

New Castle Presbyterian News

April 2007



Holy Week Worship at New Castle Presbyterian

Palm Sunday, 4/1 11:00 a.m.

Gather at New Castle Town Hall (weather permitting) to process into our Meeting House with palms and bells.

Maundy Thursday, 4/5 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Communion

Good Friday, 4/6 12:00 Noon

Quiet Service of Scripture and Meditation

Easter Sunday, 4/8 11:00 a.m.

Resurrection Worship

NEW CASTLE SEMINAR

The New Castle Seminar continues on Sunday April 22 at 7:00 p.m. with State Archivist C. Russell McCabe speaking on “The Roots of Presbyterianism in Delaware.” As usual, the program will be held in the Meeting House and will be followed by a reception in the Christian Education Building. Invite your friends and neighbors to this interesting event in our 350th Anniversary schedule.

Director McCabe has been at Delaware Public Archives since 1978, serving as its director since April 2005. He is one of Delaware’s best known public officials. At the Archives, Russ spent his early career working directly with the collections, providing research assistance and contributing to the works of various Delaware historians. Later, as part of his supervision of the Archives public research facility, Russ played a major role in the first statewide assessment of historic records and was responsible for drafting Delaware’s first comprehensive Public Records Law in 1988. He served one term as Sussex County’s elected Recorder of Deeds and has devoted much time to record management by local governments in Delaware. In recent years, Russ has served as Administrator of Outreach Services, coordinating various aspects of the agency’s public programming activities, including responsibility for Delaware’s growing historical markers/moments program.

McCabe is a native and a lifelong resident of Sussex County, educated in local public schools. He is a graduate of Radford University in Virginia where he majored in history and geography.

Save the Date: On June 3, William T. Quillen, retired Delaware State Judge, and life-long member of the New Castle Presbyterian Church, will speak on “George Gray: A New Castle Presbyterian’s Contribution to His State, Nation and World.”

Pennies From Heaven

Many thanks from the Noon Circle for the shower of pennies that is showing up in our mailbox! These pennies will be donated to Friendship House on a continuing basis, so thanks, and please keep them coming!

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is the week of March 5th. The volunteers for the week are listed below:

Monday

Susan Flook
Phoebe Dill

Tuesday

Joan Smith
Jean Swanson

Wednesday

Dot & Jason
Campbell

Thursday

Shirley Knox

Friday

Cynthia Robbins
Nanette Nichol

Caring Partners – Linking Caregivers with Services

Are you a caregiver? Do you help an older person with transportation, doctor's appointments, shopping, prescription management etc? Then you are a caregiver. You may be experiencing caregiver stress and not realizing it. Help is easy to find. A staff person at the Caregiver Resource Center in each county can help you find resources to support you and your care receiver:

New Castle County:

Joyce Shores, 302-737-2336 ext 21 or 302-651-3401

Kent County: Cindy Clark, 302-734-1200 ext 186

Sussex County:

Fran Smith, 302-337-8771 or Cindy Mitchell, 302-854-9500

Or you can visit Caring Partners website for information to help you manage the responsibilities of caregiving www.caringpartnersde.org.

All Hands on Deck!

It's time to mark your calendars for one of the highlights of our 350th Anniversary Celebration! The Presbytery of New Castle will be meeting at our church (the oldest church in the presbytery) on May 22, 2007. We will be responsible for registration and breakfast-type refreshments, meeting space, and lunch. We need every member to help in some way. You will soon be called to sign up for a responsibility. We need as many volunteers as we can get to be present that Tuesday. Responsibilities will include: facilitating parking, setting up tables and chairs (multiple times during the day), being present in the Meeting House during the meeting, helping serve bag lunches and drinks, giving directions (especially to rest rooms!), interpreting the history of our congregation, selling 350th Anniversary items, baking breakfast goods and cookies for lunch, clean-up, and more. Sign up in the fellowship hall beginning March 4. Please note: this event is three days after A Day in Old New Castle. The lunch meal is being coordinated by Nancy Coning. For other questions, please ask Pastor Nancy.

