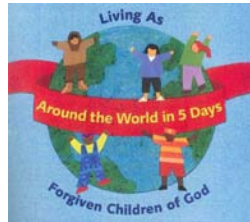


# *New Castle Presbyterian News*

## *August 2012*

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### **Vacation Bible School**

Many thanks to all the teachers, staff, and students who made Vacation Bible School great!

#### **Teachers:**

Danika Dobson, Janet Spring, Bev Stoudt, Kay Fry, Lyn Briggs, Minerva Lermond, Susan Townsend, and Nancy Rowland.

#### **Other Helpers:**

Gene Mayhew (for fixing the AC!), Amy Selheimer, Scott Selheimer, Kelly Koczak, Diana Reilly, Shirley Knox, Danielle Knox, Julia Spock, Aaron Spock, Miranda Matthews, Julie Barry, Karen Dobson, Zach Dobson, Sarah McCann, Eric Monzo, Joan Smith, Sonya Lattanzio, Jo Viola, Molly Esterling, Kayla Pecou, Kim Beebe, Kris Stone, Kris Krawczyk, and the Raker Family.

#### **Students:**

Zarina Stone, Adam Smith, Emily Smith, Mason Harding, Miles Harding, Billy Lattanzio, Mason Reilly, Dylan Reilly, Keira Oppenheimer, Jarrod Oppenheimer, Cameron Lorenzana.

Many thanks also to everyone who contributed food and craft items and prayed for a week of good news and good weather! We visited Taiwan, No. Ireland, Brazil, Zimbabwe, and Nepal and explored many stories of the Bible. God was present and active in our midst!

## A FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR: THE 220TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania — June 30-July 7, 2012

BY JACK HABERER, *Outlook* editor

**T**he 220th General Assembly reached its zenith — literally — when the commissioners ascended to the rooftop terrace of the David L. Lawrence Convention Center to enjoy Pittsburgh’s spectacular Fourth of July fireworks display. Funny thing about fireworks: as dramatic and stunning as they can be, when all is said and done, nothing much has changed.

Fireworks of other kinds were exploding throughout the week at the assembly, but not much changed either. Even seasoned observers kept finding themselves whiplashed by climactic moments of high drama, but most episodes concluded with the status quo intact.

This year’s drama began two weeks prior to the assembly when the *Outlook* broke the story that vice-moderator candidate Tara Spuhler McCabe had signed the marriage license of two women in Washington, D.C., even though the PC(USA) defines Christian marriage as being between a woman and a man. McCabe’s running mate, Neal Presa, was elected on the fourth ballot, prevailing over three other nominees with 52 percent of the commissioners’ votes. They confirmed McCabe’s election a day later, but on July 4, troubled by criticism and facing the possibility of ecclesiastical discipline, she resigned from the post, stunning many.

Presa nominated a Colorado pastor, Tom Trinidad, to replace McCabe.

**DIVESTMENT.** Gasps sounded again when, by a minuscule margin, the assembly rejected a plan to withdraw church investments from three companies accused of complicity in the Israeli oppression of Palestinians. In a move closely watched by the secular media and by Jewish groups, the assembly voted 333-331 to favor “creative engagement” and investment rather than divestment of more than \$17 million in pension and foundation investments from Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions and Hewlett-Packard.

**MARRIAGE.** Recognizing the volatility of the issue, the assembly pulled back from taking a stand on same-gender marriage. An assembly committee had recommended approving a proposed amendment to the PC(USA) constitution to change the definition of Christian marriage in the *Book of Order* from being between “a man and a woman” to being between “two people.” The assembly voted 308-338 not to send the proposed amendment to the presbyteries. It also did not approve an authoritative interpretation to give ministers the discretion to perform same-gender weddings in states where it is legal. Instead, the assembly voted for presbyteries and congregations to “enter into a [two-year] season of serious study and discernment

concerning its meaning of Christian marriage.”

