

New Castle Presbyterian News

October 2017



In the interim...

Picture this. You are a Presbyterian pastor (*come on, try and imagine it!*). And you are in the process of exploring where God may be calling you to serve. As you look at congregations seeking pastors, what one thing would you look at to give you a snapshot of a congregation's vitality and vision? (*Ironically, it's the thing that few people associate with the words "vitality" and "vision".*) It's..... the budget. Before you roll your eyes or otherwise shut down, hear me out. And picture a church budget.

A church's budget tells us about a congregation's giving. It tells us how many people pledge/dedicate their giving in advance. While it doesn't give specifics, it does tell us how "invested" church members are in their mission and ministry. That paints a picture about **vitality**.

A church budget also tells us what is done with what a congregation gives. And that paints a picture too - a picture of priorities, of engagement, of necessities. It shows something by things that are underspent, as well as overspent. It shows what it means to you to be church. It paints a picture about **vision**.

So how do we get to such a vital, visionary document as a church budget? Through the Stewardship Season, coming up starting this month, where we will invite you all to

"Get in the Picture"

In our worship services, we'll be asked to "Picture this", as the scriptures give us visions to inspire and challenge. We'll hear from various churchfolk, as they voice why they are "in the picture" at New Castle Presbyterian Church. We'll share a brunch together on October 22, to celebrate all that Giving means and does to help us be the church together. And on November 19, we will dedicate our gifts – time, talent and treasure.

And then, we'll have a budget – that picture of your **vitality and vision**. And I can tell you that a congregation whose giving doesn't lag during the interim time speaks volumes to pastors seeking new calls. It shows that **this is who YOU are**, apart from any particular pastor.

Get the picture?

Jenny

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY– October 1

Join us as we bring the world to New Castle on World Communion Sunday! Hear the scripture read in a variety of languages, and celebrate the sacrament with a variety of breads from different parts of God's world. And remember your opportunity to work for peace in God's world, by giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering received that day (25% of which has been designate by our Session to be split between Doctors Without Borders and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Hurricane Relief)

Worship Leaders Needed

The Sign Up Sheet for November and December is posted in Fellowship Hall. Please fill in a blank. First timers always welcome – with lots of affirmation and guidance given!

Stewardship Brunch



Please mark your calendar for our Stewardship Brunch which will be held on Sunday, October 22nd after worship. We will give thanks to God who has blessed us.

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to participate, or make a reservation with your officer when you are called. You may also call the church office at 302-328-3279.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

For updates on the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance responses and needs for both Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, go to <http://pda.pcusa.org/>. The needs are great, and will last long beyond the headlines.

MISSION STUDY TEAM IN PLACE

At its September 12 meeting, Session approved the following people to serve as the Mission Study Team, responsible for creating our assessment/discernment process and writing up the findings. We give great thanks to Session members Gail Seitz, Jim Whisman and Kelly McCurdy and members Bruce Raker, Amy Selheimer and Corky Viola for undertaking this process – one which they cannot do without all of us! Stay tuned!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Dean MacEwen, who was honored in September by the Scoliosis Research Society with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

White Gifts

White Gifts have a new name – “Gifts of Love”. There are even new envelopes for you to place your gifts.



Sunday School

There is so much going on in the life of the young church! As Pathfinders and Explorers, we are navigating through the Bible and exploring what God has in store for us! We will be learning a new bible verse every month. The verse for September is 1 Timothy 4:12 "Do not let anyone look down upon you because you are young, but be an example for believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

Our Sunday School students have already displayed Christian conduct and love through their generous giving to the Gifts of Love program! So far this year we have collected **11** boxes of Capri Sun, **24** cans of Dinty Moore Beef Stew, **32** cans of fruit, **33** servings of tuna, and **12** boxes of cereal! What a difference these young people are making! We look forward to keeping this expression of love going and being an example for believers, as well as an example to our friends in the community! The gifts of love for September are peanut butter and jelly.

And **SAVE THE DATE!** FRIDAY OCTOBER 27 6:00-7:30 --It's PUMPKIN PARTY!!! Sunday School families -and friends - join us for dinner, games, crafts, and the beloved "Pumpkin Walk"! Come in costume!

