



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

January/February 2014

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Rev. Bob Undercuffler
Pastor

**There's a star in the east on Christmas morn,
Rise up, shepherd and follow.
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born,
Rise up, shepherd and follow.
Follow, follow, follow the Star of Bethlehem.
Rise up, shepherd and follow.**

-African-American spiritual

"Leadership is overrated," says philosopher-in-chief, Chip Kelly, head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles. Kelly claims, "Followship is what makes the difference." He goes on to explain football as a team sport and everyone from coaches to players, including training staff, and on down to office staff, are all members of the team. At their best, for peak results, all are followers.

Well, Coach Kelly did not invent this philosophy. It goes back at least 2000 years ago. To shepherds who followed angelic instructions and went to Bethlehem and found a baby wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. Babies born in humble surroundings were familiar to them, but this particular scene became etched in their hearts and minds for they recognized God at work in that lowly place. This was a holy place. And they worshipped. And from the opposite end of the social spectrum, Wise Men from the east saw a blazing star, and skirting desert lands followed that star to Bethlehem and they too worshipped the child, and offered valuable gifts.

The Bible is brimming with followers. The cynic might say, yes ... but look where it got them. The shepherds went back to their hovels, and the Wise Men returned to their Persian homes. But they were heralds of things to come, telling of what they had seen and heard. And now it is our turn, with Shepherds and with the Wise, to follow into Bethlehem and to worship, and offer gifts, and to tell Good News. "Christ the Savior is born!" And let us show his love into the entire world.

Grace to you, and peace,

Bob

We've made it through another year, and lots of us are thinking about New Year's Resolutions. Since a lot of those only seem to stick for about a week or two, I prefer to think of the new year as a time to look at the big picture: to take stock of accomplishments from the previous year, and hopes for the coming year.



Kate LeFranc
Associate Pastor

At Head of Christiana, we adopted a new mission statement in June of 2013 to guide our lives together, and to express our hopes for the directions we might go in the future. **Motivated by our love of Christ and neighbors, we follow God through:**

Word — engaging preaching, worship, and study
Work — caring service to our community and beyond
Witness — enthusiastic hospitality for all people

Supported by the wisdom of those who have gone before us, worshipping here at the headwaters of Christiana Creek, we look joyfully to the future of God's church in this community.

I think we're off to a great start. We've launched new Bible Study classes, put together a beautiful and welcoming new website, and strengthened our relationships with mission partners even while their leadership shifts. In the new year, I am hoping to see us continue trying new things in our worship and Bible Study groups, make new connections with our community as we reach out in different ways, and strengthen our commitment to mission and service by responding to new needs we see.

These are projects not just of your pastors, but of the whole community, led and guided by the Deacons and Elders. All of the leadership met for a retreat on December 7, and we used these words of our mission statement to dream and imagine what our life might look like in the future, as well as focus our efforts for this coming year. I am so pleased by what is growing here, and the leaders who have stepped up to guide us!

How do you think we did putting our emphasis in these areas?
How can we continue growing in this coming year? What can you imagine yourself doing in the church this year?

Kate

SUMMARY OF CHURCH FINANCES

Steve Graham

Summary of Church Finances as of November 31, 2013

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income (including Trail Race)	\$166,373	\$164,658	\$ 1,715
Expenses (including Trail Race)	\$159,498	\$156,899	\$ 2,599
Net Activity	\$ 6,875	\$ 7,759	\$ -884

We are working on finalizing the 2014 budget. Thank you all for your generous pledges.

CHRISTIAN ED STUDY FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY

Our 9:30am Sunday morning Christian Ed study is "Invitation to the Old Testament" by Cilia Sinclair. We will cover the following topics:

- ▶ The making of the old Hebrew Bible
- ▶ The creation story of Israel
- ▶ Out of Bondage
- ▶ Promise and problem in the land
- ▶ Israel has a King
- ▶ Division and the rise of prophecy
- ▶ Exile and response
- ▶ Restoration and renewal

Rosi White will lead this very interesting study. Come join us and learn.

Our "Feasting on the Word" class will continue in the Pastor's study Sunday's at 9:30am. An additional opportunity for this study is on Thursdays at 11:30am (bring your lunch)...12:00pm to 1:00pm for study. Pastors Bob and Kate are the leaders.

THANKS FROM MARION

Marion Shirkey

My heartfelt thanks to all HOC members and friends, who have visited, called, prayed, brought goodies and sent cards during the past few weeks and months as my ALS progressed.

Your thoughtfulness and concern has meant the world to me. I wish you all a wonderful new year filled with God's love and many blessings.

Thank you with all my heart for everything!!! God bless you all.

HOC "Snow Days"

In keeping with the recent policy adopted by New Castle Presbytery, the HOC offices will not open in bad weather if the Christina School District closes schools. We will be working from our homes though!



The University of Delaware Library has received the gift of a manuscript collection of World War II letters from Mr. and Mrs. Alan W. Southmayd, of Newark, Del. The letters were written by Alan Southmayd's older brother, the late Henry J. Southmayd Jr., between 1940 and 1945 when he served in the 65th Fighter Squadron, 57th Fighter Group of the 12th Army Air Force.

The 58 letters in the collection detail Henry Southmayd's recruitment into the Army Air Corps and subsequent training, as well as the events and conditions experienced while participating in the North African and Italian campaigns of the European Theatre during World War II.

