



## Midweek Musings

December 6,  
2017 edition

Published the second  
and fourth Wednesday  
of the month

### Approaching Second week of Advent

"Prepare the way  
for the Lord, make  
straight paths for  
him." ~Mark 1:3

## Upcoming Events

**3/2-3/17 – Beach Retreat and  
839<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting**

View Presbytery calendar:

<http://www.ncpresbytery.org/news/calendar>

## Midweek Contents

- Christmas Service Info . . . . . 4
- Church on Main . . . . . 7
- Comm. Announcements . . . 11
- Employment Opportunities . . 10
- Interfaith Peacemaker . . . . . 8
- Mission Advocate . . . . . 9
- PCUSA News . . . . . 7
- Photo Prayer . . . . . 10
- Related Organizations. . . . . 14
- Save the Date!** . . . . . 3
- Share the Joy . . . . . 4
- Treasurer's Reminder . . . . . 5

# New Castle Presbytery

## Why the Applause?

### Why all the applause? Giving Thanks and Praise!



Best Comment Heard BEFORE  
the December 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbytery  
Meeting?

**The Docket is really long!**

Best Comment Heard AFTER  
Presbytery Meeting?

**"We clapped a lot!"**

Why all the applause at a Presbytery meeting? We had a lot to celebrate and be thankful for.



**Jeff Howard** (Minister/New Covenant) was Installed as Moderator and **Dianne Deming** (Minister/Wicomico) was Installed as Vic Moderator for 2018.



Ten (count 'em, **TEN!**) people were commissioned as "CRE's" (Commissioned Ruling Elders)

- Commissioned to the Presbytery at Large: **Mark Douyard, Anne Gunn, Rourke Moore, Dave Norton** and **Rich Watters**
- Commissioned to specific congregations: **Tim Arnold** (Hanover and Port Penn), **Ginny Jones** (Church of the Covenant/ EDGE for Tomorrow Ministries), **Mawuna Gardesey** (Olivet), **Lee Johnson** (Manokin) and **Pam Ruarke** (Faith Chapel).

**Shannon Hanson** and **Jennine Money** were "certified ready for examination by a presbytery for ordination, pending a call." Both Shannon and Jennine were with us and are now just one step away from being ordained as ministers in the PCUSA!

**Nancy Conklin** at Limestone and **Elizabeth Lyman** at Concord were welcomed as "temporary" or interim pastors.

**Terrence Dougherty** was examined and approved for Ordination and Installation as Pastor at the Ocean View Church. He will begin his service at Ocean View in the New Year. The Ordination date is still to be determined.



**Sara Lisherness the Director of Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministries of the PCUSA,**

one of our primary mission partners, preached in the morning and spoke in the afternoon about the work of her ministry unit, including Presbyterian Disaster

Assistance, Self-Development of People, Child Advocacy, Human Trafficking, Hunger Program, the Office of Public Witness and the Office of Faith-Based Investing. The connectional church was never more evident to us as she spoke of all the challenges in our world and all the PCUSA is doing in God's name.

We hired a new Treasurer! After twelve years as Presbytery Treasurer, Doug Gerdts is moving on. To replace him, Presbytery approved the hiring of **Lynette Kenton** as our new Treasurer. She will begin work in early January.

The Speer Trust Commission gave out grants totaling \$495,000! Yes, you read that right! Half a million dollars in grants from the Presbytery! The PCUSA Compassion Peace and Justice Ministries received \$100,000. The Synod of Mid-Atlantic Speer Fund received \$40,000. And \$355,000 was given to community organizations in Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. THAT was reason for applause!

If that was all we accomplished, it would have been a good meeting. BUT, we also celebrated “endings” as we transition into our new missional model of being Presbytery together.

- Presbytery Council was dissolved! Effective January 1, our Council will cease to exist and we will have one less layer of administration in the Presbytery.
- Consistent with the Balcony 2 report, the West Legacy Trust was dissolved and funds moved to the Presbytery for further use. Mark Olson spoke about the history of the former West Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, and the role of the Trust in continuing to fund community organizations since the sale of the West building.
- Also consistent with Balcony 2, the Administrative Commission on the Speer Trust was dissolved after over 35 years of working with community organizations within the Presbytery. Charles Knox and Mike Williams thanked all those who served on the commission over time.



