



# The Looking Tree

*Love lives here, Love flows from here...*

**December 2013**

## Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



**Rev. Bob Undercuffler**  
Pastor

### Prepare the Way of the Lord ... 2013

Yes, there is a place for you, your family and friends at Head of Christiana. Younger and older, we will delight in the Advent season and Christmas. In the spirit of Head of Christiana and this hope-filled season, let us join in worship and fellowship.

**Sunday, December 1st:** Advent I we light the first candle of the Advent Wreath and celebrate with Holy Communion. **Sunday afternoon at 4:00** we return to the

sanctuary for a Harp Concert in Candlelight, featuring the Brandywine Harp orchestra. Bring the family. Invite some friends.

**Sunday, December 8th:** Advent II features our choir with Kate LeFranc preaching.

**Sunday, December 15th:** Advent III features our choir and Bob Undercuffler preaching. A brief congregational meeting for the election of new officers and then delicious treats in Chapel Hall prepared by Care and Fellowship follows worship.

**Sunday, December 22nd:** Advent IV, amid flowers and sparkling Christmas tree decorated with hand-crafted Chrismons, we travel closer to Bethlehem with Kate preaching. The Joy Offering will be received.

**At 2:30 we gather in Chapel Hall**, warm-up our voices, set car pools, and **go Christmas Caroling** — for young and older — friends, family and neighbors.

**Christmas Eve:** Follow luminaries to the sanctuary and worship in candlelight for a service of scripture and carols with meditation by Bob. Christopher Braddock, guitar, and Jean Marie Kolka Braddock, violin, will offer special music. The service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

**Sunday, December 30th:** 11:00 a.m. Christmas worship with carols galore.

**Remember, each Advent Sunday begins with Sunday School for all children, youth and adults at 9:30.** Nursery and toddler care available for little ones. Pastors Bob and Kate will lead adults through the Feasting on the Word Advent Bible study.

Remember special giving opportunities which spread Christmas joy to many others: our **Christmas Joy Offering**, our **Mitten Tree** and our donations of **Food for the Christmas Baskets** prepared by Newark Area Welfare Committee.

*May this Advent time and Christmas be days to practice peace and goodwill for all.*

*Bob*



**Kate LeFranc**  
Associate Pastor

December 1 marks the beginning of the season of Advent, the season of getting ready. Even though stores are bringing out Christmas things earlier and earlier each year, in the church calendar the weeks leading up to December 24 are meant to be a time of reflection and *preparation* for the celebration of Jesus' birth as well as a season to look forward to the future dreamed-of incarnation of God's Kingdom on earth.

Like Lent, Advent can be a great time to try out something new in your spiritual life, whether alone or with family and friends. At Head of Christiana, we will use the candles of our Advent Wreath to mark the coming of Christ's light into the world; one candle for each of the four weeks, then the Christ candle in the center to be lit on Christmas Eve. What other ways will you observe the season this year?

Here are some possible ideas – what else can you think of?

**Personal Advent Wreath:** This could be as fancy as you want, or as simple as five candles arranged in a circle. Set aside a moment each night to prayerfully light the candles.

**Storybook-A-Day:** Wrap up 25 Christmas, winter, or other holiday-themed books, and open one every evening to read as a family.

**Advent Calendar:** Not just for kids! Buy a commercial calendar or make your own, with a sweet treat, bible verse, or reflection for each day.

**Build a Nativity Scene:** Starting with an empty stable or a spot on a shelf, add one or two figures every week until the star and the Christ child appear on Christmas. If you have kids, try hiding the figures throughout the house!

**Bible Study:** Join us for adult Bible Study on Thursdays from 11:30 - 1 or Sundays from 9:30 - 10:30. Or, read through one of the gospels on your own.

**Personal Spiritual Practice:** Take on something new this season, like daily prayer, journaling, drawing, a guided reflection, or something else that helps you to feel God's presence.

Blessed Advent!

*Kate*

# SUMMARY OF CHURCH FINANCES

Steve Graham

## Summary of Church Finances as of July 31, 2013

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income (including Trail Race)	\$154,916	\$149,683	\$ 5,233
Expenses (including Trail Race)	\$146,878	\$142,635	\$ 4,243
Net Activity	\$ 8,038	\$ 7,048	\$ 990

I would like to extend a special “Thank You” to Ed Crispin for handling this year’s Stewardship Campaign. Your pledges really do help Session in the planning process for the coming year.

