

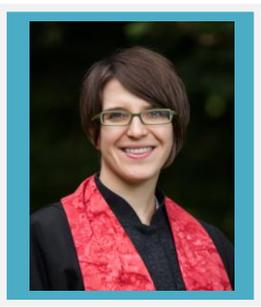


The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

July 2015

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Kate LeFranc
Associate Pastor

As I set off in this new chapter of my life, entering the world of academia, several of you have asked me about the bigger picture of my journey: whether this means I'm staying in pastoral ministry, pursuing an academic career, planning to continue preaching, going to be a writer, or what exactly? The answer is really "all of the above," and I'm still figuring out just what that looks like.

The thing that's most driving me back to school is a desire to continue exploring some particular theological questions around the ways we understand Jesus' life and death in the modern era. Our theories of atonement (that is, the way we talk about how exactly Jesus' death saves us) are particularly based on understandings of God and humanity that come from the medieval period. There has been a lot of change since then in the way we understand who God is, but I'm not quite satisfied with any of the explanations yet for how Jesus' death fits into these more contemporary theologies.

These could be completely theoretical, academic arguments, but that's not what I'm looking for. Theology is interesting to me because it shapes how we relate to each other both inside and outside the church, how we read the Bible, and how we identify priorities for our lives and for our ministries as Christians. I am not leaving ministry in order to do theology; I am doing theological work in order to preach and teach a more complete and more understandable gospel, especially to people who have been uncomfortable with the messages they've gotten from the church so far.

What that means practically speaking, I haven't quite figured out yet. I know I want to write, and I hope to make some important contribution to the emerging field of *Queer Theology*. I also know that my work is not just academic, and I am still a pastor at heart. I love preaching in particular, and it has been such a joy to hone my preaching skills with you at Head of Christiana, and to know that you're (at least sometimes) hearing the Word preached through me. I am hoping to connect with the Presbytery of San Francisco to find a community to work with or preach with at least occasionally.

Or, you know, God may have something a little different in store. I have daydreamed about the possibility of gathering folks for brunch and informal worship in my new apartment in Berkeley, and it may well be that I end up with a full-fledged new worshiping community on my hands – though this feels like an absurdly ambitious goal to take on, especially when I'm also entering a doctoral program! But in any case, the theological work I want to do is not something I'll be able to do in isolation, and it will be very important for me to keep challenging myself not to become trapped in my work, for personal reasons as well as intellectual ones.

I thank you for all of your encouragements and affirmations in this new stage of my ministry, and my prayers are with you as I go! Together we have made great strides in imagining what the future might look like for Head of Christiana, and you are left in the capable and visionary hands of Bob, the Presbytery staff, and your future leaders. May Christ's peace be with you!

Kate

WHAT'S A SUMMER SAMPLER?

Mary Jo Mankin



Partnering with the Chesapeake Bay Girl Scout Council, HoC will provide a five week scouting activity for area Girl Scouts from Daisies through Cadets (ages 5 through 12). Council refers to the program as a “sampler” because it allows girls who want to be scouts, but have not yet found a troop, to experience a sample of what it is like to be a Girl Scout. Plus, it gives previously registered scouts an opportunity to earn badges and sing campfire songs in the summer, when most troops don’t meet. The program will be five Tuesday nights, and will run weekly from Tuesday, July 7, through Tuesday, August 4, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Council marketed the program, first targeting girls interested in joining a troop and potential leaders. Then existing troops from Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania were contacted. Council provided support during the planning meetings and older scouts were trained to help younger girls with the badge work.

The Summer Sampler “kick off” was a campfire Sing-Along led by HoC choir director, Lindsay Satterfield, on June 23. One half hour before the event was to start a wicked storm blew in and knocked out the electricity. So with it pouring rain and windy outside, and no lights inside, the Girl Scouts came to the Sing-Along. The “be prepared” adult Girl Scouts of HoC rose to the occasion and brought out candles and flashlights and continued with the Sing-Along. Later in the evening, the storm receded some and the girls were able to go outside and roast marshmallows for S’mores. A canvas gazebo was set up to protect the food and scouts from the light rain. The event came to its conclusion with neither electricity nor air conditioning, but the scouts left with smiles on their faces.