**MID-COUNCILS.** Declining to follow the lead of the Commission on Mid Councils, the assembly voted not to allow the creation of non-geographic presbyteries during a “designated season of experimentation” in the PC(USA). The commission had argued for constitutional changes, including dissolving synods as ecclesiastical entities, intended to reduce a layer of hierarchy and encourage innovation in mission. The assembly did vote to create an administrative commission to continue discussing those issues, plus a task force to examine racial ethnic ministries in the PC(USA).

**SPECIAL OFFERINGS.** A special committee formed by the 2010 GA proposed bold changes to the four major churchwide special offerings, along with modernizing the fundraising methodologies, aiming to increase the giving by 50% by 2020. The assembly rejected all changes to offerings allocations. It endorsed the new fundraising strategies and asked the commission to lead in their implementation and monitoring for the next two years.

**IN OTHER ACTIONS,** the assembly ...

- » Introduced UKIRK Ministries (i.e., University Church), signaling a new direction for PC(USA) collegiate ministries;
- » Launched the 1,001 Movement to form 1,001 new worshipping communities in 10 years;
- » Changed the name of the elected General Assembly Mission Council to Presbyterian Mission Agency Board; and staff to Presbyterian Mission Agency;
- » Declined to eliminate the constitutional language that church property is “held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit” of the denomination;
- » Asked the Board of Pensions to consider sharing its benefits program with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church; ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians; and other possible partners;
- » Sent for presbytery approval a proposed constitutional amendment to the denomination’s ordination standards, stating that each candidate’s manner of life should include “repentance of sin and diligent use of the means of grace;”
- » Endorsed the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) and renewed the church’s advocacy for and work with immigrants;
- » Directed the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly to study presbyteries’ ability to pay obligatory per capita funds;
- » Sent a new translation of the Heidelberg Confession to presbyteries for adoption, and recommended that the 2014 GA consider adopting the Belhar Confession;
- » Declined to allocate \$137,000 to do a study of women’s status in the church;
- » Issued statements on racism, incarceration, economic reconstruction, the housing and mortgage crisis, the EPA, workers’ rights and income equality, corporal punishment of children. ●

**FOR COMPLETE REPORTING, GO TO [WWW.PRES-OUTLOOK.ORG](http://WWW.PRES-OUTLOOK.ORG)**

PHONE TOLL-FREE: 1-800/446-6008



## **SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS**

Yes, it is early, but everyone needs to mark their calendar for this year's Spirit of Christmas. The date is December 8, 2012.

Along with marking your calendar we remind you of the ways you can participate – donate books, DVDs, and CDs for the book sale (we will let you know where and when to bring them), make homemade soup and breads, homemade cookies, contribute your homemade crafts to be sold, contribute items (give to Joan Appleby) for the “Look what \$20 will buy” table, and volunteer and recruit other volunteers to work the day of SOC.

We are delighted to introduce Pat Taylor as the newest co-chair of this event and know that all of us will love working with her.

This is our 12<sup>th</sup> Spirit of Christmas – yes 12<sup>th</sup> and in 2012!! We must be doing something right and that is because of all of you make it work.

Do share with us,

Carol, Nanette and Pat



## **Monthly Report**

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

### Membership:

June ..... 179

July ..... 179

### Income thru 07/04/12:

2012 Budget: ..... \$139,273.00

2012 Actual: ..... \$143,427.00

### Expenses thru 07/04/12:

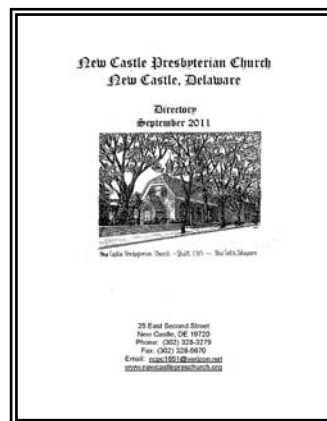
2012 Budget: ..... \$129,301.00

2012 Actual: ..... \$125,671.00



## **New Worship Time**

At its meeting on June 25, the Session approved a new year-round time for worship at 10:30 am. Numerous requests have come to the Session from our younger families for us to have an earlier worship time. The Session is also aware of the needs of other members that the service not be scheduled too early. Our summer schedule had been set earlier because of heat concerns later in the morning, but with our new air-conditioning, that is no longer an issue. A consistent year-round worship time is helpful for welcoming newcomers to our church, as well as a boon to those of us who forget which Sunday we switch from one time to another! Hopefully, this compromise worship time will not be a hardship to very many, while it serves as an improvement to the life of the whole congregation. Our new worship time will begin **September 9.**



## **Church Directory**

The Church Directory is being updated. Please review your information and if there is anything that has changed, etc., new email, new phone numbers please contact the office at [ncpc1651@verizon.net](mailto:ncpc1651@verizon.net) or phone 302-328-3279. Thanks!



## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Steve Handy & Dana Lambert who were married on July 7 at the family's home at 125 Stuyvesant. Present were Steve's mother Fran, his children Rachel and John, and Dana's son George and his family. God's steadfast love endures forever!



## **Meals on Wheels**

**HELP! We need Meals on Wheels delivery people for 2013. 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 not be till July 30-Aug 3. 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 30**  
Shirley Knox

**Tuesday 31**  
Ray Snyder

**Wednesday 1**  
Joan Smith

**Thursday 2**  
Cynthia Robbins  
Nanette Nichol

**Friday 3**  
Susan Flook  
Ruth Moore

## August Birthdays and Anniversaries



George Spock, 8/4  
Zoey Burnett, 8/6  
Alex Barry, 8/7  
Rod Denison, 8/8  
Leo Sotomayor, 8/10  
Zoe Sotomayor, 8/10  
Finn Duncan, 8/11  
Megan Witt, 8/12  
Bob Appleby, 8/14  
Julie Barry, 8/15  
Miranda Matthews, 8/16  
Christine Knox, 8/18  
Shirley Knox, 8/20  
Arta Vitolo, 8/20  
Ray Snyder, 8/23  
Jeffrey Neel, 8/24  
Gail Seitz, 8/24  
Robert Swick, 8/26  
Daniel Knox, 8/27  
Sam Duncan, 8/28  
Ron Studd, 8/28  
Pat Adair, 8/30

Mark & Phyllis Stallard, 8/6  
Ron & Susan Studd, 8/6  
Cynthia Robbins & Steve Martin, 8/7  
Chris & Laura Dunham, 8/8  
Pat & Dave Taylor, 8/9  
Carol & Gene Mayhew, 8/15  
Bob & Ruth McCullough, 8/20  
Phoebe & Robert Dill, 8/25  
Mary & Herb Pratt, 8/27







## **We Need Your Ideas!**

The History Committee has sponsored three New Castle Seminars in the past year:

The Religion Clauses of the U.S. Constitution;  
Revolutionary New Castle: the Struggle for Independence; and  
Brown v. Board of Education in Delaware: Memories of a Transitional Time.

Do you have ideas for future events? Topics may be of a historical or cultural nature. We hope to hear your ideas soon! Contact Ted Corbett (276-2676 or [corbett113@comcast.net](mailto:corbett113@comcast.net)) or the church office.



## **New Castle Recreation Program**

Again this summer, our fellowship hall will welcome the New Castle City Summer Recreation Program on rainy days. Through August 17, expect to see busy children engaging in fun and educational activities when the weather does not cooperate. We're glad to welcome these children and their leaders and support this important ministry!



## **!!!! Prepare for an Emergency !!!!**

Gather on ***Sunday, September 9 at 4:00 pm*** to learn how to Prepare for an Emergency. Seminar Leaders will be:

Phyllis Guinivan and Gary Mears  
of The University of Delaware  
College of Education and Development

Light refreshments will be served.

Learn about our local municipal emergency planning program, as well as how to develop a plan for your own family and neighbors. We will address such issues as families with young children, elderly living alone, individuals with a mobility disability and even pets!

Spread the word to all your friends, family, and neighbors about this important seminar. See you on Sunday, September 9!



### **Need: One Rug**

Our Youth Lounge is in need of a rug the size of 6x8 or 8x10. If you have a rug you would like to donate, please contact the office at 302-328-3279.

Thanks and our youth will be very appreciative!

