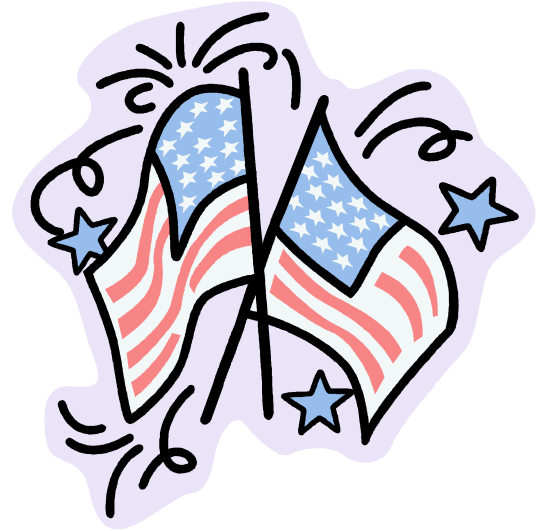


New Castle Presbyterian News

July 2007



Separation Day

Separation Day 2007 was a grand event! Many thanks to all our members who presented our church in such a welcoming manner! Lyn and Rachel Briggs did a stellar job of coordinating the float construction for the parade. If you have not seen their high quality work, it is on display in the fellowship hall. Many days and nights of work went into its completion. Also putting in many, many hours were Kaitlyn, Bruce, Lisa, and Chris Raker (float, costumes, driving the truck); Shirley and Danielle Knox (banner); Katie Martin; and Beth Hentkowski. Thanks to Bob and Lyn Briggs as well for all the coordination on parade day. During the parade, the youth were in costume and handed out church brochures to parade viewers.

At the Meeting House, many thanks to Carol Mayhew, Conchita Showell, Pat Bird, Mary and Herb Pratt, and Vic Clark, who welcomed visitors. A wonderful day for everyone!

Happy Birthday!

The church celebrated its birthday picnic style on June 10. Many thanks to all who brought yummy dishes and to officers who supplied the meat. Special thanks to Steve and Cynthia Martin and Bev Stoudt for making many of the arrangements. The cake Carol Mayhew ordered with a picture of the Meeting House was a real hit! And a great big hooray to Rob and Chris (and Alex and Julie) Barry who provided and supervised the Moon Bounce. It was donated for the day courtesy of their new company C&D Party Rentals (584-3363).

Visiting Preachers

During the next few months, we are pleased to welcome a number of old and new friends to the leadership of worship at New Castle Presbyterian Church during Pastor Nancy's study leave and vacation.

July 22 – John Gilmore, former Interim Pastor

August 12 – Shannon Hanson, member of Church of the Covenant and Inquirer for Ministry in our presbytery. She is a federal attorney.

August 19 – Neta Pringle, retired minister who occasionally worships with us.

September 30 – Bob Bolt, former Interim Pastor

Organ Fund Update

Faithful friends, we are almost there! Our new Custom Allen electronic organ has been installed and is nearly paid for! Here are the latest figures:

Cost of Organ & Installation	\$48,610
Actual Donations Received	(33,188)
Additional Amounts Pledged	<u>(4,960)</u>
Shortage	\$10,462

A number of you have indicated your intention to give or pledge, so now is the time to bridge the gap, as the balance of the project is now due.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in this campaign for all your generosity!! When the campaign is completed, a full list of donors and honorees will be published.

Montreat Youth Conference

Three young people and the pastor will travel to Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina July 21 to 28 for the Montreat Youth Conference. This long-running youth experience has literally been a mountain-top experience for countless youth of our denomination through many generations. A Youth Conference is a special event – a gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of study, worship, and recreation. A typical day at Youth Conference includes morning energizers, keynote, small group meetings where the conference theme is explored, and afternoon recreation activities and other options.

Attending will be Pastor Nancy Rowland, Zach Dobson, Beth Hentkowski, and her friend Jackie Cobb. Please be in prayer for our young people as they encounter new experience of faith and life.

Eighteenth Century Worship

Our worship on July 1 will incorporate many features of the Scots-Irish Presbyterian worship that would have been conducted in New Castle during the 1770's. This congregation began worshipping in English during the 1680's and was then looking for Scot-Irish Presbyterian pastors instead of Dutch Reformed pastors. The first installed Presbyterian pastor was John Wilson, who came to this church in 1698. By 1770, Presbyterian worship was very simple, and focused almost entirely upon the sermon. This congregation was most likely part of the New Side or New Light movement, which stressed impassioned preaching and worship. During the American Revolution, Presbyterians were at the forefront of the "rebellion", so that also added to the fervor of preaching.