Just before the meeting adjourned, it was announced that our Beach Retreat would feature **Bill Carter and The Presbybop Quartet. This nationally known jazz group has led worship and workshops for General Assembly meetings, Presbyteries**

**and local congregations. This announcement may have caused the biggest excitement of the entire day! Plan now to attend on the weekend of March 2 and 3.** Download the promotional flyer [here](#). Online registration will be open December 22<sup>nd</sup> and the announcement will be placed on the homepage of our website in addition to being emailed to all Presbytery distributions on that date.

For more detail on the Presbytery meeting, the candidates and pastors who came before us and all the committee reports, and a complete listing of the Speer Grants, view the meeting Docket at: <http://www.ncpresbytery.org/docket/>

## OUR CHURCHES



**CHRISTMAS  
CHURCH SERVICES**

**Going to Church this Christmas?**


*Large, small, formal, informal, traditional, contemporary, conservative or progressive!*

*Find a Church that fits! Celebrate the birth of Christ in one of the 50 Presbyterian Churches within New Castle Presbytery*

Visit our website, [www.ncpresbytery.org/christmas-services/](http://www.ncpresbytery.org/christmas-services/) for details

QR code

*"For unto you is born this day a Savior,  
which is Christ the Lord."  
~Luke 2:11*



The Christmas service webpage on the Presbytery website is now "live" (<http://www.ncpresbytery.org/christmas-services/>) and will be featured in the *News Journal Holiday Worship Pages* on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. There will also be 20,000 online impressions of the ad with target zip codes through lower Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Click [here](#) to view the online impression which will "phase in" during web browsing.

Please view the Presbytery Christmas service webpage [here](#) and if your church service is not yet listed, please send your information to [dscully@ncpresbytery.org](mailto:dscully@ncpresbytery.org).

Advent blessings!



Massanetta Springs  
Accepting Enabler  
Applications Now  
for 2018 Middle  
School  
Conferences!

If you're currently in 10<sup>th</sup>-  
12<sup>th</sup> grade (or know  
someone who is) and  
want to help Massanetta  
make a difference in the  
lives of hundreds of middle  
school students this  
summer, apply to be a  
Middle School Conference  
Youth Enabler!

For more information, click  
[here](#).





## OUR CHURCHES – Treasurers Reminder

MISSION GIVING – New for 2018

Webpage for Church Services Requires Your Help!

As indicated in the “Budgeting Information to Churches” sent via email in October, a new submission process has been established including direct online requirements for some categories of Mission Giving. Please note below:

<b>Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly</b>	Presbytery and Synod Designated and Undesignated; G.A. Undesignated	<p><b><i>NO CHANGE, however form <u>not</u> required</i></b></p> <p>Submit check to Presbytery office with designation described in check “memo” line</p>
<b>General Assembly Designated <i>SUBMIT ONLINE</i></b>	Theological Education Fund (TEF)  <hr/> Presbyterian Mission Agency ( <i>specific ministry, project or Mission Co- Worker</i> )	<p><a href="http://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/tef">Www.presbyterianfoundation.org/tef</a></p> <hr/> <p><a href="http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/ministries/">Www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/ministries/</a></p>
<b>G.A./Presbyterian Mission Agency Special Offerings <i>SUBMIT ONLINE</i></b>	One Great Hour of Sharing Pentecost Peace & Global Witness Christmas Joy	<p><a href="http://specialofferings.pcusa.org">http://specialofferings.pcusa.org</a></p>





## Church is in session at **CHURCH ON MAIN!**

Beginning last week, the first Sunday of the Advent season, CHURCH ON MAIN is gathering each Sunday at 10:10 for morning worship. The church opens at 9:00 for a time of coffee and fellowship providing a time for old friends and new to gather. The service is conducted “in the round” in an informal style. Dee Fell serves as the music director and Jim Moseley as worship leader with many guest speakers planned for the New Year!

Church on Main is busy throughout the week hosting a Saturday Morning YOGA class, a satellite office of Friendship House, Sunday afternoon worship of Midtown Tabernacle , [www.midtowntab.com](http://www.midtowntab.com). C.H.O.M. is also active in Middletown as a venue for community events.

Middletown is a town with numerous churches and many new church starts. Church on Main sees its unique role as an alternative worship experience providing:

- An inclusive fellowship seeking discourse and understanding.
- A Spirit-Led fellowship led by the love of Christ.
- A creative fellowship celebrating the arts in worship, learning and service.

Gather with us this Sunday at 10:10a. Bring an openness to meeting new folks, a coffee mug to save the land fill and a curiosity about the scripture that allows for deep reflection and eager conversation.

Sunday's message: Timing is Everything!

SAVE THE DATE: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 9:00p.

For more information contact Jim Moseley at [jmoseley@ncpresbytery.org](mailto:jmoseley@ncpresbytery.org) and 302-388-6246!

