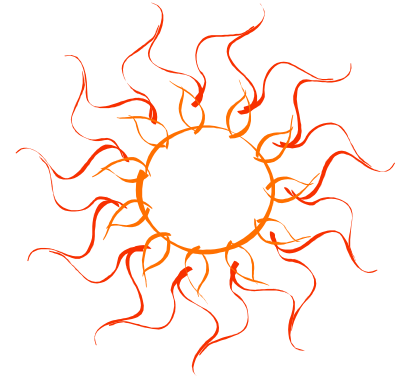


New Castle Presbyterian News

August 2007



Back from Montreat

Ten hours there, ten hours back and a spiritual transformation in between! New Castle Presbyterian Church sent a team of three youth and one adult (Pastor Nancy!) to our denomination's conference center in Montreat, North Carolina. We were surrounded by mountains and by the mighty presence of God's love. We spent the week in energizers (exercises to music), songs, keynote presentations, small groups, recreation, and evening worship. We gathered around the table for three meals a day, and we climbed Mount Lookout (well, Nancy's knees got part-way up!). Hear what our young people had to say about their experience:

My time at Montreat was a great experience! I learned a lot about myself and how God wants me to live. I also met new friends, some of whom I'll keep in touch with. Everyone there was extremely nice and accepting.

–Zach Dobson

I am glad I went to Montreat because it helped me grow closer to God from attending worship and keynote lesson everyday for a week and by making close friends.

–Beth Hentkowski

What I loved about Montreat is that you could just be yourself. No one there knew how you acted back at home, so you didn't have to pretend to be anything other than who you really were.

–Jackie Cobb

There is no finer use of ministry dollars than this: young people learning how to spread the good news of God's love. We're already making plans for next year!! We are children of God!!

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 vacation.

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

Good Spiritual Advice from 1898

The Master's standard must be ours. Every member of Christ a worker for him, how, when, and where he gives opportunity. Simple neglect can become sinful in a degree beyond what an easy going conscience will admit. A parish is not an elevator in which one pulls the rope and all quietly and inactively rise together to higher stages of Christian usefulness. A parish is a mill in which every member has a loom to tend, and weave thereon by his daily conduct a life pattern which shall form with his neighbors' labors a gift for the Master. Part of this pattern is found in this parish. Its material and spiritual welfare is in the hands of each member. Much awaits our doing in the coming years, because the divine reward of faithfulness is larger opportunity. Offer no excuse in the face of any difficulty which you cannot offer on your knees to God himself.

KENSEY JOHNS HAMMOND
Pastor of Immanuel Episcopal Church, Highlands

Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to John and Sylvia Gilmore upon the death of his brother on July 21 (the day before John graciously preached and led worship for us). Thanks be to God who gives us the victory in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Habitat for Humanity Greetings

Through our MORE THAN HOUSES Campaign, we were compelled to respond to the growing need in our community for affordable housing. Today, there are over 7,300 people living in substandard living conditions in New Castle County. We sought to increase our capacity to build homes and to enable another 105 families in our community to become homeowners over the next five years. To achieve this, we sought partners to fund capital and endowment priorities needed for building our capacity to fulfill our vision.

Appropriately entitled, our MORE THAN HOUSES effort signifies that we build more than houses - we build hope for our community. We provide families more than a house-we give them a strong foundation to grow. With a program like Habitat, the impact is immediate, and the results are long lasting.

Thanks to our campaign volunteers and donors who worked tirelessly. Habitat was able to achieve this tremendous goal! We continue to secure other gifts with the hope that we can reach our stretch goal of \$7.5 million, and help more families own a simple, decent home.

□ **Construction Updates**

Women Build: Both houses are framed, and the roof is on, including the shingles. Siding and interior framing continues. Check our website (www.habitatncc.org) for volunteer slots and schedule availability.

Hope Landing, Phase II: All 8 houses have roofs, mechanicals have been completed, and interior insulation and drywall work to begin soon.

