A Word from Your Pastor

When the Session made the decision to cancel in-person worship services in mid-March, we thought that we were facing a difficult decision at the time, but in retrospect it was fairly clear what needed to happen: that we needed to stay at home for a while as a way to limit the spread of the virus. In mid-March, I wasn't sure what was ahead, but if you had pressed me, I might have imagined that we would be able to gather again for in-person worship in six to eight weeks. Of course, more than eight weeks have already passed. I heard one person describe this period as similar to driving in heavy fog: all that we can do is see a little bit ahead of us. As we keep moving forward, the conditions are changing and we have to adjust and adapt. I watched a recent sermon that was entitled “The Certainty of Uncertainty.” That title resonated well with my experience of these recent weeks.

At the time that I am writing this article, there have been at least 107,000 deaths in the United States alone due to the pandemic. As I mentioned in worship on Pentecost Sunday (May 31st), it is important for us to think about those who have died as more than just a number: each one represents a person, a child of God, who has left behind family members and friends who are grieving. While the building has been closed to in-person worship, I am grateful for the ways that our staff, members, and friends have continued ministering in Christ’s name because the work of God’s kingdom is not bound to any building. We have had an overwhelming response to the number of people who have been worshiping with us online during the pandemic and have continued our outreach efforts to care for the needy in our community, especially during these trying times.

As we began to consider the possibility of beginning in-person worship, our church leaders recognized that we are dealing with a variety of complex issues. I am grateful for the good leadership provided by the COVID-19 Task Force and our Session in navigating these questions. At its meeting on May 26th, the Session approved the Strategies for Re-Opening Church document that includes a twenty-point plan that enables us to open the building sometime after June 26th.

This is the Session's first attempt as we continue driving forward in the dense fog. As it says in item 20, “The Session may make changes as circumstances warrant or that the Session deems necessary and appropriate, based on observed behaviors and experiences at previous church services and more data and information that will become available.” I want to prepare you for the reality that things will be different when we gather again in person. Not everything will go smoothly as we are figuring things out. We will have to work out some of the kinks. So let us be sure to show each other some grace.

Some people have been itching to get out and will be here the first Sunday that the church doors are open to the public, while others will continue to need to stay home and prevent potential exposure to the virus. I am aware that we have a number of people in our congregation who are at a higher risk from the virus and we have the Christian responsibility first to protect and care for each other. (Article is continued on pg. 3)
While tourism is picking up and helping our businesses, who are then, in turn, helping their employees, there is still a lot of need.

The church’s monthly Pennies for Hunger gives 25% to the Beach Food Pantry and 25% to Food for Thought. We all know what the Pantry does. They have been God’s soldiers this spring in helping all the people in need! Food for Thought packs non-perishable breakfasts and lunches for students of all ages. Unfortunately, since church has been closed, there have been no offerings for Pennies for Hunger. If you wish to contribute to these organizations, please do. Donations may be sent directly to Food for Thought, P O Box 1167, Kitty Hawk NC 27949 and Beach Food Pantry, P O Box 468, Kitty Hawk NC 27949.

Interfaith Community Outreach provides assistance to individuals facing a temporary emergency crisis. They provided free dinners twice a week to the community during this crisis. Our church has pledged a monthly donation to this organization. If you would like to help them, they are accepting food cards (preferably from Food Lion) that they can give to clients. Donations may be sent directly to ICO, P O Box 1663, Kill Devil Hills NC 27948.

Please know that this list of organizations is just a fraction of those who are helping others. If you donate or volunteer for a different organization, bless you!!!

-- Linda Campbell and Jeanne Martie
(Continued from page 1)

Whatever choice that anyone makes, we need to be understanding and respectful of one another. Some people who have assisted with various tasks around the church in the past may not be able to come back and participate right away and that is okay. We need to not put any pressure on anyone for taking steps to keep themselves and others safe and well. If you are comfortable returning to church, please contact Nonie Booth or Cathie Feild if you are able to serve as an usher because we will need additional people to assist. We are making every effort to include and involve those who will be at home and will offer on-line worship services, Sunday School classes, and more.

I also want to note that there will be a number of changes in our worship service when we gather back together in person. The Task Force and the Session have sought to follow the best guidance from the CDC, state health officials, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and other church groups that are examining similar issues. We plan to have two worship services on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am and 11:00 am. The 11:00 am service will be live streamed for those who will be staying safe at home. We are limiting each worship service to fifty attendees, about twenty percent of the capacity of our sanctuary, so that we can spread out and keep social distance from one another.

