

DUTCH NECK CHURCH NEWS

"Nurturing...Sharing...Serving"

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Rev. Stanley Jenkins, Pastor Scott Newhouse, Youth Minister



DECEMBER 2011 #518

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

When I was a child, growing up in the Presbyterian Church, we never celebrated the season of Advent. I'm not sure if that was true of the whole denomination, or just the churches in our corner of the Midwest. Either way, there were no Advent calendars, no candles, not even Advent wreathes. Christmas, as a church celebration, just sort of popped up each year.

Of course, never having celebrated the season, I did not miss it. I did not miss the lack of preparation for Christmas. I did not miss the communal savoring of the anticipation. I did not miss the fact that there was no place for the acknowledgement of spiritual hunger, longing, or yearning.

As I've gotten older, I've come to value the season of Advent as a time to re-

member that God is not yet finished with us. During Advent we remember not only the historical longing of the people of Israel for the promised Messiah, but also God's promise that Jesus will return to consummate the divine plan.

Indeed, as the Apostle Paul emphasizes, as Christians we live out our lives within the tension of a kind of "already/not yet". Our salvation has come through Jesus Christ, but we are not yet fully what we will be. God's world is not yet what he intends it to be. Advent is the season in which we are given license to acknowledge our incompleteness, our hunger, our need, our yearning--our hope.

I'm reminded of Psalm 42: "As a deer longs for flowing streams,

so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?"

This year as we prepare ourselves for Christmas during this season of Advent, I invite you to give a place in your hearts and meditations for spiritual longing, for the hunger within that reaches out to a more perfect communion with God. This too, is part of the spiritual life. This deep longing, this yearning, this awareness of our lack and our incompleteness--this "not-yet-ness"--is where our hope is nourished and made powerful, that it might bear fruit, like the birth of a child, in our own lives and in the world.

In Christ
Pastor Stan



ADVENT

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NEW LOOK FOR DUTCH NECK CHURCH NEWS

Your monthly newsletter has a new look. It will now be printed in a newspaper format. Studies have shown that columns break up the text and make the layout more interesting. Reading long lines of text can be tedious and boring and newsletters are supposed to be fun and easy to read.

You've probably noticed that most newspapers break up their text using various columns throughout the publication. By using columns, the lines can be kept shorter which makes it easier for readers to keep their place when following text from the end of one line to the start of

the next line.

We hope you enjoy the new layout and have fun reading the December issue of the Dutch Neck Church News.



MISSION

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings from Guatemala. All Saints' Day, November 1, is a holiday here. Most Guatemalans spend the day decorating the graves of their loved ones and eating traditional food. The markets and cemeteries explode with color. The flower supply is down this year and the prices are up. The heavy rains in mid-October caused significant damage to the flower crop. Of course, much more than flowers was lost. The official death toll here in Guatemala stands at thirty-eight. The rains have stopped for the most part, but the effects continue to be felt.

This All Saints' Day finds my husband, Javier, our daughter, Tamara, and myself still in mourning. On September 13, Javier's father, José Felix Tórrez Correa, died in Managua. Javier was there with him. You can find the note I wrote saying good-bye to my father-in-law on my Facebook page.

On October 16, Luis Francis Barreno Orozco, Tamara's boyfriend, died here in Quetzaltenango as the result of injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident. Tamara flew in from Portland on

October 17. She was able to be present for the second night of the wake and the burial the next morning. I arrived on October 18. We accompanied the Barreno Orozco family through the traditional nine days of mourning. I want to thank everyone who has written. Your notes and your prayers have been a great deal of encouragement not only to us, but also to the Barreno Orozco family.

Life and work continues. I went back to work at CEDEPCA, the Evangelical Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America, on October 26, right in the middle of the week of strategic planning. The team has gained much more clarity about how we understand what we do and how we should think about the coming years of our work. Of course, we have much more work to do in the coming weeks and months.

