



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AUGUST 2020



FROM THE PASTOR: TERRY DOUGHERTY

The Irish Postman Weighs In on a Matter of Vast Social Import:

My First Father-in-Law (hereafter, FFIL) was a hard man, but fair; he knew a great deal about right and wrong, and he'd tell you still more. When I'd come at last to know him, having penetrated many a defense and decoded many a conversational test, he confided in me something that had terrified him many a year.

My FFIL used always to sit in the last snug to the back in our local and that is where I found him this particular evening. "Listen to them argue, won't you, about that traffic light. Let me tell you one thing: they're arguing only because they're alive to do so! Tis well to argue over whether Otto Daimler or Henry Ford invented the automobile; sure! Tis well to argue over the competency of drum or disc brakes, over the need for more than one carburetor, over why in the Name of God one might need overhead camshafts [I did mention this was some time ago, didn't I?], but this matter, and these eejits – I could tell them a thing or more!"

"And what would you tell them, Sir?" , says I.

"That would be a matter of some telling", said he; so I did my duty and ordered him a fresh pint.

The FFIL, you need to know, lived two houses away from the intersection of Poole Avenue and Middle Road ("The Middle Road", he would correct me), grand names indeed for jumped-up country lanes, for that's what they were and are. That was long ago, but even then it had been a very long while since two drovers with their sheep might have approached in two ways, only to argue the right of way. Those two roads meet at quite an extreme angle, and to this day two large old homes sit well forward on facing corners, making visibility questionable on the best day.

"Tis well to argue over who might have the superior right , at midnight, to proceed unmolested despite oncoming lights, to argue out why time and times should never change, to mock at the overreach of local authorities – tis all well late at night, at home or here in the pub. But sure, and we can only do so while we are living, isn't it so?" , the FFIL continued.

Well, for many years while the FFIL lived nearby, that intersection was uncontrolled by any signage or signals of any kind. Too often, he said, he was awoken in the dead of night by great squealings of tires, by loud honking of horns; too often these were accompanied by the grating and tearing of metal, and anguished, pitiful cries. The FFIL, trained in such matters not only by his work, but by many previous such events, would leap up, tell the late MIL to call the police, dress, grab his heavy quilted gloves, a hammer and a fire extinguisher and rush to the scene. Were any children up, they would be told to remain inside – a thing they never fully obeyed.

“I’d break their windows, I’d claw open their doors, I’d get them out however I could – if I could”, said the FFIL. “I’d treat them all I knew how til help might arrive”, he went on. Often enough, I and the help were too late. Once I pulled a child from a burning car... but that child was already dead”.

We just breathed and thought a while; then he told me from that particular night, he lost the ability to sleep at night for years; living in terror of the memory and in greater terror of such a thing happening again. He also took action, haranguing the authorities endlessly for some kind of concrete help.

“And God my witness, they’d argue to me of all the ways they could do nought”, said the FFIL. “And I said to them, ‘Occam’s Razor, boys’. And they said ‘what?’ [so did yours truly!!]. And I said, said I, ‘Why multiply needless entities? The best solution to any problem is the simplest one! Put up a STOP sign, for the love of God!’ You see, that’s what William of Occam said all that long time ago – doesn’t matter if your problem is legal or moral or theological; matters not a bit if your problem’s complicated – take the simplest answer!”

And they did so, above much public resistance, and things got better, with the occasional failure, and the FFIL came to know the loss of burthen, and the peace of sleep, once again. Over the years intervening, there came to be a simple traffic light; at the time of the story I’m telling you, there was much ado about the addition of a right turning arrow. Thus the FFIL: “Tis well to argue there’s no reason to stop at night if there’s no other car about – except for the occasional hare or deer! Tis well to argue there’s no reason for a traffic ticket if no harm is done! Tis grand to debate how long a yellow is, or should be! Tis fair to have excuses both human and mechanical, whether sensible or hopeless! We’re all alive to have them, thanks be to God!”

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
Ollie Robling
Marti Sommer
Bob Wolf
Karen Colwill
(Clerk of Session)

Deacons
Sue Baer
Cindy Benjamin
Earlene DeFazio
Joni Keller
Pam Price
Cindy Woodruff

Newsletter Editors
Lorie and Jim Hartsig

And so I, his successor in moral and social encouragement, come to you, friends. 'Tis easy to see, if we'll just look, that there's less people dyin' where the masks are worn. 'Tis grand to argue the aerosols, and the rates of contagion, and who does well and who poorly, and where and how all these things are at play. 'Tis still easy to see, where the masks are worn, the dyin' is less.