I hope that everyone will honor the policies that the Session has developed to help keep all of our worshipers as safe as we can as we congregate together. Some of the safety measures we can take are to keep physical distance from one another and wear a mask as a sign of love for our brothers and sisters in Christ. I will plan to wear a mask as I enter the sanctuary that I will remove while speaking. I don't wear a mask for myself alone: I wear it for all of you and to keep each other safe.

In my sermon on March 22nd, I said,

“One of the most persistent messages of the Bible is that we are called to love: we are supposed to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. The call to love one another is constant, but the way we show that love changes over time and the course of our lives. We have often shown love through hugs, handshakes, and warm embraces, but the loving thing for us to do now is to create a little physical distance so that we can protect those who are vulnerable to this disease. It is a sacrifice, it is a loss, but often loving involves sacrifice. Parents sacrifice their time for their children and families. Friends sacrifice for the good of the relationship. Soldiers sacrifice for their nation. Today workers in grocery stores, pharmacies, medical providers, police officers, emergency responders, and trash collectors are sacrificing to provide for our common need. We thank those who are sacrificing for our sake and remember that Christ calls each of us to sacrifice so that we can love God and our neighbors. Christ is the ultimate example of sacrificial love through his death on the cross for our forgiveness and salvation.”

As Jesus tells us in John 15:12, let us love another as Christ has loved us. If we are guided by Christ’s love and a willingness to sacrifice for our neighbors, then I am confident that we will be heading in the right direction as we go with God into this uncertain future together.

Prayer:

God of grace, we thank you for our church family at Outer Banks Presbyterian Church. While circumstances in our lives and our world change over time, your love and care for us never changes. When we are confused or anxious, help us to trust in you as our deliverer and comforter. Give us faith, persistence, stamina, and courage to trust in you Lord. Help us to follow Christ’s example in the ways that we choose to love and sacrifice for others. Amen.

Peace in Christ,

Jody Moore

Upcoming Sermons
The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

June 14, 2020
Luke 4: 14-30

In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus announces to his hometown synagogue that he has been sent to “bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free.” Jesus explains that his central mission involves bringing justice and righteousness to those who are victims of oppression. How can we apply Jesus’ mission to our troubled world today? How can we follow Jesus’ lead in fighting for justice and righteousness?

June 21, 2020
Leviticus 19:1-19, 26-28, and 33-37

In the Old Testament, there are over 600 commandments for God’s people to follow. Leviticus contains an extended list of those commandments in its Holiness Codes, offering guidance for a variety of circumstances. In the New Testament, Jesus summarizes all of those commandments in the two Great Commandments. The original instructions for us to love our neighbors as ourselves are found in Leviticus. This text goes on to describe the compassion and kindness that we should display as God’s people.

(Continued on page 4)
June 28, 2020
Genesis 1:1-2:3

God is involved in creating the heavens and the earth. We praise God as our Creator. What kind of actions has God taken as Creator and what is God’s role in continuing to bring new life? The Lord has given humanity an important task: we are to be good stewards of this earth. What is our role as good stewards of the diverse creation God made?

July 5, 2020
Matthew 8:18-27

Jesus teaches his disciples the urgency of leaving behind everything that gets in the way of following God. What other pursuits distract our attention and spirits away from God’s will? Then Jesus and his disciples get on a boat that goes to the sea and is swamped by the waves. His disciples worry that they are perishing, yet Jesus has the power to calm the seas and reassure their fears. In these unsettling times, how can we bring our anxieties to Jesus and seek his comfort, peace, and security?

July 12, 2020
Ezra 6:1, 3-5, 14-16, and 22 and Psalm 137

Ezra takes place during the glorious return after the most traumatic experience of the Old Testament for the Israelites, which was the Babylonians’ conquest of Israel. The invaders destroyed much of Jerusalem, including the temple where the people worshiped God. The Babylonians forced many of the best and brightest Israelites into exile, living away from family in Babylon. Psalm 137 grieves what has happened in the exile. Ezra 6 notes all the hard work that is necessary for God’s people to come back together, yet it finds new ways to have a joyous celebration.

July 26, 2020
Romans 5:1-11

In Paul’s most detailed theological book, he notes the way we can find peace in God even amidst hardships. Paul notes that suffering produces endurance, while endurance produces character, and character produces hope and hope will not disappoint us. What does it look like for us to have hope during this pandemic and beyond?

