



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 2014

✘ **Reflections** ✘
Kerry Shull

BLESSING

The closing act of worship is that of blessing. So, what is blessing?

Blessing is an act wherein one party transmits power for life to another (Walter Brueggemann, *Reverberations of Faith: A Theological Handbook of Old Testament Themes*, 2002, pages 18-20). What is transmitted concerns prosperity, wealth, health, longevity, and fertility.

God is Life. Out of love for what God has made, God freely bestows all that makes for life. Hence, we as human beings were not only created, we were also blessed. “God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth,’” (Genesis 1:28). As those blessed, we are to be a blessing to creation, to be its stewards.

Human beings also mediate God’s blessings to others. This ability follows from God’s covenant relationship with Israel, “but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation,” (Exodus 19:6; see 1 Peter 2:9). There are two theaters in which people, fulfilling a priestly function, bestow blessing.

First, Israel itself is to be a source of blessing to the world. God’s blessing flows through the church to the world. This is stated in God’s original call of Abraham and Sarah, “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed,” (Genesis 12:2-3). This is the basis of Israel’s (the church’s) ministry to the world. God’s people cannot be closed in upon themselves, for we mediate God’s blessing.

Second, priests mediate God’s power for life. The head of a household exerted such a priestly function when blessing the younger generation. The classic example is Isaac’s attempt to bestow blessing upon his eldest son, Esau, but due to the youngest son’s chicanery, ends up blessing Jacob instead (Genesis 27). Jacob, in turn, lives to bless his grandsons, the children of Joseph (Genesis 48:8-20).

Those of the priestly clan are given by God a special blessing to pronounce upon Israel, “The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace,” (Numbers 6:24-26).

Blessing flows from one with power to one lacking power. This makes a number of very familiar passages in Scripture intriguing. Psalm 103, for instance, is a psalm blessing God! “Bless the LORD, O my



Reflections (Cont.)

soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name," (Psalm 103:1). Here, "bless" seems to be synonymous with "praise," or "thanks." We offer such blessing to God before we eat. It is a sign that we acknowledge that life is God's free and abundant gift.

We live in a world of blessing. To approach the world in this way means that we are unique in a society for which "life" is reduced to the things that can be produced and marketed: "what you will eat or what you will drink, our bout your body, what you will wear," (Matthew 6:25). First, the things that make for life are far more extensive than everyday commodities. Life has to do with relationship with God, a relationship initiated by God and bestowed in Christ, a life of love and forgiveness and mercy. Second, life is given as a gift of a loving God. We realize, then, just how dependent we are on God. In worship we open ourselves to God and to God's blessings. Worship is blessing. Worship anticipates the Kingdom when God's blessings will be known in full.

When I reflect upon my association in Ocean View and Frankford Churches, it is the word "blessing" that comes to mind. Especially in a long pastorate, it is the person himself who is revealed over time. The person can no longer hide behind skills and ability to produce certain results. The person, with all his shortcomings, faults and sins become only too evident. You have accepted, supported and encouraged me. You have allowed me to be your pastor and have accepted what gifts I had to offer. God's blessings have flowed to me through these congregations. I am so humbled by this grace, and so grateful for all you have given to me. Thank you.

The churches are entering upon a new future. The challenges facing the church at large are huge. I have been incredibly impressed by the entire leadership of your church. What is even more important is that I know that they realize that we live in a world of blessing. It is a world of needing to trust in God's provision. It is a world of needing to be patient, to wait, to wait expectantly, to wait with deep confidence. The leadership that God will bring will be entirely different from what you have known, but it needs to be different because new challenges must be met.

I close with blessing to these churches.

May the LORD bless you and keep you.

May the LORD allow you to hear afresh the voice of Christ.

May the LORD strengthen your trust in Christ's leading.

May the LORD give you the gifts that allow Christ's blessings to abound in your midst and overflow to those to whom you minister.

May the LORD give others a glimpse of the Kingdom in your community.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you," (2 Corinthians 13:13). Amen.

Ocean View Presbyterian Church

67 Central Avenue
Ocean View, DE 19970

Service

Sunday, 9:30 A.M.

