



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2014



From the Pastor Gerald Egger

1. Early History of Lower Delmarva

From the beginning of the seventeenth century to the American Revolution and beyond, Lower Delmarva was a major center of European immigration to North America, especially from the British isles. It was anchored in Old

Somerset County, which today is Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico counties of Maryland and Sussex County of Delaware.

Sussex County, like all of Delaware's counties, is subdivided into Hundreds. There are several explanations given for how the Hundreds were arrived at: either an area containing 100 families, or an area containing 100 people, or an area that could raise 100 soldiers. Sussex County is apportioned into eleven Hundreds: Cedar Creek, Broadkiln, Georgetown, Nanticoke, North West Fork, Broad Creek, Little Creek, Dagsboro, Indian River, Lewes & Rehoboth, and Baltimore, home of the village that became Ocean View.

Source: <http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu/dho/themes/index.html>

Source: <http://www.answers.com/topic/sussex-county-delaware>

2. Presbyterians in Delmarva

In 1683, a 25 year-old Irish Presbyterian minister educated in Scotland, Rev. Francis Makemie, immigrated to Old Somerset County and started churches in Snow Hill and Rehoboth, Maryland. Within 25 years, Makemie organized more Presbyterian churches in the area, including Wicomico (Salisbury, MD), Buckingham (Berlin, MD), and Coolspring (Harbeson, DE).

Francis Makemie also started the first lasting American presbytery, headquartered in Philadelphia. It united two strands of Presbyterianism (the Puritan and the Scotch or Scotch-Irish). By 1717, there were enough presbyteries on the Eastern seaboard, from Snow Hill north to Long Island, to hold a General Synod. At a meeting of the Synod of Philadelphia in 1735, the Presbytery of Lewis-Town (Lewes, DE) was created. Later merged back into New Castle Presbytery, Lewis-Town Presbytery united all the congregations in Kent and Sussex counties in Delaware, as well as those of Worcester, Somerset, Queen Anne's, and Kent counties in Delaware.

History Part II: OVPC in Delmarva History (continued)

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America came together in 1788, shortly after the First Continental Congress of the U.S. It was comprised of 16 presbyteries, 177 ministers, and 419 congregations, spanning the region from New York to the Carolinas. It called its first General Assembly in Philadelphia in May, 1789.

Presbyterianism in Delmarva continued to prosper. By 1789, Lewis-Town Presbytery boasted 28 congregations, mostly in slave-holding counties of Delaware and Maryland. The Wilmington Presbytery in the industrial north was on record at General Assembly as anti-slavery.

The 1830s began a period of religious fervor. Baptisms and conversions swelled the rolls. Delmarva churches funded missionaries to preach the gospel along the western frontiers of the growing nation, as well as overseas. This was an era of abstinence from alcohol and insistence on the sanctity of Sabbath Day.

April 27, 1858. "The greatest and most general revival of religion amongst all evangelical denominations that ever was is appearing at this time. It is not by excitement, but mostly by the power of answered prayer. Oh, that it would be in our midst. Every religious paper brings news that it is spreading!

Source: Diary of William S. Hall.

But the 1830s were the start of a serious division among Presbyterian churches over the amount of required education for ministers. Old School and New School partisans developed. Dissent divided the Synod, leading to the creation of two presbyteries named New Castle. One of them, along with Lewis-Town, was Old School. The other New Castle and Wilmington Presbyteries were New School.

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
Carole Trent
Karen Colwill
Don Bailey
Bob Wolf
Jennifer Read
Herb Sheetz

Deacons
Mike Read
Jane Sergison
Jim Hartsig
Bill Colwill
Amy Peoples
Ollie Robling

Newsletter Editors
Lorie and Jim Hartsig
Send submissions to:
newsletter@ovpc.org

History Part II: OVPC in Delmarva History (continued)

Blackwater Presbyterian Church, located near Clarksville, was organized in 1863 by Rev. Charles Tennant. A church was built there in 1767 and rebuilt in 1893. Charles Tennant also was a pastor at Buckingham Church. His record of service was marred by charges of drunkenness, cruelty, and neglect of duty. The Presbytery suspended him in 1769 at the same meeting in which his son, William Tennant, preached a trial sermon.

