

New Castle Presbyterian News *May 2009*



Free Concert with Joe Holt

New Castle Presbyterian Church is proud to present Joe Holt in concert on Sunday, May 17th at 5:00p.m. Joe will perform a program of familiar hymns and songs along with Jazz and popular standards and entertaining demonstrations of musical improvisation.

Joe is an improvisational pianist, with a unique and diverse musical background. A graduate of Glassboro State College (NJ) in the 1980's and a student of Yoheved Kaplinsky, he has built his musical expression on this classical foundation, with a commitment to his own improvisational performance. At hundreds of events each year, Joe performs primarily as a soloist, but has also performed with his own trio, and established jazz groups both in the Mid-Atlantic region and throughout the US in concerts and jazz festivals. In addition, Joe is a board certified music therapist (MT-BC), serving seniors in dozens of communities in PA, NJ, DE and MD. He has also served in the roles of musical director and producer (for theatre, performing artists, and in the recording studio) and in music ministry (most recently as Worship Arts Director for the Chestertown (MD) Church of the Nazarene, from 2003-2006).

Joe is active in recording, appearing on over 20 albums, 6 of which are on his own label. He also performs weekly for "Joe Holt's Notes on the Radio" – heard (locally) on WKDI 840am, and through his website. For more information, including a schedule of piano concerts and performances, Joes' on-line instruction program, and his video performance diary: visit www.joeholtsnotes.com. Joe lives with his wife, Carol and family in Chestertown, MD.

Come join us in the Fellowship Hall on May 17th and enjoy the many talents of Joe Holt. Bring a dessert or some sandwiches to share.

Our Preacher on Mother's Day

Pastor Nancy will be on vacation May 8-11. She will be baptizing her granddaughter Gwendolyn.

Rev. Lois Robinson Lehman will be preaching on May 10. She is a recently retired Presbyterian minister who lives in New Castle with her husband, the minister of New Castle United Methodist church. They are the owners of 3 English Springer Spaniels and a cat named "Empress" because she rules the roost. Rev. Lehman was born and raised in the Washington, D.C. area and was ordained in National Capital Presbytery. She has served churches in Maryland, Delaware, California, North Carolina and South Carolina.



MEALS ON WHEELS

Our next delivery will be May 11-15. If anyone is interested in delivering meals to shut-in Seniors in the New Castle area, please contact the office at 302-328-3279.

Monday 11

Shirley Knox

Tuesday 12

Lois Barth
Joan Smith

Wednesday 13

Cynthia Robbins
Nanette Nichol

Thursday 14

Dot & Jason
Campbell

Friday 15

Susan Flook
Ruth Moore

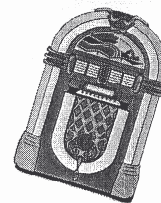
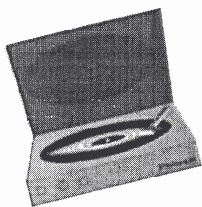


Muchos Gracias, Merci, Danke, Thank You

Many thanks to all who have given so generously:

- To the International Youth Supper. You gave \$1002 to send youth to the Montreat Youth Conference.
- To the One Great Hour of Sharing. You gave \$1546 to the neediest people of the world.

God's blessings abound!!



OLDIES DANCE PARTY

A COMMUNITY EVENT TO BENEFIT
THE NEW CASTLE SENIOR CENTER

Saturday, May 2nd

7PM-11PM

The River Room, 400 South Street, New Castle, DE

Featuring sounds from the 60s and 70s
performed by local band
"Worth The Wait"



Motown



Rock n Roll



Oldies



Admission - \$15 per person



(a limited number of tickets will be available at the door)

Cash bar with beer & wine - Non alcoholic beverages provided

Bring your own food

To make your reservation, call Natalie at 326-4209 or
Email at NKaplan@newcastleseniorcenter.com



BEARS! BEARS! BEARS!



The Mission and Outreach Committee is excited about our new Bear Ministry. The purpose of this ministry is to offer love and support to someone in need through the gift of a teddy bear that has worshipped with us at New Castle Presbyterian Church.

The program started on Palm Sunday and has really taken off!

There are two special ways in which you can participate. You may take a bear to give to someone in need and/or you may donate a bear or bears.

