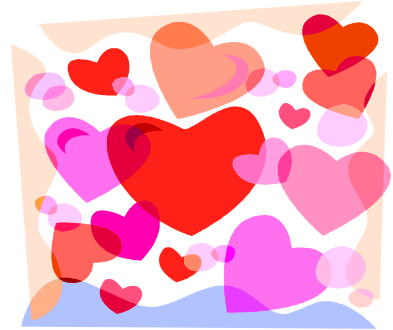


New Castle Presbyterian News

February 2007



2007 Mission Calendar

The Mission and Outreach Committee met on Monday evening, January 8th, to develop a list of projects we will be working on this year. We have something planned for each month as either a "hands-on activity" or as a donation for a specific project. As committee members firm up dates and activities, we will report these dates on our website, in our monthly newsletter and the weekly Order of Worship.

Valentine's Day Brunch--Sunday, February 11th

What better way to share the love of God for his children than by sharing a meal with each other and with our partners in faith from Calvary Presbyterian Church and Friendship House? Please save the date and join us for some good food and fellowship and learn more about our 350th Anniversary Mission Project at Calvary Corner House. You should be getting a phone call from a deacon or an elder in the next few days. Please let them know whether you will be attending and what dish you will be bringing. If you do not hear from your deacon or elder, please call or email the church office and let them know you would like to attend. There will be **NO SNOW DATE** as Calvary Presbyterian Church will be celebrating their anniversary on the next Sunday, February 18th

Book Night is Tuesday, February 13th--Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt by Anne Rice 7:00 p.m.

Thank you to all members for your generous donations of sugar, cremora and toilet paper for use at the eight shelters run by Friendship House

"Make us worthy, Lord, to serve those throughout the world who live and die in poverty or hunger. Give them, through our hands, this day their daily bread; and by our understanding love, give peace and joy."

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 20th Century missionary to the poor.

- Mission and Outreach Committee

"Soup-er" Bowl Sunday--February 4th

It's Super Bowl time and our committee would like to support local food closets with donations of canned soup. Although it will be nice and warm for the Colts and the Bears in Miami, many local families will be struggling to pay for heat and buy groceries as well. You can help by bringing canned soups to church on Sunday, February 4th and February 11th . Robin Brown of the News Journal writes that many local pantries need to "replenish their stock after the holidays...All the food collected stays in Delaware to feed needy families through nonprofit groups with existing food programs and emergency food closets." The following agencies will benefit from your donations:

The Ministry of Caring which operates Emmanuel Dining Room, St. Paul's School and Outreach, West End Neighborhood House, Sojourners Place shelter, Hockessin Community Center, Hope Dining Room and Ronald McDonald House.

If you are planning a "Super Bowl" party at your home, encourage your guests to bring a can or two or more of hearty soup and bring them to church on the following Sunday, February 11th.

Look for the "Soup-er Bowl" collection basket in the front hallway of the Christian Education building.

"Jesus said, 'Give, and it will be given to you....For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.'" Luke 6:38 NIV

- Mission and Outreach Committee

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.

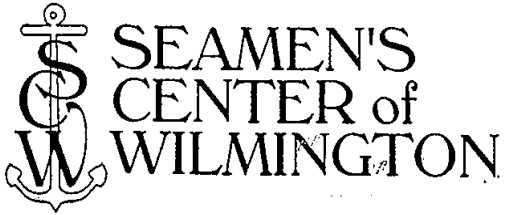
- Herb & Mary Pratt

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.

Meals on Wheels

Due to the short month, we are not scheduled to participate in Meals on Wheels in February. The regular schedule will commence March 5-9.



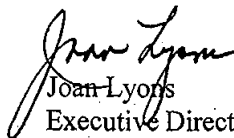
The holiday season is often a tiring one as we strive to prepare for religious and family celebrations. At the Seamen's Center of Wilmington it was a whirlwind of activity to prepare and deliver the 1,194 "ditty boxes" to the arriving mariners. Many of the volunteers worked extra shifts in the building helping to prepare boxes or deliver gifts. The SCW "Crew of Elves" took great pleasure and pride in their efforts to help provide a holiday celebration for the many strangers that they meet.

