While I am writing this article before Christmas, I anticipate that you will be receiving this newsletter after Christmas and around the New Year. I wanted to remind you that we are still in the season of Christmas until January 6th. While stores focus on Christmas leading up to December 25th, the season of Christmas in the church lasts from Christmas until Epiphany. Epiphany is the twelfth day of Christmas and the day that we commemorate the visit of the wise men to Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. The church gives us twelve days to celebrate the incarnation and the birth of our Savior. Epiphany became a feast day for the church in the second century, making it one of our oldest Christian celebrations. The song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” points to how some Christians would celebrate the Christmas season until Epiphany, which is a big gift-giving day in some cultures. In worship on Epiphany Sunday, January 3rd, we will read about the story of the wise men and their gifts to the Christ child and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.

As we look ahead to 2021, many of us are eager to say goodbye to 2020. While we know that there will continue to be difficult days this winter with the COVID-19 virus, there is genuine hope as vaccines began to be distributed in mid-December. I pray that God will support and uplift us in the year to come!

I want to say a word of thanks to Bob Messinger and Barb Nowland who will be rotating off of the Session when their three-year term expires in January. Also, I am grateful that Bobby Gentry has agreed to extend his term on the Session one additional year. We welcome Bev Jones and Maggie Snyder as our new members of the Session’s class of 2023. Ordinarily we ordain and/or install Session members in worship, but the Book of Order allows for the flexibility for us to install in other ways. We will plan to install Bev and Maggie at the January 12th stated Session meeting instead of at a worship service. While we won’t be able to physically lay hands on these new elders elect, I hope that you will offer them your spiritual support and encouragement and pray for them and the entire Session.

Alternative plans have been made for a community Martin Luther King Jr worship service. The worship service will still take place this year on Saturday, January 16th, at 11:00 am. Ordinarily we have met indoors in Manteo---this year we will meet outdoors at the parking lot of Manteo High School for a drive-up worship service where everyone will be able to remain in their cars and hear the speakers and the prayers. This event has been a unifying and upbuilding experience for many years and I encourage those who are able to attend.

Peace in Christ,

Jody Moore
Prayer Concerns

“God is able to make all grace abound toward you...”
II Corinthians 9:8

Jack Abernethy
Les Basnight
The family of Marc Basnight
Don & Nancy Bierwerth
Donna Bissell
Margaret Brown
Martha Butcher
Those Fighting Covid-19
Jim Carns
Anne Cramer
George Daniels
Tommy DeSanto
Donna & Terry Evans
Claudette Forney
Dorothy & Matt George
Ann Gilbert
Jim Goes
Judy Goins
Margaret Hartman
Linda Helmkamp
Joe & Tanta Hendricks
Nick Hodsdon
Carl Lilieberg
Luke Mahler
Andy Mallory
Ken McGee
Sharon McRee
Nancy Messinger
Joe Morgan
Fran Peel
Claudia Riley
Louise Roberts
Fred Smith
Kathy Townsend
Tom Williamson
Lynda Wood
John Younkin
Those Serving in our Military

Ordination/Installation of Elder Class 2023

The new Elder Class of 2021 will be ordained and installed during a Stated Session Meeting on January 12. The class of 2021 will be comprised of Bev Jones, Maggie Snyder and Bobby Gentry. Below is pictured the class of 2023!

Bev Jones
Maggie Snyder
Bobby Gentry

We are Thankful for our Willing Volunteers

Weekly Elder

| Jan. 3       | Whittle/Gentry |
| Jan. 10      | Nock/Campbell  |
| Jan. 17      | Baker/Campbell |
| Jan. 24      | McRee/Jones    |
| Jan. 31      | Webb/Baker     |

Flower Schedule

| Jan. 3       | Available     |
| Jan. 10      | Available     |
| Jan. 17      | Available     |
| Jan. 24      | Available     |
| Jan. 31      | Available     |

Liturgist Schedule

| Jan. 3       | Ike McRee     |
| Jan. 10      | Barbara Hardy |
| Jan. 17      | Tanta Luckhardt-Hendricks |
| Jan. 24      | Nonie Booth   |
| Jan. 31      | Jean Basnight |

Children’s Church

Please refer to your Sunday Morning bulletins for the schedule of Children’s Church workers. Should you have any questions, please contact Hollie Writtenberry.

