



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FEBRUARY 2017



From the Pastor Gerald Egger

A Joyful Response to Blessings

Ocean View Presbyterian Church is looking forward expectantly to calling a new pastor, which will be a time of growth and opportunity. Boards and committees have made budgets and plans for 2017 that promise strong initiatives in mission and ministry.

The congregation will be asked at the Annual Meeting February 5 to approve a 2017 expense budget for the church of about \$165,000. This is a challenging goal, requiring 15% more income than the church received last year. But it is but reachable if past giving patterns continue.

I have spent some time reviewing those past giving patterns. The financial health of the congregation has become dependent on a few households who know the joy and privilege of generous giving. Eight households last year, for example, accounted for half of total giving; the other half was contributed by 45 households. This is inequitable. One correction is to encourage those who give less to think more intentionally about the joy of proportional giving, while not discouraging the few who already give more than their equitable share.

Giving is not shared equitably among OVPC households. **See the chart for 2016:** it is shaped like a trough, with more households on the lower and upper ends of the spectrum and fewer in the middle. Last year, the median annual household gift was \$1,485. Half the households gave more than that, half gave less.

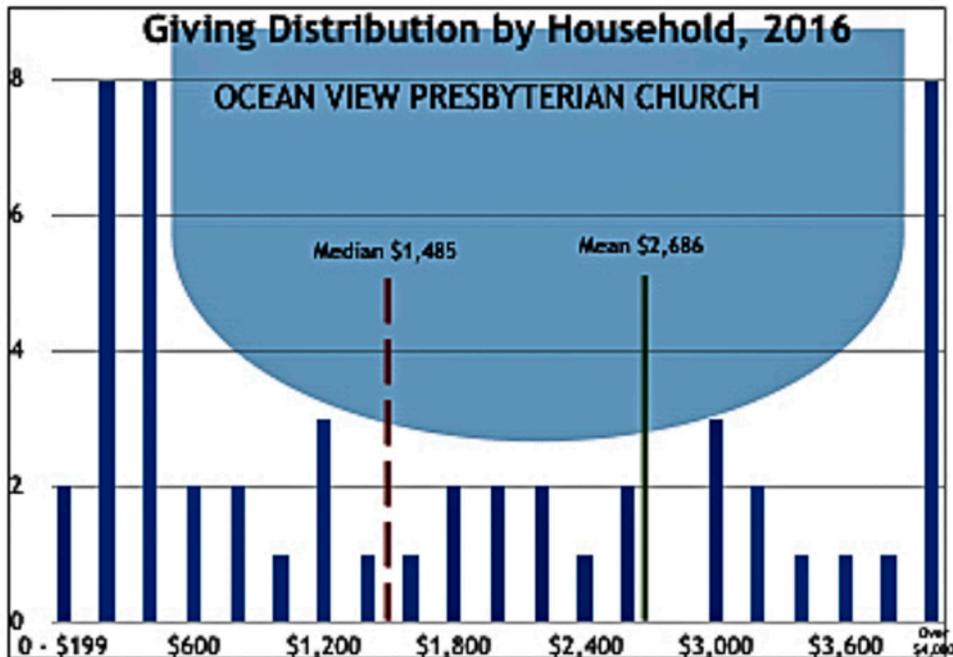
The mean (average) household gift was \$2,686, due to generous giving at the upper end.

Financial stewardship of your church is an acknowledgment of God's working in and upon your life. It is a financial response to spiritual blessings, a joyous response. To think of financial support as an obligation to be fulfilled nominally or grudgingly gets it wrong. Giving is not a duty but a grace, a virtue.

CHURCH BUDGET PER HOUSEHOLD

If the net operating budget proposed for 2017 were split evenly among the households who contribute to OVPC, the burden would be \$53 a week.

This might be fair, but it is not equitable, since it would call for a disproportionate amount of household income.



Gifts to the church bring delight to the giver as well as to the ultimate beneficiary. Some of the delight continues into the future, when a well-given gift continues to be a blessing over and over again. An atmosphere of constant giving (and thus receiving) spreads into all aspects of life and reminds us that nothing we have is really ours forever.