The outreach and appreciation from the seafarers upon receiving their gifts was especially touching. Smiles, handshakes and hugs were the reaction as gifts were delivered. Many of them were openly emotional as they helped to carry the heavy boxes on board their vessel. And the thank you notes continue to arrive. Many were so heartfelt that I have enclosed a sampling for all of you, our contributors, to read.

Contributions from the community were continuing to arrive right up until December 24! In all 116 churches, civic groups, clubs, businesses, individuals and even schools helped to make this program a roaring success. Even the wrapping paper was donated by caring individuals and church groups. It is overwhelming to see and touch the selfless generosity from so many. There were so many thoughtful, creative ideas that went into the purchasing of items for the boxes and all by a community that will likely never meet a mariner or even see a ship that would receive these gifts.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Volunteers here at the Seamen's Center of Wilmington, thank you for helping to make the holiday season happier for the seafarers so far from home, family and all things they love. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,


Joan Lyons
Executive Director

Good Day,

On behalf of the Officers and crew of the Matterhorn Spirit, i would just like to say a 'big thankyou' for the wonderful gifts which you so kindly donated to the ship while we were berthed at Delaware City a few weeks ago.

We all opened our gifts together on Christmas Day, soon after our Xmas lunch.

It was great to see the look of excitement on everyone's face as they quickly went about removing the wrapping paper !!

Once again, thankyou very much for all the wonderful and thoughtful gifts.

We appreciate very much the service that the Seamens Center provides.

Keep up the good work !!!

Brgds
Chief Officer

Hi, Good Day!

I would like to express my feelings of gratitude, on behalf of the entire Crew and Officers of M/V VERONA, for your continuous support to seafarers. We're very much happy with the gifts and especially your service for us. Because of your aid, we were able to make long communications to our family, though sometimes we could not make to visit your good site considering the speedy port stay of our vessel, car carrier.

To all the Staff, Thank you Very Very Much! Wishing you all GOOD HEALTH AND LONG LIFE!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

BEST REGARDS,
3/OFF E.E.C.
M/V VERONA

Yarn Donations Needed for Seamen's Center Scarves

The Mission and Outreach Committee will be collecting yarn for the members of the church to knit scarves and hats for our annual contribution of "Ditty Boxes" to the seamen at the Port of Wilmington. Many of these seamen come from the Caribbean or South America and do not have warm clothes for the wintry seas. The seamen very much appreciated the Christmas gifts of personal items in the "Ditty Boxes" and the warm scarves and hats we knitted for our last donation.

If you don't knit, why not donate some yarn to the knitters? We will be collecting skeins of 4 ply acrylic in dark colors (for men) in the month of February. You can purchase this yarn at Michael's, A. C. Moore's, and Jo-Ann Fabrics. Don't forget to use the coupons that are often in the News Journal!!

If you are unable to get to one of these stores, monetary donations will be gratefully accepted as well. Please give your money to Ellie Gerhart.

Thank You for Turkeys

On behalf of the Newark Area Welfare Committee I want to thank our congregation for donating 15 beautiful turkeys and cash donations to our Christmas Food Basket Project in December. Thanks in part to your loving kindness 367 families and senior citizens were given the security of a full food cupboard for Christmas. They were all grateful for your gift, and I pass their relieved smiles, spontaneous hugs, and gracious thanks on to you. Thank you for your Christian witness.

- Beverly Stoudt

Wanted: Morning Volunteers in Friendship House's Men's Center

There's an **urgent short-term need** in Friendship House's men's center that early-rising volunteers can help fill. Two part-time staffers have moved on to full-time jobs, and a third person is dealing with a health issue. **Needed for the next two months: Men volunteers willing to work on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday mornings in time periods of 6 – 10 am or 8 – noon.** The drop-in center, located at Third and Walnut Streets in Wilmington, provides homeless men with lockers, refuge, use of the phones, getting their mail and early-morning hospitality. A Friendship House staff person will always be present.

