



# The Looking Tree

*Love lives here, Love flows from here...*

**December 2014**

**Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,**



Rev. Bob Undercuffler  
Pastor

Yes, there is a place for you, your family and friends at Head of Christiana. Younger and older, we will delight in the Advent season and Christmas. In the spirit of Head of Christiana and this hope-filled season, let us join in worship and fellowship.

**Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>:** We light the first candle of the Advent Wreath, enjoy the choir's singing "Advent Alleluia" by Douglas E. Wagner and celebrate with Holy Communion. Bob Undercuffler will preach.

**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>:** Advent II features our youth choir singing "A Star, A Song, A Sign" with Lucy Marianiello on flute and Kate LeFranc preaching.

**Sunday afternoon at 4:00pm** we return to the sanctuary for a Concert in Candlelight, featuring the Wilmington Handbell Ensemble. Bring the family. Invite some friends.



Rev. Kate LeFranc  
Associate Pastor

**Saturday, December 13:** Christmas Open House with Bob and Pat Undercuffler. Tasty treats and good fellowship from 2:00pm to 5:00pm at 1161 Kensington Lane, Apt. 1112, Oxford, PA.

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>:** Advent III highlights our choir singing "An Advent Carol" by Jody W. Lindh and Bob preaching. A brief congregational meeting for the election of new officers immediately follows worship, which ends with delicious treats in Chapel Hall prepared by Care and Fellowship.

**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>:** Advent IV amid flowers and our sparkling Christmas tree decorated with hand-crafted Chrismons, we travel closer to Bethlehem with Kate preaching. Karen Marrolli's "O Dayspring" will be the choir's anthem and the Christmas Joy Offering will be received.

**At 2:30pm we will gather in Chapel Hall**, warm-up our voices, set car pools, and **go Christmas Caroling**. For young and older – friends, family and neighbors. All are welcome to join in.

**Christmas Eve at 7:30pm:** Follow luminaries to the sanctuary and worship in candlelight for a service of scripture and carols with meditation by Bob. Christopher Braddock, on guitar and Jean Marie Kolka Braddock, on violin, along with our choir, will offer special music. Music begins at 7:00. The service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

**Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>:** 11:00 a.m. Christmas worship with abundant carols.

**Remember, each Advent Sunday begins with Sunday School for all children, youth and adults at 9:30am.** Nursery and toddler care is available for little ones. Pastors Bob and Kate will lead adults with the "Feasting on the Word" Advent Bible study. The Topics class continues with a six-week study, "Jesus Bombs and Ice Cream" led by Rosi White.

Special giving opportunities which spread Christmas joy to many others include; our **Christmas Joy Offering**, our **Mitten, Cap and Scarf Tree for the Elkton Help Center**, and **Flannel Shirts** distributed by Settlement House along with our donations of **Food for the Christmas Baskets** distributed by Newark Area Welfare Committee.

May this Advent time and Christmas be days to practice peace and goodwill for all.

Grace to you and peace, *Bob* and *Kate*

# WILMINGTON HANDBELL ENSEMBLE



The Wilmington Handbell Ensemble will be our special guests here at HOC performing a concert on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

Free Admission ♥ Goodwill Offering

*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.*



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



## FRAUDULENT EMAILS re: PACKAGE DELIVERIES

Be alert for fraudulent e-mails claiming to be from UPS/FedEx/USPS/DHL regarding a package that could not be delivered. These e-mails ask the receiver to open an attachment in order to obtain the airbill or invoice for picking up the package. The attachment contained in this type of e-mail activates a virus.

**DO NOT OPEN** the attachment. Instead, delete the e-mail immediately.

These fraudulent e-mails are the unauthorized actions of third parties not associated with any of these carriers. When they send e-mails with tracking updates for undeliverable packages, they do not include attachments.

These organizations do not request, via unsolicited mail or e-mail, payment or personal information in return for goods in transit or in their custody.