## POINSETTIA PLANT ORDERS

This Christmas season you may honor loved ones by purchasing red poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary, and/or donate to the Head of Christiana Mission Works. Poinsettias are in 6” pots and cost \$11.50. Forms to order poinsettias and/or donate to mission works are available in the Sunday worship bulletins from November 27<sup>th</sup> – December 8<sup>th</sup>. Completed forms and payments should be put in the offering plate or given to Mary Jo Mankin by Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Checks should be made out to Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church and “Christmas flowers” or “HOC mission works” should be noted on the check so counters can identify the appropriate account to be credited. The flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary beginning Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, and may be taken home after the Christmas Eve or the Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> services. Dedications will be listed in the Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> church bulletin.



For questions, please contact Mary Jo Mankin, [mjo@udel.edu](mailto:mjo@udel.edu) or 302.292.8377.

## MITTEN TREE & SHIRTS FOR THE SHELTER

Betty Kackley

**Scarves and mittens** for the Help Center are needed. You can bring in your donations and attach them to the tree in the Narthex when it’s put up, or drop them in the basket lying by the tree.

**Men’s flannel shirts** are also needed for the residents at Settlement House (shelter). All size extra large. Wrap, or put in an attractive bag. Please leave your donations in the Narthex as well. Thank you one and all for your generosity toward the homeless.

Please call Betty Kackley at 410.398.8743 if you have any questions.

## Christmas Joy Offering

A special giving opportunity at Christmas is the Christmas Joy Offering which supports scholarships for deserving students at the seven Presbyterian Racial Ethnic schools and colleges. This offering also provides emergency funds for retired church workers and surviving spouses to help them through difficult times. The Joy Offering will be received in envelopes on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and again on Christmas Eve.

Please designate “Joy Offering” on the memo line of your check. Thank you.

When our newest member, Jesse Baldwin, was a small boy, he lived on Wedgewood Road with his parents. At the age of 10, he and a friend decided to attend church. The nearest church was Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church, so that is where they attended.

The installed pastor back then was the Reverend Robert Tull. Jesse remembers several occasions when Reverend Tull took a youth group to the roller rink in Glasgow and once to the old Connie Mack Stadium in Philadelphia.

As he grew older, Jesse withdrew from attending church. He would graduate from Newark High School, attend the University of Delaware and then work for W. L. Gore & Associates and the DuPont Company. His mother had been one of Gore's very first employees.

In the late 1980s, he was lured to the great Northwest and the beautiful country around Portland, Oregon. He would spend 26 years there. In 2012 Jesse had an overpowering desire to return to his native state and the church that had given him many fond childhood memories.

Jesse has stated he would like to play a role in church activities. He is currently a member of the Worship Commission, and next year he will be an Elder and member of Session.

*Welcome Home, Jesse Baldwin, Welcome Home!!!*

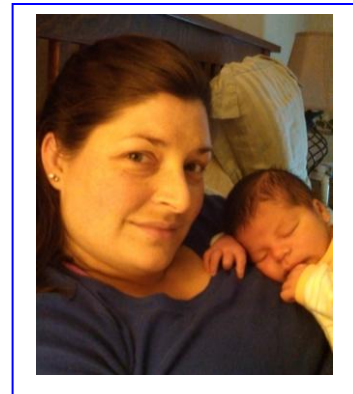
## Brendan Clark Huffman

Born: Friday, October 18, 2013

at The Birth Center in Wilmington, DE

Weighed in at 8lbs 10oz & 20.5" long

*Congratulations to Linda, Brian and  
big sister Annabelle Huffman*



## Christmas Cookies

Christmas Cookies (4 - 5 cookies per Ziploc bag) are due at church on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas Dinner at the Elkton Community Kitchen on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. We are planning on serving 125-150 people.

If you have any questions, please call Margaret Holland at 410.398.6483.



