

# OCEAN VIEWS



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2024

## From the Pastor: Terry Dougherty

*Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh!!*



What all this new yearing is more deeply about, though, is that time itself is cyclical, and therefore life can be thought of as cyclical, and therefore any life can have a beginning and end, but more importantly many beginnings and endings. This idea undergirds that most human of ventures, hope. If some things end, there is hope for what comes after them. If some things begin, then we can begin again; we can be new; we can be who we wanted to be, *and* have that change accepted by others; we can lose the labels that we and others apply in order to hold us back, to silence us, or even to shame us. More importantly, and specifically for us as Christians, we can be new/different, in that confessional formula:

*If any person is in Christ, that one is a new creation; behold, the old self is gone, a new life has begun!*

We who once were far away, are now near. We who once did not know God, now know and are known of God. There remains a certain little bit of ambiguity, because no-one has seen God, but we have seen God in Christ, so a lot is familiar! In the third chapter of John's first letter, we read: *Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He (Christ, in the Parousia) appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

That seeing, of course, will be outside of this box we call time, where *nihil novi sub sole* (there is no new thing under the Sun), where the hope of lasting change is so often defeated by the sameness of all that is around the changed one, reinforcing habit, and worldly ways. We will be back, in Eden; we will be at the end, in the New Jerusalem; we will be in the presence of God wherever we are, seeing, feeling, hearing, loving just as we do now, but without fault.

As years succeed years, this can be easy to lose sight of, figuratively, as our sight worsens, literally. But then, we come to our church, our congregation of like-minded (in the mind of Christ), hopeful (in the sure hope of our redemption), joyous (in the joy of all the host of heaven) people; people who love, accept, and welcome us whatever day of the year, on whoever's calendar, it is - and we are glad!

From *Celtic Daily Prayer I*, by the Northumbria Community, p. 238:

*This day is a new day, that has never been before.*

*This year is a new year, the opening door.*

*Enter, Lord Christ – we have joy in your coming.*

*You have given us life; and we welcome your coming.*

*I turn now to face you, I lift up my eyes.*

*Be blessing my face, Lord, be blessing my eyes.*

*May all my eye looks on be blessed and be bright,*

*My neighbors, my loved ones be blessed in your sight.*

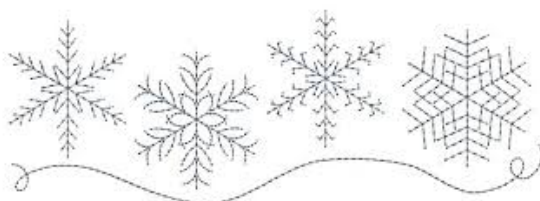
*You have given us life, and we welcome your coming.*

*Be with us, Lord; we have joy, we have joy.*

*This year is a new year, the opening door.*

*Be with us Lord; we have joy, we have joy.*

o *Turloch, do Sagart* (from Terry, your Pastor)



## Ocean View Presbyterian Church

67 Central Avenue  
Ocean View, DE  
19970

### Service

Sunday, 9:30 A.M.

### Pastor

Terry Dougherty

### Church Office

302-539-3455  
Diane Brown

### Website

ovpc.org

### Session

Susan Baer  
Bev Bailey  
Ray Keeney  
Jen Read  
Jake Stavinga  
Bob Wolf

(Clerk of Session)  
Ollie Robling

### Deacons

Amy Donahue  
Pam Dougherty  
Charlie O'Neill  
Kathy Sheetz  
Sue Sigvardson  
Kristina Taylor

**Newsletter Editors**  
Lorie and Jim Hartsig

# Session Report

Ollie Robling, Clerk of Session

Monday, November 13, 2023

## Shaped by God We Love and Serve

Attending: Rev. Terry Dougherty, Bob Wolf, Mike Read, Marlene Quinn, Bev Bailey, Ray Keeney, Susan Baer, Ollie Robling (Clerk of Session), Elaine Wolf (Treasurer), Bob Clark (Finance), and Jen Read (new Session member in 2024). Jacob Stavinga was on vacation.

The meeting was opened by moderator Pastor Terry Dougherty at 7:01pm with devotion and prayer.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Elaine Wolf reported that our operating loss thru the end of November is \$5372. We discussed the Per Capita responsibility of OVPC.