Seamen's Center Christmas At Sea

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to remind everyone that we will again be supporting the Seamen's Center **Christmas at Sea** program. As in past years, we hope to provide approximately 40 "ditty boxes" which will include various items such as shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, candy, etc., as well as hand knitted scarves and hats. Over 1,000 "ditty boxes" are given each year to the seamen who arrive at our port by ship during the month of December. This is our opportunity as a church and as individuals to be a part of the "bigger world" as we share our resources and our gratitude with those who work hard all year long to provide us with essential goods. For those wishing to participate, please see the poster in Fellowship Hall. Items should be delivered to church by November 19, 2017. The "ditty boxes" will be assembled after worship that day.

Anyone with questions about the program should contact Ellie Gerhart (328-0908) or Barbara Whisman (322-6234).



Get in the Spirit this Fall
Our Spirit of Christmas Community Mission for Friendship House
December 9, 2017



October is the perfect time to donate items for the **Look What \$20 Will Buy** table. The \$20 table consistently drives a large percentage of the funds we donate to Friendship House.

We are asking **everyone** to gather and shop for items valued at more than \$20. If you have interesting pieces in your home to donate, or happened upon things during your summer travels - even clearance items found at summer sales - we are ready to receive them!

Small appliances, housewares, Vera Bradley bags and accessories, jewelry, holiday and Delaware-themed items are always perennial favorites. Also, small items can be often be paired with other items to make a larger grouping.

Think about making it a family challenge to see who can find the best value for the \$20 table this year!

If you need somewhere to store items you have, please see Carol Mayhew or Joanne Viola.



Crafters Workshop



A Spirit of Christmas Craft/Sewing workshop is planned for October 15 following fellowship hour. No special talents required. We need lots of helpers to cut, sew, iron etc. on some projects for the craft table at the Spirit of Christmas. This year we will work together making children's fleece hats and scarves. All supplies are provided. As always, we encourage everyone to share ideas and to contribute handmade crafts, knitted and crocheted articles, etc., to sell. If you have any questions please call Ellie Gerhart (753-9632).

Starting Again in October...

Noon Circle

We resume monthly meetings on October 3. Noon Circle is a women's Bible study and support group. It serves New Castle Presbyterian Church and provides support for various missions.

The Noon Circle meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, October through May at 12 o'clock noon, at the Christian Education Building. Join us!

WHAT'S THE WORD? - A weekday Bible Study beginning October 11

Jenny will lead a Biblical journey through Biblical journeys, beginning in the fall with Old Testament journeyers. Come Wednesdays at 1 pm, prepared to join the journey, and the discussion of how transition affects us all in many ways, for many reasons – and how to seek to live in it, and through it, faithfully.

Spirit of Christmas - December 9, 2017

Preparations for Spirit of Christmas 2017 are under way! This annual event (this will be our 17th celebration!) enables our congregation to make a generous donation to Friendship House, “a non-profit, Christian corporation in service to those individuals and families that are or are at risk of becoming homeless.” (from the Friendship House website at <http://friendship-house.org>). Friendship House currently operates an emergency shelter and twelve halfway houses, located in Wilmington, Newark, and other areas of New Castle County. Friendship House also offers programs to assist the homeless in their path from survival to self-sufficiency. Please visit the Friendship House website for a complete listing of the services provided.

On Spirit of Christmas Saturday, our congregation hosts musical performances and serves refreshments free of charge throughout the day. We also offer gently-used books, handmade crafts, homemade baked goods, and other giftworthy treasures for sale. All proceeds from donations and sales for Spirit of Christmas at New Castle Presbyterian Church are given to Friendship House.

You can help in many ways. We need people to assist with setup on December 8 and sales on December 9. We also need your donations of time and items between now and then to prepare for this event. Here is a quick reference list of our opportunities:

Books: Coffee-table quality books and other nearly new volumes are preferred. You may bring books in boxes or sturdy shopping bags to the church and leave them in the entry area clearly labeled for SOC. If you have questions, or if you have a large number of books to donate, please contact **Peter McCurdy** for guidelines.

