

New Castle Presbyterian News

February 2008



VALENTINE BRUNCH--SUNDAY----FEBRUARY 10, 2008

The Mission and Outreach committee will be sponsoring a Valentine's Day Brunch on Sunday, February 10th, following the worship service.

Our guest speaker will be Janet Chin from READ ALOUD Delaware. Following a delicious brunch, Janet will discuss volunteer opportunities that are available through the Read Aloud program.

This program is a non-profit organization that has been in operation for 20 years throughout the state. Their main programming involves 1 on 1 reading sessions in day care centers that operate in low income areas. They also work with the parents of the preschoolers to reinforce what they are doing at the day care centers. There are currently volunteer opportunities at Rosehill School on Lambson Lane in New Castle if anyone is interested.

We will gladly accept new or gently used books appropriate for preschoolers. A basket for books will be made available in the CE building. Please bring the books by February 10th. Donations will also be accepted on the day of the brunch. Checks can be made out to "Read Aloud Delaware." We look forward to seeing you there.

There will be sign-up sheets in the CE Building. Please sign your name, how many people in your party, and list what you would like to bring to the brunch. We need breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, breads/sweet rolls.

We also need volunteers to be in the kitchen to receive the food and set food out for the brunch on the morning of the 10th. If you are able to volunteer to help us with that, please put your name on the "Volunteer" sign-up sheet.

Grazie!

The Italian Youth Dinner was a great success! We raised almost \$1000 for our youth Conference budget. Many of our young people will be able to go to Montreat this year because of those of you who came and those of you who donated so generously. Thank you for your support of our youth and their ministries.

The elegant evening included spaghetti with a choice of three sauces, soup, salad, breadsticks, and an array of delicious desserts. Many thanks to Bob Briggs for heading up the arrangements and making the delicious soup and oil & garlic sauce; to Lyn Briggs for the excellent menus; to Dominic Alessandrini and the New Churchman's Road Olive Garden for supplying the free salad and breadsticks (which Amy Selheimer arranged and picked up); to the Rakers for the decorations and table settings and the marinara sauce, beverages and tiramisu; to the Barrys, Selheimers, Hentkowskis, and Knoxes for the yummy desserts; to Karen Dobson for the flowers; to Nancy Coning and Tom McDowell for the scrumptious meatballs; and Cynthia Robbins and Steve Martin for the spaghetti.

Most of all we thank our fantastic youth, who planned, prepared, and served so well: **Daniel Barry, Alex Barry, Rachel Briggs, Zach Dobson, Beth Hentkowski, Danielle Knox, Katie Martin, Kaitlyn Raker, and Chris Raker.** We are so blessed to have each and every one of you in our midst! You are models of servant hood and discipleship, plus a whole lot of fun!

Lenten Suppers

The New Castle community will gather again this year for shared suppers during Lent. The dates for our Lenten Suppers are:

Tuesday, February 12, 6:00 pm: New Castle Presbyterian

Tuesday, February 19, 6:00 pm: New Castle United Methodist

Tuesday, February 26, 6:00 pm: St. Peter the Apostle R.C.

Tuesday, March 4, 6:00 pm: Immanuel Episcopal on the Green

The evenings will be conducted around the dinner tables. Menu will be simple: Soup, Salad, and Bread. There will be a time of prayer upon arrival and then supper and then a mission project chosen by the host church. The evening will conclude by 7:30pm Offer yourself to Christ and to one another in this time of fellowship, reflection, and service!

Adult Sunday School

During Lent and the beginning of Easter season, the Adult Bible Class will be experiencing the scripture and song of the Lent/Easter portion of **The Messiah** by Handel. Each Sunday, February 10 through April 27, we will examine the scriptures behind the music, the skill of Handel in joining them together and setting them to music and our enrichment from the result. We hope you will join us each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in Room 206

New Weekday Bible Study

Due to popular request, a new weekday Bible Study will begin on February 20 at 1:00 p.m. This class will meet every Wednesday from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. and is open to the entire congregation and community. Share the Word with your friends and neighbors! We will begin our study with the Book of Psalms. Gather regularly with other seekers for enrichment, challenge, insight, and fellowship each week. This class is for you!!

