



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DECEMBER 2017



From the Pastor Gerald Egger

What I Have Learned from Ocean View Presbyterian Church

By Gerald Egger

Thirty-nine months as interim pastor to the Ocean View Presbyterian Church has given me new enthusiasm for congregational ministry. It's been a gratifying time for me professionally. Your receptivity has provided me with opportunities to demonstrate knowledge and skill that I had acquired in my previous church, seminary, and the corporate world before that. In addition, I leave OVPC with new learnings about how a community of faith goes about God's work.

I'll summarize what I have learned in four areas of pastoral leadership: Theology, Administration, Worship, and Discipleship.

Theology

You have taught me how God is a living presence in your lives, even in the moments of crisis. Countless hospital visits and sick calls have witnessed to the real presence of God. I attended three parishioners at or near their deaths; they were full of Christ's hope. The depth of your faith is inspiring, as is your Christ-like caring for one another. I have been just one additional minister among you ministers.

Many times I have said, in a complimentary way, you are well-churched. In one way, that means you are well-schooled in church doctrine, beliefs, governance, and practices - not necessarily the Presbyterian way, but the way of the church catholic. Your previous churches vary in size, location, and political bent and you bring those sensibilities to this church. In committee meetings, at Bible studies, even in choir practices, your theological viewpoints collide or collude, explain or explode. It is wonderful to behold the diversity of knowledge and experience.

Administration

The big administrative takeaway for me is that the interim pastor doesn't always have to push. Things that are important to the church body can and will get done, with or without a pastor's prodding. An example is care of the physical plant. For every burned-out light bulb that I have pointed out, a hundred other fixes get taken care of without fuss or nudging. Another example

is charitable giving. Yes, I've preached a few "stewardship" sermons and written a few "financial responsibility" newsletter articles; but the Holy Spirit has done the big job. The income side of our budget, as well as the off-budget charitable giving, is healthy and keeps rising.

Another pleasant surprise is that your church officers are eager for training. My previous experience with organizing church learning events was not positive. I had been with you for less than 5 months when I planned and executed my first Leadership Retreat. But that year, in fact all three years, the Leadership Retreat was something the officers have looked forward to; the energy and work-output have been exemplary.

I also compliment this congregation for dispelling a stereotype that older congregations are not technologically savvy. Email, Facebook, electronic document distribution, video-based TED talks, and programmable thermostats - you've mastered them all.

Worship

As a worship leader I have learned the power of shared silence. Every week the evening Bible study begins with shared silent prayer. At Advent and during Holy Week you come to the sanctuary for quiet contemplation. You have embraced the Services for Wholeness and Healing, in which intentional silence is interspersed with gentle singing and simple ritual. You have enriched my worship vocabulary with non-verbal ways of getting close to God.

The choir's role in conveying the emotional side of faith is another learning for me. I have always sung in choirs, some of them large and highly skilled. What I have observed at OVPC, as the choir size has allowed more four-part harmony and more complex music, is how the choir catches and expresses the collective mood of the worshippers.

Discipleship

In the area of learning to be disciples, my discovery is that controversial topics bring you closer together. Commonsense would argue that divisive topics divide, but not here. You tackled aging and dying - and attendance swelled. I led a class on faith and healing - and attendance swelled. Rev. Tom Ledbetter walked through the radical theology of Marcus Borg - and attendance swelled. And we have just completed a long book study of racism, which has been the best-attended event yet. Even casual visitors sense the real learning, the real growth that happens.

Weekly Bible study has taught me that the Bible still has new things to say to believers in a decidedly secular age. Both morning and

Ocean View Presbyterian Church

67 Central Avenue
Ocean View, DE
19970

Service
Sunday, 9:30 A.M.

Interim Pastor
Gerald Egger

Church Office
302-539-3455

Website
ovpc.org

Session
Don Bailey
Cathy Yantz
Jennifer Read
Mike Quinn
Bruce Hobler
Elsie Young
Karen Colwill
(Clerk of Session)

Deacons
Earlene DeFazio
Betsy Henifin
Eric Neumann
Cindy Benjamin
Ollie Robling
Sue Baer

Newsletter Editors
Lorie and Jim Hartsig

evening study groups seek answers to life's questions. The Sewing Circle is another setting for delving deep into scripture. Far from a dead document, the Bible speaks a provocative message that people respect as the ultimate authority on discipleship.

