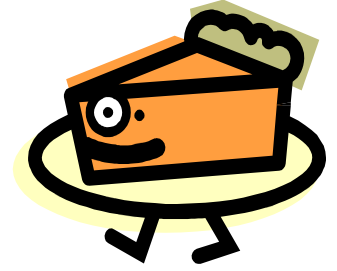


New Castle Presbyterian News

November 2007



Stewardship for 2008

“Faithfulness Sustains the Generations”

STEWARDSHIP BRUNCH

Sunday, November 4, 2007 12:15 p.m.

You will be called by a church officer to place your reservation. If you are not, please call the church office at 328-3279.

PROGRAM

A Celebration of the Generations of Giving and Living at New Castle Presbyterian Church

Child Care Provided

Our future mission at this church depends upon your whole-hearted support!

Members are to bring:
a breakfast casserole, a side dish, a salad, or breakfast breads.

You are invited to enjoy a delicious cake-replica of our Meeting House for dessert, donated by master baker Tina Kelly.

MY JOURNEY

During my growing up years my family moved several times because of my father's work with the government/military. One of the first things my parents would do very quickly with each move was find a church, always Presbyterian! Being new in a community, the church meant instant friends and many opportunities.

As a teenager in Harrisburg, PA a life changing opportunity came to me in the form of a mission trip in the summer of 1955. I traveled, with ten of our youth and our youth pastor from Pine Street Church, to Morris Fork, Kentucky to teach Bible School to the mountain children for two weeks. (One member of our group who had made the trip the year before, Bob Undercuffler, many years later, served as pastor at Hanover Presbyterian in Wilmington). This mission station was overseen by an amazing missionary couple, Sam and Nola Vandermeer, and was anything but fancy. We drank milk taken directly from the cows! I was, in no way, prepared for the difference in working with these children compared with having just completed VBS at home and, after the first day, was certain I could not fulfill my obligation. Thanks to our very wise youth pastor, Larry, I learned the power of prayer. Slowly, over the next day I found strength, peace, and the will and ability that I needed. I knew, when I returned home, that this experience had changed me and my life.

As I moved through my college years, I realized that serving the Lord was what I was called to do, but HOW?? By graduation I was engaged and asking more questions. I went to our beloved pastor, Dr. Mack, (J. Charles McKirachan) at Pine Street and, in one sentence, he relieved my confusion: "Nanette, there are many ways to serve the Lord and it does not always have to be in full time ministry."

And so it has been, and is, for me here at NCPC. In 1964 my husband, Jim, and I moved to Delaware, from Harrisburg, to teach. As with my parents, finding a Presbyterian church was a priority. Ralph had been here little more than a year and made quite an impression on us and, as many of you know, there was no stopping him. My involvements in the church have been, and continue to be, many: church school teacher (with Ann Fulmer), elder, Clerk of Session for 9 years with 9 pastors, choir member, bell choir member, Spirit of Christmas co-chair. All of this, and all these years with Dr. Mack's words ringing in my ears, "There are many ways to serve the Lord."

We always hope that, when someone joins the church, they will find their "niche" and get involved, but we also know that there are those who

say “what can I possibly do?” Please know that there are many opportunities and the rewards are many. I am partial to mission opportunities and am in awe of the response we get from our congregation when a call goes out for support. And, for me personally, I still, after all these years, long for another mission trip!

As you consider your stewardship commitment at this time, give prayerful thought to the **TIME & TALENT** portion of your commitment. Remember, the church is not the buildings, (although ours are exquisite) it is you and me and we are called to serve in every way we can while praising God and praying for guidance.

My faith journey continues and NCPC continues to be the wonderful blessing in my life it has been for so many years. I look forward, with you, to embarking on our next 350 years!!