MOTION passed to accept the November Financial Reports and the Treasurers Report which had been presented.

Bob Clark presented the first draft of the 2024 Annual Budget and it was reviewed and discussed.

Dave and Katie Young requested that donations to the OVPC Memorial Fund in Elsie Youngs name go to the General Fund.

### CLERK'S REPORT

MOTION passed to approve the docket for this meeting.

MOTION passed to accept the Session minutes of November 13, 2023

Correspondence received since last meeting: 22 e-mails from Donna Scully, NCP, PC(USA) Store and Cindy Kohlmann.

Liturgists for January : Jen Read and Sue Baer with communion to be served on January 7.

Vital Congregations will not be meeting in December, but will meet on January 25.

Next Session Meeting: January 8, 7:00 PM at Fellowship Center

Changes to the Roll:

Deaths: Elsie Young (11/1/2023)

Funerals: none

Baptisms: none

Marriages: none

Gain/Loss of Members: one

Year to Date Membership: 80

MOTION passed to approve the Clerks Report.

### **PASTORS REPORT**

A written report was received from Pastor Terry and discussed. Motion passed to accept the report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

MOTION passed to appoint Session liaisons to the Committees for 2024. See under Committee Reports for the 2024 assignments.

MOTION passed to elect corporate officers as follows: Bob Wolf President, Sue Baer Vice President, Elaine Wolf Treasurer, Ollie Robling Clerk of Session, Bob Wolf and Bev Bailey to share Presbytery Commissioner, and Jen Read Chair of the Nominating Committee.

MOTION passed for the 2024 Session meeting schedule to be the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm.

MOTION passed to set the 2024 Communion schedule as submitted by Pastor Terry. Copy attached.

MOTION passed to set the 2024 paid holidays and office close dates as submitted by Pastor Terry. Copy attached.

The schedule for monthly Liturgists/Communion Servers was set as follows: Jen Read and Sue Baer for January, April, July and October, Ray Keeney and Jake Stavinga for February, May, August and November, and Bev Bailey and Bob Wolf for March, June, September and December.

There were no new projects approved for 2024, but we will carry the same old ones.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Discussion of Ray Keeney's flow chart of the organization of a church per the Book of Order.

Barbara McFee did not do Rounding in November, so we will now need to wait until we get a new Rounding Rep for 2024 and then reschedule.

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Special Project #2-2021 Mission Committee –The Labyrinth – nothing new

Special Project #4-2021 Com/Tech – the office is getting a new computer in December.

Special Project #6- Grounds Committee – Paving of Parking Lot – Ocean View Town's last letter requested a detailed drawing of exactly what we want to pave and it gets legally complicated. We will need legal advice.

Special Project #7 –Campus Safety – nothing new

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **2024 Assignments**

No Committee Motions were received this month for Session consideration.

Building Committee:	Don Bailey	Jake Stavinga, Liaison
Cemetery Committee:	Mike Read	Bob Wolf, Liaison
Christian Education:	Bev Bailey	Sue Baer, Liaison
Communication/Technology:	Bob Wolf	Ray Keeney, Liaison
Deacons:	Kris Taylor	Bev Bailey, Liaison
Facilities:	Jim Waehler	Ray Keeney, Liaison
Finance Committee:	Bob Clark	Bob Wolf, Liaison
Grounds Committee:	Ray Keller	Jake Stavinga, Liaison
Mission Committee:	rotating	Jen Read, Liaison
Nominating Committee:	Jen Read	
Personnel:	Sue Baer	
Sewing Circle:	Sue Baer	
Worship Committee:	Eric Neumann	Jen Read, Liaison

Pastor Terry delivered a special recognition and “thank you” to Mariene Quinn for her dedicated service on the Session.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:43pm by Pastor Terry.



Labyrinth walkers

# Womens Sewing Circle

December 13, 2023

Lorie Hartsig

Dear Ladies,

Please find the minutes from today's meeting. Any corrections, please let me know.....

Today's meeting, DECEMBER 13th was our annual potluck luncheon attended by ten ladies and Terry who joined us for the meal after offering a poem, *Solstice in Truro*. Ellen read an Advent prayer. We recited Our Purpose and recognized December birthdays including Kathy Sheetz on December 20.

