



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

Jan./Feb. 2016



Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Since the earliest days of the church, Christians await the arrival of the true Light. They say or speak “*Maranatha*,” often translated, “*Our Lord, Come.*” (1 Corinthians 16:22). Closer examination of the word in its original Aramaic suggests that *Maranatha* may be two words, with differing translations: (please stick with me on this)...

- marana tha** — the imperative form oriented toward the future, translates as: “Come, our Lord!”
- maran atha** - the perfect form expressing a completed event in the past, translates as: “Our Lord has come.”

So to cry “*Maranatha*” during these holy days between Advent—Christmastide—Epiphany emphasizes both our remembering of the past and our hope for the future. We expectantly wait for the One who has already come.

- We anticipate the promised justice of God’s new world, yet we praise God who rules with justice and righteousness.
- We hope for the restoration of the afflicted and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ.
- We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared.
- We yearn for the barren deserts of our cities to flourish, yet we trace streams and blossoms in the desert.
- We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we praise the child born to lead us into the Promised Land.

Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! In these days we are living in a dynamic tension between memory and hope, past and future. *Maranatha* may be the perfect shout of faith and hope as we embrace “the new thing” foretold by Isaiah (Isa. 43:19) that God is doing among us right now.

May we have eyes to see. And ears to hear.

Maranatha!

Bob



MANY THANKS

Mission Commission



Thank you so much for all the donations for the Christmas baskets to the Newark Area Welfare Committee, Elkton Food Closet, and Deep Roots.

We collected many, many bags of food and sixteen turkeys were donated. And we also received financial support for the baskets.

You are always very supportive of our Mission projects. We send heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you.

Judie and Phil Alwine delivered the food to NAWC and Deep Roots.

Brian Huffman delivered to Elkton Food Closet.

Rosemarie White collected turkeys and delivered to the freezer plant to store for Christmas Baskets and delivered money to NAWC.

God Bless you all for making this a very merry Christmas for many.

Judie, Phil, Brian and Rosi

HARP CONCERT

Alex Oakes

HOC hosts the Brandywine Harp
Orchestra for a

CHRISTMAS ADVENT CONCERT

December 6, 2015

With many helping hands great things can happen.
Thanks to all our willing volunteers from HOC the 2015
Harp Concert was a resounding success!

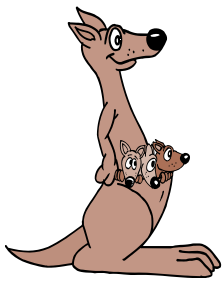


DECORATING OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TREE



As you can see, a fun time was had
by all...Fa La La La La La La La La!
Merry Christmas
and
Happy new Year!
*Charlotte, Abby, Sophia
and André*





"Hoppy"

The "HOP" Event

On December 8, 2015 the HOP's attended...

The AMERICAN MUSIC THEATER'S Spectacular

Submitted by Alex Oakes

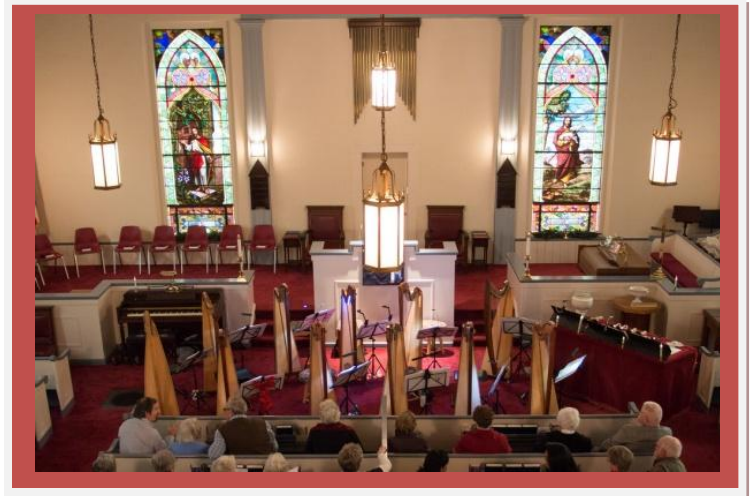


What better way to usher in the holiday spirit than with the fabulous Christmas musical show at one of the area's best live theater productions. And so, after fortifying ourselves with lunch at Strasburg's Fireside Tavern, the Happy Older Presbyterians ventured to Lancaster, PA to catch the matinee where the lively cast made amazing music.