Our academic year is just about over. There are still some final papers due and, of course, reports to write. Overall, it's been a good year for CEDEPCA's Biblical and Theological Formation Program. The number of students has grown and the program has been

strengthened in many ways. We will be celebrating the end of the programmatic year with a worship service on November 23.

On November 6, Guatemalans will be going to the polls to elect their president for the next four years. The two candidates in the runoff election are retired general Otto Pérez Molina and businessman Manuel Baldizón. Both are making lots of promises that can't be fulfilled. Both are reported to have tied to drug cartels. The lack of political alternatives at the national level is a good reminder that change here will not come through the formal political process, but through people organizing at the community level to hold their leaders accountable. Please pray that the elections will take place without violence and intimidation. Elections are also being held on the same day in Nicaragua.

I am very grateful for all of you who have joined CEDEPCA and me on this journey in mission. Each time I've turned on my computer over the last couple of weeks I have found more notes offering condolences and prayers. It is wonderful



CEDEPCA Prayer Letter

to be accompanied in this way. I hope and pray that our efforts here might also encourage your wherever you are as we all seek together God's coming Reign.

In Christ,
Karla Koll

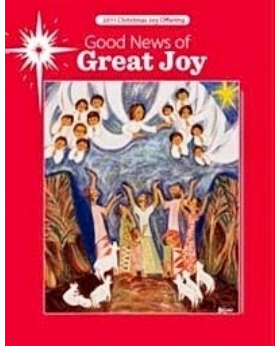
MISSION AT EASTWARD IN MAINE (MATE)

Each year we collect winter gloves, scarves, and hats to be sent to the Mission at Eastward in Maine (MATE). Bring your items to the sanctuary to be hung on the "Mitten

Tree." The tree will be up beginning the first Sunday of Advent, November 27 through Christmas Eve, December 24th. This mission project benefits young children in the Farmington, Main area .



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING



In this season when we celebrate the child born in Bethlehem, we also realize that the birth of Jesus ushered in a new realm of God's love at work in the world. This love causes us to recognize the image of God imbedded in all humankind. It compels us to reach out with charity, justice, and grace. We seek to honor every child of God. This, too, is how we celebrate the child born on that first Christmas day.

Presbyterians can respond to that love at Christmas by giving generously to the Christmas Joy Offering. The Offering helps students at racial ethnic schools and colleges develop their gifts and find their calling to serve God through serving their community. At the same time, the Offering helps families of both active and retired church workers to meet unexpected needs. As we celebrate Jesus' love in

our lives this Christmas, our gifts bear joyful witness to the power of that boundless love that changes lives.

We will collect this year's Christmas Joy Offering on Sunday, December 18 and at the Christmas Eve Services on Saturday, December 24.

ADULT EDUCATION FOR ADVENT

Our next 4 Sunday school classes will be taken from selected chapters of the Horizons Bible Study, Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today. We will consider the prophecy of the second coming of Christ as we prepare for Christ's coming at Christmas. While Revelation was written to show a journey of radical hope from the Roman Empire to the

throne of God, we will see how it relates to our time.

December 4

Diagnosing the Crises of Empire. The seven seals and seven trumpets visit calamities on the earth. What are the toxic parts of our culture that we must remove to make way for God's reign on earth?

December 11

The Woman, the Dragon, and Earth's Daring Rescue.

Jesus' victory on the cross has already defeated evil, although things may get worse before God's reign is made manifest.

December 18

Rapture, Violence, and Exodus. Instead of focusing on "Left Behind," we reframe the violent passages of Revelation as the Bible's story of exodus and liberation. Find "Lamb Power."

January 8

Journey into the New Jerusalem. The vision of God's city is a powerful vision of hope.

The classes will meet each Sunday at 11:00 in the CE building's upstairs library

KID'S KINGDOM

All children are welcome to join us for our Advent story, the Birth of Jesus based on Luke 2:1-20. This month's Celebration Sunday will be our Christmas Worship service and Children's Christmas Pageant on December 24 at 5:00pm. All children are welcome to participate in the pageant.