By the time Fort Sumter was fired upon in South Carolina, April 12, 1861, Presbyterians on Delmarva were fractured along several lines: The New School - Old School controversy still simmered. The industrialized north was increasingly pro-Lincoln Republican, while the agrarian south (Kent and Sussex Counties) was more states-rights Democrat. And slavery was a divisive issue. Delawareans were ambivalent about taking sides in the Civil War.

Saturday, June 12, 1861. "News comes to us and it is all the news that there is division between the North and the South.

June 16. News tells us 5 states have dropped out of the Union - South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, and Georgia." Source: Diary of William S. Hall.

Into this era of tension a new Presbyterian congregation was taking hold in on coastal Delaware in the town known as Hall's Store.

Source: Presbyterians on Delmarva: The History of the New Castle Presbytery by James H. Lappen (1972).

Source: ncpresbytery.org/history.

3. Ocean Presbyterian Church

The hamlet of Hall's Store was located on a tract known as Middlesex, in the district of Baltimore Hundred. A post office opened in 1822. The postmaster was William S. Hall, who kept a store at the place. Hall was instrumental in persuading officers of the Blackwater Presbyterian Church to start a church on Cedar Neck, the Ocean Presbyterian Church.

Source: History of Delaware: 1609-1888, by John Thomas Scharf.

The organizers, William S. Hall the recording secretary, raised \$200 in 1854 for the purchase of one and a half acres of land on which to build a house of worship and an adjoining cemetery. Donations ranging from 25 cents to 50 dollars poured in over 5 months. William Deland was contracted to frame the structure, which was completed in 1856. Before the church was finished, one of Deland's children, a son, died; his was the first burial in the new cemetery. Services were held for the first time in the fall of 1856, even before the lath was plastered.

The Ladies Social Sewing Society of Ocean Presbyterian Church was organized in January, 1879. Comprised of both men and women (men's dues 25 cents, women's dues 15 cents), it holds distinction as the longest continuously-running society in Delaware.

*History Part II: OVPC in Delmarva History
(continued)*

The original church building served for 50 years, before it was relocated to make room for a larger house of worship, dedicated December 1, 1907. That building, still in use, cost \$2,335. James Hudson was the carpenter. He installed wood in diagonal patterns on the ceiling as a temporary covering; that distinctive design was never replaced.