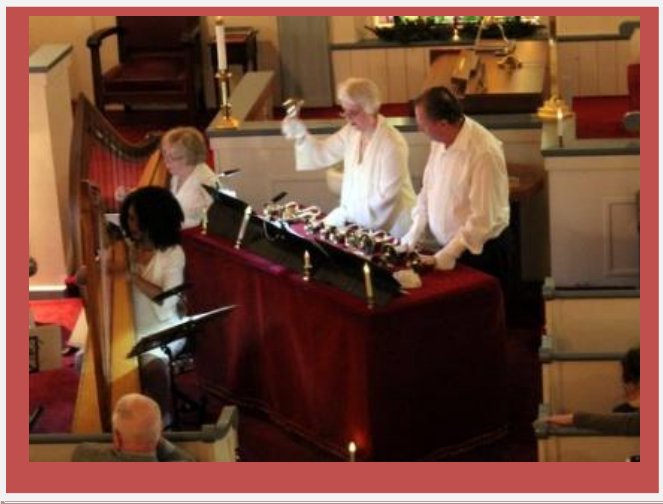


Next Month: We'll be having our annual "decisions" luncheon where you'll vote on 2016's destinations. So write down your ideas and give them to Kay Brook or myself and we'll put them on the list to be voted upon. If you have any brochures, be sure to bring them so everyone can look them over before the vote.

2016 Brandywine Harp Concert



2016 Brandywine Harp Concert



HOC CALENDAR — January Happenings

Sunday	Jan	3	11:00am	Tom Stout, Guest Preacher
Monday	Jan	4	7:00pm	Admin and Finance Commission
Tuesday	Jan	5	6:00pm	Mission Commission
Wednesday	Jan	6	1:00pm	Worship Commission
Wednesday	Jan	6	2:30pm	Care and Fellowship Commission
Friday	Jan	8	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Sunday	Jan	10	11:00am	Edwin Estevez, Guest Preacher
Sunday	Jan	10	12:00pm	Meeting to discuss opportunities for faithful investing
Tuesday	Jan	12	10:30am	HOP Decisions 2016 Meeting in Chapel Room
Tuesday	Jan	12	6:30pm	Session
Tuesday	Jan	12	LOOKING TREE DEADLINE	
Wednesday	Jan	13	11:00am	Outreach Commission
Sunday	Jan	24	12:00pm	Annual Congregational Meeting (Care and Fellowship Soup Luncheon to follow)
Sat	Jan	28	5:30pm	Care & Fellowship Movie Night (TBA)
Wednesday	Jan	27	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's



February 10, 2016
Ash Wednesday
7:30pm service
Make note on your calendars.

CHOIR PRACTICE — THURSDAYS — 7:30PM

Elkton Community Kitchen Update! Per request by the ECK this year, we will be serving lunch at the Elkton Community Kitchen on Friday, February 26. Mark your calendars now for this important mission event. *Alex Oakes*



May Hope, Peace, Joy
 and Love be your
 blessings in the New
 Year and always.



January Birthdays

Your birthday always comes
 as we start another year,
 January is your month
 your special day is here.
 It's the middle of the winter
 most days are cold and dreary,
 so here's a birthday wish for you
 that your day is bright and cheery!

- Jan 7 Dee Benson
- Jan 8 Lucy Marianiello
- Jan 12 Rosemarie White
- Jan 16 Jeffrey Burmeister
- Jan 21 Simon Condliffe
- Jan 26 Richard Brautigam
- Jan 27 Michael Christian
- Jan 28 Ann Cool

