

New Castle Presbyterian News

July 2017



In the Interim...

'Tis the season. And it is a strange season to start a new pastoral position at a church. At least a church in Delaware. Because - let's just name the sunscreened elephant in the room – summer changes a church's lifestyle. School's out, the sun's out and it's the season when many of us are "out", too. My 31 years of ministry have made my expectations much more realistic. But still, a new interim pastor can always hope! And here are some of my summertime hopes for us:

* Please give me the privilege of meeting you this summer! When you are here in town, I do hope to see you here in church. In the transition time after a pastor's departure, people can't always be sure what empty pews mean. Let's not lead folks down any paths of concern or anxiety unnecessarily. I really do want to know you, both individually and collectively as a community of faith. So please, when you are here, come to worship!

* When you are elsewhere, find a church to attend. Your Christian faith never takes a vacation, after all. And here's my challenge to you: Go to at least one other church this summer. And when you do, pay attention! What is the same as here at New Castle Presbyterian? What is different? How do you feel about that? And how did it feel to be a newcomer somewhere? How did the church welcome you, or not? Bring back a worship bulletin – we'll start a collection and display where New Castle folks have worshiped over the summer. And who knows – maybe your ideas of how other churches do things, or how you experienced being a visitor will help us shape the future ministry here, and make us more welcoming?

* If you can't be here on Sundays, there are still lots of ways to be the church this summer! Read on in this newsletter about items needed, whether for Vacation Bible School or for refugee families. Sign up to help prepare a meal for VBS, or for the Urban Promise Camp staff. Sign up and show up when you can!

* Pastors need and take vacation, too. This month will find me off on our annual Warrenfest week in Duck, NC July 1-9. You will be well-led on Sundays by Rev. Lyle Dykstra (July 2), a retired pastor with many years of ministry in this presbytery, and by Matt Waters (July 9) a 2nd career seminarian just starting his formal ministry journey (and one amusing guy!). Please welcome them with the same warmth you have shown me. For any emergency pastoral care needs, the Rev. Brad Martin will be on call and available, as I will be for him the following week. If you are aware of a serious pastoral care need, please contact Deacon Moderator Miranda Matthews (838-2764), Clerk of Session Conchita Showell (832-9226) or Kris Krawczyk in the office (328-3279).

May this summer bless you with opportunities for a change of pace, and a change of venue that re-connect you with loved ones, or open you up to new experiences. Wherever you are, remember who you are and whose you are. And when you are here in New Castle, I hope you'll be here with your church family! I look forward to meeting you all!

God's peace,
Jenny



New Castle Presbyterian Church
Vacation Bible School

July 9-13 5:45-8:15 pm

Supper Included!

Classes for Children ages 4-10

\$5.00 per child / \$10.00 per family

Worship!
Bible Stories!
Games!
Crafts!
Music!
Fun!

Sign up form www.newcastlepreschurch.org OR
Call 302-328-3279

Also: Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to Volunteer!!!

Vacation Bible School Registration Form
July 9-13, 2017, 5:45-8:15 pm
New Castle Presbyterian Church
\$5.00 per child / \$10.00 per family

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Last school grade completed: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Mother: _____

Father: _____

Other: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

Home church: _____

Name of friend your child might like to be with: _____

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In my discussions with Nancy Rowland prior to her retirement, she talked about many of the hopes she had for this congregation. But one hope that she addressed with great passion was the hope for a new name for the “White Gift” donations and offerings. We could trace the name back in our own memories to the olden days when church folk, especially in the South, would wrap food items in white paper and bring them to church at Christmas time. A little research has yielded the following tidbit of trivia:

The Presbyterian Church resource files credit the beginning of White Gift Sunday to the wife of a Methodist minister in 1904 in Ohio. She knew the legend of the Chinese people who loved their king so much that they each brought him a gift on his birthday. The gifts were all wrapped in white paper in order to emphasize the love of the people and the intent of the gift, not the size or value of it.

The minister's wife and his daughters asked their congregation to bring a gift wrapped in white for their king, Jesus. These were often packages of food, the kind of thing that even the poorest in the congregation could bring. They were Christmas love gifts to be distributed to people in need in their community. This beautiful idea quickly spread around the Christian world in the early 1900s, and is still celebrated today as White Gift Sunday.

So – from Methodists in Ohio, recalling the Chinese and their devotion to their king made known through gifts wrapped in white paper – to New Castle Presbyterian today, and your donations of money, non-perishable goods and toiletries, none of which are wrapped in white paper. Seems a bit of a stretch.

What does a name like “White Gift” communicate to those who don't know the history or tradition? Nancy left with the hope that we could come up with something that speaks of the nature and spirit of such giving more plainly. I second that emotion, and the Deacons and I would welcome your ideas!

(and, while you are thinking on such things, I have also heard from some folks about the name “Someplace Else”, and what it has felt like to them. Is it time for a name change there, too?)