Read more at <http://www.snopes.com/computer/virus/ups.asp#vS6u8b7oVX6v3Rdz.99>

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU

## Meet Lucy Marianiello and Family

Lucy Aude Marianiello was born in Waterloo, NY to Fritz & Marjorie Aude. She is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 6 children. She lived on the family farm – Finger Lakes Eggs, Inc. where there were 90,000 chickens and many acres of corn. Two-thirds of chickens were laying about 40,000 eggs/day. Her main farm chore was to work an hour or so every afternoon to help package the eggs.

“She started playing flute after 4<sup>th</sup> grade, when she was 10. During the summer of 1979, after 11<sup>th</sup> grade,

she spent 3 weeks touring Europe as a member of one of the United States Collegiate Wind Bands. She continued playing flute in college and has been with the Newark Community Band since 1985.”

After high school, Lucy attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy NY, majoring in Computer Science. In 1982, she had a summer job with IBM in Endicott NY. It is in Endicott where she met her future husband, Delaware native and UD grad, Vince Marianiello. After graduating from RPI, they married on August 4, 1984 and moved to Delaware, in the Glasgow/Bear area. She began working for the DuPont Company; first downtown with Information Systems, and later at Barley Mill Plaza with the Medical Products Department.

Once they began having children, she cut back on her hours at DuPont and worked mainly from home. All four children were born at The Birth Center of Delaware, delivered by midwives. Lucy left DuPont after their 3<sup>rd</sup> child was born once it became clear that DuPont was no longer willing to accommodate a flexible work schedule from home.

In 2001, when their youngest was in preschool, Lucy began working very part-time for The Energy Club, teaching children’s fitness classes at various day-care centers. In 2007, after being the last instructor left, she continued this work, but went out on her own under the business name “Good for You!” With the current economic situation, she has only one class a week at the nearby Willa Road Children’s Center.

In 2003, Lucy began attending Newark Parks & Rec. Stay Fit fitness classes, eventually taking on the role of substitute instructor for two weeks each fall. Many of the class members regularly join her on hikes she leads on the surrounding Delaware State Parks and Fair Hill trails. Her interest in hiking began when the church started having fall nature walks led by John and Aileen Burmeister.

Another interest is in genealogy especially since her aunts found a link that traces her family tree back to Governor William Bradford, from the Mayflower. She is hoping to find the links to officially trace Vince’s family tree back to Elder William Brewster, also of the Mayflower.

Her family’s favorite vacation spot is in Port St. Lucie, Florida, where there is a Club Med village. Lucy has lost track of the number of times her children have used experiences from those vacations for school assignments, ranging from posters to papers to college essays. One of her favorite activities while there is to go up on the flying trapeze. She has completed five tricks, performing in shows on several occasions. Many of her family members have also tried the trapeze. Their most recent trip was this past summer to celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Vince has been teaching accounting, business and tax classes at Delaware Technical Community College in Wilmington for over 25 years. Older son Leo is in his 5<sup>th</sup> year of teaching math classes at Conrad School of Sciences. He was married this past July to Katie Kirkpatrick, who lived with the family for 3 years before the two were married. She is a health teacher at Newark Charter High School. They now own a house in very nearby Fairfield. Younger son Andre is a senior at UD, majoring in computer science. Older daughter Vanessa is a freshman at UD majoring in nursing. Younger daughter Sophia, who regularly attends church with Lucy, is in 11<sup>th</sup> grade at Newark High School and expects to major in engineering. Many of you may remember her 2009 trip to Los Angeles to compete on Kids Jeopardy! hosted by Alex Trebek.

Lucy grew up in a Presbyterian Church and has been a member of HoC since moving to Newark in 1990, when Leo was just 15 months old. During that time she has been on Christian Ed, Music, Outreach, Personnel and Task Force committees and commissions along with singing with the choir and playing her flute in church.



