

New Castle Presbyterian News

December 2016



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT NEW CASTLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- November 27 **First Sunday of Advent**
10:30 a.m. Worship and Someplace Else
- December 4 **Second Sunday of Advent**
10:30 a.m. Worship and Someplace Else
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- December 10 **Spirit of Christmas (Saturday)**
9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- December 11 **Third Sunday of Advent**
10:30 a.m. Worship and Someplace Else
- December 18 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
10:30 a.m. Worship - The Sacrament of Baptism
and Someplace Else
11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting
Christmas Caroling
7:00 p.m. Gather at church
8:00 p.m. Refreshments - Mayhews (17 E. 5th)
- December 24 **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship (Saturday)**
5:30 p.m. Children's Service (Meeting House)
7:30 p.m. Traditional Service (Meeting House)
- December 25 **Christmas Day**
10:30 a.m. Worship and Someplace Else





Yard Clean-up

Please join us for our church/manse yard clean-up on Saturday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m. until noon. Please bring rakes and/or brooms. All are welcome!

- Trustees

Mission and Outreach News

Friendship House Breakfast

On Sunday, November 13th, our congregation served breakfast to the homeless community at the Episcopal Church of St. Andrew and St. Matthew located at 8th and Shipley Street in Wilmington. Many thanks to Bev Stoudt, Connie Reese, Barbara Whisman and Ringo Keka for their donations of food. We would also like to thank Mark Rappold, Ringo Keka, Ray Snyder, and Corky and Jo Viola for serving breakfast at 7:00 Sunday morning.

On a sad note, our dear friend, John Owens, Friendship House Breakfast Coordinator, passed away suddenly on Tuesday, November 15th. We will honor his memory through our December Sock Drive.



Sock Drive

During the month of December our congregation will be collecting socks for men and women to be distributed to the homeless community during the winter months. On November 28th, I was able to deliver a large bag of socks that had already been donated. On cold and wet winter days, the gift of dry and warm socks is a blessing indeed! There is a box located in the CE Building (under the display case) where you can place your donated socks. I will deliver the collected socks every Monday. Thank you for your generosity. White tube socks are the most requested, but we are grateful for any donation.

2016 YEAR-END GIVING MESSAGE

As we wrap up 2016, please keep the church in mind when planning your year-end giving. The church closes its fiscal year at the end of December, and every dollar counts. Help us meet our budget in the final weeks of the year!

Did you know . . .

Your contribution made in the calendar year 2016 is a Christmas gift – to yourself. Every dollar you give is tax deductible, so your gift benefits both the church and reduces your personal tax bill.

Your generosity makes a difference. \$1, \$10, \$100, \$1,000 - every gift matters, as your contribution is directly invested in the mission and administration of the church.

Your contribution made in the calendar year 2016 is a Christmas gift – to yourself. Every dollar you give is tax-deductible, to the full extent permitted by law so your gift benefits both the church and can reduce your tax bill.

Thank you all for your dedication and personal investment in the success of our church.

Sincerely,
The Resource Development Committee



Last Minute Contributions

Please be advised that in order to have any contribution to the church count as a gift for 2016, it must be received by the church or postmarked by December 31, 2016. The IRS rules are stringent and there is no **“grace period”**. The easiest way to have these in the system is to set up direct bank giving.

Forms for direct bank giving are available in the church office or on the church website: newcastlepreschurch.org/stewardship

Spirit of Christmas – Saturday, December 10, 2016
Sign Up!

Sign up sheets have been posted in the CE Building. Please sign up early! Sign up often! Your sign up counts! For questions, contact Pat Taylor, Miranda Matthews or Kelly Koczak McCurdy.



Spirit of Christmas – Saturday, December 10, 2016
Book Donations

We are looking for book donations for Spirit of Christmas - last year books about New Castle, Delaware, coffee table and Christmas themed books were great sellers. Please drop off at the Continuing Ed Building any time after Thanksgiving. Contact Peter McCurdy at petermccurdy@yahoo.com with any questions.