To learn more or sign up, please call Roxane, Office Manager @ 652-8133.

Mission and Outreach News

The final tallies are in for the 2006 Crop Walk and the Herb and Spice Sale for Meeting Ground!

2006 CROP Hunger Walk

Joan Skilton, from New Castle United Methodist Church sent the final results of the donations for this past year's Crop Walk. The results are listed below:

| <u>Church Name</u> | <u>Number of Walkers</u> | <u>Amount Raised</u> | <u>\$100 or More</u> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Asbury Methodist | 24 | \$2,305.00 | 8 |
| New Castle Presbyterian | 22 | \$1,242.89 | 4 |
| St. Anne's Church | 18 | \$ 434.00 | 2 |
| St. Peter's Catholic Church | 1 | \$ 80.00 | 0 |
| New Castle United Methodist | 55 | \$4,781.00* | 14 |
| Total | 120 | \$8, 842.89 | 28 |

*The \$4,781.00 includes donations from nine local businesses totaling \$875.00. They are Ben G. Halko & Sons, Inc., Cecil Vault & Memorial Co., Grisello's Thriftway, Karen Optical Co., Manor Pharmacy, New Castle Paint and Hardware, Porto Fino Pizza & Restaurant, Dr. S. Padmalingham, and Trolley Square Chiropractic.

Meeting Ground Herb Sale

During the months of November and December our committee sold herbs and spices that were made at the Meeting Ground Farm. We are very happy to report that a check for \$699.00 was sent to Meeting Ground to support their homeless ministry. Thank you all for your support of this project.

Ongoing Mission Work

350th Anniversary Project--Calvary Corner House Dedication

As of January 21 four men have moved into the house located on the property of Calvary Presbyterian Church. The monies raised at the 2006 Spirit of Christmas celebration will be used to help fund this ongoing project sponsored by Friendship House. The Service of Blessing was held on January 7th, 2007.

Service of Blessing, Calvary Corner House, Sunday, January 7, 2007

Opening Prayer:

God of our Life, You have promised a refuge to all who call upon You in spirit and in truth. We ask You to bless this house which we dedicate to Your honor and service. We ask that you make it a place of peace, joy, truth, and love.

Psalm 27 (excerpts)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is the refuge of my life; of whom then should I go in dread? One thing I ask of the Lord, one thing I seek: that I may be constant in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord. For God will keep me safe beneath his roof in the day of misfortune; He will hide me under the cover of his tent; He will raise me beyond the reach of distress. I know that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, take courage, and wait for the Lord.

Gathering of Blessings:

May this house be a place where the Spirit of God is found by all and shared with everyone. May this house be a sanctuary for those who seek rest and renewal of spirit.

May all who work here, live here, and volunteer their time feel the presence of God in their lives.

May we always be mindful that the existence of this house is a miracle, a gift for God to His beloved children.

May our actions, thoughts, and speech in this house profess our gratitude to God for this gift.

Closing Prayer:

O God, bless this house. Bless its foundations deep in the good earth, its sturdy walls, its sheltering roof, symbols of Your surrounding love. Bless every room and all the activities carried on it each.

May this home be a center of godly living, a place of joyous hospitality, a shrine of peace and forgiveness, a shelter from all of life's storms. We ask that You be a constant guest at our table, a source of comfort and serenity and joy.

May Your Spirit guide us so that every act and relationship in this home may reveal Your Love. May Your peace be upon this house and this community and live in our hearts forever. Amen

Friendship House Breakfast Schedule

The next dates for serving breakfast at the Friendship House location at 8th and Shipley are:

Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15 and Saturday July 7 and Sunday, July 8. If you are interested in volunteering or donating food for any of these dates, please look for sign-up sheets in the Christian Ed building during coffee hour. Sign up sheets will be posted about 3 weeks prior to each breakfast.

