



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here... December 2017

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Pastor Hilary Livingston

Preparing for Christmas During Advent

In December, we will be observing Advent, a season of four weeks when we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ at Christmas. The word "Advent" means "coming" – it is a season of preparing for the coming of Christ to earth. During this season, we read verses from the prophets who foretold of the Christ's coming in ancient times. We light candles, one for each week of the Advent season. As the days grow darker and colder, Advent symbolically reminds us that God is shining his light into our troubled and fallen world.

All that is shrouded in the darkness of sin, suffering, violence, fear and death will soon be flooded with the light of Christ's love and redemption.

Advent prepares us once again for Christ's first coming to earth as a humble baby born in a manger. Yet, Advent also points forward to Christ's second coming, when he will come in judgment and triumph. Advent reminds us that we are living in this sometimes painful period between Christ's first and second coming – the "already" and the "not yet." We affirm that Christ is already present with us, yet the world is still clearly not as it ought to be. We hear stories on the evening news about mass shootings, terrorist attacks, devastating natural disasters, and threats of war. We see that our society is still bitterly divided over cultural and political issues. Advent is a season that gives us hope that God is working to put the world right – bringing his kingdom fully here on earth as it is in heaven. Advent reminds us that God did not leave us alone in our troubled world, but sent his only Son, Jesus the Christ to redeem and heal us. Advent gives us hope as we wait for the Lord's full redemption at the end of the age. Advent also gives us the courage to act on this hope, working for goodness and justice in our world, advancing God's kingdom until it comes in fullness.

A contemporary Advent hymn proclaims, *"Though dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall crown you with light. Be strong and loving and fearless!"* Jesus, the Light of the world has come, and is indeed coming again! May this give you hope and courage this Advent season and always.

Blessings,

Hilary

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Sunday, December 10, 2017 - 12:00pm – **Special Congregational Meeting**

Election of Officers
Receiving the 2018 budget
Voting on Pastor Hilary's terms of call

Sunday, January 28, 2018 - 12:00pm – **Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting**

Review and receive annual report

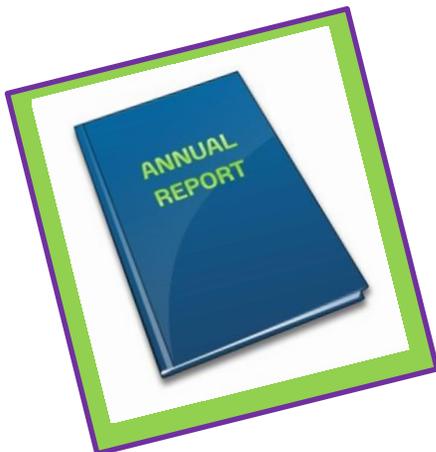
Important Dates for Session:

Sunday, January 7, 2018 – 11:00 am (during worship service)

Ordination/Installation of Officers

Saturday, January 13, 2018 – 9:00am–12:00pm

Session Retreat/Officer Training in HoC Upstairs
Conference Room



Annual Reports due January 1, 2018

Please submit them electronically to Nancy in the office to:

nancy.hoc@outlook.com

If you are unable to type up and/or submit your report electronically, please ask someone on your committee/commission to do so, or ask a session member for assistance.



As a follow up to last month's column, the projects mentioned that we didn't have firm costs for, we can now report that removing the dead oak tree in the back corner of the Education Building cost \$800 and installing an additional security camera that monitors the parking lot was \$2,970.

An exercise that we did during the Stewardship process was to review how much it costs "per person" to run the Church and its activities for the year. We based it on an active membership of 80 folks and a budget of just over \$212,000.

The bottom line ended up being that it costs about \$2,652 per person to keep the lights on and fund everything we do in twelve months, which gives you a little perspective on operating costs at HoC.

ADVENT COLORING CHILL-OUT

Advent Grown-Up Coloring Chill-Out

Need some relaxing downtime during the bustle of the holiday season? Join us for our **Advent Grown-Up Coloring Chill-Out** on **Wednesdays** in **Fellowship Hall, December 6th, 13th and 20th** from **1:00 – 2:00 pm**.

We will provide the coloring pages and supplies, or you can bring your own.

Chill out this Advent season with this fun, relaxing trend! You'll feel like a kid again!



TEA at TEN on TUESDAYS on HIATUS

Tea @ Ten on Tuesdays will be on *hiatus* for the rest of 2017.