Meeting Ground Workday Planned
September 8, 2007 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

On Saturday, September 8th, the Mission and Outreach Committee is planning a workday for all members of our congregation at Meeting Ground, a homeless shelter at Clairvaux Farms near Chesapeake City, Maryland. Rev. Carl Mazza is the Executive Director.

As we have done in the past, we will perform duties such as window cleaning, garden tasks, watching the children while the parents do other things, and cleaning the picnic pavilion, etc. We hope to have a larger group than last year's participation of 22 members. The Youth Group joined us last year and really was a big help so we are hoping the youth will join us this year, too.

To prepare for our work trip, we are asking for each member's help in one of these ways:

- Donate a new or slightly used preschool toy for the children at the shelter
- Donate new or slightly used activity books, washable markers, reading books, and crayons suitable for elementary age children.
- Donate a monetary gift for us to be able to prepare a hot lunch for all members in the work group and all residents of the shelter. Money can be given to Linda Neel.

Our committee will prepare the hot lunch. Please call Linda Neel to offer help or sign up for the day on the sign-up sheet in the CE Building.

We hope to see you there!!!!!!

“As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.” II Corinthians 3:18b

Book Night at NCPC

If you want to get an early start on the book selections for the upcoming season of Book Night at NCPC, the books are listed below. No firm dates have been established yet, but they will probably be sometime in October, February and April.

October Selection: **American Gospel** by Jon Meacham

February Selection: **Mountains Beyond Mountains** by Tracey Kidder

April Selection: **Grace (Eventually)** by Anne Lamott

Summer Craft Workshop

A Summer Craft Workshop will be held Monday, August 13th, at 7:00 PM at Linda Neel's home in Newark to make bracelets to be sold at the Spirit of Christmas event. All monies raised for the Spirit of Christmas program will benefit Friendship House again this year. **Each volunteer will be asked to contribute \$7.00 for supplies if you want to take a bracelet home for yourself at the end of the evening** or pay nothing and just come and string beads!!!

If you are interested in helping and have not advised Janet Spring or Linda Neel of your desire to participate, please contact Linda Neel at 292-6847. Thanks.

- Linda Neel

Mission and Outreach News

During the month of July we served breakfast at the Friendship House location at 8th and Shipley. We would like to thank the following people for their help. Nancy Coning, Phyllis Stallard, and the Spock family helped prepare the breakfast on Saturday afternoon. Jim and Linda Neel and Tom McDowell helped to serve on Sunday. We would also like to thank the following people for their generous donations of food or money: Jean and Herb Swanson, Nanette Nichol, Nancy Coning, Bev Stoudt, Mary Pratt, Phyllis Stallard, Ellie Gerhart, and Marcia Quillen. We value your continued support for this very worthwhile mission.

We also had the privilege of serving dinner to twenty of the Urban Promise Counselors. They came to our church on Sunday, July 15th at 4:00 p.m. There were 10 young men and 10 young women who were eager to share their experiences about what they have been doing with young children in the city of Wilmington at the Urban Promise summer camps. Their stories were heart warming, funny, and, in some cases, a little sad. These young people were from many parts of the United States and there were two young men from England and one young man from Nigeria. They have donated their summers to make a positive difference in a child's life. God bless them for their hard work and efforts!!

They began at 4:00 with group meetings and prayers. At 5:15, Nancy prepared a service of music, scripture and a brief homily. Supper was then served and during dessert, the counselors stood and talked about their experiences at the summer camp locations. Their leader, Rob Prestowicz also shared some of his experiences establishing Urban Promise in Wilmington and gave a lot of credit to our own Bob Swick for his participation early on in helping to bring Urban Promise to Wilmington. They were also very appreciative of the many arts and crafts items that were donated and there is a separate letter of thanks from Rob in the newsletter.

We would like to thank the following people for their gifts of food for the dinner: Maryellen Wample, Linda Neel, Nanette Nichol, Bev Stoudt, Chris Grant, Nancy Coning, Amy Selheimer, Mary Pratt, Phyllis Stallard, Conchita Showell, and Byron Knight.