Pastor

Kerry Shull

Church Office

302-539-3455

Website

ovpc.org

Session

Carole Trent
Karen Colwill
Don Bailey
Bob Wolf
Jennifer Read
Herb Sheetz

Deacons

Mike Read
Jane Sergison
Jim Hartsig
Bill Colwill
Amy Peoples
Ollie Robling

Newsletter Editors

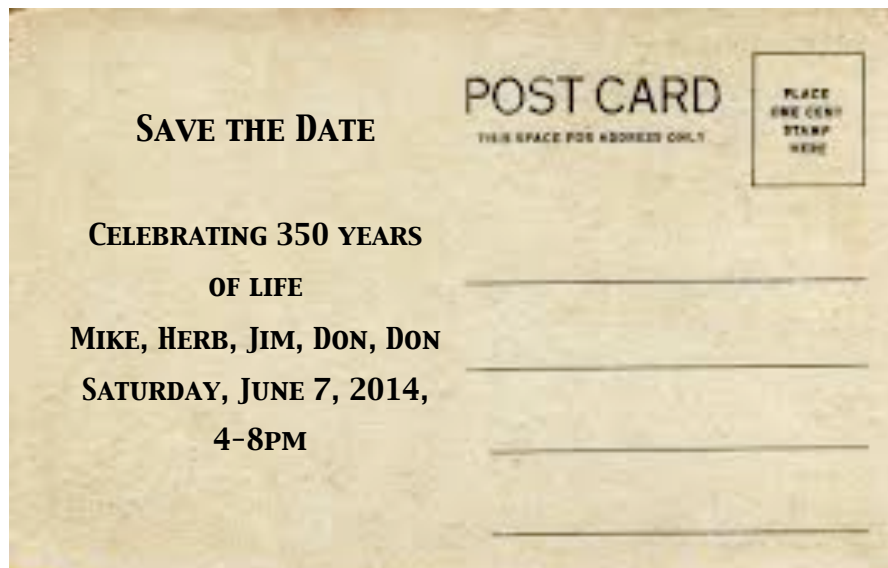
Lorie and Jim Hartsig
Send submissions to:
newsletter@ovpc.org

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

Marlene Quinn	May 13
Eunice Rollings	May 19
Elaine Wolf	May 23
Sue Dick	May 26

Happy Anniversary

Amy and Ed Hiner	May 2
Kathy and Herb Sheetz	May 6
Karen and Bill Colwill	May 20
Cindy and Stephen Sziasa	May 22
Kathy and Larry Hofsiss	May 27



**PARTY WILL BE HELD AT THE LION'S CLUB
115 MCKINLEY AVENUE, DEWEY BEACH
(BAY SIDE)**

**“Be like a flower and turn your face to the sun.”
- Kahlil Gibran**

Communication and Technology

Bob Wolf

Some of you have been involved in the 2014 Leadership Retreat in which all of the various committees of the church met and learned about what each other does, what we want to accomplish in the short and long term, and what our personal visions for our church are – it was quite a remarkable experience and the excitement continues as we are taking those ideas and working together to bring them to life!

One of the projects coming up for this team (and anyone else who would like to be involved) is to give our website a face-lift. We are going to make more use of pictures of both the church and our members to make it more inviting to those who don't know us but visit our page and also overhaul and enhance some of the content.

And now to introduce you to a couple of new items you are going to start seeing more and more....

Our new logo:



We will be using this logo on the website in the near future and will slowly start to incorporate it into our brochures, letterhead, and other publications. Further off in the future we will also look into having something fabricated that can be used in the sign outside of the church.

We will also be incorporating a QR Code on many of the documents we publish. A QR (Quick Response) code is like a bar code that can be read by scanning software on your smart phone. If you have a smart phone but don't have any software may we suggest RedLaser, available for iPhone, Android, and Windows Phone. Our QR Code has been designed to navigate directly to our website.



Go ahead – try it; we know you want to! And yes, you can scan right from your computer screen.

And as always....

Remember to visit our website often! www.ovpc.org

Renaissance Center Hymn Sing

Bill Colwill

Ocean view is supporting a very special ministry for the Alzheimer's Unit at the Renaissance Center. On one Sunday each month, our volunteers take part in, and help lead an afternoon hymn sing. Our next Sundays are May 25 and June 8, both at 2:00 pm. We will carpool from our church at 1:45. Please consider joining us. All are welcome. This is a special outreach which will warm your heart.



**Saturday, May 3rd. 11am
Bethany Beach boardwalk**

Deacon's Report

Mike Read

The Deacons continue to maintain the OVPC prayer list. If you know of someone who is in need of prayers, please notify any Deacon. Be sure to check that the person wishes to be added to the list. Also, please let a Deacon know if any person currently on the list needs to be removed. The list is included in the church bulletin every Sunday. Your Deacons strive to maintain a complete and accurate list. Thank you for your help with this.

“I think that no matter how old or infirm I may become, I will always plant a large garden in the spring. Who can resist the feelings of hope and joy that one gets from participating in nature’s rebirth?”

- Edward Giobbi

Women's Sewing Circle

Amy Peoples



Dear Ladies,

What a joy it is to see the lovely spring flowers after our very snowy, cold winter!

As always the Sewing Circle has a full schedule of activities. Jot them on your calendars so that you won't miss anything.

On May 11, Mother's Day, the men have graciously said that they will have a Mother's Day Coffee Hour after church. Dave Kratch is heading up this endeavor and will be rounding up volunteers for this special day. Thank you from the ladies!

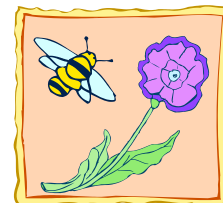
The Sewing Circle will meet on Wednesday, May 14 at noon. Bring your sandwich or salad and refreshments will provided by Carol Kratch and Betsy Henifin. Bev Bailey will lead us in Bible Study, Chapter 9," God's Abiding Presence."