Congratulations, Hollie!

Manteo Elementary School Teacher of the Year!

We offer our congratulations to Hollie Writtenberry, our Director of Children, Youth and Young Families for the honor bestowed upon her as Manteo Elementary School Teach of the Year! Hollie is a graduate of Nansemond Suffolk Academy and the University of Mary Washington, where she received a Bachelors of Arts in Music and Education. She began teaching in 1999, and taught in Virginia and North Carolina where she is currently a music teacher at Manteo Elementary School. Congratulations, Hollie!

Online Children’s Church

Anna and Joseph Moore with their oil crafts from online Children’s Church Sunday!
PCUSA had a special offering collection that was supposed to be on Palm Sunday, titled “One Great Hour of Sharing” (OGHS). All monies raised go to our Presbytery of New Hope. Unfortunately, we were not able to be in church to collect the offering. I want to encourage you to still donate, as this offering is very appropriate for what we are going through now. It is best to send this offering to the church office -- PO Box 2199, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948 -- mark on the memo line “One Great Hour of Sharing.”

This is a once a year collection for natural disasters, alleviating hunger, and support towards the development of poor and oppressed communities. The OGHS ministries are driven, not so much by who the recipients are, but by who we are - faithful and generous followers of Jesus Christ.

May 31 was Pentecost Sunday. This day commemorated the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his ascension from earth to heaven. In honor of Pentecost Sunday, there was a special offering. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children.

40% of the Pentecost offering is retained locally, to make an impact in the lives of young people within our own community. Our church donates this money to Dare County Friends of Youth. This is a county mentoring program that places at-risk youth between 6-17 with caring adult volunteers who serve as role models and friends. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Even though we were not in church to collect this offering, please consider making a donation for Pentecost. This has been a particularly difficult time for our youth. You can send your donation to the church office -- PO Box 2199, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948 -- and mark on the check or envelope “Pentecost.”

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Ruthie’s Kitchen
Ruthie’s Kitchen has decided they will remain closed until September. Our church is signed up to provide dinner on Sep. 15. The Outreach Committee will be contacting everyone in August.

 Below is a current list of needed foods at the Beach Food Pantry! Consider items you may have on your shelf or wish to purchase for donation!

- Canned Vegetables (~15 oz)
- Canned Fruit (~15 oz)
- Peanut Butter (18 oz)
- Canned Chicken, Ham or Tuna (5 oz cans)
- Brown Rice (16 oz)
- Canned Soup
- Pork & Beans
- Canned Beef Stew
- Canned Beef Chili with Beans
- Diced Canned Tomatoes (14.5 oz)
- Grape or Strawberry Jelly (18 oz)
- Pancake Mix (“Complete” - or ”just add water”)
- Pancake Syrup
- Hamburger Helper
- Salad Dressing
- Toothpaste
- Feminine Products

Drop-Off Locations

Beach Food Pantry:
4007 North Croatan Highway, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949 (You can always drop off donations between 2p-4p Mon-Fri. But, there is often someone there during the day! Please knock on the front door if it is between 8:30a-5:30p. If no one answers, you can drop it in the drop box at the front of the trailer.)

- Any Brindley Beach Location
- Carolina Designs
- Dare County Baum Center
- Kill Devil Hills Library
- Any McDonalds Location
- Resort Realty (Nags Head Location)
- Southern Shores Realty
- Sun Realty (Kill Devil Hills Location)
June 14: There will NOT be a Zoom class this Sunday. Ellen and I will be out of town this weekend. We suggest you watch the series from Columbia Seminary. The link is in the email from the church. The topic is the Book of Job and I am attaching a summary that Bev prepared on the earlier lessons. It starts at 9:30, so you will either have to pause it to watch the livestream of our Worship service or watch the Job lesson at a later time.

June 21: I received about 4 votes for the book about Pope Francis and several "I don't care, all are fine" responses, so we will go with the book:

*Jesus, Pope Francis and a Protestant Walk into a Bar* by Paul Rock and Bill Tammeus. It is available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble if you want to order it online. It is a little pricey for a small book, but I will be sending out chapter summaries if you don't want to buy it. The paperback edition is about $4 cheaper on Amazon and the e-book versions are about the same on each.

This book is a compilation of a sermon series by Rev. Paul Rock, the Senior Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri. The back cover states about the book:

"Thoughtful examination of Jesus’ example and legacy, as well as an honest look at the similarities and differences between Catholic and Protestant faith, invites reflection on the heart of Christianity and how we relate to our fellow Christians. It looks at what is universal among Christians, what is unique to Catholics and Protestants, and how all Christians can practice understanding and cooperation across differences."