- Janet Spring, Mission and Outreach Committee

BIRTHDAY 101

Dear friends,

Emma will reach another milestone birthday on August 11th, her 101st.

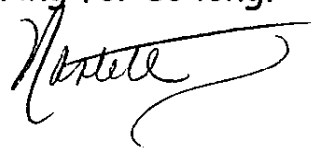
All things considered she is much the same as she was a year ago. It took many months for her left foot to heal which was the problem that put her in the hospital over her 100th birthday last year. but the foot IS healed. She survived a bout with pneumonia in May, discovered almost by accident as she had no symptoms.

We will celebrate her birthday on Saturday, August 11 at Calvert Manor at 1:30 p.m. and we invite you to join us. It will not be the big to-do that we had last year, but will certainly be special and, I hasten to add, Emma is looking forward to the day. She is especially looking forward to wearing the outfit she didn't get to wear last year!

If you are unable to join us, please consider sending a card. Emma has difficulty handling the cards because of the severe arthritis in her hands but she so enjoys us reading them to her and helping her remember all of you. Please let me know if you will join us at Calvert on August 11. My phone number and e-mail are attached.

Thank you to all who have been so caring for so long.

Nanette Nichol
23 Bunker Hill Rd.
New Castle, DE 19720
302-328-5823
nnlib@aol.com


Emma Nichol
Calvert Manor Healthcare Ctr.
1881 Telegraph Rd.
Rising Sun, MD 21911



URBAN PROMISE MINISTRIES
2401 Thatcher Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19802

July 9, 2007

Dear Friends at New Castle Presbyterian,

On behalf of the entire UrbanPromise staff, "Thank You" for your contribution of summer supplies. The generous donations of our supporters have helped reduce the cost of camp materials and staff house operation which, due to a record number of interns and the addition of a fourth camp site, are at an all-time high this year. Your gifts will supplement our limited resources and allow us to maximize their benefit to the children, youth, and families we serve. For that we are grateful; by that we are encouraged and blessed!

Your Fellow Servant,

Thank you, and see you this Sunday!

Rob Prestowitz

Rob Prestowitz, Executive Director

Office: (302) 425-5502
FAX: (302) 425-5506
Email: upmail@urbanpromise.org
Website: www.UrbanPromise.org



FRIENDSHIP HOUSE, INC.

P. O. BOX 1517

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19899

(302) 652-8033

www.friendship-house.org

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

Calvary Corner House Report January 1 – June 30, 2007

At a nominal cost, the Calvary Corner House has been a lifeline to those men who have found a sanctuary and a stepping stone within its walls. To date, the house has served six residents, two of whom have already graduated into independent housing. All six men have proven to be excellent residents. There have been no rule violations or personal confrontations. The house is being kept in excellent condition. Maintenance issues have been minimal.

During their time in the program, all of the men have actively addressed their specific issues. Bill B. worked with a Friendship House volunteer to eliminate \$7,000 in outstanding debt. With his credit restored, he was able to get Section 8 housing with Quaker Hill Apartments. Dennis F. addressed some legal issues with the same volunteer who assisted Bill B, began receiving social security in April and relocated to Oregon on July 5, 2007. Ben L., one of the original residents, also began receiving social security disability in June and hopes to move to Terry Apartment, where his mother already lives, within the next month. Occupying the hospice bedroom on the first floor, Alfred G. continues to battle cancer and undergo rigorous chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Putting aside his own personal agenda for the time being, Bob W. continues to care for Al during his illness. Bob accompanies him on all his doctor's visits and treatments, cooks and cleans for Al when he is unable to care for himself. Several Calvary church volunteers have provided Al with transportation to his doctors' appointments. Without the Corner House, there is no way that Al would have survived this last winter. Kevin K., the house's newest resident, works full-time at Border's Book on Concord Pike. Since his divorce several years ago, Kevin pays 55% of his net pay in child support, which leaves him with not enough funds to maintain independent housing. Kevin is also battling a bad heart and has suffered two heart attacks in the last month.