Loving Couples

Are you looking for a great getaway? Attend the spring **Marriage Encounter Weekend** to be held **Feb. 22-24** Experience God flowing through your marriage. You'll learn new ways to love, listen, and share with each other. Come, and let the Spirit renew you as a couple! Weekends begin at 7:00 p.m. Fri. and end at 5:00 p.m. Sunday. The weekend will be held at the lovely **VanDiver Inn Bed and Breakfast** in Havre de Grace, MD, just off I-95. Come early or stay late to experience this historic town.

Brochures are available from your church office or contact Al and Dottie Lund at 302-478-4209, dottielund@comcast.net. Register on line at: www.presby-me.org. Space is limited so register now. Registration deadline is Feb. 11.

Meals on Wheels

Our next delivery will be February 4th – 8th 2008. 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

Shirley Knox

Tuesday

Jean Swanson
Joan Smith

Wednesday

Dot & Jason

Thursday

Cynthia Robbins
Nanette Nichol

Friday

Susan Flook
Ruth Moore

Honoring Our Senior Members

The following is the statement of appreciation prepared by Bev Stoudt for our appreciation Sunday for our senior members on January 27. Each senior member (75+) received a hand-made decorative pillow embellished with a print of the Meeting House.

Today we are here to honor and uphold the work done, the faith lived out, and the leadership by example of the senior members of our church family here at New Castle Presbyterian. We have identified 44 members and friends who have ministered for Christ in our community.

I've mentioned before the inspiring words of Jack and Sharon Graybeal, my own Sunday school teachers. There have been many other dedicated and loving people who bravely taught and tenderly worked with children in the classroom and the nurseries.

The Antique show enlisted the skills, talents, energy, and muscle of a majority of our flock each year. You showed us how to work long hours, laugh while together, and thank God for the opportunity to be together.

Our worship of God has been enhanced by the many welcoming smiles and handshakes of legions of ushers who were formal, yet friendly, as they led us to pews, pushed open windows, locked and unlocked doors, and collected our offerings with humility, dignity, and efficiency. The fun part was ringing the steeple bell in the balcony.

Our buildings and grounds have been cared for tenderly with wise decisions and hours of sweat and toil. Plumbing problems, broken bells ropes, trimmed grass, clipped bushes, replaced light bulbs 50 feet in the air, and many day to day tasks have been completed as service to our loving God. Because our buildings were covered with appropriate "home owners" insurance our Meeting House was repainted after water damaged to the inside.

Congregational Meeting

The Congregation of New Castle Presbyterian Church will meet on Sunday, February 24 for the purpose of electing one at-large member to the Nominating Committee to fill the unexpired term of Byron Knight, who has moved to North Carolina. Please stay for this brief meeting (five minutes) and coffee fellowship.

Someplace Else

Great things are happening at Someplace Else, where younger children go after the scripture conversation each Sunday worship! Now Molly Fouracre will be teaching a curriculum based on the Sunday worship scriptures the children have just heard. Make plans for your children to be in worship and then Someplace Else so they won't miss out on the fun! Many thanks to Molly for her extra effort!

Extra Help

For those who need a little extra help, remember that these aids are available every Sunday morning in worship:

- Large print bulletins
- Hearing aids
- Individual pew cushions

Ask your usher for any of these items. Ushers will also direct anyone who requests it to nursery care.

Thank You from Pastor Nancy

Many thanks to all of you in the congregation for your extremely generous Christmas gift! Your outpouring has meant so much to me and my family. Because of your caring, my Christmas was just delightful! It is completely my privilege to be serving in such a devoted and energized congregation. You are my precious family in Christ and I love you. May this New Year be filled with amazing blessings for all of us.

Calvary Corner House Report January 1 – December 31, 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 twelve residents, five of whom have already graduated into independent housing. All twelve 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.

Of the twelve residents:

- Four were dealing with outstanding debt and bad credit
- Five were seeking employment
- Four were in very poor health
- Five were in recovery from an addiction
- Eight were veterans

During their stay at Corner House:

- Every resident saved at least \$200. (Range of savings: \$200 to \$2,400)
- Three residents eliminated a significant portion of their outstanding debt.
- Seven residents found or maintained employment.
- Four residents used the hospice bed while being treated for serious illness.
- One resident died of cancer.
- Four residents were re-united with their families.
- Two residents completed their time in the house and returned to homelessness.

