



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

June 2017

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Pastor Hilary Livingston

Pentecost – The “Birthday of the Church”

We are approaching Pentecost – a time when we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the early followers of Jesus in Jerusalem. Pentecost originated in the Jewish tradition, and was known as *Shavuot* or “The Feast of Weeks”—a prominent feast in the calendar of ancient Israel celebrating the giving of the Law to Moses at Sinai.

In many Christian traditions, Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter (the original Jewish feast of Pentecost was celebrated 50 days after Passover). The liturgical color for Pentecost is red. Traditionally, Christians wear red in worship on Pentecost to symbolize the tongues of fire that descended upon the early followers who were receiving the out-

pouring of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is often called “**the birthday of the church**” because it is the day when Jesus’ followers together received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as promised by God. They became Jesus’ witnesses, preaching the good news of his life, death and resurrection to everyone in the power of the Spirit. Together, they carried on the work of God’s Kingdom, and gathered together for prayer, fellowship, teaching and worship. This is the same work the church is to carry on today.

The story of the first Pentecost is recorded in the Bible in the Book of Acts. On the Jewish feast of Pentecost, the disciples were gathered. “*And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability*” (Acts 2:2-4). After Peter’s rousing sermon, the people ask how they should respond, and Peter replies, “*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him*” (Acts 2:38-39). After this, those who accepted this message were baptized, and “*they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers*” (Acts 2:42).

Pentecost is a special season of hope for Christians. Often we get discouraged in our work. We lament that people don’t come to church the way they used to. Society doesn’t seem as interested in God or Jesus or the Bible like it did in the past. Pentecost reminds us that God is still at work in our world and in our church. Early followers of Jesus faced many of the same issues we face – they too lived in a culture that was hostile to Jesus. At times, it was difficult to be a follower of Jesus. Yet, the early church had the power of the Holy Spirit. They had the teachings of the Apostles. They had each other. They prayed and had fellowship with one another. And, by God’s grace, others continued to join them in their mission. We have the same Holy Spirit the first Christians had. We have the Apostles’ teaching, and we have each other. We can carry on the same mission to which Jesus called and empowered the first Christians on that Pentecost Sunday long ago. Let us live into the hope of Pentecost!

Blessings,

Hilary

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Hilary Livingston and Debbie Harper



During worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 4th, we will be honoring our Christian Education students and teachers, and receiving confirmation students into full church membership.

It will be a special celebration of our young people and those who have nurtured their faith. We hope everyone will plan to attend!

Your Worship Commission invites everyone to get into the spirit of renewal that comes with Pentecost by bringing **RED** geraniums to decorate the sanctuary on Sunday, June 4, they would be most welcome. The geraniums will then be planted outside the church afterwards.



SESSION NEWS

John Brook

The Personnel Committee has completed the six month evaluation of our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Hilary E. Livingston. Twenty one of you participated, and the committee appreciates your thoughtful and reasoned comments. Those comments were overwhelmingly positive with full agreement that the duties set forth in the job description were being performed in an excellent manner. The committee concluded that Hilary is well-qualified and a good fit for our congregation, and believes that her level of performance and service is outstanding! Dr. Livingston concurs that she feels welcome and at home with our congregation.

The committee recommended that necessary steps be undertaken to change her relationship with us from "Temporary" to "Installed" Pastor. Your Session, expressing full confidence that Dr. Livingston is a good fit, well-qualified and ably conducts all aspects of her ministry, unanimously approved a resolution on May 8, 2017 to initiate the procedures necessary to achieve her installation as our Pastor.

The first step in this process is to obtain the approval of the Committee on Ministry. That approval will be followed by a vote by our congregation. The final step in the process will be a vote at the next available Presbytery meeting. We will continue to keep you informed as the process moves forward.

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Recently we were notified by Verizon that they would no longer be handling email. They gave their customers the choice of having Verizon switch them over to aol, or we could opt to go with a different provider. I decided to go with Outlook because I have used them for years on my personal computer and have had very few problems with it.

By now you should notice any email you receive from me will carry an alert that my email address will be changing and to make note of it — this also affects the church's email address.

Please make note of the changes and start using new addresses:

For Head of Christiana PC formerly: headofchristiana@verizon.net new: headofchristiana@outlook.com
For Nancy Crawford formerly: nancy.hoc@verizon.net new: nancy.hoc@outlook.com

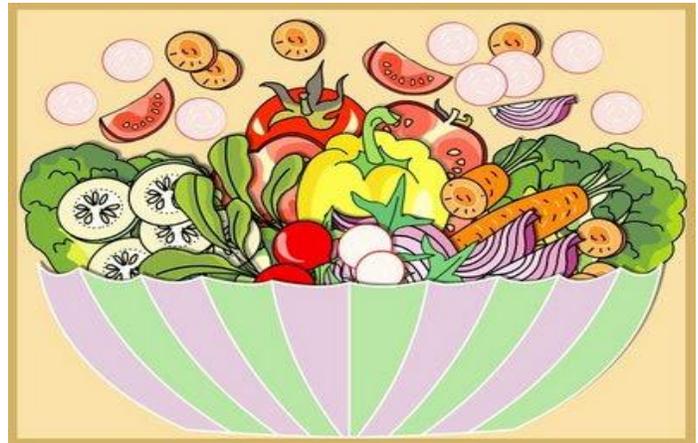
C & F HOSTS SALAD LUNCHEON

Jeanne Walter-Hastings

Salad Luncheon

June 11 after church

Please join us after church on June 11th for a salad luncheon. **Everyone is invited to bring a salad to share.**



Any variety of salad is great — vegetable, fruit, pasta, potato, protein — the only limitation is your imagination. Care and Fellowship will provide drinks and breads.

