



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

September 2014

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Rev. Bob Undercuffler
Pastor

Last Sunday, during our “Especially for All God’s Children” moments in worship, we considered **VACATIONS**. I gathered responses from the congregation who spoke about vacation places visited, and activities. And most vacation highlights centered on family and dear friends. There were family reunions, and travels with old college chums, and a stay-over with former HoC members, and a

destination in Germany visiting a dear school pal. Our conversations continued into the narthex and coffee hour.

A typical refrain with vacations is, “It certainly feels good to be home.” Yes, it is good to be back to familiar routines and activities. But it’s also good to be back with our supportive church family to detect and try new opportunities to transform the routine into vibrant opportunities of service and love. Last Sunday Lucy Marianiello, playing her flute, presented the congregation a lovely gift, “His Eye is on the Sparrow.” And Lucy’s solo was complemented by soaring piano accompaniment offered by Linnea. Those were thrilling, sacred moments. And such moments can be duplicated as we lift our prayers and sing, and as we offer words of encouragement to one disheartened, and as we extend helping hands to those who are simply worn down. Let us enter September with the Lord speaking in our ear...

*Do not remember the former things,
Or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people I have formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.
Isaiah 43:18-21*

Welcome home,

Bob

It's back to school season!

Well, for some of us at least. But even for those who aren't in school or don't have family in school, the rhythm of autumn can be one of new beginnings and new learnings. At Head of Christiana, we begin our education programs and bible study classes again, which makes for a great opportunity to try out a new class or meeting time.



Rev. Kate LeFranc
Associate Pastor

I'm a person who likes to be constantly learning new things, and one thing I love about the Presbyterian tradition is the way we're encouraged to learn, study, and seek God with our minds as well as our hearts. There are many ways to experience God's presence, from music to study to art to prayer and many, many more. Peace be with you!

I am reminded in this season of the words of Emily Dickinson:

The Brain—is wider than the Sky—
For—put them side by side—
The one the other will contain
With ease—and You—beside—
The Brain is deeper than the sea—
For—hold them—Blue to Blue—
The one the other will absorb—
As Sponges—Buckets—do—
The Brain is just the weight of God—
For—Heft them—Pound for Pound—
And they will differ—if they do—
As Syllable from Sound—

Kate

SUMMARY OF CHURCH FINANCES

Summary of Church Finances as of July 31, 2014

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 96,687	\$103,390	-\$ 6,703
Expenses	\$111,687	\$107,375	\$ 4,312
Net Activity	-\$ 15,000	-\$ 3,985	-\$11,075

Vacations are great.
But don't forget to continue to support your church
during the summer.
Expenses don't take a vacation.

PILOXING, ANYONE?

Mary Jo Mankin

In my 57 years on this earth I have never punched anyone. Boxing has never appealed to me. So, when I went to my first Piloxing class this summer, I wasn't sure it would be my cup of tea. Piloxing is a combination of Pilates, boxing, and dance, and is offered here at Head of Christiana Church in the Chapel Room at 7 p.m. on Wednesday nights for \$5 a class.

The instructor, Sherry Crouse, is about my age and has the best toned arms I have ever seen. She has been a group fitness instructor for four years and teaches classes at the Moose Lodge in Elkton. In addition to Piloxing, she has certification in Bokwa and Zumba. Prior to being a group fitness instructor she took ballet, tap, and jazz, and was also a recreational and competition coach for cheerleading.

The class cycles through intervals of Pilates, boxing and dance, and the movements are performed to music. Air boxing to music isn't so bad, and I want arms like Sherry's! Sherry modifies the movements to best meet the needs of the individuals in the class, and if we don't like a particular exercise, she can substitute another movement that will work the same muscles and is more likeable. We have the option of wearing weighted gloves, which add to the toning power of the exercises. The class is an excellent low-impact workout and is open only to members of HOC and people we invite. It is not open to the general public.

