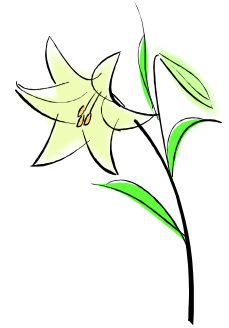


# *New Castle Presbyterian News*

## *May 2007*



### **We Need Your Help**

The 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is in the process of gathering names and addresses of folks to be invited to the banquet on November 11, 2007. Committee members are looking over several lists at this time. These include former members, inactive members and friends of the church.

If you know of anyone that you believe should be invited, please give the name and especially current address, to Janet in the office as soon as possible. Even if it turns out that we already have that name, that is O.K. Better to have that cross check than not.

Thank you. We don't want to miss anyone.

- Nanette Nichol for the 350<sup>th</sup> Committee

### **Meals on Wheels**

Meals on Wheels is the week of May 28th. Please note that Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup> is a holiday and there will be no MOW delivery. The volunteers for the week are listed below:

#### **Monday (holiday)**

Susan Flook  
Phoebe Dill

#### **Tuesday**

Joan Smith  
Jean Swanson

#### **Wednesday**

Dot & Jason  
Campbell

#### **Thursday**

Shirley Knox

#### **Friday**

Cynthia Robbins  
Nanette Nichol

## All Hands on Deck!

It's time to mark your calendars for one of the highlights of our 350<sup>th</sup> 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 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary items, baking breakfast goods and cookies for lunch, clean-up, and more. Sign up in the fellowship hall. *Please note: this event is three days after A Day in Old New Castle.* The lunch meal is being coordinated by Nancy Coning, parking by Monty Gerhart. For other questions, please ask Pastor Nancy.

## Mother's Day Gardens

With the return of bloom and spring showers, you may be planning your spring garden. The women of the Friendship House transitional housing program are doing the same: planting flowers for spring and summer beauty. You can support these gardens--and the transitional housing program--by making a donation to the **Mother's Day Garden** project. It's simple: just pick up a donor card from the Friendship House poster and follow the directions. (Also look for our mailing) Your gift can be a lovely way to honor your own mother or to celebrate the presence of another special woman in your life. The woman you honor will receive a floral card announcing your gift (but not its amount), and the garden you support will add beauty and hope to Friendship House housing from Mother's Day through to the fall. Look around and think of those who make your life happier, funnier, or more secure; this a wonderful, easy, and very personal way to say "Thank you."

## Save the Date

Family Beach Day in Avalon will be Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. Put this important date on your calendars now! Thanks, Corky and Jo!

## **Photographs Needed**

Your 350<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Webmasters Needed**

We are in the process of developing a rotation schedule for webmaster responsibilities for this church. Training will be provided by our own IT person, Bruce Raker. If you feel called to this kind of service, please contact Nancy Rowland, speak to Bruce, or sign up in the fellowship hall.

## **Vacation Bible School Is Coming!!**

Don't miss out on all the fun! Vacation Bible School returns on July 8-12, 6:15 to 8:15 each evening. This year our theme is the Great Bible Reef, and we will be diving deep into the Word of God. We need volunteers to make our school the very best! Please sign up on the sheets provided in the Fellowship Hall. It's lots of fun and you can make a big difference in someone's life!

## **Meals On Wheels Drivers Needed**

Could you volunteer two hours of your time mid-day one day (substitute) to nine days (regular) a year to deliver hot meals to shut-ins in the New Castle area? The Meals on Wheels programs has lost a few drivers recently and our pool of drivers is rather thin. If you are interested, please contact Ellen Matthews at 302-777-1133.

- Ellen Matthews

## Seamen's Center

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to remind everyone that we will again be supporting the Seamen's Center's "Christmas at Sea" program next December. Last year the congregation provided 30 ditty boxes, which included various items such as shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, candy, etc. We were also able to include 30 hand knitted scarves, 10 hand knitted hats and some purchased hats that were given to the seamen as part of the 1300 ditty boxes given to the arriving ships in the month of December. This is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to be part of the bigger world as we share in celebrating Christmas and sharing our time and resources.

If anyone has any questions about the program please call Ellie Gerhart (302-328-0908). Ellie will be available to teach or help with any knitting questions. The summer months are a great time to work on a Seamen's scarf. As always, patterns and some yarn are readily handy in the basket in the Fellowship Hall...we hope we will be able to repeat last year's generosity.

