

New Castle Presbyterian News

January 2007



Photo Directory

The Board of Deacons will be updating the photo directory in the coming weeks. If you would like a new picture of you and your family taken for the photo directory, please see Shirley Knox after worship any Sunday. We would like to have the directory updated by Easter so please contact Shirley by March 31st if you want a new picture. If you have any questions, please call 322-0225.

Friendship House Update

As a member of the Board of Directors for Friendship House, I can tell you that Bill Perkins was thrilled to hear the approximate outcome of our Spirit of Christmas Program. Approximately \$4700.00 was raised for Friendship House to be used for the new shelter, Corner House Ministry, a house on the site of the Calvary Presbyterian Church property on Maryland Avenue in Wilmington. This house will serve elderly homeless men. Our funds will be used to purchase furniture items (beds, mattresses, tables, etc.).

All members of our church are invited to the Corner House Ministry Dedication on January 7, 2007 following our church service. Calvary will be having an Open House so that we may tour the facility. More details to follow.

I must add that I have just been overwhelmed at the abundance of Christian love this congregation has given to **all** the mission projects our committee has sponsored in 2006. Your willingness to help others is a true blessing to me.

Sincerely,

Linda Neel
Mission and Outreach Committee

Many Thanks for the Ditty Box Project For the Seamen's Center

On November 19th the Mission Committee and the Youth Group delivered 30+ Christmas “ditty boxes” to the Seamen’s Center. We also delivered 30 handmade scarves, 12 hand knit hats, 18 purchased hats, and several coats and sweatpants. We even had additional supplies for the “ditty boxes” that will be added to the ones the Seamen’s Center was putting together.

Several members of the ships’ crew were at the Center when we arrived. These men are on shore for very short periods (typical turnaround time is two days) so they use the center to make calls, send emails, play pool and other games, purchase candy and snacks, use the library, eat in the kitchen, or just relax. Bicycles are provided for the men to use since the ships are a considerable distance from the house.

The center informed us that the men enjoy National Geographic magazines. Let us know if any of you wish to donate these magazines and we will deliver them.

The director of the Seamen’s Center loaded us into vans for the very interesting tour of the Port of Wilmington. We saw the warehouses where fruit is stored, decontaminated, and frozen. We saw longshoremen driving a long line of cars into a ship headed to Dubai. Then we saw a Dole fruit ship being unloaded and reloaded at the same time. A truck drove up to the crane and the crane lifted a huge empty container from the truck onto the ship. The truck proceeded a bit further along the dock and another crane for the same ship loaded a new container, filled with Dole fruit, onto the truck. There is quite an assembly line procedure to loading and unloading these ships.

Those who helped us deliver the goods were: Monty and Ellie Gerhart, Peter Casper (the Gerhart’s grandson), Shirley Knox, Sue Townsend, Nanette Nichol, Joan Smith, Beth Hentkowski, Katie Martin, Jim and Linda Neel, and Rev. Nancy Rowland.

The Evangelism and Outreach Committee thanks everyone in the congregation who so generously donated items to this project.

The Mission and Outreach Committee

The Corner House at Calvary Presbyterian Church

We are very excited that the Corner House at Calvary Presbyterian Church is up and running. The money raised from Spirit of Christmas will be very useful in getting the residents furniture, bedding, etc. On February 11, our committee will be sponsoring a Valentine brunch to introduce Bob Richardson, pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church, and the committee from Calvary whose vision enabled Bill Perkins from Friendship House to establish the Corner House as a residence for older men. We have also invited Bill Perkins and the residents of the home to worship with us and then share their thoughts about what this home means to them during our brunch. The snow date will be February 18th. To help with needed supplies at all the Friendship House shelters we are asking members to bring in packages of toilet paper during the month of January. There will be a collection basket in the hallway of the Christian Education building. As we continue the celebration of our 350th anniversary, please plan on joining us for brunch and see how our faith is put into action.