I love your smiles, Dears, honest, I do – but I love you still more, and you canna smile when you're not living so to do, now can you?

Occam's razor, Dears; Occam's razor. Wear your mask. And by the way, I love you; I do – but keep yer distance, too!

The Irish Postman.

Leisure

WHAT is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?—
No time to stand beneath the boughs,
And stare as long as sheep and cows:
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began?
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

W.H. Davies

SESSION REPORT

Karen Colwill, Clerk of Session

OVPC Minute from Session – July 13, 2020

The **Session of OVPC** met on Monday, July 13, 2020 via ZOOM Meeting.

Rev. Terry Dougherty, Moderator, opened with prayer and devotions at 7:00 PM.

Orders of the Day:

WELCOME !! Ollie Robling to Session as a Ruling Elder. Ollie will serve as Session Liaison to the Worship Committee.

MOTION passed to approve the minutes of the **June 8, 2020 Session Meeting.**

MOTION passed to approve the **June 2020 Finance Reports.**

Pastor Terry's report was received. Pastor Terry was elected to the position of Chaplain of the South East Sussex Ministerium.

The **Monthly Committee Reports** were received.

Finance Committee updates:

The mid-year budget review was performed with no recommended adjustments. We will notify the congregation of any additional expenses incurred with opening for public worship.

Continue to limit our expenses (based on limited projected income) by taking actions **until our income is adequate:**

- all committee allocation/requests are frozen
- the Finance Committee is reviewing and approving all bills to be paid
- CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) - **all funds have been used** and applied directly to payroll and utilities. We are waiting for PNC Bank to issue compliance filing requirements, documenting the use of funds, to complete the process to turn the loan into a grant.

The **Advisory Group** presented their final report to Session. We thank Don Bailey, Bill Colwill, Phil Hamilton, Ellen Neumann, Marti Sommer, Bob Wolf and Pastor Terry for all their work.

Advisory Group Report Overview: The Covid-19 Pandemic continues to put intense pressure on small churches, such as ours to maintain the vitality that we have enjoyed in recent years. Two months after starting our work, we now recognize more than ever the extent of effort necessary to maintain a healthy church as the Covid-19 Pandemic works its way through our society. To date OVPC has responded very well. However, we can all see the reduction in church activity over the past three months, as well as the loss of important social interactions.

We submit this report trusting that our Session will challenge the committees and social structures of OVPC with an 'All Hands-on Deck' determination to make sure our church not just survives, but thrives. We would emphasize that our church leadership must use **new methods to carry on the traditional work of our church**. And, it is of greater importance **to engage every congregant in new ways to be church**, developing new activities to enrich OVPC and our community.

We have a vibrant congregation. Let's get going.

The Church Nominating Committee, Mike Read, Chair, convened to fill the Elder position left vacant by Cathy Yantz's resignation. Ollie Robling was nominated and elected at the Special Congregation Meeting on July 5, 2020.

Session urges all committee chairs to get their Session reports to the office by the Wednesday before the Session Meeting: August 10th Session Meeting - reports are due August 5th.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer at 9:21 PM

UPDATE: A **Special Session meeting** was held on Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 3:00 pm to review a plan for OVPC to return to public worship. Members of the Advisory Group joined in the discussion. Session approved the **MOTION** to return to public worship using a phased approach starting with limited attendance in the sanctuary on August 23, 2020.

Detailed information, of what will be done to ensure safety of all participants, and to explain the new protocols for those attending our worship service, will be sent to all members and friends by the middle of August.

Session member, **Ollie Robling**, volunteered to be **Session's Coordinator for our return to public worship**. In this position, Ollie, will review and coordinate implementation of all new procedures and protocols working with Committees, Deacons and Session.

Meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer at 4:46 pm.

We are each other's
harvest:
we are each other's
business:
we are each other's
magnitude and bond.
Gwendolyn Brooks

FINANCE COMMITTEE

FINANCE UPDATE

Greetings from the Finance Committee! We continue to be so blessed by the contributions made by our members and friends that are allowing us to keep our operations running as close to 'normal' as possible. We are half way through the year now and more than 4 months into this period of being separated.



We have conducted our mid-year budget review and submitted it to Session. Our report was favorable albeit very different from our norm because of current circumstances. In these beginning months of the pandemic we have been fortunate to have received gifts, annual contributions, and the use of government funds through the Payroll Protection Plan. Now, we are looking towards plans for resuming public worship and are facing additional expenses that were not originally budgeted for or, quite frankly, imagined. We will continue to monitor carefully any expenditures requested for purposes of public worship and approve (together with Session) only those deemed critical and properly evaluated by the requesting committee. We will also continue to meet with the treasurer biweekly to review all upcoming bills prior to anything being paid.