- Ellie Gerhart

## A Thank You

Dear Members and Friends,

I have never been as comfortable speaking spontaneously as writing, after a time to think. On March 18, after the service of Commendation and Committal for Ralph, followed by the pot luck dinner and wonderful sharing of remembrances by so many dear people, I was speechless. Thanks to Nancy and the choir the service was "just right". – Rob felt privileged to play his oboe, where Wally Pancoast, so many years ago, encouraged him to learn to play it. We really appreciated the many gracious and generous memories of Ralph's ministry shared. You placed him just "a little lower than the angels"!

It is my prayer that the services in December and March and the memories shared help us all to continue to work for solutions to the issues of poverty, justice and peace that were so much a part of his ministry. May it be so!

- Anita Johnson

## **Mission and Outreach News**

### **Urban Promise Summer Camp Supplies**

This summer Urban Promise will be providing summer camp programs for the children of Wilmington. We can help by providing arts and crafts supplies and playground equipment. Please look for the poster displaying the list of needs and take a "post-it" shopping list and bring the item/s on your list back to the CE Building during the month of May. Most of these items can be found at Happy Harry's, A.C. Moore, Toys-R-U's or Kmart. Cash donations can also be given to Janet Spring if you would like to participate but cannot get to the store. We will also be collecting empty gallon milk and juice jugs for use at the camp. Please rinse them out and put them in the collection box in the CE Building. Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile cause. If you want to read more about Urban Promise, check out the articles on the Mission Bulletin board in the CE Building.

On July 15th we will also be serving dinner to the counselors of Urban Promise. Many of these young people come from all over the world to work for Urban Promise and their youth summer camp program. There will be a sign-up sheet in June for anyone interested in helping cook and serve a meal for these dedicated young people.

### **Friendship House Breakfast-April 7th and 8<sup>th</sup>**

We would like to thank Nancy Coning, Tom McDowell, and Jim and Susan Flook for their help on Saturday getting the breakfast prepared for Sunday. Carol and Gene Mayhew, Jo and Corky Viola, and Jim and Linda Neel helped serve breakfast to over 100 people on a very cold, wet and windy Sunday. We would also like to thank Marcia and Bill Quillen, Herb and Mary Pratt, Mickey Singleton, Nanette Nichol, Conchita Showell, and Mary and Herb Pratt for the donations of food. Our next serving time will be in July.

### **NCPC Book Night-Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**

We will be discussing **Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why** by Bart Erhman. Discussion will begin at 7:00 p.m.

## Bits and Pieces of the Past

The following five and a half pages is a 34-year history of the early days of the New Castle Antique Show sponsored by the women of New Castle Presbyterian Church, 1949-1982. Though it has no author listed and is updated, internal evidence strongly indicates it was written by a church member, Mrs. Mary Earle (1915-1996). It appears to be her original typed copy with penciled in corrections. Perhaps it was her only copy. I found it in the church archives along with two attached mementos and reproduced it here exactly as I found it.

Mrs. Earle knew how to turn a phrase well, but the mechanics of writing didn't seem to be important to her. Her typewriter frequently didn't imprint the letter "O" and her strung-out thoughts were often separated by three or four hyphens rather than periods. Her typos, if she found them, were corrected in pencil. Above all, one can sense immense energy in her writing with words flying onto the page in staccato fashion. Content was here thing and, in my mind's ear, I can hear her old typewriter clacking away at break-neck speed.

When my wife, Mary, and I moved to New Castle in 1952, we soon subscribed to its weekly newspaper, *The New Castle Gazette*. The name "Mary Earle" showed up so frequently in the *Gazette's* pages – meeting of the Town Counsel, Trustees of the New Castle Common, A Day in Old New Castle, Presbyterian Church news, etc – that I began to look for her name to see just what she was up to that week. When the Pratts became members of the New Castle Baptist Church (then on Fifth Street behind the Post Office), Jim Earle, Mary's husband, was organist there. We never met Mrs. Earle, but our impressions were that she was a tireless worker, a shaker and a mover, and a force to be dealt with.

Writing in 1989 about the demise of the Antique Show, church historian, Jean Bankert, explained "As the years passed, however, the proliferation of antique shows and flea markets made it more difficult to attract quality dealers and in 1982 at the conclusion of the 35<sup>th</sup> annual show, the Session of the church decided to discontinue the show." And so that was that.

Read on though, you have a treat in store!