1. GIVING A BEAR: Anyone worshipping with us is welcome to take a bear to someone in need of comfort or support in a difficult time. If you know an adult or child who is ill, shut-in, lonely or discouraged, take them a bear on behalf of our church. Each bear will have a special tag that has information about NCPC on one side and the following note on the other side:

*This special bear worshipped with us
at New Castle Presbyterian Church.
It has heard our scriptures, prayers, songs,
and sermons. Our congregation has loved
it and now it comes to you with our
blessings. It brings prayers of love,
peace, and joy to you today and always.*

*Love bears all things.
1 Corinthians 13*

2. DONATING A BEAR: Donations of bears are now being accepted.

There is a box in the entryway leading to Fellowship Hall. As these will be special gifts, we are accepting only new bears. They can be all shapes and colors, with or without clothing and accessories, and should be about the size to nest inside a shoebox.

We will attach tags and ribbons to the bears and move them to the sanctuary.

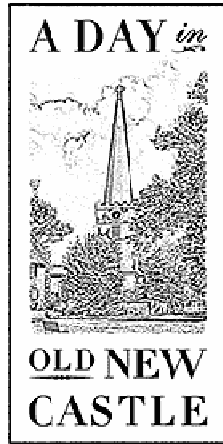
Please contact anyone on the Mission and Outreach Committee or the church office (302-328-3279; ncpc1651@verizon.net) if you have any questions or would like more information. Thank you.



Hold the Dates



The Christian Education Committee will be hosting “A Night at the Blue Rocks” on June 25 and “A Day at the Shore in Avalon, NJ” on Saturday, August 15.



Volunteers Needed – Day in Old New Castle

Volunteers are needed to offer tours of the Meeting House, CE Building and Manse on May 16 during Day in Old New Castle. See the sign-up sheets in the fellowship hall.



Graduates

If you have a graduating student in your family, please contact the church office with their name, school, degree, and future plans. We would like to honor them in June.



Friendship House Breakfast

On March 28 and 29th we prepared and served breakfast at Friendship House. We would like to thank all volunteers who helped prepare the meal on Saturday and the volunteers who got up early Sunday morning to serve. The food donations of eggs, milk, cheese and ham were greatly appreciated.

Honduras Donations

We all very inspired by Annie Sotomayor's presentation about her trip to Honduras at the Valentine's Brunch. Because of your generous donations, we will be able to send a check for over \$600.00 to the project. Annie will be in touch with Gloria Wheeler, the coordinator in Honduras for Presbyterian Church USA, and give us an update on how the money will be used to help this community. A special thanks to Annie for a job well done!



Friendship House Mother's Day Garden Project

Friendship House will again be sponsoring their Mother's Day Garden Project to help raise funding for the women and children's transitional homes in the city of Wilmington. Please go to the easel in the CE building to read the poster about the project and pick up a card and envelope for your donation.



Kudos to our new members

Alecia Swasy and Barbara Whisman are new to the Mission and Outreach team and we are very grateful for their participation. Alecia has been writing all the great articles about Mission and Outreach programs for the bulletins and newsletters and will help collate a brochure about all our mission projects. Barbara spearheaded the "Love Bears All Things" ministry, and what a huge success that has become! Alecia will be leaving us shortly to pursue her Master's Degree in Missouri. We wish her all the best and hope she returns to us soon!

Upcoming Events

May: Art Supply Collection for Urban Promise Summer Camp. A list of needed supplies will be posted shortly.

July: Family night supper with the Urban Promise counselors. Date will be set at a later date.

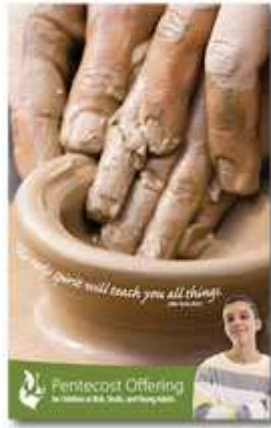
Mission and Outreach
Karen Dobson, Susan Lipp,
Alecia Swasy, Janet Spring,
Barb Whisman, Conchita Showell,
Sue Townsend, Ellie Gerhart
& Cynthia Robbins



Bell Choir Members Needed

Minerva Lermond would like to add some more members to both of our bell choirs. She is willing to teach anyone who would like to join. Rehearsals are on Thursday evening 7-8 p.m. and 8-9 p.m. Every one is welcome. The bell choir music adds so much to our worship service and the more ringers you have, the better the sound! Please consider joining one or both of our groups. We have a lot of fun "making a joyful noise unto the Lord." Contact Minerva if you are interested.

The Pentecost Offering



The Holy Spirit is the Great Teacher, the transformational force that invests our lives with a deeper meaning. As we receive the Pentecost Offering on May 31, 2009, we offer up our own resources for children at risk, youth, and young adult volunteers.