A few things that we will be paying special attention to immediately are:

- As of July 13, 2020 we have used all of the PPP funds so 100% of all payroll costs will be paid from the main operating account. As with any corporate entity, payroll remains our largest expense.
- We will be facing additional expenses as mentioned above related to the resumption of public gatherings
- We will be facing additional technology expenses related to the expansion of virtual worship in support of the resumption of public worship.

All that being said, we again thank you for all of your continued support and ask that you continue to contribute as you can.

Here's a quick snapshot of where we are for the month of July:

 Income:	\$7,340.00
 Expenses:	\$5,303.83

OVPC continues to thrive and stay connected in so many different ways and it is in no small way because of you! If you have any questions at all, please contact any member of our Finance Committee – Don Bailey, Randy Bartholomew, Bob Clark, Karen Colwill, Liz Hobler, Pam Price, Marti Sommer, and Bob Wolf.

FIRST CALL PASTORAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

KAREN COLWILL

This is the third and final year for the First Call Pastoral Leadership Program at OVPC. The program designates a portion of the grant as a discretionary fund for use by the Pastor for mission directed works. This year, Pastor Terry is directing a portion of the funds to support the 2020 USDA Summer Food Service Program at the Selbyville and Frankford Libraries.

Behind every good idea is a story – This year in particular, Pastor Terry has been interested in supplying lunches to students in our area. He tried at Lord Baltimore Elementary School but no openings were available. A week or so ago - Karen Hamilton spotted a flyer asking for support to supply meals for the summer food program at the Selbyville Library on Wednesdays in August. Karen contacted the Selbyville Library for details and also found out that the Frankford Library has a new program this year supplying meals on Tuesday and Thursday. Karen contacted the Frankford Library and they too would be interested in a lunch on Wednesdays. Karen gave the details to the Pastor Support Team (Pastor Terry, Kathy Sheetz, Pam Price, Mike Read and Karen Colwill). The PST discussed and considered whether OVPC could work in cooperation with the Bethany Diner to supply the meals. This will provide both work for the diner and meals for the students. Pastor Terry contacted the Bethany Diner and reached an agreement for OVPC to finance the meals the diner will prepare each Wednesday in August. In the course of a few days, a plan was in place.

Karen Hamilton will coordinate the menu with the diner as well as the drivers needed to take 50 meals to the Selbyville Library and 25 meals to the Frankford Library on Wednesdays in August.

If all goes well, maybe we can continue this into the future !



Free Lunch
for Kids 18 and Younger
Wednesdays in August
11:30-1:00
Frankford Public Library
8 Main Street, Frankford DE 19945
First come, first served
Thank you to Bethany Diner and the Ocean View
Presbyterian Church!

LOOKING BACK MOVING ON . .

ELSIE YOUNG

Picture yourself sitting in the congregation at OVPC in the month of August of any year since 2008.. you would have heard during the announcement time “well, it’s August – time to get to work on the Advent Devotional!”

But unfortunately, we have no date set for us to congregate in 2020 – oh, but wait! Thanks to the Hartsigs – there is a Newsletter! ---- ***“And it’s time to get to work on the Advent Devotional!”***


How will we approach this? We will prepare a list of the lectionary readings along with directions on how to submit the completed writings and will post to our website and pass on to the church office where Lori will make copies. Some will come to me and some will be kept in the office.

We encourage you to volunteer this year to write a devotional – it really isn’t hard and it is a great way to share with our church family. Every year it is different and every year seems to be better than the last! Should you decide to participate, give me a call at (302) 539-8718 and I will be sure that you get a copy of the list. Once you decide what date you would like to reserve, let me know and I will update the master list.

After you have your devotional written all you have to do is submit it and we will take care of the rest! You can get it to us any number of ways:

- Email it to Bob Wolf at wolfbo@comcast.net
- Leave it with Lori in the office
- Send it to me – 139 Woodland Ave. Ocean View, DE 19970
- Drop it by at the above address and have a cup of coffee or tea (strongest beverage available) and visit – or if time doesn’t allow for a visit just share a friendly ‘hello’!

I have been told “where there’s a will – there’s a way!” –
The spirit of God pours out generously – Amen!