"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

- Romans 12:13 NIV

- Janet Spring, Co-Chair Mission and Outreach

Cookies Aplenty, Cookies Galore

On Sunday morning, December 17th, I took three very large boxes of cookies to the Friendship House breakfast for the homeless at the Church of St. Andrew and Matthew. These cookies were the remains of the very generous donation of cookies for the reception after the funeral of our dear friend, Ralph Johnson. Volunteers from Christ Church and the Centerville School helped me bag the cookies into sandwich bags. After we bagged about 120 bags of cookies, the students walked around the breakfast tables and handed everyone a bag of cookies. It is absolutely amazing how much joy a small bag of cookies can bring to people!! Bill Perkins took the remaining cookies (there were still quite a few left), to the Women's Shelters to share with the women and their children who are living there. Many thanks to all of the bakers who were so generous. What a wonderful tribute it was to a life well-lived. Can't you just hear Ralph saying, "Right on, Brothers and Sisters!!"?

- Janet Spring, Co-Chair Mission and Outreach

And More Thanks

Thank you all for the outpouring of love you provided with the avalanche of cookies you made for the Johnson Memorial Service. They were wonderful! And many, many thanks to all of you who helped with the planning, purchased supplies, packed the cookies for transport and delivered them to First and Central, came to put up tables and chairs, filled the cookie trays, made the coffee and lemonade, brought flowers for the tables, helped with serving, kept the pitchers and urns filled, and stayed after the reception to clean up, and even laundered the tablecloths.

After "feeding the 5000" (well, that might be a slight exaggeration), the rest of the cookies you made were taken to the Friendship House to share with the homeless on Sunday morning. I think Ralph would have been pleased with that. You all would have made him proud!

- Mary Pratt

Mission Calendar 2007

The Mission and Outreach committee will meet in January to discuss monthly Mission and Outreach activities for the year 2007. A full calendar of events will be listed in the February newsletter. Reminders about upcoming events will also be placed in the bulletins on a weekly basis and also on our fabulous new website!! If you are interested in becoming a member of our committee, please see Janet Spring or Cynthia Robbins.

Friendship House Breakfast

On January 20 and 21st we will be preparing and serving breakfast at Friendship House at the Church of St. Andrew and Matthew at 8th and Shipley Street. Meal preparation will be at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday and serving time will be 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 21st. If you are interested in signing up for one or both of these activities, please check the sign up sheet in the Christian Education building. If you cannot volunteer, but would like to contribute food, there will be a sign-up sheet for food contributions. Thank you for your continued support.

Thank You Flower Guild

Every week of the church year we are blessed with beautiful, creative floral arrangements. I am always astounded at the variety and creativity of the many floral arrangements. Some have unusual flowers and some have very unusual containers but all are breathtaking. I am so very thankful for the ministry of these capable volunteers. Your work each Sunday and for special occasions in the church is truly commendable. Our congregation appreciates your hard work!

- Linda Neel

A Spirited Thank You

The Spirit of Christmas was a resounding success at New Castle Presbyterian Church! Whether you produced the goods for sale – crafts, breads, soups, books, etc. – or whether you volunteered at a table or the manse, or played the bells, or chaired a committee, you made friends with the community and created peace on earth, good will to all.

It was your work and effort that made it possible for Spirit of Christmas at New Castle Presbyterian to earn more than \$4,700 for Corner House, the Calvary Presbyterian Church and Friendship House Project that we co-sponsor. That is the real Spirit of Christmas!

Meeting Ground Herb Sale and Friendship House Sugar/Cremora Drive

During the months of November and December, the Mission and Outreach committee sold herbs and spices to help raise money for the homeless shelter at Meeting Ground. We are very happy to report that we made over \$500.00 in sales. We would also like to thank all the members who graciously donated bags of sugar and jars of Cremora for Friendship House shelters. These donations are greatly appreciated by Bill Perkins and his staff.

"You are never more like God than when you give." Author unknown

- Janet Spring, Co-Chair Mission and Outreach

Thank You

I am overwhelmed with the generosity of your Christmas gift to me and my family. I am conscious of the very real sacrifice that many of you have made to give me such a blessed Christmas present. Your support of me in this past year has been the very face of God. Thank you for every kindness, every meal, every prayer, and most of all, your dear friendship and your discipleship alongside of me on this journey of faith. God bless us everyone!

- Nancy

NCPC Book Night February 13 at 7:00 P.M.

Our book selection for February is Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt by Anne Rice.

