



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DECEMBER 2019



## From the Pastor Terry Dougherty

In her book *Advent*, Fleming Rutledge writes (p. 271): *Every step we take in this world is a step toward either darkness or light. Every harsh word, every mean act, every vengeful thought is a part of the works of darkness. Every act of forgiveness, every small act of charity, every*

*temptation resisted is a piece of the armor of light.*

In Advent, the season of watchfulness, perhaps the most meaningful watching we can do is over ourselves. Darkness - the natural kind - does close in, lending power to feelings of isolation, and of invisibility. We can feel as though there is no check on our expression of ourself, as the busyness of the season (overwhelmed as it is by Christmas preparation) means we interact with strangers more. In such a time, it is vital to remember our first principles; to do kindness, to love justice, to walk humbly with our God. It is a good thing to “keep it simple”.

Last year was my first experience of our Advent Times of Prayer, prepared lovingly by Bill Colwill as times to be silently in the presence of God, in our beautiful sanctuary. Whether each participant is there as part of a personal practice of silence and prayer, or as a petitioner, or as one who prays intercessions, the experience of slowing all the way to a stop in order to submit ourselves to the One from whom we are never isolated and to whom we are never invisible, is a joyful and invigorating experience.

Silence is a vital part of our spiritual formation, and for a simple reason: we cannot listen for so long as we are speaking. Just as with other people, so with God: if we are forming our responses, objections and counter-arguments even as God addresses us, we will not profit by what God has graciously given. In silence, we make it possible for God to upbuild us, to guide us, to correct our course and even to confront us. Only in silence do we fully realize that our first companion, the Companion of Eden, is with us, longing still to do us good, longing still to break down the walls we have built against love and trust.

Whether you come to Time of Prayer - and I encourage that! - or don't, please this Advent take time to be still, and to know that God is God. God has never been away, yet God is coming

soon! All that we have done amiss in God's "absence", God has promised to sweep away. All the ways that we have broken our fellowship with God and with one another will be voided, as the true kingdom comes. This can look catastrophic - as it does in many of our readings - but it is in fact our means of homecoming.

In God's presence lies our eternal peace, and our eternal home, uncomplicated by all the strife we create. So, in this Advent, please keep it simple: do the acts of light.

On a personal note:

I am well aware of the upsetment some here in OVPC are feeling, that because I have committed to entering Sussex Correctional Institute with the KAIROS prison ministry team from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of this month, I will be missing our annual dinner. I ask your forbearance. I did not do this lightly; indeed, at the last opportunity I did not go, even though I had participated in training. This time, their shortness on clergy created a real need for me to participate. I petitioned Session, and while Session did eventually give me permission, they did not do so easily or lightly. In the long run, Session acknowledged there is an outside mission of the church universal that sometimes makes uncomfortable demands. The time I devote to Presbytery, and to South East Sussex Ministerium, are of a piece with this mission: often it is hard for me to find or dedicate the time, but I do, and I do. Of course, the real spiritual and pastoral needs of OVPC come first, and I constantly make adjustments.

I would argue, maybe only with small success, that it is for the health of OVPC that I do these things. OVPC's beautiful, beating heart should not overwhelm our conscience; we need constantly to be able to look inward and outward, realizing these are the same thing in God's generous activity to restore this our world. When this shoe pinches, I am sorry; but when our relationship with God is less than comfortable, that is a sign to engage, not to withdraw. I am encouraged each and every time all of you respond to such calls!

I am here, first, for this loving congregation; you are first in my heart. I am also, by the nature of my call, our contact with a hurting world that doesn't attend here, but which has a claim on our concern. I accept these two calls can be in contradiction. The Session and I have worked, and compromised on, these principles several times. Please believe it is not my intention to hurt anyone's feelings; that I have is something I regret, and I apologize.

In Christ's love, and in Christ's peace, Pastor Terry

## 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**  
Don Bailey  
Cathy Yantz  
Bob Clark  
Ellen Neumann  
Marti Sommer  
Bob Wolf  
Karen Colwill  
(Clerk of Session)

**Deacons**  
Earlene DeFazio  
Sandy White  
Eric Neumann  
Cindy Benjamin  
Ollie Robling  
Sue Baer

**Newsletter Editors**  
Lorie and Jim Hartsig

## *Session Report*

### *Karen Colwill, Clerk of Session*

#### **OVPC Minute from Session - November 3, 2019**

The **Session of OVPC** met on Sunday, November 3, 2019, in Fellowship Center.