During this eighteenth century service, the Lord's Supper will be celebrated by coming forward and receiving by dipping bread into wine. Our music will be without keyboard accompaniment, in colonial style. Join us as we go back in time and as we experience God's Spirit in new ways.

Winterthur Tour

A group of approximately 14 members and friends of New Castle Presbyterian Church toured Winterthur Museum on June 19th, 2007. Thanks to the assistance of Debbie Harper, a former member of NCPC and a Winterthur employee, we had several knowledgeable docents take us into H. F. DuPont's home.

We viewed how quilts were used in the fashionable interiors created by Du Pont during the 1930's and 1940's. In the home, we also saw many needlework samplers and silk embroidery pictures stitched by hand. Following this tour, we then toured the major quilt exhibit in the Exhibit Hall. The quilts were just amazing. Many of them had 18-24 stitches per inch all done by hand!!!! Our church quilters assured us this is not easily done. We were absolutely astounded at the intricacy, colors, and beauty of these quilts. The history behind many of these quilts was interesting as well. Following the tour and a trip to the Winterthur Museum Gift Store, we gathered at Linda Neel's home in Newark for a light dinner. Lively conversation was included during our light meal.

This activity was sponsored by the Mission and Outreach Committee. We are looking to sponsor more activities to encourage fellowship among members and their non-member friends. If you have any ideas for a fun day trip or activity, please see Linda Neel or Janet Spring with your ideas. You will not have to organize the event but we encourage your suggestions for fun things to do.

- Linda Neel, Mission and Outreach Committee

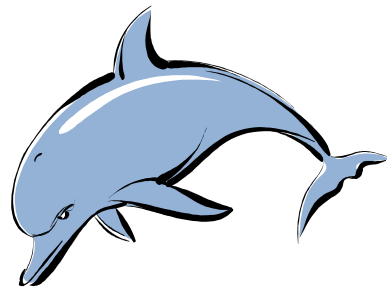
Vacation Bible School

Take the plunge! It's time to register for Great Bible Reef Vacation Bible School! Many of our members are hard at work making this the best Bible School ever! We will gather July 8-12 (Sunday-Thursday), 6:15-8:15 each evening in the Christian Education Building and grounds. Everyone 4-10 is invited to participate.

Set in an exciting and fun underwater environment, this lively VBS program will engage participants in discovering how we can live each and every day as God's disciples. We will hear stories about Jesus, make cool crafts, learn catchy reef tunes, play zany games, eat yummy snacks, and make lots of new friends!

Register now! For more information or to register, visit the church office between the hours of 8:30 to 12:30 Monday through Friday or call 302-328-3279. Sign up today!!

GREAT BIBLE REEF Vacation Bible School Registration Form



5.00 per child / 10.00 per family

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Last school grade completed: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Mother: _____

Father: _____

Other: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

Home church: _____

Name of friend your child might like to be with: _____

Help Make Bracelets

The Mission and Outreach Committee is planning a get together this August to string beads for bracelets. We plan to sell the bracelets we make at the Spirit of Christmas program in December. No experience is necessary and the type of bracelets we are making are very simple to construct. We hope to make adult and children bracelets. If you are interested in joining us to make the bracelets, please contact either Janet Spring or Linda Neel as soon as possible.

Carrie Downie School at NCPC

During four weeks in July and early August, Carrie Downie Elementary School will be operating a Reading Enrichment Day Camp in our Fellowship Hall. The program will be three days per week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Children will leave at 1:00, leaders by 2:00) Children and leaders will leave early on Tuesdays (11:30) for a field trip off-site.

There will be 15 to 20 children and 4 adult teachers. In addition to our Fellowship Hall and downstairs bathrooms, children will have outdoor activities in our church yard.

The program will begin July 10 and end August 2 and will involve reading evaluation and enrichment, team-building exercises, hygiene classes, and arts and crafts. A church member or staff will be present in the building while our guests are here. We are glad to be partnering with our public schools in this important way.