So come and join us on Wednesday nights in the Chapel Room. You don't have to have punched anyone or be a boxing fan to participate, and we have a great time!



Left to Right:

Lucy Marianiello
Mary Jo Mankin
Sherry Crouse
Mark Mankin
Katie Gillespie

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Meet Rosi White



I was born in Breslau, Germany, to a single mother, as WWII was going on. I have an older sister who still lives in Germany and an older brother who is now deceased. In 1945 we had to vacate our home because the Russians were invading our area and the Poles moved in. As a result, Breslau, Selisia belonged to Poland. My mother and I were shipped by train along with many others from one camp to another camp in Amberg in the American zone. It was in Amberg that I first remember being in a church since before we had to flee. The Americans were bombing the area and the church felt safe. We had nothing, but we had each other and we had God. We lost everything in the War and so it was easy for us to move from town to town, each time finding a place to live that felt good and welcoming, as we were now immigrants. We settled in the Vilseck, Oberpfalz area and that is where my schooling took place and really became my first home. At fourteen, I left home and went to work in Nuremberg as a maid in a household. It was a great start since the family was very nice to work for. I am still in contact with a cousin from that family. I left that employment and trained in a beauty shop. Later, I went on to work in an American shopping center. During that time my mother had moved to Nuremberg, too. It was at that time that I met my partner of 54 years, Robert White, an American soldier. We were married in the Catholic Church. After Lisa, our eldest, was born, and Bob's service obligation was completed, we moved to Mission, Kansas. It was there that Christine and Rodney were born and Bob and I joined the Presbyterian Church. Bob's new job as a training manager at J.C. Penney took us to Nebraska, Missouri (where Cheryl was born) and back to Kansas. In 1971, we moved to Delaware, where Bob began a job with Everfast, Inc. We joined Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church in 1972 and we have enjoyed sharing our faith. I've been a Deacon, started Hope Dining Room for this Church, taught Sunday school for children and adults, been on Session and still serve on the Care and Fellowship Commission. I also lead a Care Givers hour once a month. I enjoy the fellowship and friendship.

I've had a very interesting life and I thank God every day.

Meet Jim Kniskern



James Monroe Kniskern was born on August 13, 1925, a product of several European nationalities. The first Kniskern arrived from Germany around 1710 and inter-married with the Dutch who had already settled along the Hudson River. Jim's grandfather Kniskern was a Methodist minister in Kingston, NY. Yet his maternal grandmother arrived as a young girl from Kirbymoorside, England when her father, a stone mason, came to America to help build a church in Buffalo, NY around 1880.

Jim grew up in DeRuyter, a country village in the central New York highlands. His college education in chemical engineering at Clarkson University was interrupted by WWII. Jim became an Electronic Technician's Mate in the Navy, and greatly benefited from the self-discipline imposed by the service. Upon graduation from Clarkson in 1948, Jim joined a large Westvaco paper mill in western Virginia that had developed many innovative products. Over the years he pursued new technologies in waste treatment, quality control, product development, and in recruiting and training of college graduates. He grew with the company as the mill became a worldwide supplier of bleached paperboard for packaging. In 1972 he was invited to the company's new folding carton plant in Newark, DE, concentrating on quality control and product development for packaging. Nevertheless from 1983 to 2000, he returned to the Covington mill as often as ten times a year to serve as instructor of popular 3-day training seminars for customers visiting America from all six continents. In 1952 on a blind date, Jim met Betty Jean Hostetter, a bank teller and Covington native. In more ways than one, she has been a beneficial influence on him. Her grandparents had moved west, like the pioneers, and participated in founding the Associate Reformed Presbyterian church in Covington. Over time Betty's pastor, Rev. W. O. Ragsdale, a Princeton graduate, established a close friendship with Jim. In later years they even collaborated on some of the pastor's writings. On January 8, 1955, Mr. Ragsdale married Jim and Betty. For Jim it became an ideal marriage: Betty has provided support in all that he lacked in social graces, church involvement and a strong family culture.