Nanette Nichol

Ralph Johnson Memorial Cookie Bake

This year we would like to continue the outreach that started last year after the funeral of Ralph Johnson, our beloved Pastor Emeritus. At the conclusion of the funeral, there was a reception at First & Central Church and many of you will remember the many tables of cookies that greeted you. There were so many left over cookies that we bagged them up and took them to the Friendship House Breakfast Program the next day and gave a bag to each person who came to breakfast that day. After hearing about this event, Corky Viola suggested that we continue this outreach as a tribute to Ralph. This year we will be serving breakfast on the Sunday of December 23rd, so we would like to distribute the cookies on this date. If you would like to donate a batch of cookies, please bring them to the CE Building kitchen by Friday, December 21st. If you would like to help bag the cookies, we will meet on Saturday morning from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the CE Building. We are hoping to make a hundred bags of cookies for distribution. Look for a sign-up sheet after the Spirit of Christmas celebration.

Friendship House Women's Ministry

I Found the Newark Empowerment Center. I am a 32 year old single white female. I was honored when asked to write how I came into the Friendship House. Let me start by giving a bit more of my background. I was at my job for eleven years and living at my brand new townhouse when my addiction took over my life. I lost my job and was forced to sell my townhouse. I started living from one hotel to another with a full supply of drugs and alcohol, from the money I made on the sale of my house. Always saying, just one more. Then when the money ran out, me and my boyfriend moved into our car. It was during one of the coldest weeks this year. We would wake up with ice inside the car. This is when we first met Mr. Bill Perkins. He offered to help put us in homeless shelters but at that point we were not ready so he provided us with blankets, sleeping bags and hats & gloves. So we went on like this for about a couple of weeks, when we were notified by a church in Newark of a pilot program called the Empowerment program. I attended the first day it opened and continued to go there at least once a week. What a wonderful place. Just to have someone to talk to was all I needed. Unfortunately we still were not done and ultimately ended up getting arrested. My boyfriend was incarcerated and I was released. I didn't know it at the time but I came to see it as a blessing in disguise. My stepfather came and picked me up at the police station, dropped me off at the motel on Main street in Newark, paid for my room and said he would pray for me. This was the first time I was on my own. I knew it was God working when the motel was down the street from the Empowerment program. So I got humble and walked down and asked for help, and help is what I got. They were on the phone calling places for me and set me up in a shelter. They gave me bus passes and I was on my way. They saved my life. When my shelter stay was up I was set up for an interview at the Friendship House. To my surprise it was run by Mrs. Marcy Perkins. Now I know God is in my corner. I was invited to stay right on the spot. I have a good job and a great program. I don't know how I can ever thank them enough. So I just stay on my path and let my actions show them.

Thank You
Karen Sullivan

A SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The annual Spirit of Christmas celebration is Saturday, December 8, 2007. This is the 7th annual event and is a special occasion, since the church will conclude its 350th celebration with the 2007 Spirit of Christmas.

Mark your calendar and make plans to support and participate in this celebration that funds local missions of the New Castle Presbyterian Church. Last year's Spirit of Christmas gave more than \$4,000 to Friendship House.

The New Castle Presbyterian Church and the New Castle Visitor's Bureau jointly present the Spirit of Christmas from 10: a.m. to 5:30 a.m. Events will take place throughout the town of New Castle and in the New Castle Presbyterian Church sanctuary and Christian Education Building. Church events include handbell concerts and choral concerts by the New Ark Chorale.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Spirit of Christmas is successful because of the wonderful support from every member of the church. We need volunteers to help setup, greet and host the hundreds of visitors that come each year.

We also need homemade crafts and Christmas ornaments, seasonal home decorations, cooks for homemade soup and breads, all your favorite books, and cookie makers for the free refreshment stand.

We hope you can help once again this year. If you can provide one of the needs, please give either of us a call, send us an e-mail or simply sign up on one of the volunteer pages in the Christian Education Building.

Let us know how you can help make The Spirit of Christmas in 2007.