And finally, I have learned from you the value of casual gatherings as gateways to greater service and involvement. Movie Night, Taco Night, YARN knitting sessions, hymn sings at Renaissance Center, and coffee-hours after worship are low-pressure settings that encourage people to get to know one another. More than just "fellowship events," these unscripted, come-as-you-are activities serve as entry points into congregational life. The church is much stronger because of these outreaches.

A Learning Community

My past professional life was involved with establishing a climate of learning within corporate cultures. Still, I have never seen a culture that I would call an authentic learning community like OVPC. Even better, you are a Teaching Community, sharing what you have learned. I have benefitted from that culture and I'm sure your new pastor will, too. Godspeed!

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yeah they'll know we are Christians by our love**



Session Report

Karen Colwill, Clerk of Session

The Session of OVPC met on Monday, November 13, 2017 at the home of Elsie Young.

The Rev. Jerry Egger opened with prayer and devotions at 7:00 P.M.

Orders of the Day:

The Personnel Committee Chair, Jennifer Read, presented an update on Staff Reviews.

Session performed the annual Pastor's Review. Results were reviewed and discussed with Rev. Jerry Egger.

The **Monthly Committee Reports** were received.

Approved **MOTION** to accept the Deacon's Monthly Minute for Mission 2018 Schedule.

Approved **MOTION** to accept the docket for the meeting.

Approved **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2017 Session Meeting.

Approved **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2017 Special Session Meeting.

Approved **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the November 5, 2017 Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers.

Approved **MOTION** to accept the Treasurer's Report for October 2017.

Approved **MOTION** to hold the Annual Meeting of Ocean View Presbyterian Church on February 25, 2018. All reports, including the 2018 Budget and Terms of Call, are requested by January 15, 2018.

Approved **MOTION** to elect Karen Colwill, 2018 Clerk of Session.

Approved **MOTION** to elect Liz Hobler, 2018 Treasurer.

The **Finance Committee** is finalizing the 2018 Budget for Session review in December.

Approved **MOTION** to add 'WE CHOOSE WELCOME NOT FEAR' to our Coastal Point ad.

The Rev. Jerry Egger adjourned the meeting with prayer at 10:05 P.M.

Congregation Approves Terry Dougherty as Pastor of Ocean View Presbyterian Church

On November 19th, Pastor Terry Dougherty lead the congregation in worship. Following the service, at the congregational meeting, the congregation voted unanimously to accept Terry as our new Pastor and approve his terms of call. The final approval by Presbytery will be at their December 2nd meeting. Terry will officially become our Pastor as of January 1st. His ordination and installation is TBD. Terry's candidacy sermon is available online ... <http://ovpc.org/Audio.html>



Photos by Jim Hartsig
and Bob Turner



Bob Wolf	Dec. 7th
Karen Hamilton	Dec. 15th
Patrick Read	Dec. 18th
Eric Neumann	Dec. 20th
Kathy Sheetz	Dec. 20th
Pam Price	Dec. 29th



Peggy and William Wivel	Dec. 4th
Carol and Mac Kerns	Dec. 19th

Christmas Poinsettias

Kathy Sheetz

We will be ordering our Christmas plants that are in 6 1/2" pots at a price of \$5.00 each.

A variety of colors will be available: red, white, or pink.

Orders must be paid and turned in by Sunday December 10th.

Please place your order with the money in the collection plate or give it to Kathy Sheetz or Linda (in the office).

Make checks payable to OVPC.



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 December 4th

Nativity Festival



Saturday December 9th
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We will once again have the OVPC Nativity Festival on Saturday December 9th. This year we would like to emphasize multicultural Nativity sets. We will display all the crèches that are available and try to feature the international sets in a special area. We have a particularly lovely collection of these nativities.

You are invited to bring your nativities on Thursday Dec. 7th and Friday Dec. 8th from 9AM to 11AM. If you are loaning a new crèche please make sure Liz Hobler (lhobler@verizon.net) has a 100 word or less write up about its story. This year we are asking that everyone set up their own nativities. We will add various pieces of cloth and greens to coordinate all the displays. Thanks for your help. Please pick up your displays shortly after 2PM on Saturday.