The Kniskern's have three children, Timothy, Jennifer and Jonathan, and one grandchild, Jonny. It was the loving care and guidance of his family, plus Clarkson's stress on self-education, that enabled Jim to enjoy his multiple careers and treat each one much as a hobby.

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR EXCELLENCE

Every summer for 35 years running, the Delaware Governor's School for Excellence has hosted some of the state's brightest high school students for a week of immersion in the arts and academic pursuits on the University of Delaware's Newark campus.

"For more than three decades the Governor's School for Excellence has provided rising high school juniors with a unique opportunity to hone their talents and learn from their peers across the state," said Delaware Gov. Jack Markell in a statement noting the anniversary. "As the global job market becomes increasingly competitive, this program provides students with an early advantage that will better prepare them to compete for jobs of the future."

The Marianiellos of Newark have also made the Governor's School experience into a family affair. Every few summers since 2005, each one of the four Marianiello siblings has represented Newark High School at Governor's School.

Oldest brother Leo, now a math teacher and UD alum, is currently pursuing graduate study at UD. Andre Marianiello is now a UD computer science major, and sister Vanessa, is joining UD's freshman class in the School of Nursing this fall. Youngest sibling Sophia, attended Governor's School this year.

Commented their mother, Lucy Marianiello, "Governor's School was a great opportunity for each of them to meet a large group of high-achieving students from other high schools in Delaware and to experience life on a college campus. Not only was it an experience to share with students their own age, but an experience to share with each other."

This year's Governor's School featured a wide array of cultural and academic sessions, including the specialized tracks where students concentrated on music, theatre or visual arts. Field trips exposed the students to UD research in topics like cyber security, biomedical engineering, biomechanics, and marine ecology, where the participants have the opportunity to learn directly from UD faculty and current students. The week also included a hands-on session at UD's Lerner Trading Center, which replicates the trading floors on Wall Street for real-world business and economics research.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Kate LeFranc

The Feasting on the Word bible study classes are starting back up, so here are the texts we'll be preaching on for the month of September:

Sept. 7 - Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus provides a model for conflict resolution

Sept. 11 & 14 - Matthew 18:21-35

A parable about debt and forgiveness

Sept. 18 & 21 - Philippians 1:21-30

Paul speaks about suffering and faithful living

Sept. 25 & 28 - Philippians 2:1-13

Paul quotes an early declaration of faith





THE "HOP" EVENT

August 2014

August 12th had the Happy Older Presbyterians traveling northward to Morrisville, Pa. to visit the reconstructed summer home of William Penn, known as Pennsbury Manor, rain clouds notwithstanding. Fortunately the rain held off long enough for us to complete the tour and get to our luncheon appointment while also keeping the summer heat at bay. Situated on the banks of the Delaware River with only trees to be seen on either side and across the river, one could easily imagine being taken back in time. Until, that is, some annoying person asks you to pose for the ubiquitous photo....Oh well, it has to be done.



Steve, our tour guide did a great job of bringing the place to life, explaining the many intricacies of colonial living at a place such as this. It was clear that the living was hard, at best.

We concluded our tour with lunch at nearby Bristol, Pa in the King George II Inn. Dating back to 1691 it was a fitting place to conclude a "Colonial" excursion. We even had a ghost dimming the lights randomly for us. Who knows....maybe it was Billy Penn.

Next Month: A walking tour of Historic Chestertown, Md.