January Birthdays

Glynn Powell .......................................7
Catherine Hammill .................................8
Oscar Northen ....................................8
Debbie Telthorster ...............................12
Anthony Spencer .................................14
Rosalyn Pugh .....................................15
Ron Baker .........................................15
James Seal ........................................15
Carla Hardy .......................................16
Dot Landis ........................................17
Elaine Spencer .................................21
Joe Hendricks .................................22
Mark Martin ..................................24

James Cahoon ...................................26
Kyle Lewis .......................................27
Sharon Aldridge .................................28
Rose Dugger ......................................28
Laura Worsley ...................................31
Evelyn Webb ....................................31
Shirley Grimm ....................................27

January Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Carrico .........................7
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Horne ....................7
Mr. & Mrs. Oscar VanEe ....................14
Sermons for January 2021
Outer Banks Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

January 3
Matthew 2:1-12

On January 6th, we celebrate the day of Epiphany, which is the 12th day of Christmas and when the wise men came to worship the baby Jesus. This passage tells about the different responses to Christ’s coming we find from Herod, the scribes, and from the wise men. We will also hear the story of the 4th wise man and reflect on our calling to share our gifts with Christ and the world.

January 10
Acts 19:1-7

On this Baptism of the Lord’s Sunday, we will hear the apostle Paul explain the meaning of being baptized in Christ’s name, which has a deeper meaning than John the Baptist’s baptism. We will reflect on what it means for our Christian identity to be washed clean and to receive the Holy Spirit’s grace through our baptism.

January 17
Habakkuk 1:1-4 and 2:1-4

The prophet shows us what an authentic relationship with God looks like. Habakkuk is willing to ask God the hard questions about why suffering occurs, why the wicked prevail too often over the righteous, and why destruction and violence surround us. Habakkuk has the faith to trust and wait on the Lord. What does it look like for us to put our faith in God today?

January 24
Mark 1:14-20

Jesus visits Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John in their fishing boats. Jesus abruptly calls them to walk away from their professions and lives so that they may follow him; they leave everything behind. What is Jesus calling us to do today? What does it look like for us to be disciples of Jesus in the twenty-first century? What kind of commitment do we have to serving our Lord?

January 31
Jonah 1 and 2

Jonah resists God’s plan for his life. We discover that following God’s will is difficult. Some of the time, we ignore God’s plans for us; other times life’s many obstacles can get in our way. Because he has ignored God’s commands, Jonah is thrown into the sea. Jonah expresses pain and lament in the midst of his desperate plight. He eventually leans on his only true hope, God.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Dare County Celebration
Saturday, January 16, 2021
11:00 am

Alternative plans have been made for a community Martin Luther King Jr worship service. The worship service will still take place this year on Saturday, January 16th, at 11:00 am. Ordinarily we have met indoors in Manteo—this year we will meet outdoors at the parking lot of Manteo High School for a drive-up worship service where everyone will be able to remain in their cars and hear the speakers and the prayers.

A Thank-You from
Jody & Jeanne Moore

Thank you!!

Thank you to the members of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church for the many ways that you support Jeanne and me. We are grateful for all of the Christmas cards you sent us and for your prayers. We are also appreciative of the generous donations that you made to the Pastor’s Purse. Thank you so much for your kindness!

Jody & Jeanne Moore
The Adult Sunday School Class continues a study of Comparative Religion. We are using the book 12 Major World Religions by Jason Boyett. In January we have a four week block on Islam. We meet at 8:30 on Sunday mornings via Zoom. Invitations on how to join in on Zoom are included in a weekly class e-mail as well as on the Church Facebook page. Recordings of each week's class are available via secure link, also by e-mail. If you would like to be included on the class e-mail list please contact Tom Carrico at tcarrico24503@gmail.com. Please join us for any or all of these classes! All are welcome!