It is important to understand Pope Francis to realize that he is the first Jesuit Pope. On Sunday June 21 I am going to try to share a PowerPoint presentation on the History of the Jesuits and Ignatian Spirituality. We will also try to throw in a little history of the Papacy itself. Then we will start the book on June 28.

Please plan on joining these classes and encourage anyone else who may be interested in joining as well! If we do in fact return to worship on June 28, we will have a class at the church but we will live stream it on Zoom as well.

Peace!
Tom Carrico

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**Congregational Care Committee on Covid-19**

In anticipation of the gradual re-opening of the Outer Banks community and the OBPC, here are the current facts and recommendations.

The facts as of June 9, 2020, posted on the websites:

- Nationally the USA has recorded 2,001,721 coronavirus cases, and 112,648 deaths, a death rate of 5.6%. [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has recorded 520,113 tests, 36,484 confirmed cases, and 1,006 deaths (rate of 7%). [www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov)
- Dare County has reported 22 positive cases in residents, and 1 death (rate of 4.5%). There were 10 non-residents testing positive. [www.darenc.com](http://www.darenc.com)

The recommendations of the NC and Dare County public health officials:

- Practice the three W’s: Wear a mask anytime we are in public or in closed spaces with non-family or friends; Wait 6 feet apart; Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds or use 70% alcohol hand-sanitizer.
- Participate in the testing: Dare County sponsors testing every 2 weeks; So far, tests have been offered at First Flight High School, and the Sound Center. New locations are listed in the local newspaper, the website, or call for appointments at: 252-475-5008.
- If you have physical symptoms, call for an appointment with your doctor or at:
  - Urgent Care Kitty Hawk, 5112 N. Croatan Highway, 252-449-7474
  - Urgent Care Nags Head, 4923 S. Croatan Highway, 252-261-8040
  - Beach Medical, 4917 S. Croatan Highway, Nags Head, 252-261-4187
- If you have issues of anxiety, sleeplessness, or fear, call the public or private providers noted above. These are realistic problems and help is available.

Pray for the OBPC Task Force and Session as they weigh the data and make decisions for our church’s activities. Pray also for all our own frontline workers. With God’s help, let’s face this pandemic together.

Thanks for being thoughtful of others.
Bev Jones, CCC Secretary
Session Meeting Highlights

The Session of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church
Stated Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2020
4:00 P.M.
Church Fellowship Hall

(These are unofficial minutes until such time as the Session approves them at a Stated Meeting)

A stated meeting of the Session of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, in the Fellowship Hall of the church. The meeting was called to order by Rev. Dr. Jody Moore at 4:00 p.m. Elders present were Ron Baker, Bobby Gentry, Ike McRee, Bob Messinger, Barbara Nock, Barb Nowland, Evelyn Webb, and Judy Whittle. Elder Ron Campbell was granted an excused absence. Clerk of Session Gary McGee attended to record the meeting.

All persons in attendance at the meeting practiced social distancing of at least six feet and wore facial masks, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Dr. Moore opened the meeting with a devotional entitled “Church, Don’t Let Coronavirus Divide You” by Brett McCracken. He concluded the devotional with an opening prayer.

Dr. Moore declared a quorum to be present and asked for approval of the published agenda, which was approved with one addition to the Omnibus Motion. That item was approval of purchase of a 1.5-ton HVAC unit by the Building and Grounds Committee of approximately $4,200, funds coming from the Reserves for Replacement Fund. The Omnibus Motion was approved as presented, and, in addition to the above item, included:

Since the Session had not held an in-person meeting since February 25, 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, several sets of minutes were approved; actions which had been taken by electronic vote or at one Zoom meeting.

This includes minutes of:

C. Minutes of a Special Called Zoom meeting held by Session on April 29, 2020, that included the approval of the fifth set of recommendations from the Corvid-19 Task Force.
D. E-vote of May 3, 2020 allowing the spreading of Judy Dempsey’s ashes in the Bible Garden on May 23, 2020 and waiver of the $275 fee.

Other Omnibus Motion approvals included:

A. Acceptance of the security deposit in the amount of $1,086.52 at 130 Sally Crab Court in Kill Devil Hills. This was the Pastor’s residence, where the church paid the initial security deposit years ago when the house was rented. Carpet cleaning was deducted from the security deposit by the realtor.