## PCUSA – This Week's News –

December 6th

Presbyterian News Service  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202



Stay up-to-date with these articles:

- Christmas Joy Offering prepares racial-ethnic leaders, helps in times of crisis
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance hires senior advisor on hurricane recovery
- Anderson pledges PC(USA) support for Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival
- Presbyterians cautious but optimistic following Bonn climate conference
- Observing Epiphany
- Presbyterian Mission Agency Board suspends search for executive director
- Minute for Mission: World AIDS Day
- During Advent, The World Council of Churches invites the world to "A Light of Peace"
- And more!

Click [here](#) to view full articles.



## INTERFAITH PEACEMAKER, New Castle Presbytery

Rev. Tom Davis

### Everywhere Lies Holy Ground



Friends,

Yesterday President Trump announced that the United States will definitely be opening an embassy in Jerusalem. This action is sure to arouse protest among Muslim Palestinians who claim that city as sacred to them too. They fear that this action may lend an air of legitimacy to the claim that

Jerusalem belongs to Israel since God gave the land exclusively to the Hebrew people.

Several years ago I preached to a Christian congregation that theologically this "Zionist" argument is morally suspect. Various scriptures revered by Jews and Christians do indeed support the claim that modern Israel has valid rights to present real estate. But these texts, I argue, must be disputed, according to other revered texts. Read on in my sermon, "Everywhere Lies Holy Ground": <http://interfaithreflections.faith/everywhere-lies-holy-ground/>



Peace, *Tom*

[TCDavis](http://www.tcdavis.com)



President, [Interfaith Veterans Workgroup](http://www.interfaithveteransworkgroup.org)  
302-507-6012 mobile; [E-mail: tcd123@gmail.com](mailto:tcd123@gmail.com)





## MISSION ADVOCATE, New Castle Presbytery

*Terry Lee Dykstra*

### *Memorializing the life of "Breezy" Lusted*

Marie "Breezy" was a legend who worked for 56 years in Ethiopia as a missionary. She labored with others for over 40 years in Ethiopia as they carefully and painstakingly translated the entire Old Testament for the Anywaa people in Ethiopia.

We met Breezy when we traveled to Ethiopia a few years ago. We felt a sense of awe and humility to be in her presence. However, she was an unassuming, welcoming, humble and fun person to be with. I know you will enjoy reading her obituary and PMA reflective article [here](#).



Marie "Breezy" Lusted, who passed away on Oct. 29, served as a mission co-worker and long-term volunteer in Ethiopia for 56 years. (Photo by Rachel Weller)





Desallegn Omot, Marie "Breezy" Lusted, Niles Reimer and Ajulo Ojwato – members of the Bible translation team. (Photo courtesy of Marie Lusted)

We attended her memorial service in Brentwood, Maryland in early November.

Blessings and peace, *Terry*

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Position	Church/Organization	Contact
<p><b>Missional Presbyter</b></p> 	<p><b>New Castle Presbytery</b>            In our re-structured model, our new Missional Presbyter serves the presbytery in ministry that brings enthusiasm and hope to our churches, engages the churches in connecting with one another and works with the Committee on Coordination and the Committee on Leadership. This is a newly created position with the position description <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>Send PIF/resume no later than <u>1/31/18</u> to:   <a href="mailto:missionalpresbyter@ncpresbytery.org">missionalpresbyter@ncpresbytery.org</a></p>
<p><b>Organist</b></p>	<p><b>Limestone Presbyterian Church</b>            3201 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE</p> <p>This part-time position reports to the Head of Staff (as well as the Worship Committee) and, under the director of the pastor and in coordination with other music leaders, is responsible for selecting, preparing and performing weekly at two church services (one Sunday contemporary and one Sunday traditional service, except one service during the summer), in addition to special services during the church year. Some accompaniment will be on piano rather than organ.</p> <p>3-1/2 hours/week, 45 weeks/year. Salary negotiable.</p>	 <p>For more information and a full position description, contact Ann Miller, Human Resources, at <a href="mailto:anncgmiller@gmail.com">anncgmiller@gmail.com</a></p>



## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

(Submit your information and provide the link to your flyer on your webpage/Facebook for inclusion in subsequent editions. Click on each event for additional information)

*Life is full of interesting opportunities ... embrace, celebrate and share!*

12/9/17,  
10a-2:00p

**Ocean View Presbyterian Church**  
**67 Central Avenue, Ocean View, DE 19970**  
*Nativity Festival*

Begin the Advent season by visiting our annual Nativity Festival. On display in our Memorial Hall will be crèches from all over the world collected by our members and friends from the community. This year we will be featuring multi-cultural Nativity sets along with the more traditional and unique finds discovered over the years. While viewing the beautiful exhibits we invite you to enjoy light refreshments while being entertained by our choir.



