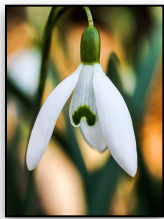




OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MARCH 2017



From the Pastor Gerald Egger

Our Comfort Level with LGBTQ Relationships

Same-gender relationships are not a topic that OVPC has officially discussed. When someone asks me where this congregation stands on LGBTQ marriage or ordination, I hesitate to respond at all. My usual tactic is to turn the question around: “Where do you stand?”

We opened the topic at our recent Leadership Retreat. OVPC elders and deacons were asked to stand in a corner of the room that represented “OK with Gay/Lesbian Marriage” in general or “Not OK with Gay/Lesbian Marriage.” Two remaining corners were designated “OK with a Gay/Lesbian Minister” for this congregation or “Not OK with a Gay/Lesbian Minister.” The only corner in which no participants stood was “Not OK + Not OK.” Participants spread themselves around the other three corners, with a plurality standing in the “OK + OK” corner. Thirteen people is a narrow sample, however.

Prospective ministers and prospective members would appreciate informed answers as to this church’s sentiments on same-gender relationships.

Therefore Session has authorized a communications process to gauge congregational sentiment around regarding three related topics: (1) Acceptance of same-gender weddings on our property. (2) Acceptance of a LGBTQ minister for this congregation. (3) Acceptance of a LGBTQ minister in a legal same-gender marriage for this congregation. The communications process includes:

- PC(USA) guidance for congregations (this letter and bulletin inserts)
- Pulpit announcements
- Confidential questionnaires mailed to each active member

(from the Pastor cont.)

Late last year the Presbyterian Church (USA) published guidance on same-gender relationships to help congregations discern their positions. The article is balanced and concise. Overall guidance is “ministers and sessions are free to decide these matters without fear of discipline.” Here are some excerpts. A link to the full article appears at the end.

Gerald Egger

Sexuality and Same-Gender Relationships

Introduction

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has been engaged in discussion and debate about sexuality and faithful sexual relationships across the last several decades; much of this debate has been focused on the morality of same-gender relationships. Men and women of deep faith and honest intelligence can and do differ on how they understand Scripture and hear the vibrant voice of the Holy Spirit on this subject. Decisions made by the denomination have sought to find ways to make space for members of the PC(USA) together to live out those differing views with integrity.

PC(USA) ON SCRIPTURAL INTERPRETATION

In 2010, the Committee on Church Orders and Ministry of the 219th General Assembly (2010) expressed for the church that “The PC(USA) has no consensus in the interpretation of Scripture on issues of same-sex practice” and made reference to “our long-standing Presbyterian commitment to freedom of conscience and mutual forbearance.”

Discussions about sexuality and faithful sexual relationships in the PC(USA) have coalesced around three specific areas:

- rights in civil society,
- ordination to the ordered ministries of the church, and
- marriage.

Rights in Civil Society

As far back as 1978, the Presbyterian Church has called for civil rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation. In 1987, the 199th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) called for “the elimination ... of laws governing the private sexual behavior between consenting adults [and the passage] of laws forbidding discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodations....” These commitments have been reaffirmed by several subsequent Assemblies.

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

(from the Pastor cont.)

Ordination

In 2011, a majority of the presbyteries ratified a change to the *Book of Order*, now found in G-2.0104b . . . The effects of the current language:

- In keeping with our historic principles of church order, each session and presbytery will continue to determine the suitability of individuals seeking ordination within its bounds.
- Persons in a same-gender relationship may be considered for ordination and/or installation as deacons, ruling elders, and teaching elders (ministers of the Word and Sacrament) within the PC(USA).
- Ordaining bodies (sessions and presbyteries) are permitted but not required to ordain lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender persons. Candidates for ordination and/or installation must be considered as individuals on a case-by-case basis; it is not permissible to establish a policy that excludes a category of persons in the abstract.

Marriage

In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s *Book of Order*, instructions for marriage are found particularly in the "Directory for Worship." Responsibility for decisions about whether and where to have a marriage service is granted to teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders, and to sessions. Ministers are responsible for deciding whether they will or will not officiate at a marriage service. Sessions are responsible for deciding whether the church's property may be used for a marriage service.

In 2014, the 221st General Assembly voted to amend the section of the Directory for Worship on marriage services. The amendment was approved by a majority of presbyteries and became effective in June, 2015.