Welcome New Member

We welcomed Conchita Showell into the membership of our congregation upon her reaffirmation of faith on June 24 in morning worship. Conchita has already become active in our Mission and Outreach Committee. Her directory information is:

Conchita Showell
10 Jester Street
Bear, DE 19701
(302)832-9226

Mission and Outreach Opportunities for July

On July 7th and 8th we will be serving breakfast at Friendship House at the 8th and Shipley location. There will be a sign-up sheet in the CE Building for both Saturday and Sunday. Saturday is the preparation day and we meet at 8th and Shipley at 3:00 P.M. to prepare the meal. We serve on Sunday at 7:00 A.M. We need about 4 or 5 volunteers for each day. We also need food donations. If you cannot serve, please consider donating food for the meal. There will also be a sign-up sheet for food donations. If you would like to donate money to buy some of the food, please give your donation to Janet Spring. All food should be in the kitchen by Friday, July 6th. Please label the food with FRIENDSHIP HOUSE. Thank you.

During the months of May and June we collected arts and crafts items for Urban Promise. On Sunday, July 15th, we will have an opportunity to serve dinner to the Urban Promise camp counselors and learn more about what they do. We will need main dishes, side dishes, salads and desserts. There will be a sign-up sheet in the CE Building for anyone interested in providing food and/or attending this meal. We will be serving 20 counselors. Please have your food donation in the CE building on Sunday, July 15 by 5:00 p.m. If you will be away that weekend, you might consider making a main dish or dessert that can be frozen and putting it in the freezer. Please label your food container with URBAN PROMISE MEAL. The meal will begin at 5:30 p.m. and we will have a short service afterward.

Thank You

On Wednesday, June 13th, we sent a crew to the New Castle Senior Center to do yard work, serve lunch, and have a short scavenger hunt. Special thanks to youth group members Daniel Barry, Beth Hentkowski, Rachel Briggs, and Danielle Knox and adult helpers Gene Mayhew (who got the prize for "most dirty worker"), Shirley Knox, Pastor Nancy, and Conchita Showell. Kitchen help included Nanette Nichol, Carol Mayhew, and Janet Spring. We would also like to thank those members who donated food for this event. We were also able to use many of the leftover items from our end of the year picnic. A good time was had by all. Thank you Sue Townsend for coordinating this event and also to Conchita Showell who served as our Mistress of Ceremonies!

We Need Your Help

The 350th 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 350th Committee

Meals on Wheels

Meals on wheels this month is the week of July 9th. 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

Seat Cushions

For our members who need a little extra support in order to worship with us, the Worship Committee has provided seat and lumbar cushions for individual use. They are in a basket in the narthex as you enter. Please ask an usher to help you get one!

The Christian Education Committee Announces...

A Day at the "Shore" in Avalon, NJ

Courtesy of Jo and Corky Viola



For: Everybody (young and old!)

Date: Saturday, July 14

Time: come as early as you can and stay as long as you like. The day will be pretty unstructured but Jo and Cork's house will serve as "home base". Hang out there to read, visit or nap in the hammock, go to the beach or explore Avalon. We'll have dinner together at the house in the mid to late afternoon.

Place: The Viola's House at 148 31st St. in Avalon, NJ

What to bring: your own beach needs, lunch will be on your own, and a dessert or salad to share for dinner.

Corky, Jo and the CE Committee are providing dinner - Pulled Pork BBQ sandwiches, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and drinks.

There will also be an outside shower and a place to change clothes, if needed.

Please sign up on the CE Building Bulletin Board by Sunday, July 8.

Questions? See or call Cork, Jo or Amy Selheimer.

BITS AND PIECES FROM THE PAST

Presbyterianism in Delaware

During the Colonial Struggle for Independence from England*

Presbyterians in Delaware have always held honor for the brave stand taken by them in their struggle for freedom of religion and the security of their civil rights. Long before the beginning of the Revolution they had gained the reputation of having revolutionary tendencies. Hence, we find them at the beginning of hostilities between Great Britain and her American colonies ready for the conflict. From the time of their entrance onto the Delaware peninsula in the late 1600s, they had steadily increased in numbers until they could boast, in 1775, of a greater number of churches than that of any other denomination. Their progress was shown by their gradual gain in power, socially as well as politically, until the time came when they were not afraid to challenge the King himself if he attempted to deprive them of the fruits of their labors.