B. Retroactive approval of Finance Moderator Jeff Aldridge’s application to the US Small Business Administration for a loan/grant of $36,900 through the Paycheck Protection Program and accepted the direct deposit of those funds into the church’s bank account.

C. Approved the request of Buzz and Ann Boyd to transfer their membership to the First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville, FL.

D. Approved a request of Youth and Young Families Director Hollie Writtenberry to hold outdoor gatherings of church youth of 10 or fewer people beginning on Sunday afternoon, May 31, 2020, either at the church or in a park.

The Session reviewed a financial report presented by Jeff Aldridge, moderator of the Finance Committee.

Considerable time was spent reviewing the Strategies for Reopening the Church for Worship and other activities after June 26, 2020, as presented by the Church’s Covid-19 Task Force. The Session reviewed a memo and other information regarding music during reopening from Music Ministries Director Jason Evans.

The 20 recommendations, as amended by the Session, were approved and the Clerk of Session was authorized to submit same to all church committee moderators, staff, and others. Financial approvals contained in the strategies included $149.99 for purchase of a canopy for use by the Youth and other church groups for outdoor meetings of 10 people or less and $303.01 for purchase of five stackable Communion trays and five bread plates of silver-tone, polished aluminum to be used hereafter for serving Holy Communion. Funds for both expenditures are to come from the Undesignated Memorial Fund.

The 20-point Strategies, as amended by Session, are printed on page 9 and are a part of the official record of this Stated Meeting.

Elder Barbara Nock presented her recommendation that youth involved with the church, Youth Group and Scouts participate in a food drive for the Beach Food Pantry. The recommendation was approved and Elder Nock is to continue to work out details with the Food Pantry, the Scout leaders, and the Youth and Young Families Director.

(Continued on next page)
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Dr. Moore discussed the process for receiving new members, and asked for flexibility in doing so. He said Zoom meetings of Session might be necessary to accept these new members and approve the Baptism of one adult. He discussed the spreading of Judy Dempsey’s ashes in the Bible Garden on May 23, 2020, and said all went well with the family. Dr. Moore said he is working with the family of Howard Miller for a memorial service, as well as the family of Judy Dempsey for a memorial service, when those types of services are possible due to the Pandemic.

There being no further business, the Session concluded the meeting with prayers of Thanksgiving, intercession for each other and members and friends of the church. Dr. Moore concluded the meeting at 6:20 p.m. with prayer, that included the Lord’s Prayer.

Gary McGee, Clerk of Session

2020 Older Adult Award

Anyone who has met Tom Williamson will undoubtedly come away thinking “This is a remarkable person!” His personality, genuine interest in others, and irrepressible sense of humor are winsome!

Our nominee for 2020 Older Adult Award was born and spent his early years in rural South Carolina. His Dad was drafted near the end of World War 2, and in those days when segregation was the law of the land, finally found employment as a carpenter in New York City. Tom stayed in South Carolina with his grandmother until he joined his Mom and Dad and siblings in New York when he was in the 8th grade.

He attended a vocational school for radio and television repair with a goal of opening his own repair shop. He enlisted in the Marine Corps reserve, and secured employment in an electronics research and development lab while attending night school at a community college.

He sensed God’s direction as he took and passed the test granting him the Federal Communications Commission second class license. This opened the door to a three-year position as avionic technician with Pan American Airways. New employment found him in Thule Greenland on a missile detection radar sight during the Cuban missile crisis.

Having been accepted at the University of Michigan, a beloved uncle encouraged him to attend the also renowned Howard University instead. It was during his college years that he met and married Marlene, the love of his life, after she graduated from Bennett College!

Upon graduating from Howard, Tom wanted to return to the airline industry. However, an interview led to employment with the Federal Aviation Administration.

He enjoyed each of his thirty years with the FAA from 1969-1999. Travel opportunities came with the job! He was able to visit all but two of the seven continents. South America and Antarctica were still on his “bucket list”. His years with the FAA not only afforded him wonderful opportunities to travel, but also enabled him to have a part in major contributions to safety in civil and military aviation. In June of 1956 the mid-air collision of a United Airlines DC-7 and a Trans World Airlines Lockheed L-1049 Super Constellation over the Grand Canyon, stunned the nation and the Leadership of the FAA. A similar in air collision took place in Hendersonville, NC. As a result, a team of leaders was assigned the vital task of addressing the critical issue of mid-air safety. A three-phase, three-team approach for dealing with the problem was devised to address the crisis.