 If you look the right way, you can see
The whole world is a garden.
Frances Hodgson Burnett



Judy Reich	Aug. 4th
Peggy Wivel	Aug. 4th
Marie Waehler	Aug. 6th
Sherry Moore	Aug. 10th
Elaine Smith	Aug. 10th
Dave White	Aug. 15th
Edna Ewing	Aug. 15th
Don Benjamin	Aug. 28th
George Young	Aug. 28th

Karen and Phil Hamilton	Aug. 2nd
Liz and Bruce Hobler	Aug. 14th
Joni and Ray Keller	Aug. 21st
Mary Ann and Ollie Robling	Aug. 28th
Amy and Dick Peoples	Aug. 28th

YARN

You Are Ready to Needle...

We continue to knit and crochet prayer shawls and give them to those in need of comfort. Please contact us if you know of someone who is in need of one. Lorie Hartsig and Kathy Sheetz.



Marie Waehler finishes another of the many prayer shawls she has created.

MISSION COMMITTEE

SUPPORT FOR REV. DR. KARLA KOLL

As many of you know, OVPC has had a long-standing relationship with Rev. Dr. Karla Koll, a PC(USA) Mission Co-worker in Costa Rica.

OVPC first met Rev. Koll in August 2016, at a brunch arranged by Phil and Karen Hamilton through the Mission Advocacy Team (MAT). The Hamiltons had previously met Rev. Koll when they visited as volunteers at the Latin American Biblical University (UBL) in San Jose, Costa Rica. During the brunch, Rev. Koll explained her mission and objectives, and that she is supported by different churches and presbyteries in the United States. The MAT wanted Ocean View Presbyterian Church to have the opportunity to support a Mission Worker. Our Session asked the Deacons to support that mission opportunity, which they did for three years, 2017 through 2019. Rev. Koll hosted a group from OVPC at the UBL in February 2018 (photo below). In October 2019, in tandem with Erlinda Angulo, Rev. Koll led our worship service.

The Mission Committee strongly feels that support for Rev. Koll should be continued. Besides our providing support in prior years, continuing this support aligns us with Presbytery objectives of having its member churches sponsor at least one Mission Co-worker, given the financial model established by PC(USA). Continuing support also aligns us with the Matthew25 Initiative objective of having missional impact in international (as well as local and national) areas.

In June, Session concurred in our recommendation to continue to provide an annual stipend to Rev. Koll. To that end, over the next remaining months in 2020, we are seeking your contributions to the Rev. Koll Mission Ministry. We have set an objective of raising \$1200 for this ministry (the amount in previous years). In your donation checks, please annotate "Rev. Koll Mission Ministry" so that the funds can be directed appropriately. Donations to this ministry must be received no later than November 30th.



Rev. Dr. Karla Ann Koll
Serving in San Jose, Costa Rica
Latin American Biblical University
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Mission Co-worker



Dear companions in mission,

Grace and peace to you in the living of these difficult days, as we move into the last days of July and the number of deaths around the world, but especially in our hemisphere, continues to climb. I hope and pray that this note finds each one of you safe.

Four months have passed since I decided, with the permission of Presbyterian World Mission, to stay here in Costa Rica. Early every morning Portia, my cat, comes and lays down beside my laptop, settling in for a day of work. Of course, she wants to be part of every Zoom meeting. Though I miss regular face-to-face interactions with my colleagues at the Latin American Biblical University (UBL), I am grateful for the technology that allows us to continue our collaborative work. There is more time for cooking, so my husband, Javier, and I are eating well. I am even drinking less coffee!

At the time I decided to stay, only a handful of COVID-19 cases had been reported here in Costa Rica. The government has been very proactive in facing the pandemic, imposing sanitary restrictions on traffic and certain businesses while seeing that production and distribution of food and other basic items continues. In the first 100 days following the first confirmed case in the country, only 2000 cases and 12 deaths were reported. However, since the beginning of July, numbers have surged to well over 11,000 cases. Hospitalizations and deaths are also climbing. New restrictions have been imposed in areas with outbreaks and masks are now required in all public settings as the government works to increase hospital capacity. I am thankful to be living in a country where healthcare is seen as a basic human right.

As in other contexts, the pandemic has shone a stark light on underlying injustices here. In June, conditions in the agricultural processing plants in the northern part of the country facilitated the spread of the virus among the workers, many of whom are undocumented migrants from Nicaragua. In recent days, many cases have emerged among people living in substandard housing here in the capital city, where families often crowd into a single room. The pandemic has also demonstrated the vulnerability inherent in an economy dependent on foreign tourists.

All of our teaching for the UBL is happening online these days and we experienced a surge in new students when our term began in May. Unfortunately, some of those folks have been unable to continue in classes. In my course on contextual theologies we began with a reading from James Cone, a leading voice in Black liberation theology who was my first theology professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York. In this particular course there are no students of African descent, though there are indigenous students. Of the fourteen students

from five different countries, only two mentioned the Black populations of their own countries in their reflections. The United States is not the only country where racism is invisible to many.

