



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

May 2014

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Rev. Bob Undercuffler
Pastor

Pat and I have marked our first month at Ware Presbyterian Retirement Village just up the road in Oxford, PA. And we anticipate many more months ... and years in this village. Not in our wildest imagination did we imagine we would ever be living in such a place. I'm grateful that the Deacons of Head of Christiana gathered members and friends of

the church last September to hear Jane Erickson from Ware help all of us think about next steps in living. Jane described a variety of options, and repeated on several occasions, "*If you don't make the choice, in the future someone else will make the choice for you.*" That stark reality certainly caught our attention. So we came, we saw, we reflected and made the decision to move to Ware. Here are some benefits.

- My commute to Head of Christiana is now 20 minutes over country roads. One day I passed two Amish buggies and one Amish manure wagon. When we got to the top of a hill, he pulled over and waved several cars around, and gave us a happy "thumbs-up" as we passed. My previous commute from Wilmington was 25 minutes down I-95. Enough said.
- The meals are excellent with a nice variety of choices. We live in the new Vista Ridge apartments, and the dining room and Bistro are a short walk down the hall. The Bistro is more casual and on Mondays and Fridays I eat lunch in the Bistro. They prepare a very tasty grilled Reuben Panini.
- Everyone is friendly. I guess that's natural because most of the residents have moved here from within 30 miles of Ware Village. That's *my* estimate, not a scientific survey. We walk into the dining room and people wave us over ... "*sit with us,*" they invite. And it's always fun eating with HOC friends, Gerry and Carol Cole. Well, this is not a commercial for Ware Village. It is simply our testimony about a major change that we have now accomplished, and survived. Better, I say we are thriving. And to top it all, we close on our Wilmington house in a few weeks, so sometime in June a new family will move in. All is good. God is good. Grace to you, and peace,

Bob

We find ourselves now in the joyful season of Easter, and, as the weather warms up, there are new things cropping up all around us! So how might we catch the spirit of new life in our life as a congregation? I said in my Easter sermon: "*We expect dead things to stay dead. But that is not how God works.*"



Kate LeFranc
Associate Pastor

We are hoping for new things to spring up in our church, but I wonder if deep down we *really* expect anything new to happen.

The Easter season lasts until we celebrate Pentecost on June 8, and my challenge to all of us in this time is to watch for the ways our thinking might be working against a spirit of resurrection.

Have we said or thought things like this?

Oh, they won't come.

We can't do that.

It won't work.

Well, why not?? We proclaim a God who brings divine life out of humiliation and death, so what makes us think God can't bring something new out of our own lives?

Letting go of our pessimism can be hard – let's face it, we're just being realistic, right? –but I wonder if it might not open up some room for the spirit of God to do its work. Perhaps if we focus less on what we *think* is going to happen, we can focus more on what God is calling us to do.

After all, God has worked bigger miracles!

Blessings,

Kate

SUMMARY OF CHURCH FINANCES

Summary of Church Finances as of March 31, 2014

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$38,526	\$44,310	- \$ 5,784
Expenses	\$53,080	\$46,018	\$ 7,062
Net Activity	- \$14,554	- \$ 1,708	- \$12,846

Please note that due to cash flow issues, we have had to withdraw \$20,000 from the endowment to meet our expenses. It is hoped that our cash flow will recover over the next several months so this can be re-paid.

Budget Item Explanation: Per Capita Apportionment

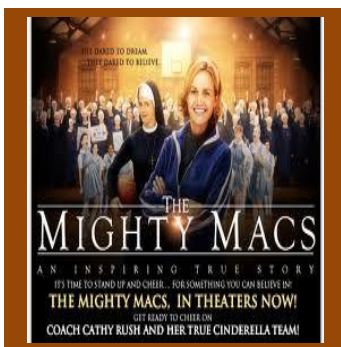
Our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) per capita cost for 2014 is \$31.00 per member, for a total expense of \$3,162, based on our 102 members as of the end of 2013. This item is in our budget under Congregational Expense. Some members have asked for this number for the purpose of including an individual per capita amount in their 2014 church offering. We request that you also please consider including an extra \$31.00 in your giving plans for this year.

For more information about the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) per capita cost, please see:

www.ncpresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/PER-CAPITA-OVERVIEW-2014.pdf

TOPICS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lucy Marianiello



The Topics Sunday school class will be watching “*The Mighty Macs*” during the first 3 Sundays in May. Classes start at 9:30 a.m.

It is based on the true story of the Immaculata College women's basketball team. In the early 70s, Cathy Rush became the head basketball coach at a tiny, all-girls Catholic college. Though her team has no gym and no uniforms — and the school itself is in danger of being sold — Coach Rush looks to steer her girls to their first national championship.

