

OCEAN VIEWS



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2024

From the Pastor: Terry Dougherty

Greetings in Christ, Friends,

Here is a poem, *Called to Become*, by Edwina Gately; I have altered its presentation on the page for the sake of space:

You are called to become / a perfect creation.

No one is called to become / who you are called to be.

It does not matter / how short or tall / how thick-set or slow / you may be.

It does not matter / whether you sparkle with life / or are as silent as a still pool.

Whether you sing your song aloud / or weep alone in darkness.

It does not matter / whether you feel loved or admired / or unloved and alone

For you are called to become / a perfect creation.

No one's shadow / should becloud your becoming.

No one's light / should dispel your spark.

For the Lord delights in you.

Jealously looks upon you / and encourages with gentle joy / every movement of the Spirit within you.

Unique and loved you stand.

Beautiful or stunted in your growth / but never without hope and life.

For you are called to become / a perfect creation.

The becoming may be / gentle or harsh. / Subtle or violent. / But it never ceases.

Never pauses or hesitates. Only is -- / creative force –

Calling you.

Calling you to become / a perfect creation.

Edwina Gately was born in 1943, and as nearly as I can discover is still teaching and writing. She is a remarkable woman, and I encourage you to discover her own road of becoming for yourselves. I encountered this poem in the journal *Journey with Jesus*, which maintains a wonderful selection of poetry that is about, or is adjacent to, the religious experience.

I love this poem as an introduction to Lent, which is a penitential season, yes, but also an invitation to the life of Christ inside us – the life that isn't fully realized until at last it is glorified. The life that, in every human term, looked like a failure – until it wasn't. Our own introduction to



Lent is an introduction to the reality of death, which comes for great and small, successes and failures, and all of us somewhere between. That introduction is the imposition of ashes, which we at OVPC will offer through the afternoon (12-4) of Ash Wednesday, as well as in service, at 7 o'clock.

Much can be said about ashes; I'd just like to say something a little less intuitive. When I, or some other, cross your forehead or wrist, we will say "remember you are dust, and to dust you will return". That, of course, is the chilling judgment the first humans heard, just prior to their banishment from the Garden of Eden.

But Adam and Eve lived, long enough to have progeny. Their life was not as it was meant to be, BUT, God didn't abandon the human project. Not then, and not many times after, however badly we returned God's love and provision. In those traditions which observe the harrowing of hell, especially artistically, Adam and Eve are noteworthy as the first, or among the first, released from the bondage of hell and Satan.

So, to me, there is a very real sense in which our ashes are a sign of how low we can go; but God's will that we have life, and have it abundantly, doesn't fail, doesn't go down to the dust, with us. Indeed, God can work with dust; God creates with dust. The Potter picks up the failed pot, and begins with the misshapen clay to build the pot again; the pot will still be beautiful. Like the artist in kintsugi, the repair will make what was broken still more valuable. The Prodigal will be received, and restored; the lame will walk, the blind will see. And the sadness of the prodigality, and the lameness, and the blindness, will recede. The flaming Sun of Righteousness will assure eternal day. Our ashes indicate the first day of our recovery; let us receive them with joy, and not with dread!

In the love of the Redeemer,

Pastor Terry

We are all broken. That's how the light gets in.

Ernest Hemingway

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
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, January 8, 2024

Shaped by God We Love and Serve

Attending: Rev. Terry Dougherty (Moderator), Bob Wolf, Susan Baer, Jacob Stavinga, Bev Bailey, Jen Read, Ray Keeney, Ollie Robling (Clerk of Session), Elaine Wolf (Treasurer), and Bob Clark (Chair of Finance Committee).

The meeting was opened by moderator Pastor Terry Dougherty at 7:00pm with devotion and prayer.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

TREASURER'S REPORT

Elaine submitted a written report which was reviewed. Elaine reported that 30 sets of offering envelopes were ordered but only 10 have been given out. In December \$10,000 was moved from the OVPC Investment Account to Operations to cover cash flow requirements at the end of the year. More will be reported in full at the February Congregational meeting.

MOTION passed to accept the December Financial Reports and the Treasurer's Report.