Urban Promise Potluck Supper--Sunday, July 2nd

This year we will again be hosting a potluck supper for the interns and staff of the Urban Promise Summer Camp Program. Urban Promise operated 6 camps throughout the city of Wilmington. The camp program includes sports activities, arts and crafts, and Bible stories and lessons for children and young adults. The camps are free to everyone. The interns and staff will use our facility for renewal and reflection, a time to share stories and problem solve with other camp staff, have a shared meal in air conditioning, and end with songs and fellowship. I hope you will consider providing a main dish, salad, side dish or dessert for this event. If you are going to be away, please consider making a casserole in advance and putting it in the freezer with cooking directions. Food may also be brought at the Sunday morning service or at the time of the dinner (5:00 p.m.) Sign-up sheets have already been posted on the bulletin board in the CE Building. Everyone is welcome to join us for dinner. We hope to see you there!

Friendship House Ministry to the Homeless Breakfast Program **Sunday, July 9th at 7:00 a.m.**

It will be our turn to serve breakfast at the Episcopal Church of St. Andrew and St. Matthew located at 8th and Shipley Street in Wilmington. We will need volunteers to serve the breakfast at 7:00 a.m. and volunteers to donate 5 pounds of shredded cheese, 5 pounds of chopped ham, and 2 gallons of milk. Eggs are now being donated by the U of D and other cooperative farms. Volunteer Sign-up sheets have already been posted on the bulletin board in the CE building. If you are a BJ's or Cosco shopper, you may want to consider donating large cans of coffee, bags of sugar, and containers of coffee creamer for their breakfast program. A basket will be provided for these supplies and they will be taken to the breakfast program on the morning we serve. This program has been feeding the homeless every Sunday for over twenty years and has never missed a Sunday. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for this valuable mission program.

Janet Spring

THANKS FOR SERVING IN JULY!

USHERS – Bev & Rod Denison and Janet Spring

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

July 2 – Patti Isaacs-Hansen
July 9 – Scott Matthews
July 16 – Bev Denison & Ringo Keka
July 23 – Cynthia Robbins
July 30 – Noon Circle

WORSHIP LEADERS

July 2 – Ray Snyder
July 9 – Brett Watson
July 16 – Scott Matthews
July 23 - Minerva Lermond
July 30 – Beverly Stoudt

NURSERY

July 2 – Molly Cooney & Jane Fouracre
July 9 – Andrew Lundgren & Bev Stoudt
July 16 – Amanda & James Anderson
July 23 – Amanda & James Anderson
July 30 – Lyn Briggs & Susan Townsend

COUNTERS

July 2 – Peter McCurdy/Bruce Raker
July 9 – Jane Fouracre/??
July 16 – Carol Mayhew/??
July 23 – Jane Fouracre/??
July 30 – Carol Mayhew/??

EMMANUEL DINING ROOM

Cynthia Robbins
Steve Martin
And others

FLOWERS

Brenda Walters

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Ryan Shaw, 7/1
Susan Studd, 7/4
George Spock, 7/8
Jim Stoudt, 7/10
Bess Coleman, 7/11
Jim Werkheiser, 7/13
Carl Witt, 7/15
Susan Werkheiser, 7/16



Grace Hayford, 7/19
Karyn Fry, 7/20
Lauren Werkheiser, 7/23
Jeffrey Reed, 7/24
Susan Townsend, 7/25
Beverly Stoudt, 7/29
Andrew Lundgren, 7/30
Janet Spring, 7/31

Steve & Dana Handy, 7/7
Jim & Beverly Stoudt, 7/12
Candy & Dan Dunson, 7/14



Congratulations!

To Danielle Knox and Mike June, who were married at The Farmhouse on June 3.
Danielle is the daughter of our Daniel & Shirley Knox.



Annual 4th of July Bell Ringing Ceremony, Historic New Castle, Delaware

Let Freedom Ring is a national celebration with the simultaneous ringing of bells from Maine to Philadelphia to the USS Arizona Monument in Hawaii. Once again we are looking for a member to ring our steeple bell that day precisely at 2pm precisely for 13 times. Please contact the office at 302-328-3279 if you would be able to do this.

July 4, 2017



1:30 p.m.

Historic New Castle, DE

Please be seated inside Immanuel Church on the Green no later than 1:25

Bells Across the Nation Will Ring at 2:00 p.m.

For more information

E-mail Kim Burdick at: DelRev225th@aol.com

Telephone Noel Kuhrt at (302) 655-2096

Meals on Wheels

HELP! We need Meals on Wheels delivery people for 2017. 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 July 3-7. 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 3

Shirley Knox

Tuesday 4

No service
4th of July

Wednesday 5

Cynthia Robbins
Nanette Nichol

Thursday 6

Carol & Gene
Mayhew

Friday 7

Susan & Jim
Flook



Monthly Report

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

Membership:

May..... 175
June..... 175

Income thru 06/01/17:

2017 Budget: \$127,599.00
2017 Actual:..... \$121,955.00

Expenses thru 06/01/17:

2017 Budget: \$116,687.00
2017 Actual:..... \$108,975.00

As some of you were aware we had a squirrel visit our CE Building prior to Pastor Nancy's retirement. He chose not to leave but we believe got lost in the stairwell walls. This was shared by Conchita Showell and I thought I would share with you.

