The Nonie H. Booth Music Suite Receives a Special Gift

The Music Ministry of the Outer Banks Presbyterian Church has been blessed once again by the generosity of others. We received a call that the current owners of the old Dupont Estate in Sanderling, Trish and Brian Oliver, had a 4’11” Young-Chang Baby Grand Piano, that they wished to donate to the church, moving expenses included. Jason and Nonie viewed the piano and accepted their offer, contingent upon Session approval. The piano is in pristine physical condition and will only require tuning and a few adjustments by our piano technician. As you can see from the pictures, this instrument is the same polished ebony as our Yamaha Grand in the Sanctuary. The Young-Chang has found its new home in the Music Suite, the upright in the Music Suite has been moved to Fellowship Hall. And in thanksgiving and gratitude for the many ways she now serves our church, the Session approved gifting the Fellowship Hall piano to the Rev. Tanta Luckhardt-Hendricks. Tanta is overwhelmed by this generosity and thrilled to give the piano a loving, new home where it will be well used and played. Talk about Musical Chairs – OBPC just played Musical Pianos, with everyone coming out a winner. Please stop by the Nonie H. Booth Music Suite and see our latest addition to the Music Ministry of OBPC.
We are Thankful for our Willing Volunteers

Elder Schedule
- May 2: Whittle / Baker
- May 9: Webb / McRee
- May 16: Gentry / Whittle
- May 23: Jones / Campbell
- May 30: Webb / Gentry

Flower Schedule
- May 2: Barb Nowland
- May 9: Rosalynn Pugh
- May 16: Available
- May 23: Available
- May 30: Available

Liturgist Schedule
- May 2: Ike McRee
- May 9: Nonie Booth
- May 16: Tanta Luckhardt-Hendricks
- May 23: Barbara Hardy
- May 30: Jeanne Martie

Children’s Church
- May 2: Hollie Writtenberry
- May 9: Hollie Writtenberry
- May 16: Jeanne Moore
- May 23: Hollie Writtenberry
- May 30: Barbara Hardy

May Birthdays
- Jack Abernethy: 1
- Tom Carrico: 1
- Sam Martin: 5
- Jan VanEe: 13
- Robert Snyder: 14
- Jane Smith: 16
- Don Younkin: 17
- Amanda Martin: 19
- Jerry Hale: 20
- Nancy Dod: 21
- Jeannie Kramer: 22
- Megan Munson: 23
- Cathy Hammill: 27
- Carol Jackson: 27
- Ike McRee: 29
- Grace Folds: 30
- Caroline Hastings: 31
- Caroline Lowcher: 31

May Anniversaries
- Mr. & Mrs. Chris Braswell: 6
- Mr. & Mrs. Lyman Futrell: 6
- Mr. & Mrs. Fred Bear: 14
- Mr. & Mrs. Matt George: 15
- Mr. & Mrs. Fred Gauvreau: 21
- Mr. & Mrs. Walter Werner: 23
- Mr. & Mrs. Terry Evans: 27
- Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Hale: 29
A Word from Your Pastor

A little over a year ago, I saw the following quotation from Laura Kelly Fanucci:

When this is over, may we never again take for granted:
• A handshake with a stranger
• Full shelves at the store
• Conversations with neighbors
• A crowded theater
• Friday night out
• The taste of communion
• A routine checkup
• The school rush each morning
• Coffee with a friend
• The stadium roaring
• Each deep breath
• Life itself

When this ends, may we find that we have become more like the people
• We wanted to be
• We were called to be
• We hoped to be
• And may we stay that way
• Better for each other because of the worst.

As many of us have now received the vaccine (I myself am grateful to be fully vaccinated), some of life is returning back to normal, but this hasn't ended as quickly or smoothly as we anticipated when the pandemic first began. In some cases, we are having to discover a new normal where things may not quite be the same as they were before. However, what struck me about her quotation is a sense of gratitude for the many things that we have taken for granted. We often become very comfortable with the way that life is instead of recognizing God's daily mercies. Gratitude is one of the healthiest spiritual qualities we can have because it allows us to experience God's blessings and to look for ways to be a blessing to others.

