

New Castle Presbyterian News

January 2012



Spirit of Christmas 2011 **Thank You for Sharing Your Gifts!**



The 11th annual Spirit of Christmas blessed people far and wide with an amazing generosity of gifts! Happy people filled our streets, our homes, and our fellowship hall and Meeting House to enjoy the season, to listen to beautiful music, and to support the homeless.

Many thanks go to our hard-working chairs of the event: Carol Mayhew, Ellie Gerhart, and Nanette Nichol. Many thanks also to the chairs of the individual activities: crafts, books, soup & bread, Look What \$20 Will Buy, refreshments, publicity, signs, volunteers, programs, and more. Many thanks to our talented musicians. Many thanks to those who opened up their homes. Many thanks to you who contributed items for sale, baked bread, made soup, baked cookies, and served as clerks and hosts. You have spread the good news of Christ's accepting love and contributed to the sum of over \$10,000 that is being sent to Friendship House ministries for older men and for women and children who are now given a home.

We are also grateful for the tireless efforts of New Castle City employees and officials and to the leadership and members of the New Castle Visitor's Bureau. This is a job well done! Look what can happen when we share our varied gifts and God transforms them into good news!

Ralph Johnson Memorial Cookie Bake

Thank you all so much for your wonderful donation of cookies for the Ralph Johnson Memorial Cookie Bake. On Thursday evening, December 15th, Janet Reed and I packaged up 150 bags of cookies to be delivered to the Friendship House Breakfast Program on Sunday, December 18th. We had an incredible assortment of delicious cookies and the bags were filled almost to the top.

Considering the past three weeks have been extremely busy for our church and all the cookie bakers, I can only say, "God Bless us everyone!"

I would like to include a brief explanation of this tradition. Ralph Johnson was a much beloved pastor of our church for more than 25 years. After his death, a memorial service was held in his honor. There was so much food left over after the service (mostly cookies), I decided to take the leftovers to the Friendship House Sunday Breakfast program. Needless to say, the cookies were a big hit! Since Ralph was such a passionate advocate for mission and outreach, it seemed a fitting tribute to him. Thank you all again for allowing our church to continue this tradition.

Janet Spring, Mission and Outreach Committee

HAPPY OBSERVATION.....

In recent months, I have been observing with joy the recent growth of young members (couples and singles) during Sunday services. When Ellie and I joined the church in 1967, young members were in abundance. During the 1990s and into the new century, the number of young members diminished. From where I sit each Sunday (the heavier set bald man in the corner), I can see everyone in attendance. What a pleasant sight to see young adult faces and couples with young children. I for one, love to see children in church and I thoroughly enjoy the sounds of infants and children at the most unexpected times during the service.

I feel blessed that young adults are coming to our church and are involved in so many church activities. I hope that your numbers continue to grow and that you feel welcomed, embraced and loved by those of us who are somewhat older. This church has meant so much to Ellie and me over the last 45 years. I hope all of our younger members will someday be able to share similar reflections. Bless you for being part of our congregation.

Monty Gerhart

(former member of the Young Couples Club in the 1960s and 70s)

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

Session has declared the 2011 capital campaign closed. However, additional contributions will continue to be warmly received. Our members pledged \$95,925 over the three year period 2011-2013. We installed air-conditioning in the sanctuary. You may remember that we borrowed \$45,000 from our investments to install the system. That money has been fully repaid and we enjoyed worship services in a much cooler environment than in past summers. Energy costs to run the system during summer 2011 were much lower than anticipated. Additional dollars pledged will allow us to paint the sanctuary and complete a host of repair and maintenance projects that are common to any facility. God has blessed us with your generosity in giving to these projects. Your officers continue to pledge to manage your resources in a responsible manner.

Monty Gerhart (on behalf of Session)

SMILE-A-WHILE

Don't miss our next fellowship event on January 22! The Smile-a-While singing group will be leading us in an afternoon of fun! The one-hour concert will begin at 4:00 pm in the Meeting House, and will be followed by a pot-luck dinner in our fellowship hall. Drive the January blues away!