The badges offered at the Summer Sampler are: *Artistic* (led by Pastor Kate LeFranc), *First Aid* (led by nurses Pat Undercuffler and Michelle Metcalf), and *Girl Scout Way* (led by Mary Jo Mankin). In addition, scouts will earn the *My Promise, My Faith* pin. For the badges, there will be three stations set up, one for each badge. Girls go to the station for the badge they want to complete and perform the requirement for their level for that week. Each badge has five requirements, with at least one requirement offered each week. Ambitious girls can get to more than one station during the allotted time to complete all 3 badges. After badge work is snack time where the girls will enjoy a snack together and learn about their own and different faith communities, and how much these faith communities have in common with Girl Scouting. Through this activity, girls will earn the *My promise, My Faith* pin. Pastor Bob will be leading this activity. At evenings’ end, the girls will sing songs around the campfire (actually a fire pit), led by HoC choir director, Lindsay, and accompanied by her sister Lali, on the guitar. The evening will conclude with Taps and the friendship circle.

You Can Help!

The Sing-Along and five weeks Sampler have taken an immense amount of planning and cooperation. Volunteers are still needed to provide snacks and water as well as resources like art and first aid supplies. If you would like to donate supplies, your time, or money, please contact Mary Jo Mankin, mjo@udel.edu or (302) 292-8377. There is also a comprehensive list of needed items in the Narthex so you can get a good idea of specific items we need.

Members of the Sampler planning committee are Bob and Pat Undercuffler, Kate LeFranc, Mary Jo and Mark Mankin, Lindsay Satterfield, Michelle Metcalf (Council liaison and troop leader), Deb Froelich (Michelle’s assistant leader), and Stacey Roberts (Council representative).



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Meet John Burmeister

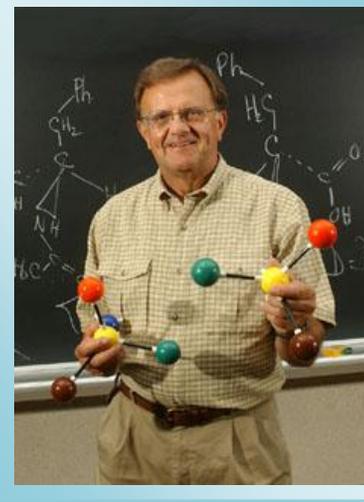
My journey of faith has been as convoluted as my professional trajectory has been straight. Born on February 20, 1938 to a Lutheran father and a Fundamentalist (Christian Assembly) mother in Fountain Springs (Schuylkill County), PA, I was baptized and confirmed Lutheran. However, through high school (Butler Township), I was a very active worshiper at the only Protestant church in our little village - Christ Congregational Church. Its Pastor, the late Rev. Irvin Lindemuth, played a major role in molding and nurturing my faith in God and Jesus Christ. Upon marrying my dear wife, Aileen, in 1960, it became obvious that I needed to switch to Presbyterianism. When we moved to Newark (Nottingham Green) in 1964, we joined the First Presbyterian Church, but moved our membership to Head of Christiana when we subsequently moved to Covered Bridge Farms in 1968. Both our daughter, Lisa, and son, Jeff, were faithful attendees at HOC until they left for college.

I played a significant role in HOC governance from the start of our membership, serving six three-year terms as Ruling Elder. For the past several decades, my attention has shifted to the choir, where I have been an eager, albeit unskilled, member of the bass section.

I became a chemist from the moment I opened the Gilbert Chemistry Set given to me by my parents. My lone chemistry class at Butler Twp. opened the gates of understanding. Thence followed a B.S. in Chemistry from Franklin and Marshall College (1959), funded entirely by a scholarship from the Union Carbide Corp. I earned my Ph.D. in Chemistry at Northwestern University, under the mentorship of Prof. Fred Basolo in 1963. After serving as an Instructor at the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign for a year, I began my career in 1964 at the University of Delaware, where I am the Alumni Distinguished Professor of Chemistry — the longest-serving faculty member currently active. For the past 41 years, I have served as our Department's first (and only) Associate Chair, in charge of its undergraduate program — currently the 11th largest CHEM/BIOC program (out of 653) in the U.S.

Lisa and her husband, Dan (Boehm) are the parents of our three granddaughters (Lauren, Emily and Amanda), living in North Andover, MA. Jeff is an Associate Professor and Director of Biomedical Engineering at the University of the Pacific, in Stockton, CA.

One final editorial comment: while I am not in agreement with the recent action of the PCUSA, redefining marriage, I have continued to worship at HOC, because I feel —strongly— that the people making up the Body of Christ in our congregation are more important to my discipleship than is any change in official Church doctrine.



CARE AND FELLOWSHIP COMMISSION

Jeanne Hastings

Mark Your Calendars!

**Please join us on Sunday, August 2nd
to honor and say "good-bye" to Pastor Kate
during our Coffee Hour after worship service.**

Don't Forget...

Mission: Discovery Continues...