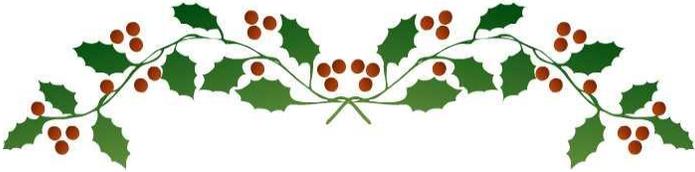


Watch for a **new-and-improved** reboot of tea time coming in 2018!



CARE AND FELLOWSHIP

Jeanne Hastings



December Coffee Hours



Coffee Fellowship

December 3 — No Coffee Hour (C&F will set up after church for the Harp Concert)

December 10 — pot luck

December 17 — pot luck

December 24 — No morning church service; only Christmas Eve worship at 7:30pm

December 31 — no coffee hour

Would you like to host a coffee hour??
Just speak to Julia Busick and it can easily be arranged.

ADVENT SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION IN SANCTUARY

Take a break from the frazzle and stress of the holiday season with some quiet reflection in the sanctuary.

During Advent on **Wednesdays** — **December 6th, 13th and 20th** from **12:00pm to 1:00 pm**, the sanctuary will be open for silent prayer and meditation.

Want to try it out, but not sure what to do? Pastor Hilary will be available to provide some structure and guidance if you wish. Take a break and find your peace of mind during this busy time of year.



“SPOOK-TACULAR TRUNK or TREAT”

Hilary Livingston

Head of Christiana partnered with First Presbyterian Church of Newark on Saturday, October 28th in the first annual “Trunk or Treat” between the two churches.

Cars were adorned in “spook-tacular” fashion, while children from the community “Trick-or-Treated” around the parking lot gathering goodies and enjoying fun activities.

It was estimated that around 100 children from the Newark area participated in the event, as well as many grown-up volunteers from our two churches.

Special thanks to Alex Oakes and the Outreach commission for their help with the event. A “frightfully” good time was had by all!



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY WORSHIP

Hilary Livingston



On Sunday, November 5, 2017, we celebrated All Saints Sunday. Head of Christiana remembered and honored those saints who have passed away by lighting candles in their memory.

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule:

Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons & Carols
“The History of Beloved Christmas Carols”

Sunday, December 24, 2017 at 7:30pm

**NO 11:00am WORSHIP
ON DECEMBER 24TH !!!**

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

“Contemplating the New Year”

Sunday, December 31, 2017 at 11:00am
Special contemplative service reflecting upon the year past and the year to come.
Led by HoC members and ruling elders

CHRISTMAS COOKIES



Christmas Cookie time for the Elkton Community Kitchen's holiday dinner on Friday, December 22nd is upon us. **We will collect cookies here at the church on Sunday, Dec. 10th and Sunday, Dec. 17th** to deliver on Dec. 19th. Please bring your contributions in Zip-loc bags: **3-4 cookies per bag**. We will need a total of 125 bags. If you have any questions, please ask Alex Oakes.

BRANDYWINE HARP CONCERT

**PLEASE JOIN US at HoC on
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017 at 4:00PM
FOR THE BRANDYWINE HARP CONCERT
FREE ADMISSION
GOODWILL OFFERING ONLY**



C & F NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE



There seems to be a lot of food in the refrigerator and on the stainless steel table in the kitchen that “just appears” — origins unknown. In an effort to keep the refrigerator and kitchen orderly, please label any food that is left in the refrigerator or on the table. If food is brought in to be used for coffee hours, please label it as such.

When C/F members are helping to “round out” the pot luck offerings at coffee hours, it would help us to know what foods are available. We don't want to take anyone's snack or lunch, but if it is not labeled, we often think it is “up for grabs.”

A marker will be available on the refrigerator for labeling. Thanks for your help keeping the kitchen organized and neat!

