



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NOVEMBER 2017



From the Pastor Gerald Egger

Query: What Have You Learned from Me?

At the next session meeting (Nov. 13), I will receive a review of my performance as your Interim Minister, not just for the current year but for all three years I have served with you. The congregation is invited to supply confidential feedback, too, through the Clerk of Session.

To aid the feedback process, I'm publishing the unspoken lessons that I have tried to teach the congregation through my actions and general approaches. As your pastor, I have tried to display three core values: Trust, Acceptance, and Openness. Please ponder these questions.

TRUST

1. Does leadership involve the **right people** in decision-making? Are decision-makers supplied with the **right resources**?
This has been most evident in the three leadership retreats we have held. I have tried supply ideas, then leave implementation to the stakeholders.
2. Are **ethical standards** clear?
Ethical decisions may involve choosing the best of several valid options, such as whether to spend money on mission or maintenance. I have tried to promote high expectations without imposing arbitrary rules or permissions.
3. Is **group process** as important as substance for groups that meet regularly?
I have tried to demonstrate Meetings 101, like opening and closing with prayer, making agendas, and keeping minutes, all of which take time and effort but in the end make committee work more productive. The way things get communicated, decided, and implemented - in other words, process - needs more attention in a membership organization than actual results.
4. Are ties to the **wider church** strong, so as to benefit local mission and ministry?
An example is the presbytery grant that we applied for and received on behalf of Milford Housing Development Corp.
5. Is the atmosphere in the **church office** friendly and informal, but still business-like?

Business-like means return calls promptly, produce accurate records of contributions, provide adequate notice of meetings and deadlines, notify all stakeholders of administrative changes, keep the website current.

6. Do we treat every **asset** the church owns as a legacy from the past held in trust for the future?

The core of Biblical stewardship is that all wealth is held in temporary trust from God. Tithing is the Biblical standard of stewardship, for individuals and churches.

7. Is there **transparency** in financial matters?

Session sees financial data monthly, the congregation annually. Too much financial data, however, obscures rather than illuminates what is important.

8. Is **confidentiality** maintained, and excessive secrecy discouraged?

A small congregation affords little anonymity.

Therefore confidentiality must be preserved. At the same time, routine secrecy erodes trust.

ACCEPTANCE

1. Are even seasoned church-folk hearing something new in a **sermon**?

When I prepare a sermon I try to answer the question I most want to ask of the scripture.

2. Are **sacraments** and welcoming rituals (such as for new members) tapping into ancient legacies for meaning in today's living?

I believe that recurring ceremonies need a balance of familiar and unfamiliar language, to keep them fresh while affirming what has worked for the church over time.

3. Is **hospitality** been a side-benefit of corporate worship?

More than the hymns and liturgies, more than the sermon and pastoral prayers, a consistent take-away from worship is the sense of being in the right place.

4. Are **individual differences** celebrated as gifts of God?

Some differences sort out along conservative-to-progressive lines, others around old-versus-new. This congregation is fairly homogenous in age, which can be off-putting to younger guests. The important differences in congregational life are theological, of

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

differences in congregational life are theological, of which there is a wide range in this congregation.

5. Have occasional **disagreements** become stepping stones to deeper community?
A norm of acceptance fosters “what do you think about this?” dialogue.

OPENNESS

1. Is study of the **Bible** as much about heart as mind?
Biblical truth is independent of a literal interpretation of scripture. Another way to say this is that the Bible becomes the living word of God when it is spoken and heard in community. Openness to new truths is what makes Bible study meaningful.
2. Has the congregation become more of a **learning community**? Does it have porous boundaries that do not depend on formal lines of authority.
We are ministers to one another. Anyone can teach, everyone can learn.
3. Are **worship services** open to the movement of the spirit?
In the Reformed tradition, God is both intimate and immanent. That is, God is involved in the intimate details of peoples’ lives - their decisions, feelings, preferences, and behaviors. And God is involved in the big-picture of creation history as it unfolds. Even informal or abbreviated services of worship can capture the both-and of God’s presence.

In conclusion:

While I am positioning these as queries about the pastor, they are questions for everyone to ask themselves as members and friends of this congregation; indeed, as citizens of God’s kingdom.

If I have taught as I set out to do, you will have learned these values as self-reinforcing: Trust builds acceptance, acceptance builds openness; and openness builds trust.

Next month: What I Have Learned from You.

