



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

November 2014

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Rev. Bob Undercuffler
Pastor

GOD HAS TATTOOS. I discovered that as I prepared my sermon for Sunday, October 19th. God said to Isaiah, "See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands."

Isaiah was complaining that God had forsaken the Jewish people. As evidence, the splendid Jerusalem Temple had been laid waste, the walls of the city torn down, and their leaders and others of their number had been sent to exile in Babylon

(some 900 miles away). Yes, Isaiah moaned, "The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me."

And the Lord God's response? "Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands. Indelibly tattooed. (Isaiah 49:13-16)

Inscribed on the palms of God's hands. That's good, for you carry the image of God – which is your birthright and can never be scrubbed-off.

Inscribed on the palms of God's hands. God's love never lets you go. God's love endures forever.

Inscribed on the palms of God's hands. I rely on, I trust God's memory. "For a woman is attentive to her nursing child, and shows utmost compassion for the child of her womb. Though we may forget, yet God will not forget us."

During these past several weeks, we have celebrated stewardship at Head of Christiana and been challenged to expand our spirit of generous giving. God's presence, so close, so kind, so sufficient to meet every need requires our best response.

Let us, with Isaiah, "Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and has compassion on his suffering ones."

When depressed and doubting, look at the palms of God's hands. Our identity is inscribed there.

Grace to you and peace,

Bob



Rev. Kate LeFranc
Associate Pastor

It is a season of beginnings! As we welcome two new faces to our staff, brightening up our nursery and our choir room, we also see leaves changing colors around us, and prepare to celebrate a new liturgical year beginning in Advent. We have welcomed Yoga and Piloxing classes into our community, and our Care and Fellowship commission is hard at work preparing for our upcoming movie night and other special events.

These new beginnings all span the work of several commissions, and many of them have been supported and encouraged by a Task Force representing many aspects of our life together. The current membership consists of Lucy Marianiello, Debbie Harper, Ed Cairns, Laura Reardon, and Mary Jo Mankin, with support from Bob and myself. Our charge was as follows: to identify, explore, and implement ways to engage young adults in the worshipping life of Head of Christiana.

The charge is broad, and perhaps we would be better classified as a "think tank" than a task force, because it is hard to imagine that task ever being truly complete. Our strength, though, has been our ability to brainstorm, explore, and consider ideas without the constraint of a particular commission's business and responsibilities.

We would like to extend an invitation to the congregation: what are your dreams for programming, new initiatives, or things you might like to see in worship? We want your "what if's" — is there a talent you might like to share with the community? Something you'd love to see happen here, but don't think it would ever work, or just don't know who to suggest it to? Please, come talk to us!

We'll take care of the nitty-gritty; we want any and all ideas, no matter how crazy/foolish/impossible they might sound! So tell us: what are you dreaming of?

Peace,

Kate

SUMMARY OF CHURCH FINANCES

Summary of Church Finances as of September 31, 2014

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 127,582	\$132,930	-\$5,348
Expenses	\$137,537	\$138,054	-\$ 517
Net Activity	-\$ 9,955	-\$ 5,124	-\$4,831

Our Stewardship Campaign is winding down.
Thanks to all for your prayerful pledge considerations.
If you have not submitted one, please consider doing so now.
It will help us budget our spending levels for the coming year.
Everyone's support is crucial to the continued life of
Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church.

WILMINGTON HANDBELL ENSEMBLE



Kerry Dietz, Artistic Director began his formal music training at the age of seven and his church music career at the age of fourteen. A graduate of the University of Delaware and Westminster Choir College, he is Minister of Worship & Music at Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Newark, DE, where he has served since 1994. He has been involved with handbells as a ringer and a conductor for almost 30 years and has been a conductor and clinician for handbell festivals in Newark, DE and Ocean City, MD.

The Wilmington Handbell Ensemble will be our special guests here at HOC performing a concert on Sunday, December 7th at 4:00pm in our sanctuary.

FREE ADMISSION ★ GOODWILL OFFERING

Please mark your calendars now; you won't want to miss this wonderful event.

