



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH JANUARY 2020



## FROM THE PASTOR: TERRY DOUGHERTY

*Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhuive!!*

Alright, alright, just a wee bit o' craic (fun) as ghaelige (in Irish): Happy New Year! This is our third New Year's Eve and Day here, though only the second on which I get to send you this note, and we are happier each successive one, here in the embrace of OVPC. Knowing you better and better has meant loving you better and better; may this continue ever and ever, le cunamh De (God willing). It feels a bit like this, from the Sisters of Saint Martha of Antigonish website:

A new year stands on my doorstep/ ready to enter my life's journey.

Something in me welcomes this visitor: the hope of bountiful blessings, the joy of a new beginning, the freshness of unclaimed surprises.

Something in me rebuffs this visitor: the swiftness of the coming, the boldness of the entrance, the challenge of a year's goodbye.

Something in me fears this visitor: the unnamed events of future days, the wisdom needed to walk love well, the demands of giving away and growing.

A new year stands on my doorstep. With fragile caution I move to open the door for its entrance; my heart leaps with surprise, joy jumps in my eyes, for there beside this brand new year stands my God with outstretched hand!

God smiles and gently asks of me: can we walk this year together?

And I, so overwhelmed with goodness, can barely whisper my reply: "Welcome in!"

When I was a child in the Split Rock development, in Hazlet, NJ, my friends and I would wake up ridiculously early on New Year's day and, regardless of weather, race around the neighborhood naming ourselves to be the "first" to accomplish (increasingly petty and ridiculous) feats in the new year. First to climb the Mahers' hill. First into "the woods" or "the reeds". First to knock over the Gerrity's garbage cans...

As we get older, and more full of first experiences than we might really like, we become more cautious; and we become more jaded. *Nihil Novi sub Sole* (nothing new under the sun) becomes our watchword. Youthful carryings-on like the above seem beneath us. But... but our Lord promises us newness of life; as we spent Advent discussing, that includes surprise,

and novelty, and the overturning of expectations (if NOT trashcans!).

To be a Christian is, above all, to be a person of welcome. Welcome to the stranger, welcome to the Word of God in and for our lives, welcome to the task of change – whether or not it is pleasant! The new year is a great time to stretch our daily *examen* into a life-review, a questioning of our practices and disciplines, a penetrating look at how another, how God, just might see the state of our life. Yes, of course, there is mercy and forgiveness, thanks be to God! But God wants more, and sees more, for us than our narrowness and habit can ever see without stretching, and without a bit of discomfort. The person God always meant us to be, and always means us to be, is set above angels. The one we settle for being is frequently less than angelic.

Let us, in 2020, embrace the idea that, whoever and wherever on this road we are, we are still only *becoming*. Let's welcome the stress and surprise of our own growth, safe in the knowledge of God's blessing and protection. Will you pray with me?

*Come, Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always. Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter. Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier. May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us, a time for welcoming your graces and your gifts, a time for forgiving freely and unconditionally, a time for growing in virtue and goodness. Come, Holy Spirit, be with us today and always. Amen.*

And, in case you forgot, or never knew, the first-footing poem I shared last year, and which I love, from the Northumbria Community, here it is:

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

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

## 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

**Website**  
ovpc.org

**Session**  
Bob Clark  
Ellen Neumann  
Mike Read  
Marti Sommer  
Bob Wolf  
Cathy Yantz  
Karen Colwill  
(Clerk of Session)

**Deacons**  
Sue Baer  
Cindy Benjamin  
Earlene DeFazio  
Joni Keller  
Eric Neumann  
Pam Price

**Newsletter Editors**  
Lorie and Jim Hartsig

## SESSION REPORT

Karen Colwill, Clerk of Session

The **Session of OVPC** met on Monday, December 9, 2019, in Fellowship Center.

Rev. Terry Dougherty, Moderator, opened with prayer and devotions at 6:00 PM.

### Orders of the Day:

**Facilities Committee Chair, Judy Reich** presented the new Facility Coordinator's Manual.

**Welcome Group/New Sign – Update** by Bill Colwill. **MOTION** to approve the letter to be mailed to OVPC members and friends detailing the project and the funding required to make the sign a reality. The group will present the 'OVPC sign' and answer your questions during Christian Education hour on January 5, 2020.

The Pastor Support Team (PST) updated Session on their activities and accomplishments for the second year of the Princeton First Call Pastoral Leadership Program. The PST members: Rev. Dr. Tom Kort (Princeton Theological Seminary), Pam Price, Mike Read, Kathy Sheetz and Karen Colwill, performed an independent review of Pastor Dougherty in accordance with the program. Pastor Dougherty is to be applauded for his second year ! We will be focused this year on improving Pastor Dougherty's administrative skills. The PST is distributing 80% of the Pastoral Personal Grant monies to Pastor Dougherty. The remaining Pastoral Discretionary Fund monies will remain in the account to be utilized during 2020.

Bob Wolf, Chair of the **Communications/Technology Committee** reviewed their accomplishments of 2019 and their plans for 2020. **MOTION** approved to lease a new copier, with folder and booklet capabilities, effective January 2020. The impact to the 2020 budget is \$82 per month. Session thanks the Communications/Technology Committee for their dedication to OVPC and commitment to keeping our technology up-to-date and operational.

