



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH JANUARY 2017



From the Pastor Gerald Egger

Church Sustainability

It was an unexpected announcement in worship, coming as it did the week before Christmas: “The Session formed our task force for the purpose of looking at three options for the future of this congregation,” the task force chair began soberly. “One option is to close this church. The second option is to merge with another congregation. And the third option is to relocate the congregation to a more sustainable property.”

As sporadic visitors to that congregation, my wife and I inhaled audibly. We raised our three children in that church. It supported us through seminary. We were both ordained there. I served on Session during the years of fundraising and construction of a new sanctuary. And now, a mere ten years later, were these the only three options Session could envision for its future?

On the drive home, I reflected on any church’s sustainability, or long-term viability. There are seasons of any church lifecycle, times when its mission and ministry is like springtime blossoming, other times when it sheds the last leaves of autumn. But what we heard that Sunday was sudden-onset winter.

I compared and contrasted that church with Ocean View Presbyterian. What are the chances that this congregation would be forced to make such a dire choice? The chances are low, and I have many reasons to think that.

1. Ocean View Presbyterian is a growing church in a growing area. In the last two years, we have seen a net gain of 11 members, or 15%. The population in a 7-mile radius of the church is growing at a rate in excess of 3% a year, with the biggest part of that growth in ages 55 and up. Yes, we are graying. But we are growing in pace with the graying community around us. Sustainability.

2. Ocean View Presbyterian is a set of open systems. Every board, every committee, every special interest group is open to new people, new ideas, and new energy. Worship is an open-door to visitors to this popular vacation destination. Twice a year, a call goes out for volunteers to clean-up and fix-up the buildings and grounds; half the active membership shows up. The officer nominating process is a wonder; this year every essential leadership position was filled on the first call. We're a merry-go-round surrounded by eager spectators; those already aboard extend hands to hoist new participants. The forward motion keeps its momentum. Sustainability.

3. Ocean View Presbyterian has a passion for ministries - nursing home ministry, home improvement ministry, music ministry, foreign service ministry, prayer ministry. These passions are nurtured and fed with ongoing spiritual development through weekly Bible studies, Sunday adult education, seasonal devotional booklets, and sanctuary services of prayer and healing. There is no mistaking Ocean View Presbyterian as a social club, even though opportunities abound for informal fellowship in homes and local restaurants. This is a mission-driven church that regularly surprises itself with what it can do. Sustainability.

4. Ocean View Presbyterian is fiscally responsible, with a can-do attitude when new opportunities call for new resources. Each year I have watched the budget expand to supply the church with more-skilled staff, better energy efficiency, safer and sounder facilities, higher-quality communications, and robust year-round worship. We more than meet current needs from current giving, with a surplus set aside for future needs. There is enough invested reserve to meet 100% of the church's operations for one year. Sustainability.

Will OVPC's lifecycle experience autumn at some time? Probably. But right now we are enjoying an extra-long and sustainable summer. Peace be with you.



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

Session Report
Karen Colwill, Clerk of Session

The Session of OVPC met on Monday, December 12, 2016, at the home of Elsie Young.

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

Approved **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2016 Session Meeting.

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

Session met with the Communications/Technology Committee.

From the Personnel Committee presented staff reviews and salary recommendations for Karen Mitchell and Kathleen Rhodes. Session reviewed Staff Performance Reviews and approved **MOTIONS** to accept salary recommendations.

Approved **MOTIONS** for the following:

- Elected Session Representative and Chair of the Nominating Committee, Bruce Hobler
- Elected Clerk of Session, Karen Colwill
- Elected Treasurer, Liz Hobler
- Elected Officers of the Corporation
- Appointed 2017 Session Liaisons
- 2017 Session Schedule
- 2017 Paid Holidays and Office Close Dates

Finance Committee, Mike Quinn and Bob Wolf, presented the initial reading of the 2017 Budget.

Annual Congregational Meeting to Review Finances is scheduled for Sunday, February 5, 2017.

Committee Chairs and Session Liaisons - Committee Reports for inclusion in the 2016 Annual Report are due to the office in electronic format by January 4, 2017.

Approved a **MOTION** for Rev. Jerry Egger's request for vacation from December 13 - 19. Rev Gary Baer will fill our pulpit on December 18 and be Pastor on call during this time.

From Facilities approved a **MOTION** to increase Professional Fees effective January 1, 2017.

Session approved a **MOTION** to support the Rwanda Joy Charity. Session is requesting the Deacons and the Sewing Circle consider supporting this charity.

The Rev. Jerry Egger adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:52 P.M.

Christian Education

Bev Bailey

OVPC: Called, Challenged, Changing

The Advent Class, “Names for the Messiah” by Walter Brueggemann was well attended and provoked a good deal of discussion. The class, led by Gary Baer, Don Benjamin, Pastor Jerry, and Bob Wolfe, had an average attendance of 20 folks. Thanks to all who participated.