One opportunity for us to reflect on the past year will be during our annual congregational meeting. That meeting is usually held in January, but the Session decided to delay the meeting until we were meeting in person more regularly to allow for wider participation. That annual congregational meeting will take place after the worship service on Sunday, May 16th. At the meeting, we will also elect our congregational nominating committee, which will be responsible for determining those individuals who are called to serve on our church’s Session.

Pentecost, which is the birthday of the church, will be May 23rd. As I have shared before, Pentecost is our third most important Christian holiday of the year, after only Easter and Christmas. On Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The liturgical color for Pentecost is red, which represents the tongues of fire that descended on the disciples as they received the Holy Spirit. We invite all of you to wear red to worship on May 23rd.

One of our favorite things to do over the years at Outer Banks Presbyterian has been to eat together, but we have not been able to do that over the past year. However, there is a safe way that we plan to share a meal together on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd at 5:00 pm. Our Youth Group will be hosting a Pentecost Picnic where we will serve hamburgers, hot dogs, pre-packaged sides and desserts. Those who prepare the meal will follow all safety protocols and we will eat outdoors as long as the weather permits. The requested donation is $10 per individual and $20 per family and will go to support our youth group’s summer conferences. To go back to the earlier quotation from Laura Kelly Fanucci, I will certainly be especially grateful and will be mindful to not take for granted this opportunity for us to be in fellowship with our church family.

Peace in Christ,
Jody Moore

Sermons for May 2021
The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

May 2, 2021 1st John 4:7-21

For the second consecutive week, we will hear from 1st John. Throughout this book, the focus is on the centrality of love. This week, we hear that God’s very nature itself is love. Because God has loved us so much, we are commanded to love one another.

May 9, 2021 Matthew 28:16-20

As Jesus is preparing to leave his disciples, he offers them the Great Commission, their charge to make disciples of all nations. We, as Christians, are sent to share the Good News, but unfortunately there are many examples of Christians who have tried to gain new converts in thoughtless and insensitive ways. How can we share our faith with confidence, kindness, and sensitivity?

May 16, 2021 1st Corinthians 15:1-8, 51-58

The apostle Paul points to the primary importance of Christ’s death and resurrection and its implications for his followers. Paul observes our Christian hope that death has been swallowed up in Christ’s victory. What does it mean to place our eternal trust in the risen Christ?

May 23, 2021 Acts 2:1-21

On this Pentecost Sunday, we will hear the story of the first Pentecost when the disciples were gathered together and wondering what was next for them. God sends the Holy Spirit to equip them to spread the Gospel. We will discuss the Holy Spirit and its role in our lives as believers. Pentecost is also the day that the church was established. We will consider the ways that God has blessed the church in its 2,000 years of existence.
The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service.

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. 60% of the offering is sent to Presbytery, and is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The remaining 40% stays local and goes to Dare County Friends of Youth. They are a mentoring program that places at-risk youth between the ages of 6-17 with caring adult volunteers who serve as role models and friends.

You can put your donation in the offering plate at church, or send it to the church office (P.O. Box 2199, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948). Please write “Pentecost Offering” on the memo line. The Witness and Outreach Committee thanks you for your support!

Pentecost / Picnic

Don't forget to wear your red to the morning worship service on Sunday, May 23, 2021 as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. The youth will also host a fundraiser picnic that evening at 5:00. See page 6 for details.

Calling all Graduates

We would like to honor our High School or College graduates. If you know of someone graduating, please contact the church office at 441-5897.

In Loving Memory of

Barbara Jones Nock

June 8, 1939 ~ April 6, 2021

The Outer Banks Presbyterian Church is deeply saddened to announce the death of Barbara J. Nock on Tuesday, April 6, 2021. Barbara passed away peacefully at her home in Southern Shores after a very brief battle with cancer. Barbara was very involved in the church she loved so much. She served as an Elder, a member of the Administration Committee, Faith Knitters, Presbyterian Women, and the Evangelism Committee, working with new members, just to name a few.

Funeral services were held at OBPC on April 13 at 10 am with the burial following in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk, VA.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends during this time of loss and grief.

Barbara’s funeral service may be viewed on the church website by going to the “watch services” section under the media tab on our website, www.outerbankspresbyterian.org.

