



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

August 2019

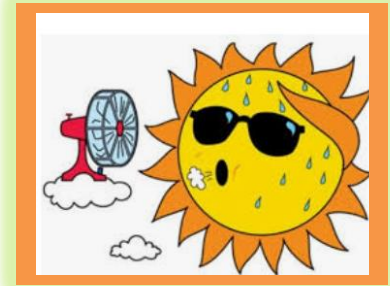
Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Pastor Hilary Livingston

Dear HoC members and friends,

God's presence is all around us, but sometimes we're not always aware of it. We're also often not aware of God's power in our lives to bring about transformation in our lives and in the life of our church. One of the practices that can help us grow closer to God as individuals and as a church is becoming intentionally aware of God's presence and power in our daily lives.



The opening chapter of the book of Ephesians contains a prayer for the church to open the eyes of our hearts to God's presence and power in our lives:

"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." - Ephesians 1:17-23

Let's pray this prayer for our church that we may be aware of God's presence and power in our life and ministry together!

Blessings,

Hilary

THOUGHTS ON



stewardship

A Giving Way to Save Money on Your Federal Taxes *by Ed Crispin*

For those who: (1) Have a Traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA), and are: (2) 70½ years of age or over (*to include planning information for those approaching 70½ years of age*), we know that each year a minimum distribution must be taken from our IRA. And each year we are subject to pay Federal Tax on that distribution. But we may not be aware that a provision in the law provides that if we directly transfer a part or all of that distribution from our IRA to a Qualified Charitable Organization(s), e.g., the Church, we are not required to pay Federal taxes on that donated distribution. This provides a means by which we can obtain significant savings on our IRS tax bill.

If you are eligible (*to include those who are moving in the direction of eligibility*), but are currently not aware of this provision in the Federal Tax Law, I encourage you to investigate this significant opportunity for giving and for saving. There is a wealth of information on the web concerning it and the directives for its use. You can start by Googling “*The Rules for Making IRS Tax-Free Donations from an IRA.*” Also, I anticipate that most professional tax preparers are aware of this opportunity and would be very willing to discuss who can and how one can take advantage of its provision.

GIVING DOES MATTER





HEAD of CHRISTIANA ALL-CHURCH VBS 2019

Please **JOIN US**
to kick off
Vacation Bible School
this year!

Thursday, August 8, 2019

- PotLuck dinner at 5:00pm – ALL HOC members and friends are invited! (Please bring a dish to share).
- Classes for all ages at 6:15pm – Pastor Hilary teaches the adult class and Mrs. Gillespie teaches the youth class.
- Campfire with S'mores to end our night! YUM!

Friday, August 9, 2019

The elementary and youth classes
are welcome for additional activities:

- Meet at the church at 9:30am to carpool to Hope Dining Room
- Assist at Hope Dining Room with lunch to follow
- Afternoon walk to Fair Hill Nature Center
- Back to HOC for a class taught by Mrs. Burmeister
- Pizza dinner with Root Beer Floats!
- Graveyard Clues Hunt and Flashlight Tag until dark!



HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!



August Coffee Hours

Aug 4 — Pot Luck

Aug 11 — Pot Luck

Aug 18 — Pot Luck

Aug 25 — Pot Luck

Sept 1 — Pot Luck

Sept 8 — Rally Day (Hosted by C & F)



Coffee Fellowship

REMEMBER - YOU can host any "Pot Luck" Coffee Hour.
Simply contact Jeanne Hastings at 302-368-9416 if you are interested.



Café Church – August 25th at 11:00am in our Fellowship Hall



To beat the heat one Sunday in July, we worshipped in our Fellowship Hall with a café-style information worship/coffee hour combo. We enjoyed it so much that we've decided to do it again in August!

Join us for our second "Café Church" worship & fellowship hour on Sunday, August 25th at 11:00am in Fellowship Hall.

Informal worship – Casual dress. Bring a snack to share. Invite a friend!





The start of school is just around the corner and we are getting ready!
Our goal is to ensure that every child and teacher at John R. Downes Elementary School is prepared with the supplies required to start the year off right.

We need your help!

Our collection drive **will begin on Sunday, August 11th**.

A list of requested items is printed below. Donations may be deposited in the box marked "School Supplies" located in the vestibule in the Narthex.