Herb T. Pratt  
Church Historian

## NEW CASTLE ANTIQUES SHOW

The idea of holding an Antiques Show was born in two heads at the same time. Mrs. Norman Kent who headed Circle #3, as well as all the members of that Circle, had wondered what to do about the sad state of the interior of our Old Church. At the same time a small piece of plaster up in the ceiling decided it was time to come down and take a look from another angle---unfortunately it selected a brand new hat to land on----mine! I became so angry thinking of how our lovely old church (thru a set of circumstances beyond our control) had been neglected so badly that I resolved to find a way to take care of it----the next meeting of our Circle was the fertile ground upon which our idea fell. In January 1949 with eight women---Mary Kent, Lillian Stewart, Theresa Witt, Edwinna Long, Sally Culp, Mary Gebhart, Anne Lancaster and Mary Earle---and no money we bravely selected a date and pitched in----April 28th, 29th and 30th.

What innocent babes we were----only one member of the group had even been to an Antique Show and one member a student of the 18th century houses and their furnishings. We knew we wanted it to be the best affair we could possibly run and we succeeded. Where to hold the event was the big question. The Opera House, the Parish House were a few of the spots mentioned and discarded, but always in the back of my mind was the Academy Building---but since only the first floor was used, and then only once a year I felt it would be impossible to get. I went to Mr. Nicholas McIntire to find out what he thought of an Antique Show in our Town and asked for a suggestion for a place to hold the event,---he came up with the Academy Building tho he was quite certain we could get it. Armed with this encouragement I called on Judge Rodney---told him of our plans and asked his permission to inspect the building and whether we could have it. I was warned not to go upstairs as it was unsafe---but I couldn't resist---when I saw that it was used as a storage place for items from members of the Parish who had no place else to store the things and the entire second floor wasn't sitting on the first---I knew we had a chance. I called my Father, a Builder, to check it carefully and he pronounced it safe. Then to make absolutely sure I asked that long time, long suffering, wonderful friend of the Antique Show, Bruce Gordon, to take a careful look too. He pronounced it safe, but shook his head over the amount of work to be done. We received permission to use the building----so we were set---a Cause---a Means---a Place to hold it in---no Money to work with---but a band of stout hearted women who had the utmost faith in my ability to do what we planned (even tho there were many times when I did not feel so) to do. Like all stories somewhere along the line a number of things creep in to change the complexion of the complete picture. The Antique Show was not started to do the restoration of the Church this wonderful idea and plan was being conceived by another group in the Church---our goal was a very modest one upon reflection, but monumental to us at that time.

We had to raise some money quickly to cover our expenses--so we became baby sitters---had a Bake sale---and made 90 Dollars and cooed over this for days---we held Bridge parties---held a Chili Dinner at Stewarts with all of us and our close friends sitting on the little school chairs listening to Jim Earle play for us and we made \$40. I made flower arrangements which I swapped for automobiles complete with Driver and Gas!---a White Elephant sale brought in another \$20 and we were off to a grand start. This and many more ideas were pushed into the picture to raise that all

## ANTIQUe SHOW-continued

important item Money. Beforce this saga goes any further--since this was a Circle #3 project we had only the long suffering Husbands in the group to lend us a hand. Without them the Show would not have been possible. All the major work projects were handled by thfs men. Later as the time drew near Circle #1 and Circle #2 pitched in to lend a helping hand to make it a success. Now it is a Church project and the great load is spread out and makes it easier for all.