*So many shades of gold Autumn
Another miracle we take for granted
Another expression of the artist’s vision
The blending of the autumn hues
with the setting sun
Warm
Comforting
Perfect
Thank you for autumn, Lord*

Session Report

Karen Colwill, Clerk of Session

The Session of OVPC met on Monday, October 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:

We met with Dick Regester who is seeking membership in OVPC. Dick has lived for many years at the Salt Pond and is retired from DuPont. Approved **MOTION** to accept Dick Regester on Reaffirmation of Faith to be presented during worship on October 29, 2017.

Annual meeting with the **Christian Education Committee** Chair, Beverly Bailey. Beverly shared the committee's report and that it has been a busy and challenging year because we have done some important classes in the life of the church this year. We look forward to the Advent class and those scheduled for 2018.

Annual meeting with the **Personnel Committee** Chair, Jennifer Read. We received the report to Session for 2017. The Personnel Committee will be holding annual evaluations in November for our Church Secretary and Organist/Choir Director. Please forward comments to Jennifer Read. Session will evaluate the Pastor at the November Session Meeting. Please forward comments to Karen Colwill, Clerk.

The Congregational Meeting for the Election of Officers is scheduled for November 5, 2017.

The Service of Ordination for elected officers is scheduled for November 12, 2017.

The **Monthly Committee Reports** were received.

The **Deacons** will start serving gluten-free bread for communion.

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

Approved **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the September 11, 2017 Session Meeting.

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

The **Finance Committee** is starting the 2018 Budget Process.

The **Church Nominating Committee** presented their report. All vacancies on our boards and committees are filled.

Approved **MOTION** for pulpit supply on October 22 allowing Rev. Egger to speak at his home church in Baltimore on their Homecoming Sunday. Rev. Peter Maurer will fill our pulpit.

Approved **MOTION** to engage Sombar & Company, CPA to conduct a finance procedure review.

Please keep the members of the **PNC** in your prayers as they continue their work.

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



Dave Sergison	Nov. 10th
Karen Colwill	Nov. 14th
Kerry Shull	Nov. 14th
Sandra Gayle	Nov. 15th
Bob Clark	Nov. 16th
Marti Sommer	Nov. 16th
Bill Kester	Nov. 20th



Cemetery Plots \$500
Columbarium Niche \$1000 (holds 2 urns)

Meet our New Member: Richard (Dick) Regester

Richard was born on April 26, 1935 in southwest Philadelphia. He was baptized and had his 1st Holy Communion at the Episcopal Church of Atonement.

He married Mary Birney on November 5, 1960 and had 57 years of wonderful love together. They have three children, (Keith, Robbie and Lynn) and four grandchildren.

Mary died in an auto accident 2 years ago.



Dick received a master's degree in engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree from the University of. He was Director of Marketing for 35 years for the DuPont company.

Dick enjoys playing sports such as tennis, skiing, golf, pickle ball, fitness and water sports.

Dick and Mary enjoyed retirement life at their Salt Pond home.

Dick looks forward to the religious experience and friendship at OVPC.

Sewing Circle

Ellen Neumann

Once again, the Women's Sewing Circle's Fall Jumble was a wonderful success. We raised \$1,350, which will be used to bless the local, national and global missions we support.

The Circle would like to thank all those who worked tirelessly alongside us to make this year's jumble one of our best. Thank you to all who donated and transported items for us to sell, set up tables, baked treats, worked during the sale and cleaned up at the end of the day. The saying "Work hard~Have fun~Make a difference" certainly rings true in our church. At OVPC, God's hand is evident in our success as well as in our unity and love for one another.

"We are not a team because we work together; we are a team because we respect, trust and care for each other." - Vala Afshar

Nativity Festival

Saturday December 9th



We will once again have the OVPC Nativity Festival on Saturday December 9th. This year we would like to emphasize multicultural Nativity sets. We will display all the crèches that are available and try to feature the international sets in a special area. We have a particularly lovely collection of these nativities.

You are invited to bring your nativities on Thursday Dec. 7th and Friday Dec. 8th from 9AM to 11AM. If you are loaning a new crèche please make sure Liz Hobler (lhobler@verizon.net) has a 100 word or less write up about its story. This year we are asking that everyone set up their own nativities. We will add various pieces of cloth and greens to coordinate all the displays. Thanks for your help. Please pick up your displays shortly after 2PM on Saturday.

Please plan on attending the Nativity Festival on December 9th from 10 to 2PM. The choir will sing and you can enjoy light refreshments. It is a lovely beginning to the Advent season.

Presbytery News

Mike Read

The 837th Stated Meeting of New Castle Presbytery (NCP) was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at First Presbyterian Church in Newark, Delaware. Reverend Edwin Estevez led the group in worship. Offerings from the worship service were donated toward the support of the Newark Empowerment Center, a ministry of Friendship House.