The Wilmington Handbell Ensemble was founded by Michael Helman in 2000 and draws from various church bell choirs in New Castle County.

The purpose of the Wilmington Handbell Ensemble is to educate and introduce audiences to the beautiful and varied repertoire for handbells as well as promote excellence in musicianship among its members.

In addition to their own concerts, the Ensemble has played at Longwood Gardens, First Night Wilmington, Christmas in Old New Castle, Christmas Open Houses in Salem and Woodstown, New Jersey, and Delaware Art Museum. They have also been featured with the Rainbow Chorale of Delaware and the Wilmington Madrigal Singers in their holiday concerts.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU — Candidates for Session & Deacon

To be elected at our called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2014

Meet Julia Busick

Julia joined Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church in March, 1950 and was married in this church to Charles J. Busick, Jr. in December, 1953. During her tenure at HOC, she has been very active. She taught Sunday school, served as greeter and usher, helped to serve the annual turkey dinner, prepared the communion table, served as chairman for receptions and funeral luncheons, was a member of the Willing Workers who met monthly in people's homes, was a member of the Morning Circle when they did projects for Wayfarer's House and Meeting Ground, and typed the Annual reports. Most recently she has enjoyed socializing at Nifty Wifty lunches and the Happy Older Presbyterian trips.

In an official capacity, Julia has served as secretary of the Board of Trustees, church treasurer and on the Board of Deacons. In the past, she has served as an Elder and is again, currently serving on the Session as co-chair of the Care and Fellowship Commission.

Meet Merle Slack



Merle J. Slack was born and raised in North Wilmington. She was raised as a Catholic but converted to a Presbyterian in the early 1980's and attended Presbytery Church of the Covenant. For the past 17 years she has been a member of Head of Christiana.

She has spent most of her life working in the construction industry as Assistant to the President for three different homebuilders in Delaware and Pennsylvania. She retired in 2009 and has kept busy since then Volunteering for Delaware Hospice as a patient caretaker and vigil volunteer.

She is married to John W. Slack and they enjoy many areas of the church together.

Merle has served as Ruling Elder on the Session, was Church Treasurer for three years, taught Bible School, worked on the Christian Education Commission, ran the Nursery, and is currently on the Administration and Finance Commission and is the Secretary of the Worship Commission. Merle enjoys traveling with the HOP group on their monthly outings and looks forward to serving as a Deacon in the coming years.

Meet Mark Mankin

I grew up in Newark not far from Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church but never really discovered this hidden gem until Mary Jo and I chose it for our marriage ceremony. We liked the small community feel of the Church and were enthusiastically welcomed into the fold as members thirteen years ago.

Over the years my service in community groups ranged from the Jaycees to Habitat for Humanity. Many of the activities I have been involved in which ranged from assisting at a soup kitchen to serving meals at Thanksgiving at Senior Centers, have given me experience in what I think is the best quality of the congregation, it's service to those especially in need and often forgotten as we go through our daily lives.

In the past few years I have served the Church as Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Vice Chair of the Building and Grounds Commission. I have applied the expertise and experiences I've learned while in the University of Delaware Facilities Department to help me in the challenges facing our Church. As I am retiring in February after 32 years at UD, I should have more time to devote to activities and administration that are vital to the ongoing success we achieve each year.



Meet Brian Huffman

Brian was born and raised in York, PA. As a child, he attended Sunday school at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. He completed the communicants class and became a member prior to moving to Newark, Delaware to attend the University of Delaware. Brian was inactive in the church for a while, but ultimately returned and became a member of Pencader Presbyterian Church. He became an Elder and served on Session at Pencader until the church closed in February of 2012. After the closure of Pencader, Brian and his wife Linda, searched for a new church, ultimately choosing Head of Christiana. They enjoy the close-knit community that Head of Christiana provides and Brian appreciates the history of the small church. Both Brian and Linda are members, and both of their children (Annabelle and Brendan) have been baptized here.