Homemade soups, baked goods, candies: Think about Spirit of Christmas as you plan your Christmas treat-making! For details or soup recipes, please contact Sue Townsend or Miranda Matthews.

Crafts: See the Crafts Workshop announcement for information about the October 15 workshop to be held after worship that Sunday. You don't have to have special skills to participate! If you have another homemade craft specialty to offer, contact Ellie Gerhart. If you have created items for Spirit of Christmas in past years, please consider making more to sell this year.

Red and green “Save the date” cards are available in the entry area of the CE building. Please pick up a few and distribute them to your friends and other contacts.

There are many other opportunities for participation before and during the event. More specific sign-up sheets will be posted in the weeks ahead. Contact **Monty Gerhart**, volunteer coordinator (302-328-0908), to offer your time and learn how you can help.

The next Spirit of Christmas planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m.

Pat Taylor, Miranda Matthews, Kelly Koczak McCurdy

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Gwendolyn Truman, 10/1
 Lily Powell, 10/4
 Carol Mayhew, 10/8
 Melissa Boris, 10/10
 Phoebe Dill, 10/10
 Janet Swick, 10/16
 Katherine Sechrist, 10/19



Luca Monzo, 10/22
 Barbara Beaumont, 10/23
 Don Reese, 10/23
 Mariah Graham, 10/24
 Mason Reilly, 10/26
 Rachel Handy, 10/29

Earl & Janet Reed, 10/3
 Gary & Kathy Graham, 10/5
 Daniel & Shirley Knox, 10/6
 Miranda & Scott Matthews, 10/7
 Laurie & Mark Powell, 10/8
 Christine & Kevin Collins, 10/12
 Carl & Susan Witt, 10/25
 Diana & Tony Reilly, 10/26
 Annie & Leo Sotomayor, 10/28



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 October 16-20. 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 16
 Jude Morrow
 Jo Viola

Tuesday 17
 Joan Smith
 Miranda Matthews

Wednesday 18
 Carol & Gene
 Mayhew

Thursday 19
 Cynthia Robbins
 Nanette Nichol

Friday 20
 Susan & Jim
 Flook

Monthly Report

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

Membership:

August	175
September	175

Income thru 09/02/17:

2017 Budget:	\$182,999.00
2017 Actual:.....	\$167,741.00

Expenses thru 09/02/17:

2017 Budget:	\$176,796.00
2017 Actual:.....	\$165,430.00



THANKS FOR SERVING IN OCTOBER!

COMMUNION

October 1 – **Monty & Ellie Gerhart**, Kay Fry, Conchita Showell & Rod Denison

USHERS

October 1 – Jim & Barb Whisman
October 8 – Amy & Scott Selheimer
October 15 – Jim & Barb Whisman
October 22 – Amy & Scott Selheimer
October 29 – Jim & Barb Whisman

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

October 1 –
October 8 – Andrew Lundgren
October 15 – Joan Smith & Sandy Wilson
October 22 – Peter McCurdy
October 29 – Noon Circle

WORSHIP LEADERS

October 1 – Conchita Showell
October 8 – Ray Snyder
October 15 – Jane Fouracre
October 22 – Carol Mayhew
October 29 – Jo Viola

NURSERY

October 1 – Amanda & James Anderson
October 8 – Lyn Briggs & Susan Townsend
October 15 – Molly Cooney & Jane Fouracre
October 22 – Andrew Lundgren & Bev Stoudt
October 29 – Amanda & James Anderson

SUNDAY SCHOOL

October 1 – Susan Studd
October 8 – Susan Studd
October 15 – Diana Reilly
October 22 – Bruce Raker
October 29 – Laurie & Mark Powell

COUNTERS

October 1 – Jane Fouracre & Bruce Raker
October 8 – Cynthia Robbins & Jo Viola
October 15 – Jane Fouracre & Bruce Raker
October 22 –
October 29 – Jane Fouracre & Carol Mayhew

EMMANUEL DINING ROOM

Steve Martin
Cynthia Robbins
Miranda Matthews

FLOWERS

Brenda Walters

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Fax: (302) 328-5670
E-Mail: office@newcastlepreschurch.org
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