The effects of the current language:

- In keeping with our historic principles of church order and freedom of conscience, ministers and sessions will continue to be empowered to make decisions about their own participation and the use of a church's property.
- Ministers are permitted but not required to officiate at any wedding, including same-sex weddings, based either on conscience or the minister's discernment of the couple's readiness to take on the responsibilities of marriage.
- Sessions are permitted but not required to authorize use of the church's property for a wedding, including same-sex weddings, for reasons of conscience or other reasons.

Summary

By its actions the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has decided that strongly differing convictions about sexuality and faithful sexual relationship are granted equal standing within this denomination, honoring the historic principles of freedom of conscience in the interpretation of Scripture, and mutual forbearance. Permission is granted, but practices are not to be required.

Source

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-believe/sexuality-and-same-gender-relationships/>

Meet Our New Member: Karen White

I have been living in Millville for almost 3 years with my boyfriend Eric and 3 cats. I moved from Harford County, Maryland and was raised in Montgomery County. I married a few years after graduating from college and am the mother of 35 year old Jason, who lives in Baltimore with his wife. I raised him alone and put myself through law school about 30 years ago. I worked primarily doing research for other attorneys. Now I am semi-retired at the beach. I enjoy genealogy, hiking, and visiting historic sites.



REFLECT

Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of containing God's gift of himself.

Ask and seek, and your heart will grow big enough to receive Him and to keep Him as your own. Wherever God has put you, that is your vocation. It is not what we do but how much love we put into it.

Mother Teresa

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK



**Set your clocks ahead
one hour**

Sunday, March 12th

Session Report

Jen Read

Session Report for February 2017

The Session of OVPC met on Monday, February 13, 2017, at the home of George & Elsie Young. The Rev. Jerry Egger opened with prayer and devotions at 7:05 pm.

Session approved Karen White for membership upon Reaffirmation of Faith.

Clerk's Report

Deaths: Mary Szlasa Franz, February 1, 2017. Memorial service in the Sanctuary planned for 11 am on March 25, 2017, with luncheon provided by Sewing Circle.

Year to date Membership: 81

Annual Statistical Report was submitted to PC(USA) on February 9.

Financial Report

Questions about and corrections to the Annual Report to the Congregation have been resolved. Finance Committee will publish historical reports of the congregation on a five-year rolling basis.

New Business

Gay Marriage, Gay Clergy. Session approved a survey of the entire active membership anonymously about sentiments on gay/lesbian marriage and gay/lesbian clergy. Information campaign will precede questionnaires mailed first-class to the congregation, with return envelope to the office.

Wills and Bequests. Session authorized a task force to implement a planned giving program for OVPC.

Speer Trust Grants. Session authorized grant requests to Speer Trust at New Castle Presbytery for up to \$2000 for Pyle Center Emergency Fund and the same amount for Milford Housing Development Corp. emergency services.

We Choose Welcome. Session authorized a link on the OVPC website to PCUSA's "We Choose Welcome" website.

Baptism. Session authorized the baptism of William Paul Symer, grandson of Cathy Yantz, during worship on March 12, 2017.

Gifts of Women Sunday. Session authorized Sewing Circle to invite Rev. Caitlan Quinn Gartland to be guest preacher on March 26, 2017.

Chili Cook-Off and Game Night. Session authorized Sewing Circle to hold a fundraiser for Rwanda Joy, a Chili Cook-Off and Game Night on Fri., March 17, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

The next regular stated meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Elsie Young. The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:45 PM.



Harriette Tuttle
June Goldman
Amy Peoples
Flora Beaver
Joe Schaefer
JoAnn Griffin
Jim Trent
Bruce Hobler
Lee Grace

Mar. 4th
Mar. 5th
Mar. 9th
Mar. 11th
Mar. 15th
Mar. 17th
Mar. 19th
Mar. 19th
Mar. 26th



Barbara and Jim Dietsch Mar. 28th

*It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot
and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and
winter in the shade.*

Charles Dickens, Great Expectations



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 March 6th



Click on flower

In Memory - Mary Franz

MARY WIMBERLY ANDERSON (SZLASA) FRANZ

Ask any member of Women's Circle about Mary Szlasa Franz, and what follows is a story of a woman who did much to positively influence OVPC. She was the fudge lady, owner of the Fudge Factory in Bethany from 1983-2001, she organized a giant auction to help pay for Memorial Hall, she helped support the beginnings of an idea to organize the very first Heavenly Luncheon and for many years baked the brownies for it. Hers was the recipe for the now famous chicken salad. Says, Elsie Young, "Thinking we could piggy back on the South Coastal Library House Tour, I suggested we have a luncheon. Raising money for our new Building Memorial Hall was a thought. Mary was a strong support." She also helped establish the Jolly Trolley in Bethany Beach. Betsy Henifin says of Mary, "Whenever she left a place, it was better than when she came."

