



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

April 2014

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Rev. Bob Undercuffler
Pastor

Welcome April. This brings us to the threshold of Holy Week climaxing with Easter. But beware; don't leap too quickly into Easter. Rather, walk with Jesus through a lonesome valley marked by Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. And a terribly lonely Saturday...



Kate LeFranc
Associate Pastor

Palm Sunday (April 13), we wave palm branches and sing glad hosannas, and join to welcome Jesus. The hearty singing turns to bewilderment, however, for Jesus is riding a donkey. What kind of savior is this?

On Maundy Thursday we remember the new mandate that Jesus gave his disciples, "that you love one another." Also, we re-live Jesus' final supper with his closest friends, the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and the arrest following Judas' betrayal. Our service includes confession, assurance of pardon and Holy Communion.

For Good Friday, our sanctuary will be open from noon until 3:00pm. This is an opportunity provided by our Worship Commission, for you to be in holy silence and contemplate the account of the passion, such as from John's gospel 13:1-17, 31-35 as the darkness deepens. Then "*It is finished*," Jesus cries ... and dies. With sadness, Jesus is removed from the cross and placed in a borrowed tomb. And then that terribly lonely Saturday. Hopes dashed.

On Easter morning, we join in glad celebration. Jesus, the Christ, Arose!

- Easter Faith recalls the past, especially the awesome act of God raising the crucified Christ from the grave.
- Easter Hope looks to the promised future, which awaits us.
- Easter Love declares that by God's grace we are called to new life for God and for neighbors – for the world.

And not only arose, but the living Jesus walks with us. He accompanies us on our journey. That is good news worth singing. An awesome affirmation of new life.

Have a blessed Holy Week, Easter, and April!

Bob

Kate

SUMMARY OF CHURCH FINANCES

Steve Graham

Summary of Church Finances as of February 28, 2014

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income (including Trail Race)	\$26,163	\$29,540	- \$3,377
Expenses (including Trail Race)	\$36,494	\$30,679	\$5,815
Net Activity	-\$10,331	-\$ 1,139	-\$9,192

There were three large expenditures (totaling \$9,475) in February that will be spread over the rest of the 2014 budget, including two capital items and some of the Trail Race expense.

EASTER FLOWERS

Mary Jo Mankin



If you would like to purchase Easter Flowers this year, please make your check payable to Head of Christiana with a note in the memo line stating "Easter Flowers" or "HOC Missions".

Details are as follows:

Tulips are \$11 each.

Come in 6" pots – Colors—red, pink, or yellow.

Lilies are \$11.50 each – Come in 6" pot. Color = White only.

All flower orders due by Palm Sunday, April 13th.

We will also accept donations to HOC Missions in lieu of flowers.

Mission donations need to be made by April 13th in order to be noted in the Easter Sunday Bulletin. Thank you.

MISSION COMMISSION

Jane Murray

The 16th annual Triple Crown Trail 5k, 10k, Half-Marathon, and Marathon races will take place at the Carpenter Recreation area of White Clay Creek State Park off Rt. 896 in Newark on Saturday, April 26th...Rain or Shine!!!

The marathons will begin at 7:30am, the 10k at 10:00am, and the 5k at 11:15am.

The Triple Crown Trail Race is approaching fast! If you have questions about the race, would like to volunteer to help (i.e. slicing bagels, food set-up, greeting runners, helping at the finish line, etc.), or have any other input, please contact Jane Murray at cairns Murray@aol.com, or any member of the Mission Commission.

For anyone new to the race, it is a wonderful day at White Clay State Park, with hundreds of runners from across the country (as well as international runners), with a day that not only celebrates runners and walkers, but supports our mission goals.

In the past, we have raised over \$20,000 from this event, which enables our church to contribute to local faith based homeless shelter and programs, as well as other mission projects.

CARE & FELLOWSHIP

Jeanne Hastings

Our Adult Sunday School will be studying "Resurrection" another lesson by N. T. Wright from March 30th through April 27th, we'll discuss "Resurrection," also a lesson by N.T. Wright.

Please come join us. It's always fun to learn something new and to share a laugh or two. Rosi White is the facilitator of these studies.

It was a very busy month last month for Care and Fellowship; so many of our friends being ill and two great losses to our congregation due to the deaths of Marion Shirkey and Bob White. Our group mailed out many cards, made calls and visits and handled reception arrangements as needed. In May a pot luck brunch will be held on May 18th after church, in place of coffee hour. C & F will supply the beverages and everyone will be invited to bring a breakfast or lunch/brunch item. Mary Lou and Lillian will be available to receive dishes as they come in.