Spirit of Christmas – Saturday, December 10, 2016
Cookies



Calling all Cookies!!! It's that time again and, as you may know, the beverage/cookie table is always appreciated by Spirit of Christmas visitors. Please deliver your cookies (home-baked or purchased) to the church kitchen Friday, 12/9 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or early Saturday morning. Thank you, Brenda Walters & Conchita Showell.

Spirit of Christmas – Saturday, December 10, 2016
Soups, Breads, and Homemade Goodies!

Now is the season to open your recipe book. Tis the season to think about your culinary contributions for Spirit of Christmas.

If you would like to offer not only your delicious homemade soup and bread for sale, but also your homemade jams, jellies and fudge (*hint hint*). Some of these have been donated in the past, and were a great hit with the patrons. If you are talented in that way, please share your gifts in jars as well.

We need additional helpers for bread and soup sales? The soup containers and bread bags are in the kitchen cupboards.

If you need further information, please call:
Susan Townsend (302-328-5533)



Spirit of Christmas – Saturday, December 10, 2016
Craft Table

Crafters, please keep up the good work on items to contribute to the Spirit of Christmas craft table! We welcome more pocketbooks, mittens, ornaments, scarves, etc., which many of you have already perfected--or surprise us with something entirely new! The church craft room upstairs is stocked with material, yarn, buttons, and zippers for your use. Please call Miranda Matthews (302-838-2764) or Ellie Gerhart (302-328-0908) if you have questions.



Spirit of Christmas – Saturday, December 10, 2016
Handicapped Parking

If you require a handicapped parking spot in front of the church, please contact Kris in the church office, (302) 328-3279 with your name and hours you will be attending. We will have a limited number of spaces available. There will also be a drop-off area.



Caroling in Old New Castle

Be sure to mark your calendar for a great evening of Christmas Caroling on Sunday night December 18th! We will meet at the church at 7:00pm and proceed from there walking around Old New Castle and caroling.

We will end up at Gene and Carol Mayhew's house (17 E. 5th Street in New Castle) for refreshments and fellowship (we usually arrive there between 8:00 and 8:30pm).

Please join us at the Mayhew's even if you are unable to walk around and carol.



Donate a Frozen Turkey!



If you earn credit for a free turkey this fall please consider donating that free turkey to a Christmas Food Basket project being organized by the Newark Area Welfare Committee. Beverly Stoudt is co-chairperson of this large undertaking. Approximately 375 families and senior citizens will receive a week's worth of non-perishable food on Saturday, December 17. Each basket also will be accompanied by a **10—15 lb. frozen turkey** for Christmas dinner.

Many grocery stores are offering bargain prices and offers of free turkeys before Thanksgiving. And, some companies give their employees a free turkey for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas. If you have accumulated credit or expect a gift of a turkey and do not want it, please consider giving it to our Christmas Food Basket project.

We will need your donated turkey **any time** before **Sun. Dec. 11**. If you plan to donate please call Beverly Stoudt, as soon as you get the turkey, at 368-9354 to arrange for pick up and storage. We have a facility that will store as many turkeys as we can get. If you would like to bring your donated turkey to any Sunday church service that would be wonderful and hopefully easy for your family. Put it in the kitchen freezer and tell Beverly it is there.

If you want to purchase a turkey and donate it we will be very grateful.

Remember the prices are much better before Thanksgiving than after.

- _____ We will pledge a turkey.
- _____ We will bring our donated turkey to church.
- _____ We do not have space to store a turkey and will need to have our donated turkey picked up.

Please call our family at _____.

Thank you for considering this loving project and taking the time to secure a frozen turkey!