Breakfast was served on January 21st to over 120 individuals at the Church of St. Andrew and Saint Matthew at 8th and Shipley. Thank you to the following volunteers:

Nancy Coning, Tom McDowell, Janet Spring, Gene and Carol Mayhew, Linda and Jim Neel, and Jo Viola.

We would also like to thank the following people for their donations of food: Nancy Coning, Tom McDowell, The Martin-Robbins family, Herb and Mary Pratt, Bev and Jim Stoudt, Bob and Joan Appleby, Fran Handy, The Raker Family, Mickey Singleton, Conchita Showell, and Debbie and Joe Harrington.

A Thank You

Dear, dear friends,

Words are inadequate to express our family's thanks for your sympathy, comfort and support at the time of Ralph's death in December. I have been overwhelmed! All the things you did to make his service at First & Central Church especially meaningful have been so appreciated by us all. The choir's music was awesome! And the cookies! How can I thank all 50 of you for the cookies? How wonderful that you found a way to share the extras with Friendship House Ministries. I look forward to thanking you all personally in time for your support. Meanwhile, please accept this expression of thanks.

- With our love

Anita for all the Johnsons
Rob, Bill, Steve, Ted & Dan
and their families

Seventeenth Century Worship

Our worship on February 4 will incorporate many features of the Dutch Reformed worship that would have been conducted in New Castle during the 1600's. The first forty years of our church life was in this tradition. However, worship will not be conducted in Dutch, nor will the meeting house be unheated! The Lord's Supper will be celebrated by gathering around the table. Join us as we go back in time and as we experience God's Spirit in new ways.

Lenten Suppers

Save the dates for this year's Lenten Suppers with our neighboring churches: March 6, New Castle Presbyterian; March 13, St. Peter's; March 20, New Castle United Methodist; March 27, Immanuel Episcopal. Each supper begins at 6:00pm, includes mission-focused worship, and ends at 7:30pm. Plan to come to this popular series!

Mosquito Nets

5 more mosquito nets have been mailed off to Africa. During the month of March we will be holding a Saturday "workshop" to continue making the remaining nets. The workshop will be held on **Saturday, March 3** from **9:00 a.m. to Noon**. Lunch will be provided. We will need sewing machines, a few ironing boards, irons and pins. Even if you do not have any sewing experience, you can help with the pinning and the ironing. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and the mosquito nets are a much needed item in the prevention of disease in Africa. (Please read the following article summarizing a piece from Time Magazine by Jeffrey Sachs for more information on how you can help in other ways.)

TIME Magazine - *The Power of One: The \$10 Solution*

In the January 15 edition of Time Magazine, Jeffrey D. Sachs lifts up the tragic reality that malaria kills 2 million African children a year, and outlines how we can respond. Amazingly, a great dent in the problem can be accomplished by the use of insecticide-treated bed nets, at a cost of \$10 each. Yet this is beyond the reach of African families. Mr. Sachs proposes that such nets be freely distributed by the Red Cross at a cost of \$3 billion dollars, borne by those in the high-income world. Such a plan is already in effect in Togo and Niger, and can be replicated across Africa, depending upon mobilization of needed resources. Sachs says, "New citizen's movements, including Malaria No More (*malaria nomore.org*) and Nothing but Nets (*nothingbutnets.net*) have been established to achieve the needed breakthrough."

To help in this effort our Mission and Outreach committee is sponsoring mosquito net production. Come to the workshop on March 3, and be part of the solution. Says Sachs, "much more needs to be done to ensure that aid reaches the hundreds of millions of Africans at risk. Together we can choose peace over jihad and life over violence. Through our common resolve, we can prove the power we each have to save a life."

(the full article is posted in the fellowship hall)

New Castle Seminar

As part of the celebration of the 350th Anniversary of the New Castle Presbyterian Church, the New Castle Seminar will host three presentations at the Meeting House. The Seminar Sessions will each begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by a reception in the Christian Education Building.