Of the three current residents, Dewey L., a long-time Andrew's Place resident, is fighting cancer and is awaiting major surgery. Glennford R. is a Viet Nam war veteran, who has recently completed the V.A. residential treatment program in Coatsville, PA and is now participating in an aftercare program at the V.A. hospital in Elsmere. Kevin K., the house's senior 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 has

also suffered three heart attacks during his stay at the house. Kevin's child support is scheduled to be reduced in July when one of his two children comes of age.

While respecting the residents' privacy, the congregations of both Calvary and New Castle Presbyterian Churches have reached out to the men of Corner House in many and varied ways. Corner House residents attended an ecumenical Lenten supper at New Castle Presbyterian Church last year. Residents were also invited to the church's 350th Anniversary dinner. When Alfred G. was dying of cancer, parishioners of Calvary Presbyterian Church were always there when he needed them. They provided him transportation to chemo treatments, accompanied him to doctor's appointments and were there at his grave-site when he passed in July. Bob Chapman, a member of Calvary Church and a local contractor, has also provided several of the residents with part-time employment as they were getting on their feet.

Both Calvary and New Castle Presbyterian Church participate in other Friendship House programs. A team from Calvary Presbyterian Church serves supper each month at Andrew's Place. New Castle Presbyterian Church is one of twelve churches that serves Sunday breakfast to the homeless at Sts. Andrew & Matthew Episcopal Church. Through both these ministries, parishioners get to know and interact with potential Corner House residents from Andrew's Place. The Friendship House staff has found that this familiarity with individual members from these host churches encourages Andrew's Place residents to take the leap from emergency shelter to transitional housing

All three sponsors of Corner House – Calvary Presbyterian Church, New Castle Presbyterian Church and Friendship House – are committed to continuing this very worthwhile program for 2008. Of the 2006 Speer Trust grant of \$12,477, \$9,067 was spent on staffing and utilities, leaving a surplus of \$3,410. Thanks to the capital improvements that vastly improved the energy efficiency of the Corner House(new furnace, new windows & doors, added insulation), utility expenses were only half what had been anticipated. This \$3,400 grant surplus should be sufficient to cover the program's utility expenses for all of 2008.

Friendship House
Calvary Corner House Finances
January 1 through December 31, 2007

2007 Operations Thru 12/31/2007	Friendship House	Calvary Presbyterian Church	TOTAL
Income			
Corporate Giving			
New Castle Presbyterian Church	\$4,900		\$4,900
Total Corporate Giving	\$4,900		\$4,900
Foundation Grants			
New Castle County Executive	\$2,500		\$2,500
Spreer Trust	\$6,237	\$6,240	\$12,477
Individual Grants		\$3,000	\$3,000
Total Foundation Grants	\$8,737	\$9,240	\$17,977
Program Income			
Client Repayments	\$205		\$205
Total Program Income	\$205		\$205
Total Income	\$13,842	\$9,240	\$22,907
Expense			
Employee Benefits			
Medical Insurance	\$1,200		\$1,200
Workman's Compensation	\$500		\$500
Total Employee Benefits	\$1,700		\$1,700
Employee Payroll Expenses			
Payroll Taxes	\$426		\$426
Salaries	\$5,572		\$5,572
Employee Payroll Expenses - Other	\$0		\$0
Total Employee Payroll Expenses	\$5,998		\$5,998
Physical Plant Expenses			
Security system	\$276		\$276
Cable	\$787		\$787
Equipment/Furniture	\$4,582		\$4,582
Maintenance	\$228	\$239	\$467
Insurance	\$350	\$500	\$850
Utilities		\$3,069	\$3,069
Telephone	\$245		\$245
Total Physical Plant Expenses	\$6,468	\$3,636	\$10,104
Program Expenses			
Supplies	\$386		\$386
Total Program Expenses	\$386		\$386
Total Expense	\$14,552	\$3,636	\$18,188
Net Operating Income	-\$710	\$5,604	\$4,719
Total Property Upgrades To Date			
Income	\$30,000		\$30,000
Expenses	\$34,149		\$34,149
Net Property Income	-\$4,149		-\$4,149

Lenten Prayers

ASH WEDNESDAY & WEEK ONE

February 6-16, 2008

SCRIPTURE

"One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."
—Matthew 4:4

It was Jesus' choice. In the context of numerous options with subtle and not-so-subtle temptations, Jesus chose to remain true to the higher way of following God's purposes. Eating bread can be a good thing, but Christ declared there were times when we are called to reach beyond the ordinary patterns of consumption in order to do extraordinary Spirit-led work. In this season we reflect upon the truth that we can continue our mundane patterns of consumption or we can make a lasting difference in this world in the name of love.