Here is the schedule for January 2021:

January 3 - No class (Holiday)
January 10 - Life of Muhammad and History of Islam
January 17 - Major Tenets of Islam
January 24 - Liturgical and Ceremonial Practices
January 31 - Muslim Texts and Major Divisions of Islam

2021 Flower Schedule
The sign-up sheet for flowers is now available in the Gathering Space! Placing flowers in the sanctuary is a wonderful way to honor or memorialize a person (s) or to honor a birthday, anniversary, birth or any other special occasion.

Many thanks to the masked elves who transformed our church for the birthday of a king!”

Stewardship & Generosity
On November 15, 2020 we presented to God our pledges for the financial support and ministry of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church. The Stewardship and Generosity Committee thanks you for your expression of gratitude for all that God has given to us and his church and your spirit of generosity. At the time of this newsletter’s printing, our demonstration of stewardship and generosity has resulted in 49 pledging units committing financial resources in the amount of $195,184. If you have not presented your pledge it is not too late and a pledge card is not required. To inform the church about your commitment you may (1) call or email the church office with your pledge amount, or (2) call or email the church’s receiving treasurers Lisa Rhodes (lisarhodesobx@gmail.com; 207-5022) or Becky Lofton-Desanto (bloftondesanto@gmail.com; 480-0724) Our commitment to the mission of this outpost of God’s church is a worthy spiritual aspiration. May God be with us and Outer Banks Presbyterian Church as we seek closer relationship with Him.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be held on Sunday, January 3 during the 10:00 am worship service. Join us as we remember Christ’s ultimate sacrifice on the cross for us.
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**Dr. King Celebration 11:00 am**
**Outreach & Witness**

Despite the fluidness of the pandemic situations, our Witness & Outreach Committee volunteers continue to help the non-profits on the Beach. Our church is blessed with the compassion of its many members and friends.

Ruthie’s Kitchen was closed from March to September. Under new procedures due to the pandemic, Linda Campbell coordinates our many church volunteers who have provided two meals for Ruthie’s Kitchen, between 40 and 60 take-out dinners, this fall. Church members and friends prepare the foods, fill take-out containers, and sit in the parking lot of Son Rise Church to pass out the meals. Gail Leonard, who coordinates with all churches/organizations for Ruthie’s Kitchen, commented to us “Your meal and service was fantastic. I appreciate how everything was packed and bagged.”

Room in the Inn opened its homeless shelter the end of November, under very different circumstances because of the pandemic. They have also incurred additional expenses because of it. They held a take-out lunch fundraiser early December, and have received a grant from the Outer Banks Community Foundation. Our Session sent $200 to RITI, and our committee also sent money. Lynda Wood and Tanta Luckhardt-Hendricks are board members.

The Beach Food Pantry continues to be active, but again, the pandemic changed procedures to protect the clients and the volunteers. Dot Landis has coordinated our many volunteers and the new procedures have worked well. Our committee has also made a monetary donation, and the Youth Group and Boy Scouts collected food donations for the Thanksgiving bags.

Barbara Nock and the Faith Knitters have been busy making shawls to hand out to veterans. 58 shawls were blessed at a church service and given to the VA Hospital in Hampton.

Our special offering in December was the Joy Offering. The Joy Offering offers assistance to current and retired ministers and staff in their time of need. If you forgot or were not able to donate last month, you can still send a donation (every dollar helps!) to the church office. Mark on the memo line “Joy Offering.”

Our church has not had the monthly Pennies for Hunger offering, due to the pandemic. Normally 1/4 goes to the Beach Food Pantry and 1/4 goes to Food for Thought. Food for Thought provides lunches for students, which has now become a daily event due to the pandemic. If you would like to help them with their expenses, you can send a check to Food for Thought, PO BOX 1167, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

**Food for Thought**

Do you remember the collection baskets passed down the rows during the first of the month Sunday worship services? The pandemic has changed that. As a result, one of our treasured charities is hurting. FOOD FOR THOUGHT is an important charity that no longer receives its % of that collection. Yet, this charity is about the students being fed, even in the pandemic, even when they are being schooled remotely. It’s about hopefully developing them as future leaders too. Food for Thought packs lunches for close to 500 students/week! It has doubled its outreach to families that have never needed help before. And, it costs them $275 per student/year. We know that Hunger impacts our students’ ability to learn. We can continue to help fund Food for Thought. As Jesus said, “Suffer the children to come unto me”. Please consider sending an individual donation to:

Food for Thought
PO BOX 1167
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

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In loving memory of
Mrs. Helen C. Beshens
Nov. 22, 1931 ~ Dec. 7, 2020

Funeral services were held, here, at OBPC on Wed., Dec. 16. Helen will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. The funeral service is viewable on the church website if you wish to see the service but were unable attend. Condolences may be left at www.twifordfh.com.
**Presbyterian Women**

The monthly circle meetings for the Presbyterian Women of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church will be held as follows:

**DORCAS CIRCLE / LYDIA CIRCLE**

**Wednesday, January 13, 2020**

The PW Dorcas and Lydia Circles will continue to host joint meetings in 2021. The Bible studies are open to all interested ladies, whether members or not. We study the lessons from “Into the Light”, starting with lesson 5 in January. Both groups meet on second Wednesdays.

10:00 am: In-person meeting in the sanctuary led by Mollie Bass

7:00 pm: Via Zoom led by Maggie Snyder

**FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE CIRCLE**

**Thursday, January 14 | 5:30 pm**

This meeting will be held at the church.

![Food Pantry Logo]

This has been an unusual year for the volunteers at the Food Pantry. The routines have changed many times, not only having to wear masks and gloves to using their cell phones to take and pack orders, to working by appointments only, to working outside under a canopy. Their enthusiastic willingness, flexibility, and kindness has not gone unnoticed. A heartfelt THANK YOU to each of you.

Merry Christmas!

Dot

**2021 Offering Envelopes**

Boxes of 2021 Pledge envelopes for those who requested them are labeled and available on the table in the Gathering Space.

**2021 Pledges**

If you plan to catch up your Pledge promise or give additional donations for 2021 after the beginning of the new year, please do so before as soon as possible.

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**Stated Session News**

**December 8, 2020**

The Session met on December 8, 2020 in the Sanctuary of the church in order to promote social distancing. All persons in attendance wore facial masks. Elders present were Ron Baker, Ron Campbell, Bobby Gentry, Ike McRee, Bob Messinger, Barbara Nock, Barb Nowland, and Judy Whittle. Elder Evelyn Webb was granted an excused absence. Also present was Rev. Dr. Jody Moore, who presided, and Clerk of Session Gary McGee, who prepared a record of the meeting.

Elders-elect Bev Jones and Maggie Snyder were examined and approved. Elder Bobby Gentry had agreed to serve an additional year and was not examined. The Elders-elect will be ordained and installed early to mid-January via a Zoom meeting or at a meeting of the Session.

Dr. Moore appointed committee moderators for 2021 and named Session Liaisons to each committee.

Elders agreed to Greeting Elder assignments for the first quarter of 2021, recognizing that in-person worship might not be held if the Pandemic worsens. Elders serving in 2021 also received tentative copies of Elder Care assignments, and were asked to let the Clerk of Session know if changes are desired.

Session appropriated funds to the following organizations from the Local Benevolence Fund or the Session Outreach Fund: Dare County Saving Lives Task Force--$300, Room in the Inn--$200, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes--$150.

The Session voted to limit meetings of any church or non-church groups meeting at the church to 10 people effective December 13, 2020, unless exceptions are granted by the Session. The policy would not apply to Sunday worship services. AA was authorized to meet multiple times per day with a maximum of 10 people each time, but would only pay a one-time daily fee of $8.00. The Session agreed to continue in-person worship services through the end of December and then re-evaluate whether to revert to virtual, live-streamed services only. The Session agreed that the Christmas Eve service would be virtual only and pre-recorded on December 23 and posted on the church website for viewing on December 24. The Session further postponed the Annual Congregational until the spring, with the provision that an in-person or Zoom meeting of the Congregation would be held on January 24, 2021 for the purpose of approving the Pastor’s Terms of Call. All of these actions were taken in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, which does not seem to be subsiding.

Gary McGee

Clerk of Session