Thanks to Ellen, Marti and Lorie for coming forward during the Pandemic to keep our Women's Circle going during the months of Covid when our meetings were attended by zoom only. Their term is up and new officers will be elected and inducted at the January 10th meeting which will begin at 10am and last until noon, including our Bible study, "SACRED ENCOUNTERS, The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke- Acts." Bring your lunch and we will continue with fellowship. PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE! Come at 9:45 to chat as the meeting will begin promptly at 10!

Secretary's Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's report** was approved with a balance of \$10,723.52

**Circle Mission** recipients of 2023 donations

have been paid.

**Sharing Pantry-** heavy activity was discussed and it was decided to meet with a representative from Delaware Food Bank in January to investigate what help can be given.

**Session-** per capita giving was stressed for EACH member.

**Souper Bowl Sunday** is February 11th with the emphasis on giving to the Sharing Pantry. **Ash Wednesday** is February 14th with our OVPC soup/ salad dinner at 6pm and worship at 7pm.

**Ecumenical Lenten Luncheon** will be on February 28th following noon worship.

Marti led us in the Bible study chapter about Mary and Martha.

Following the reciting of the Mitzpah the meeting was adjourned.

New  
Time! Womens Circle  
will meet in Memorial Hall  
at 10 am for business meeting,  
11 am for Bible Study, then  
fellowship time at 12  
noon....bring your lunch.

See you on January 10.



## Deacon Mission

### Kristina Taylor

## OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAS TALENT!!

Happy New Year Ocean View Presbyterian Church members and friends.

Annually, the Deacons come before the congregation and request our church members and friends to complete a Time and Talent survey.

The 2024 Survey of Time and Talent form lists volunteer opportunities for one and all.

Please prayerfully review the survey, check the boxes of those church activities that speak to you. Last year 33 surveys were completed. Look for the decorated box to insert your survey. In advance, thank you very much.

The survey inserted in your bulletins on January 7th and January 14th, 2024

### OVPC - 2024 Survey of Time and Talent

*Please contact me about serving opportunities at our church*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Best way to contact you \_\_\_\_\_

#### **CARING at OVPC**

- ☐ Board of Deacons
- ☐ Mission Committee
- ☐ Greeter/Usher
- ☐ Prayer Chain Ministry
- ☐ Stephen Ministry
- ☐ Women's Circle
- ☐ Visitor Follow-Up
- ☐ Prepare Home Meals/Meal Train
- ☐ Provide a ride to appointment
- ☐ Advent Devotional Volunteer
- ☐ Home Visits
- ☐ Prayer Shawl Ministry/YARN
- ☐ Sharing Pantry
- ☐ Helping with a coffee hour
- ☐ Labyrinth Host
- ☐ Volunteering at Funeral Repast
- ☐ Securing Church Property Volunteer
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **GROWING at OVPC**

- ☐ Serve on OVPC Session
- ☐ Christian Education Committee
- ☐ Finance Committee
- ☐ Building Committee or Volunteer
- ☐ Cemetery Committee
- ☐ Nominating Committee
- ☐ Personnel Committee
- ☐ Grounds Committee or Volunteer
- ☐ Safety Volunteer
- ☐ Bible Study (AM or PM)
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **WORSHIP at OVPC**

- ☐ Worship Committee
- ☐ Scripture Reader
- ☐ Greeter/Usher
- ☐ Choir Member
- ☐ Solo Singing or Playing
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **TECHNOLOGY**

- ☐ Sunday morning streaming
- ☐ OVPC Website
- ☐ OVPC Newsletter
- ☐ Church Office Volunteer
- ☐ Church Sign (no tech)
- ☐ OVPC Facebook
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

- ☐ December Nativity Festival Volunteer
- ☐ Fall Jumble Sale Volunteer
- ☐ Alternative Christmas Market
- ☐ Summer Heavenly Luncheon
- ☐ Presbytery Committee(s)
- ☐ South East Sussex Ministerium
- ☐ Crop Walk
- ☐ Frankford Thrift Shop
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Please share any other interests or activities you have participated in and would like OVPC to consider:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Jane Bonbright	Jan 2nd	None.
Andy Smith	Jan 2nd	
Elaine Jackson	Jan 8th	
Cindy Szlasa	Jan 8th	
Barbara Dietsch	Jan 13th	
Ellen Neumann	Jan 19th	



December's Bible study group.