Through the Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost Offering supports a new generation of church leadership through the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program. Rob Fohr and Christine Coy met at the YAV Discernment Event in 2005. Then Rob left to serve a year in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Christine, in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The two were married in August 2008. Christine is currently enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and Rob works for the General Assembly Council in the office of Theological Education and Seminary Relations.

Since 1998, congregations like ours have raised over \$5 million for ministries with children at risk in their own communities. Church of the New Covenant Presbyterian in Doraville, Georgia, supported a program called "Calculators for Scholars" that seeks to provide calculators to all juniors at the local high school, which serves many students from immigrant and low-income families.

You are helping to equip and nurture the parents of Presbyterian youth. Because of gifts to the Pentecost Offering, 20 new online studies became available through *The Thoughtful Christian* series. The studies offer biblical study, relevant issue review, health and wholeness information, as well as current trends and research.

FAYETTEVILLE, NC (from the Onion) — Parishioners at the First Presbyterian Church were left stunned and in awe of His glory Sunday, when the Lord God Almighty dropped by their 11 a.m. service unannounced.

Interrupting Pastor Terry Pridgen's sermon on His unending mercy, God appeared suddenly before His flock as an intense beam of white light, instantly dispersing the earthly forms of those seated in the first two pews. Sources said the remaining congregants had to avert their eyes from their Creator, whose booming celestial voice overwhelmed their worldly senses and humbled their hearts as He politely apologized for not calling first.

"I AM the God of Abraham, the LORD MOST HIGH, who brought you forth from the bondage of Egypt," God said unto church members, many of whom cowered in reverent fear of Him. "Thought I'd just pop in and see how things were going. Please, pretend like I'm not even here."

The Supreme Being then thanked the choir for its "lovely introduction" and took a seat to the right of the altar.

According to wholly repentant witnesses, who were scarcely able to look upon the Alpha and Omega, much less conceive of the enormity of His Might, God did not speak again for the entirety of the service, but was seen nodding approvingly during the Nicene Creed.

Attendees reportedly did not ask the One Who Made Them Flesh why He had chosen to visit their small parish, though some suspected the church's new electric organ might have had something to do with it.

"I don't think anyone knew He was coming," said churchgoer Ron Stiehl, adding that, for once, he was happy his wife dragged him to church. "At least it seemed that way when He started walking toward us and everyone was yelling their heads off like it was Judgment Day."

"Turns out the King of Kings was just making the rounds," Stiehl continued. "I thought He'd be taller."

While God did not reveal unto man a reason for His visit—nor did He, in His great wisdom, offer to pay for the six stained-glass windows that shattered from the awesome power of His presence—the Almighty sat among His followers for the last 35 minutes of the Sunday service, as well as the free coffee and pastries that followed.

Sources said that Our Father sat alone eating two cinnamon-sugar doughnuts, and was approached only once, when 5-year-old Jeremy Pacheco tried to hug the omnipotent deity. The boy's parents immediately yanked him away.

The other 112 church members avoided God entirely, and reacted to His continued stay with a mix of astonishment, confusion, fearful reverence, and the sublime inner peace that comes with the knowledge of a power greater than oneself.

"I wanted to ask the Lord what heaven is like, and if my mother is there, but I wasn't sure if it's still considered taking His name in vain when you address Him directly," Wendy Alston said. "And I didn't dare draw attention to myself with two teenagers wearing blue jeans to church. I could barely look at Him, I was so ashamed."

"Oh dear God," said 72-year-old church volunteer Michael Sharpe, completely enraptured by the materialization of the One True Creator before his very eyes. "Oh, dear God in heaven."

Since the Almighty's decision to stop by the First Presbyterian Church, the theological world has been thrown into chaos. Presbyterian leaders said God's appearance was indisputable proof that their denomination is the one true faith, but afternoon sightings of the Lord at two other Fayetteville churches, as well as one synagogue, have cast doubt on that theory.

"God said He just wanted to see what we were up to," Pastor Pridgen said. "This is His house, after all. He can drop in whenever He wants."

"Although, you'd think an all-knowing deity unbound by time and space would be able to give us some warning so we could at least put a bulletin in the church newsletter," the pastor added. "Not that I'm complaining or anything. All praise be to God. Is He still hanging around the parking lot?" 🍷



Vacation Bible School

It's not too early to be thinking about Vacation Bible School! This year we gather the week of July 12-16 (Sunday through Thursday evenings). But we need you to make it great! Sign up in the fellowship hall to help out with crafts, games, music, teaching, staging, light supper preparation, or administrative details. This is one of the best weeks of the church year for those who lead and for those who come. Learn the Bible, serve Christ, and have a whole lot of fun, all at the same time!



