



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH JUNE 2017



## From the Pastor Gerald Egger

### Witnessing: What Not to Say

*Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. 1 Peter 3:15-16*

The season of summer houseguests is upon us. As hosts, we put on our most hospitable faces. And we pray that last summer's barbeque arguments have by now blown over.

Nothing tries a host's composure more than a guest harping on someone's religion, or as more often the case, harping on someone's lack of religion. Yes, your nieces and nephews have never had the advantage of a religious upbringing and it's tempting to bring them to church. True, your inlaws have never had anything good to say about Christian churches. But the best witness to the presence of Christ in your life is to imitate Christ's wide-open welcome and "let the little ones come to me" of their own volition.

Witnessing to faith comes more easily to some people than to others. Upbringing has a lot to do with ease. In a strong evangelical upbringing, testimony is common, not only in worship but in social settings. "Are you saved?" is practically a conversation starter. I grew up in a big-church Protestant setting; my extended family included Roman Catholics, Baptists, non-believers, and an Episcopalian. We scrupulously avoided discussions of religion, even in private. Witnessing one-on-one does not come easily to me.

The author of 1 Peter 3 quoted above knows of outright resistance to Christian witnessing. He urges the Christian community to resist intimidation. Commenting on this passage, a California pastor wrote 25 years ago,

I've never been threatened with imprisonment or torture for my faith. I've never had my property confiscated or my family torn away from me because of my commitment to the gospel. Nor have any of you, to my knowledge, suffered much for your faith in Christ. . .

But even though we have not paid that kind of price for our faith, we all have faced the fear of witnessing to lost people about the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't know if it's the flesh or an inbred fear of conflict or what, but we've all felt the churning stomach and sweaty palms that go with the thought, "Uh oh! I need to talk to this person about Jesus Christ! I'm scared! What am I going to do?" (Steven J. Cole, 1992)

Continuing his comments on 1 Peter 3, Pastor Cole goes on to say, "The best witness combines both good behavior and thoughtful words."

The author of 1 Peter does not mean for us to get into an argument over the hope that is within. We can quietly witness to the joy of Christian faith, in a conversational context. "You know, honey. When I was looking for some old fabrics to use for a quilt, I came across my teenage Bible, the one given to me at confirmation. I had bookmarked a lot of passages that meant something to me at the time. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? That's from 1 Corinthians 6. That still means a lot to me."

Such a comment might open a discussion of quilting, the Bible, confirmation, self-care, or the Holy Spirit. Or if it doesn't, it still witnesses to your faith journey with gentleness and reverence.

Casual conversation is frequently peppered with faith statements unawares. I heard someone say just the other day, "I must be living right. Someone turned in my cell phone that I left in the restaurant." Sure, she made the comment in jest. But statements like "I must be living right" reveal a curious conception of how God interacts with our daily living. If you never find your cell phone, does that mean you're not living right? Does God even care about your cell phone?

Other idioms also convey theology unintentionally.

"God doesn't give us more than we can handle." (If only that were true!)

"When God closes one door, another window opens." (What does that mean, exactly?)

"But for the grace of God, there go I." (Does the person with whom you're comparing yourself not merit God's grace?)

"It was just meant to be." (This doesn't allow much room for free will.)

## 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

If said around people of fragile or formative faith, statements like these are careless witness. You don't mean them to be taken too literally, but why risk being misperceived? Christian witness requires knowing what not to say.

It is our obligation to witness to our faith. In our country, that is a privilege of a free society. Not every Christian has that luxury; in some countries, simply confessing to be Christian is grounds for being jailed, beaten, or killed. As the early church knew too well, the world can be a hostile place.

Ultimately, faith comes through the work of the Holy Spirit, regardless of how or whether we witness to our own faith. The Spirit blows where the Spirit wills. Use words of witness with gentleness and reverence: gentleness with respect to your audience, reverence with respect to God's will.