Tom headed up the third and final, or Implementation Phase, having to do with getting the collision avoidance electronic systems on actual aircraft. Successfully included were all civilian airplanes including Air Force 1. After retiring from the FAA in 1999, the unfinished “bucket list” goal of visiting all seven continents still beckoned! He and Marlene, and their children, Leah and Keri, moved to the Outer Banks. This new home became a platform for a time of service to others for Tom, which continues to this day!

He soon reached out to Habitat for Humanity and joined in with others on building projects right here on the Outer Banks. He jumped at a Habitat invitation to serve in South America (continent number six), completing work in Bolivia in 2004. While there he was able to visit Machu Picchu and other special sites. Then came a chance to complete his seven-continent goal as an opportunity to serve Habitat in Antarctica!

Ever active, he has served others in Jordan, Macedonia, Puerto Rico. Whenever there’s a crisis and people in need expect to find Tom there!

Sadness has been no stranger in Tom’s life, having lost Marlene, his wife of 48 years in 2013, and his daughter, Leah, in 2017. Being a Christian of deep faith, he affirms that “because Jesus died and rose for us, death is not an end, but a beginning”!

Tom has put his faith to work through the Outer Banks Presbyterian Church in a variety of ways, providing hands-on help through the Building and Grounds Committee, and assisting many individuals as travelling handy-man with plumbing, electrical, and other needs! He regularly participates in our Adult Sunday School Class. Deep involvement in “Caring Hands”, a mission outreach of the Duck United Methodist Church, has brought him much joy. Many an individual or family has gained a handicapped ramp or building addition through “Caring Hands”. He and the group have completed improvements valued at $10,000 for the Dare...
County's only free medical clinic, The Community Care Clinic of Dare, as well.

The children and youth of Dare County benefitted from Tom’s long-time passion for service through the Outer Banks Chapter of Kiwanis International. He is an avid reader, gardener, cook, and 5th wheel camper! His ever-present smile, deep throated laugh, and life of caring for and serving others has endeared him to each of us!

Congratulations, Tom!

**Basic Assumptions, Information & Recommendations**

(Adopted May 26. Session is meeting again just prior to newsletter going to print. Check E-news or website for latest updates from June 17 Session Meeting.)

The Session of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church has approved closing the church facility to meetings of church and tenant groups, allowing staff to work from home, electronic communications with members and friends of the church, and live-streaming and recording Sunday Worship Services, including permission for providing the Sacrament of Holy Communion virtually. That Session directive was effective through June 7, 2020.

Governor Cooper’s last executive order regarding religious gatherings for worship allowed for worship services to be conducted inside church buildings if 10 people or less are present, or unlimited gatherings for worship or wedding services held outside. The Governor’s office clarified if it is not possible for a place of worship to hold their services outside or through other accommodations such as online, the 10-person limit does not apply and places of worship can hold services inside with more than 10 people if they take steps to minimize exposure to the coronavirus. Since Outer Banks Presbyterian Church has the ability to provide online live-streaming of its services, this stipulation does not apply. Later, a Federal Court Judge reversed Governor Cooper’s Phase I opening directives for churches. The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which had published very specific guidelines for churches, and recommended social distancing of at least six feet for individuals, while persons living in same household could sit together, provided they are six feet from the next individual or family unit, as well as the wearing of facial masks at worship services, had dropped any mention of places of worship from their publicly available documents. On May 25, 2020, the CDC re-instituted some guidelines and re-established “recommendations” for social distancing and wearing masks.

Although the CDC has lessened its published guidelines for church gatherings, Dare County and the State of North Carolina have embraced the CDC’s initial recommendations. Governor Cooper announced Phase II reopening standards, but due to the Federal Judge’s reversal of his church reopening standards in Phase I, the Governor chose not to appeal the Federal ruling and did not include specific guidance for churches in his Phase II standards, which are effective through June 26, 2020. The Governor verbally encouraged churches, if opening, to allow a maximum of 10 people inside and maximum of 25 people at outside gatherings, and the wearing of facial masks. The church’s Covid-19 Task Force has also consulted directives for reopening from the Presbyterian Church USA and New Hope’s Executive Presbyter.