Smile-A-While began performing in February 2005 with a mission to bring joy, happiness, and a little "sparkle" to Delaware-area senior citizens using a variety of vocal music accompanied by piano. This season Smile-A-While offers a musical program featuring operetta, Cole Porter, and show tunes.

Allison Brokaw, Soprano – has been singing most of her life, but began studying voice professionally after college while living in New York City. She has performed in musicals, operas and operettas with various community theaters in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Allison and her husband, Rob are parents of two college-age singing sons.

Robert Brokaw III, Baritone – sang in high school in Delaware and continued in a cappella group in college in Connecticut. While pursuing his investment banking career, Rob performed in church choirs in New Jersey and New York and in a Gilbert & Sullivan troupe, where he met Allison. In addition to his consulting practice, Rob serves on the boards of several arts and historical organizations.

Carol Nile, Pianist – began playing the piano when she was seven years old. A former middle school music teacher and Activities Director at the Methodist Country House, Carol now sings and accompanies on the piano and organ for churches and musical groups in the area. She is also an opera aficionado and has traveled extensively to hear numerous opera companies perform.



COME CATCH A SMILE WITH "SMILE-A-WHILE"!



Welcome New Member!

We welcomed Martin Burnett into the active membership of our congregation on December 11 by Reaffirmation of Faith. Martin lives at:

4142 Ogletown-Stanton Rd #402

Newark, DE 19713-4169

mdblues@aim.com

Christian Education Committee

**Announces
Game Night!**

Friday, January 20th

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Families are invited to attend this evening of fun and fellowship as we play some favorite board games and enjoy some good food!

Please bring your favorite table, card or board game ~ plus an ice cream sundae topping to share.

The CE Committee will supply pizza and the ice cream!



Please RSVP by
Wednesday, January 18
by signing up in the
Christian Education Building



Meals on Wheels

HELP! We need Meals on Wheels delivery people for 2012. Call Susan Flook at 328-7346 if you are interested. Substitutes needed, too. No weekend deliveries. Thanks. Consider this as your call in Christ!

Our next delivery will be January 2-6. 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

Shirley Knox

Tuesday

Joan Smith

Wednesday

Carol & Gene
Mayhew

Thursday

Cynthia Robbins
Nanette Nichol

Friday

Susan Flook
Ruth Moore



Monthly Report

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

Membership:

November	186
Removed to Inactive Roll	-7
December	179

Income thru 12/4/11:

2011 Budget:	\$222,135.00
2011 Actual:.....	\$222,133.00

Expenses thru 12/4/11:

2011 Budget:	\$223,833.00
2011 Actual:.....	\$218,620.00

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Lynn MacEwen, 1/1

Tom McDowell, 1/1

Mark Stallard, 1/2

Rachel Briggs, 1/2

Kris Stone, 1/6

Carol Quillen, 1/9

Linda Twyford, 1/10

Matthew Kim, 1/11

Irv Lipp, 1/15

Bill Quillen, 1/15

Daniel Dunson, 1/16

Arlene Bromwell, 1/17

Tina Lindfors, 1/17

Jim Whisman, 1/17

Herb Pratt, 1/19

Louise Thornton, 1/22

Mildred McGraw, 1/25

Charles Potter, 1/27

Julia Spock, 1/27



Jim & Barbara Whisman, 1/25

Bob & Janet Swick, 1/26

WORKSHOP FOR LAY WORSHIP LEADERS

Explore the possibility of participating in worship in a leading way. On January 22, 2012, our Pastor Nancy will moderate a workshop for former, future, and potential lay worship leaders. We will meet in the Meeting House toward the end of Coffee Hour with coffee and cookies in hand. You will have a chance to hear about the reasons for lay worship leadership, to try your voice at the microphone, to ask questions, and to learn hints of do's and dont's from experienced lay leaders as well as from our Pastor. A new Lay Worship Leaders sign-up sheet will be posted in the CE building in January. Everyone, including our young people, is welcome to this workshop. Questions ? call Marcia Quillen (302) 656-5799