Monthly Report

Look here each month for a statistical report on the life of the congregation:

Membership:

March 23 –	182
Addition	0
Loss	0
April 27 -	182

Income thru 3/9:

2009 Budgeted expectation:	\$80,116.00
2009 Actual:	\$75,828.00

Expenses thru 3/9:

2009 Budgeted:	\$67,225.00
2009 Actual:	\$69,388.00

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New Castle, DE 19720
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Fax: (302) 328-5670
E-Mail: ncpc1651@verizon.net
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

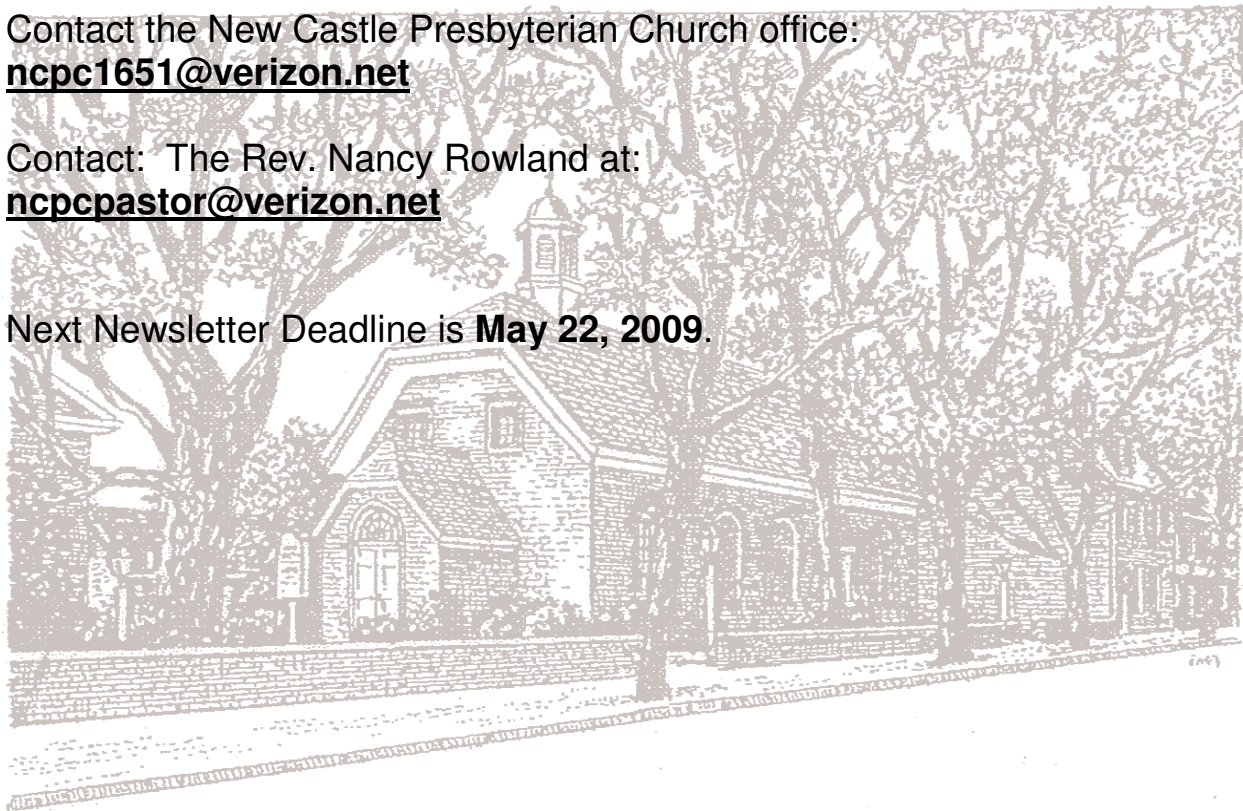
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE
Permit No. 36

Address Change
Requested

Contact the New Castle Presbyterian Church office:
[**ncpc1651@verizon.net**](mailto:ncpc1651@verizon.net)

Contact: The Rev. Nancy Rowland at:
[**ncpcpastor@verizon.net**](mailto:ncpcpastor@verizon.net)

Next Newsletter Deadline is **May 22, 2009.**



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