Born on March 25, 1936 in Princess Ann, MD, Mary's first career was that of a school teacher at Bladensburg High School in Maryland. In the 1970s, she created Walker Mountain Crafts Clothing Company, a business which empowered rural women in Augusta County, Virginia to earn their own livelihood.

A permanent move to Bethany Beach in 1997 gave Mary the opportunity to become an outspoken advocate for the resort business community and an active member of OVPC. In retirement, she was a board member of the South Coastal Library and secretary of the Quiet Resorts Charitable Foundation.

Mary is survived by her three children: Stephen Szlasa and his wife Cindy Held-Szlasa of Ocean view, Ann Szlasa-DeMonte and Michael DeMonte of Audobon, PA, and Mary (Mikie) Sarmiento and Santiago Sarmiento of Newark, DE, as well as one step-daughter Greta Franz and her son J. Ryan Sandlin of Wilmington, NC. Her four grand children were the light of her life: Nathan DeMonte, Jake DeMonte, Drew Szlasa and Hannah Sarmiento.

A memorial service will be held on Mary's birthday, March 25th at 11 am at Ocean View Presbyterian Church.

The family requests that donations be made in her memory to OVPC or the Quiet Resorts Charitable Foundation (QRCF Scholarship Fund/ Back Our Schools).



Sewing Circle

Amy Peoples

Hard to believe that March is almost here, when you are busy time really flies. The Sewing Circle is that way, when we put away one project there is another to take it's place.

The ending of our water 4 project was perfect. We had guests from water 4 for the weekend, the choir outdid themselves with the concert, and we collected over \$800.00 toward a final well. It was a good project from beginning to end. Kudos to Bev Bailey for getting us involved.

Wednesday, March 1, is Ash Wednesday and we will have our church Soup Supper at 6:00 PM, followed by a service in the Sanctuary.

The YARN group will meet Monday, March 6 from 10-2 PM. Bring your lunch and join this active group. They really need more people attending. Remember they can teach you easily and the Prayer Shawls are so welcome when you do not feel well.

The Sewing Circle will meet Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at noon. Bring your lunch and refreshments will be provided by Kathy Sheetz and Liz Hobler. After our business meeting we will have our Bible Study which will be Chapter 7, "According to the Non-canonical Gospels". Come and join us.

Coffee Hour will be hosted by Sandy White and Ellen Neumann on March 12 following worship.

Get your pots and pans ready. The Chili Cook Off and Game Night will be held Friday, March 17, 6 PM. We will learn more about this event at Circle meeting. In previous years it has been great fun and quite competitive.

The Gifts of Women service will be Sunday, March 26 with Reverend Caitlin Quinn Gartland, Associate pastor, Chestertown Presbyterian Church, leading the worship. This is always a special service of the Presbyterian Women each year. Hope you will be able to be there.

The New Castle Presbytery Women's Retreat will be held at the Dunes Hotel, Ocean City, on April 21-23. Contact the Circle Moderators for registration papers and information. This is a fine time to gather with the other Presbyterian Women of the New Castle Presbytery.

Hope to see you at the many events we will be having in March and April. Be sure to look at church bulletin for Lenten activities.

Communications and Technology

Bob Wolf, Don Bailey, Jim Hartsig, Bob Turner



BEFORE YOU CALL THAT NUMBER!

We all have heard about the danger of computer viruses and how careful we have to be when opening email attachments from people we don't know or trust. But even the most vigilant among us can have a virus sneak into our system because there is always someone out to deceive us for their own gain. You may have seen a screen similar to the one below pop up - under no circumstances should you ever call the number.



Here is a story submitted by one of our church family.....

On Saturday morning, I sat down to view email and received a pop-up from Norton. I was advised that a virus was detected. Within seconds, I received another pop-up from (Microsoft?). I was advised not to close the screen or shut down the computer as I would likely lose all the information on the hard drive. Along with this directive was a phone # to call immediately to handle the virus.

Being computer illiterate, I called the number and was put in touch with a specialist. Bells and Whistles starting going off when, in a heavy Asian accent, he informed me that his name was Dave Parker in the New York office of I Tech Support.