Bob Clark presented the 2024 Annual Budget for Session review. The details of this budget were discussed and a Motion passed to approve it. The full budget will be in the annual report distributed at the February Congregational meeting.

CLERK'S REPORT

MOTION passed to approve the docket for this meeting.

MOTION passed to accept the Session minutes of the December 11, 2023 meeting.

Correspondence received since last meeting: 10 e-mails from Donna Scully, NCP, PC(USA) Store and Cindy Kohlmann, and resignation letters from Cindy Benjamin, Bill & Karen Colwill and Catherine & Patrick Read.

Liturgists for February : Sue Baer, Jen Read and Jake Stavinga with communion on February 4, 11, and 14.

Next Vital Congregations meeting January 25, 2024.

Next Session Meeting: February 12 at 7:00 PM at Fellowship Center

Changes to the Roll:

Deaths: Dick Peoples

Funerals: Elsie Young

Baptisms: none

Marriages: none

Gain/Loss of Members: Jim Berrie - transferred, Cindy Benjamin, Bill & Karen Colwill, and Catherine & Patrick Read - resigned

Year to Date Membership: 73

MOTION passed to approve the Clerk's Report.

PASTOR'S REPORT

A written report was received from Pastor Terry and discussed.

MOTION passed to approve the Pastor's Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion passed to pre-approve \$10,000 of funds movement per the updated "Finance Committee Procedure for Transferring Funds Between the Stock Portfolio and the Checking Account". This transfer will only happen if funds are needed to cover bills and it will be repaid if possible.

Progress on preparation of the Annual Report for the Congregation was discussed. Jen Read will be the Session member with the task of driving in the annual Committee Reports. Bob Wolf will assist Diane in formatting the Report. At monthly Committee meetings in 2024 the Session liaison will ask for work hours spent by their committee members and outside people for the previous month and this information will be used to capture in-kind mission hours that will be converted to a monetary value on the mission matrix and reported in the annual report.

Cindy Kohlmann from Presbytery will be here on January 20 for an informational meeting with Session on the subject of Church Incorporation.

Ray Keeney had resigned from Session effective December 31st. Pastor Terry thanked him for his dedicated service over the last two years. The Nominating Committee will begin immediately to search for a replacement. Jen Read will replace Ray as liaison to the Facilities Committee.

Memo containing 3 Motions from Task Force #4 was presented for discussion and consideration.

MOTION #1 that the on-line calendar be simplified. It was agreed that the colors be modified to improve readability and the motion was passed.

MOTION #2 that all Committee Chairs hold a once a year get together to improve Communications, possibly in February, was approved.

MOTION #3 that each committee send a synopsis of their monthly minutes to the office for distribution to all the other committee chairs did not pass.

The 2024 Schedule for Committee presentations to Session was reviewed and one modification was made.

OLD BUSINESS

Do we have a new Rounding Rep from NCP – not yet

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Special Project - Mission Committee –The Labyrinth – Granite monument may arrive in March.

Special Project - Com/Tech – we continue to have an available balance in that project's budget and we will be evaluating what to do with those funds. One option is to install a shared data drive in the office that can be shared between the Administrative Assistant and the Pastor.

Special Project - Grounds – Paving Parking Lot – Ray Keeney will answer the Town of Ocean View's last letter but doesn't sound hopeful things will move forward.

Campus Safety – The Security Manual is mostly completed and will be reviewed and finalized at the January meeting. Session will need to review and approve this in February. The Safety and Security Task Force will be folded in to the Facilities Committee in January.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings Committee - Don Bailey	Jake Stavinga, Liaison
Cemetery Committee – Mike Read	Bob Wolf, Liaison
Christian Education – Bev Bailey Bev reported the classes she is planning through Easter	Sue Baer, Liaison
Communications/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 The Alternative Gift market raised \$2900 this year.	Jen Read, Liaison
Nominating Committee – Jen Read	Not needed
Personnel - Sue Baer	Not needed
Sewing Circle – Sue Baer	Not needed
SESM	N/A
Worship Committee – Jen R./Jane B. /Kathy S. There will be a New Member training on January 23 rd at 6:30pm presented by Lorie Hartsig and Jen Read	Jen Read, Liaison