From a review of the book:

"Christ the Lord is a bold piece of historic fiction...Minutely researched, Anne Rice delivers a fictitious life of Jesus written in the first person....Rice wrote her narrative with great attention to the scholarly consensus about political, economical, religious and living conditions in first century Egypt and Israel...Rice gives us a Jesus fully integrated into an extended human family...If you have ever wondered what kind of human beings it took to raise the Son of God, you find the answers in this book and you will not be disappointed."

Please join us on Tuesday evening and bring a friend. This book can be found in the library, in bookstores or can be purchased online.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

When people are talking about old times, invariably they will start a story by saying, "I remember when," and go on from there. Beginning on the first Sunday of January and continuing each week throughout 2007, a short article written by YOU entitled I REMEMBER WHEN could appear in the church bulletin. We hope every person in the congregation will share at least one or more such memories. It could be from childhood or as late as yesterday. A "memory" may be a sentence or two or a paragraph, but usually no more than a page in length for each one.

Some Memory Prodders for your stories:

Former Sunday school teachers, pastors, some of the members you especially remember, "outside speakers", amusing events, picnics, special projects, the brownstone church building, the Christian Education building, restoration of the meeting house, life in the manse, the New Castle Antiques Show, weddings, funerals, Vacation Bible School – funny, sad or glad – anything goes!

We Need YOUR Story, or more than one. Just jot it down, or call either of us (328-7273) or e-mail us (msprt7@aol.com) (but we can't retrieve attachments). We will edit it and get your approval before it is published. We are eager to hear from you.

- Herb & Mary Pratt

350 Years **Witnessing for Christ**

Over the next year, my small corner of this mosaic of witnessing for Christ will be to focus on the many changes our congregation has experienced over the past three and a half centuries. It will not be the usual chronological listing of events, but rather a thematic approach to the changes in its work, worship, pastors, congregational life, places they met, etc. History is simply the study of such changes. Under the title "Bits and Pieces from the Past," you will read about rented pews, new fangled heating stoves, closed communion, pastors who dared to write out their sermons, opposition to the use of instrumental music in worship, and so on. Many such changes were met with opposition even to the extent that some churches were split over these issues.

These thoughts will not necessarily be specific to Presbyterians. Many will be drawn from my great interest in church history and how other religious groups have dealt with change. In the remote past, changes occurred so slowly that they were hardly noticed. Not so today. It is becoming obvious that the rates of change are accelerating more and more rapidly in most aspects of life — mores, mobility, communication, the sexual revolution, longevity, home life, decorum, our abundance of "stuff," religious beliefs, etc. More than ever we need to be aware of the bedrock principles that Jesus taught which do not change — love of God, love of neighbor, honesty, humility, faithfulness, the joy of work, etc. I hope that over the coming year such an examination will help all of us to put our beliefs and values into better perspective.

Herbert T. Pratt
Church Archivist

Bits and Pieces From the Past

The Enduring Word of God

Since the dawn of civilization, man has wondered about the past, speculated about the future and swapped stories with each other. For centuries, the most memorable of these stories were told and retold by fathers to sons and among wandering tribes. The invention of writing, perhaps 4000 years ago, changed all of that. Now, remembered stories could be written down and recorded for future generations. And it was in such settings that the God-Breathed writings of men of great passion and wisdom took root. Today we believe these writings are worthy of our complete devotion because of their overall goodness and perfection. They are truly holy writings — The Holy Scriptures — they are the Holy Bible.

The New Castle Presbyterian Church has four pulpit-sized Bibles, dated 1793, 1832, 1880, and 1954. The 1793, 1832, and 1880 Bibles are all King James Versions, having been translated into English in 1611. All three contain the Apocrypha. The 1946-1952 Bible is a Revised Standard Version, which omits the Apocrypha. The large tooled-leather Bible, published in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1793, was printed by "His Majesty's Printers." The gold-stamped inscription on its front-cover-panel shows that it had been presented to the Rev. John Ewing Latta for the use of the Presbyterian Church in New Castle by Capt. William Aull. Latta (1771-1824) was Pastor here (1800-1824) and is buried in the floor of the meeting house. Captain Aull was a ship captain who lived on The Strand. Stamped onto the cover of the 1832 bible is the name New Castle Presbyterian Church, A.D. 1832. The 1880 Bible is a teaching Bible which contains many "helps," such as "Valuable and Miscellaneous Tables," "Science and Revelation: the Triumph of the Bible over Criticism," "A Chronological Index," a Concordance, "The Psalms of David in Metre," maps and pictures, etc.