-Beverly Stoudt (368-9354), Newark Area Welfare Committee, P.O. Box 951, Newark, DE 19715



Meals on Wheels

HELP! We need Meals on Wheels delivery people for the upcoming year. 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 is December 5-9. 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 5

Shirley Knox

Tuesday 6

Ray & Lynn
Snyder
Joan Smith

Wednesday 7

Carol & Gene
Mayhew

Thursday 8

Cynthia Robbins
Nanette Nichol

Friday 9

Susan & Jim
Flook

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Lisa Fries, 12/5
Conchita Showell, 12/6
Vic Clark, 12/8
Robert McCullough, 12/8
Daniel Barry, 12/9
James Anderson, 12/13



Pat Taylor, 12/16
Kim Beebe, 12/17
Celia Viola, 12/19
Lyn Briggs, 12/22
Annabelle Kern, 12/22
Charlotte McDowell, 12/30

Bruce & Lisa Raker, 12/14
Connie & Don Reese, 12/28
Jim & Susan Flook, 12/30





Monthly Report

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

Membership:

October.....	173
November	173

Income thru 11/02/16:

2016 Budget:	\$228,612.00
2016 Actual:.....	\$214,677.00

Expenses thru 11/02/16:

2016 Budget:	\$218,972.00
2016 Actual:.....	\$207,406.00

The White Gift Tradition

Growing up in 1950's America, my Presbyterian Church, like New Castle Presbyterian Church, celebrated the seasons of Advent and Christmas with the giving of White Gifts. Each canned good, each child's toy, each book given to those who had less than we did, was wrapped carefully in white tissue paper and given in worship as a symbol of God's light that others might be blessed. Back in that day, we just gave the wrapped gifts to agencies for the poor, expecting that they would then do all the unwrapping.

Nowadays, our food pantries rightly expect that canned goods not be wrapped. Nowadays, most contributors don't have the time to wrap up canned goods anyway! Nowadays, the need is so great that every penny needs to go for useable goods all year 'round. So, the White Gifts are no longer white, but God's blessing is the same. In the future, the Deacons will be discussing a new name that reflects a new reality. What should we call these gifts given that brothers and sisters might not be hungry, that brothers and sisters might be warm during the winter and cool during the summer, that brothers and sisters might purchase Christmas gifts of their own choice for their families?

The need is greater than ever! Please give generously to this fund and food drive throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons!

- Pastor Nancy

White Gift Donations

Needs for the food closet are ever increasing. There is a large need for feminine products, baby diapers and proteins such as tuna and peanut butter. Here is a list of items that St. Peter's suggests and doesn't suggest for their food closet.

Recommended Food:

Apple Sauce
Box Potatoes
Campbell Soup (Tomato & Chicken)
Campbell Chunky Soups
Canned Fruits (Peaches & Pears)
Canned Meats (Spam & Ham)
Canned Vegetables (String Beans, Peas, Corn, Potatoes, Chili, Cannelli Beans)
Capri Drinks
Cereal
Cranberry Sauce (in season)
Canned Turkey & Chicken
Dinty Moore cans & bowls
Fruit Cups (Dole & Mott)
Healthy Choice, Marie Callender prepared meals
Jelly Juices (Apple, Cranberry, etc)
Mac & Cheese
Microwave cups Maruchan and Ramon
Dehydrated soups
Peanut Butter
Prepared Tomato Sauce (Ragu, Prego, Rinaldi)
Progresso Soups (Traditional)
Rice
Spaghetti & Spaghettios (Chef Boyardee)
Stove Top Stuffing (in season)
Tuna
Toiletries
Yams (in season)

Not Recommended:

Food Baked Goods (cake mixes, cookies, jello, flour)
Canned Vegetables (mix vegetables, carrots, beets, pumpkin, lima beans, sauerkraut, pineapple)
Canned Soups (lentils, onion, vegetarian, cream of mushroom/celery)
Pasta (rigatoni, ziti, shells, bows, fusilli, lasagna)
Canned Tomato products (Tutto Russo - diced tomatoes, puree, paste)
Miscellaneous (sodas, gravies, broth, cooking oil, ketchup, mustard, cooking wine, syrups, candies)

Flower Guild Annual Poinsettias



Donations are being taken for poinsettias. Please fill out the attached form and return to the office. The Sanctuary will be decorated for two weeks. Flowers may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service. The deadline for orders will be December 11, 2016. The cost is \$15.00. Please make checks payable to NCPC.

