



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MAY 2018



From the Pastor Terry Dougherty

Grace to you, and peace, friends, in God, our creator, in God's only son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit of God.

You may have noticed that, while that greeting imitates the apostle Paul, he never used that third clause, whether in greeting or farewell. There are a great many reasons for that, including that trinitarian language simply wasn't yet part of early "Christian" doctrine (there were no Christians yet), that it was hard enough to sort out worship of Jesus in a monotheistic religion, and that "spirit possession" was a very real thing in ecstatic Greek religions — just as it has been in many world religions before and since — a real thing which would muddy the issue of the sufficiency of Christ. In such religions, awareness of a spirit or spirits involves a "participatory mode of consciousness" that often becomes spirit led action. So far so good, except that such participation might lead to a variety of idolatries, including orgiastic and sacrificial rites - even up to human sacrifice (and all this is abundantly witnessed in our Older Testament). WHEW!!

Yet, Jesus is constantly "in the power (*dunamis*, in the Greek) of the Spirit" as He enacts healings and prophecies. So, too, are the apostles and disciples when they act *in Jesus' name*, especially following Pentecost. So, as we enter the season of Pentecost, we are faced with the age-old question: Is the experience of the Spirit subjective? Better still, is it *only*, or *merely*, subjective? As Presbyterians and Christians, we have an emphatic answer: No, it is not! The Spirit moves not only within us, but more importantly among us. While Presbyterians, in our modesty, tend not to emphasize the more spectacular evidences of the Spirit, such as speaking in tongues, neither do we deny them, or become embarrassed by them. That the ways these, and other, manifestations of the Spirit are subject to observation, but not to **proof**, leads to the confusion we moderns have between scientific rationality and personal experience.

The Holy Spirit is a *person*; that is, has all the qualities defining separate personhood: knowledge, will, mind, love, intelligence, goodness and grief (yes, grief; see the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5 to discover how the Spirit can be offended by being lied to). The Spirit behaves uniquely out of these qualities, to help, strengthen, encourage, teach, lead,

convict and sanctify us, while revealing God to us and interceding with God for us. And we **know** and **feel** the Spirit doing all this! Here is a description from our Confessions; from the Westminster Confession:

[The] perseverance of the saints depends, not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father; upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ; the abiding of the Spirit and the seed of God within them; and the nature of the covenant of grace; *from all which arises also the certainty and infallibility thereof.* (BoC 6.095)

All those parts are *givens*, including the abiding of the Spirit. But, as in the very next paragraph of that same confession, there is one way it is not ironclad: if we fall into sin. Ananias, in the story I mentioned, let Satan come to have power *in his heart*; that is, exactly where the Holy Spirit dwells. That is why, friends, it is so important to be a practicing Christian, inside a practicing community; there love, which is of God and is a gift of the Spirit, flourishes, and joy drives out the doubt which can harm us.

Let me tell you a story. When I was council chair at Panther Valley church, I began to do more visitation than I ever had. One day, I was in Hackettstown hospital, and was waiting in a hall to be able to see a congregant. An acquaintance spotted me, and asked me to stop in another room for prayer, which I was glad to do. This led to a series of chance visits, from people I knew right through total strangers - I really don't know how many (yes, I did see the one I came for!). By the time I left, I was filled with a feeling I still find hard to describe: like I was moving through air, rather than walking, and as though I was in deep and joyful contact with everybody I saw or spoke to on my way out of the hospital. I believe, with all my heart, that I was *in the Spirit*.

Why? Another bit from our confessions, this from A Brief Statement of Faith: "We trust in God the holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The spirit justifies us by grace through faith, *sets us free to accept ourselves* and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church." (BoC 10:4)

My acceptance of myself occurred *inside* this episode of trusting in the Spirit, which came upon me through the good offices of *others*, and which brought me to joy. With all my heart, I wish the same to you, day by day, in this walk of faith.

In Christ's love, Pastor Terry

Ocean View Presbyterian Church

67 Central Avenue
Ocean View, DE
19970

Service
Sunday, 9:30 A.M.

Pastor
Terry Dougherty

Church Office
302-539-3455

Website
ovpc.org

Session
Don Bailey
Cathy Yantz
Bob Clark
Mike Quinn
Bruce Hobler
Ellen Neumann
Karen Colwill
(Clerk of Session)

Deacons
Earlene DeFazio
Sandy White
Eric Neumann
Cindy Benjamin
Ollie Robling
Sue Baer

Newsletter Editors
Lorie and Jim Hartsig

Session Report

Karen Colwill, Clerk of Session

The Session of OVPC met on Monday, April 9, 2018, in Fellowship Center.