Hope Landing, Phase II Kick-off Event

On Wednesday, March 14th, at 11:00 a.m., HFHNCC Kicked-off Phase II of our Hope Landing Development in Wilmington. Hope Landing is a two-phase, 15-house subdivision of 7 and 8 affordable townhomes in Wilmington's Eastside. Hope Landing Phase II Kick-off commemorates the beginning of the second phase (8-houses) of the development. Hope Landing is built in collaboration with Development Sponsor ING DIRECT (10-house sponsor), Land Partner, Wilmington Housing Partnership, and additional sponsors.

> Participants in the Hope Landing Kick-off event included: Honorable Christopher Coons, County Executive, NCC; Honorable William Montgomery, Chief of Staff, City of Wilmington; Councilwoman Hanifa Shabazz, Wilmington City Council; Michael S. Purzycki, Board Member, Wilmington Housing Partnership (Executive Director, Riverfront Development Corp); Kay Dapper, Development Sponsor, ING DIRECT; Sylvia Banks, One-House Sponsor, DuPont; Dick Christopher, One-House Sponsor, Patterson-Schwartz; Rev. Edward Dorn, Half-House Sponsor, DRBA; and Rev. Silvester Beaman, Quarter-House Sponsor, Bethel A.M.E. Church.

> Also participating in the ceremony were prospective Habitat homeowners of Hope Landing: LaToya Carter; Tonya Backus; Sylvia Spady; Sarah Wynn; and, Jacqueline Yearwood. The Kick-off concluded with dignitaries, sponsors, and attendees signing the interior walls with well wishes and prayers for our prospective homeowners.

Other Habitat News:

Habitat's version of March Madness, 3 weeks of visiting students from 3 universities spend their Spring Break helping to build Habitat homes in Middletown. 14 students from Boston College came the week of March 4th, spending 6 days on-site to help further HFHNCC's efforts in Middletown. HFHNCC hosted students from Wilson College, and a team of 8 students from Elon University went without traditional spring break activities to lend a helping hand with families in need.

Women Build 2007 Officially Breaks Ground!

On Thursday, March 15th, the Women Build officially broke ground at the Women Build site on E. 7th Street. This year's Women Build is a duplex on E. 7th Street in Wilmington's East side. It is located just around the corner from the Hope Landing Development on Church & Bennett Streets.

Foundations are going in later this month, with construction crews beginning in April.

To sign-up to volunteer for the Women Build, please visit the Habitat

website, and click on to the Volunteer page. There you will find an interactive calendar with available dates. April's schedule is already filling up, so book your dates now! You can securely donate to Habitat for Humanity of NCC on their website. Thank you for your support!

Email: jmcgeoch@habitatncc.org

Website: <http://www.habitatncc.org>

Phone: 302-652-0365

Yard Day

Get out your rakes and tools and garden gloves and gather at the church on April 28 at 9:00 a.m. Let's dig in the dirt together and get the grounds all ready for spring! The Trustees will provide refreshments throughout the morning and early afternoon.

Is God Calling You?

Have you considered whether God is calling you to particular service in this congregation? Or do you know someone else who has the gifts of leadership? The Nominating Committee is in the process of gathering names for elder, deacon, trustee, and nominating committee membership. Please share your ideas with them! The members are:

Elders: Bob Briggs, Chair; Lindy Ballance

Deacon: Mary Pratt

Trustee: Bill Anthony

Music: Ellie Gerhart

Sunday School: Amy Selheimer

At-large: Pat Taylor, Bill Quillen, Jo Viola

Consider today God's call to you and others!