★ *Katie Gillespie, HoC member since 1990, has been Clerk of Session, has served on the Christian Education and Worship Commissions, Nominating and Personnel Committees, and has been active in other areas of the life of the church." Her bio and photo were featured in last month's Looking Tree.*

THANKSGIVING TABLE

As is our long-standing tradition, our Mission efforts in November will support Elkton Help Center and Newark Area Welfare. To provide the most balanced Thanksgiving baskets, the following items are requested for donation by Sunday, November 23rd:



- Canned Fruit, Cranberry Sauce, Bags/boxes of Stuffing, Canned Meals (for days beyond Thanksgiving)
- Bags/boxes of starchy sides (potatoes, rice, pasta, etc.)
- Fresh** potatoes (sweet, white), squash, or other **fresh** veggies (brought in on Nov. 23)

If you have questions please contact Jane Murray at cairnmurray@aol.com or Jeanne Hastings at jmwhastings1@yahoo.com. Thank you for your support and generosity.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Kate LeFranc

The Feasting on the Word bible study classes have started again, so here are the texts we'll be preaching on for the month of November:

- Oct. 30 & Nov. 2 - Joshua 3:7-17**
- Nov. 6 & 9 - Matthew 25:1-13**
- Nov. 13 & 16 - Matthew 25:14-30**
- Nov. 20 & 23 - Matthew 25:31-46**



CARE AND FELLOWSHIP

Jeanne Hastings

Another busy month with many various cards being sent to HOC members in sympathy and to get well and just to say "thanks." The October 19th "Apple Festival" was hugely successful and enjoyed by all. "International Night at the movies featuring "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" is on Saturday, November 1st at 5:30pm. Those attending are asked to bring an "international" appetizer to share with the group. A transportation list of volunteers willing to provide transportation for worship, social events, or medical appointments has been finalized for HOC members who need assistance. Care and Fellowship meets again on Nov. 5th at 2:00pm.



MISSIONS COMMISSION

Jane Murray

The Missions Commission is gearing up for several upcoming special projects here at Head of Christiana now that the holiday season is upon us. They will be joining forces with our Care and Fellowship Commission and our HOC youth to collect food for our annual Thanksgiving Table food collection. Instead of designating certain foods for specific weeks, the food items can be brought in during the Sundays of November so they can be packed and distributed to needy families before Thanksgiving Day. They are also leading the annual clothing drive for the children of Friendship House which is currently underway. "Under construction" is the development of a calendar of church mission activities covering those that are led by the commission and those done independently. If you have a project that should be listed on the calendar, contact Jane Murray. Watch for the Mitten/Hat/Sock tree that will be in the Narthex in December benefiting the men of Settlement House.

WELCOME GISELLE GARCIA

We would like to welcome Giselle Garcia to Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church. Giselle has been hired as our new nursery director, and is responsible for the safety and well-being of children attending our nursery. Giselle will be assisted in the nursery by an HoC volunteer, and she will be working under the direction of Nursery Co-coordinator Laura Reardon.

As a junior University of Delaware student majoring in Early Childhood Education, Giselle has experience working as a preschool teacher for Tutor Time Daycare/Learning Center in Wilmington, where she has her own classroom. She has also worked at Hildebrandt Albright Early Learning Center in Reading, Pennsylvania, and at Olivet Boys and Girls Club in Laureldale, Pennsylvania where she oversaw and directed an after school program. In spring of 2013 she transferred to UD from Albright College in Reading, where she was also majoring in Early Childhood Education.

The HoC nursery is available Sundays from 9:15 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. for infants through age five. It is located in the southeast corner of the Education Building. Please drop by and welcome Giselle to HoC. If you would like to sign up to be a nursery volunteer, please contact Nursery Co-coordinator Mary Jo Mankin, mjo@udel.edu or (302) 292-8377.