Our next Caregivers' Coffee will be on Tuesday, April 22nd at 1:00pm.

Jeanne Hastings, The Care & Fellowship Committee

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Betty Kackley

Sharing Brings Joy...To Others, To God, and to Us

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, Presbyterians have provided assistance in areas ravaged by wars, to those who are victims of natural disasters, and, in addition, through this ecumenical effort have supported projects in more than 100 countries, including the U.S. and Canada.

Disaster Assistance, a hunger program, and self-development are all a part of One Great Hour of Sharing which began in 1949 and is still going strong! This is a wonderful effort which gives us all hope for a better tomorrow.

Special offering envelopes are available in the pews for our One Great Hour of Sharing offering which will be on Easter Sunday, April 20th.

You can make your offering anytime between now and then.



OUTREACH COMMISSION

Alex Oakes

ELKTON COMMUNITY KITCHEN...

Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church has a rich history of helping at this annual event, so in order to give you ample notice I'm asking you to.....**Mark your calendars now!**

On **Friday, June 20th** volunteers from Head of Christiana will be serving lunch for people in need at the Elkton Community Kitchen. Your Outreach Commission will be planning and organizing this effort so please let one of us know if you are interested in helping.

Did you know? Out of all the methods to grow a church, by far the most successful comes from "word-of-mouth" referrals. Sometimes subtle suggestions get the best results. Give it a try....With your help and prayers we will succeed.

Outreach Commission Members:

Alex Oakes, Chair, Ed Crispin, Lucy Marianiello, Pat Undercuffler, Steve Graham



New Faces at Head of Christiana

Have you noticed a couple of new faces at Head of Christiana? Let me introduce you to Judie & Phil Alwine, our newest H.O.C. P.C. members. Judie was born in Pa. and was raised in N.J. Phil was born and raised in Pa. Employment (now retired) at the DuPont Experimental Station brought them to Delaware, where they have resided for the past 46 years. I asked Judie if she could tell me a few things about themselves that I could pass on to our congregation. Please read and enjoy her comments below.

Judie and Phil Alwine

by Judie Alwine

We have three children who make us very proud and who have blessed us with seven wonderful "grands;" two terrific daughter-in-law's, and a great son-in-law. Michelle & Brent have four children here in Delaware. Scott & Jackie have two children and live in Virginia Beach, Va. Gregg and Kim have one child and they reside in Delray Beach, Florida.

We enjoy biking, hiking in our local parks, boating and water sports on the rivers in Maryland. We both enjoy a daily game of Scrabble or cards, along with reading and our year 'round volunteering with the Newark Area Welfare Committee of which Judie is the committee chairperson for the Good Neighbor Day event each October. Phil does the work of collecting LARGE amounts of donated canned goods, as well as the once-a-year purchase of cases of food from our local super markets.

Formerly members of White Clay Creek Presbyterian Church, we were led to HOCPC by two special ladies who we met during our meetings with the Newark Area Welfare Committee. Rosi White asked for volunteers every year to help with the annual Trail Race. We helped with this event and realized that this small congregation had a huge heart and capacity to tackle a big undertaking in this race and all it entailed. Your financial contribution to our volunteer group was amazing and so appreciated as it helped so many people in need. The other dear friend and fellow church member is Carolyn Brunner, who decided that I was going to be the one to take over her past position of Chair for Good Neighbor Day. Both these ladies are wonderful ambassadors for this special church.

Our first impression of the building was one of complete surprise, the beauty of the sanctuary, the ceiling, the stained glass windows, and the workmanship is like a wonderful gift. We felt welcome and comfortable. Everyone we met during our visits seemed like family. Phil thought there could be a bit more sitting room on the pews but other than that, we have enjoyed attending Sunday services listening and learning from our two talented Pastors, Bob and Kate.

Let's all give a "special" welcome to Judie & Phil. It's plain to see that God has been at work bringing us these fine people.

Even though their contact information is in the latest HOC directory, here it is "just in case..."
610 Apple Road, Newark DE 19711 ♦ Phone: 302.738.4239 ♦ Email: jhalwine@yahoo.com



"Hoppy"

The "HOP" Event

March 2014

While the Luncheon at Vita Nova was the "Main Event" this year it was quite apparent from the response of the Happy Older Presbyterians that a good lunch and the thought of pleasant fellowship is reason enough to venture out on a cold winter day. Oh, and yes, there was indeed a hint of snow early the morning of February 25th, but everyone made it to the church so we could set off on time.