**YARN** meets on Monday, January 8th in Fellowship Center between 10-1 pm. Bring your lunch and any questions you may have about how and why we make prayer shawls. We will teach you how to knit or crochet if you have questions and we have lots of yarn and needles to share. We are a fun group of ladies and invite you to join us!



Carol's finished Prayer Shawl.





## Frankford Presbyterian Thrift Shop News

Elaine and Bob Wolf

As we closed out the last Saturday of 2023 at the Frankford Thrift Shop with a holiday meal with the regular volunteer staff, Peggy Shaffer shared some year-end facts that cemented our belief that the store is an incredible gift to the community. Sales for the year reached about \$28,000 which was enough to fund the church's operation for the year and allow for monetary gifts to other missions and ministries including:

≈ Bless Our Children	\$1,000.00
≈ Lutheran Church Food Pantry	\$2,400.00
≈ John M Clayton Adopted Family	\$ 300.00
≈ Other Local Missions / Frankford Fire Hall Meals (Ministerium)	\$1,000.00

In addition to the monetary gifts that were made, the store reached out to the community in so many other ways:

- ≈ The primary mission of offering clothes, furniture and other items at very low prices.
- ≈ Supporting the homeless by offering clothing, sleeping bags (when available), blankets, etc. at no charge.
- ≈ Supporting their own small food pantry.
- ≈ Supporting a family that moved to the area with no possessions at all by supplying them with clothing and household goods at no charge.
- ≈ Supplying school supplies to the John M Clayton school store.
- ≈ And so many more little acts of love that make it such a special place...

The Nearly New Thrift Shop could not keep going without the help of the volunteer staff. We regularly ask for help from our congregation twice a year for the great seasonal clothing swap, but the truth is the store needs help all year long and it is a great way to give back to the community. You don't need any special skills or have to commit to any regular schedule and we can even find something for you do while sitting down! The store is open on Friday from 9 to 5 and on Saturday from 9-1. If you prefer to team up with someone, Kathy Sheetz usually works on Fridays and Bob and Elaine work on Saturdays. We would love to have you join us – just show up or give us a call.



## Finance Committee

Bob Wolf

Well, its that time of year again when the Finance Committee and Session are working together to figure out what our budgetary needs are going to be for the upcoming year and it is, quite honestly, not the most pleasant task that we take on every year. Unlike determining what our personal budget will look like, being able to predict accurately what our income and expenses will be, for our church, we only can predict what our expenses will be with any certainty and must rely on historical information to estimate what our income will be. Its almost a David and Goliath story; our expenses hover over us like a giant enemy; unrelenting and we stand steadily backed by our faith-based budget.

If you remember, a letter was sent to the congregation early in 2023 explaining that we once again faced a budget deficit and asked each household to consider increasing their giving. We believe that those that were able to, did and are grateful. Our various committees also watched their spending, and many individuals took responsibility for some expenses and treated them as a donation to the church. Again, we are very grateful, and it all helped to dramatically close the gap between our income and expenses but not completely.

We will once again be facing a deficit budget for 2024 and ask that each of you prayerfully determine what you are able to give and make a pledge with God to make those regular contributions, and maybe even a little bit extra from time to time. It is through your generous offerings that we can pay the necessary expenses to keep our doors open and to continue the many ministries and missions that OVPC offers.

- If you are unable to be in church, don't just skip that week but double up next time you come.
- If you are a member but live out of town, we still need your help! Even though you can't be with us physically we encourage you to join us in worship online or anytime for that matter via our Facebook page or YouTube channel.
- If you are unable to be in church for an extended amount of time, or you don't have offering envelopes, there are several options available to you to submit your contribution.
  - Good old United States Postal Service. Mail your Offering to us.
  - From the OVPC home page: Click on Donate to submit your offering via PayPal
  - Make an online payment through your bank. They will send the check for you!
  - Do you have to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your retirement account? Consider making an annual lump sum contribution to the church directly. By having the distribution sent directly to the church it is not considered income to you and may lessen your tax burden at the end of the year; it may even put you in a lower tax bracket!

