

New Castle Presbyterian News

January 2009



A great big THANK YOU **to everyone who helped with the Spirit of Christmas**

We had a very successful Spirit of Christmas event this year and it only happened because of all of the dedicated work and enthusiasm of the co-chairs of the different parts of the event and the wonderful help of so many members of the congregation. Everyone who played a roll deserves great big THANK YOU!!

You took responsibility, showed up, and did an excellent job.

Our Chairs include:

Publicity: Irv Lipp

Program Design and Printing: Lyn Briggs and Steve Martin

Books, DVDs and CDs: Ginny Appleby and Monty Gerhart

Soups and Breads: Mary Pratt and Cynthia Robbins

Beverages and Cookies: Karen Dobson and Brenda Walters

Crafts: Ellie Gerhart and Janet Spring

"Look What \$20 will Buy": Joan Appleby, Shirley Knox and Jean Swanson

Ralph Johnson Photos, Corky Viola Note Cards, Cat's Meow items and Wreaths:
Dot Campbell

Volunteer Scheduling and Clean Up: Sue Flook

Sign Placement: Monty Gerhart and Mark Powell

Visitor's Bureau Liaison: Gene Dempsey

And, to all the others who baked breads, made soup and other great foods, made crafts, baked cookies, donated all kinds of items, distributed programs, collected money, greeted visitors, "manned" and "womaned" the sales tables, played bells, sang and played instruments, and helped to set up and clean up as well as numerous other tasks, we say JOB WELL DONE!

Special thanks to Pastor Nancy Rowland and our church secretary Kris Krawczyk who supported all of our efforts and jumped in with help whenever it was needed. With much gratitude for all everyone did, we thank God and thank you for a very successful event.

Ellie Gerhart, Carol Mayhew and Nanette Nichol
Spirit of Christmas Co-chairs

Linda Bennett

We welcome Linda Bennett to the leadership of worship today. Linda is an ordained Methodist minister who is now a member of our congregation. Welcome Linda!

Pastor Nancy will be on “grand-maternity” leave through January 14. Direct any emergencies to Administrative Assistant, Kris Krawczyk, Recording Secretary, Shirley Knox or to Linda Bennett.

Thank You

Dear Congregation,

Many thanks to each and everyone of you for your heartfelt Christmas wishes. My Christmas gift was extremely generous, but the greatest blessing is the privilege I have in serving you at New Castle Presbyterian Church. May your 2009 be filled with goodness of God, who is able to make all things possible.

Fondly,

Nancy

Membership Evangelism Meeting

Our Membership Evangelism Teams – Events, Hospitality, Neighborhoods, and Publicity – will be meeting on **Monday January 5 at 6:00 p.m.** to share a potluck supper and to work on gaining new members! Our guest leader will be the Rev. Jim Moseley, our executive presbyter, who will be helping us with our conversational skills with visitors and neighbors. We will then be meeting as individual teams to further our work.

Everyone is invited to attend! Bring a potluck dish and an eagerness to reach out to others!

Congregational Potluck Supper

Winter is the best time to gather with church family and friends! We will come together with potluck dishes on Sunday, January 25 at 5:30 p.m. and share the warmth of fellowship. We will gather around tables after dinner and practice our conversational skills with newcomers and friends, so that we might better be able to share the good news of God’s love.

Mission and Outreach Thank You!

On December 13th, many people walked into our Christian Education Building and were greeted by a tree covered in oyster shells that once made up a road in historic New Castle. I would like to think that many of New Castle's early residents found their way to our church on this very same road. On Sunday, December 14th, the tree was completely empty of ornaments---looking a bit like Charlie Brown's Christmas tree. The Spirit of Christmas was a huge success and was the result of a great deal of hard work by so many of our members. But our work was not done. On Friday, December 19th, I arrived to church at 5:30 p.m. and found the kitchen counter completely covered with donated cookies for the Ralph Johnson Memorial Cookie Bake. In the refrigerator, there were eggs, cheese, milk and ham for the breakfast we would be serving at the Friendship House breakfast on Sunday morning at 7:00 a.m. At 6:30 p.m. on Friday, the volunteers began arriving to bag cookies. Many thanks to Karen, Danika and Zach Dobson, Earl and Janet Reed, Joan Smith, Don and Connie Reese and Kelly Chandler for bagging 120+ bags of Christmas cookies. On Saturday afternoon, Susan and Jim Flook, Bob Appleby and Bob and Janet Spring arrived at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Matthew to prep breakfast. The congregation of this church was also preparing for a dinner and party for their members and were very gracious about sharing a portion of their kitchen so we could get the quiches ready. As one of their members quietly told me, "We are all serving the Lord in our own way and must share the resources to get His work done." We awoke Sunday morning to very icy conditions and made our way to the church to serve breakfast. Carol and Gene Mayhew, Joan Smith, Connie Reese and Bob and Janet Spring served breakfast to 140 people that morning. The cookie bags were greatly appreciated and we would like to thank everyone who donated either cookies or food/money for the breakfast.