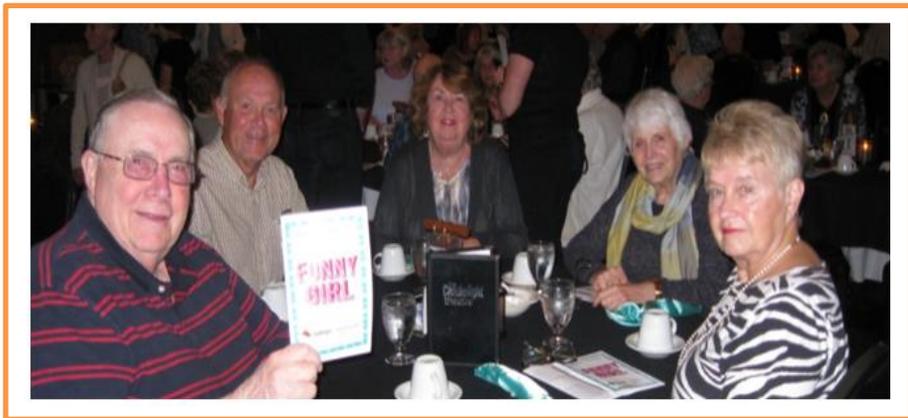
The "HOP" Event

by Alex Oakes

On October 18 the H.O.P.s attended a Candlelight Theater production of

FUNNY GIRL

Having a great "all-you-can-eat" lunch buffet and some really good seats made for a very enjoyable experience at the Candlelight Theater in Ardentown. The show had been receiving terrific reviews and we were not disappointed — the music was especially good. Victoria Healy's (Fanny Brice) voice was outstanding in songs like "People" and other favorites. It was a wonderful experience!!! We even had a member of our group win the 50-50 drawing...Talk about good Karma!



Next month we'll report on our ever popular annual Vita Nova luncheon, this year followed by a story-telling adventure entitled "*Tales Tombstones Tell*" by Ed Okonowicz, a distinguished author of more than two dozen books on Delmarva ghosts, legends, humor and oral history. Join us for future H.O.P. events!!!!



DONATE A TURKEY and/or CANNED GOODS



DECEMBER 2017

The **Newark Area Welfare Committee's Holiday Food Box Program** requests your help in acquiring frozen turkeys and/or non-perishable food for the estimated 350+ food boxes we expect to assemble for local families in need this season. We hope the centerpiece of each basket filled with canned goods and other non-perishable food will be a 10-15 lb. frozen turkey.

The local grocery stores have their lowest prices and coupon campaigns before Thanksgiving. We are requesting that you consider pledging a turkey and/or canned goods soon by taking advantage of the November bargains. You may store the non-perishable food items and/or frozen turkey in your home or contact the person listed below who will gladly arrange storage for you.

If you would like to participate by donating a turkey, canned goods and/or to help with SORTING, ASSEMBLING, or ASSISTING with PICKUP at First Presbyterian Church Newark, please fill out the bottom portion of this page and return it to:

Rosi White, Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church

If you purchase and store a turkey, please bring it to First Presbyterian Church of Newark, 292 West Main Street, Newark between 8:30am–9:30am Saturday, December 16th.

If you are collecting non-perishable food for us, please deliver it to the church listed above by 1:00pm on Thursday, December 14th or simply contact the person above and we will gladly pick it up.

If you would like to volunteer with sorting, assembling or assisting with pick-up, please volunteer for ONE TIME SLOT ONLY. We have numerous volunteers and would like everyone to be able to help this season.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to this project, please mail it to the Newark Area Welfare Committee, P.O. Box 951, Newark, DE 19715-0951. You can also donate online at our secure website: www.newarkareawelfare.org

Thank you for your kind consideration and generous help.

OUR PLEDGE

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____ Email _____

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATELY

____ Will bring a turkey to First Presbyterian Church-Newark at 292 West Main Street, Newark Between 8:30am–11:30am Saturday, December 16th

____ Will bring non-perishable food to First Presbyterian Church-Newark by 1:00pm Thursday, December 14th.

____ Would like to arrange for storage/pick up for our donation: ____ Turkey ____ Canned Food

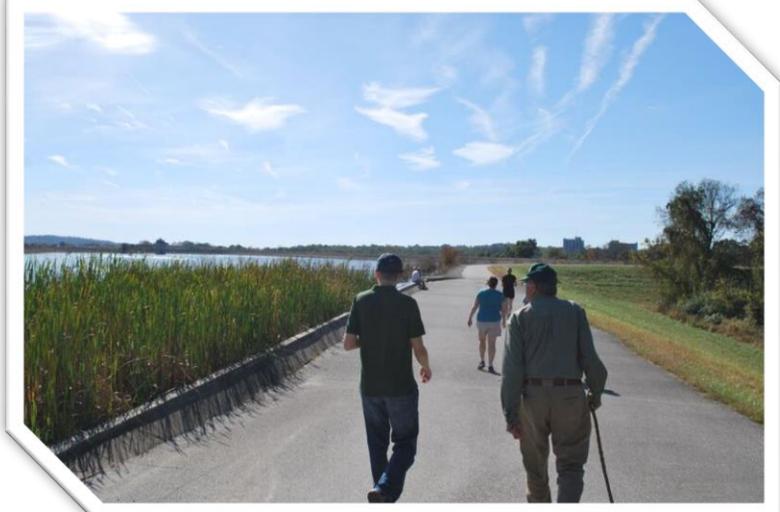
____ Please accept our monetary donation enclosed ____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$100 ____ Other