Please Note:

The Nursery will not be available during Worship services on December 24, 25, and January 1 so that Parul, our care provider, can enjoy the holiday, too.



DUTCH NECK CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Come One, Come All to the Dutch Neck Christmas Pageant. For the ones participating in the pageant, rehearsal for speaking parts only after church on Dec 11 after church and for all on Dec 18 (after church), 23 (late afternoon). Contact Claire Kartoz at blondeswimmer645@gmail.com and let her

know what part you would like to play. Having company for the holiday?? They can take part too--just let us know.

*Dutch Neck
Christmas Pageant
Christmas Eve Service
Saturday, December 24
5 pm*

BABYSITTERS

A list of available babysitters can be found in the Church directory. The list is also available in the Church office. Additions or changes to the list should be directed to the Church office at 799-0712 or email admin@dutchneckpresbyterian.com



CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

We will meet every other Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the CE building; December 14 & 28. All are welcome! Please contact Julie Donaldson if you have any questions at Juliedon4@aol.com or (609) 275-7142.

CHURCH ADDRESSES

Please make the following changes to your Church Address directory:

Dan & Janet Jordan
108 Tunicflower Lane
West Windsor, NJ 08550
609-301-8776

CHERUB & YOUTH CHOIR

A committee has been formed to organize a search for someone to lead our very important children's music ministry. If there are any recommendations, they should be addressed to Robbin at the church office, to Sally Stillwell at sallys4@verizon.net or to Peggy Redman at mredman@ets.org

NEW CHAIRS FOR FELLOWSHIP HALL

The Memorial, Planned and Special Gifts Committee is pleased to announce that approximately 100 new folding chairs will be purchased for Fellowship Hall in the near future. These acquisitions are made possible by using the combined memorial funds for Jean and Bert LaSelle, long-time and very active members of our congregation.

The church has long needed new chairs for Fellowship Hall which the LaSelle's memorial funds make possible. The chairs were a request for the Dutch Neck "Wish List" by the Facilities Committee which will make arrangements for their purchase.



FEEDING THE HOMELESS

On Sunday November 5th, the Sr. High Youth Group made lunches after church and delivered them to the homeless on the streets of Trenton. It was a great service opportunity to minister to the homeless who welcomed the lunches and the chance to just talk on a beautiful autumn day. We hope to do this regularly, so watch for ways you can

support our youth in their service to others.

Thanks to all who helped - Tim Dix, Melissa Wherry, John Pakulski, Jack Gleim, Scott Newhouse and Joy Holman!



CORNERBRIGHTENERS

Thursday, December 15, is the morning to join us for our special Christmas meeting at 10:30 a.m. Joan Maier will be our hostess at her home, 50 Murano Drive, West Windsor (918-1922).

We are pleased to report that a Corner we have Brightened so far in the Fall is the refurbishing of our Busy Bags for young worshipers during church services. Special thanks go to Kathleen Sine and Peggy Ellery for their

helpfulness in this project.

As usual, we will have a short devotional period, discussion of the next project; followed by fellowship at our special Christmas luncheon, Just bring a dish to pass. (Joan will coordinate.)

We look forward to having you joining us. Contact me, Betty Blaine, 443-1642 for any questions you may have. Don't be bashful!! We want you to feel free to join us as a CornerBrightener.



WORLD SEWING/KNITTERS

The sewers and knitters had a very successful year making scarves, shawls, hats, sweaters, and afghans for organizations such as Home Front, Lyons Veterans Hospital, Mission at the Eastward, and other places.

We wish each and everyone of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our next group meeting will be Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 10 AM in the CE Building.

Call Joan Eddinger with any questions 799-0003. All are welcome!



World Sewing/Knitters

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Looking for a great way to take care of the anticipated January Blues? Join us January 7, 2012 at 6:30 PM for hors d'oeuvres, dessert and a movie.

More detail will follow or call Florence Cohen 799-0525 or Alice Jackson 799-7008.