Rev. Terry Dougherty, Moderator, opened with prayer and devotions at 1:00 PM.

#### **Orders of the Day:**

**Personnel Committee** coordinated the Pastor Terry's annual review with Session. Four comment documents were received from members/visitors. The review was discussed in detail with Pastor Terry.

**Personnel Committee** reviewed recaps of the staff reviews for the Church Musician and the Administrative Assistant.

**MOTION** passed to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2019 Session Meeting.

**The October 2019 Finance Reports** were received and will be reviewed in detail at the December meeting.

**Pastor Terry's** report was received. **MOTION** passed to approve Pastor Terry's request for vacation, December 5-8, 2019 to attend the KAIROS event at the Sussex County Correctional Facility. Coverage is in place.

**The Monthly Committee Reports** were received.

**MOTION** passed to present an opportunity to the congregation, from the New Castle Presbyterian Women, to contribute to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center in need of renovations; 'Pennies for Massanetta' campaign.

**MOTION** passed to accept the quote for the installation of new window treatments for Memorial Hall.

**MOTION** passed to accept a contract for the quarterly exterminating of Memorial Hall and the Office.

**Session** urges all committee chairs to get their Session reports to the office by the Wednesday before the Session Meeting: December 9<sup>th</sup> Session Meeting - reports are due December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Rev. Terry Dougherty adjourned the meeting and closed with prayer at 4:30 PM



Bob Wolf	Dec. 7th
Karen Rubin Hamilton	Dec. 15th
Patrick Read	Dec. 18th
Eric Neumann	Dec. 20th
Kathy Sheetz	Dec. 20th
Pam Price	Dec. 29th



Beverly Stalnaker and Kerry Shull	Dec. 2nd
Peggy and Bill Wivel	Dec. 4th



## *Mission committee*

### INTERESTED IN LOCAL OR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS?

Session has established a new Mission Committee, to begin in 2020. If you have a passion for mission work or possibly experience in a former church, we would love to have your participation. We are looking to have our first kick-off meeting in January. If you are interested or would like to learn more, speak with Bev Bailey or Dale Smith, co-chairs.



## **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 December 2nd.**



*From the Deacons*

The Christmas Joy Offering is the Mission project for the month of December.

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. This offering distributes gifts to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian related racial and ethnic schools and colleges.

\$1.2 million of gifts from the 2018 offering are being used to provide critical financial support for current and retired Presbyterian workers in times of need.

\$1 million of gifts from 2018 are being used to provide education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Envelopes will be available for this offering and will be collected during the month of December. Please prayerfully consider supporting this mission project.

*Christian Education*  
*Karen Rubin-Hamilton*



Please join us in Memorial Hall after worship this month as we continue our educational Advent tradition of "Tell Me a Story". Don Benjamin will lead us in looking at biblical passages and how they affect our story on December 1, 15 & 22.



## *The Way Home*

The Way Home meets former prisoners at the prison gates and the office door to provide connections with community, meet needs, and foster relationships that prevent return to prison.

Please help by bringing the following unused items to our Christmas Potluck Dinner on Friday, December 6 at 6:00 PM.

### **Men**

Pants - Size 34 and up - Jeans, Khakis or Black

Shirts - Size M to XXL - Solid color button up collar shirts, short sleeve or long, black or white preferable:

Socks, Undershirts and Underwear - All sizes

Coats - Size L to XXL

### **Women**

Pants - Size 12 to 22 - Black, Khakis or Jeans

Shirts - Size M to XXL - Solid color button up collar and no collar shirts, short sleeve or long. Basic colors

Socks, Underwear and Bras - All sizes

Coats - Size L to XXL

### **Men and Women**

Toiletries

Backpacks or Duffle bags

Other: Canes, Compression socks, Knee braces, Back braces

**“Love isn’t a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like struggle. To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly the way he or she is, right here and now.**

*Mr. Rogers*

## *Princeton Support Team Update*

The Princeton Support Team ( PST ) members continue to meet weekly for brief check - in times for discussion and solutions. PST participated in the Leadership Retreat in October with the Elders and the Deacons. The theme of the day was “To Be Good Stewards of the Gifts of God.” The Rev. Tom Kort, Terry’s mentor from Princeton Seminary, contributed to the discussions and added guidance. One saying that he shared with us was: Plan to Work, then Work to (the) Plan.