New Castle Presbyterian Church  
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E-Mail: [ncpc1651@verizon.net](mailto:ncpc1651@verizon.net)  
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

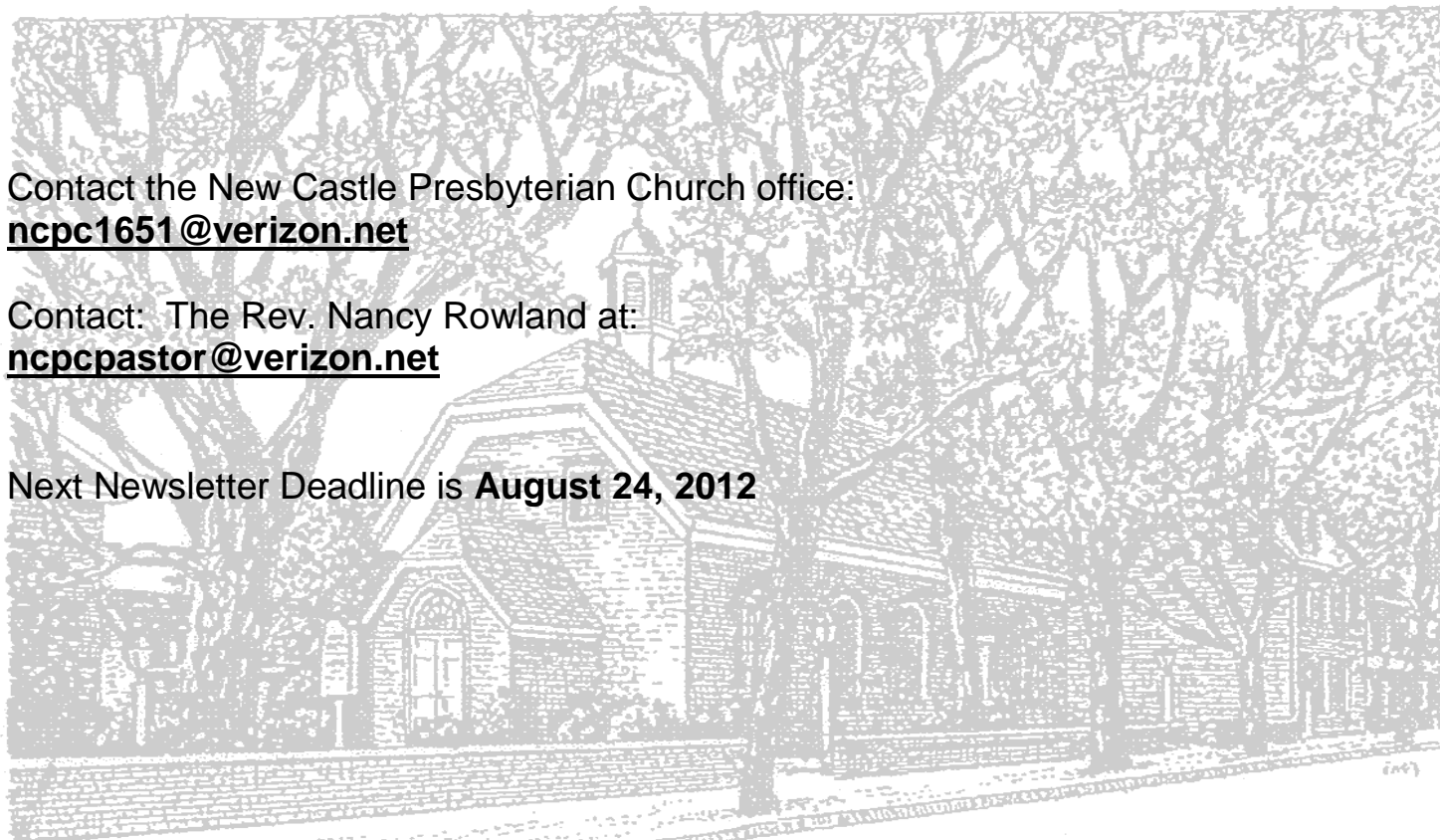


Address Change  
Requested

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 **August 24, 2012**



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