NAME: _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____

How many: _____

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

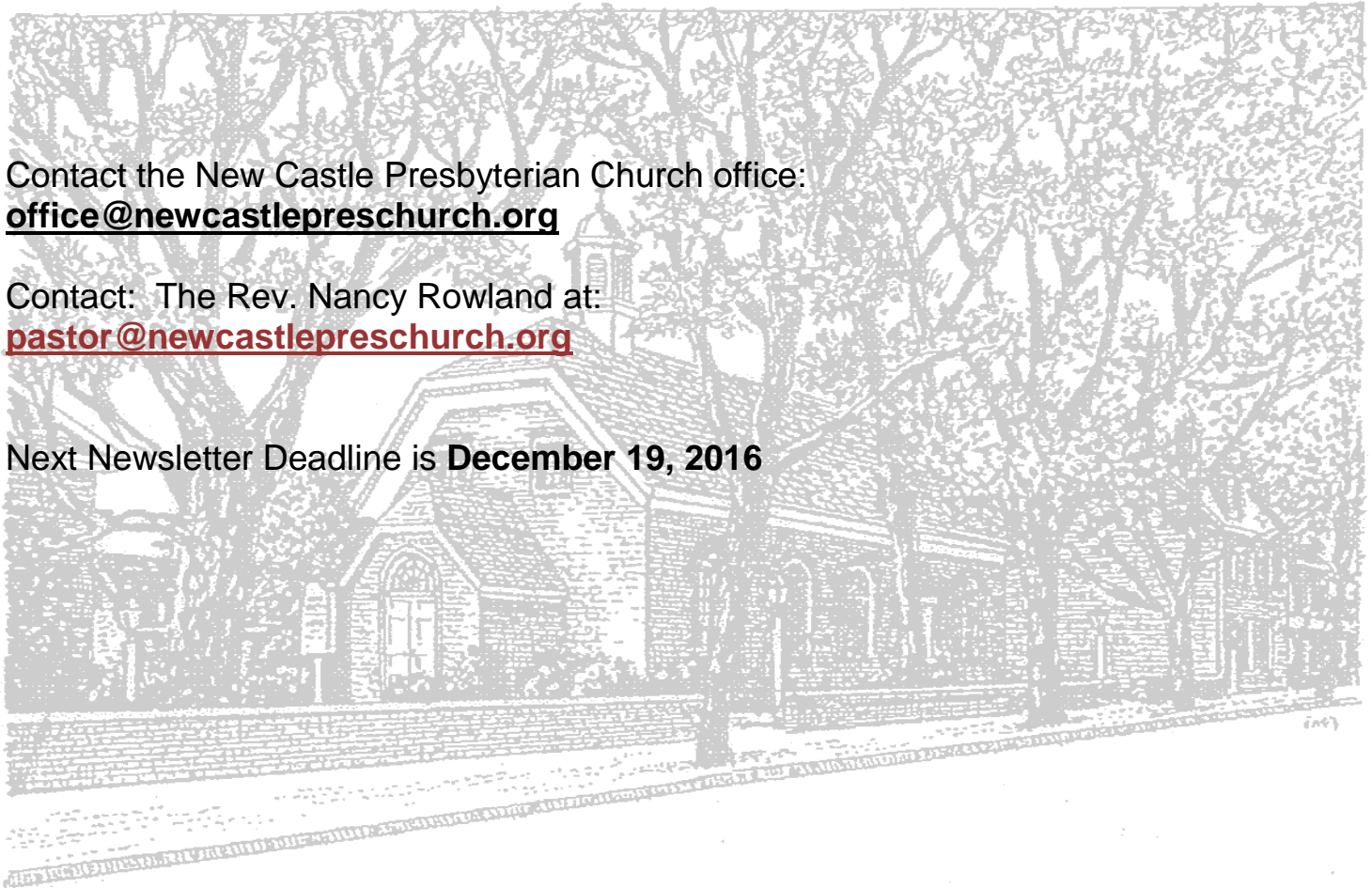


Address Change
Requested

Contact the New Castle Presbyterian Church office:
office@newcastlepreschurch.org

Contact: The Rev. Nancy Rowland at:
pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org

Next Newsletter Deadline is **December 19, 2016**



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