TRENTON AREA SOUP KITCHEN

On the 4th Wednesday of the month, a group meets at the Christian Education building at 9:20 AM to deliver food and assist at the TASK until approximately

1:00 PM. Our next outing will be Wednesday, December 28. For more information contact Brenda Mihan at 799-1422 or Carl Stillwell at 799-0772.

NURSERY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS - DECEMBER 2012



The Holiday season is quickly approaching and we anticipate the excitement that awaits us!

Wonderful aromas of cinnamon and ginger will waft through the halls as we bake for ourselves and others this season. Last year a Gingerbread Person escaped from the oven! If he is smart enough to try again this year, and you should see him wandering the halls, please tell us which way he went!

We had a nice turn out at

the Open House that was held at the end of October. We are currently accepting names and arranging private tours for any families that you may know who are interested in attending next year. Members of this Church receive priority enrollment but must call the nursery school office by December 15th to assure priority status. Open Enrollment will start in January. We have a few spots left for any students wanting to come in this year to the preschool or Kindergarten

Extension programs. Contact the office at 799-9490 for details.

As you begin your holiday shopping, or continue it, please keep our school webpage (dnpcns.org) in mind. By going to this page first and then clicking on the tab "Support DNPCCNS", you can make purchases through Amazon, Walmart and more, and a percentage of your sale will go directly to the school. Fundraising

at its easiest for you and friends and family alike!

While you are online, take a few minutes to visit our Facebook page "DNPCCNS1969" and Like Us.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Blessed New Year! Thank you for supporting the DNPCCNS family.

December 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00pm Bell Choir 8:00pm Chancel Choir	2	3
4 10:30am SERRV & MATE Christmas Wreath pickup 1:00pm Christmas Ornament Exchange 4:00pm Confirmation 5:00pm Jr. High Youth 7:00pm Sr. High Youth	5	6 10:00am World Sewing	7 7:00am Men's Bible Study 5:30pm Mission Committee 6:00pm Cherub Choir 6:45pm Junior Choir 7:30pm Women's Book Club	8 7:00pm Bell Choir 8:00pm Chancel Choir	9	10
11 10:30am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (speakers) 4:00pm Confirmation 5:00pm Jr. & Sr. High Shopping Trip	12	13	14 7:00am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Cherub Choir 6:45pm Junior Choir 7:00pm Centering Prayer Group 7:00pm Children's Ministries 7:30pm Facilities	15 10:30am Cornerbrighteners 7:00pm Bell Choir 8:00pm Chancel Choir	16	17
18 Jr. & Sr. High Christmas Party 10:30am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (All)	19	20 6:30pm Youth Committee 7:30pm Session	21 7:00am Men's Bible Study	22 7:00pm Bell Choir 8:00pm Chancel Choir	23	24
25	26 Christmas Holiday- Office Closed	27	28 7:00am Men's Bible Study 9:20am TASK 7:00pm Centering Prayer Group	29 7:00pm Bell Choir 8:00pm Chancel Choir	30 New Year's Holiday - Office Closed	31

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Friday, December 2
Brittany Tindall

Saturday, December 3
Susan Horan
Madison Kartoz
Angie Michibata

Sunday, December 4
Abigail McIntyre

Monday, December 5
Paul LaSelle
Andrew Marolda

Tuesday, December 6
Gordon Reilly
Olivia Gladwin
Erik Howard

Thursday, December 8
Kristin Appelget
Ashley Quinlan

Saturday, December 10
Chris Ritterbush

Sunday, December 11
Kyle Humbard

Tuesday, December 13
Thomas Reilly

Wednesday, December 14
Allison Frullo
Ann Trzasko

Thursday, December 15
Ashley Van Dyke
Kirkley

Killian Brakel
Christen Foell

Sunday, December 18
Sally Stillwell
Ava Ksenich
Edward MacQueen
Piers Hudson
Bart Brubaker