Winter Book Study to get us talking and learning during the cold winter months will be offered during the Sunday School hour. Jen Read and Bev Bailey will lead you in 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 on the subject. He holds a PH.D. from Union Presbyterian Seminary.

The class will meet for a few minutes following the coffee hour on January 8, so that you may purchase your books and we’ll talk about the overall flow of the class. If you wish to purchase a book from Bev, the cost is \$12.50, or you can purchase it yourself on amazon.com. We will cover one pathway each week, beginning January 15. 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. Look for more on this 4 week class in our next newsletter.

Want to be involved in choosing what the CE Committee will offer in our never ending journey of faith?

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 10, at 4:30 pm in Fellowship Centre. Join this good group of searchers. We meet about 5 times a year...Call Bev Bailey for more information...



How many Presbyterians
does it take. . .

*It was written by 8-year-old Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista , CA . He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to 'explain God.' I wonder if any of us could have done as well?
(He had such an assignment, in California , and someone published it, I guess miracles do happen!)*

EXPLANATION OF GOD

'One of **God's** main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.'

'**God's** second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. **God** doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.'

'**God** sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.'

'Atheists are people who don't believe in **God**. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista . At least there aren't any who come to our church.'

'Jesus is **God's** Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about **God**. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and **God** said O.K.' And **God** did not let **Jesus** stay in the grave, but raised him from the dead.

'His dad (**God**) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for **God** to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother **God**. Like a secretary, only more important.'

'You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.'

'You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes **God** happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's **God**!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.'

'If you don't believe in **God**, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but **God** can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.'

'But...you shouldn't just always think of what **God** can do for you. I figure **God** put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...that's why I believe in **God**.'



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|-----------------|---------|
| Elaine Jackson | Jan. 8 |
| Cindy Szlasa | Jan. 8 |
| Barbara Dietsch | Jan. 13 |
| Ellen Neumann | Jan. 19 |
| David Kratch | Jan. 20 |
| Hilary Smith | Jan. 27 |



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|------------------------|----------|
| Betsy and Buzz Henifin | Jan. 8th |
|------------------------|----------|

Flora and Lew Beaver
 755 Crooked Lane
 King of Prussia, PA 19406
 Cell [610-555-5813](tel:610-555-5813)
 E-Mail - flodb27@aol.com

Buildings and Grounds

Buzz Henifin

In Memorial Hall there have been miscellaneous licenses for the church to occupy the spaces, to operate a food kitchen, and to meet Delaware Fire Marshall requirements. In early November I went to the Fire Marshall's office to determine the various requirements for our church. Two days later an inspector showed up and put the church on report for an out of date electrical survey and three emergency lights that were not operational.

B&G did its own survey and replaced the emergency lights. We believed that we met all requirements and scheduled a survey by a State certified electrical company. Although not within the required 30 days the inspection was completed December twentieth. No discrepancies were reported.

The church will be in compliance for "assembly occupancies" as soon as the Electrical Company files the report of the survey with the Fire Marshall's Office. This compliance will be good for five years.

Brrrrrr.....

Want to get warm on a cold January Night?

**The Ocean View Sanctuary Choir
Presents**

“A Little Lite Music”

An evening of celebration of
the church's three year relationship

WATER4

Come celebrate with staff of WATER4, and listen to
our stellar choir sing music that makes you
reminisce

Solos, duets, small ensembles, instrumentalists,
and the entire choir.

**Directed by Kathy Rhodes,
Director of Music**

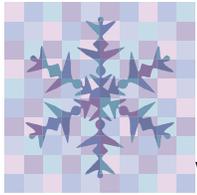
A free will offering will be taken as our last donation to water4

Friday, January 27, 2017

7:00 pm

Memorial Hall

Call the church office for more information, 539-3455



Sewing Circle

Amy Peoples

Welcome to 2017 a new year and a new set of officers for the Sewing Circle. We give a big thank you to those who are leaving office. They have done an amazing job and will be passing the baton to the new officers at the installation at the January meeting. As always we have many things on our plate for this month. Please join us, everyone welcome!

Monday January 2 YARN will meet to make Prayer Shawls. They need more hands because there are more people who need shawls. Come and join this busy group from 10- 2PM. Bring your lunch.

There will be a Coffee Hour following church on Sunday, January 8.

The Sewing Circle will meet at noon on Wednesday, January 11. Bring your lunch and refreshments will be provided by Marti Sommer and Lorie Hartsig. We will have the installation of our new officers. They are; Co-moderators, Marti Sommer and Ellen Neumann; Secretary, Cathy Yantz; Treasurer, Karen Colwill. Following the business meeting and installation we will have our Bible Study,

Chapter 5, "According to Paul" from our "Who is Jesus" study book. Cathy Yantz has volunteered to do the Bible Study for Bev Bailey, who will be out of town. Do try and attend that day, you are missed when you are not with us.

The Mission committee of the Circle met December 16 to review our Mission giving. They will report on their designations for funds at the Circle meeting in January.

