



# The Looking Tree

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

**March 2014**

**Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christianiana,**



Rev. Bob Undercuffler  
Pastor

What are you giving-up for Lent? That question has been asked through generations. As Presbyterians, we might be a little silly and say, "anchovies." For me, it's asparagus. Actually, for this Lent I'm giving up both anchovies and asparagus!

In preparation for Head of Christiana's Ash Wednesday service (set for March 5), I was stuck by what the Apostle Paul wrote to followers of Christ in Corinth;

"We are Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We are speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; **God is already a friend with you.**" 2 Corinthians 5:20  
(The Message).

So seriously, here is something to give up for Lent. Let us give up our hurtful differences with others. Then, with the time and energy we save, let's work at making things right, peaceful and healthy. Certainly differences may remain. Difference is what makes us special. Noted. Unique. But we need not dwell on the differences, nor be consumed by them, nor battle over them.

So here is a new opportunity. A faithful and courageous challenge for Lent, and beyond. We are indeed Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. Remember, **God is already a friend with you.**

Grace to you, and peace. *Bob*

# SUMMARY OF CHURCH FINANCES

Steve Graham

## Summary of Church Finances as of January 31, 2014

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income (including Trail Race)	\$16,355	\$14,770	\$1,585
Expenses (including Trail Race)	\$13,629	\$15,341	- \$1,712
Net Activity	\$ 2,726	- \$ 571	\$3,297

## GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY - MARCH 9



Do you recognize the oath? If you do, you know a Girl Scout, you were a Girl Scout, or you live with a Girl Scout.

Whichever is the case, we are inviting all Girl Scouts (past and present) to join us for Girl Scout Sunday on March 10, 2013 during the 11:00am service at Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church. Following worship, everyone is invited to enjoy refreshment hour featuring a Girl Scout theme.

So, if you are a Girl Scout, or have ever been a Girl Scout, dig out your Girl Scout pins and badges and put them on. Gather any memorabilia also. We look forward to seeing you on Girl Scout Sunday. And, if you know a Girl Scout, or a friend of Girl Scouting, please invite them and their family to join us as well.

## MISSION COMMISSION

Jane Murray

The Mission Commission will meet on the following dates: March 12<sup>th</sup>, and thereafter on the first Wednesday of the month beginning April 2. All meetings will be at 6 pm in the Chapel Room. The March 12 meeting will be an open meeting (complete with a light dinner) for all involved in the Trail Race so we can go over procedures and assignments.

**TRAIL RACE.** The 16th annual Triple Crown Trail Race is fast approaching! If you have questions about the race, would like to volunteer to help in any capacity, or have any other input, please contact me at [cairnmurray@aol.com](mailto:cairnmurray@aol.com), or any member of the Mission Commission. For anyone new to the race, it is a wonderful day at the White Clay State Park, with hundreds of runners from across the country (as well as international runners), with a day that not only celebrates runners and walkers, but supports our mission goals. In the past, we have raised over \$ 20,000 from this event, which enables our church to contribute to local faith based homeless shelter and programs, as well as other mission projects.

## CARE & FELLOWSHIP

Rosi White

Our Adult Sunday School will be studying and viewing “Evil” by N.T. Wright beginning March 2<sup>nd</sup> through March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Topics being discussed will be:

- March 2<sup>nd</sup> What is Evil?
- March 9<sup>th</sup> Old Testament perspectives of evil.
- March 16<sup>th</sup> New Testament perspectives of evil.
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> What can we do about evil?



From March 30<sup>th</sup> through April 27<sup>th</sup>, we'll discuss “Resurrection,” also a lesson by N.T. Wright. Course of study will be as follows:

- March 30<sup>th</sup> The concept of afterlife in the ancient world.
- April 6<sup>th</sup> The idea of resurrection in Jesus' world.
- April 13<sup>th</sup> The Gospels and the resurrection of Jesus.
- April 20<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday (no classes today)
- April 27<sup>th</sup> The significance of the Resurrection for the Christian life.

Please come join us. It's always fun to learn something new and to share a laugh or two. Rosi White is the facilitator of these studies.

Our Caregivers' Coffee was cancelled in February, because it conflicted with the HOP trip to Vita Nova. Our next Caregiver's Coffee will be on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.

*Rosi White, The Care & Fellowship Committee*

## CLERK OF SESSION

Katie Gillespie

Welcome new members Judie and Phil Alwine!

Every year the clerk of session fills out a questionnaire for the Presbytery and General Assembly. The questions usually concern all areas of church life. One of this year's questions was, “*During 2013, how many different individuals would you estimate that the members of your congregation served or ministered among as they carried out the various activities, programs and outreach of the congregation?*” I asked session for their help with this question, and we decided that at least 3,500 people were touched in some way by the mission and ministries of the folks at Head of Christiana during 2013. What do you think?

## CHRISTIAN ED

Katie Gillespie

This year's Souper Bowl collection totaled a “super” \$272!

Thank you once again for your generous support in tackling hunger. This year's donation will benefit Elkton Community Kitchen.

# PANCAKES TO ASHES CELEBRATION

## From Pancakes to Ashes Our Lenten Journey Begins

Wednesday, March 5 our Head of Christiana family and friends will celebrate our second annual Pancakes to Ashes festivity. This unique liturgical tradition will begin with a Pancake Supper in Chapel Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. We will all enjoy pancakes, tasty syrups, sausage, fruit and beverages.

At 7:00 the lights will dim and we will begin our journey into Lent. This 30 minute service will include hymns, scripture, and reflection and worshippers who so choose will be marked with ashes in the form of the cross.