If you would like to chair one of committees, please let us know. Thank you for supporting the Spirit of Christmas,

Susan and Irv Lipp, Co-Chairs of the Spirit of Christmas

(302) 652 5712

irvapr@comcast.net

smksml@comcast.net

Mission & Outreach Update

NCPC Book Night

Since the next few months will be busy with 350th Celebration activities and the Spirit of Christmas we have decided to postpone our first book, **American Gospel**, by Jon Meacham until **January 15th**. This is a great read for history buffs interested in how religion shaped the thinking of our founding fathers and presidents throughout history. A fitting book for the conclusion of our year long celebration of our 350th Anniversary since 15 signers of the Declaration of Independence were Presbyterian. This book has been well researched and the footnote pages and acknowledgement pages are as interesting as the book itself. Jon Meacham is an editor for Newsweek magazine and has also written a book about Harry Truman and Winston Churchill.

Grace, Eventually by Anne Lamott will be scheduled for March 18th and **Mountains Beyond Mountains** by Tracey Kidder will be scheduled for May 20th.

Friendship House Concert

Many thanks to Eileen Dunham and the members of our choir for their wonderful contribution to Friendship House' concert held on Sunday, October 7 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wilmington. Your gift of music was greatly appreciated and well sung!

Shoe Boxes

Shoe boxes make the perfect carrying cartons for our homemade soups for the upcoming Spirit of Christmas sales. Please check your closets and bring any you can spare to the Christian Education Building to be used for that purpose. Put them in the corner of the "all purpose" room near the donated books. **Thank you!**

- Mary Pratt

Now Hear This

Clean out your bookshelves!

Support our annual Spirit of Christmas book sale!

Bring those books you don't need

To the Christian Education Building

No later than Friday, December 7th.

A large box will be waiting for your contribution.

All proceeds will go to support local and global missions.

(All books except textbooks or encyclopedias will be welcomed)

Spirit of Christmas Craft Table

We would like to encourage our members and friends to contribute home crafted items for sale at our Spirit of Christmas craft table. Please bring your finished items to the church by Sunday, December 2nd and place them in the tubs marked CRAFT TABLE. Please have your items priced. (There will be pricing labels attached to the CRAFT TABLE tubs if you need any.) Your contributions will help support the valuable ministry of Friendship House at their Corner House location at Calvary Presbyterian Church.

O Christmas Tree

As our year long celebration of our 350th Anniversary draws to a close, we would like to do something special to decorate the Christmas tree in the foyer for our Spirit of Christmas celebration. Since the history of any church includes the history of its membership, we would like each member of our congregation to donate an ornament for our tree. Many of you have a long history with our church and some of you have joined just recently, but all of you are a vital part of who we are as a congregation. We hope you will find an ornament that has a special meaning for you and contribute this ornament to our tree. Our goal is to have a tree decorated with ornaments as unique and special as our members are. Please bring your ornament in some kind of box or container and label it with your name or family names. There will be a collection box for the ornaments in the foyer of the CE Building. All ornaments are due by November 25th. Thank you.

Thanksgiving Brunch

On Thursday, November 22, 2007, at 8:00 a.m. in the morning we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day with a program from the past! A very special breakfast will be catered and served by students from Hodgson Vocational High School. Then we will be viewing the popular devotional slide show of Thanksgiving blessings created by former pastor Ralph Johnson in the 1970's. You won't want to miss this! Sign up in the fellowship hall.

Thanksgiving Worship

Join your friends and neighbors giving thanks to God for many blessings! This year's community worship service will be held at Immanuel Episcopal on Tuesday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m.

The Rev. Ruby Narucki will be our preacher. She is the pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in Pleasantville, and has served there since June 1. She comes to us from California, where she completed her seminary training.

An offering of can goods will be received and given to the food closets at St. Peter's and New Castle United Methodist. Come give thanks to God!

Meals on Wheels

NCPC does not deliver in November. Our next scheduled week is December 1-5. If anyone is interested in delivering meals to shut-in Seniors in the New Castle area, please contact Ellen Matthews at 302-777-1133.

