

New Castle Presbyterian News

February 2018



In the Interim.....

I admit it – after 5 interim positions, I tend to see everything with “interim eyes”. The call and opportunity for self-reflection and discernment, for change, preparation and forward movement is everywhere. And it is hard to find an argument for seeing the season of Lent with anything but “interim eyes”, and observing it accordingly.

Lent was created by the church as a season of preparation for meeting the depth and cost of God’s love in Jesus on the cross, and then meeting the power and triumph of God’s love in the empty tomb. A season to reflect, repent (ie, change), give up or take on disciplines to show one’s intention to follow Jesus on his journey to the cross.

On our Lenten journey here at church, we will do likewise. We will give up and take on some things to set this season apart, to call us to see things, to see ourselves, to see God’s call and work among us in renewed ways.

We will take on words - “Journey Words”. On the first Sunday in Lent, February 18, we will come forward and take an envelope containing 2 small cards, each with the same word on them. One “Journey Word” card will be placed on the banner hanging from the pulpit. The other is yours to keep with you. That word is yours, for the season of Lent. Everyone’s will be different. Your word is meant to be one of your Lenten disciplines. Think on that word, and all the things it can mean. Pray about that word, and what it might mean in your life, in your church’s life now. Look for and listen for that word in the world around you – and in our worship (I’ll be intentionally working them in to our liturgy, sermons, prayers, etc. – that’s my Lenten discipline). Engage in discussion with others about your words and what they mean to you. You might think your word is just right for you from the start – or you may have to grow into it. Be open and listen for how God’s Spirit leads you through your “Journey Word”.

A second change for the Lenten season will be how we express our greeting with one another in worship. The Worship Committee seeks to make it a more spiritual experience, and less a chance to chat. So we will place it within the worship service, after the Assurance of Pardon, through which we are assured of the peace God makes with us through forgiveness. And then we will turn to our neighbors and share the greeting Jesus used – “Peace be with you”. Perhaps such a change will feel awkward, or even disappointing to some. But perhaps, if we are open to it, it will open us up to receive and give the spiritual gift of much needed peace.

May we all look at this Lenten season with “interim eyes”. May we be open to the ways that God’s Word and Spirit might change and renew us, leading us on through these weeks of reflection, intention, preparation. And let us remember that Jesus’ own journey to what we celebrate on Easter went by the way of the cross. Grateful to be journeying with you

– Jenny

LENTEN SUPPERS – a New Castle tradition!

Each year, the churches of the New Castle community take turns hosting a simple supper and brief service on each of the Wednesdays in Lent, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Each year, we follow a theme throughout the Lenten Season. This year, we'll be focusing on the events of Holy Week.

Here are the plans:

February 21	New Castle Presbyterian Church "The Last Supper"
February 28	Immanuel on the Green "The Betrayal"
March 7	Hope Lutheran Church "The Trial"
March 14	St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church "The Crucifixion"
March 21	New Castle United Methodist "The Resurrection"

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall to help with our hosting event, both the supper and the service. Invite someone to join you as a part of your own Lenten practice, as we listen and learn from our sisters and brothers in other faith traditions in our community.

We've opened our doors

The Session has agreed to act on our call to Christian hospitality and community engagement by welcoming groups to use our facility on a regular basis. The Nueva Vida AA Group will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:00-9:00 pm in Room 206 (Adult Lounge). The Nuevo Despertar Al-Anon and Al-Ateen groups will meet on Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 pm in Rooms 206 (Adult Lounge) and 208 (Trustees Room). We are grateful that these groups are available to those in the community who need them.

Family Game Night – Friday, February 2nd – cancelled

There will be a large church funeral on Saturday morning, the Fellowship Hall space will be needed Friday night, and so Family Game Night will need to be rescheduled. We will keep you all updated as to if and when we will reschedule the event. Thank you for your understanding, and please keep the family in your prayers.

PASTOR AWAY

Jenny Warren will be away on study leave beginning February 26, as she attends the NEXT Church Conference in Baltimore Feb 26-28

<https://nextchurch.net/gatherings/2018-theme-general-information/>

followed by New Castle Presbytery's Beach Retreat/meeting in Ocean City, MD

<http://www.ncpresbytery.org/2018-ncp-beach-retreat/>

Rev. Holly Clark-Porter will be our guest preacher on Sunday March 4.

Call for Congregational Meeting Feb 4

Session has called a congregational meeting immediately following the worship service Sunday, February 4 for the purpose of hearing the report of the Nominating Committee and electing an elder nominee.

Candy Dunson's bio

We joined New Castle Presbyterian Church shortly after moving to New Castle in 1986. Finding a welcoming home for our young family, I became involved with the Sunday School program, Someplace Else, Vacation Bible School and Youth Group as my children grew. I have previously served as an Elder on session with the Budget Committee. I spent 23 years at Hagley Museum in Visitor Services and Education. After retiring from there, I currently work part time as a garden guide at Winterthur.