As we are closing the second year of the PST Leadership program, we continually pray for God’s direction for Terry and our Congregation.

Committee Members: Karen Colwill, Kathy Sheetz, Pam Price, Pastor Terry and Mike Read

You are cordially invited  
to join us for a

### **NATIVITY FESTIVAL**

Saturday, December 14th

10 am- 2 pm

Ocean View Presbyterian Church

67 Central Avenue

Ocean View, DE

Large collection of creches and their stories

Cookies and punch

Seasonal music

Christmas carol sing along



## *Advent Times of Prayer*

*Bill Colwill*

**“Deep down in every human heart there is knowledge of God.  
And deep down in every human heart is the desire to communicate with Him.”**  
-Mother Teresa-

**Prayers of Intercession: Gathering together, joining in spirit,  
we ask God to help those in need.**

**We consider: How can I recognize God’s presence in my heart?**

**Personal Meditation and Prayer: We commune silently with God.**

**Advent Times of Prayer: Join us for prayer in our Holy Sanctuary.  
Wednesdays: December 4, 11, 18, from 5:50 to 6:15 pm.**

**"I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"**

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*





On November 10th, our Stephen Ministry team led the worship service. Thanks to all who participated.

From the service was this quote from “Journeying Though Grief”: God never intended for us to suffer alone. He created us to care for and support others in their time of need – and to allow others to care for and support us in ours.”

If you or someone you know is going through a challenging time, please speak with Elaine Smith, the Referrals Coordinator, or with Pastor Terry.



December 1st begins the season for the “open every night” men’s shelter at the Stone House Building on the Bethany Christian Church campus in Bethany Beach. The shelter is being supported by numerous churches in the Ministerium, arranging for the necessary volunteers for nightly intake, evening meals, overnight stays, and morning relief.

Kathy Sheetz is coordinating the efforts from OVPC to provide meals each Friday evening. Other churches have signed up for evening meals for the other nights.

If you would like to volunteer, click to <https://signup.com/go/aupzdxS> (case sensitive). Under each date, you will see the roles needing coverage. Any questions, call Dale Smith at 908.209.9113

## *Kairos Prison Ministry*

During December 5-8, thirty men from numerous churches in southern Delaware and Maryland will be engaged in bringing the word of God to 25-30 residents of the Sussex Correctional Institute in Georgetown. During these four days, through a variety of talks, discussions, praise songs, and chapel time, the residents will be brought to an understanding of God’s presence and His desires for their lives.

One aspect of this retreat weekend is to have an active prayer vigil underway. People in the community – in the state, in the nation, across the globe – can devote 30 minutes in prayer, asking for the resident’s hearts to be opened to God’s healing and forgiveness.

Contact Dale Smith if you have questions about this ministry.

# Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

## *Stephen Ministers are there:*

- ... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... *after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the doctor says, “I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do.”
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

[www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org)

## *Presbytery Commissioner's Report*

### *Mike Quinn*

The 848th stated meeting of the New Castle Presbytery was held at the First and Central Church on November 16, 2019. We convened with prayer and opened with worship. Rev Cindy Kohlmann the co-moderator of the 223rd General Assembly gave the sermon. After worship we had a stretch break and then reconvened the meeting with the normal Quorum declaration, welcome of first time commissioners, and seating of Corresponding Members. The stated clerk presented the consent agenda which passed.

The committee on leadership presented its report on the search for an interim Connectional Presbyter. Sarah Holben was put forth for interim Connectional Presbyter and Bob Schminkey was put forth for interim stated clerk. Both were elected.

The committee on Representation and nominations put forth the nominations for presbytery committee elections, and election of General Assembly Commissioners, and all passed.

The committee on coordination put forth nominations for the committee on Representations and all passed.

The Committee on Ministers and Congregations welcomed Rev Steve Clark as pastor at Concord Church, and Rev Victoria Bethel as pastor at Saint Andrews Church. They celebrated the retirement of Rev Kate Simons and had a Memorial Minute for the Rev John Gilmore.

The committee on Preparation for Missional Ministry put forth Lisa Chase for examination to advance from Inquirer to Candidate. She passed.