Please plan on attending the Nativity Festival on December 9th from 10 to 2PM. The choir will sing and you can enjoy light refreshments. It is a lovely beginning to the Advent season.

*Sunday, December 17, 2017
immediately following the worship service
at Ocean View Presbyterian Church,
You are most cordially invited to a luncheon
in honor, gratitude, and celebration
of Pastor Jerry Egger's
three years of service to our congregation.*

Sewing Circle

Amy Peoples

We had some very big news at OVPC this past month. Our new Pastor Terrence Dougherty and his wife Pam will be coming to OVPC on January 1, 2018. It seems the PNC Committee did a fine job in locating just the right person for our congregation. Hope you will be here to welcome them to our fold in the new year. We will be sad to have Reverend Jerry and Marge Egger leave. They have been a real asset to OVPC as the PNC searched for a permanent pastor.

As always at OVPC the Sewing Circle has a full schedule of events coming in December. As I remind you each month, get your pencils out and mark your calendars. You want to miss anything. On Friday, December 1, 2017, at 6:00 PM we have our Annual Christmas Potluck Supper. Please bring a covered dish to share and an item for The Way Home. There have been notices in the bulletin about the needs of this organization so pick out something and bring to the supper, unwrapped. We will also be treated to a Christmas concert by the AARP Choir. The entire evening will be a good start for the Christmas season.

Sunday, December 3, is the first Sunday of Advent. Be sure to pick up your Advent Booklet. Elsie Young excels in getting this booklet together for our readings throughout the Advent season.

YARN will meet Monday, December 4, 10-2. Bring your lunch and join this group. They always seem to have a new project in the works and will be glad to teach you how to do it.

Our special Nativity Festival will be Saturday, December 9, 2017, 10-2. We will set up Friday, December 8, from 9-11. We are asked to bring in our crèches and set them up at that time. This is a good time to prepare for the blessed Christmas season. There will be more than 125 creches and their stories, also carol singing and cookies and punch. A definite "Must Attend." Please contact Chairman Harriette Tuttle for added information.

Coffee Hour will be December 10 following the church service.

The Sewing Circle will meet Wednesday, December 13 at 12 noon. In December we are asked to bring a special covered dish salad to share and the Executive Committee will furnish refreshments and dessert. After lunch we will have our Bible Study, Chapter #4, "In Community with God's Messengers" led by Bev Bailey. All welcome!

Sunday, December 17 after church we will have a special reception to say goodbye to Jerry and Marge Egger and to also celebrate Jerry's 70th birthday. The Transition Team is chairing this reception.

As I said at the beginning of this letter, there are many, many activities you can enjoy at OVPC though out December as we proceed to Christmas Day. Come and be with us! I wish a Merry Christmas to each of you.

Christian Education

Bev Bailey

“Called, Challenged, Changing”

Thank you to all those who participated in the Fall Book Study, “Waking Up White”, by Debbie Irving. Much was learned and much was shared. Thanks to Bruce Hobler, Bev Bailey, and Marlene Quinn for facilitating this study, which met on Sundays after worship, and Wednesday mornings. About 30 people participated in this challenging study.

Coming in December!! “Tell Me a Story from the Advent Booklet”, led by Don Benjamin will meet on December 3 and 10, and then again on January 7, after worship. Don will choose people who wrote a particularly interesting Advent Devotion and look at the scripture passage they used. We have enjoyed this study in the past and it will be even more interesting for Advent when we use our devotional material....

The Christian Education Committee thanks Bev Bailey for her hard work as chair for the last several years, and welcomes Karen Rubin Hamilton for leading us into the future.....Everything is a'changing.....

Saying Grace - a “gentle reminder for All of US

Submitted by Elsie Young

A visiting priest was attending a men's breakfast in Ohio Farm Country. He asked one of the impressive older framers in attendance to say grace that morning. After all were seated, the older farmer began....

“Lord, I hate buttermilk.”

The priest opened one eye and wondered to himself where this was going.

Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, “Lord, I hate lard.”

Now the Priest was overly worried.

However without missing a beat, the farmer prayed on, “And Lord, you know I don't care much for raw white flour.”