Monday

Susan Flook
Ruth Moore

Tuesday

Jean Swanson

Wednesday

Dot & Jason
Campbell

Thursday

Cynthia Robbins
Nanette Nichol

Friday

Shirley Knox

Looking for Pennies

Are those pesky pennies clogging up your purse and weighing down your pockets? For a number of years, it was customary for other members of the congregation to donate their extra pennies for the Noon Circle's chosen charities. Currently, whenever we have collected as much as \$100.00 in pennies, they are donated to Friendship House. So if you have extra pennies you don't need, we would be happy to accept them for this worthy project. You may slip them into a plastic bag and either place them in the Noon Circle church mailbox, or hand them to our treasurer, Gisele Von Rhein, and many thanks!

What does the Noon Circle do anyway? Our charities, in addition to the Friendship House, include providing gifts for a needs family at Christmas time, sending flowers and cards to shut-ins, and participating in international charities chosen by the Presbyterian Women's Association. We are also responsible for coffee hour every fifth Sunday (four times a year).

Any woman who is free on the first Tuesday of each month is invited to join the Circle at noon for lunch, fellowship, and Bible study. The study is led by Rev. Nancy Rowland. Just bring a sandwich and join us!

- Mary Pratt

New York City Bus Trip

Wed. Dec. 12th: Enjoy a Broadway show, museum, holiday shopping, or just your personal bite of the Big Apple. The bus leaves Concord Presbyterian Church, 1800 Fairfax Blvd (across from the Wawa on Faulk Rd.) at 7:15 a.m. and departs from New York at 6:00 p.m. returning to the church around 8:30 p.m. Tickets to ride the bus are \$45.00 per person and are available from the church office 654-9652. Tickets must be paid for to reserve a seat.

Donate a Frozen Turkey

If you earn credit for a free turkey this fall please consider donating that free turkey to a Christmas Food Basket project being organized by the Newark Area Welfare Committee. Beverly Stoudt is co-chairperson of this large undertaking. Approximately 340 families and senior citizens will receive a week's worth of non-perishable food on Saturday December 22. Each basket also will be accompanied by a frozen turkey for Christmas dinner.

Many grocery stores are offering bargain prices and offers of free turkeys before Thanksgiving. And, some companies give their employees a free turkey for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas. If you have accumulated credit or expect a gift of a turkey and do not want it, please consider giving it to our Christmas Food Basket project.

We will need your donated turkey by **Saturday Dec. 22**. If you plan to have one to donate please call Beverly Stoudt at 368-9354 who will arrange for pick up and storage. We have a facility that will store as many turkeys as we can get. If you would like to bring it along to any Sunday church service that would be wonderful and hopefully easy for your family.

If you want to purchase a turkey and donate it we will be very grateful. Remember the prices are much better **before** Thanksgiving than after.

_____ We will pledge a turkey.

_____ We will bring our donated turkey to church.

_____ We do not have space to store a turkey and will
need to have our donated turkey picked up.

Please call our family at _____.

Thank you for considering this loving project and taking the time to secure a frozen turkey.

Beverly Stoudt (368-9354)
Newark Area Welfare Committee
P.O. Box 951, Newark, DE 19715



URBAN PROMISE MINISTRIES
2401 Thatcher Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19802

August 24, 2007

Dear Janet,

Please accept and extend to your congregation our long-overdue thanks for your support of our summer program.

First, we greatly appreciated the supply donations, the sum of which significantly reduced the cost of operating our camps.

Secondly, many thanks for hosting our Sunday evening program on July 8—for the warm welcome, the great food, and the worship. Involving churches from the community in this way provides a rich and diverse experience for the interns and the permanent staff.

And finally, a special word of gratitude to you for orchestrating everything!

On all counts, it encourages and blesses all of us to see our partner churches' support demonstrated in such practical ways.