***“I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June.”***

***- L. M. Montgomery***

## The Benefits of Friends (Johns Hopkins Health Review, Spring-Summer, 2017) submitted by Elsie Young

Friends are more than a boon to your social life; they're integral to your health, protecting you against everything from heart disease to the common cold. Friends may even help you live longer, owing to the psychological well-being these relationships offer. So how many friends are required to see these benefits? "There's no magic number of social connections you need for better physical and emotional health," says Johns Hopkins geriatric medicine expert Alicia Arbaje. "It's all about whether you have people in your life who meet your need for emotional, spiritual, and other kinds of support."

It's quality over quantity. You have enough friendship if you connect frequently- in person, by phone, even online-so that you don't feel isolated. If you're feeling lonely, try volunteering, taking a class, joining a hobby group, celebrating ethnic or cultural heritage, or connecting with your faith community as a way to foster new friendships.

*Session Report*  
*Karen Colwill, Clerk of Session*

**OVPC Minute from Session – April 10, 2017**

The Session of OVPC met on Monday, April 10, 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:**

Session met with **Phil Hamilton, Grounds Chair and Ray Keeney, Buildings Chair** to review 2017 objectives. Discussed filling the potholes along Church Street, repairing the rotting roof on the shed, beautifying the outside of the church and repairing the Cemetery Sign. Spring Clean-up is Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Session met with **Phil Hamilton** who presented a Mission Opportunity with Rev. Dr. Karla Koll, our Mission Co-Worker in Costa Rica. **MOTION** approved to support an educational opportunity with Rev. Dr. Karla Koll that will be presented at the Mission Advocacy Team's Mission Forum on Sunday, April 30, 2017 and at an informal meeting on May 7, 2017.

The Monthly Committee Reports were received.

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

Approved **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2017 Session Meeting.

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

The following **Personnel Committee MOTIONS** were approved:

1. To hire Linda Bowers as Church Secretary, 15 hours a week (Monday - Friday, 9AM - 12PM) starting April 17, 2017.
2. The Church Secretary job description including the posting of contributions to Servant Keeper.
3. The Finance Committee job description.
4. The Bookkeeper job description.

Approved **MOTION** to allow the Christian Community of Churches one-time use of Memorial Hall on Easter Sunday, April 16 from 5:30 AM - 7:00 AM in the event of rain and it is impossible to hold a service at the Bethany Beach Bandstand. Note: The Christian Community of Churches is changing their name to the Southeastern Sussex Ministerium.

Approved **MOTION** to grant Rev. Egger's request for vacation, May 7-12, 2017 with Rev. Gary Baer as pulpit supply on May 7th and Pastor On-Call May 7th-12th.

Reviewed the Congregation LGBTQ Survey statistical results. **MOTION** approved for Session to send the statistical results of the Congregation LGBTQ Survey in a letter to members. Note: This letter to the congregation should be sent this week.

The Rev. Jerry Egger adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:17 P.M.

*Session Report*  
*Karen Colwill, Clerk of Session*

**OVPC Minute from Session - May 7, 2017**

The Session of OVPC met on Monday, May 1, 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:**

Session met with **Ellen Neumann, Sewing Circle CO-Moderator** to review and discuss the 2017 objectives. Ellen discussed a new mission project 'Sole Party' where we prepare and cut heavy denim (old denim jeans) using templates for the soles of shoes. We then forward the soles to a group in Africa that completes the construction of the denim shoes. Shoes are directed to areas of Africa where children have no shoes and have problems with their feet from parasites found in the dirt. Cathy Yantz was elected the new secretary of the New Castle Presbyterian Women.

**Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) - Bruce Hobler, Chair** - The PNC is a committee of the congregation and reports periodically to Session. The first meeting of the PNC was held on February 22, 2016 and they have met 45 times. Pam Rurake, NCP COM Liaison, attends their meetings. The committee shared the following statistics:

- 156 Professional Information Forms (PIF's) received from the PCUSA CLC.
- 91 reviewed
- 78 rejected
- 20 interviews conducted
  - 8 at Princeton Theological Seminary
  - 3 at OVPC
  - 9 via skype

The PNC continues to access the PCUSA CLC (a database for both Presbyterian pastors seeking a call and Presbyterian churches looking for a called pastor) for new candidates. As Clerk of Session, I want us to remember that the PNC is seeking a called pastor not just filling a position.