On Sunday morning, we walked into the CE Building and found the tree that was previously loaded with oyster shell ornaments redecorated with angels, lambs, shepherds, donkeys, camels, wise men, and a precious baby in a manger surrounded by his mother Mary and Joseph. There were also words like Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy. It had been a very busy two weeks for our congregation and we were tired. This tree was a reminder of the real miracle of Christmas. A tiny baby born in a humble stable. A true gift from God, a gift of his Love to his children. May your heart be open to each gift His love was sent to bring.

Two very different trees. One tree a reminder of simple objects joined together a long time ago to make a road. A road that may have led individuals to a place where there was a community of believers. The second tree a reminder of God's precious gift sent to us. This child of God, Jesus, The Christ, who challenges us to take another road and go out into the larger "community" to serve and glorify God.

May you be filled with Hope, Love, Peace and Joy in 2009!

Janet Spring, Mission and Outreach Committee



Valentine's Day Brunch - February 22nd

The Mission and Outreach Committee will be serving brunch on Sunday, February 22nd following church services. Our guest speaker will be Annie Sotomayor and she will be discussing her mission trip last year. Many of you have seen her "scrapbook", but we decided you might like to hear of her personal experiences as well. You will be called by your deacon or elder closer to the event day to remind you and there will also be a sign up sheet posted in the CE Building at the end of January.



MEALS ON WHEELS

Our next delivery will be January 5-9. 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 5
Shirley Knox

Tuesday 6
Lois Barth
Joan Smith

Wednesday 7
Cynthia Robbins
Nanette Nichol

Thursday 8
Dot & Jason
Campbell

Friday 9
Susan Flook
Ruth Moore



Noon Circle

January Noon Circle will meet for lunch at Prince on Delaware on Tuesday, January 13th.

Souper Bowl

In conjunction with the Girl Scouts and the New Castle Senior Center, the Mission and Outreach committee will be sponsoring a "Souper" Bowl Drive during the month of January. Please bring **cans of soup** to the collection boxes in the CE Building all month. Your donations will be taken to the Food Bank on February 1st, Super Bowl Sunday. Last year our congregation was very generous and we are happy to support our friends at the New Castle Senior Center and the Girl Scouts under the leadership of Nancy Ciufetelli with their efforts.



Marriage Encounter Weekend

MARRIED COUPLES -- The hustle-bustle of the holidays is over but the joy does not have to stop! Spend a joy-filled Marriage Encounter weekend away together at the beautiful Van Diver Inn bed & breakfast, Havre de Grace, MD on **Feb. 20-22, 2009**. Starts Friday at 7:00 p.m. through Sunday 5:00 p.m. Restore, renew, and rekindle your marriage as you learn to love, listen, and share more deeply. Registration brochures are available from your church office or on-line by contacting Al and Dottie Lund (302-478-4209) or dottielund@comcast.net or register on line at: www.presby-me.org. Registration deadline is Feb. 7, 2009.



Direct Giving

If you would like to have your contributions direct deposited please call Shirley Knox at 322-0225 or call the office at 328-3279 for the appropriate form.



CROP Walk Tallies

We had a very successful CROP Walk this year. Even in these difficult economic times, our friends and neighbors have been very generous. With most participating churches reporting in, we were able to raise almost \$10,000.00 for Church World Service. We would like to thank all of our walkers and to everyone who pledged donations to our walkers. The Robbins-Martin Family and Linda Bennett were our top fund raisers. Special thanks to Chris Fagles, Sue Townsend, Pastor Nancy, Bruce and Katie Raker, Cynthia and Katie Robbins-Martin, Danielle Knox, Linda Bennett, and Janet Spring for walking. Listed below is the tally so far from Joan Skilton, CROP Walk coordinator from New Castle Methodist Church. Thank you again for your support.