# The "HOP Event"

Alex Oakes

## The BARNES

For the month of October, Kay Brook made all the arrangements for the HOP group's venture to center-city Philadelphia for lunch and a visit to the renowned Barnes Foundation. Both the Brook's and Oakes' were out of town that day but Ed Crispin graciously agreed to guide the group and I'm pleased to say that comments have all been very positive. A really big "THANK YOU" to Kay & Ed!

Once again the sun was shining for the HOP event which began with lunch at the **Rose Tadoo Café**. Afterward, it was a conveniently short walk to the Barnes Foundation to see the fabulous display of artworks collected by the late Dr. Albert Barnes. These included works from the masters like Renoir, Cezanne, Matisse, Picasso, Van Gogh and many others, all displayed in a brand new facility. It was a true "HOP Event"



We're still planning for next year's events and would love to have your input. So please, drop me a note in the church school building HOP mailbox or send me an e-mail ([ao468@aol.com](mailto:ao468@aol.com)) with any ideas you might have. I can't guarantee we'll use them but at least they'll be considered.

Our trip to Roselle Theater to see A SERVANT of TWO MASTERS was on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>.

Message from Betty Kackley: "My three year term as Deacon will be completed the end of December. I wish to thank the congregation of Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church for allowing me the opportunity to serve you as one of the Deacons for the last three years. It was an honor and a privilege. May God bless you all."

## CARE & FELLOWSHIP

Rosi White

Here the year is in its last month and Christmas is upon us! Every day is a blessing.

We will get together on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm to assemble the Cookie Bags. Each C & F member will make 5 dozen cookies. We are getting a wonderful response for volunteers to host our Coffee Hours after worship each Sunday. There are still a few spots remaining, so don't be shy.

We will also be hosting at the reception immediately following the Brandywine Harp Concert on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. We hope to see many of you there.

We wish each and every one of you and yours a peace filled holiday rich with blessings throughout the coming year.

*The Care & Fellowship Committee*



# HOC CALENDAR — December Happenings



Sun.	Dec	1	4:00pm	Brandywine Harp Concert in Candlelight
Wed.	Dec	4	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's
Wed.	Dec	4	?????	C & F Bagging Cookies
Sat.	Dec	7	9a-12p	Deacons & Session Retreat at HOC
Mon.	Dec	3	7:00pm	Building & Grounds Commission
Wed.	Dec	5	2:00pm	Care & Fellowship @ HOC
Wed.	Dec	5	6:30pm	Missions Commission
Mon.	Dec	10	6:30pm	Session
Tue.	Dec	11	4:00pm	Worship Commission
Wed.	Dec	12	10:00am	HOP trip to Candlelight Theatre
Fri.	Dec	14	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Sun	Dec	16	12:00pm	Congregation/Corporation Meeting
Sun	Dec	16	11:00am	Bring your cookies for ECK luncheon
Mon	Dec	17	2:00pm	Caregiver's Coffee
Sun	Dec	22	3:00pm	Caroling to HOC Shut-ins
Mon	Dec	24	7:30pm	Candlelight Service



M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S

On Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00pm we will have a "Concert by Candlelight" sponsored by the Evangelism Commission and featuring the Brandywine Harp Orchestra. There is no admission fee, but there will be a free-will offering. Following the concert there will be fellowship with light refreshments. The Brandywine Harp Orchestra has a good following, so carpooling is encouraged.



A little smile,  
a word of cheer,  
a bit of love from someone near.  
A little gift from one held dear,  
Best wishes for the coming year!  
Merry Christmas



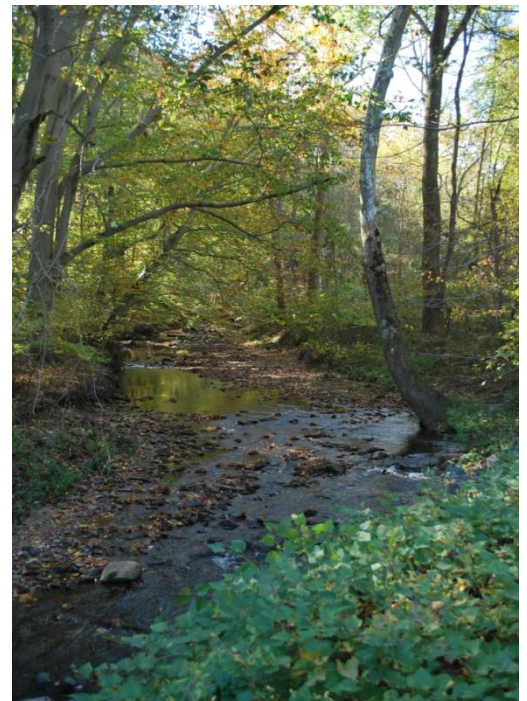
Contact Steve Graham at (302) 368-3794 to schedule an appointment. This is a free service for Head of Christiana members.