The Squirrels vs. The Church

The Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrels. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist church the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Methodist church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist Church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water slide.

But the Catholic Church came up with a very creative strategy. They baptized all the squirrels and consecrated them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue; they took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.



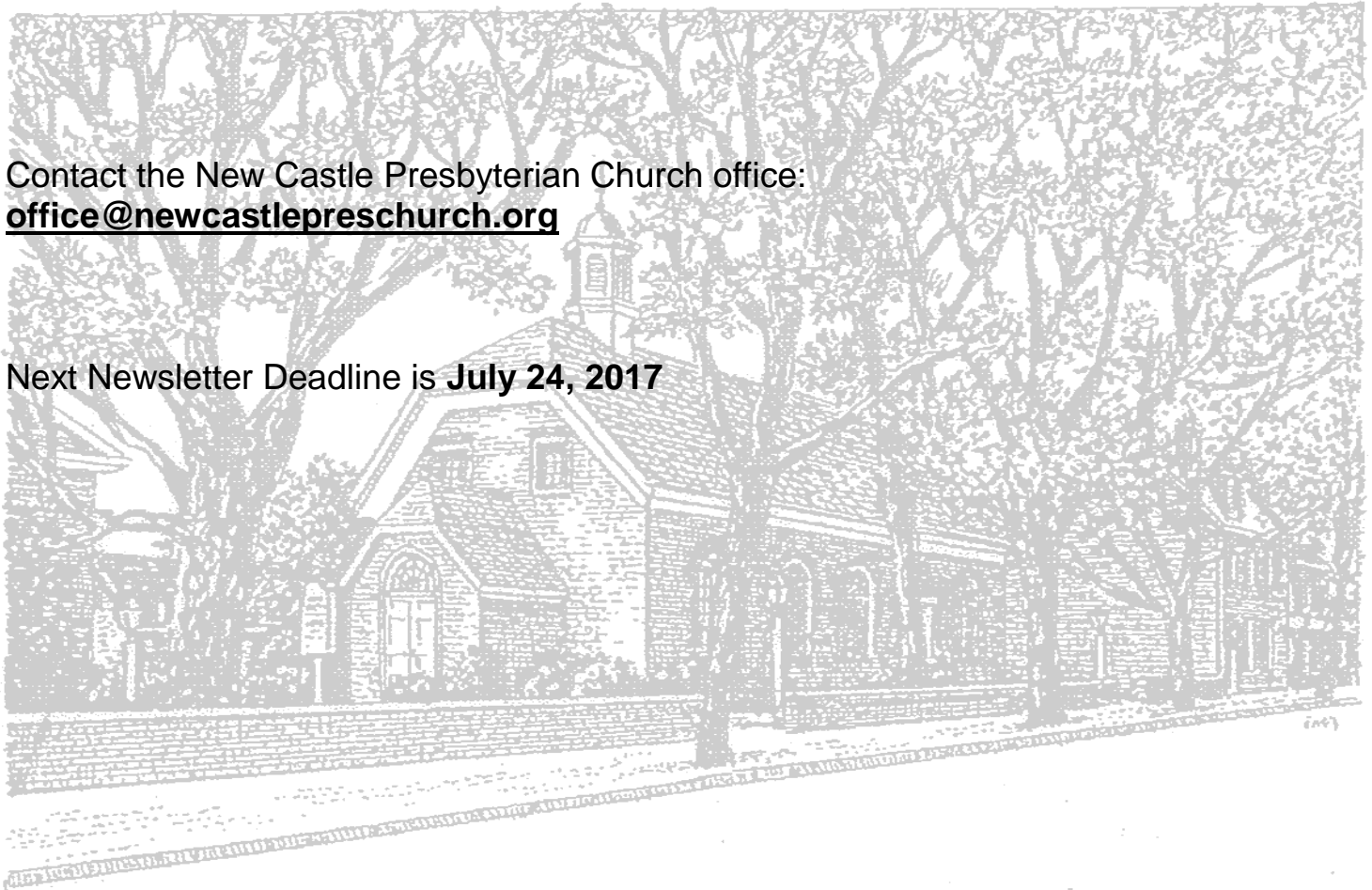
New Castle Presbyterian Church
25 E. 2nd Street
New Castle, DE 19720
Phone: (302) 328-3279
Fax: (302) 328-5670
E-Mail: office@newcastlepreschurch.org
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Address Change
Requested

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

Next Newsletter Deadline is **July 24, 2017**



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