New Castle Area CROP Walk – 2008

CHURCH	NUMBER OF WALKERS	AMOUNT
ASBURY U. METH.	15	\$1,648.00
ALDERSGATE U. METH.	5	501.00
BUSINESSES	8	905.00
IMMANUEL EPISCOPAL	0	151.00
N.C. PRESBYTERIAN	12	1,170.00
N.C. METHODIST	44	4,720.00
ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL	6	?
ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC	3	140.00
TOTAL	85 walkers	\$9,235.00

New Castle Presbyterian Church
25 E. 2nd Street
New Castle, DE 19720
Phone: (302) 328-3279
Fax: (302) 328-5670
E-Mail: ncpc1651@verizon.net
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

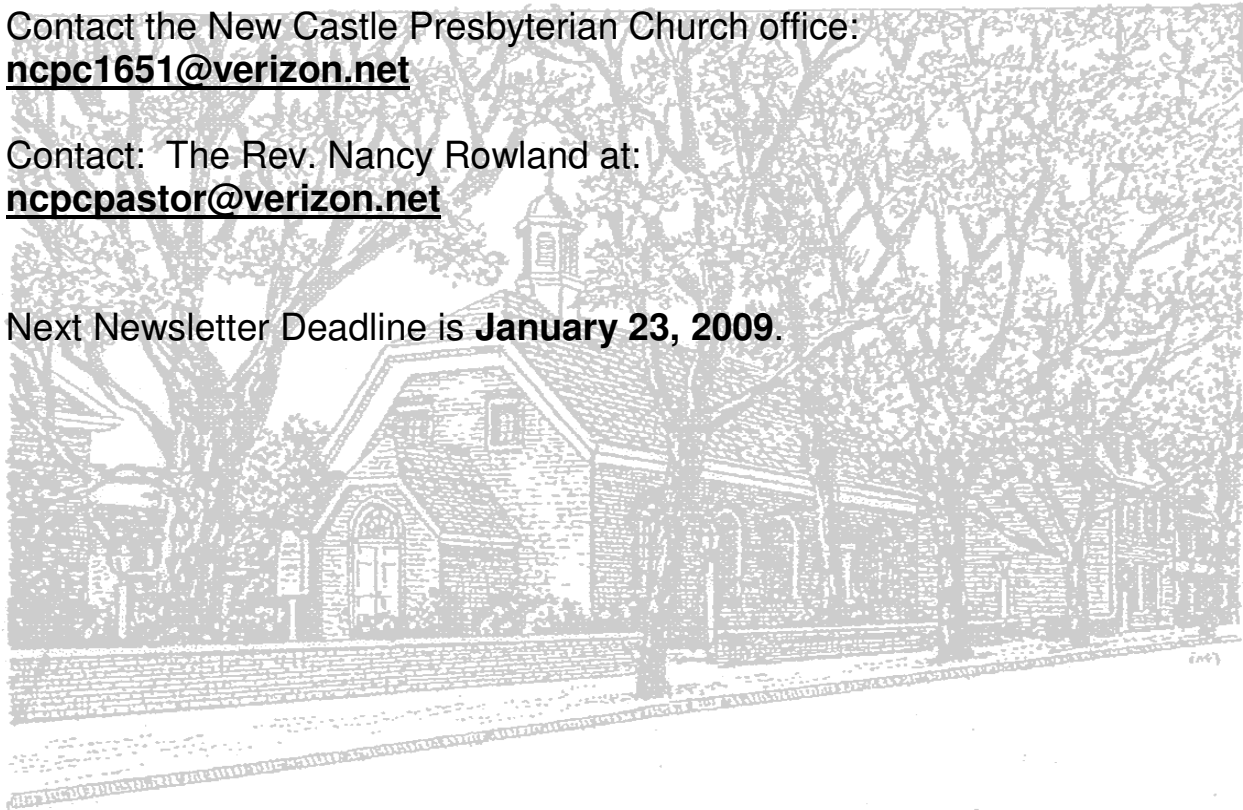
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE
Permit No. 36

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 **January 23, 2009.**



New Castle Presbyterian Church ~ Built 1707 ~ New Castle, Delaware