All three of the older Bibles contain the Apocrypha, which is defined as those books which are included in the Septuagint and Vulgate Bibles, but are excluded from Jewish and Protestant canons of the Old Testament. The type faces differ among these three Bibles. In the 1793 volume, the old style of type and shape of the letters, particularly "s" and "f," can confuse the reader. In the 1793 Bible, there is no printed division between the contents of the Old Testament and the Apocrypha. In

contrast, in the 1832 Bible, the Old Testament book of Malachi stops with the words, "End of the Old Testament," The Apocrypha is printed in smaller type, implying that it is less important in some way, and so it became. By the late 19th century, the Apocrypha had virtually disappeared from Protestant Bibles.

When the Revised Standard Version was completed in 1952, it was vilified on many fronts. Many conservative churches, particularly in the South, railed against "changing God's Word." Many churches barred its use, and as best as I recall, even burned copies of it in piles in the church parking lot.

Older copies of the King James version contained a one-page dedication from its translators, which started:

"To the most high and mighty Prince, James, by the grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, the Translators of the Bible wish Grace, Mercy, and Peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord"

Following the dedication, the translators wrote a nine-page preface in very small type called "The Translators to the Reader." Two quotations from this extensive document follow:

"Truly, good Christian Reader, we never thought from the beginning, that we should need to make a new Translation, nor yet to make a bad one a good one. . . but to make a good one better, or out of many good ones, one principal good one, not justly to be excepted against."

"Neither did we think much to consult the Translators or Commentators, Chaldee, Hebrew, Syrian, Greek, or Latin, no nor the Spanish, French, Italian, or Dutch; neither did we disdain to revise that which we had done, and to bring back to the anvil that which we had hammered; but having and using as great helps as were needful, and fearing no reproach for slowness, nor coveting praise for expedition, we have at length, through the goodhand of the Lord upon us, brought the work to that pass that you see."

Today, the New Castle Presbyterian Church considers all of the major translations of the Bible legitimate. In fact, at least four different versions are scattered among the tables in the adult Bible school class room. Comparisons of the scriptures among different versions helps with understanding and is encouraged.

The Bible: God's Word

The English Bible has been in use for 470 years. Over the centuries, diligent scholars or groups of scholars have struggled to better understand the mind of God by retranslating the ancient texts of the Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic, or Latin languages. One such Bible scholar was the noted William Tyndale, who was ultimately convicted of the heresy of making a new translation, and was burned at the stake in 1536. A list of eleven of the better known English versions of the Bible and three paraphrases* follows.

Miles Coverdale's Bible First Bible printed in English	1535
Thomas Matthew's Bible The only version of the Bible that could lawfully be used in England at that time	1537
The Geneva Bible So named for that city; the Bible used by Shakespeare, John Bunyan and the Puritans	1560
King James' Bible Authorized for publication by King James I of England, who appointed a panel of scholars to "make a good translation a better one." For a long while, the King James Version was not popular with the people, but today it is considered one of the greatest pieces of literature ever written.	1611
English Revised Bible	1885
American Revised Bible	1901
Revised Standard Version of the Bible	1946, 1952
New World Translation of the Holy Scripture	1961
The Cotton Patch Version of Luke and Acts*	1969
The New Oxford Bible, Annotated	1971
The Living Bible Paraphrased*	1971
New International Version of the Bible	1984
The Daily Bible in Chronological Order*	1984
New Revised Standard Version of the Bible	1989

During the year 2007, the New Castle Presbyterian Church will celebrate the 350th year of its founding by renewing our calling as God's people and reaffirming the central place that the Bible, God's Word, has among us.

Herbert T. Pratt
Archivist

The Dutch Found New Amstel (New Castle)

This is some of the history leading to the founding of our church.

In 1648 Spain, the dominant power in Europe, ceded its claim to all lands north of Belgium. The seven Dutch provinces then united to form the Dutch Republic, a nation of two million people without a king. The Calvinist Dutch Reformed Church became the official church, but it was not capable of subduing heresies. Catholics, Mennonites, and others quietly flourished. The Dutch found it profitable to practice a degree of toleration imperfect indeed, but considerably broader than elsewhere in Christendom at the time.