Andrew's Place, Friendship House's emergency shelter for the elderly, closes for July and August. With Dennis leaving for Oregon, John Owens plans to move John M. into Corner House in July. A Viet Name vet, John is currently working at Immanuel Dining Room through the Wilmington Senior Center's job program. Friendship House is helping John M. rent a room at the YMCA during this transition time.

At this point, Friendship House does not feel the need to modify the house program management plan in any way.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on wheels this month is the week of August 20th. 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

September Clothing Drive

Clean out those closets -- help yourself and help others!

During the entire month of September, we will be collecting items for the Friendship House's Clothing Bank of Delaware. While all clothing items and bed linens are welcomed, children's, men's, and larger-sized, work appropriate women's clothing are especially needed. It is important that donations be clean and in 'wearable' condition.

All donations should be bagged (large garbage bags work well) and should be left in the Christian Education building in Room 205 during office hours (Mon–Fri, 8:30am-12:30pm) or after church on Sundays. If climbing stairs is a problem, simply leave your donations on the first floor making sure that the bags do not interfere with normal traffic. Tax donation slips will be available should you need one.

This activity supports a ministry of Friendship House that not only makes clothing available to men, women and children in need, it also provides income and work experiences to women who staff the warehouse and distribution operations.

Last year's NCPC response to this call was tremendous and with your help, we hope to do it again. If you need additional information, please call Conchita Showell at 302-832-9226.

BITS AND PIECES FROM THE PAST

Evolution of Rites and Trappings for the Dead

The goal of this article, which is limited to Protestant Christianity, is to show how burial practices and their associated technologies have changed over the past 350 years.

The events following a person's death can be characterized by the family's perception of a number of issues: family customs and culture, religious persuasion and beliefs, the need to present a proper show of respect, love and honor balanced with the financial ability of the family, managing displays of extreme grief while maintaining dignity, and the perceived contributions of the deceased to society.

The Body

From the very beginnings in America in closely knit rural communities, washing, dressing and grooming the body of the deceased was done at home by family, friends and neighbors. These good people also built the coffin, notified others of the death, dug the grave, arranged for someone to "preach the funeral," looked after the livestock, cooked food as needed, minded children, doing whatever needed to be done, including grieving. Life went on and changed very little for them. Today, multimillion dollar mortuaries will relieve the family of all responsibilities and arrange for every detail, leaving the family only to mourn — and to pay the bill.

Burial

In its simplest form, a coffin is a rectangular wooden box, whereas by definition, a casket is a fancier cloth lined, more expensive coffin. After ca. 1850, the term "burial case" came into use to signify an even more expensive casket made from tin, iron, lead, brass, or concrete. It took four men to lower the coffin into the ground on two leather straps or ropes, after which they filled the grave. By the early 1900s, automatic lowering devices had replaced the men and their straps and ropes and digging graves by hand eventually gave way to the backhoe. Today, in very large cemeteries, automatic grave digging machinery can produce a rectangular hole large enough for the casket. Up until the late 1870s in some localities, the dirt walls of a grave were walled in with a durable material such as brick or metal to form a vault, which in turn, enclosed the burial case, which in turn contained the coffin.

In the great depression of the 1930s or perhaps earlier, the fear of being buried as a pauper gave rise to burial insurance, with which a subscriber paid a fixed premium monthly to ensure that one's funeral would be paid for. The same concept is embodied in modern-day prepaid funeral plans.

Embalming

The ancient forty-day process of embalming and mummification practice in Egypt was originally for the wealthy and powerful, for the Pharaohs, for example, and for Jacob and Joseph (ca. 2000 B. C.) (See Genesis 50: 1-24.)