Tuesday, December 20
Justin Hughes

Wednesday, December 21
Bob Murray
Thomas Mains
Nicole Waltman
Miranda Waltman

Thursday, December 22
Joan Eddinger

Don MacQueen
Sunday, December 25
Jessica Kraft

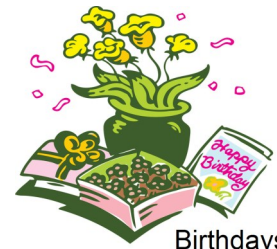
Monday, December 26
Bergen Wilhelm
Bob Thomson

Tuesday, December 27
Julia Myers
Bob Dilatush

Thursday, December 29
Chad Prima

Friday, December 30
Alex Burns, Jr.
Carolyn Coleman
Ryan Humbard

Saturday, December 31
Aline Galvano
Katharine Osborn



Birthdays
This *Month*

DECEMBER SCHEDULE-USHERS/GREETERS/FELLOWSHIP

December 4

Ushers/Greeters

Don & Gay MacQueen
Blair & Linda Bugher

Fellowship Host

George & Pamela Schultz

December 11

Ushers/Greeters

Patrick & Jill O'Brien
Robert & Kim Kelly

Fellowship Host

Carmen & Joyce Cirullo

December 18

Ushers/Greeters

Robert & Dottie Malcolm
Bill & Joy Whipple

Fellowship Host

Frank & Kathleen Liao

December 24 - 5 PM

Ushers/Greeters

Lisa O'Shea, Anne Korsen
Scott & Annabelle Weingaertner

December 24 - 11 PM

Ushers/Greeters

Jeff & Linda Benfer
Robert & Marilyn Sanders

December 25

Ushers/Greeters

Fellowship Host

Mary Alice Britton
Debbie Gervasio



THANKSGIVING BASKETS



Thank you to all who donated a Thanksgiving Basket. We were able to deliver 20 baskets and \$235 in gift cards to HomeFront.

Your generosity to this project is greatly appreciated.

~ The Deacons

VANDERKAMP CENTER APPRECIATION

Thank you, Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church,

This is James Davis - the son of Bill and Debbie, and someone raised in the DNPC. I'm also the director of the Vanderkamp Center, where you sent 14 faithful volunteers for a mission trip this summer. I can't tell you how much these efforts helped our ministry. As I am sure the group related, we are on a beautiful historic site that has had a history of deferred maintenance and disrepair. Many of our 100 year old buildings are an eyesore and many are barely functional. We have been able to turn the financial situation around to some degree, and have been focusing on broadcasting a message that "things are changing here," but it is difficult given the physical state of the site!

The contributions of labor and money from DNPC were so rejuvenating for us. Your group was able to transform the first building

people see when they come on site, which has already elicited numerous comments from our visitors. One Presbyterian woman on a women's retreat noted, "We notice the little things that are improving around here...it means a lot." The dis-assembly and removal of the collapsed pavilion changed that area of camp from looking like a junkyard to a beautiful meadow. And all of this in just one weekend! Other groups have taken the challenge - if a church 5 hours away has done this, what can they do to help?

A not insignificant thing happened for me, as well. As a son of DNPC's ministry who is now heading a ministry elsewhere, I got to see the awesome power of Christ working through the church that raised me. By extending your mission reach up to our camp, you rejuvenated me in my purpose to make this ministry succeed.

You've reminded me of the power of bringing an individual person to Christ and the potential impact that can have. Without DNPC I would not have grown to be a faithful Christian, and now I bring Jesus' message of peace and love to people 5 hours away from you. The 210 campers who came through Vanderkamp this summer will then bring that message elsewhere, and hopefully the effects will compound. When your group came to help, I felt like a brother who had moved away physically but moved closer spiritually. It's tremendous work you all are doing, and I thank you so much again for everything.

Sincerely,
James Davis



THE BEST GIFT

A king sat on his throne on Christmas Day as many of his subjects presented him with gifts: jewels, gold, artwork, handmade treasures and food galore.