We announce in worship our offering as a time of giving, but we could think of it as a time of receiving. It is a time to reflect on the gifts we have received, sometimes unexpectedly, from God and from God's people. We can imagine the reaction of people around the world who benefit from our giving. This is why one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is generosity.

Church giving that is proportional to income is just and equitable across the whole congregation. For the sake of argument, if the burden of the operating budget were spread evenly, each household would contribute \$2,735 a year, or \$53 per week. While this level is close to the household average in 2016, it is much higher than the median household. The idea of sharing the burden evenly might be fair but it is not equitable. Giving in proportion to income is equitable and it is biblical.

Since ordination to ministry, my wife and I have steadily increased our financial giving to whatever church we happen to be affiliated with, to the point where we are approximating the biblical virtue of the tithe, or ten percent of income. When we write the first check to the church, everything else that week seems to fall into place. It is a joy to give to our church.

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

The tithe, for us, was a long-term goal that we worked up to. When we were raising a family we struggled to contribute 3% of our income to the church. But as we raised the percentage a little each year, we discovered that the strain on the household was negligible while the value to our spiritual well-being was ever-increasing.

Ocean View Presbyterian Church is blessed with attractive facilities for outside groups. Rental and user fees will generate over \$20,000 in the coming year. That leaves an operating expense of about \$145,000 to be covered by members, visitors, and friends.

I offer this financial information for your guidance. Please give prayerful consideration to giving to your church in proportion to your income.

“Winter is a time of promise because there is so little to do, or because you can now and then permit yourself the luxury of thinking so.”

Stanley Crawford

Gratitude

Elsie Young

I am remembering the 2016 Advent/Christmas Season, and I am surrounded by feelings of Love, Hope, Peace and Joy! I am remembering with a thankful heart that I am part of the OVPC Community. Why? Because I am remembering the hours given with love by those who made this season such a blessing. Yes, it begins with Greatest Gift of all, Jesus. Now let your mind wander to the spokes of that hub.....Worship and all the facets of,..... Christian Ed Study and all the planningChristmas Dinner and all the participants.....Missions, special and others....Nativity Festival and those who organized, shared and enjoyed.....Advent Devotional— all who shared their gifts....Prayer Time, those who prayed and the recipients of the prayers.....the Decorators.....the Building and Grounds and office Staff. Now remember the members and friends who gave time, talent and love to provide those who participated in the activities a time to Praise and Rejoice.

So, I pray that we all take some minutes to be thankful for the blessings we received during the specialness of this sharing- giving and receiving.

As we move on to 2017, let us remember "EMMANUEL - GOD WITH US!

Session Report

Karen Colwill, Clerk of Session

The Session of OVPC met on Monday, January 9, 2017, in Fellowship Center.

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

Orders of the Day:

- Reviewed 2017 Budget with Finance Chair, Bob Wolf. **MOTION** to approve the 2017 Budget.
- Officers Leadership Training, February 3 & 4, 2017 in Fellowship Center.
 - Approved **MOTION** to serve Communion at the end of the Leadership Retreat.
- Preparing for the Annual Congregational Meeting to Review Finances, February 5, 2017.
- Reviewed Committee Reports.
- Received New Castle Presbytery meeting report from Mike Read, OVPC Commissioner.

Approved **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2016 Session Meeting.

Approved **MOTION** to accept the Treasurer's Report for December 2016.

Worship Committee: Approved **MOTION** to reschedule Communion for January to January 15th and February to February 12th.

Deacon's: Approved **MOTION** to approve the Deacon's 2017 Mission Schedule.

Sewing Circle: Approved **MOTION** for a guest preacher, Jerry Regier, Head of Global Development for Water 4, on Sunday, January 29, 2017. Jerry and his wife Sharyn will be here for the Water 4 Musical Celebration, January 27th.

Service of Healing and Wholeness is scheduled for January 29th.