The word "undertaker" was in limited use by 1615, identifying one whose business was to prepare the dead for burial and to arrange and manage funerals. Ads for this service had appeared in American newspapers by 1768. However, embalming was not common in the United States until after the Civil War. The immediate objective, of course, was to keep the remains intact as long as possible. Some preserved the body for a few days by surrounding it in ice because the body had to be buried shortly before it began to decompose, especially in hot weather. Starting ca. 1846, many ingenious devices were invented for cooling the body with

ice, but none was wholly satisfactory. In 1876 the first practical refrigerator using liquid ammonia as a coolant was built. This invention of modern refrigeration solved the problem.

In 1846, Ellerslie Wallace of Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia developed a zinc chloride based compound to preserve anatomical specimens. The first U. S. patent for embalming fluid was issued to John Anthony Saussardi in 1856. Other inventors quickly followed suit with fluids based on such chemicals as sulfurous acid, potassium nitrate, alum, or even deadly arsenic compounds. Pioneering work with the organic chemical formaldehyde as a preservative for human tissue began in 1859 and became commercially available in 1901. It has been an important embalming fluid component ever since.

In 1863, Thomas Holmes, a physician, set up an embalming practice in Washington, D. C. He sensed the commercial opportunity provided by the desire of families whose sons had been killed in the Civil war to have their loved ones returned in a good state of preservation. Holmes charged \$100 per corpse. Exact data are not available, but it is estimated that he embalmed more than 4000 soldiers and officers during the War. In small towns, furniture stores sold coffins and began to offer embalming services in the early 1900s.

Before embalming became popular, there was mortal fear of a person being buried alive. As a result, patented caskets were sold that had means for the occupant to ring a bell that could be heard above ground.

Beautifying the Corpse

By the 1880s, it had become popular to purchase special burial clothing, or shrouds, for the deceased instead of using the person's own clothes. Over the past 75 years or so, it has become customary for the mortician to prepare the corpse so that it looks as though it is only sleeping. With make-up, carefully coiffed hair, manicured nails and dressed in the person's best, the body is put on display for the mourners to see. I recall friends saying, "He really looks natural."

Mourning

When the deceased was kept at home until the time of the funeral, it was common practice for relatives or friends to sit all night in the home with the corpse. It could be a sad, quiet, solemn occasion in some cultures, but others might include having a big, celebratory party in honor of the dead person. At one time, it was customary for mourners to wear black clothing or black arm bands for as long as a year following the death. Homes of the deceased person were decorated with black ribbons or wreaths on the door.

In Wilmington, Delaware, in the early 1800s, and perhaps elsewhere, a person who had a loud voice was paid for "crying the funeral" throughout the town. Today, many families choose to hold a "viewing," now more commonly called a "visitation," at which friends call on family members at a formal occasion in the presence of the corpse. Public notices (obituaries) have been published in newspapers since the middle 1700s, and became common after about 1800. Today, photos of ordinary folks as well as the rich and famous are becoming more and more a part of the obituary page, at least in Delaware.

Different expressions or euphemisms are often used when referring to the death, including "passed," "passed away," "gone to glory", "met his reward" or even the irreverent "bit the dust" or "bought the farm."

Funerals

Over time, the locations at which funerals are held has slowly evolved. They might be held at home, in a church building, or today, at the mortuary or funeral home, or a cemetery chapel. Victorian era pallbearers wore formal wear, including gloves. Funerals are seldom held

on Sunday any more because unionized cemetery employees have the day off.

At least as far back as the fifteenth century, eulogies, or commendatory formal statements or orations about the deceased, were traditional. (See Marc Antony's eulogy in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.) In the early to mid 1800s, some church congregations often published the funeral orations of highly respected members. Today, a "celebration of Life" is becoming a popular term. More and more frequently, people are choosing to have private interment with a separate memorial service. Family members now frequently give homilies at funerals, with friends making extemporaneous comments.

The fear of being buried as a pauper gave rise in the 1930s, or perhaps earlier, to burial insurance, with which a subscriber paid a fixed monthly premium, and usually for life, to ensure that one's funeral would be paid for.