February 25, 2007

Professor Carol E. Hoffecker

Carol E. Hoffecker is the Emerita Richards Professor and Alison Professor of History at the University of Delaware. She is an Honors graduate of the University and earned a Masters Degree at Radcliffe and a Ph.D. at Harvard. After teaching stints at Sweet Briar and Northeastern, Carol returned to Delaware working at Eleutherian Mills Historical Library and Hagley before beginning her teaching career at the University of Delaware in 1973. She taught at Delaware for thirty years before taking her emerita status in 2003. Her teaching service at Delaware includes five years as Chairperson of the Department of History and seven years as Associate Provost for Graduate Studies.

Professor Hoffecker has authored some seventeen books including Delaware: A Bicentennial History; several books on Wilmington; Democracy in Delaware, a history of the Delaware General Assembly; and Honest John Williams, a biography of the Delaware conscience of the United States Senate from 1946 to 1971. She has also written numerous articles including "George Read: Father of the Delaware State", co-authored by the Honorable John A. Munroe. Her Seminar topic will be "Dutch Reform and Scotch Presbyterian: Joinder in New Castle".

Additional Seminars will be held April 22 and June 3.

Presbyterian Marriage Encounter

LOVING COUPLES: The next Presbyterian Marriage Encounter Weekend will be February 23-25, 2007 at the lovely Vandiver Inn Bed and Breakfast in historic Havre de Grace, MD. Just a short drive to experience God flowing through your marriage and renewing your romance! The weekend will show you new ways to love, listen, and share with each other. We are looking for happily married couples who want to increase their joy.

The weekend begins at 7:00pm Friday and ends at 5:00pm Sunday. Brochures are available at your church office or contact Al and Dottie Lund at 302-478-4209, dottielund@comcast.net. Register on line at www.presby-me.org. Registration deadline is February 9, 2007. Our fall weekend dates are October 19-21, 2007. Register Now!

PRAYER CHAIN HELP WANTED

“Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks.”

Philippians 4:6

The objective of a Prayer Chain is to provide a resource of comfort to members in the form of on going prayer for themselves, their loved ones or friends. HOW this works is that as a member you are willing to be a:

Humble Servant
Offering Prayers for others
Whenever needed.

Since February 2004, we have had an active Prayer Chain here at NCPC. In that time we have over 165 prayer requests. The length of time we carry a prayer request varies depending on the situation. Some requests last a week or two, but in cases of serious life threatening illnesses, or an on-going situation the prayers are kept on an indefinite basis. **Sometimes prayer is desperately needed, but people would prefer that it not be publicly announced. We pray in confidence for any request that is passed on to us.** It is an ongoing ministry provided by caring members of your church family.

If you would like to be involved in this confidential ministry by setting aside daily time to pray for others please contact me or Susan Flook, the Co-Coordinator, or if you have any questions about the Prayer Chain. At the present time almost all of our members receive their requests by e-mail which enables them to have identical information that they can print out.

If you are not interested at this time in joining us please feel free to contact us if you would like us to carry a particular prayer.

Fran Gingher, Coordinator, at 994-5988 or e-mail, Silverfran@aol. com or Susan Flook, Co-Coodinator at 328-7346 or suzieflook@hotmail. com

Thank you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

- Fran Gingher

Bits and Pieces From the Past

Over its past 350 years of witnessing for Christ, this church has experienced good times and bad, growth and decline, waxing and waning. Its written archives and records of such happenings chronicle how it coped and are part and parcel of the congregation's long history. From such (primary) records, members and others have compiled histories and interpretations of these (secondary) records of our successes and failures. The result has been seven histories of the New Castle Presbyterian Church, six histories of Presbyterianism in Delaware and one History of Presbyterianism in the United States. Following is a listing of our holdings:

Archives and Records of the New Castle Presbyterian Church

PRIMARY SOURCES

Registers for 1707-2007

- Roll of Pastors and Stated Supplies
- Roll of Elders
- Roll of Deacons
- Roll of Trustees
- Chronological Roll of Communicants
- Alphabetical Index to Roll of Communicants
- Roll of Suspended Members
- Roll of Infant Church Members, or Baptized Children
- Adult Baptisms
- Register of Marriages
- Register of Deaths

Documents for 1707-1957

- [Original documents at the Presbyterian Historical Society
in Philadelphia]
- Microfilm of documents above at NCPC, 3 rolls, 1707-1957
- Finding Aid: Typescript of microfilms above. 4 pages

Documents for 1958-2007

Session Minutes

Deacon's Reports to Session
Trustee's Reports to Session
Treasurer's Reports to Session
Recording Secretary's Reports to Session
Financial Records (the past 10 years)
Archivist's Reports to Session

Deacon's Minutes

Trustee's Minutes

Cemetery and Gravestone Records
Property Deeds, Mortgages, etc.

Worship Programs

Newsletters

SECONDARY SOURCES

Histories of the New Castle Presbyterian Church

Rev. J. B. Spotswood, D.D., Pastor, An Historical Sketch of the
Presbyterian Church in New Castle, Delaware
Philadelphia, Joseph M. Wilson, Publisher
111 South Tenth Street, Below Chestnut
1859
5 3/4" x 9", 39 pp., fair condition

Inserted document, two pages, hand-written emendations of
Spotswood's text by James T Eliason, Jr.,
no date, ca.1973

Reprint of the above except for the place and publisher, which are:
Wilmington and New Castle, Del.
Bross-Willard Printing Co., Publishers
1905
5 3/4" x 9", 39 pp., poor condition

History of the New Castle Presbyterian Church.

Compiled and Written by Margaret Virginia Hughes

May 17, 1955

8 1/2" x 11", typescript, 15 pp., not bound

James T. Eliason, Jr. and Jean E. Bankert, The New Castle
Presbyterian Church and Its Amazing Decade of 1941-1951
1978

6" x 9", 117 pp., stiff paper cover, spiral plastic spine

Jean E. Bankert, A History of New Castle Presbyterian Church
1651-1989

1989

5 1/4" x 8 1/4", 51 pp., paper bound, as new

Robert H. Swick, Early Days and Background of the New Castle
Presbyterian Church (1660-1776)

September 2005

Unpublished typescript, 8" x 11," ca. 25 pp.

Herbert T. Pratt, "Bits and Pieces of the Past," monthly articles in
New Castle Presbyterian News

2007

Histories of Presbyterianism in Delaware

Rev. J. L., Vallandigham, D.D., LL.D., Newark, Delaware and
Rev. Samuel A. Gayley, D.D., Colora, Maryland
History of the Presbytery of New Castle
From its organization, March 13, 1717 to 1888.

Presbyterian Publishing Co., Philadelphia

No publication date, ca.1890

4 1/2" x 9," 24 pp., paper bound, fragile

James H. Lappen

Presbyterians on Delmarva: The History of the
New Castle Presbytery.

No place,

1972

6" x 9", 75 pp., pp. 8-15, paper bound, advertisements

Dr. John W. Christie

“Presbyterianism in Delaware”

[Reprinted from Delaware, A History of the First State]

H. Clay Reed, ed.

Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., New York,

1947

7 1/2" x 18", pp. 645-657, offprint

Anon, Historical Note: The Presbyterian Church

New Castle, Delaware

ca. 1950.

Typescript, 8 1/2" x 11", 3 pp., no date,

Elizabeth Waterston, Churches in Delaware During The Revolution

With a Brief Account of Their Settlement and Growth

Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware,

1925

6 1/4" x 9 1/4", 117 pp., indexed, cloth bound

Betty J. Baird, A Proud Heritage!

[A History of the Christiana Presbyterian Church]

August, 1967

8 1/2" x 11", 32 pp., + v, stiff board cover, spiral bound

The New Castle and Christiana Churches shared pastors for 33 years, from 1791 through 1828. The pastors were Samuel Barr (1791-1796), John E. Latta (1800-1824) and Joseph Danforth (1824-1828). Pastor Latta has a stone in his honor in the floor of the New Castle meeting house.