Barbara’s obituary may be found at www.twifordfh.com.
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OBPC Flower Ministry

Reflecting on our church’s Flower Ministry calls to mind Jesus’s Parable of the Loaves and Fish. Just five loaves and two fish miraculously multiplied to feed a hungry multitude!

Watching the growth and outreach of this ministry is yet another instance of God’s multiplying grace! This ministry was born of our Congregational Care Committee’s vision to expand the ministry of inviting folks to donate floral bouquets to be placed in the sanctuary for Sunday worship and other occasions into a new means of outreach and care for those in our church and community.

Since the birthing of this vision in October of 2018, well over 100 individuals and groups have been served.

After each Sunday service large bouquets are carefully rearranged into 6-10 smaller ones, which are distributed to members and friends of the church who are ill, feeling alone during this pandemic, have lost a loved one, or who simply need a concrete reminder of God’s love and presence! Also served are professional people: doctors, nurses, hospital patients and staff whose work often goes unrecognized.

God’s multiplying grace quickly took effect. Four or five individuals volunteered to deliver flowers or Easter lilies, a church bulletin, or a devotional resource most every week! A small card was included reading: “These flowers are a gift from the Outer Banks Presbyterian Church. May God Bless you as you enjoy them!”

As the days grow longer and warmer many of us will be cheered by the weather and a new ability get out and to be with friends and family. But, there will still be those among us who for a short or long period of time will be isolated in a small space and would welcome some cheer!

During this Pandemic there have been many changes in each of our lives accompanied by periods of sheer bewilderment. But, it has been a privilege to watch the Flower Ministry multiply in its outreach, and to see the smiling faces of those who receive a surprise visit and flowers each week!

We deeply appreciate each of those who have sacrificed their time so generously to care for those in our church family and well beyond!

Sincerely, Fran and Craig Peel & Bev Jones

Pentecost Picnic
May 23 at 5:00 PM

Sponsored by OBPC Youth Group
Hot dogs, hamburgers, sides, drinks, & ice cream
Suggested donation $10/person or $20/family
Proceeds benefit Montreat & Massanutten Youth Conference trips this summer
Socially distant outdoor seating & food service provided
Please pre-register on the church website
Presbyterian Women

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

**IN-PERSON PW MEETING**
Wednesday, May 12 | 10:00 am
This meeting will be held in the sanctuary.

**ZOOM PW MEETING**
Wednesday, May 12 | 7:00 pm
This meeting will be held via zoom.
Please contact Maggie Snyder for information on connecting.

OBPC Shirts

There are still golf shirts and sweatshirts available with the OBPC logo on the front and the church motto on the back. They are in the library. The sizes are large and up. If you would like one, please take one. You may make a $10 donation if you would like.

Faith Knitters

The Faith Knitters have diligently kept knitting and crocheting at home during the pandemic. We have been disappointed at not being able to meet, or to be able to distribute the prayer shawls and lap blankets to residents of nursing homes, assisted living facilities and a veteran’s home. Now we have lost our leader, Barbara Nock. It has not been the best year.

We have many beautiful shawls available in lots of colors and styles. We are making efforts to distribute these to as many facilities as possible even though we cannot visit them.

I am now in possession of all the shawls and blankets that were stored at Barbara’s home. If you would like to have a shawl, or know someone else that would like one, please be in touch with me. They need to be used and loved!

Barb Nowland
bnowland2916@embarqmail.com
252-480-0423 or 252-564-2272

The Rev. Tanta Luckhardt-Hendricks is teaching an adult Sunday School class on the Book of Acts of the Apostles. The class began on Sunday, April 18 and will continue each Sunday through June 6. The classes will be held by Zoom at 8:30 on Sunday mornings. Contact Maggie Snyder (571-594-0815) or Karen Lurie (252-619-6144) for the Zoom link. The only book needed is your Bible!
Linda Helmkamp is the unanimous choice of the OBPC to receive the 2021 Outstanding Adult Award. Linda became a member of the OBPC in December of 2006 after “church surfing” along the Outer Banks. She found our church to be immediately welcoming and with members from many different Christian denominations. It fit her well!