The Trustees presented the budget for 2020 and it passed. They gave a short report on the Beaver Dam Congregation. They then requested the meeting be recessed for corporate business (Trustees Report) and then the meeting was reconvened.

The Committee on Nominations and Representation presented the nominees for Trustee and all passed. This was followed by a photo of the New Castle Presbytery and adjourned to Lunch.

Meeting reconvened after lunch with a Synod grant presentation to Community Church. This was followed by the Youth Triennium report and then the Congo Mission Partnership sharing by Christe and Jeff Boyd Mission workers in Africa.

This was followed by the Ignite report putting forth the Presbytery to become a Matthew 25 Presbytery which passed. Ignite gave their Financial report and the Elkton Partnership grant, followed by Guatemala partnership grant. This was followed by a report on the unglued project at various churches. A short discussion was held on the new Worshiping communities of Church on Main and Riverfront Church. We had a short open discussion with the Co-Moderator from GA, and adjourned.

**“How did it get so late so soon? It’s night before it’s afternoon.  
December is here before it’s June. My goodness how the time  
has flown. How did it get so late so soon?”**

**Dr. Seuss**

## *Vehicle Break Ins On The Rise*

### **How to prevent yourself from being a victim**

The Delaware State Police have been experiencing a rash of vehicle break-ins. This is not only occurring to residents who live on back un-lit county roads, but also those who live in well-lit developments and mobile home parks. There have been multiple arrests in these cases, but ongoing criminal activity indicate additional individuals are continuing to target vehicles. Help us help you.

The Delaware State Police highly suggest the following tips to help prevent our area residents from becoming a victim:

1. Keep your doors to all of your vehicles locked at all times and windows shut.
2. Do not leave items of value in your vehicle. This includes purses, wallets, credit cards, electronics, check books, money, SS card, loose change, documents and paperwork with your personal information listed.
3. Store valuable tools inside your residence. If needed daily for work, create an easy system to load and unload daily, such as, using storage containers to transport.
4. Lock your glove box, which should only store your registration and insurance cards. Do not store your vehicle title in the glove box. Store it in a safe place in your residence.
5. Do not leave items that perceive valuable, such as, a laptop case with no laptop.
6. Clear the vehicle of all clutter and personal items. This also can perceive valuables are hidden under items in the vehicle.
7. Do not keep a spare vehicle key hidden in the same vehicle. Do not store house keys or other keys in your vehicle.
8. If possible, keep your vehicle parked under a light area that you can check on from your residence.
9. If you have a surveillance security system, include your vehicles in the angle of your camera system.

If you locate a suspicious subject on your property, in the area of your vehicles, do not confront them, call [911](#) immediately. Also, be a good witness for your neighbor, as you would want them to do the same for you.

*Submitted by: Bob Turner*

**Christmas, my child, is love in action.**

*Dale Evans*

## *New Carpet in Memorial Hall*

I hope you have had a chance to check out the new carpet and painting in Memorial Hall. Please remember to put chairs and tables away in the closets at the front of the room and don't lean them against the wall. In case of a spill on the carpet, blot up any liquid and be sure to let the office or the Facility Coordinator know as soon as possible so that we can complete the cleaning process. We want to thank The Bridge Club for their generous donation of \$636 towards the cost of the new carpet.



Christmas Potluck  
December 6th 6pm  
Entertainment provided by  
AARP Chorus

## *Kitchen Ministry*

### *Karen Rubin-Hamilton*

#### **“Pathways to Success”**

With the support of the Women’s Sewing Circle, the new Kitchen Ministry has been launched! OVPC provided its first meal in October to the students enrolled in the “Pathways to Success” program at Cape Henlopen High School.

OVPC volunteers eagerly shopped, prepared a meal of baked ziti in our church kitchen, and baked homemade desserts. The meal was then delivered to the students during their after school program. The 30 students that were fed were thrilled to have a homemade meal and even loved the baby carrots!

The Kitchen Ministry will continue on the second week of each month throughout the school year. Additionally, we would like to recognize and thank Cindy Stevens of Bear Hole Farm for donating fresh basil each month for the casseroles, as well as Giant Food for their monthly donation of 5 loaves of fresh Italian Bread.

It takes a village!



## *Friday Night At The Movies*



***It's the Holiday Season and we will be taking a break in December.***

We will not be gathering for a movie night in December so we can all attend the various Advent and Christmas activities at church. 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 ---