They could not forget that for seventy years they had been compelled to meet the rebuffs of the royal governors following the passage of the Acts of Uniformity by the British Parliament. Often their pastors were imprisoned for preaching without a license, their churches closed, their congregations required to use the Book of Common Prayer; the number of persons who could worship together was limited, and they had pay a tax for the support of the Church of England whose ceremonies they utterly despised. Great numbers of their clergymen had joined the exodus from Great Britain to America. And yet they seemed to thrive under adversity, for at the beginning of the hostilities they had multiplied in numbers until they had about one hundred and eighty-six ministers, twenty Presbyteries, and two Synods. In Delaware alone there were twenty-nine congregations. Heterogeneous in origin, they were part Huguenots, part New England Congregationalists, part Dutchmen of New Amsterdam, part Scotch-Irish, part Highlanders and exiles of the War of 1745. Having a Calvinistic theology and an intense passion for civil and religious liberty, they openly consented to the name and the responsibility of *Rebels* against the British Crown. But only about half of the Colony's three lower counties leaned toward breaking ties with the Mother Country. Even many of its leaders, such as New Castellian George Read, had misgivings and were not convinced that rebelling was the right thing to do. The Episcopalians and Lutherans would undoubtedly remain loyal to the King, while the Quakers and Catholics for the most part would not fight.

In 1763, the majority of the people in Sussex County were Loyalists, and favored the British Government. Meanwhile, the Tories employed runners in Kent and Sussex Counties to distribute propaganda against independence. The Presbyterians, as a matter of course, were patriots and belonged to the Whig party. Consider the following:

Profiles of the 56 Churches in Delaware in 1776

<u>Religious Persuasion</u>	<u>County</u>			<u>Summary</u>	
	<u>New Castle</u>	<u>Kent</u>	<u>Sussex</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
Patriots (Presbyterians and Baptists)	18	4	8	30	53.5
Loyalists (Episcopalians and Lutherans)	5	3	5	13	23.2
Non-combatants (Quakers and Catholics)	7	3	3	13	23.2

Although it is generally believed that Presbyterian ministers were instrumental in bringing the crisis to a head, they stated emphatically that they had not inflamed the people or urged them to acts of violence and disorder. True to their principles of religion, they urged all who offered themselves as champions of their country's cause to live near to God in order to be able to face the issue head on whether in victory or in death. Pastors gave congregations under their charge explicit instructions as to what their general conduct in public should be. They were to respect the king and his majestic family seated on the British throne. Above all, they urged their people to be careful to maintain the union which at present subsisted throughout the colonies. Likewise, they urged members to be careful about their private conduct, to discourage gaming and public diversions of all kinds, to pay their debts, and to live in such a manner that they could "serve one another," and not to seek revenge on foreigners.

Religious affairs in Delaware were closely intertwined with civil affairs of the time, especially after the acts of uniformity began to be enforced. Wise men of the Synod insisted that unity means strength, and therefore, reconsidered a 1766 plan of unity. The Synod was also concerned about the "low state of vital and practical religion and the great prevalence of vice and infidelity of this land." It likewise recommended that Presbyteries be more cautious about accepting foreign ministers and maintaining "orthodoxy in doctrine, and purity in practice." Accordingly, June 3, 1776, was set aside for a day of fasting and prayer, to call upon God to avert the calamities which they had good reason to fear.

The Presbyterians in all three of the Delaware counties played an important part in the struggle for independence. "They prayed to the God of the armies; they observed special days of fasting; they sent pastoral letters to the churches exhorting them to maintain unity and show the enemy mercy and humanity, and above all the love and fear of God."

The Rev. Matthew Wilson, who was Pastor in New Castle 1765-1775, strongly opposed the Stamp Act of 1765, and used his influence to encourage merchants not to import foreign goods. To that end, members of his family were forbidden to purchase any tea from England. Mr. McCreary, supply pastor of the Head of Christiana Church, and all his people were said to be "firm friends and advocates for independence." Many Presbyterian ministers served in the army, among whom was Rev. Joseph Montgomery, Pastor of the New Castle Presbyterian Church, who enlisted as a chaplain on October 29, 1777.

Evidence from the records of the Synod and from the ministers and members of the Presbyterian Churches in Delaware, show that the Presbyterians were unconditionally committed to the desperate struggle for independence. This unanimity was fully recognized.