One man stayed back until everyone had given their gifts. Eventually, the king asked if the man had a gift

he wished to give. The man said he had only one thing to present. He had nothing of material or financial value, just a friendly heart that was free of malice and full of best wishes for the ruler.

The king told the man he'd brought him the

best gift of all: friendship and goodwill. How can you present those to someone this season?



YOUTH MINISTER - SCOTT NEWHOUSE

Scott is just beginning his Master of Divinity studies at Princeton Seminary, but comes to us with a wealth of experience in Youth Ministry and a remarkable passion for this calling. Since graduating with a Political Science degree from the University of Southern California in 2008, he has been a Youth Director at the Brentwood Presbyterian Church in California, worked for Habitat for Humanity in Charlotte, NC, and been a Case Manager working with troubled youth in Nashville, TN. While Scott is obviously drawn to “Jesus’ challenge to treat the poor as we would treat Christ himself (Matthew 25:31-46)”, he finds his strongest calling to Youth Ministry. Scott writes:

“I firmly believe that in order for young people to truly thrive, they need loving, caring, supportive adults in their life. I can personally attest to the transformation that was

made in my own life because of the outpouring of love from the youth advisors at my church during high school. It is because of that experience that I eventually became a Christian and have tried to make a difference in the lives of young people in the church and throughout the community.”

Scott’s references were bursting with praise. One said “he is passionate about the Bible and following Christ, always on time, had fun ideas, would do anything he was asked to do, great at engaging with students, liked by all types of students (from the most popular to the outsiders), had a faith worth emulating, a good speaker with teens” and more. Another said “Scott is a people person, is caring, committed, organized, and has extensive knowledge of Youth Ministry, ran a large fund raising project very effectively” and more. And another “Brilliant, fabulous, dependable, smart, ...no worries,

...outstanding character” and more. The Youth Pastor Nominating Committee hopes you will take the time to get to know Scott personally and help him and the rest of us with our mission. Scott adds:

“I am so excited to become a part of this wonderful community. It is my sincere hope that youth group on Sundays will be a place where young people can come together to have fun, be loved and accepted for who they are, and learn about Jesus Christ. I pray that through our time together learning, worshiping, and serving, we will come to know the “abundant” life that God promises us (John 10:10). Again, I am so happy to be here, and I can’t wait to meet all of you. “

Bill Davis,
Chair of the Youth Pastor
Nominating Committee

*“he is passionate
about the Bible and
following Christ,
always on time....”*

“I am bringing
you good news
of great joy
for all the
people.”

Luke 2:10, NRSV



WHILE THEY WERE SLEEPING

It was an evening like any other. Ordinary men were doing an ordinary job. Shepherds were “keeping watch over their flock by night” (Luke 2:8). Was it chilly? Were they tired? When angels appeared with news of a Savior, had the shepherds been talking about their troubles or sharing a good joke?

How quickly, how mysteriously, how unexpectedly an ordinary night became the turning point of human history. How remarkable that God chose to set his great rescue plan in motion when only a young couple was paying attention and only a few shepherds were awake.

God’s work is sometimes so secret we may wonder if he’s there or if he cares. The Christmas story tells us that God works out breathtaking plans for our lives in the dark, often while we’re sleeping or going about our ordinary routines.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT DUTCH NECK

Sunday, November 27 - 1st Sunday of Advent - 9:30 AM

Rev. Stanley Jenkins, preaching

Sunday, December 4 - 2nd Sunday of Advent - 9:30 AM

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Rev. Stanley Jenkins, preaching

Sunday, December 11 - 3rd Sunday of Advent - 9:30 AM

Rev. Stanley Jenkins, preaching

Sunday, December 18 - 4th Sunday of Advent - 9:30 AM

Rev. Stanley Jenkins, preaching

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve - 5 PM & 11 PM

Rev. Stanley Jenkins, preaching

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day - 9:30 AM

Rev. Stanley Jenkins, preaching



The Miracle of Christmas

First Presbyterian Church of Dutch Neck
154 South Mill Road
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

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