Rev. Terry Dougherty, Moderator, opened with prayer and devotions at 7:00 P.M.

Orders of the Day:

We met with Ray Keeney, Chair of Buildings. B&G has inspected the buildings/facilities and noted problem areas in need of repair. The B&G Committee has met to discuss the areas of concern and improvements that are needed. They will meet to set priorities and get started on the work. The sanctuary doors will be replaced. Ray and Don Bailey, B&G Session Liaison, are working to get bids. B&G will work to get a snow removal contract for 2018-19. We thanked Ray and the B&G committee for their good work.

The **Monthly Committee Reports** were received.

MOTION made, seconded and passed to approve Session Minutes of March 12, 2018 with a correction.

MOTION made, seconded and passed to approve the March 2018 Financial Reports.

In cooperation with the Christian Education Committee, after worship on Sunday May 20th, those who participated in the educational program at the University Biblical of Latinamerica in Costa Rica with Karla Koll, will share their insights and experiences with OVPC.

Elaine and Dale Smith, members of OVPC and Stephen Leaders, will present an information session on Stephen Ministry on Sunday, April 29th, after worship in Fellowship Center.

We are looking forward to receiving from New Castle Presbytery, the SPARK Ministry Grant for \$5,000.00 to be used for new mission opportunities.

Reminders:

The May Session Meeting is May 14, 2018 at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Center. Our meetings are open to OVPC members. Please notify the clerk if you plan to attend.

Rev. Terry Dougherty adjourned the meeting and closed with prayer at 9:23 P.M.

Be like a flower and turn your face to the sun.

Kahlil Gibran



As more new comers attend our worship services, it would seem to be the responsibility of all of us to make these folks feel welcome. Recently, Billie Sutter presented during a weekend of learning more about the hospitality she received when she and a group of others visited Syria and Lebanon last year. At a reception following church that weekend, Nouha Dabaj and her family showed us a fine example of that Syrian hospitality as they offered us a wide array of wonderful and tasty treats.

We all appreciate being made to feel welcome, so it should be easy to extend this to people new to our church. Perhaps you have made another feel the love that OVPC offers by something you say or do. Please share with the editors so that we can add your suggestion to a growing list we will publish in future newsletters.

This month, Elsie Young, whom I call our ambassador of welcome, shares an idea:

Often times on a first visit, a visitor wants to remain anonymous and remain seated at the invitation to introduce themselves (especially if they are church shopping). However, I make myself known while I try to find out something about the person to use as a conversation starter upon the next visit. I find that on a return visit, the visitor chooses to sit nearby. If after several visits there is still no introduction to the congregation, I ask, "Would you like me to introduce you today?" Usually the response is a smile and an okay!

Perhaps if enough of us do small things with great love, great things will begin to happen in our world. If enough of us give our resources and enough of us give what we can of our time, and enough of us give our prayers and our love, big things may just begin to happen in our world.

Randy Clayton

Christian Education

Karen Rubin-Hamilton

May 13: Mother's Day Brunch: The Men of OVPC will prepare their annual brunch.

May 20: Join us for a presentation from our Costa Rica travelers, taken back in February. Learn about the exposures to Costa Rican life that our OVPC members experienced. Our Mission Co-Worker Karla Koll organized a wonderful week of programming including topics on Faith Communities in Costa Rica, Environmental Struggles, Migrant's Life as well as Theological Workshops. This presentation will highlight the important work that Karla Koll through PC(USA) is engaged with through the Universidad Biblica Latin America in Costa Rica.

May 27: Memorial Day

Worship Committee

Cathy Yantz

Please help us celebrate Pentecost Sunday, May 20th.

- Wear something red to worship.
- Once again we will be decorating the church with red geraniums. As is our custom the flowers will be for sale after worship for our cost.
- We are looking for people who can speak and/or read a foreign language to recite "The Lord's Prayer".
- Please contact Cathy Yantz by May 13th. 539-3111 or 215-962-0444



When a Con Man Calls

frauds using false identities are on the rise

The Ticket Seller

"As an affiliate of a major ticket vendor, we can get you seats for your dream concert for a discount, if you act quickly."

The Long Distance Lover

"In these weeks of chatting, I've fallen so in love with you. Send money for a plane ticket and oh, the magic that will happen."