## Giving Envelope Update

We typically have many boxes of Offering Envelopes that are not picked and go to waste either because the member now lives out of town or uses a different method of contributing to the church. This year, the Finance Committee has opted to forgo the practice of ordering pre-printed envelopes and has ordered fewer blank envelopes for those who wish to receive them. If you would like a box of envelopes, please call Diane in the office.

Each box traditionally included 2 extra envelopes in the beginning of the book – please do not forget:

- Initial Offering – please consider kicking off the new year with an extra contribution whether you are utilizing envelopes or not
- Per Capita – please do not forget to remit your \$30.00 per member payment.

## Per Capita Update

Every year, each member of the congregation is asked to submit a per capita payment. If you are not familiar with what per capita is, “The official definition: “Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the governing bodies [mid councils] to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians” (GA Minutes, Part I, 1995).

For 2024, our per-capita payment will remain the same as it was last year at \$30.00 per individual member. It will be distributed as follows:

- ❖ General Assembly                      \$ 9.80
- ❖ Synod of the Mid-Atlantic    \$ 1.15
- ❖ New Castle Presbytery        \$19.05

Per our past Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Rev. Dr. J Herbert Nelson, “Per Capita is crucial to the overall health of the PC(USA), because it binds presbyteries, synods, and congregations together in one church.”





thank  
you

Thank you to Shannon, her talented choir, narrators Terry and Pam and the sound technicians Bob and Don for an enjoyable cantata, A New & Glorious Morn by Lloyd Larson on December 17th.

## Book of Order Ray Keeney

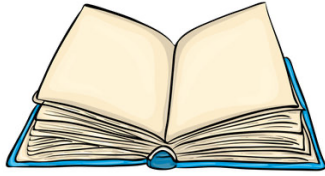
The latest version of the Book of Order (2023-2025) is now available. It can be purchased or downloaded at [oga.pcusa.org](http://oga.pcusa.org). A paper copy is \$10 or can be downloaded for free (pdf).



## 5 Common Signs of a Scam

- A phone call asking for money or personal information, such as your Social Security number, bank account number or credit card number.
- A request to buy gift cards to pay a debt.
- A request to send money to someone you have met online.
- An unauthorized charge on your credit card.
- An email or call saying you have won a sweepstakes or lottery, though you do not recall entering one.

(Extracted from the AARP scam web page).



## What Are You Reading?

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss

### Marie Waehler:

*What the Wind Knows*, by Amy Harmon: I love time-travel novels and this one was really good. Set in New York and Ireland; very well done.

*Baby Proof*, by Emily Giffin. An interesting love story about a couple who agree on date #1 that neither of them wants children. But two years into the marriage, the husband breaks the deal. I enjoyed hearing "the other side of the story" of all the reasons why this young woman made her decision and the rough road she had to travel with family and friends when she stuck to her decision.

Just started *Code Name Helene*, by Ariel Lawhon. It's based on a "thrilling real-life story of socialite spy Nancy Wake, one of the most powerful leaders of the French Resistance, known for her ferocious wit, her signature red lipstick, and her bravery in battle, particularly when she kills a Nazi with her bare hands." Looking forward to this one!

### Terry Dougherty:

Light from Afar - Advent Devotional from Around the World

Becoming Human by Luke Powers

Learning Humility by Richard J. Foster

### Pam Dougherty:

Crow Mary by Kathleen Grisom - an Indigenous American-Crow Nations

Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey - magical realism

Killing of the Flower Moon by David Grann - The osage murders and birth of the FBI

Light from Afar - Advent

### Lorie Hartsig:

Everyone Here is Lying by Shari Lapel

The River We Remember by William Kent Kreuger

The Breakaway by Jennifer Weiner



## Blessing Bags

Marie Waehler

Dear Church Members and Friends,

The staff and children at Selbyville Middle School are blessed by your kindness and generosity, and My heart overflows with gratitude. Your donations in the Blessing Bags bin outside the church door and your cash donations to me to purchase the needs for the children are so appreciated.

You know who you are, I know who you are, and Jesus knows who you are.

I also want to thank the OVPC Women's Sewing Circle Mission Committee for their generous financial gift this year which enabled me to fill my entire SUV with food and personal hygiene items, as well as hats, scarves, and gloves for "my kids."

I will continue to shop and deliver a carload every month until school lets out for the summer. I am reminded of the song made famous by Frank Sinatra – It was a Very Good Year!

