



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DECEMBER 2018



From the Pastor
Terry Dougherty

A dispatch from The Irish Postman

As I cleared the leaves from the path, and the rime from the doorstep, this very fine morning, I could'na help but think how very long a wait 'twill be for the blessed Springtime! One thought led to another - as they will - and soon I was back in my walking days, remembering my favorite customer; this time that would be Charlie, Charlie Howard.

Charlie loved his home very much, and the outdoor bits the most of all. Since he'd been on his own, ye might have called him fanatical about how spruce it all needed to be. So I wondered many a time about the tree - if one could have called it that! - at the curve of his walkway by the drive. I'll own right here I had a pet name for this tree; you see, it's trunk stood only about four or five feet. It was thick for that height, marked and scarred and twisted like a tree of many years' life. Helter-skelter atop that was a tangle of scrawny, whip-like branches - branches which had ne'er a leaf in the years I walked that way.

Charlie and I had always shared a greeting, friendly enough, yet never stood to pass the time a day, not once. On a particularly nice afternoon, though, he happened to be out front, stopped still in front of that tree in a study. I came up, him never moving, so I greeted him, and I asked: "I've meant forever to ask you about Atlas?..." "Atlas?", says he. "Oh, sure, sorry!" says I, "that's just what I call yer man there, the tree." You see, to me the tree looked so stooped over, and so tired withal, that in my mind the trunk of it was like old Atlas, stooped over forever with carrying the whole world on his back. I liked it and was bothered by it, all at the same time, and I wondered many a time why such a neat man tolerated such a sad example on his perfect grounds.

"Come in", says Charlie, and we sat on his screen porch. He told me story after story about his late wife, whom I'd never known to have existed, nor never mind known! Clearly she had been the light of his life; her passing had been tragic, and it remained terrible for him. And here's the nub: she was the one had planted that tree. It was an apple tree - or at least was meant to

be! - and had not thrived a day since she was gone. Charlie had neither heart nor will to do anything about it, except that some days, like this one, he thought if he just took it out a bit of torment might fall away from him.

“Sure neither she nor I nor anyone could blame you one bit”, says I.

“But you know”, says he, “there’s a story in my Bible, and I think Jesus told it Himself, about a tree that doesn’t bear. The gardener made to pull it up root and branch, but the owner gets in it and says ‘Let it be another year; and if ‘tis still so, then away with it. Take good care of it in the meantime’. And so he did - and so shall I.”

I saw Charlie now and then, through that Autumn and through that terrible Winter (the very one that had me thinking all this!), and we did share a few words, but we never spoke of it again. In the Spring, I had vacation; the day I was back was as fine a Spring day as ever you could ask. From across the street I saw Charlie’s grounds all in bloom ... and then I just had to cross the street! As I’m here to tell you, there was old Atlas with a crown - no, with a globe, a huge ball of the prettiest and pinkest blooms you never saw, looking grand indeed! I walked round him twice or more before Charlie came out. I don’t mind tellin’ you, I shed a tear right with him there and then!

“There’s nothing not better for the waiting for it!”, says Charlie.

Happen tis true, say I.

May your Christmas soon enough, and your Advent waiting now, be a blessing to you; May love be in it and God be by your side!

Beannachtai na Nollaig (Christmas blessings),

The Irish Postman



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
Mike Quinn
Bruce Hobler
Ellen Neumann
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 12, 2018

The **Session of OVPC** met on Monday, November 12, 2018, in Fellowship Center.

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

Orders of the Day:

The Pastor's Review was performed by Session. The results were reviewed and discussed with Rev. Dougherty.

OVPC Installation of Officers will be during worship on November 18, 2018.

The **Monthly Committee Reports** were received.

MOTIONs passed to approve Session Minutes of October 8, 2018 and the Special Session Minutes of October 20, 2018.

MOTION passed to approve the October 2018 Financial Reports.

Personnel Committee MOTION approved to accept the revised Administrative Assistant Job Description to include technical skills.

MOTION approved to fund the purchase of dinner for The Stonehouse (Bethany Beach) on the 5th Friday of November and March not to exceed \$200.00. All other Fridays are covered by OVPC member volunteers who contribute the prepared meals.

MOTION approved at the request of DVR-APEX (Delaware Division of Vocational Rehabilitation-Advancement through PARDONS and EXPUNGEMENTS) to place their flyer on the bulletin boards in Fellowship Center and Memorial Hall.

MOTION approved to present Revised OVPC By-Laws to the congregation for approval at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February. Changes were minor, based on NFOG (New Form of Government) the New Book of Order 2017-2019.