The meeting included the election of a number of officers and representatives, including the election of the slate of nominees to serve on the IGNITE team, presented by the Committee on Nominations at the 836th Stated Meeting in May, and charged with managing the financial resources of NCP, as prescribed under the provisions of the Balcony 2 restructuring approved in the 835th Stated Meeting in March. The slate included representatives of the Speer Trust Commission, West Legacy Trust, Church Development Unit, and Mission Develop Unit, as well as representatives at-large.

The 2018 budget was passed, which, after operating expenses, will provide approximately \$761,000 for the IGNITE Team to use for mission projects.

The budget also provides for a 2018 per-capita assessment of \$29.00 per member throughout New Castle Presbytery, which represents a reduction of \$2.67 per member from the current amount.

New Business proceedings included passage of a motion on behalf of the Guatemala Partnership Committee and a motion on behalf of the Matthew Action Committee, regarding resolutions to the immigration crisis.

Advent Devotional

Elsie Young

DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE????????????????????????????????
OCTOBER 29 was the due date for your ADVENT DEVOTIONAL
READING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



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 November 6th

Christian Education

Bev Bailey

“Called, Challenged, Changing”

The book study, “Waking Up White”, by Debby Irving began on October 1 and runs through most of November. There are two classes with over 30 people studying this most important book, which begins our study of racial justice. The classes are held on Sundays at 10:40, led by Bev Bailey and Marlene Quinn; and on Wednesday mornings at 10 am, led by Bruce Hobler. Both classes are in Fellowship Centre.

Coming in December!!

Tell Me an Advent Story!!, led by Don Benjamin. The class will look at specific entries in our Advent Devotional booklet. Don will ask different authors to tell us about their devotional, look at the scripture passage, and learn about it's message for the Christmas season.....Fellowship Hall after worship on December 3, 10, 17, and Christmas Eve.....

*Winter is an etching, spring a water
color, summer an oil painting, and
autumn a mosaic of them all.*

Stanley Horowitz

Fall Clean up Day

Saturday, November 4th, 9am to 1pm

Join us for the annual Fall Clean UP day. This is the day we spruce up the buildings and grounds. We rake leaves, wash windows, paint trim as needed, dust hard to reach places and enjoy camaraderie and lunch. Rain date is November 11th.





Sewing Circle

Amy Peoples

As we begin the month of November it is a good time to take stock of our many blessings. We have so much to be grateful for.

The Jumble went well; we had many items to sell and a good group of buyers. We will be able to put a nice sum in our Mission Fund , almost \$1400.00 was raised. The Mission Committee of the Sewing Circle will be meeting in November to decide the missions we will support next year and present the list to the Circle at the December meeting to be voted on.

We will be collecting our Thank Offering on Sunday, November 12 during the church service. The treasurer would appreciate it if you would turn your coins into checks or bills for collection.

On Monday, November 6, YARN will meet from 10 to 2:00. They would love to have new members join them. Bring your lunch and join this active group. If you do not know how to make Prayer Shawls they will be glad to teach you. Also if you know someone who could use a Prayer Shawl, please let them know.

Wednesday, November 6, 2017, the Sewing Circle will meet at 12 noon. Bring your sandwich or salad and refreshments will be provided by Cathy Yantz and Lorie Hartsig. We will be studying Chapter 3, "In Community with the Living Word" ably led by Bev Bailey. Study Books are still available from Marti for \$10.00

We were reminded at the October Sewing Circle meeting to wear orange on the 25th of each month for the ending of human trafficking, which has become even a local problem. Also at the October Sewing Circle, we discussed partnering with Union United Methodist Church by assembling needed hygiene kits for recent hurricane victims in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rica, and the US Virgin Islands.

Sunday, November 12 will be Coffee Hour after the church service.

We will need a lot of helpers for the December activities of the church and Sewing Circle, when someone asks you to help, please step forward . All the festivities are very special and you will be glad you said "yes".

Remember when you are not at the events, you are missed.



Happy Thanksgiving



*Photogenic
Jim Hartsig*



Another ramp completed



Fall Jumble



Friday Night At The Movies



Join us at the Colwill's house on Friday November 3rd 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 we will be viewing the 2015 film **'Concussion'** starring Will Smith and Alec Baldwin. This movie is based on the true story of Dr. Bennet Omalu, the Nigerian born forensic pathologist who discovers CTE the brain trauma related to football and his quest to make the truth known even against the powerful influence of the NFL.

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 ---

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