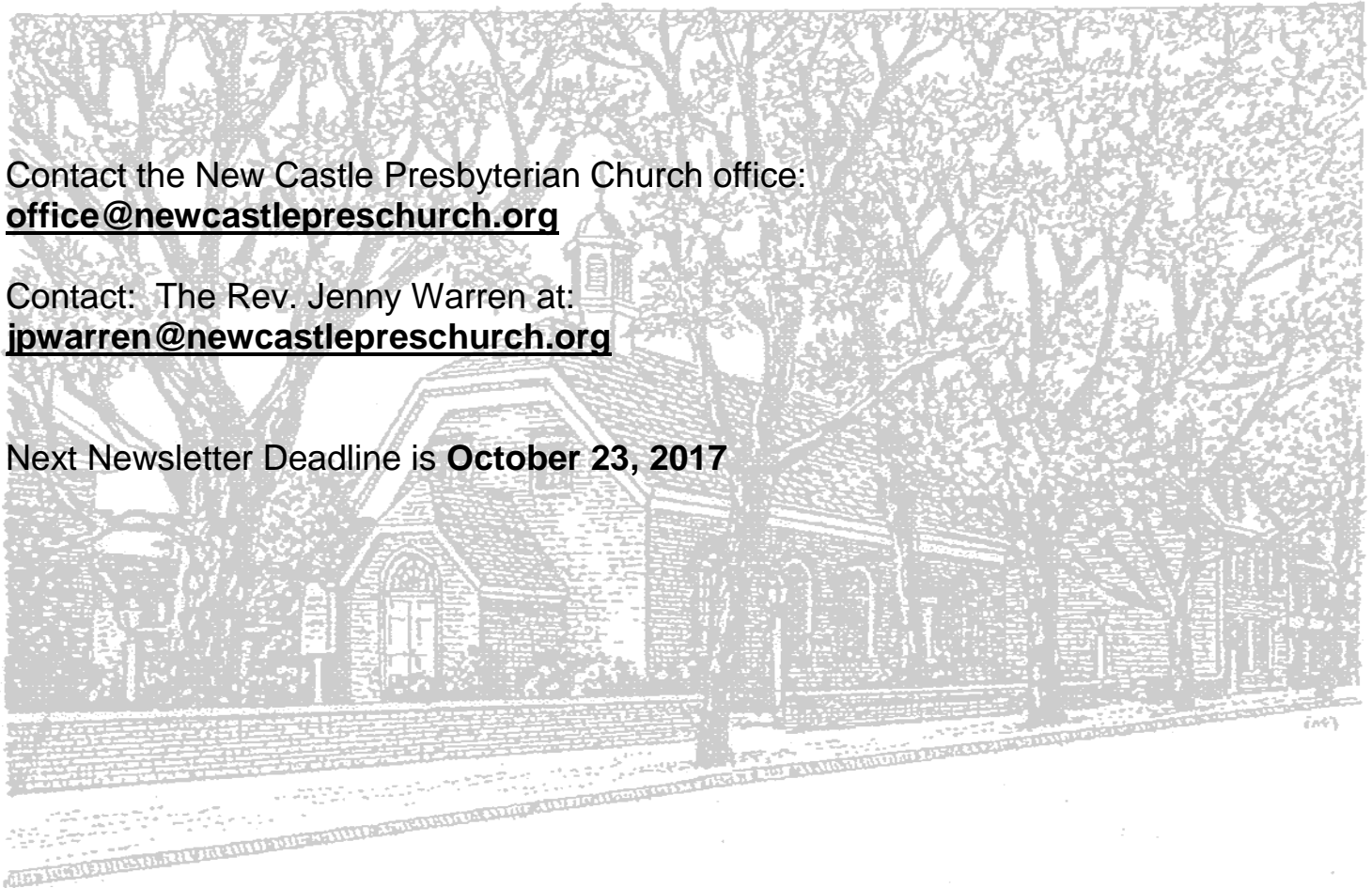


Address Change
Requested

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

Contact: The Rev. Jenny Warren at:
jpwarren@newcastlepreschurch.org

Next Newsletter Deadline is **October 23, 2017**



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