If you loved “Hoosiers,” and “Rudy,” you’ll love The Mighty Macs.

NCP MISSION TRIPS TO NEW JERSEY

Pam Ruarke

The New Jersey shore was hit particularly hard by Superstorm Sandy in 2012 and many of our churches sent immediate assistance to those affected. There have been a number of requests from throughout the presbytery asking about mission trips to the area. Many of our churches are unable to put together an entire team and it is our presbytery's desire to support those who wish to help those in need. It has been your requests and desire to help our neighbors in need that has created two mission trip opportunities:

June 22 — 28 Absecon Presbyterian Church, Absecon, NJ

August 17 — 23 Community Presbyterian Church, Brigantine, NJ

You may support those who will be participating in these trips by sending funds to New Castle Presbytery. In your check's memo line please note the following “Mission Trip Month” (the month of the trip that you would like funds to be applied), i.e., Mission Trip June...or August. If you would like more information about either trip, please contact Pam Ruarke at

pruarke@hotmail.com or 410-251-3528.

Pam Ruarke is Presbytery's Disaster Recovery Coordinator. She is co-pastor at Faith Chapel in Berlin, MD.

Pam was a member of our Tornado Recovery team to Kentucky in 2012.

****Deadline for anyone wanting to participate in the June trip to Absecon is May 31st.****

Several cards were sent out to members of our HOC family. A lovely thank you card was received from Guy Hecker, Marion Shirkey's cousin, for all our help and support regarding her funeral service and reception that followed.

Treats and/or flowers were delivered to a couple of our members, and hosts for coffee hours are covered through mid-June. Anyone who can help out in the coming months, please sign up on the sheet provided as you come in the sanctuary door.

The April 13th Meals for Campus Ministry was prepared and delivered by C&F members.

We are working on assembling a binder with information on local caterers so we can better assist our HOC family should the need arise.

Our Caregivers' Coffees are postponed until June.

The next Care and Fellowship meeting will be on Wednesday, May 7 at 2:00pm at HOC.



PENTECOST — SUNDAY, JUNE 8

The biblical narrative of Pentecost is given in the second chapter of the Book of Acts. About one hundred twenty followers of Christ were present (Acts 1:15), including his core group of twelve disciples (Acts 1:13, 26), his mother Mary, and various other women disciples (Acts 1:14). (NSRV)



“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.”

While those on whom the Spirit had descended were speaking in many languages, the apostle Peter stood up with the eleven and proclaimed to the crowd that this event was the fulfillment of the prophecy ("I will pour out my spirit"): In Acts 2:17, it reads: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." He also mentions (2:15) that it was the third hour of the day (about 9:00am). Acts 2:41 then reports: "So those who welcomed his message received the Holy Spirit, and that day about three thousand persons were added." Peter stated that this event was the beginning of a continual outpouring that would be available to all believers from that point on, Jews and Gentiles alike.

Christian Pentecost became not only a commemoration of the Holy Spirit's visit but also marks the birth of the Christian Church. Although it is not certain when Pentecost began to be observed by Christians, it may have been as early as the first century. The day of Pentecost is 50 days after Easter. The symbols of Pentecost are those of the Holy Spirit and include flames, wind, and a dove. The color is red.

Head of Christiana will receive a special Pentecost Offering, "Faith Empowers" on Sunday, June 8. This offering is used to support children at risk, youth, and young adults — all special concerns for our church. The Children at Risk program keeps youth safe as they build their relationship with Jesus. Your gifts also make it possible for other young adults to take part in the Young Adult Volunteer program where they learn skills to help them grow in Christ and lead our church into the future. Ministries like the Triennium help support youth through their journey with Christ which ensures inspiring discipleship is kept visible for Presbyterian youth and youth leaders. Your gifts to this offering also helps support the Child and Youth Protection Policy which focuses on older youth by supporting the efforts of leaders, assisting in providing background checks for volunteers, education on how to spot signs of neglect or abuse, Children and Youth Protection policy training. Help sustain these programs that protect our children and youth thanks to your contributions.

Musings with Our Associate Executive Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Jackie Taylor

In an attempt to become more fit, I arrive at an exercise class at the YMCA. As I walk in the room, I notice a number of seniors milling about, each with a fitness ball, band and mat in their hands. I inquired about the class and one of the women said it was relatively low impact. "I like to use the gray band" she said, "The purple one is much more difficult." So, of course, I take the purple band because after all, this class must be easy if senior citizens take it.