Considering all of the directives above the Task Force has developed strategies for reopening the church for Worship Services after June 26, 2020, although this is a target date and is subject to change depending upon the Governor’s and/or Dare County’s future orders. The Task Force believes that some Congregants will be hesitant to return for worship if strict standards are not adopted and honored due to the vulnerability (age and underlying medical conditions) of most church members to the Covid-19 virus. The task force encourages all members who do attend in-person worship services to be aware of other people’s personal desires regarding Covid-19 and beliefs about the virus. The Task Force believes many members have taken personal steps to protect themselves, have followed all the rules and recommendations, and may not want to return to church until there is a vaccination against the virus, making it essential that the church continues to live stream and record services. Therefore, the Task Force recommends the following action items to the Session for adoption for reopening the church for worship services after June 26, 2020 or until further action is taken by the Session. When the Session approved the recommendations below, the Session prayed for patience and respect for all viewpoints about the best approaches to the coronavirus pandemic. The Session believes we could all use a bit more humility, and the church should lead the way. “Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:1-3)

**Adopted Actions**

There will be two (2) worship services of a maximum of 50 people total at each service on Sunday mornings, one beginning at 9:00 a.m. and the second beginning at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School classes of 10 people or less could be held at 10:00 a.m., provided social distancing and wearing face coverings/masks are practiced, and Sunday School may be live-streamed and recorded for those who feel uncomfortable attending in person at this time. The 11:00 a.m. service will be live-streamed and recorded. Children’s Church will be held during the 9:00 am Worship Service, provided that no more than 10 children attend. The Children’s Church will be held outside, weather permitting.

1. A canopy will be purchased for these outside meetings and for other church functions, as appropriate. The Nursery will be opened for the 9:00 am service only, provided at least two persons are staffing the Nursery at all times. Children’s Church and Nursery will be publicized on the church website, electronic newsletters, and printed newsletters.
2. No more than 50 people total will be allowed inside the church for worship at either the 9:00 a.m. or the 11:00 a.m. services. Persons wanting to worship at the church must sign up online or contact his/her Elder-Care Session Member to reserve a seat. The church will reply to confirm attendance.

3. Two ushers, one at the front door and one at the south door, would greet people and make sure they remain at least six feet apart as they enter the Gathering Space. The ushers would also social distance themselves.

4. A table will be placed in the Gathering Space near the double doors to the Sanctuary. Bulletins, collection plates, and disposable facial masks will be placed on this table. An usher will retrieve the contents of the collection plates at the beginning and ending of each worship service and place in a secure location in the church office for a church receiving treasurer.

5. Wearing facial masks is highly recommended when a person enters the church and during the entire time a person is inside the Sanctuary and/or other church spaces. The church will provide disposable masks for those arriving without a mask.

6. Four Elders will serve at the two worship services, two Elders serving at the 9:00 a.m. service and two Elders serving at the 11:00 a.m. service. The Elders will greet worshipers as they enter the Gathering Space and assist them in finding social distanced seats in the Sanctuary. The Elders will open the two designated doors at 8:15 a.m. and close the church after the 11:00 a.m. church. A fifth Elder will be assigned to serve as alternate, if needed, while this style of worship lasts. Following a worship service, the Elders in charge will assist in emptying the Sanctuary by leading the back rows out first, and proceeding to the front rows, keeping those exiting at least six feet apart until they are out of the church. Persons should not congregate in the Gathering Space, Fellowship Hall, hallways, or Sunday School rooms in the church, and should exit the church promptly. Persons are urged not to congregate in the parking lot unless they remain at least six feet apart. Direct touching, hugging, or other body contact is strongly discouraged. The Pastor and the Clerk of Session will develop tentative, temporary Elder assignments for the affected Worship Services. Elders will not serve as ushers during this time.

7. The Sanctuary will be organized to accomplish social distancing of six feet apart. There will be appropriate seating for individuals and persons living in the same household. Seats will be color coded, one color for the 9:00 a.m. service and another color for the 11:00 a.m. worship service, in order to avoid any person sitting in a previously occupied seat. Nonie Booth will supervise this configuration of the Sanctuary to accomplish social distancing.

8. Rev. Dr. Jody Moore will enter the Sanctuary wearing a facial mask. He would remove his mask when he speaks during the Worship Service. Should persons wish to consult with Dr. Moore, they would remain in their seats following the Worship Service, and he would come to them, practicing social distancing. The 11:00 a.m. service will be live streamed and recorded.

