



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here... January 2018

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Happy New Year

A new year is upon us, filled with promise and new possibilities. The turn of the year is a time when we reflect upon what is past and look forward to what the future will bring. The New Year is a time to acknowledge God's providence and care in our lives. God exists outside the normal bonds of time and space, as we know them. Scripture says, *"With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day."* (2 Peter 3:8)



Pastor Hilary Livingston

Yet, we live within the bounds of time and space. Time is a gift of God, and one that we should use wisely, for we never know how much of it we have. At the dawn of a new year, I would encourage us to consider the gift of time we have been given, both as individuals and as a church. How will we use the time, energy and resources God has given us in the coming year? What would we like to accomplish over the next twelve months? What kind of people do we want to become over the next year? How would we like God to work in and through us to make us more of the kind of people we'd like to be?

Scripture encourages us to be awake, alert, prepared, and ready for God's kingdom work. We are encouraged to ***"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*** (2 Peter 3:18) I would like us to make this our theme in 2018. Let us consider how we might grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ over this next year. Perhaps it is through a deepening of our prayer lives, or increasing our reading and study of God's word. Perhaps it is through greater generosity and giving. Perhaps it is through cutting back on superficiality and engaging more deeply in relationships in our church and community. Perhaps it is simply slowing down and paying attention to the little things in life and learning to savor small joyful moments, recognizing these as God's precious gifts to us. God's grace is the favor God gives us purely out of love, not because of anything we do to deserve it. God's grace is also God's action in our lives, shaping us more into the people God desires us to be. In 2018, let us grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Blessings,

Hilary

SERMONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Pastor Hilary's sermons will be made available online on our HoC website. Several sermons are currently available, and more will be made available over the next month or so. Read, or listen online, and share with your friends.

Our website address is: hocpc.org

Make Your "New Year's Resolutions" Stick

Many people make "New Year's Resolutions" of things they would like to accomplish over the coming year. Yet, these often fizzle out within the first few weeks of January. There are a number of reasons for this. First, we don't often take time to clarify what we really want to accomplish and why. We make vague resolutions like, "I want to be healthier," or "I want to simplify my life," but we don't take the time to clarify what that really looks like for us.

If you have a general idea of something you would like to see happen in your life in 2018, take some time and really clarify what that would look like for you. What is motivating this desire? Why is this important to you? What are the tangible outcomes you would like to see? Reflect on your vision for this resolution and write it down. Put it somewhere where you will see it regularly and refer to it often. This will make your overall vision more concrete.

Another reason people fail to realize their resolutions is that they do not make concrete goals that will help them achieve their vision. Once you have your vision clarified, set up concrete goals to move you toward your vision. Think SMART goals – Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic, and Time-bound. For instance, instead of saying, "I want to eat healthier," create a SMART goal such as, "I will eat two vegetables at dinnertime four days per week for one month." This is much more specific, it can be clearly measured, it involves something you can do, it is realistic to achieve and it has a time-frame for completion. You can set numerous SMART goals at a time toward a particular desired outcome. Or you can set a larger SMART goal, then break it down into smaller SMART goals to move you toward achieving it. Once you have a clear target, you will be much more likely to reach it.

Lastly, people don't achieve their resolutions because they don't have enough support to make a vision a reality. Change is hard. We often need outside support to be successful. Find a buddy who can hold you accountable for your goals, and encourage you when you have setbacks. Join a group, either online or in-person with likeminded people who are working toward similar goals. Use reminder apps on your phone, or apps to track your progress. Sometimes simply keeping a record of what you are doing can be motivating and can hold you accountable. We all need help when it comes to making changes in our lives. Don't be afraid to get the support you need to be successful.

Hopefully these suggestions can help you make your 2018 New Year's Resolutions successful!

As we begin a new year, we are faced with an annual decline in revenue from our rental to the New Castle Presbytery upstairs in the Education Building. Originally, the Presbytery was using the entire second floor, but when we went to renegotiate the previous 5-year lease last spring, they indicated that they would not be needing all the space upstairs, due to having fewer positions and therefore less need for office space.

Since we had rented the space out to them on a square footage basis, the corresponding contraction in the value of that space worked out over a year to be approximately \$4,000 less in income.

In addition, the Presbytery asked and was granted the option of one-year lease renewals going forward in place of the 5-year agreement signed in 2012.