Fifty minutes later, I am crawling out of the class, gasping for air while the seniors are skipping out saying to one another, "See you next week!" There are several lessons in this story, the most obvious being either "don't judge a book by its cover" or more aptly, "pride goeth before the fall"! What I took from this lesson is: there is power in the seniors! So many of our congregations lament the fact that there are few or no children or young people in their churches. Yes, I can see from a generational and future perspective, which might be cause for concern.

My father is in a Scrabble group of ninety year olds! Okay, so there are no young people in your church. Seniors are more active than ever before. They have experience, wisdom, expertise, energy and enthusiasm. They are engaging unlike some of today's youth who have slipped into a video game, cell phone, texting catatonia. If you have active lively seniors in your congregation, then there is nothing you can't do!! Mission? Check! Worship? Check! Evangelism — especially to other active seniors? Check! Bible Classes? Check!

So what are you waiting for seniors? Put us younger folk to shame and do your thing!

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the New Castle Presbytery's newsletter, Mid-Week Musings, a few weeks ago. We thought you would find it interesting and relevant reading. To subscribe to Mid-Week Musings

OUTREACH COMMISSION

Alex Oakes

ELKTON COMMUNITY KITCHEN...

Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church has a rich history of helping at this annual event, so in order to give you ample notice I'm asking you to.....**Mark your calendars now!**

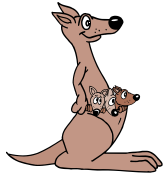
On **Friday, June 20th** volunteers from Head of Christiana will be serving lunch for people in need at the Elkton Community Kitchen. Your Outreach Commission will be planning and organizing this effort, so please let one of us know if you are interested in helping.

Did you know? Out of all the methods to grow a church, by far the most successful comes from "word-of-mouth" referrals. Sometimes subtle suggestions get the best results. Give it a try....with your help and prayers we WILL succeed.



Outreach Commission Members:

Alex Oakes, Chair, Ed Crispin, Lucy Marianiello, Pat Undercuffler, Steve Graham



"Hoppy"

The "HOP" Event

April 2014

It was March and yes...it rained. But...Umbrellas in hand, twenty two Happy Older Presbyterians found their way to the Newsroom Restaurant in Lancaster to get fortified to face the YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN!



Held at Lancaster's elegant Fulton Theater (the Grand Olde Lady of Prince Street), this wasn't a horror show but a hilarious, sometimes ribald Mel Brooks comedy, that had us rolling in our seats with laughter (no, Martha, Presbyterians aren't prudes).



I continue to be amazed (and pleased) at the large number of people who turn out for our theatrical events, considering that they can make for a fairly long day. And then, to make matters worse, there's always somebody who makes the day even longer by following the GPS's directions to get home instead of paying heed to well-placed route signs. I just hope my passengers don't hold it against me....

It's GREAT to be a "Happy Older PRESBYTERIAN"!! JOIN US!

On April 22nd the Happy Older Presbyterian's visited Dickinson High School to hear Wayne Zimmerman on the Kimball Theater Organ.
Read all about it in the June issue of The Looking Tree!

HOC CALENDAR — May Happenings

Sat.	May	03	9a to 4p	New Ark United Church of Christ using Chapel Room for Retreat.
Mon.	May	05	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission
Mon.	May	05	7:00pm	Building & Grounds Commission
Wed.	May	07	2:00pm	Care & Fellowship Commission
Wed.	May	07	6:00pm	Missions Commission (Chapel Room)
Fri.	May	09	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Mon.	May	12	6:30pm	Session
Tue.	May	13	9:15am	HOP trip to Olde New Castle
Tue.	May	13	4:00pm	Worship Commission
Wed.	May	14	11:00am	Outreach Commission
Tue.	May	14		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (for June Looking Tree)
Sun.	May	18	12:00pm	Potluck Luncheon after worship
Wed.	May	28	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's





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



Born in May

Pleasing and attractive personality. Good looking. You adapt well to new situations. Joyful attitude towards life. Independent. Secretive. Intelligent mind. You get easily angry. Very stubborn at times. You love attention. More logical than emotional. You dream big. Dynamic and active. Quick to return favors. Honest.

Sunday, May 18th
After worship...

Please join us for our May Potluck luncheon. Tea, lemonade and juice will be served along with all the bountiful goodies on the table. Yum...

May Birthdays



May 1	Christine Sutton	May 24	Rick Fehr
May 4	Russell Holland	May 26	John Tipton
May 9	Jeanne Hastings	May 27	Clint Cullum
May 13	Betsy VanCulin	May 27	Bill Witt
May 21	Amy Uffelman	May 29	Charlie DeSantos