Bits and Pieces From the Past

The Riddle of the Precentor's Stand

The meeting house of the New Castle Presbyterian Church you see today is a restoration of the configuration of the pews and Federal styled pulpit such as was used during the period ca. 1785-1820. One puzzling feature of this restoration is that a precentor's stand is missing. Usually, just below and in front of the high pulpit, there stood a small narrow table or stand on which the Precentor, or psalm leader, laid his psalm book and perhaps a list of the psalm tunes which he intended to use such as York, Canterbury or Southwell.

In Scottish Presbyterian churches the vestment-wearing and salaried Precentor was originally called the "Uptaker of Psalms." The earliest known record of the use of the term "precentor" is 1613. The term is derived from two Latin words, "pre," meaning before, and "cantor," meaning singer.

When the New Castle meeting house was built in 1707, churches sang only the psalms of David in public worship. "Man-written" words were not used until the late 1700s, and instrumental music was not introduced until the mid-1800s. Few people owned their own psalm books and many could not read. So the precentor's job was to "line out" the psalms. He would sing the first line of the psalm, after which the congregation would repeat it. This process continued until the entire psalm was sung. Literalist congregations usually required that all verses of a psalm be sung and provided places marked "Pause" for singers to catch their breaths. To leave out a verse meant that God's word was being tampered with. Heaven help them when Psalm 119 was chosen! It has 176 verses.

In 1818, the meeting house was remodeled extensively. The large Palladian window at the west end of the building was bricked in, and a new pulpit, constructed in the Federal style, was positioned in front of a new solid wall which had replaced the large window. The railing of the precentor's stand which supported the psalm book was constructed in much the same way as a Federal stair rail, and the simply shaped balusters were similar to many seen in New Castle Federal townhouses of the period.

Nicholas Van Dyke, United States Senator, and secretary of the church Trustees, obviously pleased with the changes, wrote, "in new-modelling, the trustees have adopted the most approved plan of modern built churches." That included a new pulpit and precentor's stand, which was used from 1818 until 1854. When the Gothic style brownstone church building was built, the old meeting house was converted into Sunday school space. In the 1980s, the old precentor's stand, long in storage, was sold off by the church during an "attic sale." It was purchased by Bruce and Kay Gordon, who recently donated it back to the congregation.

I was quite puzzled that Albert Kruse, one of the finest restoration architects in the country, had omitted the precentor's stand in the completed building. I found the answer only recently in an illustrated brochure from 1947, which was used in raising money for the meeting house restoration. In both an architectural drawing and a floor plan of the proposed building interior, a precentor's stand is clearly visible. So why did Mr. Kruse eliminate it? My guess is that it was a purely a practical matter. In the building's proposed floor plan, the last row of the center pews facing the pulpit was pushed back against the Second Street wall. In an emergency, people in those pews would have been trapped. Obviously, the pews had to be moved forward to make room for an aisle to give access to the Second Street door. The choice had to be made to either eliminate one row of pews or to remove the precentor's stand. The stand was removed. The pews stayed.

Herbert T. Pratt
Archivist

Photographs Needed

Your 350th Anniversary Celebration Committee needs your help. We are hoping to collect a large number of photographs of our church buildings and our congregation over the years. Old photographs are particularly welcome as well as postcards and other images. More recent photographs are also needed so that our retrospective is comprehensive and current, too. We promise to keep careful track of each and every item submitted and to store all carefully and return to you in the condition in which you delivered them. Please contact Corky Viola for additional information and to make photo contributions to the project. Thanks for your help.

Mission and Outreach News

Mosquito Net Project

On Saturday, March 3rd, 16 more mosquito nets were completed and sent off to Africa. We would like to thank the following people for their participation: Ellie Gerhart, Jo Viola, Carol Mayhew, Bev Stoudt and Shirley Knox did the sewing and Conchita Showell and Linda Neel did the ironing. Special thanks to Shirley Knox for coordinating this activity.