Craftsmen, with their skills and savings, transformed the Netherlands into the leading industrial nation in the world. Although their population was very small, the Dutch built an empire that extended from the East Indies, South Africa, Brazil, to North America.

The Dutch West India Company was organized for the capture of Spanish silver and gold, and traffic in slaves. By 1630 they had been very successful, having paid several dividends of 50%, and their company officers had brought home fortunes.

New Netherland was planned to be only a way station on the way home from Brazil and the Caribbean Sea. In 1624 the Dutch bought Manhattan Island from the Indians with goods worth about \$24, and founded New Amsterdam. The Dutch soon established trade for furs with the Indians, but compared to the magnificent burglary of war, Dutch settlements in North America were but a trifle.

The Swedes established a colony on the Christina River at Minqua Kill, now Wilmington Delaware, in 1634. When fully loaded ships sailed home from New Sweden, some enterprising Dutchmen sent a ship with well supplied colonists to settle on the South (Delaware) River. There followed about fifteen years of alternate cooperation and altercations between the Dutch and the Swedes.

Dutch governor Peter Stuyvesant sailed in warships down from New Amsterdam in July 1651 and demanded evidence of ownership from the Swedes. Receiving none, he purchased all the lands on both sides of the river to the bay from the Indians, except Christina. He then built Fort Casimir on a promontory of land jutting out into the river called Sand Hook that commanded an extensive view up and down the river. This site is within present day New Castle. The village of New Amstel was founded to service the fort and trade with the Indians. By 1657 there were enough settlers to form a church, so The Rev. Evert Pieterse was sent here from Holland.

Coffee Project

We've added to our line of coffees by popular demand! The newest shipment will now include:

Tanzanian Jubilee	\$5.00 ea. / \$30.00 case
Café Salvador	\$5.00 ea. / \$30.00 case
Columbian drip	\$5.50 ea. / \$33.00 case
Columbian whole bean	\$5.50 ea. / \$33.00 case
Columbian Decaf drip	\$6.00 ea. / \$36.00 case
Columbian Decaf whole bean	\$6.00 ea. / \$36.00 case
Hazelnut Crème	\$5.75 ea. / \$34.00 case
French Vanilla	\$5.75 ea. / \$34.00 case
Toffee Caramel	\$5.75 ea. / \$34.00 case
Hot Cocoa	\$4.00 can
Tea (6 varieties)	\$4.00 box

Purchase coffee in Pastor Nancy's office. If you pay by check, make out to: New Castle Presbyterian Church, with "coffee project" on the memo line.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is the week of January 22nd. The volunteers for the week are listed below:

Monday

Minerva Lermond
Phoebe Dill

Tuesday

Shirley Knox
Jean Swanson

Wednesday

Dot & Jason
Campbell

Thursday

Carl Witt

Friday

Cynthia Robbins
Nanette Nichol

January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
7 9:30a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship (New Hymn by Caroline Gillette) Calvary House Dedication & Open House 11a-2:30p	8 7:00p - Deacons	9 Noon Circle	10 7:30p - Choir	11 6:45p - Col. Chimes 7:00p - Al-Anon 8:00p - Celeb. Ringers	12	13
14 9:30a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship 12:00p-Fellowship	15 7:00p - English Country Dancers 7:30p - Trustees	16	17 7:30p - Choir	18 6:45p - Col. Chimes 7:00p - Al-Anon 8:00p - Celeb. Ringers	19	20
21 9:30a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship 12:00p-Fellowship	22 7:00p - Session	23	24 7:30p - Choir	25 6:45p - Col. Chimes 7:00p - Al-Anon 8:00p - Celeb. Ringers	26	27
28 9:30a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship 12:00p-Fellowship	29	30	31 7:30p - Choir			

2007

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE
Permit No. 36

Address Change
Requested

The New Castle Presbyterian Church has a new e-mail address:
ncpc1651@verizon.net

Contact: The Rev. Nancy Rowland at:
ncpcpastor@verizon.net

Next Newsletter Deadline is **January 26, 2007.**