Don't forget to drop your coins and bills into the special "Well" in Memorial Hall. We learned at Circle that we have already sent a check to Water 4.org Some of the Mission Committee members will be speaking to the different organizations that meet at the church explaining the Well Mission. Also newspapers will be contacted in hopes that articles can be written about it. We voted to give the proceeds from the sale of Rada Cutlery to the Well Mission.

On Saturday, June 7, OVPC will be celebrating the 70th birthdays of 5 of our church family, Mike Read, Herb Sheetz , Jim Hartsig, Don Benjamin, and Don Bailey. We are all invited to the Lion's Club in Dewey Beach from 4-8.

Kerry will be leading his final service before his retirement on Sunday, May 4, 2014. I am sure you all join me in wishing him well as he retires. Oh my, he will be missed! You will have a chance to meet with him at his Retirement Party on Saturday, June 14, 2014 from 1-3 in Memorial Hall.

The Ocean View Presbyterian Church family has many events scheduled in the next few months. Hope you will be able to join us. Remember you are missed when you are not in attendance.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, May 11, 2014, Mother's Day Coffee Hour

Wednesday, May 14, 2014, Sewing Circle, 12 noon

Saturday, June 7, 2014 70th Birthday Celebration

Saturday, June 14, 2014 Kerry's Retirement Party

Do you know . . .

What was the first liquid and food consumed on the moon?

Forty-three years ago two human beings changed history by walking on the surface of the moon. But what happened before Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong exited the Lunar Module is perhaps even more amazing, if only because so few people know about it. I'm talking about the fact that Buzz Aldrin took communion on the surface of the moon. Some months after his return, he wrote about it in *Guideposts* magazine.

The background to the story is that Aldrin was an elder at his Presbyterian Church in Texas during this period in his life and knowing that he would soon be doing something unprecedented in human history, he felt he should mark the occasion somehow. He asked his minister to help him. And so the minister consecrated a communion wafer and a small vial of communion wine. Buzz Aldrin took them with him out of the Earth's orbit and onto the surface of the moon. He and Armstrong had only been on the lunar surface for a few minutes when Aldrin made the following public statement:

"This is the LM pilot. I'd like to take this opportunity to ask every person listening in, whoever and wherever they may be, to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his or her own way." He then ended radio communication and there, on the silent surface of the moon, 250,000 miles from home, he read a verse from the Gospel of John and he took communion.

Here is [his own account](#) of what happened: "In the radio blackout, I opened

the little plastic packages which contained the bread and the wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the cup. Then I read the scripture":

'I am the vine, you are the branches.
whosoever abides in me will bring forth
much fruit ...

Apart from me you can do nothing.'

"I had intended to read my communion passage back to earth, but at the last minute [they] had requested that I not do this. NASA was already embroiled in a legal battle with Madelyn Murray O'Hare, the celebrated opponent of religion, over the Apollo 8 crew reading from Genesis while orbiting the moon at Christmas. I agreed reluctantly."

"I ate the tiny Host and swallowed the wine. I gave thanks for the intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquility. It was interesting for me to think the very first liquid ever poured on the moon and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements."

"And of course, it's interesting to think that some of the first words spoken on the moon were the words of Jesus Christ, who made the Earth and the moon - and who, in the immortal words of Dante, is Himself the "Love that moves the Sun and other stars."

Guideposts magazine in October of 1970.

<http://www.ericmetexas.com/writing/essays/buzz-aldrin-guideposts-article-full-text/>



A Great Way to Serve!

We still need folks to fill our Greeter/Usher schedule. 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 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 Elaine know if you need a new name tag.

Pastoral Transition

One of the questions that has been raised is who will be handling pastoral care responsibilities after May 4th. Kerry has agreed that he will be available for any such needs up until his official retirement date of June 15, 2014. After that date Session will have emergency contact information available should the need for pastoral care arise until an interim pastor is engaged.

Remember that Kerry's last Sunday in the pulpit is May 4th. Arrangements have been made to fill the pulpit on the Sundays from then until his official retirement date of June 15th.

- ❖ May 11 Reid Beveridge
- ❖ May 18 Peter Maurer
- ❖ May 25 Sarah Colwill
- ❖ June 1 Jackie Taylor
- ❖ June 8 Jerry Egger
- ❖ June 15 Gary Baer

Photogenic

Photos by Jim Hartsig



Before



After



The work crew: Bob, Jim, Herb, Mike Quinn (not pictured).

New Choir Director Named



Welcome
Kathy Rhodes

Kerry's Night At The Movies



You won't want to miss this one! Join us Friday May 12th when Kerry will surprise us with his own movie pick to commemorate his very last movie night with us before retirement! The evening will be hosted by Bob and Elaine Wolf starting at 5:30 with a pot-luck supper followed by dessert at 6:30 and the movie at 7:00. Please bring your favorite dish or dessert to share or simply come and enjoy the movie. For more information please contact Bob or Elaine directly.

Who knows what he may come up with so come prepared for some fun!

If you have a special request for a movie, please let Bob Wolf know and we will do our best to obtain it.