The First years of the Show were the hardest for that wonderful building had been neglected for years---the first floor was not too bad---but oh! that second. The building had no heat, no water (except an outside faucet over a stone step), no toilet familites and years of dirt. The second floor was missing window pans, trim around the windows, flooring, base boards, plus we had the addition of spiders by the thousands, windows covered with honey and other types of dirt, plus a sprinkling of dead birds, one rat and a ratty looking half starved squirrell who had made a nest in an old sofa. We faced one problem after another and sometimes we seemed to be swamped, but always a helping hand came from somewhere Quillens with a truck ----Eliasons with a thousand little things-- Bruce Gordon was the most chased after man in town we tracked him down at all hours for help and advice--plus those wonderful husbands who worked all day at their jobs and scrubbed, scraped, plastered, painted and work constantly with Paul Witt doing more than any of us. One of our helping hands was the Vreeland family that lived on Harmony Street, members of St. Peter's Church---they hooked up a long extension cord from their cellar ~~windax~~ light, out the window across Harmony Street, up over the wall and into the building to give us the extra light we needed so badly. Their twin sons ran buckets of hot water for the cleaning crews. Since we had no heat in the building we advertised the fact that ours would be a firelit-Show---it had to be or we would have frozen to death. Two weeks before the Show we knew that the lighting was not going to be adequate and a rush visit to the Board of Water and Light and the symphathetic ear of Mr. Deakyne brought us a wonderful helper in Mr. Sud Benton, plus an outside electrical line. Also turning this near tradgey to advantage we again called attention to our lack of glaring lights---the softness of candle-light would charm our Vistors---it had too'---or they would have been greeted with 18th Century charm and darkness. We still had the Rest Room prblem to face so again a trip to the Historical Society with a request to use their facilities in the Little Dutch House, and we in turn would give them a donation. Miss Harriet Challenger was the Curator and not only the visitors but the Dealers came to know and love her and her salty comments on the Town and its People. With our beloved Sally Culp we mapped a publicity campaign so good and covering so many areas and mediums that other Shows have copied our form. We wrote to all Presbyterian Churches and small town newspapers within a radius of 75 miles, we had Radio programs, TV progzams---not just spot announcemtns, but regular feature Shows with Committee Members and Dealrs. We had window displays in the best shops in Wilmington and Philadelphia filled with displays announcing our First Show. Since we had no money to waste on posters I called upon the Towns' Artists to do a poster in whatever medium they could handle best, some were pen and ink sketches, water colors, some oils were done and generously donated to the cause. The only one in existence that I know of is an oil painting done by Mrs. Newlin Booth, Sr. of the Dutch House--- the frame that fits so nicely was fished out of our River at low tide--provided by the Lord--- So eager were we to raise the



## Antique Show-continued

much needed money that we not only rented the inside of the building but the front lawn as well! We also had an Artist come and record this beautiful scene and eventful day in water colors, she did one of the Academy building and one of the Church with the high iron fence around it with just a little of the 'Old Church' showing in the left hand corner. The Committee later purchased these from the Artist. Since the only kitchen we had was the closet under the stairway and the only Dining room the Secret Garden our menu had to be limited, but we were determined it would be good and beautifully served. Paul and Theresa Witt not only worked with the cleaning crews each night for months, but we gave them the added task of finding something special for the Show. They did and their coconut and date bars are as well known as the Show. Littlian Stewart agreed to handle the Food while protesting she knew absolutely nothing about it all---she did such a fine job that we kept running out of Lobster and young Bob Stewart spent one vacation from school running around buying every can within 10 miles. All thru this trying period you must remember we did everything---we dressed up and had our pictures taken in the morning, rushed home changed clothes, painted like mad---then sat up with our chore of addressing and mailing our publicity material until the wee small hours of the morning---then we couldn't even mail them until we did something else to raise the money to buy the stamps. When the Show was nearing the vital point all the Circles helped--- Mrs. Quillen, Mrs. Appleby, Deakayne and on and on. The only person connected with our Show that could not lay claim to being either a member of Circle #3 or a badgered husband was our much loved Mr. Rothrock, he became our pillar of strength in the ticket department and has worked each year with us. Now we are coming into the home stretch---and much to my dismay the night before we opened a professional promotor arrived from New York to look us over he announced we had a good Show---but we would lose money the first two years, then make lots of money. This piece of news almost gave Chan Gebhart some unexpected business for not once in all those months of work had I---had the women---ever thought it wouldn't make money. I knew that I could not be the one to tell these wonderful women what had been said---fortunately I never had to--- for the doors opened up and we were off to a wonderful start. So excited were we about the money rolling in that we kept it in a small cloth salt bag---and took turns sleeping on it---with a beautiful Bank, complete with Night Deposit, not a half a block away, but this never occurred to one of us. We were in a daze of delight and when the dust cleared we had netted \$1,300. All the months of work and worry went down the drain for we knew we had something more than just a project to make money---it would become important to the Town, to the People and to our State. So it stands to-day---we are the only Show---important Show---sponsored by a Church---only Show run by non-professionals---only Show held in an 18th Century building and Setting---among our first were Fresh Flowers in the booths, Candlelights, and above all a wonderful reputation among Dealers, Museums, Buyers and Visitors as being the friendliest Show to visit.

But the most important thing in all of this that I would like you to remember is that above everything People are the important thing--- the 18th Century Craftsman who held the objects and worked on them--- the People who came to buy them, use and cherish them---the Dealers who discover them and bring them to the Show---the people who come from far and near to visit us each year---and most important all of the people---Past, Present and Future who work on this New Castle Antiques Show.