Recently, I've found myself looking for ways to make my life more meaningful, to be a part of something more than myself, to have an impact on others. When I got an unexpected call asking if I'd be willing to serve on Session with the Mission Committee, I felt God opening the door I'd been looking for and am excited at helping the church further its mission in our community.

Bible Presentation – Unwrap the Gift!

On January 21, 3 of our young people received their 3rd grade Bibles: Parker Boris, Jamie Kern and Julia Lundgren. The inscription in their Bibles is a good challenge to us all:

You are a gift of God.

And God's Word in the Bible is a gift to you.

So, unwrap the gift!

Learn the stories of God's people long ago,

Learn the words and ways of Jesus, that teach us how to live today.

Learn it and live it –as you grow in faith in the God who loves you!



Your gift at Christmas – Far-reaching, but not surprising

Back in December, I was told of your tradition of collecting donations toward a gift for your pastor. While I didn't want to stifle your generous spirits, I had proposed shifting the recipient to those who were truly in need – those in Puerto Rico still struggling to recover months after Hurricane Maria's devastation, leaving them powerless in every sense of the word. You responded, as I am learning that you always do. Your donations have totaled \$2,128!!! I am so touched by this outpouring – that is truly the greatest Christmas gift you could have given me. A check will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's Hurricane Maria Response from this congregation. Thank you for such a far-reaching, though not surprising, expression of your faithful generosity.

Friendship House Breakfast Program

On February 10 and 11 our congregation will be responsible for breakfast at the Episcopal Church of St. Andrew and St. Matthew located at 8th and Shipley Street in Wilmington. On Saturday we need volunteers to prepare the quiche at the 8th and Shipley Street location and on Sunday we will need volunteers to serve. You may also choose to donate food. If you are interested in either preparing or serving or donating food, please sign up on the volunteer sheets located on the Mission and Outreach portion of the bulletin board in the CE Building. Quiche preparation is usually done on Saturday afternoon around 3:00 p.m. (this can change because of the church schedule) but breakfast is always served at 7:00 a.m. We need donations of 5 lbs. of chopped ham, 5 pounds shredded cheese, and 1 gallon of milk. Eggs are usually provided. If you are donating food, please put it in the refrigerator on or before Friday, February 9th before 12:00. Thank you in advance for your support of this ministry to the homeless.

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 March 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

Jude Morrow
Miranda Matthews

Tuesday 6

Jo Viola
Joan Smith

Wednesday 7

Carol & Gene
Mayhew

Thursday 8

Cynthia Robbins
Nanette Nichol

Friday 9

Susan & Jim
Flook



Monthly Report

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

Membership:

December 178

Loss by death – Robert Appleby 1/27/18-1

January 177

Income thru 12/30/17:

2017 Budget: \$256,198.00

2017 Actual:..... \$247,986.00

Expenses thru 12/30/17:

2017 Budget: \$256,198.00

2017 Actual:..... \$243,465.00

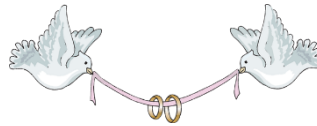
February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Dot Campbell, 2/1
Nanette Nichol, 2/1
Gary Graham, 2/5
Laura Gearheart-Esham, 2/6
Beverly Denison, 2/11
Heather Raezer, 2/12



Dana Monzo, 2/14
Phyllis Stallard, 2/20
Eileen Larkin, 2/21
Cynthia Robbins, 2/25
Zarina Stone, 2/25
Joan Smith, 2/27

Ray & Lynn Snyder, 2/7
Amy & Scott Selheimer, 2/14
Judy & Bill Hentkowski, 2/15



In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the deaths of two dear members of our New Castle Presbyterian Church family, both of whom died to this life on January 27:

Bob Appleby, for whom a Witness to the Resurrection and Celebration of his Life will be here at New Castle Presbyterian Church on Saturday, February 3, at 11:00 a.m. with a reception following in Fellowship Hall.

Ron Verrecchio, whose service plans are as follows: a viewing on Friday February 2 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the McGuinness Funeral Home, 34 Hunter Street, Woodbury, NJ. Funeral service at 11:00 a.m. followed by an entombment at New Saint Mary's Cemetery, Bellmawr, NJ

Please surround all loved ones of these two faithful men -

Joan Appleby, their children Pam, Carolyn and Bobby and their families
Nanette Nichol, and Ron's daughter Claudine, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

May God's peace that passes understanding surround them, and fill them with the hope of the life beyond this one.

THANKS FOR SERVING IN FEBRUARY!