PRAYER

Lead us, O God, to choose those things that make for a lasting difference in your name. Amen.

FAITH AND ACTION

Every day throughout the world there are people ministering in Jesus' name and on your behalf. They are carrying out work that gives life and hope. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing allow your resources to reach places around the globe that you might never imagine going yourself. Your choices, therefore, have an impact all around the world. Consider how you wish to make a difference in Christ's name.

Lenten Prayers

WEEK TWO

February 17-23, 2008

SCRIPTURE

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."—John 3:17

Our world is in need of rescue. Our lives and patterns of living need their own share of deliverance. There is hope! God did not send Christ simply to show up for us our failures. The purpose of the Christian faith is not a super guilt trip, but the very real possibility that we can be saved from self-destruction to a new quality of living—beginning now! We demonstrate God's rescue mission by the words we share, the choices we make, and the actions we undertake.

PRAYER

Loving God, we thank you that you did not leave us to our own devices, but sent us your Son in order that we could be rescued to a new way of living into eternal life. Guide us to demonstrate a new quality of life in the way that we live out this day. Amen.

FAITH AND ACTION

We could ignore the problems and go on with our lives as if nothing were wrong. But God impels us to get in step with God's Spirit, which reaches out in love to those whose lives cry out for rescue. The work carried out by your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing demonstrates the kind of love that chooses not to condemn the world, but offers life in Jesus' name.

Lenten Prayers

WEEK THREE

February 24-March 1, 2008

SCRIPTURE

"The water that I give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."—John 4:14

It started with a drink of water. Jesus used the need for clean water to convey the spiritual truth of God's presence and care. In this gospel narrative the conversation takes a number of twists and turns. In the end, the Samaritan woman with whom Jesus was speaking got the point and became one of the first evangelists of the gospel record!

We continue this model when we allow God to meet us concretely at our point of need—including physical need. We also encounter others in Christ's name at the point of human need. In this story it was Jesus who first asked the woman for a drink of water, demonstrating how the Holy Spirit is at work when we recognize our mutual need and let God take it from there!

PRAYER

Lord, give us that water that wells up to eternal life. Give us the humility and courage to recognize mutual need with our neighbors and trust your guidance to meet those needs. In the name of the One who is the living water. Amen.

FAITH AND ACTION

One of every six people in the world lacks access to safe drinking water. Consider how you can join with the work of God through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and programs to provide water to those in need.

One great hour of sharing

Sharing Resources, Changing Lives

One great hour of sharing

A Sharing Calendar

One great hour of sharing

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

2/17 One Great Sharing@ brings hope and help to our neighbors around the world. Put one coin in your fish bank for every year of your age.

2/18 70% of those suffering from hunger in the world are women and girls. Give one coin for every woman or girl in your family.

2/19 Over 40% of people in the least developed countries live on less than \$1/day. Give one dollar's worth of coins.

2/20 A dairy farming project in Pakistan is helping a village of 4,000 create a stable and growing source of income. Give one coin for each glass or carton of milk you drink today.

2/21 About 85% of the world's young people live in developing countries. Give one coin for each person under 18 in your household.

2/22 Many people in developing countries spend hours every day collecting and carrying water. Give one coin for every faucet in your home.

2/23 Over 350 million children must work, sometimes over 15 hours a day. Give one coin for every hour of TV you watch today.

2/24 In some places, something as simple as a drinking cup is a luxury. Give one coin for each glass in your cupboard.

2/25 Two children are orphaned by AIDS every 60 seconds. Give one coin for every parent you have.

2/26 In western and central Africa, only 4% of our neighbors have a phone. Give a coin for every time you talked on the phone today.

2/27 In south Asia, only 36% of women have skilled help when giving birth. Give one coin for every family you know with a healthy baby.

2/28 Refugee programs offer shelter, food and safety, and give people a chance to begin rebuilding their lives. Give one coin for every time you have moved.

2/29 850 million people are malnourished, most as a result of chronic hunger. Prepare a family meal without spending more than \$1, and give one coin for each family member.