4. Ocean View Presbyterian Church

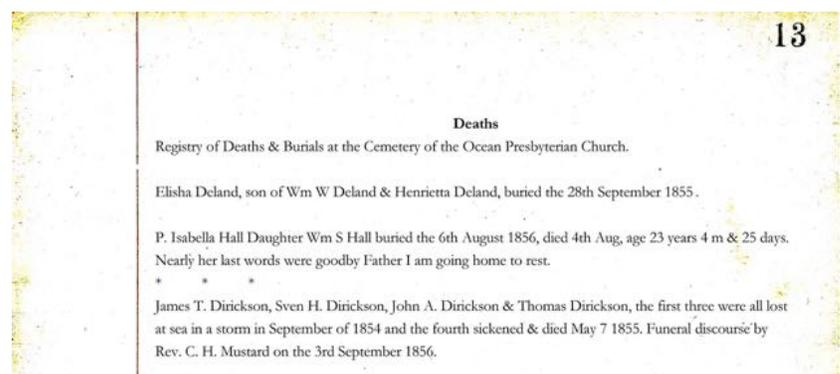
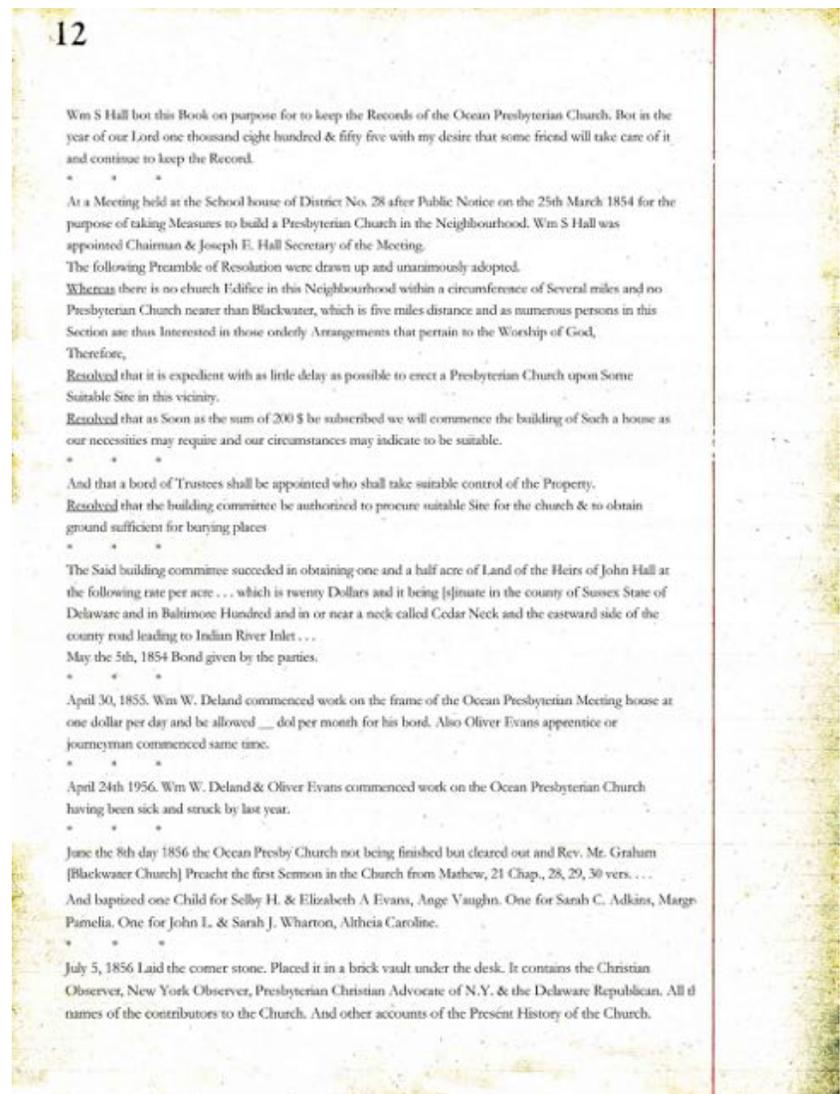
On November 11, 1909, to be consistent with the local post office, the church's name was changed to Ocean View Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Clarence Henry Schwenke was serving as the congregation's eleventh pastor.

Off and on for over 100 years, pastors served Frankford Presbyterian Church as well as Ocean View. The Fellowship Center was constructed in 1974. Rev. Dr. Kerry Shull was installed in 1975, the twenty-ninth pastor of the congregation. Rev. Shull retired in 2014.

In September, 2003, Memorial Hall was dedicated, financing for which was retired in two years. The Columbarium was erected in 2004. A covered walkway between Fellowship Center and Memorial Hall was finished in 2008.

The congregation numbered 74 members at the close of 2013.

From the earliest written record of this church:



Christian Education

Bev Bailey

Advent Sunday School. The CE Committee is offering ways to consider the Advent Season with "Elements of Advent" This 4 week series will help you in thinking about the season in intimate and faith-filled ways. Classes will begin on November 30 as Cindy Benjamin provides all the materials to make your own Advent Wreaths and Gary Baer will explain the purpose and symbols of the wreath. December 7 will focus on "Creches"--our own to be exact, led by Gary Baer. December 14 and 21, Bev Bailey will lead us in music and discussion of Shepherds and Angels, respectively. Classes will be held in Memorial Hall.