Session asks the congregational to keep the PNC and its members in your prayers as they continue their works.

The Rev. Jerry Egger adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:04 P.M.

Christian Education

OVPC: Called, Challenged, Changing

Winter Book Study is underway after worship in Fellowship Centre. Jen Read and Bev Bailey are leading a discussion of the book, **Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life: 7 Gateways to Spiritual Growth**, written by Jane Marie Thibault and Richard L. Morgan. Jane is a gerontologist and emerita clinical professor at the University of Louisville Medical School; and Richard Morgan, a national leader on issues of aging and spiritual autobiography, and has written 20 books of the subject. He holds a PH.D. from Union Presbyterian Seminary.



The class continues meeting through March 5 each Sunday except the 2nd Sunday of February. We will cover one pathway each week. It's not too late to join this group of seekers as we live into the third phase of our lives....

Coming in March: "Looking at Lent and Holy Week through the Lens of the Arts". Come work with some of the "artists" of OVPC as we look at this most holy time of the year through music, art, drama, and spirituality. The classes are: March 19—Lent and Art—led by Henrietta Tuttle .

March 26—Lent and Music—Led by Kathy Rhodes

April 2—Lent and Drama/Poetry—Led by Jerry Egger and Bev Bailey

April 9—The Spirituality Centre in Memorial Hall following Coffee Hour.

Coming in May---The Prayer Group will reassemble for 3 weeks in May. If you would like to learn more about prayer and spend time in prayer, please join Bev Bailey and others in the Sanctuary after worship on May 7, 21, and 28....

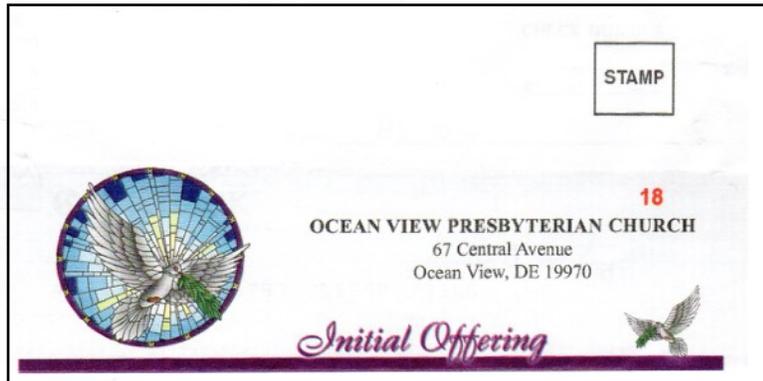
The CE Committee welcomes Cathy Yantz to our gatherings. Cathy is our Session Liaison. Other members include: Gary Baer, Bev Bailey, Don Benjamin, Pastor Jerry, Bruce Hobler, Jen Read, and Bob Wolf. Please join us if you are interested in helping to plan the CE Programs for this church.



Jen Read	Feb. 6th
Grayson Wheatley	Feb. 10th
Jim Hartsig	Feb. 17th
Iris Howe	Feb. 21st
Don Bailey	Feb. 27th
Cate Read	Feb. 28th

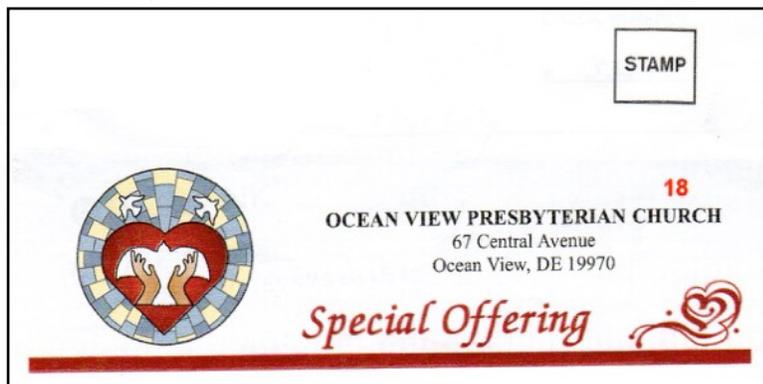
Elaine and Bob Wolf	Feb. 10th
Carole and Jim trent	Feb. 12th
Jen and Mike Read	Feb. 14th

Correct:
Flora's cell # is [610-505-5813](tel:610-505-5813)



Initial Offering

This once per year offering pays for the offering envelopes. The suggested offering is \$4 per set of envelopes



Special Offering

This once per year offering goes directly to the General Assembly to support their budget. It is like a tax imposed by the General Assembly The suggested offering is \$31.65 per person.