Your Fellow Servant,

Rob Prestowitz, Executive Director

*Janet, I felt, we all did,
truly welcome. Thank you
for loving us with your
hospitality.*

Office: (302) 425-5502

FAX: (302) 425-5506

Email: upmail@urbanpromise.org

Website: www.UrbanPromise.org



FRIENDSHIP HOUSE, INC.
THE CLOTHING BANK OF DELAWARE
P. O. BOX 1517
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19899
(302) 654-1390 www.friendship-house.org

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

October 18, 2007

Conchita Showell
New Castle Presbyterian Church
25 E 2nd Street
New Castle, DE 19720

Dear Conchita and the New Castle Presbyterian Family,

On behalf of Friendship House Clothing Bank of Delaware, thank you **AGAIN** for the **generous** donation of clothing collected during the recent clothing drive. The NCPC Family donated approximately **3200 pounds of clothes** for us to process and distribute in the community. **That is fantastic!**

Please let people know that their donations may go to:

- A Senior Citizen living in public housing,
- A mother and child who have recently escaped to a shelter,
- A homeless man making it as a day laborer,
- A welfare mother who needs a coat for an interview so she can get a job.
- A grandmother whose grown children are struggling with addiction leaving her with another generation to raise,
- A family who lost everything in recent fire or flood.

As you all know there is a great need in the community for donated clothing for men, women and especially children. It is through the efforts of caring individuals and organizations like yours that these needs can be met. Wearing clean, good quality clothing improves an individuals self image, which in turn, improves their quality of life and enables them take the next step forward.

Again, we appreciate your time and effort in organizing the clothing drive. Please tell everyone that donated thank you.

Regards,

Linda Harrison
Friendship House Clothing Bank of Delaware
Director

A Special Message from the 350th Anniversary Committee

Sunday Evening November 11th at 5:00 p.m. Our gala dinner and program at Wilmington College located on Route 13 to celebrate our 350th Anniversary with members and friends from the past and present. Tickets will be \$35.00 each. We hope that this special gathering will be filled with fun, memories and a renewing of old friendships as well as a celebration of our "350 Years Witnessing For Christ".

Thursday Morning November 22 at 8:00 a.m. Our Special Thanksgiving Breakfast (it will be catered) with the first showing of the DVD of Rev. Ralph Johnson's inspirational Thanksgiving slide show that was a tradition each Thanksgiving during his ministry at the New Castle Presbyterian Church. Start your Thanksgiving Day off with this special event and we will have you out and on to the rest of your Thanksgiving Day activities by 9:00 a.m. Copies of the DVD will be available for a nominal price.

Saturday December 8th the "Spirit of Christmas" Again this year the Church along with the merchants in the community will sponsor this special day as a mission fund raiser. House tours, craft items, a silent auction, musical concerts and many other events will fill the day.

Sunday Morning December 30th at 11:00 a.m. A special service concluding our 350th Anniversary Celebration remembering the past and celebrating the future of the New Castle Presbyterian Church with our Anniversary Anthem and Hymn.

Monday Evening December 31st at 5:30 a.m. A New year's Eve Progressive Dinner followed by a church service closing out our year of Celebration.

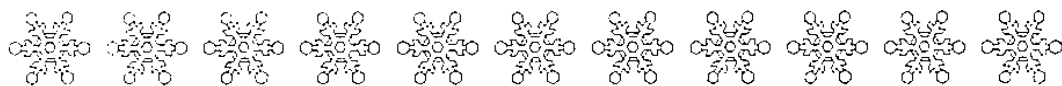
- Carol Mayhew

Seamen's Center Project

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 this 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. 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. The deadline for these items is November 4th.

- Ellie Gerhart



Christmas At Sea
Seamen's Center of Wilmington
Port of Wilmington, Delaware
302-575-1300



The goal of the Christmas At Sea Program is to give a Ditty Box, a shoe box filled with gifts, to every seafarer arriving in the First State during December. Last year the Seamen's Center provided gifts to 1,200 mariners. The Boxes are filled with essentials like toothpaste, razors and soap, a knitted cap and a few goodies. You can participate by filling a box or simply donating some of the wish list items listed below.