As to the part played by Delaware in the war for independence as far as the Presbyterian Church is concerned, there are few records to show the events of that period, the reason being that the records had been pillaged by British soldiers. Records of the New Castle Presbytery [vol. 4, p. 1] state, "The troublesome times, war and distress, which took place both in church and state afterwards greatly deranged all affairs civil and religious, for many years, and the enemy marching through the Presbytery's bounds, occasioned the loss of their old records, and many of the running minutes of that distressing day were dropped aside, or turned fugitive with the enemy, and disaffected; so that it is doubtful whether any of them that are lost will ever be recovered." The oldest known membership records for the New Castle congregation date from 1772.

* Based on edited excerpts from "Churches of Delaware During the Revolution . . ." by Elizabeth Waterston, Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware (1925) pp. 32-43, 108-109.

Herbert T. Pratt
Archivist

The Presbyterian Church Takes Root in Scotland, and then in North Ireland

The new Kirk won first the awe, then the admiration, and finally the intense affection of the people. Presbyterian ministers tried to live exemplary lives, devoting their whole lives to religious instruction and pastoral duties. They visited the sick, helped the poor, consoled the sorrowing, and became models of character. Their sermons stirred the latent intellects of the Scots, and made humble folk feel their own dignity and worth. The Kirk was intent on making further reforms. It wanted to wipe out illiteracy so that the people could read the Scripture for themselves, and it wanted to transform the morals of the people. In Ayr, where strife between families was sometimes waged in street brawls, the ministers sometimes rushed into the fray to separate combatants. The Scots were beginning to learn discipline by society as well as self-discipline.

The Kirk introduced the principle of democracy. Members of the local parish had their self-governing Session, whose representatives attended the regional Presbytery. Both laymen and ministers sat on all governing bodies and voted. The laymen, many of them tenants, felt they had both a right and a duty to speak their minds.

Calvinist theology suited them. A man's salvation depended upon being one of God's elect. He must prove himself to be one. This was a congenial doctrine to people who had always believed in self-reliance. God is a Lord who requires a person to be a man in his presence, standing when he prays, stating his own case just as he would to his human lord. In spite of this independence of spirit, they were willing to submit to severe church discipline because they had freely joined the church, and helped choose the elders on the Session.

In the early 17th century England had decimated the Catholic Irish population of Northern Ireland by war, laying waste to the land, and driving the people into the mountains and woods. They also were fighting with the Lowland Scots on their common border. The English attempted to solve both problems by offering the Scots newly vacant lands in Ireland. The Scotch colonists in Ireland built strong houses and enclosures to protect themselves from dispossessed Irish, and quickly made a success of the enterprise. They soon made their churches a replica of the strict moral environment then existing in Scotland.

The Scotch-Irish had many tribulations over the next 150 years. The English stopped them from weaving woolen cloth in competition with them. Then the English raised an Irish army, lost control of it, and it tried to take over their Presbyterian churches. Oliver Cromwell "pacified" them. Each tribulation caused a wave of emigration to America, and New Castle was the easiest seaport for them to reach.

- Bob Swick

July 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10am-Special Service: Meeting House 1776 11am-Fellowship Hour	2	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 7pm-Al-Anon	6	7
8 10am-Worship 11am-Fellowship Hour 5:45pm-8:15pm - VBS	9 Meals on Wheels 6:15-8:15pm-VBS	10 10am-2pm-Carrie Downie Meals on Wheels 6:15-8:15pm-VBS	11 10am-2pm-Carrie Downie Meals on Wheels 6:15-8:15pm-VBS	12 10am-2pm-Carrie Downie Meals on Wheels 7pm-Al-Anon 6:15-8:15pm-VBS	13 Meals on Wheels	14 Day at the Shore
15 10am-Worship 11am-Fellowship Hour	16	17 10-11:30am-Carrie Downie 6-9pm-Church Officer Training	18 10am-2pm-Carrie Downie 6-9pm-Church Officer Training	19 10am-2pm-Carrie Downie 7pm-Al-Anon	20	21 Youth to Montreat
22 10am-Worship – The Rev. John Gilmore 11am-Fellowship Hour Montreat	23 Montreat	24 10-11:30am-Carrie Downie Montreat	25 10am-2pm-Carrie Downie Montreat	26 10am-2pm-Carrie Downie 7pm-Al-Anon Montreat	27 Montreat	28 Youth home from Montreat
29 10am-Worship 11am-Fellowship Hour	30 7pm-Christian Education	31 10-11:30am-Carrie Downie				

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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**Address Change
Requested**

Contact the New Castle Presbyterian Church office:
ncpc1651@verizon.net

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

Next Newsletter Deadline is **July 20, 2007**.