Worship Wanderings

Cathy Yantz

Right after Thanksgiving holidays the Worship Committee will have a table set up in Memorial Hall each Sunday so that members and friends of the church can buy hymnals in honor or memory of friends and family. A bookplate will be put in each hymnal that you buy stating that the hymnal was dedicated by you in memory or in honor of someone special to you. In addition, a printed card saying that you have given this hymnal in someone's name will be available for you to mail. Each hymnal is \$20.00. If you have questions, contact Cathy Yantz or Kathy Sheetz.

Advent Times of Prayer

Bill Colwill



All are invited to special Advent Times of Prayer on three Wednesday evenings in Advent (5:45 pm to 6:15 pm on December 3, 10, 17). Each Advent Time of Prayer will include our communal prayers of petition as well as prayer requests from our entire congregation, study of a scriptural passage, and extended silent prayer. We hope these gatherings in the sanctuary will inspire each of us as we open our hearts to the coming of the Christ child. (Prayer requests may be submitted in the basket at the back of the Sanctuary.)

Building and Grounds

Buzz Henifin

Every day one reads about a break in to a home or business and sometimes a church. A group of dedicated members of our church conduct daily security checks of OVPC facilities and grounds. The members of the security group inspect the church Sunday through Saturday. This loyal band of ten inspectors and three substitutes includes Dave Kratch, who is the keeper of the schedule of when who inspects. This schedule is posted in the mechanical room and on the bulletin board in the hallway of Memorial Hall and promulgated to the group by email. A log of the inspections is maintained in the mechanical room. The log is reviewed periodically for work items that are then taken care of by B&G. Emergency items are passed to B&G for immediate fixing. The items that need some correction are listed below by month:

JUNE 2014

- 6/17 Sanctuary thermostat not set correctly
- 6/24 Hot water faucet in MH's men's room dripping
- 6/30 Mechanical room was not shut and locked and Sanctuary thermostat set incorrectly

JULY 2014

- 7/1 FC & MH thermostats not set correctly
- 7/2 FC West door unlocked
- 7/7 Office unlocked
- 7/12 MH and Sanctuary thermostats not set correctly
- 7/17 One flood light replaced

August 2014

- 8/14 Window in FC unlocked
- 8/18 Lights on in the Sanctuary
- 8/20 Lights on in MH women's room
- 8/22 FC outside light was on

September

- 9/2 Hot water in MH men's room was running
- 9/5 FC East door unlocked
- 9/6 Portico lights on
- 9/9 Toilet in ladies MH rest room won't flush
- 9/18 MH & FC some lights were on, MH thermostats not set correctly
- 9/5 MH East door does not lock
- 9/27 FC thermostats not set correctly
- 9/28 MH emergency door does not lock
- 9/29 MH emergency door locked fixed.

OCTOBER 2014

- 10/5 FC thermostats not set correctly and MR lights on.
- 10/6 MH east door unlocked
- 10/10 MH double doors unlocked & FC lights on
- 10/19 MH thermostat not set correctly & and kitchen floor was wet
- 10/21 MH lights on & west door unlocked
- 10/23 MH thermostat not set correctly
- 10/26 FC door unlocked

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

Bob Wolf	Dec. 7th
Patrick Read	Dec. 18th
Gerald Egger	Dec. 19th
Kathy Sheetz	Dec. 20th

Happy
Anniversary

Kerry Shull and Beverly Stalmaker Dec. 2nd

Christmas Poinsettias

Kathy Sheetz



We will be ordering our Christmas plants that are in 6 1/2" pots at a price of \$5.50 each.

A variety of colors will be available: red, white, or pink.

Orders must be paid and turned in by Sunday December 14th.

Please place your order form with the money in the collection plate or give it to Kathy Sheetz or Kaye (in the office).

Make checks payable to OVPC.

Session Notes

Earlene DeFazio

The Session met on November 10, 2014.