Histories of Presbyterianism in the United States

Alfred Nevin, Encyclopedia of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America; Including the Northern Assemblies

Presbyterian Encyclopedia Co., Philadelphia.

1884

Herbert T. Pratt

Archivist

January 2007

The Dutch Reformed Church in New Amstel (New Castle)

The Dutch Reformed Church was established before the Dutch Republic. Instead of prayers in Latin, the new worship and praise were enjoyed in the people's own language. At the same time the customs in daily life and on Sundays were changed. The Bible in the language of the home became a household book.

Before the Reformation, church and worship were in harmony with feudalism. They were very impressive to the senses. Now incense, lights, and vestments gave way to a much simpler ritual of prayer, psalm singing, Bible reading, and the sermon. The church interior was made almost bare in its plainness. Instead of standing during worship, the congregation sat on benches or in pews without cushions. Pulpits were mounted by a little wooden stairway. Five feet above the pulpit was a hexagonal sounding board made of oak suspended from above by an iron rod.

In winter, the meeting house was heated by the zeal of the preacher. Men wore greatcoats, and women had foot stoves. The Deacons took up two collections, one for the church and one for the poor. These collections were taken into velvet bags on the end of long poles. The Dutch worshipped in a two-hour morning service, and were scandalized if it were shorter. They listened to the hour-long sermon, delivered in two parts, didactic (instructive) and practical, divided by a collection between.

Churches were governed by a consistory composed of the reverend Domine, elders, and deacons; and further officered by a fore-singer, scripture reader, and the comforter of the sick.

The Dutch Church was very evangelical, sending many missionaries to the lands where the Dutch had commercial interests. The Classis (Presbytery) of Amsterdam was the greatest missionary society in Europe, and in fact, the general agent of much of Protestant Europe. They helped many thousands of people besides Netherlanders; British, French Walloons, and Germans, gain passage to America. The Classis was charged by The States General of Holland with organizing a church and providing a pastor as soon as there were 200 inhabitants in the colony.

There were over 200 inhabitants in New Amstel by 1657, when the Rev. Everardus Welius arrived on the Waegh on August 21 to take charge of a congregation of 19 members. He died on December 9, 1659 of the dysentery that raged through the colony. He left a church with two elders, two deacons, and 60 members.

February

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|---|---|--|---|--|------------|------------|
| | | | | 1 8:30a-12:00p – Arasapha Garden Club 6:45p-Col. Chimes 7:00p-AI-Anon 8:00p-Celeb. Ringers | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9:30a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship (special service with 1600's music and service) 12:00p-Fellowship | 5 7:00p-Christian Ed | 6 12:00p-Noon Circle | 7 7:30p-Choir | 8 6:45p-Col. Chimes 7:00p-AI-Anon 8:00p-Celeb. Ringers | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9:30a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship 12:00p-Fellowship, Valentines Brunch | 12 7:00p-Deacons | 13 7:00p-Book Night Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt by A. Rice | 14 7:30p-Choir | 15 6:45p-Col. Chimes 7:00p-AI-Anon 8:00p-Celeb. Ringers | 16 | 17 |
| 18 9:30a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship 12:00p-Fellowship | 19 7:00p-English Country Dancers 7:30p-Trustees | 20 | 21 Ash Wednesday 7:30p-Choir | 22 6:45p-Col. Chimes 7:00p-AI-Anon 8:00p-Celeb. Ringers | 23 | 24 |
| 25 9:30a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship 12:00p-Fellowship 7:00p-Seminar, History of Protestantism, 17 th & 18 th Century | 26 7:00p-Session | 27 | 28 7:30p-Choir | | | |

2007

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New Castle, DE 19720
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Fax:(302) 328-5670
E-Mail: ncpc1651@verizon.net
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

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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 **February 22, 2007.**