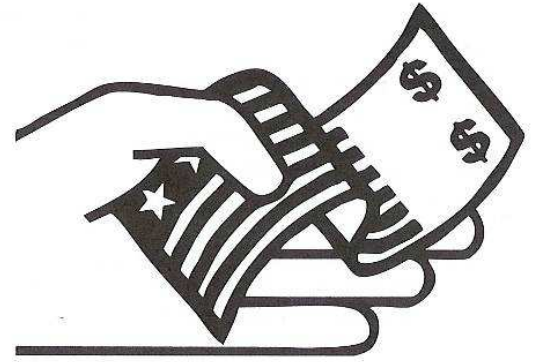
- Toothbrush**
- Comb**
- Knitted hat/scarf**
- Razors**
- Playing Cards**
- Cough Drops**
- Pens**
- Sewing Kit**

- Toothpaste**
- Deodorant**
- Shampoo**
- Chap Stick**
- Hand Lotion**
- Candy**
- Stationery**
- Soap**

SCW Volunteers begin delivering the boxes on December 1st; it would be helpful to have contributions prior to that date.



VOLUNTEER DURING TAX SEASON!



WE NEED YOU!

**Each hour of your time can bring over
\$4,700 to a hard-working Delaware family!**

**Be a Greeter, Tax Preparer or Financial
Educator!**

Help hard-working families earning less than \$40,000 claim the tax credits they've earned! Last year, 400 volunteers helped more than 12,000 Delaware families receive almost **\$18 million** in federal refunds state-wide. With your help, we could do more!

- Work as little as 3 hours/week during the tax season!
- Free Training!
- No Experience Needed!
- Immediate satisfaction from helping families dramatically boost their income!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT www.eitcdelaware.net

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Call: (302)655-0803 or e-mail info@eitcdelaware.net

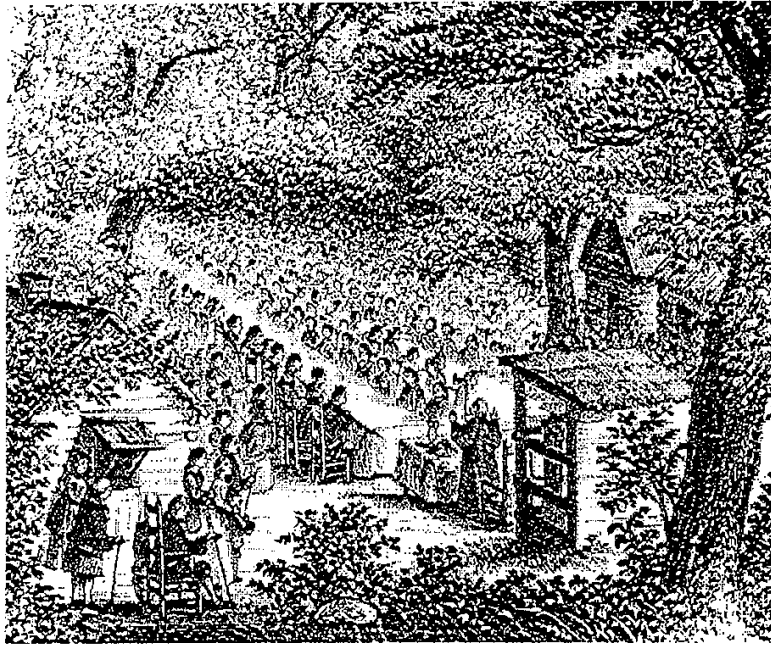
KENT/SUSSEX COUNTIES

Call: (302)947-2726 or e-mail downstate@eitcdelaware.net

BITS AND PIECES FROM THE PAST

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of communion with our risen Lord. During his earthly ministry, Jesus often shared meals with his many followers as the hallmark of community and acceptance among them. In his last meal before his death, Jesus shared the bread and wine with his disciples. On the day of his resurrection, the risen Jesus made himself known to his band of followers by the breaking of bread.



An 18th Century Communion Setting

Fifty days later, on the day of Pentecost, God's spirit moved among the throngs in Jerusalem who had gathered from many nations. The Apostle Peter preached to them about Jesus' resurrection, and as a result about three thousand were baptized. And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers. That hallmark has continued among the body of Christ's followers, the church (the called out), ever since.