Mary Jo Mankin



WELCOME LINDSAY SATTERFIELD

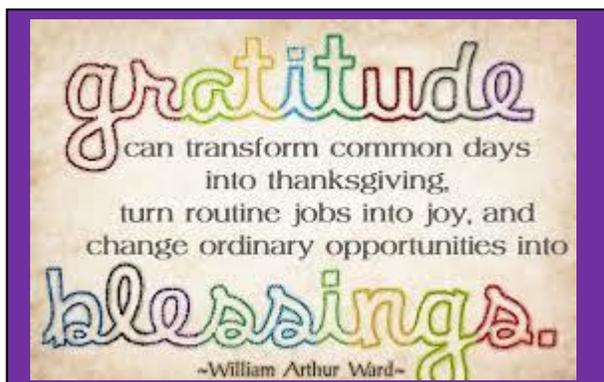
Lindsay is our new apprentice Choir Director. She began making music with Head of Christiana for choir rehearsal on Thursday, October 16 and directed the choir for worship the following Sunday. Lindsay is a senior in music education at the University of Delaware. She is working towards a State of Delaware K-12 Teaching Certification and expects to receive certification this January.

Dr. Paul Head, director of UD choral studies, introduced us to Lindsay via email with these words, *"Lindsay is a VERY strong candidate for your church position ... getting her would be a home run ... she is an outstanding musician with strong personal skills ... she is rock solid, with a strong faith background ... our strongest conducting candidate right now ... I think she is exactly what you are looking for."*

The HoC session-appointed interviewing team of Katie Gillespie, Linnea Raffaele, Kate LeFranc and Bob Undercuffler were quite impressed with Lindsay's qualifications, experience, and eagerness to hone her music-leading skills with our choir and congregation. Further, she values the mentoring that Linnea will provide. We offered the position and Lindsay accepted. And we prayed.

In our interview we discovered a bonus; Lindsay served as Children's Music Intern at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, and she will work with our children, teachers, and parents in enhancing our music-making with children.

Please take a few minutes to greet and welcome Lindsay to HoC.



Did you see the Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church booth at the Newark Community Day event on September 21st?

We had a great group of friendly, smiling and eager H.O.C. volunteers manning the booth to let the Newark Community know that our “little church in the valley” out on Nottingham Road is a great place to meet interesting people, get involved in meaningful missions and most of all, to worship God.



A number of H.O.C. members were also involved with other organizations represented at Newark Community Day. For example, here's David Price recruiting for the Union Army! How did it go, Dave???

Many thanks to all those who made it possible. Booth-minders Merle and John Slack, Judi Alwine, MaryLou Oakes, Betty Kackley, Bob Undercuffler, Lucy Marianiello and Rosemary Haines. And of course all the members of the Outreach Team; Ed Crispin, Kate LeFranc, Lucy Marianiello, Pat Undercuffler, Steve Graham and Alex Oakes.

DOWNES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Bob Undercuffler

Downes Elementary School is seeking Mentors to work “one-with-one” with students who will thrive with a little more direct attention and encouragement.

An orientation is being planned to provide information and basic training for Mentors. The date has not yet been set. Please tell Bob that you're interested in helping.





THE "HOP" EVENT

by Alex Oakes

October 2014

Once again blessed by pleasant weather, the H.O.P.s ventured out to visit **Wheatland**, President (1857-61) James Buchanan's home in Lancaster, Pa. Seemingly little known among presidential residences, Wheatland proved to be a "hidden gem" that has been lovingly maintained with much of the original furniture and décor from President Buchanan's occupancy. Making it even better was the extremely knowledgeable and interesting docent that guided our group through the mansion. Truly, if you haven't been there, ya gotta go!



The "eight-holer" outhouse drew an enormous amount of interest...
"what! no dividers between the seats???"

