

# *New Castle Presbyterian News*

## *January 2019*

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In the interim....

As this is now my 2<sup>nd</sup> January newsletter with you, I took a moment to look back at last year's January newsletter (you can, too by clicking here <http://newcastlepreschurch.org/newsletter/>). As we move forward into another year, on to another calendar, it's often helpful to look back. A look back not only helps us remember what was, but gives us some momentum as we look and move forward.

So on the eve of a new year, here's a "looking back" list, in no particular order, of what was "new with you" in 2018.....

...Deacons' new caregiving plan.... new lights in the Meeting House, among the many other Trustees' projects...new "We Love our Neighbors" signs, wearing our welcome for all to see.....new member photos for an updated photo directory... a new connection with our neighbor Community Presbyterian Church...new elder, deacon and trustee leaders/servants...and a new Clerk of Session....and some new members...that new "photo booth" feature at Spirit of Christmas... ..a new Adopt-a-School project born of the Presbytery's Spark Grant... with 7 new mentors for our community schools...new "Journey Words" practice for Lent...a new website nearly ready to launch...a new Mission & Outreach committee and budget/funding model...a new communion cup filler that makes communion prep a piece of cake...new vows taken at 4 child baptisms...and a new Pastor Nominating Committee charged with seeking, and finding, your next pastor!

That's quite a list – and I make no claim to have thought of everything! Can you feel the hopeful momentum it gives you for moving forward?

What will be new in 2019? I look forward to seeing and celebrating it, for as long as I am with you. Because, God willing, one of the new things on your list this time next year will be a new pastor!

In the meantime, in a new year, and on a new calendar, I am grateful for this time in ministry and mission with you. And, that one thing that never gets old, one thing that never changes, is the promise of God to be with us, and to work through us – even as God has done in and through Jesus our Savior, Emmanuel – God with us!

Moving forward in hope,

*Jenny*



## **BIBLE STUDY RESUMES JANUARY 9**

Our weekly Wednesday Bible Study will resume on Wednesday January 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Wouldn't growing your faith in good company be a great New Year's resolution? Join us for this steady diet of scripture discussion, prayerful support and joyful fellowship.

## **WEBSITE LAUNCH COMING UP!**

Stay tuned, friends – we are on the website homestretch! Look for a launch announcement this month and rejoice in the transformation!

## **COMING UP IN WORSHIP**

January brings some special worship experiences. Please plan to join us for...

January 6 – Epiphany falls on a Sunday! We'll celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men through song and story and the sacrament of communion.

January 13 – Baptism of the Lord Sunday. We'll hear about Jesus' baptism, and what it means for us. And we will, once again, participate in a Renewal of Baptismal Vows. A great way to start the new year with a renewed faith commitment!

January 27 – Jenny has the Sunday off. Rourke Moore, our liaison from New Castle Presbytery's Committee on Ministers and Congregations (COMC) will lead worship that day.

## **NEW CASTLE PRESBYTERY MEETING**

New Castle Presbytery will meet on Saturday, January 12 at Limestone Presbyterian Church. Elders Scott Matthews and Candy Dunson will attend and serve as our elder commissioners.

## **ENVELOPES**

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

## STEWARDSHIP WRAP UP - WRAPPED UP IN THANKS AND AFFIRMATION

These words were shared by Monty Gerhart at our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 16, after the information about our stewardship efforts and 2019 budget were shared:

The puzzle is complete. We all complete a picture that represents God's desire for us to serve others. Our planning budget set a goal of raising \$194,000 in pledged income for 2019. As of Sunday, December 2, 2018, we reached \$193,372 with a few remaining anticipated pledges. In the second year of an Interim Pastor that is astounding. In addition to echoing Jenny's gratitude to Dan and Shirley, I know that so many work tirelessly on behalf of the mission of our church. I want to thank our elected officers, the Session and all its committees, the Trustees, and the Deacons for their efforts at keeping our congregation spiritually alive. Thanks to our staff. Thanks to Kris for her able administrative assistance and support of all the functions of our congregation. Thanks to Eileen, Minerva, Bethany, and members of the choir and bell choir for their beautiful music that heightens our spirits in every service. Thanks to Diana and her volunteers for providing a Christian Education program that nurtures our children. Thanks to Brenda for her work at arranging beautiful floral displays for our services. Thanks to members of the Mission Study Team and the Pastor Nominating Committee for their important work leading to the selection of our next pastor. Thanks to Gene Mayhew for his ongoing work at fixing things and being the "go to guy" for the Trustees in keeping our facilities in good shape. His volunteer service saves this congregation thousands of dollars each year.