## December Birthdays



Dec. 1	Dawn Riess	Dec. 11	Ruth Montgomery
Dec. 3	Lance Marquess	Dec. 21	André Gill
Dec. 5	Nicole Gill	Dec. 21	Ellen Patterson
Dec. 5	Richard Murray	Dec. 28	Carolyn Brunner
Dec. 6	Susan Logan	Dec. 28	Jillian Gillespie
Dec. 7	Steve Marquess	Dec. 28	Annabelle Huffman

# Nature Walk



# Nature Walk





# DONATE A TURKEY and/or CANNED GOODS CHRISTMAS 2013



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 400+ food baskets we expect to assemble for local families in need this season. The centerpiece of each basket filled with canned goods and other non-perishable food will be a 10-15 pound frozen turkey.

Local grocery stores have their lowest prices and coupon campaigns before Thanksgiving. We suggest that you pledge a turkey and/or canned goods now so you can take advantage of the upcoming holiday sales. You can store the non-perishable food items and/or frozen turkey in your home, or you can contact **Rosemarie White at 302.731.1573** to make arrangements to find storage until the items are needed.

If you would like to participate by donating a turkey, canned goods and/or by helping with the sorting, assembling, and/or assisting with the pickup at First Presbyterian Church of Newark, *please fill out the bottom portion of this form and return it to **Rosi White at Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church.***

If you store a turkey at your home, please let Rosi know so she can get it to the freezer plant so they can keep a count of how many turkeys they have to use as centerpieces for the Christmas Baskets.

If you are collecting non-perishable food for the Christmas Basket Program, please deliver it to Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church by 2:00pm on Thursday, Dec. 19th, or simply contact Rosi and we'll gladly pick it up from you.

If you would like to make a cash donation to this project, please mail it to the Newark Area Welfare Committee, PO Box 951, Newark, DE 19715-0951.

*Thank you for your kind consideration and generous help.*

## OUR PLEDGE

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATELY:

- Will bring turkey to First Presbyterian Church of Newark between 8:30-9:30am, Sat., Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Will bring non-perishable food to First Presbyterian Church of Newark by 2:00pm on Thurs., Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Would like to arrange storage/pick-up for our donation:     Turkey     Canned Goods
- Please accept a monetary donation. Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Would like to volunteer to help in other ways: First Presbyterian Church, Newark (CHECK ONLY ONE):

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup> — Sorting Food          | <input type="checkbox"/> 9:00am - Noon    | <input type="checkbox"/> 1:00pm - 3:00pm  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup> — Putting Food in Boxes | <input type="checkbox"/> 9:00am - Noon    | <input type="checkbox"/> 1:00pm - 3:00pm  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup> — Clients Pick up Food  | <input type="checkbox"/> 9:00am - 11:30am | <input type="checkbox"/> 11:30am - 2:00pm |

**Contact: Rosemarie White — 302.731.1573**





*New Castle Presbytery Welcomes  
Members of Head of Christiana PC and  
Presbyterian Campus Ministry to our*

***Holiday Open House**  
to celebrate the holy season*

***Thursday, December 5, 2013  
2:00pm to 3:30pm***

*in the  
Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church Chapel Room  
1100 West Church Road, Newark, DE  
(302.366.0595)*

***Please bring several canned and/or non-perishable  
food items to contribute to the  
Newark Area Needy Family Fund.***

*Please R.S.V.P. by November 27<sup>th</sup> to  
Donna Scully at 302.366.0595  
or via email at [dscully@ncpresbytery.org](mailto:dscully@ncpresbytery.org)*

***We sincerely hope you are able to attend!***