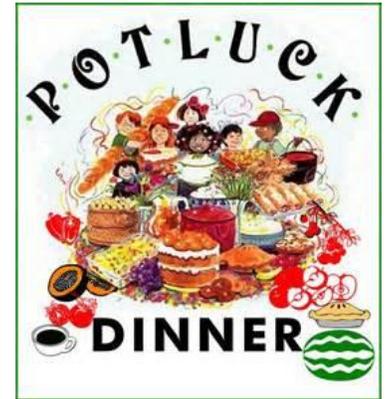
on July 9th and 10th

Thursday, July 9th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm there will be:

- ▶ A Pot Luck dinner for ALL of God's Children – Please bring a side dish or dessert...
- ▶ Sloppy Joes will be provided!
- ▶ Classes for children, youth and adults.

Friday, July 10th at 11:45am, the youth will serve lunch at Hope Dining Room followed by an activity at HoC, and finally ending with a sleepover.

Please plan on joining us as we discover God's love through mission at Head of Christiana!



Congratulations Lindsay

Twelve students in a variety of disciplines were recently honored by the University of Delaware's Center for Secondary Teacher Education as this year's outstanding student teachers.

The center awards its *Outstanding Student Teacher Certificate* to recognize those who have demonstrated exceptional skill and creativity in developing rapport with students, planning and executing lessons, and incorporating suggestions and new ideas into teaching practice.

In Music Education, our very own *Choir Director, Lindsay Satterfield*, Brandywine Springs School and Bel Air High School, received this outstanding honor.

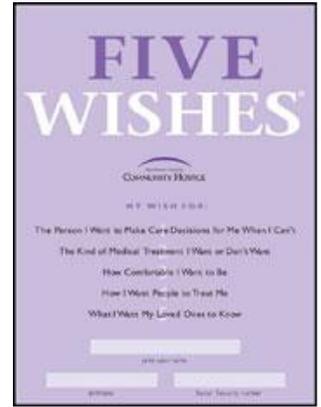


Lindsay Satterfield is second from the left in this photo with four other recipients.

CONVERSATIONS MATTER...

I was listening to a program on the radio while I was driving to Wilmington a few weeks ago. The commentator noted, "Although most Americans say they wish to die at home, about 75% of them will die in a hospital." Often our families are not sure what we would like because we have never sat down to talk to them to let them know our thoughts.

One good tool is called, "Five Wishes." It's a 12-page form that can be downloaded from the Internet. It is the first living will that talks about your personal, emotional, and spiritual needs, as well as your medical wishes. When filled out and shared, it could help you start the conversation with your family. It is legal and binding in most of the states.



The Patient Self-Determination Act requires hospitals and other healthcare institutions receiving medical reimbursement to provide us with written information about our legal rights to participate in medical decisions, including the right to accept or refuse treatment, and to formalize our wishes by completing an Advance Health Care Directive.

I would like to plan a meeting in the fall that helps us explore living wills, advance health care directives, durable power of attorney, how to get help staying as comfortable as possible at home rather than going to the hospital, and what our rights are as residents of Maryland, Delaware or Pennsylvania.

If you would like to participate and gather information about how we can be proactive in our health matters, let me know either at church, by phone (610.467.1310), or via email: psu.rnc58@zoominternet.net.

DON'T MISS THIS

Alex Oakes, Outreach Commission

Wednesday, July 15 @ 7:00pm

The Newark Community Band Evening Concert Under the Trees

Back by popular request, the Newark Community Band will once again fill the air at Head of Christiana PC with amazing music that everyone can enjoy! Bring a lawn chair or blanket. And yes, the Moo Mobile will be back!!! Good-will donations only.



BLUE ROCKS TICKETS

Mark Mankin

Tickets are still on sale for our trip to go see the Wilmington Blue Rocks play against the Potomac Nationals on **Tuesday, August 18th**.

Tickets cost \$20.00 per person and includes light snacks and beverages. The game starts at 6:35pm. Please make your checks payable to Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church (note "Blue Rocks tickets" in the memo line).

Contact Mark Mankin at mankin579@comcast.net to reserve your tickets, or talk to him at church. First come, first served.





"Hoppy"

THE "HOP" EVENT

MOUNT CUBA

The Sun was shining, the birds were singing and the flowers were beautiful and fragrant. It was a wonderful day for a HOP trip to visit one of the outdoor delights of Delaware. The Mt. Cuba Center consists of nearly 550 acres located in Delaware's Appalachian Piedmont. The natural areas there comprise steeply rolling hills, stream valleys, rocky outcrops, and deciduous forests. As a former DuPont estate, there are of course formal gardens as well as fantastic natural areas to tour. And the HOPs were there at the very best time of the year.



We were seventeen strong.