The pomp and splendor of a military funeral probably comes as near as any ceremony could to presenting the concept that all people are equal. With its exacting attention to orderliness and smartness of appearance, and without regard to the soldier's station in life, wealth, poverty, race, or other differences, each person is given the same honor and respect as all others.

Grave Side Service

The rite of interment is based on the Latin word "terra," meaning "earth," with the idea of the body being committed to the earth from whence it came, or "ashes to ashes and dust to dust." Following the formal funeral, the pall bearers carry the casket to the open grave where it is suspended during a short service — a reading, a prayer, a flower placed on the casket by each attendee, etc. After the mourners are dismissed, the casket is lowered, the cover sealed, and the grave filled.

Transportation

Originally, coffins were carried by family and friends on foot, or transported by horse drawn wagon or horse drawn hearse from the site of the funeral to the burial ground. By the late 1800s, some cities offered a "funeral trolley." After World War I, hearses became motorized and funeral establishments provided chauffeured automobiles.

Cemeteries

Early settlers who lived apart from a community often had their own family grave yards. Large commercial cemeteries developed in close proximity to where people lived even though the deceased did not know one another. Many churches in this country followed the European custom of burying their communicants in the church yard. (Witness several church cemeteries in New Castle that continued this practice.) Some bodies are placed in crypts in a mausoleum above ground. Some are marked with elaborately carved tombstones. Some have long inscriptions describing the individual, his relationship to those left behind, or the honors that person held during life. The shape and size of a tombstone often indicates a particular style in vogue at a particular time, a fact well known to genealogists.

Today, cremation is a growing practice, and the ashes may be buried in an urn or scattered wherever the family wishes. Or, there may be a communal bronze plaque which simply states the name, birth and death years of the deceased at the site of a memorial garden. New Castle Presbyterian Church has such a garden available.

The "potter's field" mentioned in Matthew 27:7 was, and still is, a public burial place for paupers, unknown persons, and criminals. These graves are often unmarked or marked with fieldstones. The term first appeared in English dictionaries in 1777. There is a public potter's field in the New Castle area just behind the Continental Shopping Center. If I recall

correctly, great numbers of such graves on the grounds of Delaware State Hospital were covered over when Interstate 295 was built.

In 1867, Mrs. A. C. Kerr donated money to the New Castle Presbyterian Church to build a Receiving Vault. Such a vault was an in-ground iron-doored box in which a casket could be stored during severe weather until it could be buried. Immanuel Episcopal Church has two such vaults, but the Presbyterian Church vault was removed when the brownstone building was demolished. However, the Gothic cast iron filigree tables on which the coffins sat are still extant.

Grave Robbers

In the 1800s-1900s, grave robbing could be lucrative; valuable possessions were often buried with the dead; jewelry was often left on the bodies; many bodies had gold teeth. As late as the 1850s, medical schools required students to furnish their own cadavers for dissection, and robbers were known to offer these for sale. A few years ago, a large Victorian Era mausoleum in Wilmington was robbed of its contents, but were recovered later on.

Memorials

It has long been customary to send wreaths or floral arrangements to the family or funeral home at the time of a funeral. These offerings are usually transferred to the cemetery at the time of the burial. In more recent years, it is often suggested in the obituary that gifts to charities be given in memory of the deceased in lieu of flowers. Miss Hetty Smith, one of the members of the Couper family here in New Castle, gave a marble baptismal font to the New Castle Presbyterian Church in memory of her three uncles, John, William, and Samuel Couper. Miss Smith also donated five grave lots for the burial of the church Pastors. In the New Castle Church today, memorial gifts "in kind" must be approved by Session before they can be accepted. Small wooden crosses as memorials are often left along a highway at the site of an accidental death. For several years someone has maintained a foot-high cross at U. S. Highway 13 and Boulden Boulevard.

Tombstone Markings

Many books could be written about the markings on tombstones. The skull and cross bones symbol for death was popular in the 1700s. Angels and lambs were popular in the late 1800s. In addition to names and dates, written subjects included cleverly written epigrams, epitaphs, poetry, or doggerel. A favorite of mine is, "She did what she could." Another is:

"Remember friend as you pass by
As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, soon you will be.
Prepare, my friend, to follow me."