9. Music during worship services would be instrumental only. In addition to the Music Director/organist, there may be one or two vocalists for each service. There may also be additional instrumentalists, such as an additional pianist, guitarist, flautist, or violinist. The handbell choir may also be utilized in worship services. Efforts will be made to keep social distance among the members of the handbell choir. Musicians and/or soloists are recommended to wear facial masks, except when singing or playing. There would be no Choir or Congregational singing. The members of the COVID-19 task force and the church’s music director are encouraged to continue conversations about church music as more studies and information becomes available. Those who prefer to worship at home may do so via the recorded services.

10. “Friendship pads” will be removed from the Sanctuary. “Passing of the Peace” will be done in place by touching one’s heart and smiling. Dr. Moore will demonstrate this practice, so all will know how it is done. Direct touching, hugging, or other body contact is strongly discouraged as a courtesy to and in honor of all persons in the Sanctuary.

11. Holy Communion would be done virtually for June 2020. The July 2020 Sacrament of Holy Communion would be cancelled. The Session will consider at a later date whether to have in person communion as early as August 2020. The new process for in-person Communion would be one set of Elders plus the Pastor and one Elder (total of four) stationed at the front of the Sanctuary. The Elder of the Month would assist in directing persons to the front to receive Communion. Those taking Communion would walk to the front of the Sanctuary to receive the Sacrament, practicing social distancing. They would immediately return to their seats via the side aisles after taking the Elements. The Worship Committee will purchase five stackable communion trays and five bread plates, made of silver tone, polished aluminum and those items would be used hereafter, in a manner determined by the Session. The cost is $303.01. Session authorized the funds to come from the undesignated Memorial Fund.

(Continued on next page)
12. There will be no coffee hours or food served during this time following the Worship Services or at other times by church groups using the church. Tenant groups would not be allowed to use the kitchen to prepare coffee or food. No outside food of any type will be served in the church during this time unless or until the State of North Carolina or Dare County allow. AA would be allowed to prepare and serve coffee only, provided they clean and sanitize with sanitizing wipes or sprays any areas they have used.

13. Bible studies of 10 or fewer people will be allowed in the church building after June 26, 2020, provided social distancing and wearing facial masks is practiced.

14. The church library will be closed during Worship Services and no library books will be displayed outside the library.

15. The Patriotic Concert for 2020 is cancelled.

16. Children’s Church will be held during the 9:00 am Worship Service, provided that no more than 10 children attend. The children’s Church will be held outside, weather permitting. A canopy shall be purchased at a cost of $149.99 for these outside meetings and for other church functions, as appropriate. Session authorized funds for the canopy to come from the undesignated Memorial Fund. The Nursery will be opened for the 9:00 am service only, provided at least two persons are staffing the Nursery at all times. These plans shall be publicized on the church website and electronic newsletters. The Nursery will be thoroughly sanitized after each use.

17. Church tenant groups, such as AA, OBX Stamp Club, CoDA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, will be allowed to return when the church reopens after June 26, 2020, provided each group honors maximum assembly requirements the Centers for Disease Control, the State of North Carolina and Governor Cooper’s Phase III initiatives, Dare County, and/or their respective parent organizations establishes. The church encourages social distancing, wearing facial masks, and requires wiping down all surfaces used and touched with disinfectant wipes or sprays before leaving the building. Since no activities will be allowed at the church on Saturdays in order to protect worshipers on Sundays, AA will be offered the opportunity to schedule an additional evening meeting on Mondays through Thursdays that does not conflict with other church events or activities.

18. The church sexton will clean and sanitize the church on Mondays and Fridays each week.

19. Vacation Bible School for 2020 is cancelled for outside community people. The Director of Youth and Young Families Ministries is attempting to develop alternative plans, which may include a virtual VBS or the possibility for a shorter VBS at the church limited to under 10 people from our own church family. All plans will be made in conjunction with the Christian Education Committee. Session will be advised of these plans and will approve those plans in advance.

20. The Session may make changes as circumstances warrant or that the Session deems necessary and appropriate, based on observed behaviors and experiences at previous church services and more data and information that will become available. These guidelines for reopening the church will be publicized on the church website, in the church newsletter, the mid-week E-news of announcements and devotionals, and in the local news media. Elders will contact persons on their Elder-care lists who may not have access to the Internet. Moderators will be asked to let their committee members know about the guidelines.

Youth Group

What a blessing for our youth group to resume meeting in person on Sunday, May 31, 2020 outside on the beach. We had a great group of young people and enjoyed pizza, Pictionary in the sand, singing praise songs, and meaningful discussion and prayer for our country.