**MOTION** approved to accept Pastor Dougherty's **Terms of Call** to be placed before the congregation at the Annual Meeting on February 2, 2020 for approval.

**Finance Committee** presented the first detailed review of the 2020 budget. The Finance Committee will review the modified budget and present a final 2020 Budget for approval at the January Session Meeting.

**MOTION** passed to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2019 Session Meeting.

**MOTION** passed to approve the **October 2019 Finance Reports**.

**MOTION** passed to approve the **November 2019 Finance Reports**.

**Pastor Terry's** report was received. **MOTION** passed to approve Pastor Terry's request for vacation Thursday, December 26, 2019 and Thursday, January 2, 2020.

The **Monthly Committee Reports** were received.

**Personnel Committee MOTIONS:**

- approved the revised Administrative Assistant Job Description
- approved the revised Church Musician Job Description
- approved the Contractual Statement between the Church Musician and OVPC
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The following **MOTIONS** were approved:

- OVPC Session Schedule 2020
- OVPC Session Schedule Detail 2020
- The Communion Schedule 2020
- OVPC Calendar – Holidays and Office Close Dates 2020
- Assigned OVPC Committee Session Liaisons 2020
- Church Officers 2020:
  - **President:**               **Martha Sommer**
  - **Vice President:**   **Robert Clark**
  - **Secretary:**           **Karen Colwill**
  - **Treasurer:**           **Elizabeth Hobler**
  - **Finance Secretary:**   **N/A**
- The New Castle Presbytery 2020 Commissioner: **Bob Wolf**
- The Session Chair of the Church Nominating Committee: **Mike Read**
- **Elizabeth Hobler**, OVPC Treasurer 2020
- **Karen Colwill**, Clerk of Session 2020

**All Annual Reports** are due electronically to the office by **January 6, 2020**. Marti Sommer will assist Lori in gathering the reports and preparing the Annual Report for the February 2, 2020 Congregational Meeting.

**Session** urges all committee chairs to get their Session reports to the office by the Wednesday before the Session Meeting: January 13 Session Meeting - reports are due January 8th.

Rev. Terry Dougherty adjourned the meeting and closed with prayer at 10:20 PM

**Hear Blessings dropping their  
blossoms around you.**

**Rumi**





Andy Smith	Jan. 2nd
Elaine Jackson	Jan. 8th
Cindy Szlasa	Jan. 8th
Barbara Dietsch	Jan. 13th
Ellen Neumann	Jan. 19th
Dave Kratch	Jan. 20th



Betsy and Buzz Henifin	Jan. 8th
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## **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 January 6th.**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**January 19 & 26** - Join us in Fellowship Center for a viewing of the PBS Documentary “**Won't You Be My Neighbor.**”

One of the year's most acclaimed films, *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* expertly weaves in precious archival clips, rare personal footage, and interviews with friends, family, and Fred Rogers himself, to paint an intimate portrait of a man beloved by millions, whose example of empathy, love, and patience is as necessary as ever.

He gave us the most precious gift of all: the courage to be kind.

For over thirty years, American children grew up watching *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* on PBS. Mister Rogers offered a calm and stable presence, tackling life's weightiest issues in a simple, direct way. *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* reflects on Fred Rogers' legacy of kindness, and the profound and lasting effect his innovative approach to television had on millions of children.

## A NEW SIGN FOR OVPC

### We are ready to build our New Sign!

Please join us in Memorial Hall after church on Sunday, January 5.

The New Sign Task Force will present a detailed PowerPoint review of the New Sign history, design and construction.

**We have some great displays!** You can see and feel the selected stone facades. You can see a line-of-sight Google Maps overview of the sign on our church property. You can review our surveyor's plan. ***You can actually touch the mock up used to position our new sign!***

We are so excited to get our New Sign built and hope you will contribute to make our New Sign a reality. We will do our best to answer your questions.

The New Sign Task Force thanks the Christian Education Committee for making the Sunday School time slot available to discuss this important milestone for OVPC.



## MISSION COMMITTEE

The newly formed Mission Committee will hold its first meeting on January 23rd (fourth Thursday) at 6:30pm. As we are just getting organized, there is room for you! Let Dale Smith or Bev Bailey know if you are interested, especially if a different time of day would work better for you.

## RICHARD ALLEN SCHOOL GALA

When Jane Hovington visited us in November, she told several stories about the Richard Allen school in Georgetown. On February 1st, the Richard Allen Coalition will be holding its annual gala to support the efforts to preserve that historic location. We will be organizing a sponsor table (\$50 per ticket) for OVPC. Please contact Dale Smith or Bev Bailey if you are interested in attending.



Civil Air Patrol 78th Birthday recognition at OVPC.



## NATIVITY FESTIVAL





## PHOTOGENIC

Jim Hartsig and Herb Sheetz



Another ramp completed.



Lunch break.



Women's Circle Holiday Luncheon.

## FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES



We will celebrate the new year by getting together on Friday January 3<sup>rd</sup> for (maybe a traditional New Year meal?) and the movie 'Awakenings' starring Robert DeNiro and Robin Williams – the true story of Dr. Malcom Sayer and his work with patients that suffered from encephalitis and left in a catatonic state.

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.