Medical Benevolence Foundation Fundraiser

We would like to thank all the bakers and soup makers for the wonderful variety of soups, breads and baked goods that were made for our sale on Saturday, March 25th. We are happy to report that we raised about \$500.00 to be sent to the Medical Benevolence Foundation. We also noted that everyone who brought their children to the Easter Fair went home with lots of eggs and also some soup and baked goodies. We are grateful to our community for their support. Special thanks to Nanette Nichol for coordinating this project and to Carol Mayhew, Janet Spring and Linda Neel for selling the baked goods on Saturday and Sunday. Lyn Briggs is to be commended for her wonderful signs promoting our projects. The food that was leftover was taken to St. Andrew's Place at 8th and Shipley by Jim and Linda Neel.

Friendship House Breakfast

Saturday, April 14th and Sunday, April 15th will be our weekend to supply breakfast for Friendship House at the church of St. Andrew and St. Matthew at 8th and Shipley. Food Preparation will be on Saturday at 3:00 and food serving will be at 7:00 a.m on Sunday, April 15th. Please see volunteer sign-up sheets in the CE Building. We will also need donations of food for this mission. If you cannot volunteer to serve, please feel free to donate some food for this project. If you can't get out to the store but would like to make a financial contribution, please see Janet Spring.

Change of Date for Book Night at NCPC

The original date for Book Night was Tuesday, April 10th. **This date has been changed to Tuesday, May 8th** . The book selection will be **Misquoting Jesus** by Bart Ehrman. This book has made it to the New York Times bestseller list, but not without controversy. Many reviewers have critiqued the title, saying it is misleading and was selected for its "saleability." Read the book and go online and read some of the reviews. I'm sure Pastor Nancy, our resident biblical scholar, will also have some valuable insight on how we can interpret this book. We are happy to report that some members of our group have suggested two books for next year. We will start up again in October.



FRIENDSHIP HOUSE, INC.

P. O. BOX 1517

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19899

(302) 652-8133 www.friendship-house.org

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

March 13, 2007

New Castle Presbyterian Church
25 E. 2nd St.
New Castle, DE 19720

Dear Friends,

On the behalf of all the men, women and children who are served by Friendship House's various programs, I wish to thank you for your timely and generous donation of \$4,300.00 for the Corner House. For the past year, virtually every homeless ministry in Wilmington has been seeing people in unprecedented numbers. While there is no single explanation for this spike in numbers, some kind of *Tipping Point* has occurred. More people are becoming homeless and are remaining homeless longer. Increasingly, it is the daily struggle for survival that is consuming the time, energy and limited resources of both the homeless and the agencies that serve them.

In 2006, Friendship House saw more than 3,700 homeless men, women and children at its day centers and shelters. Its drop-in centers daily serve more than 200 people in need of everything from groceries for their families, medicine for their babies, birth certificates for their children, bus tickets for work to shelter for the coming night. In January 2007, Friendship House added Corner House to its network of night shelters and half way houses specifically to accommodate the increasing shelter needs of elderly men. March 2007 we opened the Newark Empowerment Center at Newark United Methodist Church to see where we can help the population in Newark..

Since it accepts no state or federal funding, contributions from its sponsoring churches, individuals, businesses and community organizations like the New Castle Presbyterian Church are the primary reason that the dedicated staff and volunteers of Friendship House can continue to provide a sanctuary and an stepping stone to people in desperate need of some place to call home.

For tax purposes, I affirm that you have received no compensation for your gift, but our heartfelt prayers and gratitude.

Your friend in Christ,

Bill Perkins
Executive Director

Pirates on the Delaware River and Bay

In the 17th Century, pirates could operate with impunity out of friendly ports or from obscure harbors on sparsely inhabited coasts. Pirates were often respected citizens at home while committing rape and pillage at sea or in distant ports.

In 1687 pirates began plundering ships and plantations in southern Delaware. The Quaker government in Pennsylvania treated them leniently, and local immunity could be readily purchased from avaricious colonial officials. Soon bitter complaints from local citizens and businessmen reached Royal ears.