This small collection presents undergraduates with an excellent opportunity to undertake research on the experience of persons in American military service and their families during the war, and Southmayd's letters add to the greater variety of documentation important to scholars of the period, especially those interested in the history of the 57th Fighter group.

Henry J. Southmayd Jr. was born on March 8, 1915, in Springfield, Ohio. His mother died not long after his birth but, soon after, his father Henry J. Southmayd married Elizabeth (Bess) Weltner, and the family grew to include two younger siblings: Dorothy Southmayd and Alan W. Southmayd. In the early 1920s the Southmayd family moved to White Plains, N.Y.

In October 1940, Henry Southmayd enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and underwent radio operator training. During World War II, he served at the rank of sergeant in the 65th Fighter Squadron, 57th Fighter Group of the 12th Army Air Force, which participated in the North African and Italian campaigns of the European Theatre.

After his World War II service, he re-enlisted, serving a total of 22 years and retiring from the military on May 31, 1963. He died on Jan. 26, 1967, at the age of 51.

In letters to his family at home in White Plains, Henry Southmayd described his army experiences serving in Palestine, Cyprus, Egypt, Libya, Malta, Sicily and Corsica.

He discussed mundane topics such as the weather, supply conditions, slow delivery of mail and radio programs available to the personnel. He also wrote about more eventful news such as seeing USO shows featuring entertainers such as Jack Benny, Bob Hope and Ella Logan, or his own hospitalization for a case of jaundice.

Southmayd also wrote home about family news, movies viewed, books read and his need for camera equipment and film. He frequently asked about updates from his sister Dorothy who enlisted in the American Red Cross and, in 1944, was stationed at an Army Air Force hospital in England.

The collection features examples of Victory Mail (V-mail) letters, which during World War II were photographed, transported as microfilm, and then re-printed onto paper for the recipient in order to expedite correspondence with soldiers stationed abroad.

The collection of Henry J. Southmayd Jr. World War II letters was processed by E. Evan Echols, senior assistant librarian in the Manuscripts and Archives Department. A [finding aid to the collection is available online](#) and the collection is available for research in Special Collections in the Morris Library of the University of Delaware Library.

The University of Delaware Library [Special Collections web page](#), with clicks on "Contact" and "Ask Special Collections," is available for reference assistance.

Alan and Ann Southmayd are faithful members of Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church.

Article taken from UD Daily, Dec. 9, 2013

The “HOP” Event

A Change of Plans

The HOP attendees had originally voted to visit the Philadelphia Mint in November but a summer planning foray by members of the HOP team determined that it just wasn't suitable for a HOP trip. Too much walking, not enough to see, and most importantly, no good place nearby to EAT! We didn't have a “backup” plan in place, but fortunately Kay Brook found that there was to be an unpublished morning production of a comedic play called [A Servant of Two Masters](#) at the University of Delaware's Roselle Theater Center and managed to secure the tickets.

The play was to start at 9:30 and, worried that we would be late, we hustled everyone along...only to find that they didn't even open the doors until 9:30. It was “hurry up & wait” as they say in the Army. No problem though as a couple of our members performed their own comic relief as we waited...



This was hard to beat, but...the play was even better. The Resident Ensemble Players put on a hilarious presentation that had the audience rolling in laughter.

After the show we went to the Marriot Courtyard Restaurant where we enjoyed a good lunch while rehashing the morning's events. It was a good day, indeed.

By the time you read this we will have taken a December Event trek to Longwood Gardens to see the spectacular Christmas display. Following that, Tuesday, January 14th brings us our annual planning meeting where we'll hear your ideas, present some of our suggestions and put together a plan for an exciting 2014 calendar of events.

CARE & FELLOWSHIP

Rosi White

I would like to thank the Congregation for all the food that was collected for the Newark Area Welfare Committee and the Elkton Help Center.

We collected sixteen turkeys and a cash donation. You all are very caring and love to share. What a Church we are. I am glad I am a member here.



Rosi White

The Care & Fellowship Committee

HOC CALENDAR — January Happenings



Wed.	Jan	1	HAPPY NEW YEAR
Wed.	Jan	1	6:30pm Outreach Commission
Sun.	Jan	5	Annual Reports must be submitted
Mon.	Jan	6	7:00pm Building & Grounds Commission
Mon.	Jan	6	7:00pm Admin & Finance Commission
Wed.	Jan	8	2:00pm Care & Fellowship Here
Fri.	Jan	10	12:00pm Hope Dining Room
Sun.	Jan	12	11:00am Ordination of Elders and Deacon
Mon.	Jan	13	6:30pm Session
Tue.	Jan	14	10:30am HOP Planning Meeting
Tue.	Jan	14	4:00pm Worship Commission
Thur.	Feb	13	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (for March Looking Tree)
Sun.	Jan	26	12:00pm Annual Congregation/Corporation Meeting
Tue.	Jan	28	1:00pm Caregivers' Coffee
Tue.	Jan	28	7:00pm Women's Circle





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

January Birthdays



Jan. 7	Dee Benspon	Jan. 26	Richard Brautigam
Jan. 8	Lucy Marianiello	Jan. 27	Michael Christain
Jan. 12	Rosi White	Jan. 28	Ann Cool
Jan. 16	Jeffrey Burmeister	Jan. 30	Linda Marquess
Jan. 21	Simon Condliffe		