At a Church of Christ in London in the 1850s, services lasted all day. Communion preceded the noonday meal, or "love feast", as it was called. Seating arrangements at the meal were chosen by drawing lots (See Acts 1:26). This was, and still is, an excellent way to get people to know one another, for example, sharing our ecumenical meals with other area churches preceding Easter.

The frequency of serving the Lord's Supper varies widely among both denominations and congregations. New Castle Presbyterian Church observes the first Sunday of the month now, but when I first came here, the supper was not observed during the summer months. Whether weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual observances, it is the Lord's Table. Jesus said that as often as we do it, it should be in remembrance of Him. Certainly, it is not ours to judge who eats with Him as His guests. I don't know when closed communion was faded out, but I am glad it is gone.

Weekly observers follow the example of the early church inferred from Acts 20: 7. Other weekly observers insist also that communion be served at every service on the Lord's Day, but those who happen to attend more than one service may partake only once. Yearly observers set the date on Good Friday, the anniversary of Jesus' death. Still others forbid observing the Lord's Supper on any day other than Sunday, The Lord's Day. I personally prefer the weekly observance because, as a friend of mine said of himself, "I need it so much."

Although Jesus prayed and longed for all of his disciples to live together peaceably, unfortunately that has not always been the case, and this has been especially true with the Lord's Supper. We have meant well, but some of our squabbles have dishonored Him many times. Consider the following examples.

The "Larger Catechism" of the Presbyterian Church adopted in 1788 quotes from I Corinthians 11: 28 and 29 and 1 Corinthians 5: 11 to make it very plain what the Christian's conduct must be like. "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation [judgment] to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one, no not to eat." ¹

Up until around 1850, a day or so before the communion service, Presbyterian Elders would question each communicant regarding his/her faithfulness. If the Elders deemed an individual worthy to share in communion, they would give the communicant a small metal or wooden token which would be collected by an Elder at the time of communion. This practice was called "close" or "closed" communion. Today, of course, at least in this congregation, all are welcomed to the Lord's Table.

"Most tokens were cast or stamped out of lead or pewter, but other materials were used including brass, copper, silver, nickel, zinc, ceramic, wood, printed paper, and later even celluloid. . . . In the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., the use of tokens began to decline after 1825. By 1860 most congregations no longer used them. Churches that were more



conservative in worship . . . often used tokens into the late 1800s and early 1900s. . . . By 1900 churches that still used tokens had largely replaced metal tokens with cards." ²

In conservative Church of Christ congregations the communion bread has always been unleavened as it was in Jesus' day, a hold-over from Judaism. In time, though, prepackaged matzoh crackers bought from religious supply houses replaced home baked unleavened bread. At New Castle Presbyterian Church, great emphasis is placed on Jesus' breaking the whole loaf of bread, and because of its symbolism, rightly so. I doubt though that it is unleavened.

The Apostle Paul chastised the church in Corinth because he had heard that when they met together for the Lord's Supper, "It is not for the better, but for the worse," and then lambasted them for their arguments and disagreements, greediness over the food and public drunkenness. (I Cor. 11:17-22)

One widely held view in the 1840s that is still held by many, was that Christians must not be wine imbibers, but instead must set good examples for "reformed drunkards." Until the temperance movement began full sway in the middle to late 1800s, "real wine" was served during communion. In that same time frame, the French chemist and microbiologist Louis Pasteur (1822-1895) discovered the nature of fermentation and how it could be prevented simply by heating the wine to 50^o- 55^o C to destroy its microorganisms. In 1869 in the United States, a dentist, Dr. T. B. Welch (1825-1903), "introduced unfermented sacramental wine" (grape juice) to fellow Methodist parishioners. It appears that Welch built on Pasteur's discovery to become a very wealthy man.

