of last year's volunteers returning, but we welcome more to join our great team effort.



**SPRING CLEANING DAY**

**SATURDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**8:30am**

**HELPING HANDS**

**ARE NEEDED**





## The Happy Older Presbyterians



Since the last edition of this newsletter there have been two H.O.P events (Pencader Heritage Museum and Winterthur) and I must say that they really were FUN! The terrific ongoing support from all of the H.O.P. participants is what makes this program such a success. The turnout for the Pencader/Cooch House event was 26 people in spite of it being one of the wettest days imaginable. My thanks to John Slack for making this possible and so worthwhile. John and Wade Catts each gave an excellent presentation on the history of Penacder Hundred and even Judge Cooch was kind enough to be on hand to tell us fun stories about his old house. It was a great day, in spite of the rain!

On Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> the H.O.P.s ventured to Winterthur to see the Gardens and then the “Antiques and Architecture” tour inside the museum. Winterthur is a truly grand estate and mansion rivaling the best in the country, but possessing a “subtle elegance” that belies its immense proportions. It was a bit early to experience the full beauty of the gardens, but it was one of those beautiful spring days that makes everyone’s spirits high. We were able to see the beginnings of the spring awakening in the “March Bank,” which was carpeted with lovely blue flowers. Once inside the museum, we were broken into groups of four, each with its own docent. This allowed for a very personal experience as we saw room after room of beautiful antiques each laid out in an authentic style representing a period and place in early America. It was truly an extraordinary experience. It’s great to be a H.O.P.....Come join us!



**On May 14 we venture to Old New Castle....and perhaps get to meet Sven Skute!**

# HOC CALENDAR — May Happenings

Wed.	May	1	2:00pm	Care and Fellowship Committee
Fri.	May	3	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Sat.	May	4	8:30am	Spring Cleaning Day # HOC
Mon.	May	6	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission
Mon.	May	6	7:00pm	Building & Grounds Commission
Sun.	May	12	12:00pm	Mother's Day Brunch after worship
Mon.	May	13	▶ <b>LOOKING TREE DEADLINE</b>	(articles are due today!)
Mon.	May	13	6:30pm	Session
Tue.	May	14	9:00am	HOP trip to Historic New Castle
Tue.	May	14	4:00pm	Worship Commission
Sat.	May	18	9:00am	NC Presbytery has reserved the Chapel Room
Sun.	May	19	11:00am	Pentecost Sunday - Bring geranium to place in sanctuary
Wed.	May	22	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's
Mon.	May	27	2:00pm	Caregiver's Coffee



**Grant us, then,  
the grace for giving  
with a spirit large and free,  
that our life and all our living  
we may consecrate to Thee.**

*You may give without loving,  
but you can't love without giving.*



## May Birthdays



May	1	Christine Sutton	May	26	John Tipton
May	4	Russell Holland	May	27	Clint Cullum
May	9	Jeanne Hastings	May	27	Bill Witt
May	13	Betsy Van Culin	May	28	Ann Kline
May	21	Amy Uffelman	May	29	Charles DeSantos
May	24	Rick Fehr			

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT OUR CHURCH

The children of Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church along with friends and neighbors will have an opportunity this summer to enjoy and participate in a study adventure, *“Clean Water for All of God’s Children.”* (Certainly a perfect topic for our church at the headwaters of the Christiana River). The five studies will explore:

- The Creation – the goodness of water
- The Crossing of the Red Sea – water for salvation
- The Healing of Naaman – water for healing
- The Baptism of Jesus – water as a sign of grace
- The Woman at the Well – water for physical needs

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.

The Christian Education commission has accepted Pat Undercuffler’s offer to lead this summer exploration with children. A class for Adults is also being considered. A summer week is yet to be set. Pat would like to find some allies to help plan and lead this adventure. Beginning thoughts include late afternoon/early evening with light supper... starting on a Sunday evening and concluding Thursday evening. Phone or leave a note for Pat at 302-654-4040 or [psu.rnc58@verizon.net](mailto:psu.rnc58@verizon.net) or share your thoughts and ideas over conversation at Sunday’s refreshment hour.