Larger groups of students in our online courses allow for more creativity. In the introduction to the history of Christianity course, we held a virtual Council of Nicaea in which participants had to submit their arguments in writing or by video. The Arians almost won the debate! The students also put together a delightful virtual museum dedicated to the history of the orthodox churches of the East.

In addition to the activities on the platform, we are meeting weekly via Zoom, both to discuss class material and to check in. Peru has been hit very hard by the pandemic and several of our Peruvian students, those currently in Peru and those in residence here in Costa Rica, have lost friends and family members to the virus. One student in Peru believes he had COVID, but he did not get tested as the healthcare system there is overwhelmed. I ask for your prayers for these students. We are very concerned right now about our three students from the Moravian Church of Honduras. The pandemic has now reached Ahuas, a remote community in the La Mosquitia region where medical services seriously lacking. Please keep Morlin, Charon and Maykol in your prayers. They are all ill or have close family members who are ill.

Our current term ends on August 14th. In the new term that starts on August 24th I will be teaching a seminar for our advanced students in history, theology and ethics that focuses on eschatology in times of climate change. Governments throughout the Americas, including here in Costa Rica, are using the pandemic as an excuse to ease environmental regulations. Now more than ever is the time to ask how our theology can help to build an alternative future that seeks to protect the capacity of the earth to sustain life.

I ask your prayers for the team at the UBL as we move into the last term of this academic year. All staff continue to work with reduced salaries and two administrative staff positions have been cut. It is so hard to see friends who have worked at the UBL for years join the growing ranks of the unemployed and I ask your prayers for these two women. As we begin to plan for next year, we know it will be a long time before visiting groups arrive to stay on our campus. We will be looking for creative ways to keep offering theological training.

Each day I go out into the garden of this beautiful house to drink in a bit of peace and perspective which I try to capture with my camera to share. I am so thankful for this place to be, for the possibility of walking with women and men throughout Latin America who are looking to be light in their communities. It is an incredible privilege to be working at this time when so many people have lost livelihoods. Presbyterian World Mission has just renewed my appointment for another four years to continue serving here with the Latin American Biblical University. This is indeed a step of faith in these uncertain times. I am so grateful for the prayers and gifts that make it possible for me to serve. Thank you. I hope you will continue to walk with me. I look forward to connecting via Zoom or in some other way.

In resurrection hope,

Karlaß

DEACONS' AUGUST MISSION

CINDY BENJAMIN

The Deacons have identified the Emergency Assistance Service (EAS) as the August mission project. Under Delaware Health and Social Services, the Pyle Center located in Frankford has assisted clients in Sussex County since 1975. The emergency service is one of more than twenty services they provide.

They work in partnership with local churches and the Sussex County Ministerium to meet emergency needs of families and individuals. Monetary donations received from OVPC stay in Sussex County. After receiving references from counselors at the center, this program provides resources in an effort to avoid hardships for those in crisis situations: i.e assistance with food, electric bills, fuel, rent, etc. When being notified of the need, the Ministerium pays service providers directly.

We have been given an opportunity to plant a mustard seed and are grateful for your contribution as OVPC continues to care for others in our community.

BOOK BOX

There is a book box behind the Bethany Beach Nature Center which offers books of all kinds for all ages to be borrowed and returned or even donated. It has had much attention in the past few months and now needs some contributions. Either drop books off there or we will pick up from you and put in the box. Right now young children's books are needed. Thank you.



Kathy discovers a new way to cut up a watermelon.



DEEP ROOTS - CLAIRVOUX FARM

ELSIE YOUNG

There was a time when OVPC listed Meeting Ground – Clairvoux Farm (Now Deep Roots – Clairvoux Farm) as one of our missions. I have continued to include them in my mission giving and would like to share with you an article from the summer newsletter – my heart rejoices to be part of such great things – Thanks be to God!

Class of 2020



We are so incredibly proud to announce the graduation of Jasmine! She is graduating 25th in her class with a 4.0 GPA! Jasmine has accepted an invitation and a scholarship (so far, \$25,000 per year and counting!) to attend Manhattan College in New York City. Jasmine also plans to continue acting and modeling, and in the past year has had the opportunity to meet professional actors and be on a talk show! In combination with this experience, she plans to major in Communications / Journalism to get into the field of Entertainment Journalism.



“I have seen her grow into a wonderful, talented, amazing, young woman and I am so very proud of her in life and I am so excited to see what life has in store for her. With much love, congrats!”