Linda has always cared for people, a passion which began with providing in home care to infants and children as soon as she graduated high school. For years, she and her husband led a local Boy Scout Troop in Maryland. When they found that one of their sons was not being academically challenged at school, they didn’t hesitate to move and chose the Outer Banks. He thrived and so did the family.

Linda quickly found her calling at the OBPC in the activities of the Congregational Care Committee (CCC). It responds to needs of church members, friends, and others in the community. Linda quickly became the Co-Moderator of the CCC and she actively recruits new church members and friends to join the group. She also led the early participation of CCC in joining the work of GEM, a community organization which serves people with dementia and their families.

Her favorite activity has been at Peak Resources, a long-term care and rehab facility on the Outer Banks. For years, Linda has faithfully bought donuts for the weekly fellowship and ministry time with residents. She circulates the corridors and gathers residents into the central dining room.

Linda has spearheaded the purchase and delivery of Easter Lilies and Christmas Poinsettias for people who are homebound, lonely, or in nursing homes. When someone suffers a serious illness or death, Linda is quickly there to bring meals and give personal comfort. She has provided many rides for individuals who want to attend church services.

When the coronavirus pandemic stopped in person worship and home visits, Linda joined in the new “Card and Call Ministry,” reaching out to people who may be easily forgotten. Linda is tireless in her service to others. We thank her with this well-deserved award. Congratulations Linda!

Stated Session News

The Session of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, in the Sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. Elders present were Ron Baker, Ron Campbell, Ike McRee, Evelyn Webb, and Judy Whittle. Elders Bobby Gentry and Maggie Snyder attended via Zoom. Elder Bev Jones was granted an excused absence. Rev. Dr. Jody Moore moderated the meeting and Clerk of Session Gary McGee attended to prepare a record of the meeting.

Dr. Moore presented a devotional entitled “All is Well” written by Frederick Buechner and opened the meeting with prayer.

The Session approved the agenda as presented with five (5) additions that will be delineated below.

The Omnibus motion was approved and included minutes of the February 23, 2021 Session meeting, retroactive approval of an e-vote taken on March 28, 2021 authorizing attendance of 60 people at each Easter Sunday Service with Covid-19 restrictions remaining in place, and approval for Alcoholics Anonymous to resume meeting at 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Mondays through Fridays and honoring Covid-19 restrictions and prior Session actions. The Session made minor modifications to Greeting Elder Assignments.

Reports from the Finance Committee were received and reviewed for the months of January and February 2021.

The Session approved a recommendation from the Christian Education Committee that the church youth be allowed to attend in-person a conference at Montreat from July 17-24. The youth can either participate in a larger group or as an Outer Banks church group only due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, such decision to be made in May. Elder Snyder, Session Liaison to Christian Education, asked for approval for a Pentecost Picnic to be held on May 23 at 5:00 p.m. at the church, either outside the church or inside the church if inclement weather was present, both options to be socially distanced. Individuals would give a donation of $10 for individuals and $20 for families. The proceeds will assist the youth group in attending conferences at Montreat and/or Massanetta Springs. The Session approved the Pentecost Picnic. Elder Snyder also asked the Session to approve in-person Vacation Bible School to be held June 28 through July 2 at times of day to be determined, but limited to two hours and adhering to all existing Covid-19 restrictions in place for Dare County Elementary School students. Session approved.

Reports were also received and reviewed from the Congregational Care Committee and the Administration Committee. The Congregational Care Committee reported on its flower ministry and visitations. The Administration
Committee will be meeting with Rev. Andy James of the Presbytery and Youth Director Hollie Writtenberry to discuss the church’s website and make future recommendations to the Session.

Reports were received and reviewed from the Covid-19 Task Force and the ad hoc Medical Team, both of which recommended no changes in current restrictions through Mother’s Day, May 9, 2021, at which time the task force would re-evaluate the Pandemic circumstances and local impacts. The Session amended mask wearing requirements as follows: Church groups of 10 people or less, when all persons present have been fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus, have the option to discuss opting whether or not to wear masks, provided that everyone keeps at least six (6) feet of social distance, which is consistent with new CDC recommendations. On a case-by-case basis, those small gatherings of church members may decide as a group whether they wish to continue wearing their masks only in the event that every single person in that gathering has been fully vaccinated. Otherwise, all existing Covid-19 restrictions continue in place that are consistent with Centers for Disease Control guidelines.