12/9/17,  
7:30p

**The Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble-**  
Presbyterian Church of the Covenant  
503 Duncan Road, Wilmington, DE  
*Holiday Concert*

Just in time for the Holidays, the 15 members of the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble will fill the air with the sounds of the season on 241 bells and chimes that they perform on! This auditioned, advanced-level, community ensemble with members from around the Philadelphia region, uses a 6 octave set of handbells, made locally by Schulmerich Bells of Sellersville, PA to perform their music. The ensemble plays a wide variety of music, from classical transcriptions, to original compositions, to rock . Meet the musicians after the program!



<p><b>12/9/17, 9:30a-5:00p</b></p>	<p><b>New Castle Presbyterian Church &amp; New Castle Visitors Bureau present the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual <i>Spirit of Christmas</i></b></p> <p>Historic House Tours, musical performances, shopping, tree lighting and caroling! This free event is rain or shine. Benefits Friendship House Homeless Shelters</p>	
<p><b>12/10/17, 10:00a</b></p>	<p><b>First Presbyterian Church</b> 138 Jefferson Street, Delaware City, DE 19706 <i>Welcoming Christmastime</i></p> <p>All are invited to the "Welcoming Christmastime service" on Sunday, December 10th at 10:00 a.m., including carols, special music, including pipe organ and scripture readings.</p> <p>A holiday reception will follow the service in our social hall.</p>	
<p><b>12/10/17, 4:30p</b></p>	<p><b>Limestone Presbyterian Church</b> 3201 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808 <i>Blue Christmas Service</i></p> <p>The holidays can be a difficult time for those who are feeling blue while the world around us is filled with Christmas cheer. In this special service, through prayer and song, we will experience the light, healing and love of the Child born in Bethlehem who is Our Lord Emmanuel (God-with-us)!</p>	
<p><b>12/10/17, 3:00p</b></p>	<p><b>First Presbyterian Church-Newark</b> 292 W. Main Street, Newark, DE 19711 <i>A Christmas Concert with the Newark Community Band</i></p> <p>Free and open to the public. For more information visit: <a href="http://www.newarkcommunityband.com">www.newarkcommunityband.com</a></p>	





# New Castle Presbytery



1102 W. Church Road  
Newark, DE 19711-2506  
(302) 366-0595 office • (302) 366-0714 fax

[www.ncpresbytery.org](http://www.ncpresbytery.org)

Hours: Monday-Thursday

8:30 am—4:00pm

Friday (Office closed)

## Staff

- [Rev. James L. Moseley](#), Executive Presbyter
- [Bob Schminkey](#), Stated Clerk
- [Donna L. Scully](#), Office Manager

## Officers (2017)

- [Winnie Wagner](#), Moderator
- [Jeff Howard](#), Vice Moderator
- [Mark Olson](#), Chair of Council

## NCP Resource Personnel

- [Rev. Tom Davis](#), Interfaith Peacemaker
- [Rev. Doug Gerdts](#), Treasurer
- [Rev. Nona Holy](#), LUMOS Campus Minister
- [Emma Blair](#), Bookkeeper
- [Terry Dykstra](#), Mission Advocate
- [Pam Ruarke](#), Disaster Recovery Coordinator
- [Martha Reisner](#), Board Of Pensions, Church Consultant

## PCUSA Communications

[Presbyterians Today](#)

[Presbyterian Outlook](#)

[Presbyterian News Service](#)

[Presbyterian Mission Yearbook](#)

## Related Organizations

- [The Speer Trust](#)
- [Presbyterian Church \(USA\)](#)
- [Synod of the Mid-Atlantic PC\(USA\)](#)
- [Board of Pensions](#)
- [Administrative Personnel Association PC\(USA\)](#)
- [Lumos/Presbyterian Campus Ministry \(UD\)](#)
- [Interfaith Resource Center](#)
- [Meeting Ground Inc.](#)
- [New Hope Pastoral Counseling](#)
- [Pacem In Terris](#)
- [PCUSA Investment & Loan Program](#)
- [Pilgrimage Ministries](#)
- [Presbyterian Foundation](#)
- [Presbyterian Men](#)
- [Presbyterian Women](#)
- [Teledavis](#)
- [Westminster Village](#)