- From her loving mom

“From the moment I met Jasmine, I was struck by her maturity and focus to succeed. Jasmine was placed into our after school Sprouts class and was the only upper-classman of all the resident children. She didn't complain, instead she used her time to diligently complete homework assignments, to write essays, and research colleges. She was excited to meet with her Deep Roots Mentor, Stephanie, to learn about the college application process and scholarship opportunities. I knew her dream was to attend college in New York City, and I was thrilled to hear of her acceptance to Manhattan College! We are so proud of this hard working, beautiful young lady! She is sure to succeed and we hope she feels the love and support from all of us at Deep Roots!”

- Deep Roots Children's Program Coordinator, Jessica Stone

“From the moment I met Jasmine last summer, she was ready to do whatever it took to get to college. She had great grades, had already taken the SATs, and had compiled a list of colleges that she was interested in. She even knew her intended major. There was little left for me to do in order to help her achieve her goal, but I enjoyed being a sounding board for her to ask her college-related questions. The college application process is intimidating for some, but Jasmine had her mind made up and nothing was going to stop her. She was positive throughout the entire process, and confident that she'd be heading to college in the Fall. And she is! I was excited to hear that she has chosen Manhattan College. Although the end of Senior Year was disappointing because of the Coronavirus, and it's not clear that her high school will be able to hold an in-person graduation ceremony, I'm hopeful that she will find a way to celebrate her many successes. At such a young age she has already accomplished a lot. I'm very excited to see where her future will take her!”

- Deep Roots Volunteer Mentor / College Coach, Stephanie Darling

Did you know....? That donating money to Deep Roots is as easy as shopping with **Amazon Smile**? Amazon donates 0.5% of your Amazon Smile purchases to Deep Roots when you shop at smile.amazon.com. Designate “Deep Roots Inc.” as your charity of choice!

***We are a United Way of Cecil County Partner Agency**

Please send checks to:

Deep Roots, Inc. P.O. Box 113
Earleville, MD 21919

or to donate online, please visit the Donate page on our website:

www.deeproootsinc.org

Deep Roots is extremely grateful for all your contributions—*thank you!* In addition to monetary, food, and goods donations, please check out our **Current Needs List** on our website at [deeproootsinc.org/ongoing-needs](https://www.deeproootsinc.org/ongoing-needs). Donations are tax deductible. Please call or email us at: (410) 275-2194 or info@deeproootsinc.org for additional information.



stephen
MINISTRY

ELAINE AND DALE SMITH

A Stephen Ministry Story

A STEADY REMINDER OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Mark and I had been married 26 years. Our sons were 18 and 20. We loved being parents, but with our younger son graduating high school, we were eagerly anticipating the empty nest and having more time for each other.

In the fall, when our younger son started college, Mark began having stomach issues and back pain, which would linger for a few days and then disappear, only to reappear later. He also developed a cough. When his doctor ordered an MRI, the results were devastating—Stage IV pancreatic cancer, already in his liver and both lungs. Mark was only 53.

Our lives were turned upside down. I suddenly found myself trying to provide emotional support to Mark and our sons during the worst experience any of us had ever endured. I wanted and needed to keep myself together to focus on caring for Mark, but I was emotionally drained—full of sadness and terrified of what the future held. I had always been a “take responsibility for everything myself” kind of person. However, I *knew* I couldn't do this alone.

I talked to my pastor about it, and she suggested matching me with a Stephen Minister. I agreed, and less than two weeks after Mark was diagnosed, my Stephen Minister came for the first of her weekly visits.

It's difficult to convey how important this Stephen Ministry relationship was for me. Our pastor was wonderful, and we had an amazing amount of support from many other people, but the time I spent with my Stephen Minister was the only time in the week when I could truly focus on my own needs. She was there just for me.

My Stephen Minister let me know that, while she was very concerned for Mark, her role was to be *my* support—to listen and help me process what I was feeling and going through, without giving advice or telling me what to do. The consistency of our Stephen Ministry relationship was crucial in helping me cope. Her weekly visits became an anchor in my life—something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. She was a steady reminder of God's presence, helping me know I was never alone.

The time I spent with my
Stephen Minister was the only
time in the week when I could
truly focus on my own needs.

She was there just for me.

continued on other side

Although Mark and I chose to talk publicly about his condition, my Stephen Ministry relationship was completely confidential. I knew I could share anything with her, and that's where it would stay.