The king wrote directly to William Penn requesting him to remedy these abuses, and requiring captured pirates to be imprisoned. He also sent a squadron to the defense of the colonies under the command of Sir Robert Holmes, who was ordered to extirpate the pirates, and for his services was granted all property recovered from them. Piracy abated until 1699. Then pirates sacked Lewes, plundering every house and carrying off all money, valuables and even clothing.

In 1700 the infamous Captain Kidd returned to Delaware from his depredations in the East Indies. His ship was laden with the choicest products of the East. He lay off Lewes and invited several local residents aboard to purchase some of this plunder. They did so, and also successfully eluded the local tax collector.

Governor Penn soon heard about this. Pennsylvania, including Delaware, had received a reputation of being the greatest refuge for pirates in America. He called a special meeting of the Assembly to suppress piracy. All strangers to Delaware were soon required to prove their identity. The colonists were at last awakened to the seriousness of piracy. Information about suspicious ships was quickly relayed to the governor in Philadelphia, who ordered action. Piracy ceased until 1708.

Piracy renewed with the rise of the privateer, armed private warships commissioned to prey on the commerce of the enemy. England at this time was at war with France and Spain. The commerce of Delaware was fair game for French and Spanish privateers. They profited from the ships and cargoes they captured and also from the towns and farms they plundered. Navigation and trade were brought to a standstill. England left the colonies to deal with the situation by themselves.

The Governor of Pennsylvania called a joint session of the Council and Assembly to deal with the problem. The Assembly claimed that although their jurisdiction extended over the territory, their powers got no further down than twelve miles from New Castle. The outrage was reported to the Delaware council where measures for defending the inhabitants were discussed. However, the Pennsylvania assembly controlled the funds, and the Quakers would allow no physical defensive acts. This widened the breach between Pennsylvania and Delaware. After attacks upon both Lewes and New Castle, the Crown finally sent a squadron to clean out the enemy privateers.

April, 2007

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sat. |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 9:30am-Sunday School 10:45am-Palm Sunday procession 11:00am-Palm/Passion Sunday Worship 12:00pm-Fellowship Hour 12:30pm-Youth Fellowship | 2 | 3 12:00pm-Noon Circle | 4 7:30pm-Choir | 5 7:00pm-Maundy Thurs. Worship 7:00pm-Al-Anon 8:00pm-Celebration Ringers | 6 12:00pm-Good Friday Worship | 7 |
| 8 EASTER SUNDAY 9:30am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship 12:00pm-Fellowship Hour | 9 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm-Deacons | 10 | 11 6:00pm-Worship Comm. 7:30pm-Choir | 12 6:45pm-Colonial Chimers 7:00pm-Al-Anon 8:00pm-Celebration Ringers | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9:30am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship 12:00pm-Fellowship Hour 12:30pm-Youth Fellowship | 16 7:00pm-English Country Dancers 7:30pm-Trustees | 17 | 18 7:30pm-Choir | 19 6:45pm-Colonial Chimers 7:00pm-Al-Anon 8:00pm-Celebration Ringers | 20 6:00pm- Wedding Rehearsal | 21 2:00pm- Wedding |
| 22 9:30am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship, New Anthem presented for 350th 12:00pm-Fellowship Hour 1:30pm-Youth @ Concord P.C. 7:00pm-NC Seminar | 23 7:00pm-Session | 24 | 25 7:30pm-Choir | 26 6:45pm-Colonial Chimers 7:00pm-Al-Anon 8:00pm-Celebration Ringers | 27 7-10:30pm- Youth Dinner Dance | 28 9:00am-Yard Day |
| 29 9:30am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship 12:00pm-Fellowship Hour 12:30pm-Youth Fellowship 2:00pm-Friendship House Ecumenical Prayer Svc. | 30 | | | | | |

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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 **April 23 2007**.