The Monthly Committee Reports were received.

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

Approved **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the April 10, 2017 Session Meeting.

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

Approved **MOTION** from the **Bequest Task Force** to invite Todd McWright from the National Capital Presbytery to present information on Bequest Programs at a scheduled session of church leaders and interested congregants in coordination with the Christian Education Committee.

**MOTION** approved the letter, reporting the statistical results of the Congregation LGBTQ Survey, for distribution to members. Note: The letter was mailed on Wednesday, May 3, 2017.

Reminder that Rev. Egger is on vacation this week. Rev. Gary Baer is leading worship today, May 7<sup>th</sup>, and also the Pastor On-Call this week.

The Rev. Jerry Egger adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:15 P.M.





Steve Sziasa	June 2nd
Liz Hobler	June 4th
Brooks Goldman	June 11th
Lew Beaver	June 28th

Sue Rizer	April 4th
(Happy Belated Birthday)	



Carol and Dave Kratch	June 6th
Carol and Bill Kester	June 8th
Marge and Herbert Schaefer	June 11th
Elsie and George Young	June 14th
Flora and Lew Beaver	June 21st
Marlene and Mike Quinn	June 27th
Charlotte and Grayson Wheatley	June 29th

## *Christian Education*

### *Bev Bailey*

### **Called, Challenged, Changing**

The warm weather has arrived, and with it a change in scheduling CE classes....for the Spring and Summer season, we offer you two opportunities for a little learning and growing in your faith...

**Prayer Time**, an opportunity to explore new ways to deepen your own prayer life, will return for the spring/summer months. This time together, facilitated by Bev Bailey, will meet the third Sunday of June(18), July(16), and August(20), in the Sanctuary after worship.

**Lemonade on the Porch and "Ted Talks"**, a summer experience which proved to be most successful last year, will be repeated this summer season. Come to the portico between Memorial Hall and Fellowship Centre after worship for fresh Lemonade and cookies on the 2nd Sundays in June, July, and August....and then join Bob Wolf in Fellowship Centre for a Ted Talk and conversation. Ted Talks will also be offered on two Sundays in September after worship.





## *Sewing Circle*

*Amy Peoples*

### **Some days you have to create your own sunshine” Unknown**

This will be the last Sewing Circle letter until fall so there are many dates to be put on your calendar. At OVPC we don't stop for warm weather. There are many activities scheduled that you won't want to miss!

Friday, June 2, 6PM is the Annual Deacon's Pot Luck Supper. Come and learn the wonderful story of Bethany's "Operation Seas the Day" now in its' fifth year. Our speaker will be Annette Reeping, one of the program's organizers. This is such a gift to the community.

Monday, June 5, YARN will meet from 10-2. Bring your lunch and come and join them. They have received many thank you notes from shut-ins who have received their beautiful handmade Prayer Shawls. Even if you cannot crochet or knit you are welcome to attend, they promise to be able to teach you.

Wednesday, June 14, the Sewing Circle will meet at 12 noon. This is the last meeting till fall. We are asked to bring a covered dish to share and refreshments and dessert will be provided by the Executive Committee of the Sewing Circle. During the business meeting, there will be a special dedication of our birthday offerings. This mission was started in 1922 and has become an annual tradition since that time and has funded nearly 100 major projects.

After our business meeting Bev Bailey will lead us in the last chapter, #9 of our Bible Study book. It is titled, "According to Contemporary Culture Interpretations." Please let Ellen or Marti know if you will need a new Bible Study Book for fall "Cloud of Witnesses" @\$8.00.

At the May Sewing Circle meeting, we voted to have "Sole Hope" as a Mission project. These soles are made from jeans and are cut out to make actual shoes for children in Uganda. We would cut out the soles and they are sent to Uganda. The adults there make the shoes so that the children can go to school with more foot comfort. This would be a church wide experience. More information will be available soon.