## To a Good Home

Gloria Bartholomew

### OUR FRIEND'S WORK LIVES ON

- I have a number of needlework items that I would like to go to someone or some specific group who will use them (not sell them or just donate to be sold). They are from Elsie Young's large collection that I had volunteered to make sure they were taken care of. Here is a list of items I would like to go to hands that will make something of them:
- Knitting and crocheting needles
- Stuffing (not batting) for sewn toys, ornaments, etc.
- Thin "string" that is used for tatting (making doilies)
- Crewel kits with yarns
- Embroidery floss, hoops, etc.
- Round wooden quilting floor stand
- Already some items have been distributed to OVPCs Yarn group, a Quilting group meeting at Ocean Views Cheer Center, individuals, etc. So, please call Gloria (410-446-2354) so I can arrange for them to go to glad hands.



## Welcome Peggy Manion



It is such a joy to be a member of the OVPC congregation. I grew up Presbyterian, and my family were very active in the church . I also served on the Session at the church I grew up in.

I grew up in the McKeesport , Pa area and went to Clarion State College to be a music teacher. I taught piano lessons and directed children's church choirs for over 40 years, until the pandemic hit . I also taught preschool music , teaching ages 2-5 and had Elsie's grandson in my church choir !

My husband Gary and I have 3 daughters. We have been married 44 years. Gary goes to Lady of Guadalupe Catholic church . We moved to Olney , Maryland for him to take a job at Children's hospital in DC as the CFO . Gary got to meet the Queen when she came to Children's Hospital! I do not think I have ever met anyone famous .

We have 2 granddaughters who are 2 and 5, Palmer is 2 and Layla is 5. They live in Md, and so do 2 of my daughters . My other daughter lives in Ligonier, Pa.

I love to swim at water aerobics, and am a member of 3 book clubs ! I also started a ukulele group in my Bishop's Landing Neighborhood, and we have been enjoying playing around the community and have played on the porch of the Juice Box several times !

The church has always been the center of my life , and I look forward to serving the Lord at OVPC , wherever he leads me. I feel the Holy Spirit always guiding my life and I know he guided me to OVPC . I feel the love of the Lord and peace when I enter the doors of the church. I am overjoyed to be a new member and meet all of you !



We have a new member to our family, Clark. He is a rehomed rescue and adds lots of fun to our life .

## **Vital Congregational Team**

### **Jen Read**

Since we began our work on Vital Congregations earlier this year, our group of ten has met monthly to discuss various topics related to church life. During these times we focus on how a clear understanding and thoughtful use of these ideas will help those of us who are receiving this training infuse vitality and enthusiasm into an already-energetic congregation. Ultimately we hope to make all interested members of the congregation partners in this work.

Our centering word back in July was “courage”, a value that is closely dependent on faith and on trust, not only in our personal lives, but also in our corporate work. After we lost Elsie Young a few months back, I wrote her family that I believe Elsie’s strong faith, a belief that “God has my back”, is what gave her the courage to speak out in her irascible way. She spoke the truth to power and all of us needed to hear because she trusted that God wanted her to.....

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV)

Some of us feel that an advantage in church work is that most are somewhat like-minded. Because of that, our level of trust in working with others at church is higher than it would be in other areas of our lives. But even church members have differing opinions on important issues. Sometimes we have to speak out against a popular idea or a proposal that is brought forth by someone we like and admire.

A key component of trust in any group is that each person feels a part of the whole. Each person encourages involvement toward others and is offered involvement from them. Conversely, any behavior which implies rejection creates barriers to the trust in the group. An individual’s lack of commitment to the group is another example of trust-inhibiting behavior. So is speaking out against or questioning a motion that has the enthusiasm of your committee. In a group where trust is already high, these actions have less chance of eroding group trust. But in any case, speaking your truth to a group involves a certain level of risk; taking that risk requires courage. The interesting and wonderful thing about mustering courage is that after one person on a committee does it, others are more likely to speak their own truths. One person’s courage to speak their truth to the group engenders trust in other members of the group.

The scripture that helps me the most when I am called to speak at the last minute or to give my opinion in a contentious setting is this one:

“But you, Lord, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me.” (Psalm 22:19 NIV)

For a committee, any group, or any church to be strong, there must be trust. People need to believe they are safe in the group setting. When people lack trust, they resort to self-protecting, non-problem-solving behaviors. None of these will increase strength, vitality, or trust in our church.