C & F SOUP LUNCHEON

Please join us for a hearty soup luncheon hosted by Care and Fellowship following the morning service on January 28th.

Care and Fellowship will supply the soups, breads, desserts and beverages. Stay, eat and join in the discussion of our church's business at our annual Congregational Meeting.



AFTERNOON TEA and HYGGE

Have you heard of “hygge”? It's the Danish trend that is becoming popular all over the world. Pronounced “**HUE-guh**”, this Danish concept refers to “the acknowledgment of a feeling or moment, whether alone or with friends, at home or out, ordinary or extraordinary as cozy, charming or special.” It is a way of enjoying the simple things in life while enduring the cold, dark days of winter.

Join Hilary in the Pastor's study on **Wednesdays from 1:00 – 2:00 PM, beginning January 17th.** Enjoy a hot cup of tea, learn more about hygge and how to benefit from it in your life.



CARE AND FELLOWSHIP

Jeanne Hastings



Winter Coffee Hours

December 31 — pot luck

January 7 — pot luck

January 14 — pot luck

January 21 — pot luck

January 28 — Annual Congregational Meeting

Soup Luncheon hosted by
Care and Fellowship

February 4 — pot luck

February 11 — pot luck

February 18 — pot luck

February 25 — pot luck



Coffee Fellowship

Would you like to host a coffee hour??
Just speak to Jeanne Hastings — it can easily be arranged.

ELKTON COMMUNITY KITCHEN

ATTENTION all Elkton Community Kitchen volunteers!

This year we will be serving lunch at Elkton
Community Kitchen on **Friday, Feb. 23rd**.

Please save the date on your calendars
now. If you have any questions or need
further information, please see Alex Oakes.
Helping hands are needed.



MEET OUR NEW NURSERY LEADER

Meet Janice Harper, HoC's newest employee. Janice was hired as HoC's nursery leader and began work on November 5, 2017. She has previously volunteered in the nursery before being officially hired.

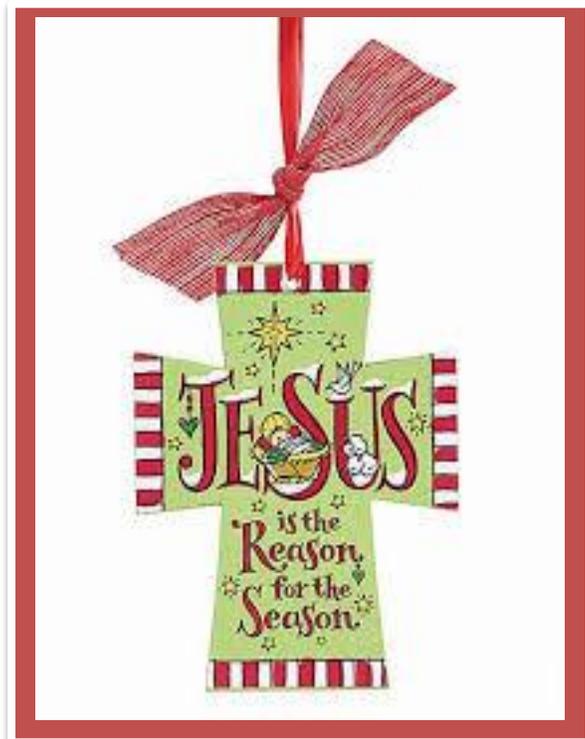
Janice is currently a part-time student at Delaware County Community College majoring in political science. She is also employed as a dietary aide at Ware Presbyterian Village. In addition, she has worked as a Gallery Attendant and as a volunteer at Winterthur's Touch-It Room, Reins for Life, and Limestone Presbyterian's vacation bible school.

Janice sees HoC as her second home, as she has been attending here most of her life. She fondly remembers Sunday school with Mrs. Burmeister and wants to offer children at HoC the same kind of enjoyable experiences she had at HoC while she was growing up.

In the few weeks she has been the nursery leader, the children have planted a bean plant and played games like hide and seek, hide the car, and Mrs. Fanny's hats. Janice is planning on decorating the nursery for Christmas and having the children watch a Disney DVD titled *"The Small One"* on Christmas Eve. Her sister, Audrey, also works with children, and they enjoy sharing ideas.