Learn more about protecting yourself against fraud at
aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork



Phil Hamilton	May 5th
Tim Smith	May 5th
Marge Egger	May 6th
Marlene Quinn	May 13th
Terry Dougherty	May 15th
Eunice Rollings	May 19th
Elaine Wolf	May 23rd
Bob Doherty	May 26th



Herb & Kathy Sheetz	May 6th
Bill & Karen Colwill	May 20th
Stephen & Cindy Szlasa	May 22nd
Don & Cindy Benjamin	May 26th

Communication and Technology Committee



The committee is looking for someone to:

- Keep our church's Facebook page up to date.
- Keep our Coastal Point ad up to date.

If interested, please contact Bob Wolf.



YARN...You Are Ready to Needle...

.Knit or crochet or just watch and learn.

Join us in Fellowship Center
the first Monday of the month from 10 am-2 pm...
bring your lunch.

See you on May 7th

Meet our New Members

James (Jim) Ellis



I was born and raised on April 26, 1931 in East St. Louis, Illinois. I served in the U.S. Army for 3 ½ years, serving with the 25th Infantry Division in Japan and Korea. I worked for the U.S. Department Agriculture, Veterinary Services for over 30 years. I began my career as a Livestock Inspector in a large public stock yard in Illinois. After many moves to the various state regional offices, I ended my career as Executive Officer for Veterinary Services in Hyattsville, MD.

I have 3 children, Jim (63 yrs. old) living in Bradenton, FL. Dianna (62 yrs. old) living in Millville, DE and Scott (56 yrs. old) living in Elkhart, IN. I have 6 grand children and 3 great grand children.

I moved to Ocean View in October 2016 to be closer to my daughter and her family. Looking forward to making OVPC my church home.

Pam Dougherty



My life was spent in a small, rural town where I knew practically everyone. My family was one of many that had deep historic roots there. Even as my town changed and grew, my childhood church remained a place where friendships deepened, and lasted. In my church, I taught Sunday School, sang in the choir and served as a Deacon.

Professionally, I worked as an Administrative Assistant, an Office Manager, and a Nurse. I have two daughters, Andrea and Amanda, and three granddaughters, Jocie, Evie, and Isla - all of whom I adore! I now look forward to deepening and lasting relationships here at OVPC; my new home church!

ROMEO

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Men of the church are invited to join the Romeo group for breakfast every Saturday morning at 8 am at the Bethany Diner. It is an informal gathering just to have breakfast and chat.



Sewing Circle

Amy Peoples

Hopefully, when you read this we will be having spring weather. It certainly has taken its time this year, but things come in God's time not ours. As usual the Sewing Circle has a busy schedule ahead. Write down the dates and come and be a part of a loving group. All welcome!!

Monday, May 7, YARN will meet 10-2. Bring your lunch and join them. I have heard that they are making many new things. One new idea is knitted fiddle muffs that people with Alzheimer's can put their hands in and feel comfort and warmth. Many have been made and will be delivered this Sunday to the Renaissance Center when OVPC goes for the Hymn Sing. Also the mini Prayer shawls are so nice to carry with you and touch when you need a friend. Keep up the good work ladies, all you do is so appreciated. Also don't forget, they say they can teach you to make the items.

On Wednesday, May 9, the Sewing Circle will meet at 12 noon. Bring your sandwich or salad and refreshments will be provided by Sue Baer and Susan Rice. After a business meeting we will go to Bible Study, Chapter 9, "In Community with All the Saints" led by Bev Bailey. Please come and join us.

At the Sewing Circle and other church functions we will try and use the china mugs again instead of paper since the flu season is hopefully over now.

We discussed having a Lou LaRoe dress fundraiser. It was given the ok to proceed by the Session but we need to find date and form a committee to plan it. More information as it is available. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Marti or Ellen.

On Sunday, May 13 the men of OVPC will host a Mother's Day brunch after the church service. This is always so special so be sure to stop by and enjoy the delicious food.

Hope to see you at Sewing Circle events. There is always a seat waiting for you!



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Exploring Stephen Ministry

Elaine and Dale Smith

If you were not able to attend the information session on April 29th, further information, including an application, is available in the church office. You can also contact Elaine or Dale Smith, 908.859.2901 (home).

Building and Grounds

Ray Keeney

1. A new counter top high work table has been installed in the office to replace the table which was used to sort materials, count collections, etc. The table was not sufficient for the task. Thanks to our cabinet maker again for his excellent work!
2. If anyone has two counter top high chairs to go with the new counter top, a donation would be appreciated.
3. The lock on the rear door to the sanctuary has been replaced. Thanks to Jim Hartsig.
4. The water softener and water filter in the mechanical room of MH, for the well which are no longer used or required, have been removed. They are in the garage awaiting a trip to the dump. This gives us more storage space in the mechanical room.
5. The old TV in the woman's storage room in FC has been disposed of. The stand for the TV is still there and has been put to use with other items on it. It has wheels on it and can be used to move other things when needed.
6. The door to the kitchen in the FC which was dragging on the floor has had the bottom shaved off. Thanks to Herb and Bob Doherty.
7. B&G continues to discuss possible options for both long range and short range improvements to our facilities.