Presbytery News

Mike Read

Most of you know that the Presbyterian Church USA is organized into the General Assembly at the top, which is divided into Synods which are divided into Presbyteries and then into individual congregations. We, the congregation at OVPC, are members of the New Castle Presbytery which was formed in 1706 by the Reverend Francis Makemie and held its first meeting in 1717 in New Castle, Delaware. New Castle Presbytery serves 51 congregations in Delaware and the eastern shore of Maryland.

The role of each Presbytery is to support the churches in their membership, help in the search for ministers, assist with major issues, and educate and train the members. You may have noticed in recent bulletins an insert about the per capita of \$31.65 per member that each church sends to Presbytery to fund these efforts.

New Castle Presbytery surveyed member churches last year and learned that relatively few Presbyterians are aware of the ongoing operations of Presbytery. A task force was formed to address this deficit. Reorganizing staff and streamlining funding resources was recommended.

The team charged with reorganizing Presbytery rolled out their initial report at the December 3, 2016 meeting. The reforms, if adopted, would focus their staffing, resources and energy into fostering closer relationships with and between member churches, particularly with regard to mission activities. They look to find opportunities for partnering congregations with one another to share resources in mission projects that might be more difficult to pursue alone.

This past Wednesday discussions were held at two churches to outline the recommendations and answer questions. The recommendations will be put to a vote at the March, 2017 quarterly meeting of Presbytery. If passed, the changes would become effective January 1, 2018.

Each of the 51 congregations in the Presbytery is charged with electing a Commissioner to Presbytery to attend the quarterly meetings, taking questions or concerns from the congregation to the Presbytery and bringing news from Presbytery back to them. I am your new Commissioner to Presbytery, and this is the first of my quarterly reports to the congregation of OVPC. If you have specific questions, there are several members of our church who are involved with the workings and activities of New Castle Presbytery. Please raise your hand if you are one of these members. Any of us can either address your questions and concerns or take them back to Presbytery and get someone there to assist.

A bulletin insert containing more information about New Castle Presbytery, including the 2017 budget, will be distributed next week.



Sewing Circle

Amy Peoples

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant”Anne Broadstreet

Dear Ladies,

Guess you thought since it was cold weather we could all sit down in front of the fireplace and relax. Oh no, the activities of the Sewing Circle keep going and I am sure you will be glad to participate. Get your calendars and pencils and jot down the many dates in February.

Monday, February 6, be sure to come to YARN and make the beautiful Prayer Shawls that are so appreciated by shut-ins. It begins at 10:00 AM till 2PM. So bring your lunch and join the ladies. If you do not know how to make a shawl, I have been told that they can teach you easily.

Wednesday, February 8, 2017 the Sewing Circle meets at 12 noon. Bring your sandwich or salad and refreshments will be provided by Harriette Tuttle and Marlene Quinn. After our business meeting we will be studying Chapter 6, “According to Hebrews” in our study book. Bev Bailey will be leading the lesson. We give a big thank you to Cathy Yantz for doing last month’s study when Bev was out of town.

At our January Sewing Circle meeting the new officers were installed by Sue Baer. They are Marti Sommers and Ellen Neumann co-moderators, Secretary, Cathy Yantz, and Treasurer, Karen Colwill. Thank you to the outgoing officers for a job well done!

