

New Castle Presbyterian News

January 2018



In the interim....

“ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

It's a new year, already. And it happens whether we're ready or not. But, if we're honest, stepping across the threshold at midnight from one year to the next may not bring with it any sudden experience of newness or change. Maybe a resolution to live into, but even that's nothing new. But there is some newness here at New Castle Presbyterian Church.

There is obviously this new face in your pulpit, which I do know takes some getting used to. We have received 3 new members in the last month. Two were seeking a change in church home and sought us out for a new start. And one who had been worshipping with us for over a year, re-affirmed baptismal vows using her new name, after some powerful testimony about her own transition journey.

We have a new look to our bulletin covers, intentionally including our church's mission statement so that visitors see who we are and what we are about – and so we don't forget either.

We have new Visitor Welcome cards and Prayer Cards, and are so pleased that both are being used! New gluten-free crackers have been added to our communion celebration, so that all can fully participate in the sacrament.

And in the world of Sunday School, we have a new curriculum we are trying on.

We used a new pledge form this year, acknowledging the broader truth that Stewardship is also the giving of our time and abilities, in addition to our financial commitment. And you responded!

We have a new Mission Study Team, who has created both our informal Table Talk experiences and our Congregational Survey. This month, they will compile data and create the final Mission Study document, the prerequisite to any pastoral search. So, coming up this spring, you'll be asked to elect a new Pastor Nominating Committee to search on your behalf for your new pastor.

To be in transition, to be in the interim time, implies movement from here to there, from before to next. Such movement brings change and newness. This is nothing new.

It is also nothing new that, in and through it all, God – who did a new thing among us in Jesus – is with us in and through it all.

So – have no fear – enjoy the ride and the new scenery that comes with it. And with faith and hope, let's put the “new” in this New Year!

Always with hope,

Jenny

PS. I will be on vacation January 22-29 (celebrating my husband's retirement!). Guest worship leader/preacher for January 28 will be Rourke Moore. Rourke serves as NCPC's Committee on Ministry liaison for our interim time/pastoral search. He is an elder at Community Presbyterian Church, and is a “CRE” – Certified Ruling Elder - in service to New Castle Presbytery.

Baptism Celebrated

We look forward to celebrating the baptism of Lia Mae Esham on January 14. Lia is the daughter of Doug and Laura Esham, and little sister to Wren. Join us for this sacrament and new beginning with this family!

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Thanks to all who helped make our 2016 Spirit of Christmas celebration a great success! Because of your sharing of talent and time, this year we will be sending Friendship House at least \$8,500!

We will hold a meeting January 23rd at 7:00pm to review our 2017 Spirit of Christmas celebration. If you have comments or suggestions, please contact one of us or notify the church office by email at office@newcastlepreschurch.org.

We're looking forward to another great celebration in 2018!

Pat Taylor, Miranda Matthews, and Kelly Koczak McCurdy

Envelopes

Don't forget to pick up your church offertory envelopes. They are located in the entrance way of the CE building.

“Committed and capable, Treasurer Dan Knox”

sung at the Congregational Meeting December 17, 2017

to the tune of the hymn “Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise”

with gusto and gratitude to Dan Knox, on the eve of his 20th year as Treasurer of
NCPC

Committed and capable, Treasurer Dan Knox
There's no way to count all the hours he clocks!
He's facing year 20, and so we must say
“We're grateful for you each and every day!”

With care and precision, he tracks each account,
Writes checks, reimburses the exact amount,
Creates each year's budget, and then waits to see,
But never does fudge it, oh no, no not he!

Each fall, Dan gets nervous, awaiting each pledge
And then we come through and he backs off the ledge
His worth- beyond measure, we're each a big fan,
We surely do treasure, our treasurer Dan!



Sisters and Brothers in Faith,

Blessings to you and yours as we celebrate the Advent season. It is a time of hope and anticipation, a time of preparation for the coming of the Christ child into our midst once again.

This year the Advent journey is very real. As I write this, I am but a few kilometers away from Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus. I am privileged to be traveling with the Stated Clerk as he meets with our partners in the Holy Land.



Sara Lisherness
Director,
Compassion, Peace and Justice

We have met with Interfaith leaders and listened to their hopes for peace. In spite of the many challenges, the people we met cited reasons for hope. One of our partners said, “Since the beginning of history what has stood up against evil is the intentions of good people. This is where hope comes from.” This powerful perspective reminds me that hope is an essential part of faith in all religious traditions. Sadly, we learned that President Trump has announced his intention to move the U. S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. If this intention is acted upon, it will have a profound and negative impact across the Middle East and further diminishes hope of ever achieving a just peace in the Holy Land.