3/1 A program in Laos helps rural children obtain basic education that can help improve their lives and the future of their communities. Give one coin for every page you read today.

3/2 More money is spent on pet food in the US & Europe than the \$13 billion needed to meet the basic health and nutrition needs of the world's poorest people. Give the cost of one bag or can of pet food.

3/3 In sub-Saharan Africa, only one person in 100 is an internet user. Give one coin for each minute you spend online today.

3/4 Women in Bangladesh are using a micro-credit loan to create a weaving business that will help 800 tribal women earn income making blankets. Give one coin for every blanket in your home.

3/5 Your One Great Hour of Sharing gift is helping volunteers clean and rebuild homes after Hurricane Katrina. Give one coin for every room in your home.

3/6 The war in Sudan is the world's longest-running civil war: 35 of the last 46 years. Give one coin for each year of peace in Sudan.

3/7 More than 2 billion of our neighbors around the world lack adequate toilet facilities. Give one coin for every time you go to the bathroom today.

3/8 People in 60 countries live with the threat of landmines buried near their homes and in their fields. Give a coin for every day you walk safely in a yard or park this week.

3/9 In the least developed countries, only 45% of women can read and write. Give one coin for every book, magazine or newspaper you looked at today.

3/10 Drought has recently killed up to 60% of livestock in some regions of Kenya. Give one coin for every pet in your home.

3/11 One of every six people on the planet lacks access to safe water. Count the number of people in church today, divide by six, and give one coin for each person.

3/12 Church World Service helps disaster victims both in the US and in other countries. Give one coin for every major disaster you can recall in recent years.

3/13 In South Asia, only 61% of students who enter school will reach fifth grade. Give one coin for every year of education you've had.

3/14 In Egypt, about 10% of 10- to 14-year-olds work, and nearly 65% percent of poor families send at least one child to work. Give one coin for each hour you spend doing chores this week.

3/15 The Good Samaritan gave the innkeeper two days' wages to care for the man who had been beaten. Will you give two hours' wages to One Great Hour of Sharing@?

This Sharing Calendar is a fun way for your family to make an offering to One Great Hour of Sharing while you learn about how contributions help people around the world.

Use a One Great Hour of Sharing coin box or make your own family bank (a milk jug or coffee can will do). Mark the dates on this calendar for four weeks immediately preceding the Sunday your congregation will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Each day, participate with your family in a different activity. Create a pattern of sharing, learn about the needs of others, and deepen relationships within your home.

It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.

Begin bringing your offering to worship on Palm/Passion Sunday, March 16.

February 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:30am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship-The Lord's Supper 12:00pm-Fellowship@Manse 12:30pm-Youth	4 Meals on Wheels 7:00pm-Christian Education	5 Meals on Wheels 12:00pm- Noon Circle 6:00pm-Resource Dev.	6 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> Meals on Wheels 7:30pm-Choir	7 Meals on Wheels 8am-12pm- Arasapha Annual Mtg. 6:45pm-Bells 7:00pm-Al-Anon 8:00pm-Bells	8 Meals on wheels	9 8am- Tai Chi
10 9:30am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship 12:00pm-Fellowship/Valentine Brunch	11 7:00pm-Deacons	6:00pm-Lenten Supper@NCPC12	13 7:30pm-Choir	14 Valentine's Day 6:45pm-Bells 7:00pm-Al-Anon 8:00pm-Bells	15 Valentine's Day	16 8am- Tai Chi
17 9:30am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship 12:00pm-Fellowship	18 President's Day OFFICE CLOSED Newsletter Deadline 7:00pm- NCDancers 7:30pm-Trustees	19 6:00pm-Lenten Supper@NCMeth	20 1:00pm-Bible Study 6:00-Worship Com. 7:30pm-Choir	21 6:45pm-Bells 7:00pm-Al-Anon 8:00pm-Bells	22	23 8am- Tai Chi
24 9:30am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship 12:00pm-Congregational Mtg 12:05-Fellowship 12:30- Youth	25 7:00pm- Session	26 6:00pm-Lenten Supper@St. Peters	27 1:00pm-Bible Study 7:30pm-Choir	28 6:45pm-Bells 7:00pm-Al-Anon 8:00pm-Bells	29	

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Groundhog Day
8am- Tai Chi

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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 **February 18, 2008.**