And finally, special thanks to Jenny, our Interim Pastor, who so ably and lovingly helps our congregation prepare to welcome and embrace a new pastor. Her skills and commitment are far more than a church could expect of an Interim Pastor.

The 2018 "Every Piece Counts" Stewardship Campaign resulted in (as of 12/16/18):

66 pledges totaling \$193,372  
32 pledges increased over last year  
26 pledges remained the same  
6 pledges decreased



Thank you all!

For years I have subscribed to the weekly "Photo Prayer" by local photographer and jack-of-all-artistic-trades Danny Schweers. Each Wednesday he shares a photo he's taken and some inspirational words about it. This week's Photo Prayer is too timely and poignant to keep to myself. If you'd like to receive these photo prayers, check them out at <http://www.photoprayer.com/>

Jenny



The only nativity scene that ever moved me was the one I found at the back of an antique store. The two hand-painted figurines of Joseph and Mary (\$250 each) are big — over 3-feet tall. Call them statues. Their plaster is flaking. Baby Jesus (priced at \$650) looks worse and has a broken toe. They may have had the spotlight in Christmases past, but now they sit on the floor next to the abandoned teddy bears. Do they not embody the plight of unsettled families everywhere? What will become of them? What will their story be? Who will take them in?

*Photo of plaster statues of Jesus, Joseph, and Mary for sale in an antique store.*

To comment, just reply to this email. Those who comment get to see all the comments and the author's response. Photograph and text copyright 2018 by Danny N. Schweers

<http://www.photoprayer.com/>

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

With the approval of the 2019 budget, the Mission and Outreach Committee is looking forward to new opportunities to bring our church to the life of the communities around us. By re-allocating some mission funds which have traditionally been sent to the Synod, Presbytery, and General Assembly, we are now able to use those funds locally to help those in our immediate communities. It gives us the flexibility to respond quickly to changing needs and unexpected projects in addition to those we know we traditionally support. One heart warming example of the power of the Spark Grant we received came this week as we got a late afternoon communication from New Castle Elementary School for whom we serve as a "First Responder." A child was in need of shoes, as his only pair was falling apart and the family couldn't afford to buy him any.

With the Spark Grant money, we were able to buy shoes and socks that evening and deliver them to the school first thing the next morning. We hope that many more opportunities to influence a child's life will be SPARKED by this relationship.

## **PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE - UPDATE**

The Pastor Nominating Committee has had a busy December conducting half a dozen interviews via Skype of potential candidates. We are frequently reminded of the excellent work done by our Mission Study Committee as we speak to applicants. They reference the detail in the Mission Study letting us know that the study has been read and is useful. A couple of candidates have cited our support for someone from the community with mental health issues as something that makes us truly welcoming and remarkable.

We are going to take a well deserved break over the holidays to review and pray over these candidates and are going to reconvene in the New Year to continue our search.

## **CHURCH DIRECTORY CHANGES**

Please note in your church directory the following change:

Susan Townsend new cell: 302-256-7827

Barbara Quillen is now in the Healthcare Ctr of Cokesbury, Room 2010

Mildred McGraw is also in the Healthcare Ctr of Cokesbury, Room 2029

## **SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS**

Thanks to all who helped make our 2018 Spirit of Christmas celebration a great success! Because of your gifts of talent and time, Shirley Knox reports that this year we will be sending Friendship House a total of approximately \$7,400!

The weather was wonderful, the Meeting House was filled to capacity for the concerts, and visitors streamed through Fellowship Hall steadily throughout the day.

Our “new addition,” the animated selfie photo booth, was very popular!

We will meet at 7:00 pm on Monday, January 14, to review our 2018 Spirit of Christmas celebration. If you have comments or suggestions, you are welcome to attend the meeting or contact one of us or notify the church office by email at [office@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:office@newcastlepreschurch.org).

We’re hoping for another great celebration in 2019!