Let us all do our part to creating a culture of trust in our committees and groups so that members will speak the truth that strengthens OVPC. And remember that God “has our back” and will never abandon us, especially when we are seeking the courage to do his work in our church.



December 31 and January. Begin the year by learning more about the church and our faith:

12/31. Discussion about our Advent Devotional Booklet. Join Bob Wolf in a discussion of this year's devotional booklet. Fellowship Center. Which writings were particularly important to you, and why? Why is this an important part of our celebration of this season?

- 1/7: The Music of Epiphany, led by Shannon Flynn after worship in the **Sanctuary**
- 1/14: Coffee Hour in **Memorial Hall**. Hosted by Sue Baer
- 1/21: Epiphany: the Biblical Lowdown, **Fellowship Center**. led by Pastor Terry
- 1/28: Epiphany: Receiving our Star for the Year, **Fellowship Center**. led by Bev Bailey

## Recipes from the December Dinner

### Maggie's Kielbasa

Submitted by Mary Ann and Ollie Robling

3 lbs Kielbasa cut into pieces

1 cup brown sugar

1 can crushed pineapple

1 bottle chili sauce

1 onion coarsely chopped

Rinse out chili bottle with 1/2 bottle of water and add it.

Everything goes into a crockpot and stir well. Cook for approximately 8 hours.

### Dump Cake

Total Time: 60 minutes

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 55 minutes

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 (21-ounce) can cherry pie filling
- 2 (8-ounce) cans crushed pineapple in juice
- 1 (15.25-ounce) box white or yellow cake mix
- 3/4 cup unsalted butter (1 1/2 sticks)
- Whipped cream or Vanilla ice cream, for serving (optional)

#### Step 1

Heat oven to 350 degrees with the rack in the center position.

#### Step 2

Add the cherry pie filling and the crushed pineapple, including any juices, to a 9-by-13-inch (3-quart) baking dish. Using a spatula, evenly spread the mixture across the baking dish (there is no need to mix it). Scatter the cake mix evenly on top, without stirring, and smooth the top.

#### Step 3

Melt the butter and drizzle evenly on top of the cake mix. If there are any dry spots, spread the butter out wherever it pools (gently tilting the baking dish works well here).

#### Step 4

Bake on the center rack until the top is golden brown and the fruit is bubbling, 45 to 50 minutes. Warm just before serving. Top with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream, if desired.



## Nativity Festival



Marti talks with Dave and Katie Young at the Nativity Festival.

## Nativity Festival Wassail Punch

Wassail Punch – makes 2 gallons

1 gallon Apple Cider (128 oz)

2 quarts pineapple juice (64 oz) 1 quart of orange juice (32 oz) 1 C lemon juice (8 oz)

4-8 sticks of cinnamon

1-2 Tablespoons of whole cloves 1 orange sliced 1/4" and halved Honey or sugar to taste

Combine ingredients in a large stove pot or crock pot, reserving 1/2 tablespoon of whole cloves for serving. Heat on a low temperature for 1-2 hours making sure the wassail does not come to a simmer or boil. Let the flavors combine. Taste to see if it needs any honey or sugar. Serve warm and top with slices of orange pierced with whole cloves.





## Movie Night is Back!!

Join us for dinner and a movie on **January 5th** at Wolf's house. We will enjoy fellowship and a potluck meal at 5:30 and will get the movie going around 7:00. If you would like to bring something to share that is great but do not worry if you cannot – you are still more than welcome! Keep your ears out or talk with Elaine about a main course for the meal. If you would like to volunteer to provide it, please let Elaine know.

This month we are reaching back by request to watch a film we saw a long time ago – 'Patch Adams' starring Robin Williams. This funny and inspirational biopic tells the story of Hunter 'Patch' Adams – determined to become a medical doctor so that he could help people. He is quoted as saying "At the age of 18, I made up my mind to never have another bad day in my life. I dove into an endless sea of gratitude from which I've never emerged".

See a clip of the movie here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZqGA1dvYE>

If you have any suggestions for a movie you would like to see for movie night, please let Bob or Elaine know and we'll do our best to make it happen!