Just as the Priest was ready to stand and stop everything, the farmer continued,

“But Lord, when you mix ‘em all together and bake ‘em up, I do love fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up we don't like, when life gets that, when we just don't understand what you are sayin', we just need to relax and wait ‘till You are done mixing', and probably it will be somethin' even better than biscuits.

Amen”

“As you walk down the fairway of life you must smell the roses, for you only get to play one round”.

New Castle Presbytery

James L. Moseley

“Did You Dance?” is the closing line to a Hasidic tale of an old man who upon his death pleads before the Almighty to enter eternity. He waxes eloquently about his piety, his generosity, his dutifulness etc. Yet God’s reply to his many prostrations is simply this...Did You Dance? Did you know joy? Did you fall in love? Did you kick up your heels and live a life filled with gratitude?

If there was ever a season of dance, joy and gratitude all rolled up into one, for me, it would be Christmas. When the Sugar Plum Fairies twirl across the stage in the Nutcracker Suite and when the Hallelujah Chorus reaches it’s great crescendo in Handel’s Messiah proclaiming that “And his name shall be called “Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace”, every part of me dances.

In these moments I am struck anew with the glory of God’s great work of redeeming the whole of creation. And at the center of this cosmic act there is a child, born of flesh, sheltered in a common home in a small village in the middle of nowhere. At Christmas time the twinkling of stars and the glow of candles remind us that life remains filled with wonder and mystery and always with hope.

May this Christmas provide for you and yours a moment to dance in the light of God’s good favor!

Merry Christmas from the Presbytery of New Castle!



**“Brew me a cup for a winter’s night.
For the wind howls loud and the furies fight;
Spice it with love and stir it with care,
And I’ll toast our bright eyes,
my sweetheart fair.”**

Minna Thomas Antrim

Fraud Watch

AARP

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM AARP FRAUD WATCH NETWORK

When Something's Free, Until It Isn't.....

An 84-year-old widow called the AARP Fraud Watch Network after accepting a free trial offer for skin cream she had seen a famous personality touting on television. She had no idea she needed to cancel after receiving the free trial. She was sent more product at a cost of \$200 and is fighting to return the product and get her money back.

How It Works:

- Free trial offers often lure you into accepting a free product or subscription, but require you to cancel after receiving your offer.
- When you don't cancel, you receive more product, whether it's face cream or magazines, and you're stuck with the bill.
- Often the fine print makes it very difficult to cancel in time to avoid a charge.

What You Should Know:

- Unfortunately, the tactics are generally legal, unless the seller fails to disclose that you will be charged following the free offer.
- These kinds of offers are all over the place, so be very careful to read the fine print before accepting a free trial, or simply decline the offer.
- It's a good idea to search online for reviews about the company offering the free trial - you can learn a lot about potential customer service issues this way.
- Review your credit card statement regularly. Keep an eye out for unauthorized charges.

What You Should Do:

- If an unauthorized charge appears on your statement, don't call the toll-free number next to it to dispute the charge. Rather, call your credit card company's customer service number to report it. You'll have a better chance of canceling out the charge this way.
- If you get caught in this trap, file a consumer complaint with the Federal Trade Commission and the Better Business Bureau.

When it comes to fraud, vigilance is our number one weapon. You have the power to protect yourself and your loved ones from scams. Please share this alert with friends and family.

Sincerely,

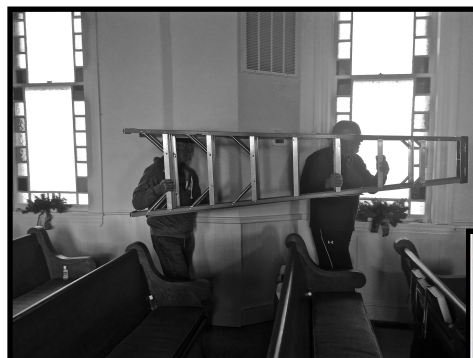
Kristin Keckeisen, Fraud Watch Network

Photogenic Jim Hartsig

Fall clean up



Another ramp



Deck the halls



Friday Night At The Movies



FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Because of the busy Christmas season full of church and family activities we will not hold a movie night in December. We will gather together again on January 5th to watch the 2017 film “The Zookeeper’s Wife”. Please let Bob or Elaine know if you would like to assist in hosting at their house.

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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