### Definitions:

**Shrove Tuesday** gets its name from the shriving (confession and absolution) that Christians were expected to receive immediately before Lent. The Pennsylvania Dutch call it "Fastnacht Day" after a type of doughnut made of all the sweets and other tasty items in the household and then consumed on Fat Tuesday so that no one would be tempted during the Lenten Fast. **Mardi Gras** is French for **Fat Tuesday**, and is celebrated more broadly than Shrove Tuesday. Both refer to the practice of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday.

**Ash Wednesday** marks the first day of Lent. It occurs forty-six days before Easter, but Lent is nevertheless considered forty days long, because Sundays in this period are not counted as days of penance. (Sunday worship always celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ). For the Ash Wednesday service, worshippers may choose to be marked in the form of a cross with black ashes by one of the pastors. The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration and mixing them with olive oil.

**A Lenten Discipline – A Devotional practice.** A booklet entitled "*Cross-Bound*" to assist in our Lenten journey is being provided by our Worship Commission for individuals and families. This devotion begins on Ash Wednesday, and with each day we travel through the last week of Jesus' life as told in the Gospel of Luke. Each daily meditation includes a prayer and a scripture reading. We pray that this lent we will not simply read about the cross, but be bound for it and bound to it, that, like Jesus, we will learn to live "cross-bound" lives of love as we await resurrection dawn.

Pastors Bob Undercuffler and Kate LeFranc



## The “HOP” Event

It now seems like December is long past, but I must admit it was worth remembering. After congratulating ourselves for our amazingly good luck with the weather in 2013 for our HOP trips, I guess the inevitable had to happen. On Tuesday, December 10, the day for the HOP trip to Longwood Gardens....it snowed! As this snow came right on the heels of that fast-moving storm that caught us all unawares while at worship services the prior Sunday, it was deemed prudent to say “never mind” and just stay at home. All was not lost, however, as Longwood Gardens said they would happily honor our pre-paid tickets on the following Monday. Most of us were able to reschedule, which was fortunate as it was a deluxe tour guided by a docent. And it was well worth the wait as our docent pointed out things that a casual guest would never learn. It wasn't without some drama, however as there were indeed snowflakes the morning of our rescheduled visit. But they didn't last and the day went extremely well, ending with a Christmas Carol sing-along to the strains of the magnificent Longwood Organ.



Hey Lady, that's my chair!

With the Longwood Gardens event completed we had finished our list of scheduled events for 2013. It was indeed a fun year and I was mightily relieved we got through all those events without losing anybody! All kidding aside, it was a most rewarding experience.

However, now it became necessary to have a planning meeting to determine where the participants would like to go in 2014. To keep things simple, Kay Brook & I compiled a list of 25 likely venues and distributed ballot sheets along with the signups to a planning event to be held on January 14. We had a great turnout of people and a lively discussion that happily resulted in an interesting schedule of events in the tradition of the HAPPY OLDER PRESBYTERIANS!

### The “HOP” Events planned for 2014 are:

- Feb. 25: Luncheon at the Vita Nova, University of Delaware Restaurant
- Mar. 19: Fulton Theater to see “Young Frankenstein”
- Apr. 22: Morning Concert at The Dickinson Organ featuring songs we remember, a sing-along and short silent film.
- \*May 13: Historic New Castle's Amstel and Dutch Houses (Led by HOC member David Price)
- \*June 10: Auburn Heights Preserve (A Victorian House and antique Stanley Steamer cars!)
- \*July 8: Christina River Water Taxi (Discover the Wilmington Waterfront)
- \*Aug. 12: Pennsbury Manor (William Penn's abode)
- \*Sept. 9: A Chestertown walking tour/Geddes House
- \*Oct. 14: President James Buchanan's Wheatland Mansion
- \*Nov. 12: A Theater to be determined
- \*Dec. 10: Brandywine River Museum

\* **Second Tuesdays are tentative based on the actual date an event can be scheduled.**

COMING TOGETHER January 12, 2014

After watching "Animals of the Nativity,"  
the classes made their gift to the birds.





# HOC CALENDAR — March Happenings

Mon.	Mar	3	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission
Mon.	Mar	3	7:00pm	Building & Grounds Commission
Tue.	Mar	4	2:00pm	Care & Fellowship Committee
Wed.	Mar	5	6:00pm	Pancakes to Ashes Supper & Service
Sun	Mar	9	<b>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME -- SPRING FORWARD</b>	
Sun.	Mar	9	11:00am	Girl Scout Sunday
Mon.	Mar	10	6:30pm	Session
Tue.	Mar	11	4:00pm	Worship Commission
Thur.	Mar	13	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (for April Looking Tree)</b>	
Fri.	Mar	14	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Wed.	Mar	19	10:30am	HOP trip to Fulton Theater, Lancaster, Pa "Grand Old Lady of Prince Street"
Thurs.	Mar	20	<b>FIRST DAY OF SPRING</b>	
Tue.	Mar	25	1:00pm	Caregivers' Coffee
Wed.	Mar	25	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's



The new website for the Triple Crown Trail Race is:  
<http://www.udel.edu/johnmack/traildawgs/tc/>

## SUNDAY, MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup> DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



 Wishing you a rainbow  
 For sunlight after showers-  
 Miles and miles of Irish smiles  
 For golden happy hours-  
 Shamrocks at your doorway  
 For luck and laughter too,  
 And a host of friends that never ends  
 Each day your whole life through!



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

## March Birthdays



Mar. 3	Betty Fetell	Mar. 6	Becky Mackenzie
Mar. 4	Sonia Combs	Mar. 16	Erica Sutton
Mar. 4	Donna Lilly	Mar. 26	William Brook
Mar. 5	Mark Mankin	Mar. 26	Sophia Marianiello
Mar. 5	Jane Murray	Mar. 30	Phyllis Gardner
Mar. 5	Alan Southmayd	Mar. 30	Jane Brautigam