In 1998, the 210th General Assembly stated that “Jerusalem is a city with a history held sacred by Jews, Christians and Muslims, and all children of Abraham” and called for the church to support the efforts of all who seek a peace for Jerusalem- a peace that respects humankind and the political rights of Christians, Muslim Palestinians and Israelis, as well as the rights of all these three religious communities.”

It is far too easy to fall into despair when considering what might happen as a result of this decision. As Christians, we do not have such an option. We must have hope because we believe in a God who we know as the Prince of Peace, who comes to us as a humble babe, born in a manger, the One who will redeem all creation.

In the midst of this difficult time where peace seems far away, we must not lose hope. We must continue to pray and work for the peace of Jerusalem. In this precarious time, when the hope for peace seems so distant, we join the Psalmist who reminds us:

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.' For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, 'Peace be within you.' For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good. As we move from Advent to the celebration of the birth of the Christ child, perhaps the greatest gift we can give is to continue our unceasing prayers and advocacy for peace.

In the faith we share,

Sara Pottschmidt Lisherness
Director, Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministry

Mission Study Update

By the time this update is published, the Mission Study survey will have closed (thank you very much to everyone who took time to complete it). The Mission Study Committee will now be compiling the survey results, and combining the collective responses with the terrific input you provided during the Table Talk sessions in November. The insight you've shared will guide our efforts to tell an honest and hopeful "NCPC Story" and illuminate our vision for the future of our Church and outline the qualities and strengths we hope to see in a new pastor.

The next step in the process requires gathering administrative data to add to the Mission Study report. The data includes information on areas such as:

- Membership
- Educational and Other Programs
- Property
- Mission Engagement
- Board Structure
- Technology
- Financial Sustainability

How You Can Help

Officers and committee leaders will be called on to help us gather this data. Be on the lookout for an email, phone call, or conversation outlining what data you can help provide.

Also, if you have any fun photos of our congregation in action, engaged in our many mission initiatives or celebrating one another, please feel free to email them to Kelly Koczak McCurdy at kelly.a.koczak@gmail.com.

Final Report Development

The Mission Study Report will be developed in January/February. Once completed, it will need approval of both Session and New Castle Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. It is that last approval that gives the green light for electing our Pastor Nominating Committee.

*What does a Mission Study Report look like? *

To see an example of a final Mission Study Report please see the link below:

<http://bit.ly/dovermissionstudy>

Questions?

As always, if you have any questions about this process, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the members of the Mission Study Committee: Kelly Koczak McCurdy, Bruce Raker, Gail Seitz, Amy Selheimer, Corky Viola, Jim Whisman, and Jenny Warren – we are happy to help shed light on this important step in our search for a new pastor.

THANKS FOR SERVING IN JANUARY!

COMMUNION

January 7 – **Bob & Joan Appleby**, Joan Smith, Amy Selheimer, Heather Raezer

USHERS

January 7 – Andrew, Julia & Allie Lundgren & Susan Townsend

January 14 – Andrew, Julia & Allie Lundgren & Susan Townsend

January 21 – Andrew, Julia & Allie Lundgren & Susan Townsend

January 28 – Andrew, Julia & Allie Lundgren & Susan Townsend

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

January 7 – Mackenzie & Andy Schulz

January 14 – Scott Matthews

January 21 – Bev Denison & Susan Townsend

January 28 – Jo Viola

WORSHIP LEADERS

January 7 – Salina Brett

January 14 – Gail Seitz

January 21 –

January 28 – Ray Snyder

NURSERY

January 7 – Molly Cooney & Molly Shaw

January 14 – Andrew Lundgren & Bev Stoudt

January 21 – Melissa Boris & Heather Raezer

January 28 – Melissa Boris & Heather Raezer

SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 7 – Melissa Boris

January 14 – Bruce Raker

January 21 – Mark & Laurie Powell

January 28 – Ron & Susan Studd

COUNTERS

January 7 – Carol Mayhew & Jane Fouracre

January 14 – Steve Handy & Carol Mayhew

January 21 – Jane Fouracre

January 28 –

EMMANUEL DINING ROOM

Steve Martin

Cynthia Robbins

Miranda Matthews

FLOWERS - Brenda Walters



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 January 29-2. 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 29

Jude Morrow
Miranda Matthews

Tuesday 30

Jo Viola
Joan Smith

Wednesday 31

Carol & Gene
Mayhew

Thursday 1

Cynthia Robbins
Nanette Nichol

Friday 2

Susan & Jim
Flook

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Cynthia Beam, 1/1
Mary Duncan, 1/1
Lynn MacEwen, 1/1
Mark Stallard, 1/2
Rachel Briggs, 1/2
Kris Stone, 1/6
Olivia Viola, 1/6
Mariellen Boyle, 1/8