2014 - 2015 Adult Education Program

September 7 - October 5

“Embracing Interfaith Cooperation” by Eboo Patel 5 week study

October 12 - November 16

“Surprised by Hope” by N. T. Wright 6 week study

November 23 - December 14

“A Thrill of Hope” A Christmas story movie 4 week study

January 4 - February 8

“Jesus Bombs and Ice Cream” 6 week study

February 15 - March 15

“Peace, Propaganda, and the Promised Land” 5 week study

March 22 - April 12

“Forgiveness” by Adam Hamilton 4 week study

April 19 - April 26

“Faith Like Potatoes” A true story movie. 2 week study

May 10 - May 17

Lucy Movie 3 week study

May 24 Select for next year and grade 2014/15

CARE AND FELLOWSHIP

Rosi White



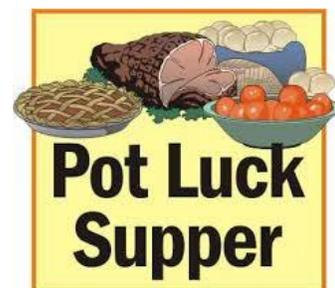
Our Caregivers Coffee/Tea is held every last Tuesday of the month at 1:00pm. Yes, Caregiving is often for someone close to us, but it also is for you. We are given a body and we are to take care and nourish this body and soul. We share and feel the pain of others in our group and it stays within the group. We mourn our loved ones and pray for others. If you would like to join us, THE DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN! Please come. Our next Care and Fellowship Commission meeting date will be September 3rd at 2:00pm.

POTLUCK SUPPER & HYMN SING

DON'T MISS THE POT-LUCK SUPPER AND HYMN SING set for Saturday evening, September 27th. After a hearty supper, we'll loosen our belts, and with Linnea at the Chapel Room piano, we will join in singing hymns old and new as we call out favorites and enjoy some duets and trios...who knows what hidden talent we might unearth?

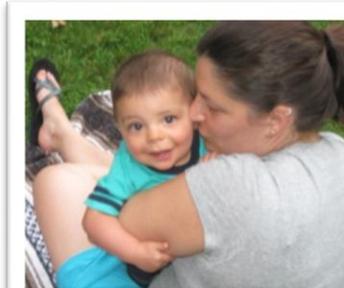
As we live through August and into September, let's sing songs like:

*“Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your King.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!”*



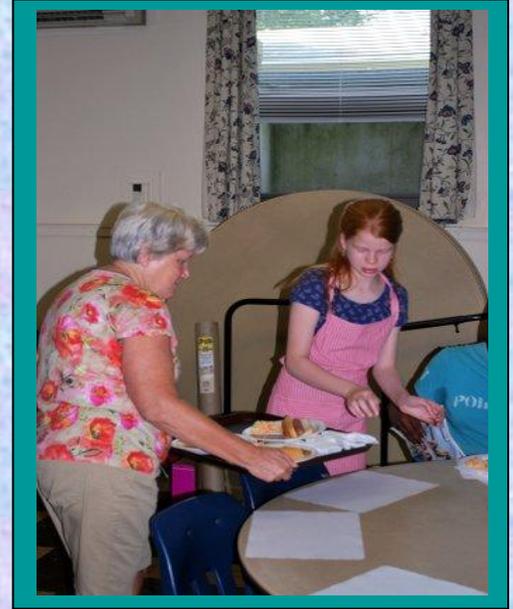
...At Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church

The Outreach Commission had been working hard to put together a summer concert event and everything was coming together.....And then, after weeks of pretty good weather, the forecast became “hot with afternoon thunderstorms,” on the day we had planned. It was too late to change the date of the event, so we forged ahead anyway...and prayed for the rain to hold off. And so it did, for the first forty minutes, anyway. It was enough to gather a good-sized crowd, enjoy some delicious Kilbys ice cream, and listen to the first class music of the Newark Community Band. Then the sky turned black and we had to break up early, but I believe everyone was glad they came. I know I was.



My special thanks to all of the members of the Outreach Commission for their contributions in making this happen: **Ed Crispin, Steve Graham, Lucy Marianiallo, Pat Undercuffler and Kate LeFranc**. Also, many thanks to those who came through on “D” Day: **Phil Alwine, Al Harper, Lilian Crispin, Jeanne Walter-Hastings, Merle Slack, John Slack and Linnea Raffeale**. And last, but not least, many thanks also to **Nancy Crawford** who enthusiastically contributed her technical talents. Without the efforts of all these people, it couldn’t have happened.