Mark's illness progressed rapidly—ten weeks of treatment, followed by six weeks of hospice, and then his passing. My needs changed as I went from being a wife to being a caregiver to being a grieving widow and dealing with everything that the loss of a spouse entails. Through it all, my Stephen Minister's love and support continued. She was there for me at every stage of my journey. It was never easy, but my Stephen Minister helped me through the most difficult moments of my life.

I really can't say enough about how much I appreciate my church's Stephen Ministry. The compassionate, consistent, and confidential support of my Stephen Minister was so important in helping me cope—and then begin to heal.

Her weekly visits became an anchor in my life—something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. She was a steady reminder of God's presence, helping me know
I was never alone.

Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry being used in over 12,000 congregations across the United States, Canada, and 29 other countries.

With Stephen Ministry, congregations can equip a team of lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, divorce, major illness, loneliness, financial stress, and other life difficulties.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry and to watch videos about the difference Stephen Ministers are making in people's lives, visit stephenministries.org/stories.

You can also contact Stephen Ministries at (314) 428-2600 to request a free packet of information on how to begin this caring ministry in your congregation.

Stephen Ministries • 2045 Innerbelt Business Center Drive • St. Louis, MO 63114
(314) 428-2600 • stephenministries.org



CAPTAIN EDWARD E. (BUZZ) HENIFIN**AUGUST 23, 1931 - JULY 25, 2020**

Prayers are being sent to the Henifin family for their sad loss of Buzz. Our loss, too! He was indeed a loving, caring stalwart of our OVPC community. Rest well, kind man.



A MATTER OF SAFETY

BOB WOLF



For many years now, we have had one of our regular visitors volunteer his time to repair the masonry around the church as best he could but now, the front steps to the church are deteriorating beyond the point of simple repairs. A few months ago, (Pre-Covid) Buildings and Grounds approached Session for approval to have the front steps to the church replaced. The motion was granted but then Covid hit and the brakes were put on all spending. Now that we know we have an extended time away from church, the committee approached us again about moving forward with this project – after some discussion it was agreed that as a matter of safety concerns and timing, we would move forward and the project cost of \$3,200 would be fully funded from our Capital Improvements account. The same mason that built the new sign will be doing the work so it is sure to be of good quality and will be very attractive. So, if you ride by the church and see some activity out front, you now know what's going on! The moratorium on excess spending by committees is still in place, but we will have new, unplanned expenses related to the pandemic that will occur. We will keep everyone apprised as to what these expenditures are and the justification for them being incurred.

SOUTHEAST SUSSEX MINISTERIUM**St. Matthews By-the-Sea Presents
The Award Winning****Hyssongs**

Fenwick Island, DE – St Matthews By-the-Sea UMC will present the internationally known gospel trio The Hyssongs, at St. Matthews By-the-Sea on Sunday, August 2nd at 7:00 pm.



Dell, Susan and Richard Hyssong have been performing as a family for the past 23 years. Their inspirational Southern Gospel sound has brought them many accolades including the Singing News Fan Award for Favorite New Trio and Top Ten Trio Awards for the past 15 years.

Their energetic ministry combines family vocal harmony, humor and brass instruments to delight audiences with their Christ-centered message, shared through the powerful medium of music.

The concert will be held in the church parking lot to allow for social distancing. Attendees should bring their own chair and masks will be required.

A love offering will be taken at the concert. Concert goers are also encouraged to bring non-perishable food to assist with local needs.

St. Matthews By-the-Sea
1100 Coastal Highway
Fenwick Island, DE 19944
302-537-1402

FINDING THE JOY

What Hugging Can Do

It's wondrous what a hug can do.
A hug can cheer you when you're blue
A hug can say, "I love you so,"
Or, "I hate to see you go."

A hug is "Welcome back again."
A "Great to see you! Where have you been?"
A hug can soothe a small child's pain
And bring a rainbow after rain.

The hug, there's just no doubt about it -
We scarcely could survive without it!
A hug delights and warms and charms;
It must be why God gave us arms.

by Dean Walley, the Messenger

Sometimes we just need a hug. Sometimes, it's all that
we need to make us feel better, to feel loved. So, for
now, hug the people in your social circle and
hopefully, someday soon, we will be able to hug those
in our church families and our friends as well.

Submitted by Amy Peoples



***Sowing the seed / my hand is one with the earth.
Wanting the seed to grow / my mind is one with the light.
Hoeing the crop / my hands are one with the rain.
Having cared for the plants / my mind is one with the air.
Hungry and trusting / my mind is one with the earth.
Eating the fruit / my body is one with the earth.***

***From: Prayers and Sayings of the Mad Farmer, IX; Wendell
Berry***

FROM THE DESK OF TOM BENTZ

Paeon to the Peonies in the Sky (on the 4th of July in 2020)

My eyes have seen the glory
of the pyrotechnic peonies blooming
patriotically in the sky
over Lake Michigan, the Hudson, and the
arch on the Mississippi
on independent days in years gone by.