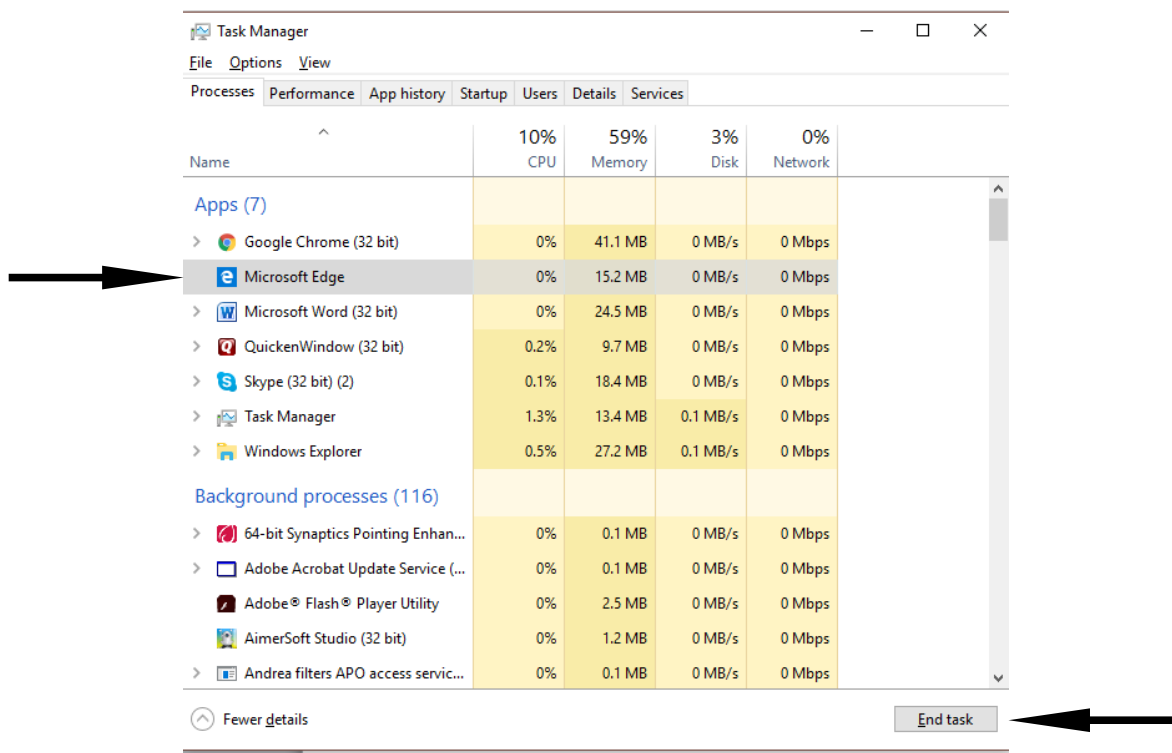
He informed me that we had a Zeus Virus and he would have to have control of the computer to research this. OH So Trusting Me - gave him permission. He started looking thru the computer and then he started with his sales pitch. It would cost us between \$299.99 and \$399.99 to protect our computer. He stated that he saw signs of the virus and the only way he could fix it is if I paid the money for the protection plan.

At this point I know I am talking to the "Virus" himself and told him that I felt that I was being scammed. He immediately locked me out of the computer and hung up. This ended up costing us \$100.00 for a local computer repair company to unlock our computer. This company told us that they get at least 5 of these problems a week.

My take on this is: Norton advised me of the virus and Dave Parker (Zeus) was the virus.

So, what should you do if this happens? The following steps pertain to Windows based computers only.

1. If your security software issues a warning message and prompts you to either allow it to take care of the threat or ignore it, unless you are very sure there is no real threat, let it take care of it for you.
2. Don't Panic. No damage has been done to your computer or data. This is probably not even a virus but a site that you somehow were directed to that has taken control of your web browser (that's why you can't get out of it).
3. Start Task Manager by either (1) pressing the right button on your mouse while pointing to a blank area in the task bar area at the bottom of your screen and selecting 'Task Manager' from the pop-up window that is displayed or (2) by pressing the <ctrl><alt><delete> keys simultaneously and selecting Task Manager from the screen that is presented.
4. Select the TAB labeled 'Processes' and look for your Internet Browser. In the example shown it is 'Microsoft Edge'.
5. Click on the browser name so it is highlighted then click on 'End Task' in the lower right hand corner. This should close the browser and that's that. You should be able to continue working normally.



Another scam that is circulating is someone calling you and telling you they are from Microsoft (or some other Tech Support outfit) and they noticed your computer is infected or in need of immediate attention. Hang up immediately. Nobody is monitoring your computer to make sure it is working correctly.