COMMUNION

February 4 – **Janet Spring***, Karen Dobson, Gail & C.J. Seitz, Rachel Briggs

USHERS

February 4 – Susan & Jim Flook
February 11 – Connie & Laurie Bell
February 18 – Susan & Jim Flook
February 25 -

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

February 4 – Melissa, Parker & Mackenzie Boris
February 11 – Jim Whisman
February 18 – Sandy Wilson/Jen Dunham
February 25 – Cynthia Robbins

WORSHIP LEADERS

February 4 – Scott Matthews
February 11 – Jane Fouracre
February 18 –
February 25 –

NURSERY

February 4 – Lyn Briggs & Susan Townsend
February 11 – Molly Cooney & Molly Shaw
February 18 – Andrew Lundgren & Bev Stoudt
February 25 – Amanda & James Anderson

SUNDAY SCHOOL

February 4 – Heather Raezer
February 11 – Bev Stoudt
February 18 – Sarah McCann
February 25 – Bruce Raker

COUNTERS

February 4 – Fouracre/Mayhew
February 11 – Robbins/Lyn Briggs
February 18 – Fouracre/Mayhew
February 25 – Rachel Briggs/

EMMANUEL DINING ROOM

Steve Martin
Cynthia Robbins
Miranda Matthews

FLOWERS - Brenda Walters

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

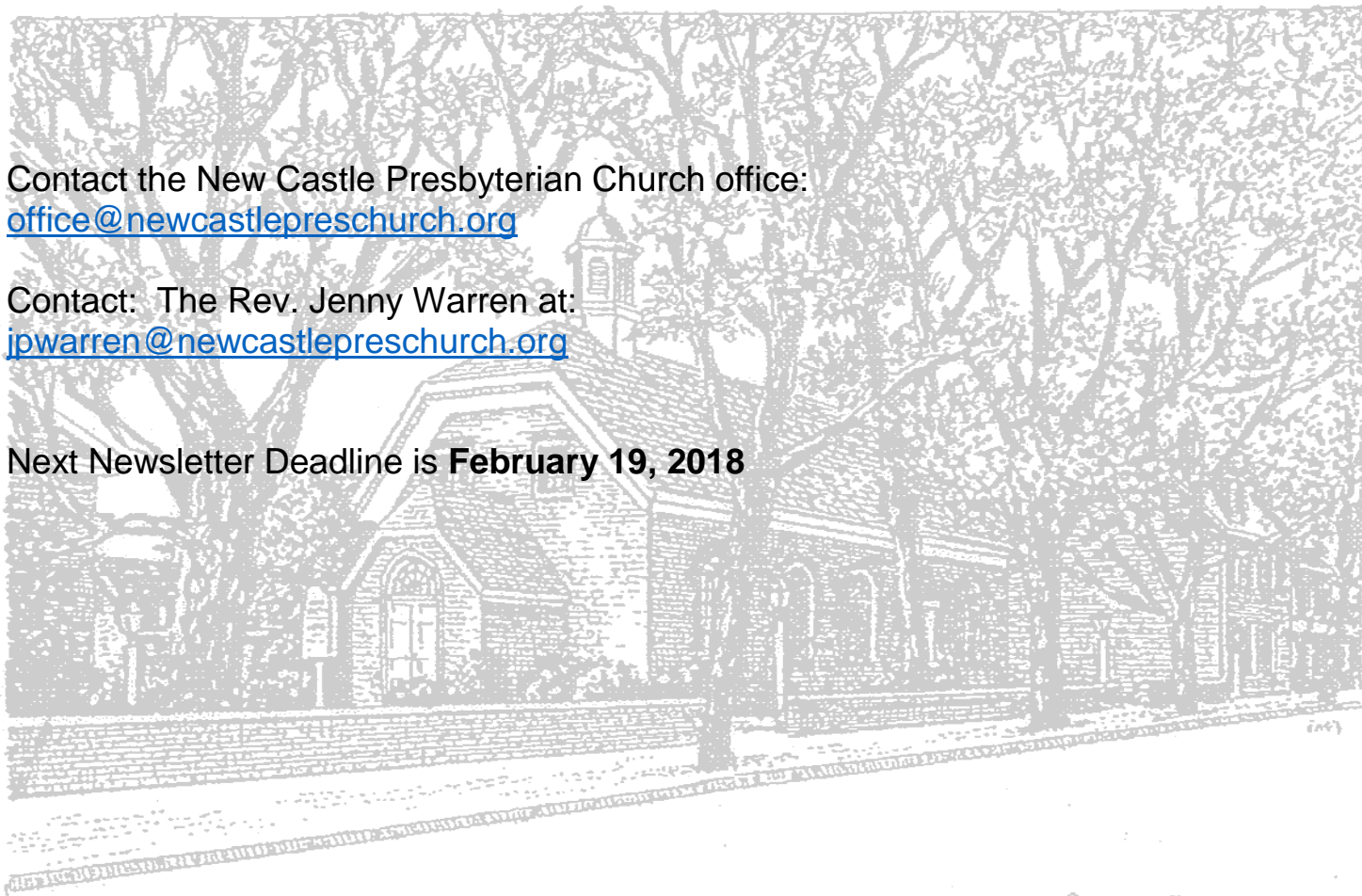


Address Change
Requested

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

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

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



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