And in a New Castle cemetery yard, a very long epitaph, and its weathered and mostly undecipherable marker remembers Hercules Coutts, who "Died 30 September 1707, having succumbed to fever and running dysentery."

Herbert T. Pratt
Archivist

Sources:

Robert W. Habenstein and William M. Lamers: *The History of American Funeral Directing* 1955
LeRoy Bowman: *The American Funeral* 1959
Jessica Mitford: *The American Way of Death* 1963

Delaware in the Revolutionary War

In 1774 a meeting was held in New Castle to protest British tyranny. On June 15, 1776, the Delaware assembly suspended all royal authority in the three counties and within a month, on the decisive vote of Caesar Rodney, Delaware cast its lot with its sister colonies for the War for American Independence. At home, leadership during the war was provided by seasoned statesmen, such as Caesar Rodney, Thomas McKean, John Dickinson, and George Read.

On the battlefield, the Delaware regiment of the Continental Army gained a reputation for excellence. In the Carolina campaigns, soldiers of the regiment fought well and with such tenacity that they won the title "Blue Hen's Chickens", after the Delaware gamecocks prized for their fighting qualities.

Strategically situated between the Chesapeake and Delaware bays, Delaware was in danger of invasion throughout the war. In 1777 the capitol of Delaware was moved from New Castle to Dover to avoid being captured by the British. The year of its greatest peril was 1777-1778. Washington's headquarters were at Wilmington in the late summer of 1777, and his troops were positioned on the banks of the Red Clay Creek in the Marshallton-Stanton area.

A British and Hessian force invaded Delaware near Glasgow, and the September 3, 1777 Battle of Cooch's Bridge was fought, turning the British north to meet the American forces again at the Battle of Brandywine. Here the Americans were defeated, leaving Wilmington open for capture and a British occupation that lasted more than a month.

The state remained close to the war for another six months, because the Delaware Bay and River were infested with enemy ships after the capture of Philadelphia. In June 1778, the British evacuated Philadelphia and their fleet left the river. However, a naval vessel remained on guard at Cape Henlopen, and under its protection the Delaware coast was frequently harassed.

In 1767 the congregations of New Castle and Christiana Bridge called the Rev. Joseph Montgomery. Using the occasion of a fast day proclaimed by the Continental Congress on July 20, 1775, Mr. Montgomery preached a fiery sermon in favor of independence before the militia companies. Taking a text from Deuteronomy, he compared the Americans to the Israelites facing their enemies. Declaring that the British were frightened by the prospects of America's future greatness, he denounced the efforts of the mother country to reduce Americans to slavery. He advised his listeners to go forth to serve God, and their cause would be blessed. After war was declared he resigned his charge and joined the American Army as a chaplain. At the close of the war, he moved to Pennsylvania and when poor health prevented him from preaching, he represented Pennsylvania in the Continental Congress.

- Bob Swick

August 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 10am: Worship 11am: Fellowship	6	7	8 10am-2pm: Carrie Downie	9 7pm: Al-Anon	10 10am-2pm: Carrie Downie	11 11am: Katherine Jaberg Interment
12 10am: Worship Shannon Hanson preaching 11am: Fellowship	13	14	15	16 7pm: Al-Anon	17	18 1:30pm – Emma Nichol's Birthday Party
19 10am: Worship Neta Pringle preaching 11am: Fellowship	20 Meals on Wheels 7pm: English Country Dancers 7:30pm: Trustees	21	22	23 7pm: Al-Anon	24 Church Office Closed	25 5-8pm: NC Historical Loop
26 10am: Worship Ordination/ Installation of Officers 11am: Fellowship	27 6pm: Young Adults @ Manse	28	29	30 7pm: Al-Anon	31 Church Office Closed	

Pastor Nancy will be on vacation August 6th through 19th. Janet Ventimiglia will be on vacation August 20-31st.

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

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

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