CARE AND FELLOWSHIP

Jeanne Walter-Hastings

June Coffee Hours

- June 4 Pot luck
- June 11 Salad luncheon—C/F and congregation
- June 18 Father's Day—Care and Fellowship
- June 25 Pot luck
- July 2 Pot luck



*****Remember — YOU can host any "pot luck" coffee hour. Simply contact Julia Busick if interested.**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!

Our HoC Mission Commission is hosting a "Celebration of Carnival of Santiago de Cuba" on July 23rd during the fellowship hour after the worship service. The purpose of this celebration is to have fun, enjoy some traditional Cuban food, and to learn about Cuba and our Mission co-workers who are working in the Seminary at Matanzas, Cuba.



CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATES

Hilary Livingston

This spring, five students have been participating in a confirmation class led by Pastor Hilary. They have been learning about the Christian faith, as well as what it means to make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and become an active member of Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church.



At the completion of the class, students who wish to join the church as members will be received during worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 4th. As part of this confirmation class, students have been working with adult sponsors who are offering prayer and support to students through the confirmation process. Last month, we heard the students' perspective on the class. This month, we will focus on the adult sponsors' experience of the confirmation process, in their own words.

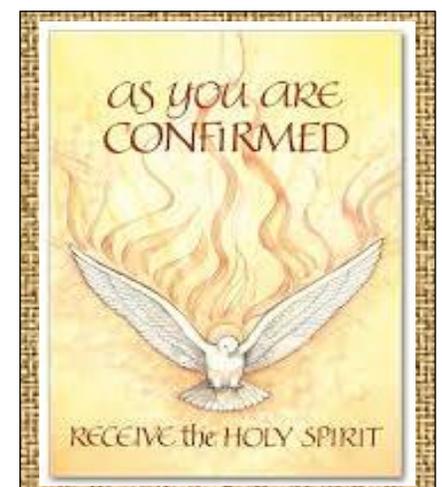
John and Aileen Burmeister, sponsors for Abby and Charlotte Condliffe, were both very pleased to be involved in the confirmation process. John says, *"A confirmation class has been long overdue, and its special features are indicative of the considerable care and planning that have gone into it."* He says the things he finds most meaningful about being a youth sponsor are getting to know his students in greater depth, as well as the strong bond between generations that has been formed in this partnership. Aileen has appreciated being part of the young peoples' spiritual development from the time they were very young. She shares, *"I've had a connection with Charlotte and Abby for many years...their interest in their church is genuine at Head of Christiana, and this is a joy to me."*

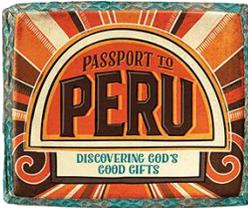
Alex and Mary Lou Oakes are sponsors for Nicole and André Gill. Mary Lou has enjoyed having the opportunity to get to know her students better through more individualized interaction. She has also appreciated having the opportunity to pray in specific and meaningful ways for her students. Alex expresses that it is a privilege to be connected to students through prayer, and to be involved in a young person's path of learning about God through the teachings of our church. He finds it meaningful that *"the church is taking the spiritual lives of our youth so seriously."*

Jane Murray was flattered to be asked to be a youth sponsor. Jane is working with Janice Harper. She reflects, *"It brought me back to my own confirmation experience, where I asked myself (and our pastor) many questions about faith, about our denomination, about the Bible, and about myself. Could I now turn to Janice and answer her questions? So far the process has been a distinct pleasure, with questions—and answers—and neither of us has been stumped yet!"* Jane is looking forward to the day the confirmands are received into membership, and will be sorry to see the class end.

We're very proud of both our students and sponsors, and we are very appreciative of all the hard work they are putting into this confirmation program. Please keep all our confirmation students and sponsors in your thoughts and prayers this spring.

Students:	Sponsors:
Abby Condliffe	John and Aileen Burmeister
Charlotte Condliffe	Jane Murray
Andre Gill	Mary Lou and Alex Oakes
Nicole Gill	
Janice Harper	





VBS - Save the Date!



Sunday, August 6 – Thursday, August 10, 2017

5:30 – 8:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Newark

292 West Main Street Newark, Delaware 19711

This year, we are partnering with our friends at **First Presbyterian Church of Newark** for **Vacation Bible School**.

Our theme is **"Passport to Peru"** – a fun, interactive program that will teach us about God's love in Jesus Christ through the eyes of children from a different culture.