MORE MISSION DISCOVERY DAYS





Back by popular demand!

Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church is going to have a table (under a canopy) at the “Newark Community Day” event on September 21st from 11am to 4pm to let the community know we’re here.

So that no one has to sit there too long, we need volunteers to sit at the table for **one hour** shifts. If you can help, please call me 302-366-8016, or send me an e-mail (ao468@aol.com) or contact one of the Outreach Commission members below.

Outreach Commission Members: Alex Oakes, Chair, Ed Crispin, Lucy Marianiello, Pat Undercuffler, and Steve Graham



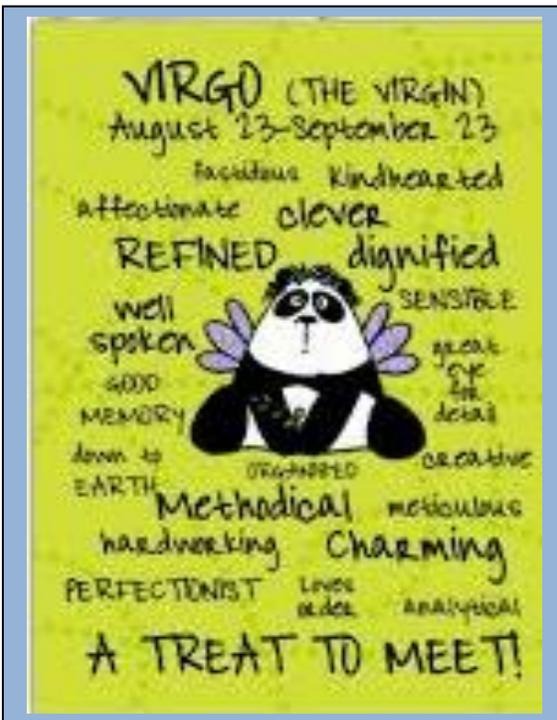
HOC CALENDAR — September Happenings



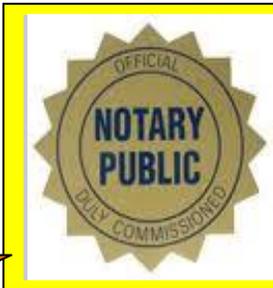
Tue.	Sep	02	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission
Wed.	Sep	03	2:00pm	Care & Fellowship Commission
Sun.	Sep	07	9:30am	Rally Day...Education classes start today.
Mon.	Sep	08	6:30pm	Session
Tue.	Sep	09	9:00am	HOP trip to Old Chestertown
Tue.	Sep	09	4:00pm	Worship Commission
Wed.	Sep	10	11:00am	Outreach Commission
Fri.	Sep	12	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Thur.	Sep	15	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (for Oct. Looking Tree)	
Tue.	Sep	23	1:00pm	Caregivers' Coffee
Wed.	Sep	24	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's
Sat.	Sep	27	4:00pm	Potluck Supper & Hymn Sing

**CHOIR PRACTICE
BEGINS
THURS. SEPT. 4TH
7:30PM**

CHOIR PRACTICE EVERY THURSDAY AT 7:30PM



HOC
Donations
to Downes
Elementary
School
children in
need.



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



September Birthdays

Sep 3	Lucinda Taber	Sep 24	Jalen Davis
Sep 3	Robin Uffelman	Sep 27	Merle Slack
Sep 6	Michael Tipton	Sep 28	Katie Gillespie
Sep 9	Barbara Johnston	Sep 28	Betty Kniskern
Sep 11	Claire Herrington	Sep 28	Rebecca Condliffe
Sep 20	Elizabeth Jenkinson	Sep 28	Ray Uffelman
Sep 22	Julia Busick	Sep 29	Steve Graham
Sep 24	Mary Jo Mankin		