MOTION made seconded and passed to update the Session Job Description to include steps required to form a new committee. Task assigned to the Clerk.

Reminder: The December Session Meeting is December 10, 2018 at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Center. Our meetings are open to OVPC members. Please notify the clerk if you plan to attend.

Rev. Terry Dougherty adjourned the meeting and closed with prayer at 9:37 P.M.

Crop Walk Results

Bob Doherty

On Sunday October 14th, OVPC along with nine other area churches walked in the SE Sussex Crop Walk sponsored by Church World Service. This year was its 30th year. A total of 125 people walked, of that OVPC had 25 members, one puppy and 10 invited guests walking behind the OVPC banner.

The grand total for this year's walk is \$17,560. Of that OVPC raised \$3247 cash and checks and \$1125 online for a total of \$4,372. The grand total is down \$1,478.90 and OVPC is down \$410 from last year totals.

Again this year OVPC raised 25% of the grand total. 75% of the grand total will be handed over to Church World Services to be used to support their mission both here at home and around the world. Remember that over 85% of that money is used to support their missions. The remaining 25% will be handed over to SE Sussex Ministerium and will be divided among the participating churches that have a food pantries.

This year local businesses were asked if they would support the walk by making a donation so we could have tee shirts printed. Twenty two of them agreed. Their donations paid to have 180 shirts printed.. Each of the 22 businesses were given a shirt. The remaining 158 shirts were sold for \$10 each. All the profits from the sale of the shirts was given to the Ministerium. OVPC bought 30 shirts.

I need to thank a few people who helped make this year's walk a success:

- Bob Wolf added a link to OVPC web site for online donations
- Jim Hartsig and Bob Turner for taking photos before during. and after the walk.
- Tish Galu this year's chairperson who put her heart and soul to make the walk a success.
- Bethany Beach Christian Church for hosting the refreshments after the walk.

On a personal note I want to thank everyone at OVPC who supported the walk by walking and donating. Thank You. Thank You.

C=communities R=responding O= overcoming P=poverty





Bob Wolf
Karen Rubin Hamilton
Patrick Read
Eric Neumann
Kathy Sheetz
Pam Price

Dec. 7th
Dec. 15th
Dec. 18th
Dec. 20th
Dec. 20th
Dec. 29th



Peggy and William Wivel Dec. 4th

Fraud Alert

Several members of our congregation have had phone calls saying Microsoft needs something, or you have a discount, or a threatening message unless you respond. These are all scams.

Remember, never give out your credit card, social security number or banking information over the phone.



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 3rd

Advent Times of Prayer “Gratitude”

Wednesdays - December 5, 12 and 19
5:55 pm to 6:20 pm
OVPC Sanctuary

Each Time of Prayer will include **Prayers of Intercession** and
Personal Meditation and Prayer.

The **Prayers of Intercession** provide an opportunity for you to raise up your prayer needs and have our entire gathering combine in spirit to ask for God’s intercession.

The **Personal Meditation and Prayer** is your opportunity to commune silently with God. We structure this time around the Lectio Divina (Holy Reading) an ancient practice that helps us to personally feel God’s presence and guidance.

As we all reach out in gratitude to the Living Christ this Advent season, we hope you will join us in prayer in our most holy place, and we hope each Time of Prayer will be a unique and spiritually fulfilling experience for you.

Christian Education *Karen Rubin Hamilton*

Advent

On December 16 and 23 Don Benjamin will lead us in looking at biblical stories and how they affect our story. Please join us following worship in Fellowship Hall for this education opportunity.



Al DeFazio



Albert Anthony DeFazio, who we all knew simply as “Al”, of Bethany Beach, DE, suffered a severe heart attack on October 20th and passed from this life on October 23rd, the date of his 47th wedding anniversary to his devoted wife Earlene. Al was preceded in death by his father, Anthony DeFazio in 1981 and his mother, Frances DeFazio (nee Rossi) in 2007.

Al was 72 and born in Scranton, PA on October 6, 1946. He was a graduate of Scranton Central High School, the University of Scranton, and George Mason University. He served two years in the US Army with an honorable discharge. Al met Earlene in Silver Spring, MD where they married on October 23, 1971. Along with his loving wife

Earlene, Al is survived by their son Brian DeFazio,

and Brian’s children Erin and Dominick, their daughter Terri DeFazio and her husband Philip Jordan, and their daughter Lillian (Lily) and his brother Joe DeFazio and his wife Sonya Davis.