The Session met with Cindy Benjamin who is seeking to transfer her membership from Good Samaritan Presbyterian Church in Waldorf, Maryland to OVPC. We warmly welcome Cindy as a member of Ocean View Presbyterian Church.

Bruce Hobler of the Mission Advocacy Team provided a list of all mission activities, past and present at OVPC. The purpose of the team is to provide support for new and existing mission projects and to help people get connected with groups and individuals for insight, funding and resources. The team requested permission to hold an annual Mission Forum, to hold an annual Mission Fair and to have a display at the biannual New Castle Presbytery Mission Fair. There were no objections to these requests.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve increasing the duties of the choir director, Kathy Rhodes, from three Sundays a month to four Sundays per month.

Session approved the purchase of a defibrillator, Buzz Henifin recommended purchasing the same type of device that the Millville EMT's use. The approximate cost is \$1,500.00

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:15 p.m.

Deacons' Report

Mike Read

During Advent, our time of preparation and waiting, the Deacons are sponsoring a weekly gift-giving of needed items for Deep Roots. Deep Roots is a community shelter near Elkton, Maryland, a mission of our Presbytery. Each Sunday in Advent we are asking members of our congregation to bring a gift from the list below:

- Sunday, December 7: Shampoo, baby shampoo, diapers, wipes.
- Sunday, December 14: Dish and laundry detergent, bleach, disinfectant, cleaning supplies, 33 and 39 gallon trash bags.
- Sunday, December 21: Canned food, coffee, tea, sugar.
- These gifts will be presented to Deep Roots at the end of Advent.

Thank you for your caring and generosity!

Volunteers for our Cheer Center

Bill Colwill

The Cheer Center on Cedar Neck Rd needs more volunteers to deliver meals. Deacons are hoping we can get a team (or teams!) from OVPC so your commitment could be just once a month from 10:30 am to 1:00pm. Please contact Bill Colwill (717 870 5186) or the church office if you are interested. Once we have our volunteers we will all get together to determine how we wish to proceed. Thanks!"



“Ah friends, dear friends, as years go by, and heads grow gray, how fast the guests do go. Touch hands, touch hands with those that stay; strong hands to weak, old hands to young, around the Christmas board, touch hands.”

♥ James Patrick Erdman

Collections

Francis called it a “creche”, the French word for cradle. Francis created the first creche using real people, a real manger, a real ox and ass, and real shepherds.

The Incarnation-Christmas- was a key component in the spirituality of Francis. He wanted to celebrate the Incarnation in a special way. He wanted to do something that would help people remember the Christ Child and how He was born in Bethlehem.

Francis wanted people to see and experience how the Christ Child lay on the hay in a manger with an ox and ass standing by.

It was Christmas Eve in the year 1223. At the appointed time, Franciscan Brothers came to the new Bethlehem. Men, women and children from the area also came to celebrate. The torches they brought lit up the night as they approached the creche. Once again shepherds were walking in the night to come and adore Him. All were filled with joy over the mystery of the Incarnation. And a great tradition began.

As you look upon your Nativity set, may you remember and celebrate again God’s love for His creation. To show His abundant love, mercy, and forgiveness, He became a person like us. This is what the creche symbolizes.

The Life of St. Francis, Thomas of Celano

Submitted by Elsie Young



**Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and
behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.**

Norman Vincent Peale

Collections (continued)

I'M NOT READY!

I have not even begun to do any Christmas shopping!

I haven't begun baking the "traditional" Christmas cookies!

I haven't had time to decorate the house!

I haven't even bought the Christmas cards yet let alone write them!

I am starting to panic because I am not ready for Christmas!

Hmm.

Mary was not ready for the angel's visit, but the angel

Made his speech anyway; it worked out all right.

The Pharisees weren't ready for Jesus. The disciples were never

Ready for anything. Jesus still went on with the program.