The Mission Committee of the Sewing Circle distributed checks amounting to \$5000.00 to the Missions we supported last year. The group voted to support the following missions this year;

Local; Tunnell Cancer Center, Ten Mile Miracle (local ALS), Pyle Center Day Care, Peachtree Acres, Milford Housing, and Cheer Center,

National; Presbyterian Disaster Relief, National ALS, IDF

International; Presbyterian Disaster Relief, Reverend Dr. Karla Ann Koll, San Jose, Costa Rica, and Rwanda Joy.

It breaks down to \$2000.00 local, \$1500.00, National, and \$1500.00, International.

When you receive this letter, we will be closing the book on Water4 with a wonderful Concert. What a blessing it has been to the people we helped and to us.

The OVPC Leadership Retreat will be held February 3 and 4. Look in church bulletin for details.

(Sewing Circle continued)

The Session has asked us to universally pray on Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM for the Pastor Nominating Committee as they meet to do the work of calling a Pastor to OVPC. Prayers are asked anytime for these hard working people.

At the Sewing Circle meeting we were also asked to remember to put coins in the Birthday Offering jar, the Least Coin jar, and our Thank Offering boxes. These three are very worthy areas of Presbyterian Women and the funds go to much needed areas.

Well it looks like February is more than just Valentine's Day. Hope you will come to the various events. As I always remind you, you are missed when you are not in attendance!



Choir Concert a “smash hit!!”

The Benefit Concert to Celebrate the end of our three year partnership with Water4 is over. And what fun it was!! Music about water was sung and played, there was much laughter and everyone enjoyed meeting Jerry Regier and his wife Sharyn, representatives for Water4. Jerry shared some stories of how Water4 is impacting lives in Africa. Many thanks to Director Kathy Rhodes and the Chancel Choir, and to all those who baked the yummy goodies at the reception following. And best of all---\$806.00 was raised as our last collection to Water4.....

 **water4**
Benefit Concert

Photogenic
Jim Hartsig



water4 representatives
Sharyn and Jerry Regier



Ushers & Greeters



A Great Way to Serve!

We need folks to fill our Greeter/Usher schedule for 2017. You can volunteer for a week at a time or a month - or any other combination you like. Don't worry if you are signing up as a 'single' - we will be happy to pair you up with someone.

Please contact Sandy White or Bob or Elaine Wolf if you are interested in serving or have any questions or need a list of the duties- or you can just sign up. The schedule is on the bulletin board in the back of the church. We are asking that our Greeters wear name tags since they are the first people our visitors will see - please let Bob know if you need a new name tag.

**“Away in a meadow all covered with snow
The little old groundhog looks for his shadow
The clouds in the sky determine our fate
If winter will leave us all early or late.”
Don Halley**



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 February 6th



Susie Baer installs new Circle Co-Moderators Ellen Neumann and Marti Sommer and thanks outgoing moderator Lorie Hartsig. Appreciation to Cathy Yantz, Karen Colwill and Karen White. Special thanks to Sandy White as the Sunshine coordinator.

**“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



Souper Bowl Sunday

February 5th

Wear your team jersey to church and bring cans of soup for the Pyle Center

Friday Night At The Movies



Our February movie will be held on **Friday February 10** so that those who need to attend the leadership conference will be able to join us.

So - we invite you to join us on Friday the 10th at the Wolf's home at 5:30 for a pot-luck supper hosted by Bev Bailey. Chili (regular and white) and corn bread will be provided, Our movie will start at 7:00.

This month we are watching 'Miracles From Heaven' the 2016 movie starring Jennifer Garner and Kylie Rogers. This movie is based on the incredible true story of the Beam family. When Christy (Jennifer Garner) discovers her 10-year-old daughter Anna (Kylie Rogers) has a rare, incurable disease, she becomes a ferocious advocate for her daughter's healing as she searches for a solution. After Anna has a freak accident, an extraordinary miracle unfolds in the wake of her dramatic rescue that leaves medical specialists mystified, her family restored and their community inspired.

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 ---

OCEAN VIEW
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
67 Central Ave
Ocean View, DE 19970