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Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

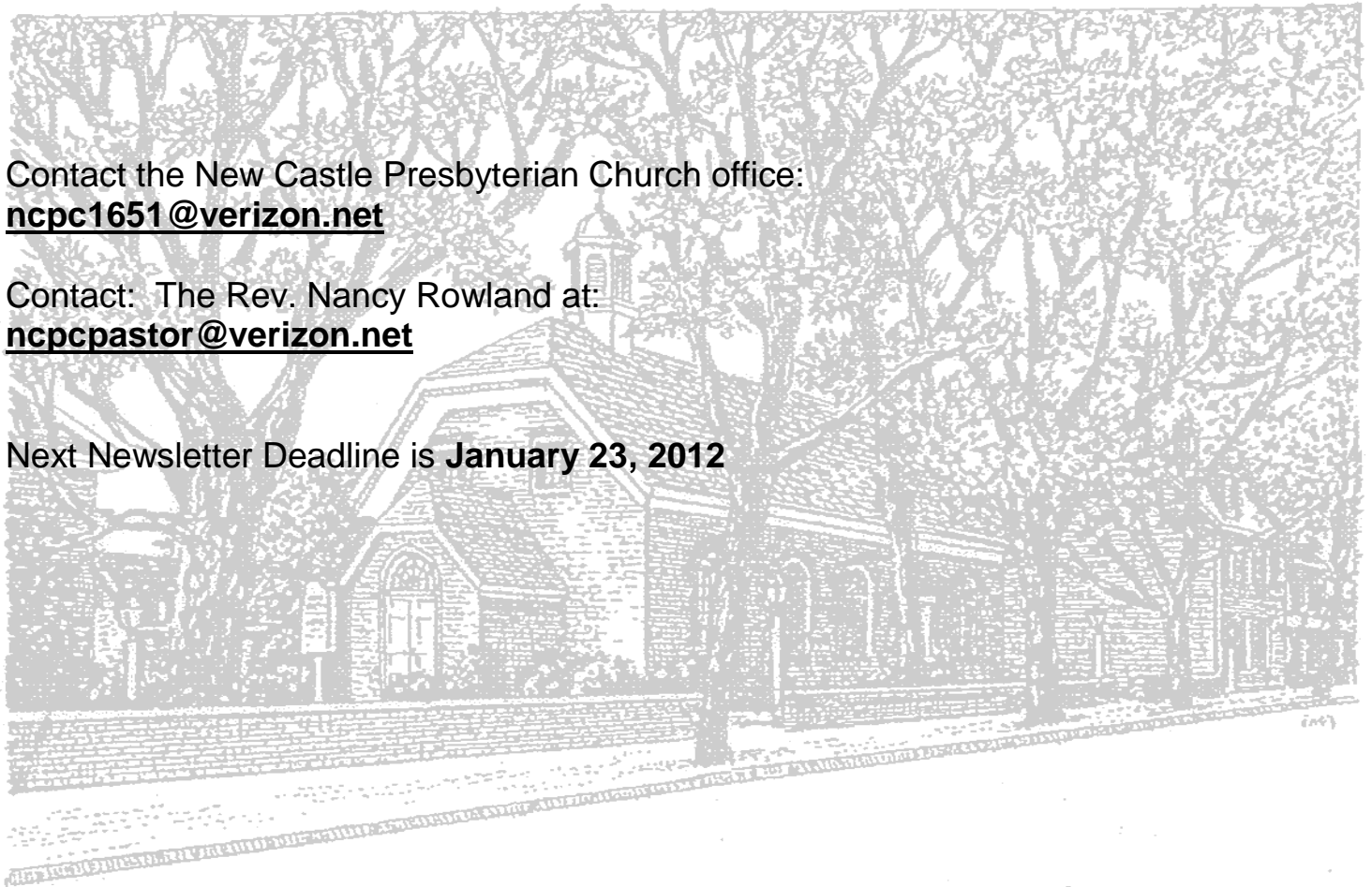


Address Change
Requested

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, 2012**



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