(to be continued next month)

## **French Huguenots in the New Castle Presbyterian Church**

Many of the members of this church in the early 1700's were French Huguenots. The meaning of "Huguenot" is obscure, but it may mean comrade.

Feudalism was alive and well in France. The great nobles had fortified castles. The peasants were at their mercy. Huguenots were about 10 per cent of the population. Their code of ethics was high. They loaned money at interest and dealt fairly in business. But, in time they became embroiled in royal politics and became as intolerant as the Catholics. The situation degenerated into a religious massacre, when about 30,000 Huguenots were murdered in 1572.

A new king gave them full rights and eight cities to govern, but turmoil caused Cardinal Richelieu, the Prime Minister of France, to attack and capture their capital city. He did not massacre them. He recognized their immense economic value to France. He placed no restrictions upon them in the Edict of Nantes of 1629, and they returned peacefully to commerce and industry.

France prospered as never before, but was not ready for democracy. Most of the population was ill clothed, ill fed, illiterate, superstitious, and murderous. There were many astrologers, fortunetellers, and occult medical practitioners. The towns were controlled by businessmen, but hampered by the feudal privileges of the nobility. They did not unite with them as in England to establish a parliament capable of checking the power of the king.

By 1643 there were on and a half million Huguenots in France, but they were not united or have a strong organization of churches. The central government was gaining power during the reign of Louis XIV. The Catholic Church was growing deeply concerned about the economic power and growing numbers of Huguenots. In 1685 the Catholic authorities persuaded the king to rescind the Edict of Nantes, "so the undisturbed reign of Jesus Christ could be reestablished in France".

All Huguenot worship and schooling was forbidden. Pastors were given 14 days to leave France, but emigration of all other Huguenots was forbidden. Dragoons, government soldiers, invaded Huguenot towns and subjected the inhabitants to murder and torture. Many were herded into Catholic churches and forced to convert to Catholicism. One Catholic bishop stated that the dragoons were good missionaries! Their churches were torn down and even their cemeteries were uprooted "to prevent the dead from mocking Europe's most Catholic King".

Nearby Protestant countries welcomed those who escaped because of their skills, strong work ethic and management abilities. Protestant Europe benefited greatly from the victory of Catholicism in France.

America was an ethnic caldron; Huguenots soon dispersed into the general population and joined other Protestant churches.

# May 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12pm: Noon Circle	2 7:30pm-Choir	3 9am-3pm: Arasapha 6:45pm: Col. Chimers 7pm-Al-Anon 8pm-Cel. Ringers	4 8am-6pm: Arasapha May Market	5 8am-6pm: Arasapha May Market
6 9:30am-Sunday School 11am-Worship 12pm-Fellowship Hour 12:30pm-Youth Fellowship	7 7pm-Christian Education	8 7pm-Book Night	9 7:30pm-Choir	10 6:45pm: Col. Chimers 7pm-Al-Anon 8pm-Cel. Ringers	11	12
13 9:30am-Sunday School 11am-Worship 12pm-Fellowship Hour @ Manse 12:30pm-Youth Mother & Daughter Brunch	14 7pm-Deacons	15	16 7:30pm-Choir	17 6:45pm: Col. Chimers 7pm-Al-Anon 8pm-Cel. Ringers	18	19 All Day: Immanuel Episcopal Day in Old New Castle
20 9:30am-Sunday School 11am-Worship 12pm-Fellowship Hour 12:30pm-Youth Fellowship	21 7pm-Eng. Country Dancers 7:30pm-Trustees	22 9:30am: Mtg. of Presbytery	23 7:30pm-Choir	24 6:45pm: Col. Chimers 7pm-Al-Anon 8pm-Cel. Ringers	25	26
27 9:30am-Sunday School 11am-Worship 12pm-Fellowship Hour @ Manse 1-9pm-Meek/Weaver Wedding	28 Memorial Day Office Closed	29	30 7:30pm-Choir	31 6:45pm: Col. Chimers 7pm-Al-Anon 8pm-Cel. Ringers		

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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](mailto:ncpc1651@verizon.net)

**Contact: The Rev. Nancy Rowland at:**  
**[ncpcpastor@verizon.net](mailto:ncpcpastor@verizon.net)**

Next Newsletter Deadline is **May 21, 2007**.