Pat Taylor (pstedu@yahoo.com), Miranda Matthews (thecatmagnet@yahoo.com), and Kelly Koczak McCurdy (kelly.a.koczak@gmail.com)



## CAROLING THANKS!

It was a great night of caroling on December 21! Weather and spirits were warm as we sang the good news of Christmas through the streets of Old New Castle. The wonderful turn out was only exceeded by the hospitality of the Mayhews! The least we could do was sing them multiple verses of Silent Night!



## CHRISTMAS EVE SOCK DELIVERY

What a joy to make a Christmas Eve delivery of 46 pairs of new socks to Community Presbyterian Church! The addition of socks to this congregation's tradition of delivering bags of sandwiches to homeless people on Christmas Eve was inspired by 7 year old Janelle Hanna, pictured with the sock pile. A joy to partner with our neighbor church, and their pastor, Frederick A Hanna!





Dear Friends,


For many years it has been our custom at this season to honor our pastoral leadership. We are fortunate to have as our interim pastor one who has helped us put a new emphasis on mission and who cares passionately about those who have suffered, and continue to suffer, from the natural disasters that devastate our world.

In recognition of Jenny's caring service to us, she has suggested that our gifts of love in honor of her be directed to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's ongoing projects addressing those needs. The recent fires in California are but one example of the never ending need that the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance addresses. More about their mission can be found here: <http://pda.pcusa.org/>

If you would like to contribute to this gift of love, you will find red envelopes in the pews marked Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund. Checks may also be sent to the office made out to NCPC, and marked "Presbyterian Disaster Assistance". All donations received by January 15<sup>th</sup> will be combined and forwarded to the Presbyterian Church (USA) for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in honor of Interim Pastor Jenny Warren.

May God bless you and your family at this most joyous time of year.

Candy Dunson, Clerk of Session





## THANKS FOR SERVING IN JANUARY!

### COMMUNION

January 6 – **Joan Appleby\***, Chris Fagles, Amy & Scott Selheimer,

### USHERS

January 6 – Mason & Dylan Reilly  
January 13 – Jo Viola & \_\_\_\_\_  
January 20 - \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_  
January 27 - \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

January 6 – Gail & C.J. Seitz  
January 13 – Scott Matthews  
January 20 – Sandy Wilson & Salina Brett  
January 27 – Brenda Walters

### WORSHIP LEADERS

January 6 – Salina Brett  
January 13 – Laurie Bell  
January 20 – Scott Matthews  
January 27 – Jane Fouracre

### NURSERY

January 6 – Lyn Briggs & Bev Stoudt  
January 13 – Molly Cooney & Jane Fouracre  
January 20 – Amanda & James Anderson  
January 27 – Molly Shaw & \_\_\_\_\_

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 6 – Melissa Boris  
January 13 – Ron & Susan Studd  
January 20 – Bruce Raker  
January 27 – Ron & Susan Studd

### COUNTERS

January 6 – Jane Fouracre & Carol Mayhew  
January 13 – Bruce Raker & Peter McCurdy  
January 20 – Fouracre & Carol Mayhew  
January 27 – Bruce Raker & Ringo Keka

### 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 14-18. 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 14**

Jude Morrow  
Jo Viola

**Tuesday 15**

Miranda Matthews  
Joan Smith

**Wednesday 16**

Carol & Gene  
Mayhew

**Thursday 17**

Cynthia Robbins  
Nanette Nichol

**Friday 18**

Susan & Jim  
Flook

**January Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Cynthia Beam, 1/1  
Mary Duncan, 1/1  
Lynn MacEwen, 1/1  
Rachel Briggs, 1/2  
Kris Stone, 1/6  
Olivia Viola, 1/6  
Mariellen Boyle, 1/8  
Robert Dill, 1/8  
Linda Twyford, 1/10



Wren Esham, 1/14  
Daniel Dunson, 1/16  
Jim Whisman, 1/17  
Mary Cebenka, 1/20  
Louise Thornton, 1/22  
Mildred McGraw, 1/25  
Maisy Graham, 1/26  
Julia Spock, 1/27

Bob & Janet Swick, 1/21  
Jim & Barbara Whisman, 1/25



**Monthly Report**

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



Membership:

November ..... 155  
December ..... 155

Income thru 12/01/17:

2017 Budget: ..... \$238,212.00  
2017 Actual:..... \$217,419.00

Expenses thru 12/01/17:

2017 Budget: ..... \$236,198.00  
2017 Actual:..... \$229,367.00

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

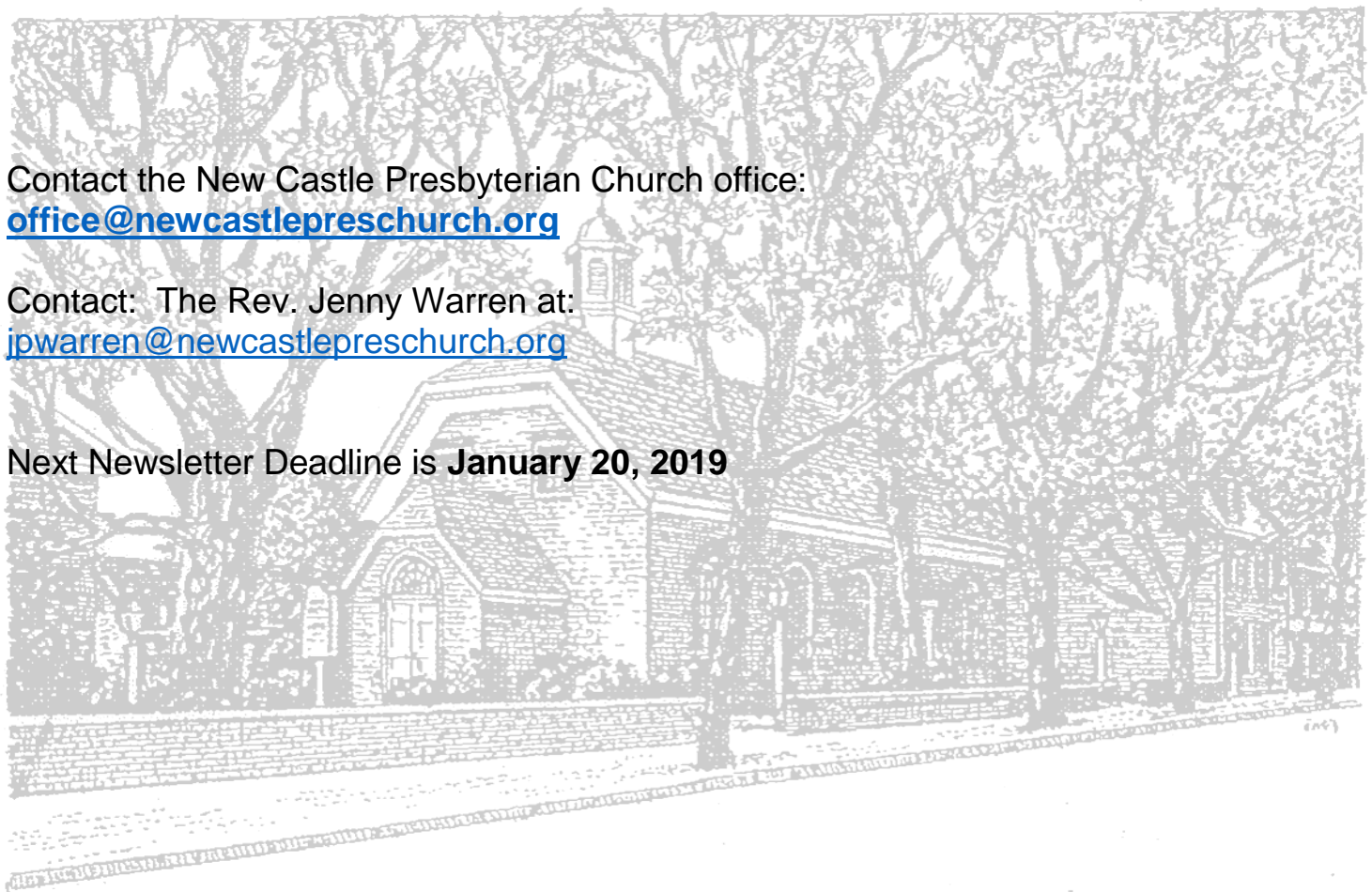


Address Change  
Requested

Contact the New Castle Presbyterian Church office:  
[office@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:office@newcastlepreschurch.org)

Contact: The Rev. Jenny Warren at:  
[jpwarren@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:jpwarren@newcastlepreschurch.org)

Next Newsletter Deadline is **January 20, 2019**



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