L to R...Andre, Vince, Lucy, Katie, Leo, Vanessa and Sophia

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

### Meet Bob Benedict

Bob Benedict has been a member of Head of Christiana Church for the past 48 years. He has served as Trustee, Elder, and Chair of the Building and Grounds and Care and Fellowship Committees. He grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and lived there until 1962 when he and his wife, Sally, and their three daughters moved to Newark, Delaware where Bob owned and operated Charles Chips of Delaware.



Bob went to Valley Forge Military Academy, graduated from Mercersburg Academy in 1945, and attended Franklin Marshall College and the University of Virginia. He also spent two years in the Army, as well as two years in the National Guard in New Jersey.

Bob was one of the owners of the Red Rose Gun Club in Huntington County, Pennsylvania where he also served as president for 30 of those years. Each summer, he vacationed there with his family. Bob and Sally also enjoyed traveling to Maine to visit their daughter and her family. From the late 1980s through 2010, he and his wife spent every January and February in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Bob is an avid sports fan and enjoys watching the Phillies, Eagles, Penn State and University of Delaware football games. He loves playing golf and bridge and spending time with his family.

The highlights of his life were 61 loving years of marriage to Sally, and the birth of this three daughters, Staci, Peggy and Robin. Bob also has six grandchildren, 5 step-grandchildren, and one great grandchild. In 1936 he attended the inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt and vividly remembers Pearl Harbor and the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Feasting on the Word bible study classes continue into our new year, so here are the texts we'll be preaching on for the month of January:

**Jan. 04 - John 1: (1-9), 10-18**

**Jan. 08 & 11 - Mark 1:4-11**

**Jan. 15 & 18 - Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)**

**Jan. 22 & 25 - Mark 1:14-20**



FEASTING  
on the WORD™

## CARE AND FELLOWSHIP

*Jeane Hastings*

We had a great time at our Movie Night! The food was delicious and the movie, "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," memorable. We hope to have a bigger turnout next time.

A new sign-up sheet for coffee hours in 2015 is in the Narthex. Check it out and help Care and Fellowship by signing up for a time or two.

Care and Fellowship will be hosting a reception following the Wilmington Handbell Ensemble concert on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Please come down after the concert and enjoy the treats.

Save the Date! January 25<sup>th</sup> will be the Annual Congregational Meeting. Care and Fellowship will be serving a soup luncheon in place of coffee hour that day. We hope everyone can attend.

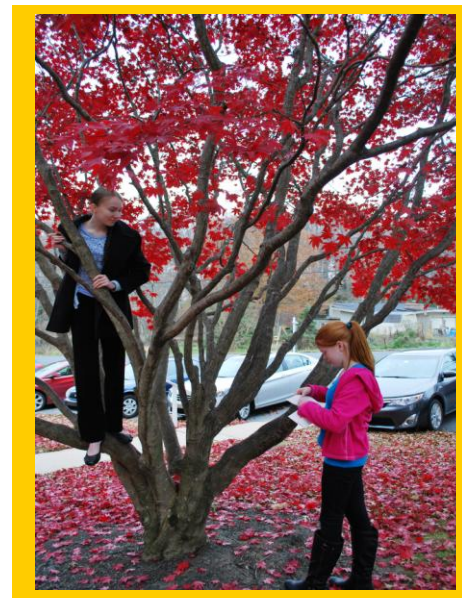
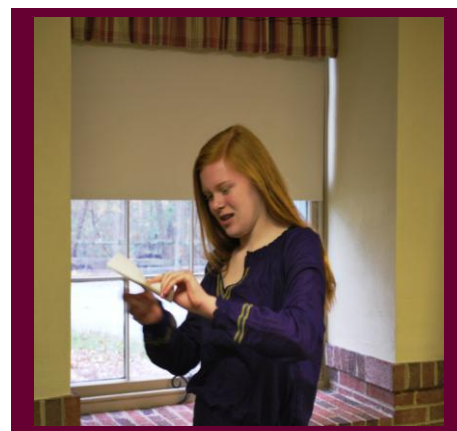


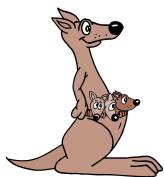
# SUNDAY SCHOOL SCAVENGER HUNT

*Becky Condliffe*

On Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, we started to wrap up our unit on the Ten Commandments. We might have one more week to work on it so we are ready to return to the curriculum in time for Advent. Anyway, there were ten clues, each related to each of the commandments. As you can see from the pictures, it took them to the sanctuary, chapel room, graveyard, bell, basement, etc. It was hard to keep up with them!