The Artists became art...

Next month.....Tyler Arboretum

HOC YOUTH PRESENT...

Back in early May, our youth were studying the Acts of the Apostles. It all started with the miracle at the beautiful gate...

They put together a mini-movie on their iPhones.

Cast of Characters:

Sophia as Peter

Nicole as John

Abby as the priest who arrests them

Charlotte as the lame man at the gate who is healed

Andre as a man in the crowd who is amazed by what he sees



Abby Condliffe (priest) trying on costumes



Sophia Marianiello as the Apostle Peter, getting ready to tell the crowd that the miracle at the gate is not by his hand but by the hand of God.



Nicole Gill as Apostle John, silently but steadfastly providing support for all that Peter declares.



Charlotte Condliffe as the disheveled and lame man who begs at the Beautiful Gate.



Nicole Gill, (John) following Peter to the Beautiful Gate on the way to the temple



Andre Gill, amazed crowd member, getting ready for his big scene!



Sophia Marianiello (Peter), "Listen up, folks!"



Charlotte Condliffe
(the lame beggar),
*"hey buddy, can
you spare a dime?"*



Abby Condliffe,
working on her
lines as the
priest



Abby takes the camera as Sophia (Peter)
talks to the lame man (Charlotte)



The crowd
(Andre)
assembles as
they witness the
miracle at the
Beautiful Gate



One more bow for the audience—
this time "in character!"

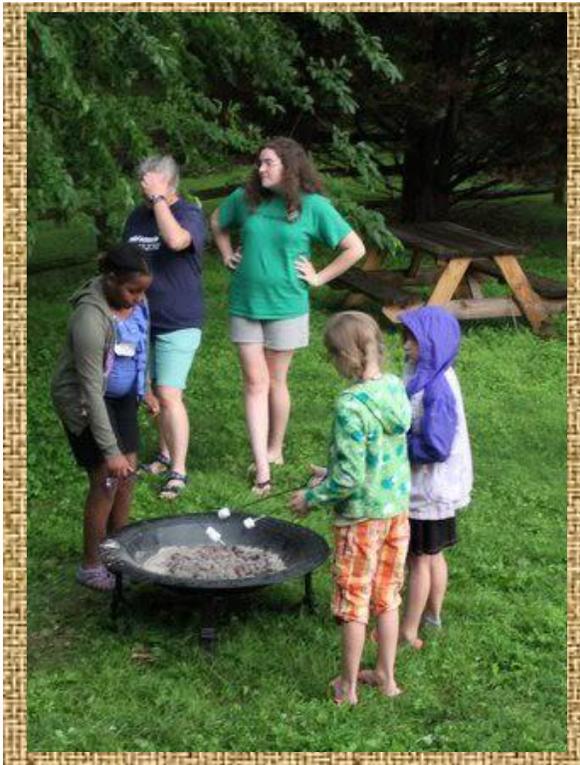


Lining up to take a bow, (Abby, Andre,
Sophia, Nicole and Charlotte)



During a thunderstorm the power went out, so candles and flashlights saved the day. The Girl Scouts were prepared! The evening progressed as planned.

Nothing better than S'mores to end an evening of fellowship and fun!



Lindsay and Lali lead the girls in a fun Sing-Along.

HOC CALENDAR — July Happenings

Save
the
Date

Wednesday	Jul	1	11:00am	Outreach Commission
Saturday	Jul	4	HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY	
Monday	Jul	6	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission
Monday	Jul	6	7:00pm	Building & Grounds Commission
Tuesday	Jul	7	9:00am	HOP trip to Landis Valley Museum
Tuesday	Jul	7	6:00pm	Mission Commission
Tuesday	Jul	7	6:30pm	Girl Scout "Summer Sampler"
Friday	Jul	10	12:00pm	Youth Serving @ Hope Dining Room
Tuesday	Jul	14	4:00pm	Worship Commission
Tuesday	Jul	14	6:30pm	Girl Scouts "Summer Sampler"
Tuesday	Jul	14	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (for June)	
Wednesday	Jul	15	7:00pm	Newark Community Band Concert
Tuesday	Jul	21	6:30pm	Girl Scouts "Summer Sampler"
Wednesday	Jul	22	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's
Wednesday	Jul	28	6:30pm	Girl Scouts "Summer Sampler"



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

July Birthdays



July 2	Erin DePaul	July 10	David Price
July 3	Travis Christian	July 13	Esther Bowser
July 8	Katherine Brook	July 26	Kelly DePaul
July 9	Debbie Reeves	July 28	Virginia Cullum
July 10	Betty Kackley	July 28	Aileen Murray
July 10	Sarah Tipton		