Spring Clean Up
May 5th
9 am to 12 noon
All are welcome



**MOTHER'S
DAY
BRUNCH**

May 13, 2018
Following Worship
Brunch provided by the men of the church

Books That Explore the Refugee Experience

These nine books—for students of all grade levels—convey what it's like to be a refugee.



A recent UNICEF report says that **28 million children worldwide are refugees**. Horrifying images of young people fleeing war-torn regions circulate online, and it can be overwhelming for students to see other young people suffering. But literature and art have long been vehicles to help us make sense of tragedy, and in the hands of gifted storytellers and illustrators, humanitarian crises in Syria, Sudan, and elsewhere can not only deepen student empathy but inspire action. There are many books that can help give kids this deeper perspective—these are a few memorable reads recommended by educators. - Submitted by Cindy Woodruff



Seen in window of
Made by Hand

Christian Education

Bev Bailey

“Called, Challenged, Changing”

The Christian Education Committee, in conjunction with the Mission Advocacy Team and the Worship Committee, sponsored a very successful weekend April 13-15 in Memorial Hall. Called “Presbyterian Partners in Syria and Lebanon: A Weekend with Billie Sutter”, we welcomed Billie, a Certified Christian Educator and member of the Syria Lebanon Partnership Network, an offshoot of Presbyterian Mission. Billie and OVPC member Bev Bailey had gone to Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine in 2000 as part of a group of women ministers and educators from National Capital Presbytery in 2000 to teach and to learn. Billie discovered her passion in working in that area of the world.

Friday night 40 members gathered to have pizza and salad (and delicious cake made by Elaine Wolf). We then saw a powerpoint presentation of Billie’s trip to Syria and Lebanon in May, 2017. We learned what the SLNP does and how they work in this part of the world. We then went home to find out that the United States, France, and Great Britain had sent missiles into Syria to bomb the chemical plants housing chlorine gases.

Saturday morning about 25 folk gathered to listen as Billie displayed a war map of Syria. The map is updated on a daily basis and we could see where last night’s attack had taken place. She showed us how few places are fighting now, and explained the history of the war. Billie also told us stories of the people she had met and gave us some hope that churches were still worshipping and were helping each other and the people through this time.

Sunday morning Billie preached about Paul and his blindness on the road to Damascus. She talked about his acceptance of Jesus Christ and how he could suddenly see. She likened her trip to Syria to Paul’s experience---that once you see the church at work in Syria and understand that hope exists in this war torn country, you can no longer look away. We all have experiences where we can see something we were blind to before.

We then went into Memorial Hall for a reception hosted by the Dabaj family. Oh My!!! What delicious food and such a beautiful table Nouha had made and set for us. Her whole family was waiting for us with Syrian coffee and so many delicacies. Nouha introduced us to her brother and his family who came from Connecticut to be with us. There is no way we can thank Nouha and all of her family for this wonderful treat. But we will try.....by remembering this joyful experience and learning more about their home country.....Thanks to all the people that helped to make our Syrian experience such a successful weekend.

**Not all of us can do great things. But we
can do small things with great love.**

Mother Teresa



**Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network
Presbyterian Church (USA)**



Billie Suttter presented a Friday evening, Saturday morning and Sunday sermon about the Syria and the Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network.



Nouha prepared a fabulous array of Syrian treats for a reception after church.



Friday Night At The Movies



Join us Friday May 4th at 5:30 at Bill and Karen Colwill's home to share a potluck supper followed by a showing of 'Finding Neverland'.

This 2004 film stars Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet, and Julie Christie and is a loose biographical rendering of the relationship between writer J.M. Barrie and the family who inspired the creation of Peter Pan. After recent failed attempts at creating a well written play, and trapped in an unhappy marriage, Barrie finds himself in a park playing with his dog where he comes to meet the inspiration for his next play - four small boys and a widowed mother. Drawing from his time with the kids, who he sees and plays with daily, he writes the classic story about children who don't want to grow up.

If you are interested in hosting movie night, or have a special movie request, please contact Bob Wolf. Remember that you can be a host without having the movie at your home ---

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