Elder Jones prepared a written report that was received and reviewed by the Session regarding her virtual attendance as a voting commissioner at the 112th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of New Hope. Session members asked about the Matthew 25 initiative that was mentioned in her report and Dr. Moore agreed to get more information about that program at the next Session meeting.

Clerk of Session McGee presented the following as informational items:

- Sessional records for 2019 have been sent to the Presbytery for virtual review.
- 2021 New Hope Presbytery Benevolence Contribution Statement for the church.
- Letter from the Presbytery allocating one (1) voting commissioner at stated meetings.
- “Thank you” letter from the Presbyterian Historical Society for a $50 contribution.
- “Thank you” letter from Montreat Conference for a $150 contribution.
- “Thank you” letter from Massanetta Springs for a $150 contribution.

The Session approved a $250 donation to be sent to the Presbytery to honor Executive Presbyter Stated Clerk Rev. Ted Churn upon his retirement. Dr. Moore said he plans to participate in a video collage tribute for Rev. Churn. A gathering will be held on June 12 at First Presbyterian Church in Wilson for those who want to attend and who make advance reservations.

Session approved a recommendation from the Administration Committee that Church Office Manager Cathie Feild be granted unpaid leave from May 17 through June 4, after exhausting her accumulated paid leave. She will seek volunteers to staff the office during her absence.

Trish and Brian Oliver of Sanderling and Oak Hill, VA offered to donate a used 4’11” Young Chang Baby Grand Piano to the church. The Session accepted the donation. Session also discussed and agreed to offer to Rev. Tanta Luckhardt-Hendricks an older upright piano now used in the Fellowship Hall, if she wants it.

In final business, Dr. Moore opined regarding:

- Elder Barbara Nock’s Memorial Service on April 13, 2021.
- Needs of the Evangelism Committee that Elder Nock moderated.
- Calling a Session meeting in May to receive new members
- Encouraged the elders to have conversations with church committees to which they serve as liaisons about which ministries to resume, begin or cease in view of the Pandemic and in view of the increasing number of church members that are becoming fully vaccinated.
- His desire to restart Bible Studies on Tuesday afternoons this summer, which could also be done both in person in the sanctuary and via Zoom to allow for broader participation.
- His personal pastoral care needs and his intent to take a vacation the week of May 30 through June 4, as well as some time-off during his move to a new residence in early May.

The Session concluded the meeting with prayers that included prayers of thanksgiving, intercession for each other and members and friends of the church.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. with the announced intent to meet again on June 15, 2021 at 4:00 p.m., which will constitute a combined May/June stated meeting.
A Special Prayer (Written by: Meg Peery McLaughlin, Co-Pastor, University Presbyterian Church)

Usually, when we mark the earth’s full rotation around the sun, it is with cake and cards, and a rousing tune of Happy Birthday to you! Or it’s when, we watch the ball drop and pop bubbly, kiss a loved one whispering Happy New Year.

God, this is different. The orbit is complete, the countdown back to zero, but Happy isn’t our word—it’s something more like oof, or ouch.

To be honest with you, we’re not altogether sure how we made it through this year, and we grieve – oh we grieve – that so, so many didn’t. It’s hard to make sense of that, God.

We still don’t know when this losing-track-of-days time will end, and we don’t know what “back to normal” will look like (because surely it won’t be normal), but we do know this: from the rising of the sun to its setting, your name is to be praised and you are the alpha and omega, beginning and end.

So we thank you God for showing up this past year: on screens and in silence, through frontline workers and facetime calls with grandparents, in our worship and wonder at your creation, in the dismantling and deconstruction of all that detracts from your way.

And we trust that you will be present as we start the rotation once again: you’ll be present in the joy at vaccine selfies and the backpacks finally worn by students, you’ll be present in the tears that are released when we once again sing our alleluias.

We pray this in the name of Jesus the Christ,

Amen.