For those of you who have never been to Vita Nova, you should really consider it as a "must do" when in Newark. Vita Nova is a restaurant operated by the University of Delaware School of Restaurant Management where not only the food is exquisite, but the service provided by the students is outstanding. This writer gets great pleasure out of seeing our next generation acting and looking so professionally. They even had STARCHED collars. When's the last time you saw that? These young people will make us proud.

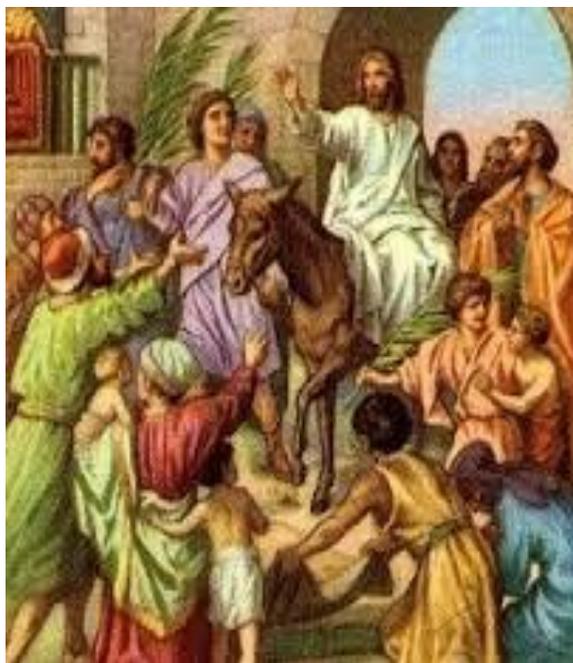


April 22nd takes the Happy Older Presbyterians to attend a morning concert at Dickenson Organ featuring songs we remember, a sing-along, and a short silent film. Departing from HOC at 9:15am



From Hosanna to Horror, the Only Road to Easter

by Ann Weems



Balloons maybe.

If Jesus were coming here,
maybe we'd line up on either side of his parade route,
and wave balloons as he passed.
Back and forth ... a multitude of colors,
and we'd probably shout Yeah! instead of Hosanna,
and we'd hold up homemade posters saying, "Welcome, Jesus!"
and as he passed by...probably in one of those bubble-top cars
because the FBI would not want to be left out of this one...
On the other hand maybe he'd refuse and ride that donkey after all
or maybe even walk down the middle of the road with balloons
bobbing as he walked, he'd wave to us and bless us.
And we'd follow, and follow, and follow.
What a celebration! What a Festival of Faith that would be!
And when the parade passed by, we'd finally go home,
and look forward to the celebration next Sunday.

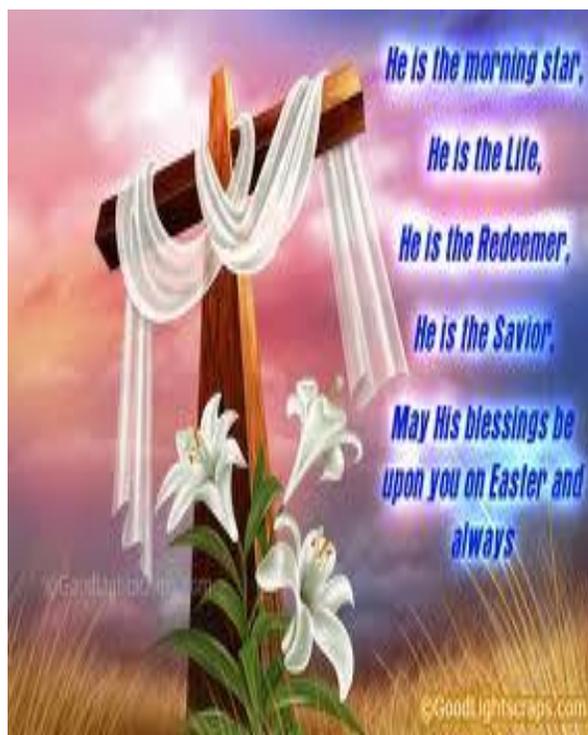
But what about Holy Week?