On Sunday, June 18, the Sewing Circle will be hosting the Father's Day Brunch after the church service. At this time on behalf of the ladies of OVPC, we certainly do say a hearty thank you for the very special Mother's Day Coffee hour. It was splendid!

On July 26 and 27 we will again have our Heavenly Luncheon in conjunction with the South Coastal Library Beach & Bay Cottage House Tour. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Sewing Circle and we need helpers from the entire church. When you are asked to help we hope you will say yes, with a willing heart. It takes many hands to make it a success and you all are needed. It is a week - long project starting with Monday, July 24 when the chicken is picked up and cooked, Tuesday's chopping vegetables and fruit, and table setting, to the two days of the event. You can see that there are many jobs and many hands needed. Please contact Liz Hobler and volunteer to help.

During the summer remember to save items for the Fall Jumble, Saturday, October 14. Also get together the yummy recipes you have for goodies to sell that day. \*For those new to OVPC a Jumble is an indoor sale.

## *New Castle Presbyterian Woman Annual Retreat*

### *Ellen Neumann*

The theme of this year's NCPW Annual Retreat was "Blessed be the Ties that Bind." Cindy Benjamin, Ellen Neumann, Judy Reich, Kathy Sheetz and Cathy Yantz enjoyed a weekend of fellowship, bible study, speakers and song during the weekend of April 21 - 23, 2017 at the Dunes Manor in Ocean City, Maryland.

Our Friday night keynote speaker was Dr. Monique Fountain-Hanna. Dr. Fountain-Hanna is a pediatrician and currently serves as a medical consultant for the US Department of Health and Human services. She spoke passionately about the ties that bind families and communities. Her words were moving and inspirational.

Reverend Jill Getty led us in our bible studies and Sunday worship. Reverend Getty is serving as a pastoral care assistant at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware. Her lessons challenged us to contemplate how we can strengthen our faith through our ties to Christ and our community. Her words were thought-provoking and delivered with insight and humor.

The workshop topics offered this year included The Lineage of Jesus, Making Safe Places for New Voices and a book study of *The Plum Tree in the Desert*. Our mission project was SOLE HOPE which our Sewing Circle hopes to continue at OVPC.

The PWNCP Annual Retreat continues to bring together old and new friends with the purpose of strengthening our faith through study, prayer and fellowship. The PWNCP represents a "community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom."



***"How did it get so late so soon?  
Its night before its afternoon.  
December is here before its June.  
My goodness how the time has flown.  
How did it get so late so soon?"***

***- Dr. Seuss***



## *Mission Forum*

### *Bev Bailey*

The Mission Advocacy Team (MAT) held a Mission Forum with Brunch on Sunday, April 30, after Worship. About 30 people gathered in Memorial Hall for a lovely brunch of egg casseroles and quiche, muffins, and fresh fruit. Pastor Jerry began by talking about the Biblical and Denominational rationales for doing mission in our congregations. Then followed reports from Women's Circle, Deacons, and Session about what we are already doing at OVPC. Jean Read gave us an up to date Mission Matrix, and we heard from Phil Hamilton about a new mission opportunity in Costa Rica.....Then we divided into table groups and answered 3 questions for the future of mission at OVPC. Here is a brief summary of the questions..

**What does Mission mean to You?** Doing for others (enriches our own spiritual development); Doing with others; being the hands and feet of Jesus; teaching others to do for themselves, involving ourselves in direct service; prayer; advocacy; filling a need; opportunity to share our own message; essential part of faith, reaching out to, and serving community; using skills God has given us; contributing money, time, and talent to others.

**What is your best "Mission" memory from this or another church?** "Christmas in April"—housing rehab; Habitat for Humanity; birth of the idea for building Memorial Hall; Mission Fair; Meeting Ground; Shepherding Program here with Deacons; Food to Pyle Center; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to Mississippi(Katrina Relief); Projects with a youth group; Interacting in Diversity Situations; Environmental Projects; intergenerational projects such as "Stop Hunger Now"; Christmas "Giving" Tree; Water4; Vacation Bible School; Trip to Russian Orphanage; "Planting Trees in Guatamala"; Milford Housing.