Throughout his life, Al was known for many different things to many different people - he was a youth football coach, a financial professional, a race car guy, a spin instructor, a golfer, a VFW volunteer, but most importantly, he was a loving father and devoted husband. The one thing that characterized Al best was a fierce and tenacious love of family. His “family first” dedication was always assuring there was no one more important to him than his family and they always felt his deep love. He was a doting grandfather and enjoyed nothing more than spending time with his grandchildren Erin, Dominick, and Lily.

Al enjoyed his 17 years living in Bethany Beach, Delaware. He arrived as a “come here” but departed as a caring neighbor, devoted friend, and Bethany Beach native. Al most enjoyed his days at World Gym Bethany Beach as a fitness trainer and spin instructor until he no longer felt he could perform to his own high expectations. He was a casual golfer, and had hopes of becoming “not too bad” - but his VFW pals were happy to ignore his shortcomings with his golf game in exchange for his good company. Al was a loyal New York Giants fan, and most will remember his infamous NYG hat that he frequently wore around town.

A celebration of Al’s life was held at Ocean View Presbyterian Church on November 17th.



Keeping Confidences

OVPC is known as a very caring congregation. If there is a need, we step up. Whether it's canned goods for the Pyle Center, meals and visits for someone recently home from the hospital, or supporting missions, we are there.

But, what if the need is different than this? Some hypothetical situations might be

- After serious surgery and rehab, someone has doubts about having a full recovery and their next stages of life.
- Someone experienced a serious falling-out with their family, with hard feelings on all sides, and is very hurt about this estrangement.
- Someone does not know where to turn, since their child has been diagnosed with a serious mental health issue.

Each of these people might want to talk with someone about these issues but wants to be assured that these situations can be expressed in a safe space and not broadly discussed with others.

Confidentiality — a cornerstone of Stephen Ministry — gives care receivers the assurance they need so that they can risk revealing to their Stephen Minister those thoughts and feelings that they might not be able to discuss with anyone else. It is through the sharing of these innermost feelings that the Holy Spirit works the miracle of healing.

Each member of OVPC plays a part in ensuring that these Stephen Ministry relationships remain a safe space for these difficult conversations. Most often, discussions between a Stephen Minister and the care receiver happen in the care receiver's home. For some situations, it may be that another location might be more appropriate. If you see a Stephen Minister and someone else at a diner or a coffee shop, respect their conversation; take the lead from the Stephen Minister regarding any kind of greeting. If you see a Stephen Minister's car at church or in someone's driveway, let that observation quickly pass. Instead, offer a brief prayer for the Holy Spirit to provide healing through that caring relationship. In general, refrain from asking a Stephen Minister about their caring relationships or from making comments or observations about someone you suspect might be a care receiver.

Confidentiality is a standard of conduct all of us need to live by, especially in a Stephen Ministry congregation such as Ocean View. Confidentiality promotes trust, builds up one another, and encourages healing within our Christian community.

If you or someone you know is struggling with life's issues, mention the availability of Stephen Ministry through our church. Suggest that they speak with Pastor Terry or Elaine Smith (the Referrals Coordinator). Elaine will explain the ministry to them and ensure there's a good match of expectations before assigning a Stephen Minister. Elaine can be reached at 908.859.2901 (home) or 908.319.4858 (cell).



Gratitude

Elsie Young

For the past twelve years one of my special blessings has been getting ready for the printing of the Advent Devotional. On November 10th, the “editors” have said once again, “This is the best ever!” My HOPE is that God’s message is full and clear.... and my heart is jumping with JOY as I close the 2018 issue, ready for printing.... and I am aware that LOVE abounds in every word and.....PEACE comes to us as we read and meditate, finding words which give each of us a special blessing. REJOICE! God is surely rejoicing, “Well done, My good and faithful servants!”



Elsie Young and Cate Read

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty winds made moan
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part
Yet what can I give Him, give my heart**

PLEASE JOIN US



Nativity Festival

December 8, 2018 (Saturday)
10 am – 2 pm

Celebrate the Season
Nativities from Around the World, Carols,
Punch and Cookies

Ocean View Presbyterian Church
67 Central Avenue
Ocean View, DE

Set Up: December 6 and 7 from 9-12 am

Photogenic
Jim Hartsig



Dale and Elaine Smith with newly commissioned Stephen Ministers, Kathy Sheetz, Jen Read and Pam Price.



The church flag pole gets a new halyard.

**O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels!**

**O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord**

Friday Night At The Movies



Because of busy schedules there will be no movie night this month.