Janice Harper



DECEMBER 2017

Our annual trip to the University of Delaware's restaurant, Vita Nova has always been the most popular HOP event of the year. This year was no exception, and on November 14th we had 21 participants for this event who engaged in sharing good food and fellowship (and perhaps a bit of fine wine) all looked after by University students who were anxious to please.

Following the luncheon, we went back to the church to hear a lecture entitled "*Tales Tombstones Tell*" by noted local author, Ed Oconowicz. Mr. Oconowicz has mined the rich history of the Delmarva region's cemeteries and old houses for the interesting messages left from the past and with more than a few ghost stories to boot! It's really interesting to learn that there are so many fascinating stories right in our own back yards.



Ed Oconowicz
Author, Historian
and
Storyteller

Our next HOP adventure will be on March 21st, 2018 when we'll venture to Lancaster's Fulton Theater to see the play "*Guys & Dolls*" after lunch at the Pressroom Restaurant. Mark your calendars now!



In case you missed seeing this wonderful picture in the December issue of *“Delaware Today,”* here is **our very own organist, Linnea Raffaele**, obviously enjoying playing the piano at the gloriously decorated Winterthur Museum.

Twenty-two of the 175 rooms are decorated in period-perfect dress for Yuletide at Winterthur, an annual celebration that transforms the estate into a winter wonderland—a feat that does not just happen overnight and enlists the help of well over 100 people.

Flowers for the magnificent dried-flower tree, for example, are harvested as early as spring, explains Debbie Harper, senior curator for education at the museum (yes, **our** Debbie Harper!). “We use over 50 different varieties of flowers now—a few come from the property, and people even donate some, like hydrangeas.” Debbie has been in charge of Yuletide at Winterthur for almost 20 years.



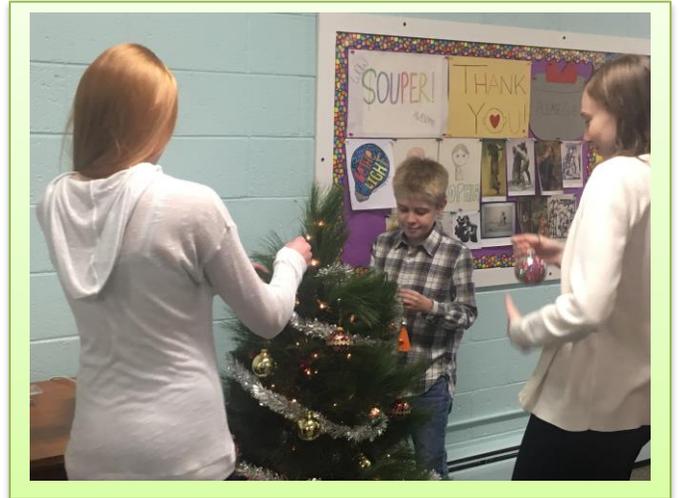
HoC youth hard at work building the Nativity.

BRANDYWINE HARP CONCERT

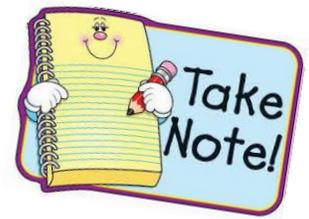
Sunday, December 3, 2017



HOOC YOUTH FEEL THE JOY



HOC CALENDAR — January Happenings



Monday	Jan	01	HAPPY NEW YEAR	
Monday	Jan	01	Annual Reports are due	
Wednesday	Jan	03	2:00am	Care & Fellowship Commission
Thursday	Jan	04	7:00pm	Christine Manor Civic Assoc. using Fellowship Hall
Sunday	Jan	07	11:00pm	Installation / Ordination of Elders and Deacons
Wednesday	Jan	10	11:00am	Outreach Commission
Friday	Jan	12	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Saturday	Jan	13	9:00am	Session Retreat at HoC
Sunday	Jan	14	12:00pm	Review Annual Reports after worship
Sunday	Jan	14	12:30pm	Worship Commission
Monday	Jan	15	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission
Wednesday	Jan	24	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty at Wesley's



CHOIR PRACTICE MONDAYS @ 7:30PM

PILOXING — TUESDAYS — 7:00PM

JAN 17, 24 & 31 — TEA & HYGGE @ 1:00PM



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Jan	8	Lucy Marianiello
Jan	12	Rosemarie White
Jan	16	Jeffrey Burmeister
Jan	21	Simon Condliffe