The class has had a lot of fun with this. Good discussion and interaction from everyone.





# THE "HOP" EVENT

by Alex Oakes

## November 2014

This month's H.O.P. trip took us to the Brandywine River Museum of Art with guided tours of both the museum and Andrew Wyeth's studio. The studio had been his home for quite a while and many mementos of his life are still there, now to be enjoyed by all. Looking past the mementos at his somewhat stark studio and seeing the view out the windows at the Chester County countryside you could truly see where Andrew Wyeth got the inspiration for many of his works.



Back at the museum we were guided through the galleries of N.C, Andrew and Jamie Wyeth paintings (plus some other artists). The quality, quantity and varied styles of the artwork was spellbinding.

After the tours we had lunch in the museum cafeteria where we could watch the Brandywine River flow by through its beautiful valley on its way to join the Christina and the Delaware.

*"Not Juniata's rocky tide  
That bursts its mountains barriers wide,  
Nor Susquehanna broad and fair,  
Nor thou, sea-drinking Delaware;  
Nay with that lovely stream compare  
That draws its winding silver line  
Through Chester's storied vales and hills,  
The bright, the laughing Brandywine..."*

- Thomas Buchanan Read

## The Story Behind “I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY”

One of America's best known poets, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), contributed to the wealth of carols sung each Christmas season, when he composed the words to *"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"* on December 25, 1864. The carol was originally a poem, *"Christmas Bells,"* containing seven stanzas. Two stanzas were omitted, (containing references to the American Civil War), thus giving us the carol in its present form. When Longfellow penned the words to his poem, his poem reflected the prior years of the war's despair, while ending with a confident hope of triumphant peace.

*"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"* flowed from the experience of Longfellow -- involving the tragic death of his wife Fanny and the crippling injury of his son Charles from war wounds. Henry married Frances Appleton on July 13, 1843. They were blessed with the birth of their first child, Charles, on June 9th 1844, and eventually, the Longfellow household numbered five children -- Charles, Ernest, Alice, Edith, and Allegra. Alice, their third child and first daughter, was delivered while her mother was under the anesthetic influence of ether-- the first in North America.

Tragedy struck both the nation and the Longfellow family in 1861. Confederate Gen. Pierre G. T. Beauregard fired the opening salvos of the American Civil War on April 12th, and Fanny Longfellow was fatally burned in an accident in the library of Craigie House on July 10th. Fanny decided to preserve the clippings of 7yr old Edith's hair in sealing wax. A few drops fell unnoticed on her dress and a breeze ignited the material immediately wrapping her in flames. To protect Edith and Allegra, she ran to Henry's study, where Henry frantically attempted to extinguish the flames. He tried to smother the flames by throwing his arms around her -- severely burning his face, arms, and hands. Fanny died the next morning. Too ill from his burns and grief, Henry did not attend her funeral. (Incidentally, the trademark full beard of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow arose from his inability to shave after this tragedy.)

A year later, Longfellow received word that his oldest son Charles, a lieutenant in the Army of the Potomac, had been severely wounded. The Christmas of 1863 was silent in Longfellow's journal. Finally, on Christmas Day of 1864, he wrote the words of the poem, "Christmas Bells." The re-election of Abraham Lincoln or the possible end of the terrible war may have been the occasion for the poem. Lt. Charles Longfellow did not die that Christmas, but lived. So, contrary to popular belief, the occasion of writing that much loved Christmas carol was not due to Charles' death.