Before the late 1870s, a goblet of wine was passed from person to person to sip a little. My grandfather told the story that in the rural Baptist church in which he grew up in North Carolina in the late 1800s, wine, not grape juice, was still used for communion. When the goblet was passed to one old brother, he didn't sip it, but said, "I love my Jesus so much, I'm just going to sup him all up," at which time he drank whatever wine was left in the goblet. But with the rise of the germ theory of disease in the 1870s, goblets were gradually replaced by trays of individual glass cups. After the scourge of AIDS became well known in the 1980s, a friend of mine, a Ph.D. chemical engineer and a leader in a "one cup" congregation in central Pennsylvania, became concerned that the disease might be spread among his congregation. Fear of the unknown can be overwhelming. In the past year or so, the New Castle Presbyterian Church switched from individual glass communion cups to throw-away plastic cups. Apparently, except for those who washed the glasses, no one noticed the change.

For many years, I have been relatively certain that the reason the communion trays are covered with a large white cloth hearkens to the days when the bread and wine were covered to keep pesky flies off. Remember that horse stables and privies were everywhere, that woven wire screens were in their infancy, and that the germ theory of disease was not well known until the late 1870s. In this congregation in October 2006, it was decided to discontinue the table covering, which was deemed inappropriately reminiscent of the shroud covering Jesus' body. The grave stone has been rolled away! Jesus' body has been resurrected!

Herbert T. Pratt
Church Archivist

Notes

1. "The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America"
Ratified in May, 1821; and Amended in 1833. Philadelphia, 1833
2. "Communion Tokens: Artifacts of a Sacramental Past"
Department of History of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Autumn 1992

YOUTH SCHEDULE
November - December, 2007

Sunday, November 4, 1:30 p.m. (after Stewardship Brunch)
Wrap ditty boxes for Seamen's Center

Friday, November 9, 7:00 p.m.
Lock-In at Manse (until 9:00 a.m. Saturday)

Sunday, November 18, time 12:30 p.m.
Lunch in Fellowship Hall
Deliver ditty boxes to Seamen's Center

Sunday, November 25, 12:30 p.m.
Meet in Youth Room, then travel together to Taco Bell (or KFC for lunch:
Bring \$5.00)

Sunday, December 2, 12:30 p.m.
Lunch in Fellowship Hall
Family Advent Wreath Workshop and Devotions

Saturday, December 8, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Spirit of Christmas - Come and volunteer
Sign up in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 9, 12:30 p.m.
Lunch and Fellowship, Youth Room

Sunday, December 16, 12:30 p.m.
Lunch and Fellowship, Youth Room

November 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00am-Arasapha 6:45pm-Bells 7:00pm-Al-Anon 8:00pm-Bells	2	3
4 9:30am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship-Baptism 12:00pm-Fellowship Hour 12:30pm-Stewardship Brunch 3:30pm-Seaman's Center gift box wrapping	5 7:00pm-Christian Education	6 12pm - Noon Circle 6:30pm-Spirit of Christmas	7 7:30pm-Choir	8 9:00am-Quitters 6:45pm-Bells 7:00pm-Al-Anon 8:00pm-Bells	9	10
11 9:30am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship 12:00pm-Fellowship Hour 5:00pm-350 th Banquet @ Wilmington College	12 7:00pm-Deacons	13 10:00am-Presbytery: West Nottingham	14 6:00pm-Worship Committee 7:30pm-Choir	15 6:45pm-Bells 7:00pm-Al-Anon 8:00pm-Bells	16	17
18 9:30am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship 12:00pm-Fellowship Hour 12:30pm-Youth Lunch 1:00pm-Deliver boxes to Seaman's Center	19 7:00pm-English Country Dancers 7:30pm-Trustees	20 7:30pm-Thanksgiving Worship - Immanuel	21 7:30pm-Choir	22 8:00am- Thanksgiving Breakfast & Program	23	24
25 9:30am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship 12:00pm-Fellowship Hour 12:30pm-Youth Fellowship	26 7:00pm-Session	27 8:00am-Arasapha Wreath Wkshp.	28 9:00am-Arasapha Wreath Wkshp 7:30pm-Choir	Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed
				29 9:00am-Arasapha 6:45pm-Bells 7:00pm-Al-Anon 8:00pm-Bells	30 9:00am- Arasapha	

New Castle Presbyterian Church
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Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE
Permit No. 36

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 **November 26, 2007**.