Linda Twyford, 1/10
Wren Esham, 1/14
Daniel Dunson, 1/16
Jim Whisman, 1/17
Louise Thornton, 1/22
Mildred McGraw, 1/25
Julia Spock, 1/27

Bob & Janet Swick, 1/21
Jim & Barbara Whisman, 1/25
Charles & Joanne Ward, 1/26



Monthly Report

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



Membership:

November 177
 Salina (Sally) Brett Watson (#) on 12/3/17+1
 Addition by Reaffirmation of Faith
December 178

Income thru 12/01/17:

2017 Budget:.....\$238,198.00
2017 Actual: \$224,410.00

Expenses thru 12/01/17:

2017 Budget:.....\$236,010.00
2017 Actual:\$221,126.00

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

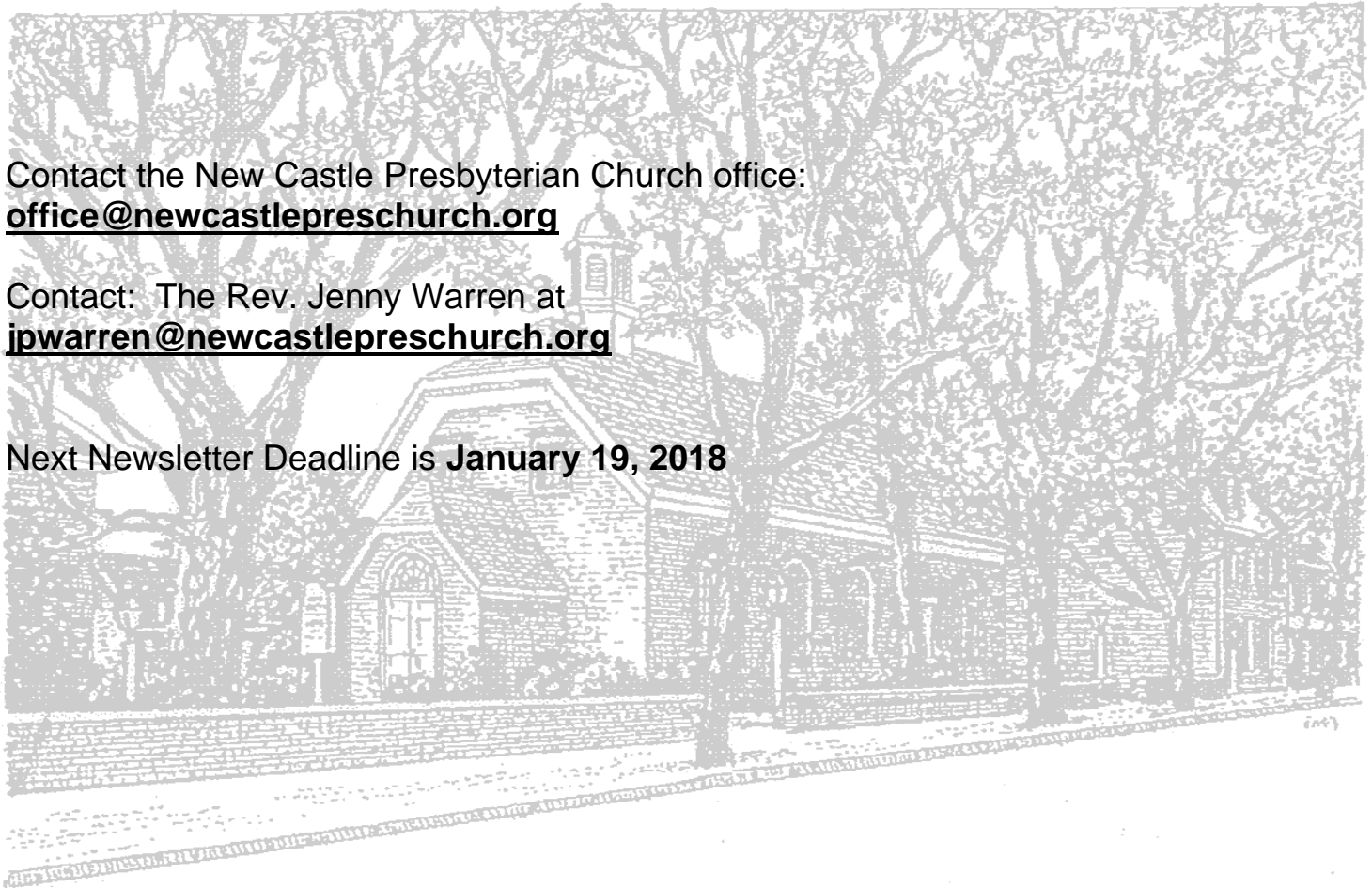


Address Change
Requested

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

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

Next Newsletter Deadline is **January 19, 2018**



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