**What would you like to see OVPC doing for Mission that we are not already doing?**  
**Local, National, International....**Cooperate in more intercongregational/denominational projects, a la Crop Walk and Seas the Day; Share a Labyrinth, homeless shelter, community garden, with close-by congregation; Drug Addiction Prevention/Recovery as part of Church Family Project; Environmentally "Green" church; Annual Mission Trip; become a "Sanctuary" church; Support young mothers/couples; services/visits/calls for shut-in/health care facility members; more physical involvement in addition to monetary support; needy children in Sussex County; connection with people we are helping (see the outcome of the effort); another "Stop Hunger Now"; getting involved in Presbyterian Disaster Action; Ministerium pick up on supporting Pyle Center; after-school programs for children; more field trips to help local organizations.

MAT will turn over our findings to the Session who will decide on "next steps". Many thanks to all of you who participated and to the Mat Team (Mike Quinn, Jen Read, Bev Bailey, Karen Rubin-Hamilton, Ollie Robling, Lorie Hartsig) and to Pastor Jerry for their hard work on the Forum.

## *Meet Our New Secretary: Linda Bowers*

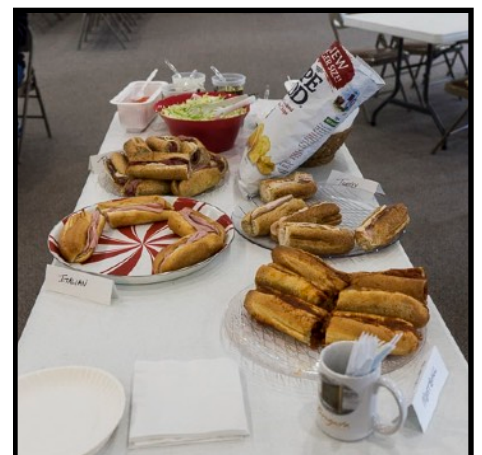
Linda, and her husband, Don became full-time residents of Fenwick Island in March. They are originally from Pennsylvania and have had vacation homes in Dewey Beach and Fenwick for the past 11 years. Linda is a former teacher and administrator and has had her own business, LB Organizational Consulting, for over 13 years with an emphasis on fund raising for non-profits. Don recently retired after 38 years as a police officer, with the last 11 as a Chief of Police. As they both “ease into retirement” Don is currently the Safety and Security Manager at Sea Colony and Linda is happy to be at OVPC as our secretary. She will also continue with her business and is currently in the planning stages for the inaugural WRDE Charity Golf Classic to be held in September at Bear Trap Dunes. Don and Linda have three children and six grandchildren and enjoy spending time with all of them.



Another ramp finished.



*Photogenic*  
*Jim Hartsig*  
Spring Clean  
Up Day







The ladies of the church say thank you to the men for our lovely Mother's Day Brunch.



## 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 June 5th**



Summer Solstice June 21st





**Friday, June 2, 2017  
6:00pm**

You're invited by the Deacons for a  
Potluck Dinner in Memorial Hall with  
guest speaker, Annette Reeping,  
from **Operation SEAs THE DAY**.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about a  
community's gift to these warriors and their families.

Contact Betsy Henifin at 302-539-5657  
for more information.



## *Friday Night At The Movies*



Join us at the Wolf's house on Friday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 for a potluck supper followed by our monthly movie. Bring your favorite dish or dessert to share or just come and enjoy the fellowship.

This month by request, we will be viewing the 2016 film 'Queen of Katwe' starring Madina Nalwanga and David Oyelowo. This inspiring film is an adaptation of the book by Tim Crothers. "Living in the slum of Katwe in Kampala, Uganda, is a constant struggle for 10-year-old Phiona (Madina Nalwanga) and her family. Her world changes one day when she meets Robert Katende (David Oyelowo), a missionary who teaches children how to play chess. Phiona becomes fascinated with the game and soon becomes a top player under Katende's guidance. Her success in local competitions and tournaments opens the door to a bright future and a golden chance to escape from a life of poverty." (*Internet synopsis*).

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 ---