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by
Pastor Terry at 9:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ollie Robling, Clerk of Session

Womens Sewing Circle

January 10, 2024

Lorie Hartsig

I have enclosed minutes from our first Circle meeting of 2024. Many thanks to Marti Sommer for recording them in my absence:

Sue Baer opened the meeting with a poem, "Golden Chain of Friendship" and prayer at 10 am. Paula Simms was introduced and our Purpose was read. Thank you to Marlene and Pam for hostess duties. Happy Birthday to our past-moderator, Ellen Neumann.

SECRETARY'S REPORT was approved as sent electronically.
TREASURER'S REPORT was approved.

BUSINESS of the DAY: It was moved, seconded and passed to accept our new officers Susan Baer, moderator, Marlene Quinn, treasurer, and Lorie Hartsig, secretary. Paula Simms installed Sue and Marlene.

Many thanks to Ellen, Marti and Lorie for keeping Circle intact and a major functioning part of OVPC during the Pandemic.

OTHER BUSINESS: Jen Read will initiate contact with DE Food Bank to meet with Kathy Sheetz and Bev Bailey to coordinate meeting regarding Sharing Pantry.

Marlene has a mailbox in the church office for monetary donations and purchase invoices for the Sharing Pantry.

Kathy announced that plans are underway to construct a Sharing Pantry cabinet similar to ours at Frankford Presbyterian Church.

Sign up sheets were passed for Ash Wednesday Soup and Salad Supper (2/14 @ 6pm) and Lenten Ecumenical Luncheon (2/28 @ 12 noon).

Retreat flyers were passed out for March 2-3, 2024 at Hyatt Place in Dewey Beach, DE.

NEW BUSINESS: Bev is working with Jean Siers of the Society of St. Andrews to do a Simple Supper in March or April.

Next month's hostesses are Ellen and Marti on February 14th at 10 am.

Bev led the Bible Study.
The meeting was adjourned with the Mitzpah.

Lorie Hartsig

(Women's Sewing Circle minutes continued)

NEEDS for FEBRUARY :

Donations of soup, salad and bread for Lenten soup and salad meals on February 14 and 28.
Please let Sue Baer know how you can help.

Donations to the Sharing Pantry can be made by placing in the basket in the Sanctuary or in the box outside the church office during office hours.



Flower Ladies.



Guys in hats.



Jennifer Read	Feb. 6
Sherry Parker	Feb. 7
Ray Keeney	Feb. 8
Mary Reed	Feb. 13
Jim Hartsig	Feb. 17
Dale Smith	Feb. 26
Don Bailey	Feb. 27

Elaine and Bob Wolf	Feb. 10
Jennifer and Mike Read	Feb. 14



YARN meets on Monday, February 5th 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!



Deacon Mission

Kristina Taylor

Deacon's Mission for February 2024: Souper Bowl of Caring - Sunday February 11th, will be the NFL Super Bowl (wear your favorite jersey!). Ocean View Presbyterian Church will have their own **Souper Bowl of Caring** during the month of February. The Deacons ask that everyone bring cans or cases of soup to the church and deposit them into the container marked for the Sharing Pantry!



OVPC **Souper Bowl of Caring** will run through February. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to Ocean View Presbyterian Church with Souper Bowl of Caring in the memo/note section. Donations will support the OVPC - Sharing Pantry.



Go Teams!!