The days lengthen
the pear tree flowers white outside my kitchen window...
In the mysterious Lenten mix of lament and hope the taunting,
blood-splattered face of war screams into our lives,
and we are tempted to despair.
The TV bleeds and explodes
and the unspeakably obscene inhumanity of war
blares into our ears and our hearts —
and we turn and run.

Into a wall —
the same wall we visit each Lent —
trying to get around a Gate called Truth,
trying to go from Palm Sunday
straight to Easter morning,
trying to keep from going into that courtyard
where we must answer whether we know him or not,
trying to keep from going anywhere near that cross.
So give us the palms and give us the parade,
but O God, whisk us right from Palm Sunday
to that "great getting-up morning."

Have our Easter baskets filled and waiting for us, O God,
because this year we're tired and we're scared
and we just want a little peace and quiet.

And so we turn and run
or we kneel and pray for mercy and for miracles
and the eyes to see this Jesus
named Emmanuel,
the eyes to see that God is with us.

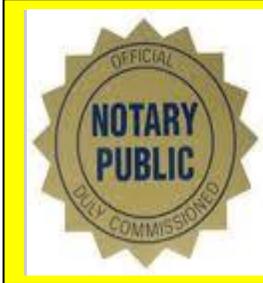


HOC CALENDAR — April Happenings

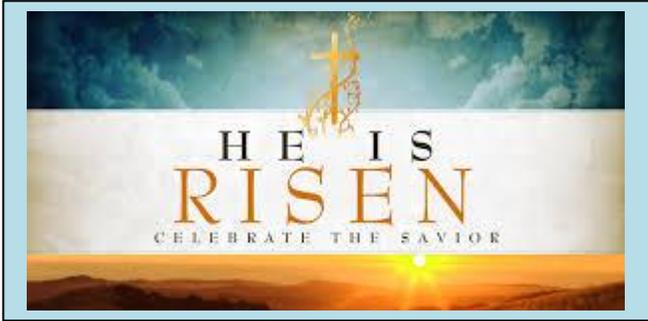
Wed.	Apr 02	5:30pm	Care & Fellowship Committee
Wed.	Apr 02	6:00pm	Missions (in Chapel Room)
Mon.	Apr 07	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission
Mon.	Apr 07	7:00pm	Building & Grounds Commission
Tue.	Apr 08	4:00pm	Worship Commission
Wed.	Apr 09	11:00pm	Outreach Commission
Fri.	Apr 11	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Sun.	Apr 13	11:00am	Palm Sunday Worship
Mon.	Apr 14	6:30pm	Session
Mon.	Apr 14		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (for May Looking Tree)
Thu	Apr 17	7:30pm	Maundy Thursday
Sun	Apr 20	7:30am	Easter Sunrise Service (with Newark United Church of Christ)
Sun	Apr 20	11:00am	Easter Worship and One Great Hour of Sharing
Tue.	Apr 22	9:15am	HOP trip to Dickenson Organ Concert
Tue.	Apr 22	1:00pm	Caregivers' Coffee
Wed.	Apr 23	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's
Sat.	Apr 26	7:00am	Triple Crown Trail Race @ White Clay Creek State Park



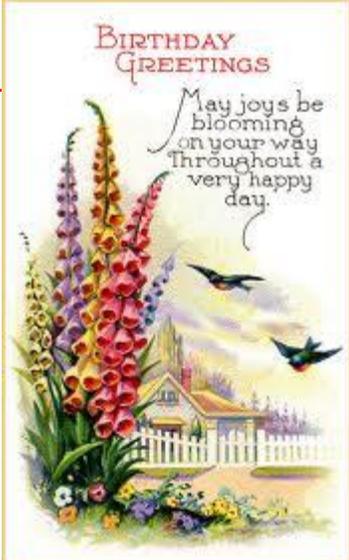
The new website for the Triple Crown Trail Race is:
<http://www.udel.edu/johnmack/traildawgs/tc/>



Contact Steve Graham at (302) 368-3794 to schedule an appointment. This is a free service for Head of Christiana members.



April Birthdays



Apr. 3	Linda Huffman	Apr. 20	Alan Gallaher
Apr. 4	Ruth Cox	Apr. 23	Leo Marianiello
Apr. 6	Vince Marianiello	Apr. 28	Abigail Condliffe
Apr. 9	Aileen Burmeister	Apr. 29	Susan Brook
Apr. 15	Ed Cairns	Apr. 30	Shirley Parris
Apr. 19	Branch Murray		