I miss the plumes bursting in air
over worshipful masses past
this in dependence day
as an invisible virus
pins us
and the U.S. in.

A Verse Versus a Virus

You flew or blew into us humans,
a bat out of Wuhan,
an outside turned inside invader,
flu or spew
of a deadly biological weapon
that defies all logic, borders, fences and
defenses.

Adverse,
tense,
present and future,
we fence versus
and swashbuckle this virus,
by washing our hands,
masking our faces,
staying in our places,
saying graces,
praying this human race
may run on
as one.

Creed for Christmas

(to be read or said with an I or We before each line)

Believe in a Big Bang Beginning Being, who is the down-to-earth ground of our being.
Receive voice from the Resounding Source of all, before, at, and after all our births.
Believe in the Good Creator, who said of each of us creatures: "That's good."
Project, with the persistent prophets, the darkness-dispersing promise.
Believe, without a maybe, that God can and has come to us as a Baby.
Trust, as pilgrims, on foot, ship, or hoof, that God makes a home with us.
Believe, with the casting of the placenta connecting heaven and earth, in new birth.
Project, with the patriarchs, matriarchs and archangels, that the best is yet to be.
Believe that Immanuel comes to earth to turn go-to-hell into go-to-heaven.
Expect that we may be the leaven of heaven and even fear-dispersing angels.
Believe that our lives are hearty lines of hope to those who now can hardly cope.
Reject despair and toss out the line of hope, to pull in the divine dancer.
Believe that a prince of peace is here, and that we bear the prints of peace.
Expect that, even in the darkest night, the divine light shines down to and out from us.
Believe that God is with us, will not leave us, but will save us and save the world.

PHOTOGENIC



Camping getaway weekend at Chincoteague, VA.
Bob Turner



Their seeds probably scattered by birds, these hollyhocks grow on a trellis on the side of one of our dumpster sheds and return every year. Despite being mowed down twice by the mowers this spring, these joyous blooms have been determined to decorate part of our neighborhood.
Lorie Hartsig



This turtle was knocking on the church office door wondering when in-house services are going to resume.
Liz Hobler



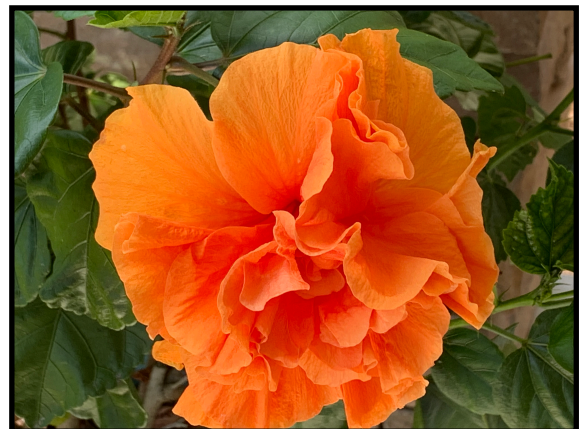
PHOTOGENIC



Black and White. Lorie Hartsig



Feeding hungry mouths and out for more food.
Jim Hartsig



Lovely hibiscus.
Elaine Smith



Debt Scams: An Introduction

Not all debt collections are legitimate. Here are some illegal tactics and dirty tricks.

“Don’t you remember . . . ?” Unscrupulous collectors will prey on memory lapses to persuade you to pay a debt that doesn’t exist.

“I’m seconds away from filing!” Anyone who contacts you out of the blue to say you’ll be sued or arrested if you don’t pay up immediately is almost certainly a scammer.

Zombie attack. Most debt is legally uncollectible after several years. “The mere fact that someone calls you about debts you once had doesn’t mean it’s legally enforceable now.

Debt inflation. Some collectors will illegally jack up the amount of a legitimate debt—a practice known as “overbiffing” (a play on the phrase “balance in full”).

From: AARP Bullatin, July/August 2020

A Voice Mail Fraud:

Your editors received this voice mail on July 20:

“Fraudulent activities running in Washington, DC. So we need to talk to you as soon as possible. I repeat this call is from Social Security Administration. The number to reach our department is 202-932-4844”

Remember, Social Security never calls you. They only contact you by mail. Never give your Social Security number to anyone who calls you and asks for it.



Flying lessons: "Hay kids, this is how you make a perfect landing."
Jim Hartsig