If you have any questions at all about your computer or run into an issue like the one here and are unsure about what to do, don't hesitate to call a member of the Communications/Technology team - we will be glad to help - if we don't know the answer we can usually find it for you.



Ocean View Presbyterian Church

67 Central Ave. Ocean View, DE

FRIDAY, March 17th

6:00 pm

- **Don't miss it!**
- **Bring your friends.**
- **Come and enjoy homemade chili by the best cooks in town.**
- **Proceeds to benefit Rwanda Joy**



Souper Bowl Sunday collected lots of soup.



Recipe courtesy of Elsie Young

Hot Corn Dip

- 10 oz. frozen corn
- Vegetable Oil For Brushing
- Salt And Pepper, to taste
- 1 whole HALF Red Onion, Diced
- 2 cloves Garlic, Minced
- 1 whole Red Bell Pepper, Seeded And Diced
- 1 whole Green Bell Pepper, Seeded And Diced
- 1 whole Fresh Jalapeno, Seeded And Diced
- Fine (scrape out half the seeds and membranes)
- 2 Tablespoons Butter
- 8 ounces, weight Cream Cheese, Softened
- 1/2 cup Mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup Sour Cream
- 1 pound Monterey Jack Cheese, Grated
- 2 whole Green Onions, Sliced
- Chili Powder, For Sprinkling
- 1 can (4 Ounces) Diced Green Chilies

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Roast frozen corn at 450 degrees for 5-10 minutes.

In a large skillet over medium heat, melt the butter and add the onion, garlic, bell peppers, and jalapeno. Stir and cook for 5 minutes, until the veggies are soft and golden. Remove the skillet from the heat to let the veggies cool slightly.

In a mixer, combine the cream cheese, mayo, sour cream, and 2/3 of the Monterey Jack. Mix with the paddle attachment on low until combined. Add the green onions, the veggie mixture, the corn, and the green chilies. Mix on low until just combined.

Spread the mixture in a baking dish and sprinkle with the rest of the Monterey Jack. Bake for 20 to 22 minutes, until bubbly and golden. Remove from the oven and serve warm with tortilla chips!

**REVEALED**

Ellen's excellent secret
raspberry bar recipe!

Christian Education

Bev Bailey

OVPC:

CALLED, CHALLENGED, CHANGING

The Winter Book Study, Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life, has proved to be an excellent study for folk at OVPC. This 7 week course, led by Jen Read and Bev Bailey, will hold the last class on Sunday, March 5 after worship. Twenty eight people have participated in this class.

The Lenten Study this year will be different from most of the classes at OVPC. Called, “Looking at Lent and Holy Week through the Lens of the Arts”, we will work with some of the “artists” in our congregation in learning about the spiritual and most holy time of the year. The classes are:

March 19--Lent and Art—led by Harriette Tuttle. She will lead us through the season using fabric, quilting, and photography.

March 26--Lent and Music—led by Kathy Rhodes, using the hymns, choir music and instrumentals of the season.

April 2—Lent and Drama/Poetry—led by Jerry Egger and Bev Bailey. We will look at some of the dramatic writings of Iona and different dramatic readings, as well as different poems of the season.

April 9—A Spirituality Center—Come to Memorial Hall for Coffee Hour and then spend some time working at different centers to learn more about Jesus’ journey through Lent and Holy Week.

More Opportunities:

Prayer Time will return for the summer. On the 3rd Sundays of May, June, July, and August, Bev Bailey will meet you in the Sanctuary after worship for a time to learn more ideas about meditation and prayer. Watch for more information.

Lemonade on the Porch with Ted Talks. Come for lemonade and cookies on the verandah between Memorial Hall and Fellowship Centre on the 2nd Sundays in July and August, and then join Bob Wolf in Fellowship Centre for a Ted Talk or a video on UTube.....Ted Talks will also be offered in September after worship.

The CE Committee has begun planning for next Fall. Please let one of the committee know if you’d like to join us or have a possible idea for a class. Who knows what the fall season will bring!!

Friday Night At The Movies



Our March movie will be held on **Friday March 10** so that those who need to attend the Presbytery Retreat in Ocean City will be able to join us. *Remember - anyone who would like to attend the retreat will be reimbursed \$20.00 for the cost of the plenaries/materials fee.*

So - we invite you to join us on Friday the 10th at the Colwill's home at 5:30 for a pot-luck supper followed by our movie at 7:00.

This month in celebration of 'March Madness' we'll watch the 2006 film 'Glory Road' starring Josh Lucas as Coach Don Haskins who led the first all-black starting line-up for a college basketball team to the NCAA national championship for Texas Western College.

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 ---