Longfellow's *"Christmas Bells"* loudly proclaimed, *"God is not dead."* Even more, the bells announced, *"Nor doth He sleep."* God's Truth, Power, and Justice are affirmed, when Longfellow wrote: *"The wrong shall fail, the right prevail."* The message that the Living God is a God of Peace is proclaimed in the close of the carol: *"Of peace on Earth, good will to men."*

### Christmas Bells

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!  
And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!  
Till ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!  
Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!  
It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!  
And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!"  
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men."

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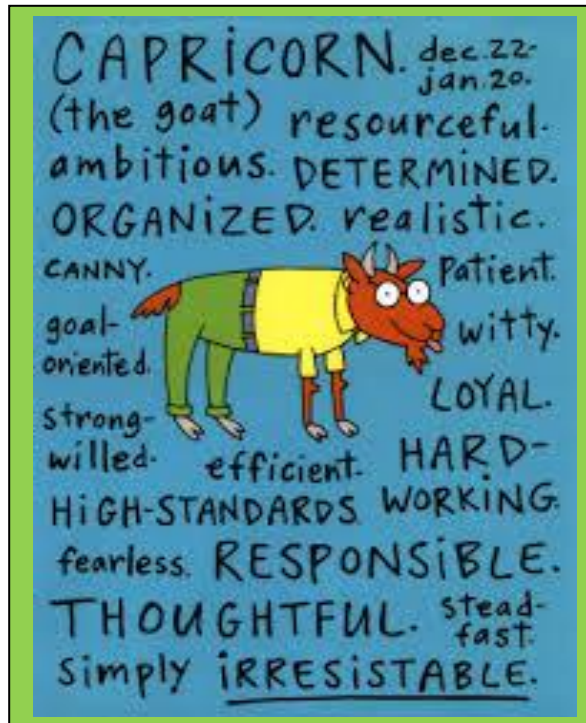
# HOC CALENDAR — December Happenings



|              |            |           |   |  |
|--------------|------------|-----------|---|--|
| Mon.         | Dec        | 01        | 7:00pm  | Admin & Finance Commission                     |
| Mon.         | Dec        | 01        | 7:00pm  | Building & Grounds Commission                  |
| Wed.         | Dec        | 03        | 11:00am   | Outreach Commission                            |
| Wed.         | Dec        | 03        | 11:30pm   | Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's                         |
| Wed.         | Dec        | 03        | 5:00pm  | Care & Fellowship @ Rosi's                     |
| Wed.         | Dec        | 03        | 6:00pm  | Missions Commission                            |
| Sun.         | Dec        | 07        | 4:00pm  | Wilmington Handbell Ensemble concert at HoC    |
| Mon.         | Dec        | 08        | 6:30pm  | Session Retreat (Chapel Room)                  |
| Tue.         | Dec        | 09        | 4:00PM  | Worship Commission                             |
| Tue.         | Dec        | 09        | <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (for Jan/Feb Looking Tree)</b> |  |
| Wed.         | Dec        | 10        | 9:45am  | HOP trip to Fulton Theatre ("White Christmas") |
| Fri.         | Dec        | 12        | 12:00pm   | Hope Dining Room                               |
| Wed.         | Dec        | 24        | 7:30pm  | Christmas Eve Service (music begins at 7:00pm) |
| <b>Thur.</b> | <b>Dec</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>                                |  |
| Tue.         | Dec        | 30        | 1:00pm  | Caregiver's Luncheon                           |

**CHOIR PRACTICE EVERY THURSDAY AT 7:30PM**

**PILOXING CLASS:**  
 Weds. Dec 3  
 Weds. Dec 10  
 Weds. Dec 17



## December Birthdays

|        |                 |        |                   |
|--------|-----------------|--------|-------------------|
| Dec 1  | Dawn Riess      | Dec 21 | Andre Gill        |
| Dec 5  | Nicole Gill     | Dec 28 | Carolyn Brunner   |
| Dec 5  | Richard Murray  | Dec 28 | Jillian Gillespie |
| Dec 11 | Ruth Montgomery | Dec 28 | Annabelle Huffman |