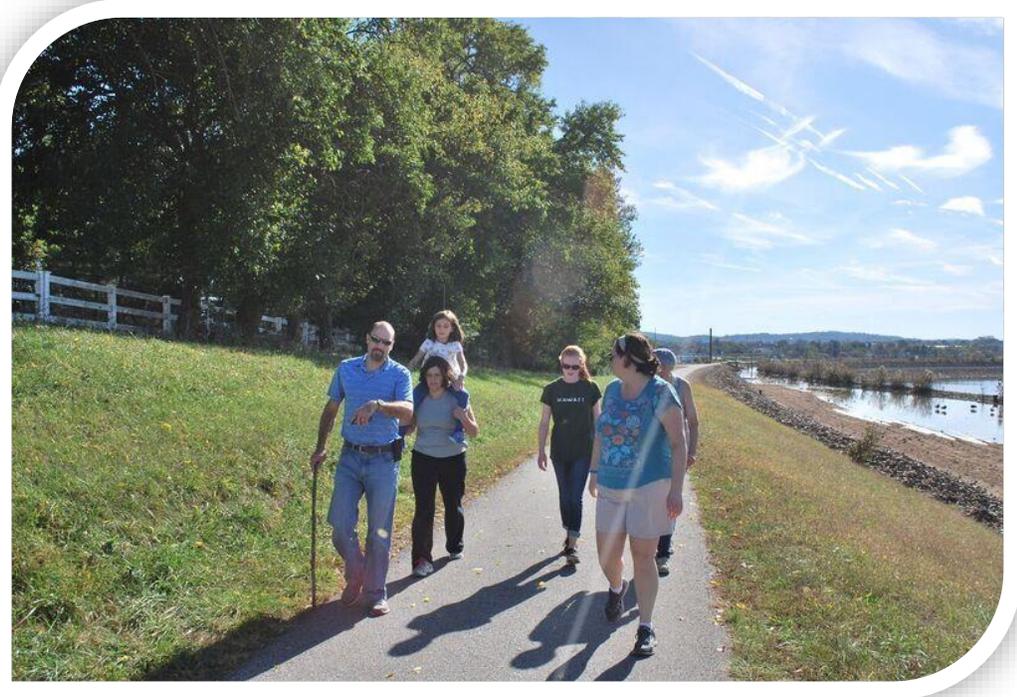
____ December 14th — SORTING FOOD 9:00am-11:00am ____ 12:00pm-2:00pm ____

____ December 15th — ASSEMBLING FOOD / BOXES 9:00am-11:00am ____ 12:00pm-2:00pm ____

____ December 16th — CLIENTS PICK UP FOOD 9:00am-11:00am ____ 12:00pm-2:00pm ____

HoC COOKOUT and NATURE WALK





HOC CALENDAR — December Happenings



Sunday	Dec	03	4:00pm	Brandywine Harp Concert
Tuesday	Dec	05	LOOKING	TREE DEADLINE
Wednesday	Dec	06	2:00am	Care & Fellowship Commission
Friday	Dec	08	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Saturday	Dec	09	1p-5:00pm	Baby Shower in Fellowship Hall
Sunday	Dec	10	12:00pm	Special Congregational Meeting (Elect Elders/Deacons; Review budget)
Sunday	Dec	10	1:00pm	Christmas Tree and Crèche decorating
Sunday	Dec	10	3:00pm	Newark Comm. Band Christmas Concert @ 1 st Presbyterian Church
Monday	Dec	11	6:00pm	Session
Sunday	Dec	24	No Morning	Worship Service
Sunday	Dec	24	7:30pm	Candlelight Lessons and Carols Christmas Joy Offering
MONDAY	DEC	25	MERRY CHRISTMAS	
Wednesday	Dec	27	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty at Wesley's
Monday	Jan	01		Annual Reports Due

On Wednesday, Dec. 6, 13, and 20
the sanctuary will be open from
12:00pm til 1:00pm for silent prayer
and meditation.
On those same days, come join us from
1:00pm til 2:00pm for our Adult
Coloring Chill-out. Just bring
yourselves; we've got the supplies!

CHOIR PRACTICE MONDAYS @ 7:30PM
PILOXING — TUESDAYS — 7:00PM



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Dec	5	Nicole Gill	Dec	28	Annabelle Huffman
Dec	5	Richard Murray	Dec	28	Jillian Gillespie
Dec	11	Ruth Montgomery	Dec	28	Carolyn Brunner
Dec	21	André Gill			

Happy Birthday to You!