- #2 pencils
- soft pencil pouch (no boxes)
- 2-pocket folders different colors with holes
- Marble type composition books
- one subject tablets
- box of 24 (at most) crayons
- pencil sharpener with lid
- bottle of hand sanitizer
- large boxes of tissues
- glue sticks (large preferred)
- wide-rule lined loose leaf paper
- small zip lock baggies
- large zip lock baggies
- Colored Pencils
- white copy paper
- Scissors (Fiskars for kids--pointed end preferred)
- Clorox Wipes / Lysol dual action wipes
- Jumbo stretchy book covers
- ½ inch 3-ring binders
- 1 cm / inch ruler
- 1 protractor (clear)
- Hand Soap
- Crayola markers
- Elmer's glue
- Small pink erasers
- Ticonderoga pencils (sharpened if possible)
- Black dry erase markers (skinny/fine point)
- Hand wipes
- 1 flash drive (cheapest one is fine)
- Post-it notes (any size/color/brand)
- Sharpies

Wish List Items (optional):

- Scotch Tape and/or Masking Tape
- Colored Copy Paper
- Fine felt tip pens (blue or black)
- Bag feathers
- Paper towels
- White or colored card stock

“Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations” Board of Pensions Workshop for Churches:

Monday, August 12, 6-8:00 p.m.
Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church

This program brings a pastor and congregational leadership together to work toward financial sustainability by providing financial education and consultations to both the pastor and congregational leaders. Members of session or the Personnel Committee or any other congregational leaders, along with the pastor, participate in a single, two-hour training session. This training teaches congregational leaders to understand the financial realities of those who answer God's call to congregational ministry; and appreciate the role justly compensating their pastors, including benefits, plays in the vitality of the Church; and Pastors who covenant with their congregational leadership to complete the program receive:

- a grounding in financial literacy and financial management skills by completing online learning modules in two series,
- individual financial counseling with Ernst & Young Employee Financial Services,
- the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to \$10,000, which may be used to reduce or eliminate the educational or other debt, or to boost personal savings in the Retirement Savings Plan.

More information is available on pensions.org, Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations.

Anyone from the congregation is invited to attend. **Session and A&F members are strongly encouraged to attend.**

Registration is free, but required - no later than Thursday, August 1.

Register online at: <https://forms.gle/eZsAvVxYSoPotAHo7>



Tea & Hygge – Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the Pastor’s Study

First meeting: Wednesday, September 11th

This fall, we'll be enjoying tea, fellowship, and good conversation over the book, *Wabi-Sabi Welcome: Learning to Embrace the Imperfect and Entertain with Thoughtfulness and Ease* by Julie Pointer Adams.

If you would like to order a book (\$17.00), please let Pastor Hilary know.

New members are welcome!

Invite a friend!

See what all the buzz is about!



2019 HoC Concert under the Trees

What a fine tribute to the folks at Head of Christiana that this Summer Concert under the Trees has continued to be supported for the sixth consecutive year. While it's great that we are able to attract people from outside our congregation, what really matters is YOUR participation, without which this event would never continue as long as it has.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all of you who continue to come out, rain or shine, to hear the fine music of the Newark Community Band, enjoy some ice cream and also to raise money for worthy causes that benefit those less fortunate than ourselves. As you may have heard, this year we raised over \$900 for the cause of Warriors Helping Warriors, a group based in Middletown that is helping homeless veterans get their lives put back together. Let's keep up the great work, HoC!



HOC CALENDAR — August Happenings



Wed	Aug 07	2:00pm	Care & Fellowship Commission
Thur / Fri	Aug 08 and 09		VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Friday	Aug 09	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Sunday	Aug 11	12:30pm	Worship Commission
Monday	Aug 12	6:00pm	Admin & Finance / Board of Pensions Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	Aug 13		LOOKING TREE DEADLINE
Tuesday	Aug 20	6:00pm	Mission Commission
Tuesday	Aug 20	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission
Sunday	Aug 25	11:00am	Café Church in Fellowship Hall
Sunday	Aug 25	12:30pm	Christian Ed Commission

"Today is an opportunity to build the tomorrow you want."



PILOXING — TUESDAYS — 7:00PM



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



Aug 5	Charlotte Dudkewitz	Aug 13	Jim Kniskern
Aug 7	Ed Crispin	Aug 15	Vanessa Marianiello
Aug 7	Becky Taber	Aug 17	Jeff Gillespie
Aug 8	Alex Oakes	Aug 17	Audrey Harper
Aug 9	Nancy Crawford	Aug 23	Brian Huffman
Aug 11	Christopher Sutton	Aug 27	Ruth Stafford
		Aug 31	Mims Hildabrant