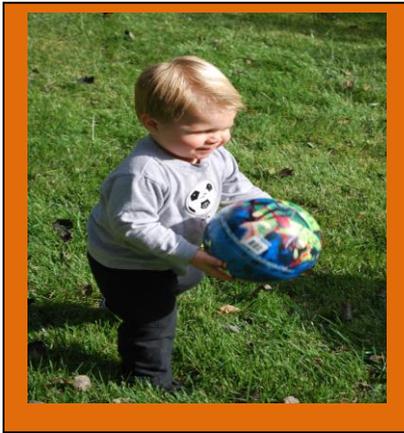


Tuesday, Nov. 11th
a trip to the fabulous
Brandywine River
Museum

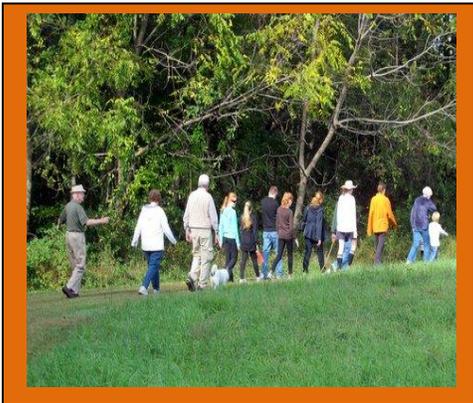
Afterwards, we had great fun discussing it all at The Iron Hill Brewery.



Fall Nature Walk



Fall Nature Walk

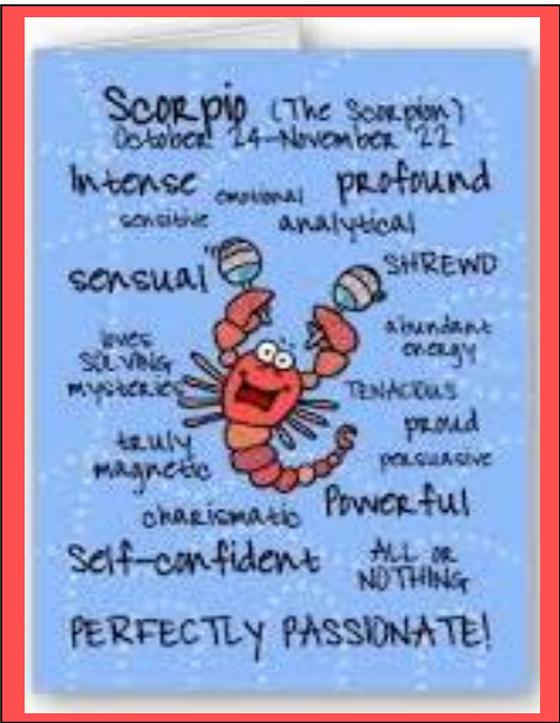


HOC CALENDAR — November Happenings



Sat.	Nov	01	5:30pm	International Night at the Movies
Sat.	Nov	01	Bedtime	Turn your clocks back 1 hour
Sun.	Nov	02	11:00am	All Saints Day Celebrated
Tue.	Nov	03	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission
Tue.	Nov	03	7:00pm	Building & Grounds Commission
Wed.	Nov	05	2:00pm	Care & Fellowship Commission
Wed.	Nov	05	6:00pm	Missions Commission
Sun.	Nov	09	11:00am	Veteran's Day Celebrated
Mon.	Nov	10	6:30pm	Session
Tue.	Nov	11	8:45am	HOP trip to Brandywine River Museum
Tue.	Nov	11	4:00PM	Worship Commission
Wed.	Nov	12	11:00am	Outreach Commission
Thur.	Nov	11	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	(for Dec. Looking Tree)
Fri.	Nov	14	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Tue.	Nov	25	1:00pm	Caregivers' Coffee
Tue.	Nov	25	7:30pm	Interfaith Service @ 1 st Presbyterian Newark (Rev. Kate LeFranc preaching)
Wed.	Nov	26	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's
Thur.	Nov	27	HAPPY THANKSGIVING	

PILOXING CLASS:
 Weds. Nov 5
 Weds. Nov 12
 Weds. Nov 19




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



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
November 2nd

Turn your clocks back 1 hour when you go to bed Saturday night.



November Birthdays

Nov 2	Andre Marianiello	Nov 19	Gerry Cole
Nov 11	Dick Benson	Nov 23	Granville McVey
Nov 13	Melissa Witt	Nov 26	Linda Dunn
Nov 13	Jim Kline	Nov 28	Landon Gill
Nov 16	Lewis Riess	Nov 29	Lillian Crispin
Nov 16	Lauren Riess		