Reminder: The \$2.00 Circle dues are to be handed into treasurer, Karen Colwill.

Bev Bailey reported that we will be finalizing our Well 4 Project. We were able to do 14 wells since we began the project three years ago. The last 4 were doubled by an unknown benefactor so the total was 18. What a worthwhile project! To celebrate the ending, there will be a Concert of light music by our choir on Friday, January 27, 2017 at 7 PM with a freewill offering being accepted. A representative from Water 4 and his wife are coming for the weekend.

Let's make it a resolution for 2017 that we try and participate in the various events of the Circle. You will be happy you did. A very Happy New Year to each of you!

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.

**“Then sing, young hearts that are full of cheer,
With never a thought of sorrow;
The old goes out, but the glad young year
Comes merrily in tomorrow”**
Emily Miller



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 January 2th

Presbytery News

Mike Read

What Happened at Presbytery Meeting? The Top Ten Events from New Castle Presbytery Meeting on December 3, 2016

#10 - Number 10 is really number 833! New Castle Presbytery has met a total of 833 times over the years. Number 833 was wonderfully hosted by St. Andrews in Newark DE.

#9 - We passed a 2017 budget! Not just any budget, but one that included \$983,867 for “Missional Activities” including Mission Partnerships, New Worshipping Communities, Speer Trust and the Larger Church. New Castle Presbytery does know how to do mission!

#8 - Winnie Wagner (RE -St. Andrews) was installed as Moderator for 2017 and Nate Phillips (TE - Red Clay Creek) as Vice Moderator. Along with outgoing Moderator Bruce Gillette (TE - Limestone), we are blessed that these three serve as our elected leadership.

#7 - We said “Goodbye” to our outgoing Chair of Council, Julius Jackson. Julius had served with grace for the last three years as Vice Moderator, Moderator and Chair of Presbytery Council and we will miss his presence in our leadership.

#6 - Presbytery moved to appoint an Administrative Commission to walk with the congregation at Port Deposit and tasked the “AC” with seeking to establish the viability of the congregation and to determine a way forward for that church.

#5 - We welcomed two new pastors into the Presbytery. Hilary Livingston rejoined us to serve as pastor at Head of Christiana in Newark, and Pat Shang has come to serve part-time at Makemie Memorial in Snow Hill.

#4 - Winnie Wagner and the Revs Nona Holy and Lynn Horan led us in a worship time that focused our thoughts on the season and on our willingness to step out in new ways, individually and as a presbytery.

#3 - Rev. Fernando Rodriguez and Jim Fouss reported on the wonderful progress in Middletown as the old Forest Church is transformed into the new Church on Main. After being in serious disrepair the church building has been once again made beautiful and safe and is ready for worship services.

#2 - We raised \$881 for the Newark Empowerment Center from our worship offering! In cooperation with the Friendship House, they provide assistance to people experiencing homelessness in the Newark, Delaware area.

#1 - The “Balcony 2” team rolled out their report on Presbytery transformation. (Report is available on the Presbytery home web page.) The reforms, if adopted, would focus our staffing, resources and energy into reaching out into our communities and the world as a more missional presbytery.

Written by Bob Schminkey, Stated Clerk of New Castle Presbytery

Dates to Remember

Monday, January 2 YARN, 10-2PM.

Saturday, January 7 PW,CT meeting, Gwen Steven's home, Camden, 10AM

Sunday, January 8 Coffee Hour

Wednesday, January 11, 12 noon Women's Circle

Friday, January 27 7PM Water 4 Concert

February 3 and 4 OVPC Officer's Training



Thanks to Everyone for a Successful Nativity Festival

Thank you all for the wonderful turn out we had for the Nativity Festival. The crèches were promptly delivered and picked up. The refreshments were plentiful and delicious. The choir was uplifting as usual.

Everyone was very helpful with chair and table setup and take down too. Thanks to all!

We had 128 crèches and 124 people signed the guestbook. It was a great way to start the Advent season.

Harriette Tuttle

Dear Reverend Egger and Faithful People of Ocean View Presbyterian Church

Thank you so much for your donation to The Way Home, Inc., a nonprofit program in Sussex County, working to help men and women build better lives after serving time in prison. We truly can't thank you enough! Most of our people come to us homeless and penniless and need all kinds of help.

Thank you again, and may you all have a very blessed Christmas!

Faithfully,

Barbara Del Mastro

Nativity Festival Photos by Bob Turner



Friday Night At The Movies



Movie night falls on Epiphany, the feast day celebrating the Magi visiting the Christ child. You are invited to join us January 6th at 5:30 for a pot-luck supper followed at 7:00 by the 2010 Hallmark movie 'Gift of the Magi'; a retelling of the classic short story by O. Henry

about a young married couple and how they deal with the challenge of buying secret Christmas gifts for each other with very little money. . As an introduction to our main feature we will show the short 1952 version introduced by John Steinbeck as a special treat!

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