**SCAM
ALERT**



Temperatures Down, Utility Bill Scams Up

Winter is upon us and with temperatures plummeting in many areas, keeping the heat on is critical — a fact that fraud criminals try to take advantage of. Each winter, utility scams spike as scammers claiming to be from the utility company say you haven't been paying your bill and they threaten to cut off service if you don't make an immediate payment

From the AARP Bulletin

Dear OVPC Church family,
Thank you to our church family for all the help and love we received when Dick was ill. Then all the preparation needed so we could have the service. The outpouring of cards, gifts, and notes has been such a comfort and heart warming for our family. As I have said so many times, I am so thankful and grateful for the 69 plus years we had together. I have such precious memories and feel so blessed. Thank you again dear friends for your kindness and sympathy.
With Love, The Peoples Family





Christian Education

Bev Bailey

Epiphany Stars and Your Word for 2024

During the Worship Service on January 28, Epiphany Stars were passed among the congregation before the Offering. It was sort of a 'reverse offering' to the congregation. Each person received a yellow Epiphany Star with a word written on it which became the person's "word of the year". It was asked that you take your star home with you, place your star somewhere you can see it every day, and let it guide your way in 2024. After the worship service Bev Bailey answered questions and gave the members ideas of how to use their stars in their devotions and daily living. If you did not receive an Epiphany Star for 2024, please call Bev or any member of the CE Committee and they will see that you are given a star. Ushers will also have some in an offering plate when you attend worship on February 4 or 11.

There will be monthly updates on your Epiphany Star in future newsletters. Please don't miss your chance to be part of our

worshipping committee in 2024 with your small yellow Epiphany Star.

Adult Education for February-March, 2024

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. What?? Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day?? We will begin the Lenten Season of Prayer and Repentance with a simple Soup Supper on Wednesday, the 14th at 6 pm in Memorial Hall, followed by worship in the Sanctuary.

There will also be a four week Lenten class called "God's Creation—Post Covid" on Sunday mornings after worship in Fellowship Center. Classes will be held on February 18 and 25, and on March 3 and 17.

There will be guided Labyrinth Walks during the Lenten Season and after services on Palm/ Passion Sunday, March 24 at 11 AM. Watch for more information in the weekly Bulletins and in the March Newsletter.



Advice from a Snowman

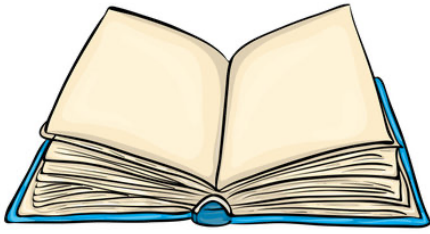
Be a jolly, happy soul

Spend time outdoors

Avoid meltdowns

Be well-rounded

Live well, life is short!



What Are You Reading?

"Books and doors are the same thing. You open them and you go into another world." Jeannette Winterson

- Lorie Hartsig: The Exchange by John Grisham
 Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson
 The Book of Last Letters by Kerry Barrett
- Jim Hartsig: Wager by David Grann
 The Boys on the Boat by Daniel James Brown A great book and movie.
- Pam Dougherty: Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyon Woo. Carefully researched journey from Slavery to Freedom (1848)
 The Bee Sting by Paul Murray. A portrait of post crash Ireland. A family saga.
 At Home in Mitford by Janet Karon. A lovely, uplifting read.
- Marie Waehler Their Eyes Were Watching God, by Nora Zeale Hurston
 Once Upon a River, by Bonnie Jo Campbell.

"We get courage from other people's stories. We get consolation from the way they tell about failures, disappointments and crises. It means that we are not alone." Maeve Binchey

Maeve Binchy was an Irish novelist, playwright, short story writer, columnist and speaker. Her novels were characterized by a sympathetic and often humorous portrayal of small-town life in Ireland and surprise endings.

Photogenic

Lorie and Jim Hartsig



“For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed” Kahlil Gibran



First snow of the season. Just a dusting.



Stay Warm With An Evening of Fellowship and a Movie!

Join us for dinner and a movie on Friday, **February 2nd** at the 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's great but don't worry if you can't – you are still more than welcome! This month our main course will be provided by the Bartholmews. If you would like to volunteer to provide a main course for a month, please let Elaine know.

This month there was a toss-up between a couple of movies to show and the winner is the 2021 film **Fatherhood** starring Kevin Hart and Alfre Woodward. We hear about the hardships and victories of single parents but often tend to assume that it is the mother left to raise a child on her own. This is the story of Matthew Logan, whose wife dies unexpectedly the day after giving birth to their daughter Maddy.

[SEE A CLIP OF THE MOVIE HERE](#)

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!

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