Jesus himself wasn't ready in the Garden of Gethsemane,

But He remained faithful. And later on, Saul wasn't ready for the bright

Light on the road to Damascus, but God didn't wait.

Conclusion: God is less concerned with readiness than with faithfulness.

Maybe that's why we sing those beloved Christmas carols with such gusto- no matter how much remains to be done.

And when we are standing in church on Christmas Eve with our candles

Shining in the silence of the night, we will all be smiling, surprised yet again, by a God who comes looking for us: ready or not.

May your Christmas be filled with Joy and Peace.

author unknown

Submitted by Flora Beaver

Communications & Technology

Bob Wolf

Recently there have been some reports of email originating from OVPC.ORG being flagged as 'spam' or junk mail so it is not making it to the inbox and important information being missed. We are working with our email provider to see why this has just started to occur and will try to get it corrected. In the meantime, please make sure that you 'whitelist' email from OVPC. There are a couple ways to do this.

First, by adding the following email addresses to your address lists / contacts (and any others from the church that you may get)

webmaster@ovpc.org
office@ovpc.org
gegger@ovpc.org

Another thing you can do is to allow the domain 'ovpc.org' to be trusted so all mail from the church will always be treated as valid and will not be flagged otherwise. Each email client is different as to how to do this - the following website has instructions for many of the more popular email clients:

<http://support2.constantcontact.com/articles/FAQ/2753>

Not too long ago we reported that through the efforts of the various groups chartered out of the 2014 Leadership Retreat that we would be redesigning the church website. We are glad to announce that the new site will be rolled out in early December. The new site will have a 'cleaner' look and will contain a wealth of information. We hope to have a lot of input from all the various groups and committees of the church to help show visitors to our site who we are as well as what all of our current activities are. We are hoping that our site will become a very useful tool for our congregation as well, so any suggestions for enhancements and especially new content are welcome

And as always....Remember to visit our website often! www.ovpc.org



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Reminders . . .



Set-up for the NATIVITY FESTIVAL is December 3rd, 4th, and 5th in Memorial Hall.

NATIVITY FESTIVAL is December 6th from 10am-2pm, Memorial Hall.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POT LUCK SUPPER is Friday December 12 at 6 pm in Memorial Hall. Bring a covered dish and items for The Way Home. Refer to the bulletin insert for the list of items needed.

Attitude of Gratitude

In my notes from our last meeting of the transition team is a quote, “attitude of gratitude-include in newsletter”. As I puzzled over the meaning of this obviously forgotten topic, Elsie Young sent me the following for inclusion in this month’s newsletter. Aha! Praise God for jogging my memory....

May more of our readers take the time as Elsie did to express gratitude for the many blessings we enjoy. (editor)

November 23, 2014

This morning, I heard many wishes to HAVE A GREAT THANKSGIVING!

I wish to share one of my many thanksgiving joys— To the VILLAGE which produces our Advent Devotionals..... Without the list of Lectionary Readings and Writers the pages would be blank. Elaine has made known another of her gifts by creating the Candle Artwork. Bob has done and redone the computer data. Kaye orders the paper and keeps the copier in order so that she is able to print the booklets. The proofreaders prayerfully hope to catch errors. Then the folding and a trip to the printers to have the booklets stapled and trimmed.....

Now, the Advent Devotionals 2014 are in your hands. We pray as you read, study and grow in the Spirit that you find this Village Production a blessing.

Many thanks.

Elsie

One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly.

Andy Rooney

*Photogenic
Jim Hartsig*



Friday Night At The Movies



Join Liz and Bruce Hobler as they host movie night on Friday, December 5 beginning at 5:30pm with a potluck supper featuring chili, corn bread, salads, and desserts. At 7:00 settle in to watch 'The Family Man' starring Nicolas Cage and Téa Leone. This 2000 film, a modern day Frank Capra story follows a high powered investment broker who is given the gift of seeing what his life might have been had he made different decisions.

If you have a special request for a movie, please let Bob Wolf know and we will do our best to obtain it.

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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