PROGRAM BEGINS WITH POTLUCK DINNER EACH EVENING AT 5:30 PM. CLASSES FOLLOW AT 6:00 PM.

Classes are available for all ages — Pre K through Adult
There's something for everyone—Children, Youth, and Adults!

Volunteer opportunities are available:
Help with food, set-up/clean-up, teaching, crafts/activities, and more!

You can register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/2017VBSPeru>

For more details, contact **Pastor Hilary at the church office at (302)-731-4169**,
or contact **Rev. Emma Horn at First Presbyterian Church of Newark at (302)-731-5644**
or emmahorn@firstpresnewark.org

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS THIS SUMMER.
WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR THIS EVENT!

May 2017

On May 3rd, 20 people known as the Happy Older Presbyterians made their way to Harry's Seafood Grille in Wilmington for a great lunch and lively conversation. We even had a contingent from Ware Village! Following lunch we all walked next door to the Delaware Theater for a matinee performance of a play titled "*Hetty Feather*", based on a book written by Jacqueline Wilson about a plucky six-year-old girl in 19th century England who refused to be institutionalized. Lots of musical and acrobatic action made for an enjoyable afternoon for all.



HoC has donated our chimes to Newark United Methodist Church.

Music has always been an important part of the ministry and worship here at Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church. Many years ago, our church was given a generous gift of chimes that hung over the door behind the pulpit. While these chimes were aesthetically pleasing, they were not set up to play music – they were merely decorative (our organ already has its own chimes setting).

A few months ago, our brothers and sisters at the Newark United Methodist Church expressed an interest in our chimes as their church has the ability to connect the chimes to their organ where the chimes will actually be able to play music, as they were intended to do. After prayerful consideration, our Session determined that it was good stewardship to donate these chimes to our Methodist friends so they could enjoy beautiful music through these chimes in worship. Our chimes have been taken down and will be reinstalled in their church, where they will enjoy a new life enhancing the music ministry and worship of that church for many years to come.

In time and with careful discernment, an appropriate symbol, such as a cross, will be put in the space the chimes had formerly occupied. In conjunction with appropriate committees, session will select a symbol that is in keeping with the aesthetics and tradition of our church.



Can you hear me now???

Alex Oakes

During the past few years, there have been several sanctuary audio system failures—plus many of you have indicated that you have difficulty hearing the Pastor. Attempts to increase the volume would trip a circuit breaker and diagnosing the system without instructions was nearly impossible. The final straw was when the Pastor’s wireless lapel microphone “gave up the ghost” altogether.

Session decided that it was time to correct the situation and so, by the time you read this, we will have finally replaced our sanctuary amplifier with a new one that will not only improve reliability and listening quality, but will also provide modern features that will permit us to record sermons on digital media that can easily be put on our website. We will also be able to play pre-recorded audio from devices that support Bluetooth (phones, Ipads, etc.). Both the lapel and podium speakers will be replaced with up-to-date models and the Nursery will also get a new speaker so they will be able to hear church services.

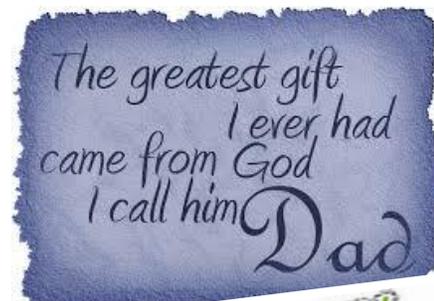
We have chosen a vendor to install and train us on the new equipment that has been used and recommended by other local Presbyterian churches. We hope you’ll enjoy our 21st century improvements.

HOC CALENDAR — June Happenings

Sunday	June	4	11:00am	Pentecost Sunday (Bring a Geranium)
Sunday	June	4	11:00am	Recognition Sunday (Students and Teachers)
Wednesday	June	7	2:00am	Care & Fellowship Commission
Friday	June	9	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Sunday	June	11	11:00am	Jim Herrington (Guest Preacher)
Sunday	June	11	12:00pm	Salad Luncheon (Bring a Salad to share)
Monday	June	12	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission
Monday	June	12	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (for July)	
Tuesday	June	13	6:00pm	Mission Commission
Wednesday	June	14	11:00am	Outreach Commission
Sunday	June	18	11:00am	Jim Herrington (Guest Preacher)
Sunday	June	18	12:00pm	Father's Day Coffee Hour
Monday	June	19	6:30pm	Session
Wednesday	June	28	11:30pm	Nifty-Wifty at Wesley's

PILOXING — TUESDAYS — 7:00PM

CHOIR PRACTICE — THURSDAYS — 7:30PM



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June	1	Sallie Christian	June	16	Ciella Murray
June	1	John Slack	June	17	Debbie Harper
June	3	Carol Cole	June	19	Sarabeth Gillespie
June	6	Jim Sawyer	June	25	Elisabeth Gallaher
June	7	Jim Herrington	June	25	Al Harper
June	10	Clarence Cox	June	29	Mary Lou Oakes
June	14	John Brook			

