- To magnify and glorify God in worship, prayer and praise.
- To fellowship, nurture and disciple all members and visitors in the ways of life based on Biblical teachings.
- To take Jesus Christ, His Word, and His Love to all people in our community and the world.


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Every culture has some way of marking the passing of time. Seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years, and so on. How people mark the passing of time says something about who they are. For example, while technically summer begins at the summer solstice and ends at the fall equinox, we often mark summer from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. However, if an Englishman asked an American when summer begins and ends and the American said, "From Memorial Day to Labor Day," chances are that the Englishman would likely not know the points of reference. These two holidays are American and not British.

Historically the Christian Church has had its own calendar and marked the year accordingly. Christmas, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, and the other days and seasons of the year are the way the Church has marked the passing of time. At the time of the Reformation, there was quite a lot of conflict within our own Reformed tradition about how time would be marked. On one side were the Puritans who refused to observe any day other than Sunday as the Lord's Day, arguing that things like Advent and Lent (and Christmas and Easter) were not "biblical" nor were they commanded by Scripture to be observed. Other Reformed Protestants simplified the Church Year, retaining days like Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost, calling them the "Evangelical Feast Days." By this, they meant that these days ought to be celebrated because they recalled and marked Gospel events, events at the center of the Gospel story, and so worthy of commemoration. Lutherans and Anglicans retained even more of the traditional Church Calendar, though they did curtail the number of feast days and seasons from the medieval Roman Catholic calendar.

Over time, however, even those churches, influenced by the Puritan rejection of all feast days other than the weekly Lord's Day, found "special" days creeping into the Church's calendar. I grew up in a tradition where there was little observance of the Church year (with the exception of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost). But in the meantime, in our "conservative" congregation, other days crept in: Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July. These were days from the secular calendar. Over time, people simply assumed, without much reflection, that these days should be celebrated, even as these same folks would have condemned Lent and Advent for being "unbiblical". Indeed, I remember churches whose Fourth of July Celebrations dwarfed anything that they did on Easter!

[^0]While the days of the Church Year remain something for ongoing conversation among and within various Christian denominational traditions, they are helpful ways of marking time, of giving time another, a deeper, meaning than simply what the secular calendar gives. We have just come through the celebration of Easter. The late spring brings us three days that all too often are forgotten. Ascension Day falls this year on Thursday, May 9 (forty days after Easter), which we and many churches recognize the following Sunday. On this day the Church marks the Ascension of our Lord into heaven after he had completed his work of redemption on earth. The Sunday following Ascension Sunday is Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles and the ancient Church. The Sunday following Pentecost is Trinity Sunday, a day designated as a celebration of one of the central and essential doctrines of Christian faith, the doctrine of the Trinity. While one might object that every Sunday is Trinity Sunday (which is true, given that the Triune God is worshiped and celebrated every Lord's Day), the same could be said for Christmas and Easter. Every Lord's Day we celebrate the reality of the Incarnation and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

But it is a helpful thing to have these days, to mark them, and to celebrate them. At the very least, they remind us that as Christians we live by something more than the secular calendar. Time, our time, has been invaded and claimed by God in Jesus Christ. So let us "keep time" together, Sunday by Sunday, throughout the whole year.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Walter L. Taylor

April 7: Luke 24:13-35: The Breaking of the Bread: On the night of that first Easter, Jesus reveals himself to two of his disciples at a meal in order to teach them how he will make himself known to his disciples in the future.
265 Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain
Insert Come, Risen Lord, and Deign to Be Our Guest
706 Jesus Reigns and So Shall I
April 14: Matthew 7:15-23: False Prophets: Jesus warns his followers not to believe everyone who makes use of his name, but to be on guard for false prophets.
115 All Creatures of our God and King
302 Come, Christians, Join to Sing
441 Jesus Shall Reign
April 21: Matthew 7:24-27: Built on the Rock: Jesus ends his sermon with a parable about foundations, and the necessity of being built upon him as the foundation of our faith and life.
342 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
163 At the Name of Jesus
347 The Church's One Foundation
April 28: Matthew 7:28-8:4: The Authority of Jesus: Jesus begins to reveal his authority to his disciples, both in teaching and in action, as a statement and revelation about who he is.
166 Wondrous King, All-Glorious
303 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word
453 All Authority and Power

## Donna Winrich Choir Director <br>  <br>  <br> What a blessing to direct the OIEPC choir - a fun and talented group, dedicated to leading in worship and praising our Lord and Savior! When I started conducting here in 2022, I was mentored by the very talented Lynne Barmore, who selflessly served as the director. When Kent and I moved to Oak Island we were instantly taken with this congregation, the preaching of the Word, and the music program. I have sung in church choirs since I was four years old, and lettered in choral music in high school. I studied voice in college and have a minor in opera performance, but got my degree in Business, enjoying my career and singing, directing church choirs for over 45 years. <br> We would love to have you join us! <br> This is the sweetest, most non-judgmental group l've ever worked with. And do we ever have fun! <br> Come talk to me if you'd like to give the choir a try. <br> It's easier than you think! donna.winrich@gmail.com <br> We moved to OKI in 2021 and I wanted to be a part of the worship service. I have sung with choirs for 10 years and enjoy being a Bass. Since I was 12, I love music, particularly brass instruments. I played jazz and classical, primarily on the trombone. I also enjoyed playing French horn, baritone and tuba. <br> Joining the OIEPC choir can get you over your fear of performing, and free you up to just enjoy the music and worship! You don't have to be a virtuoso. Choir practice is a fun and welcome break in the middle of my work week. <br> 



Next Communion: Sunday, May 5


Mary Margaret



Our Mission is to Pray! Be a Prayer Partner for a Team Member. Sign up, Support our Team! Sign up sheets will be in the narthex, the fellowship hall and office until April 7th. You will receive your team partner's name by the 7th.
The team will be commissioned during the worship service on April 7th. They depart April 11 th.

Pray for their preparation, safe travel, their work at Cornerstone, all whom God intends them to meet on this journey, that they are a blessing and are also blessed to His glory:



Pastor Walter L Taylor

It is widely believed that the doctrine of election or predestination is an oddity of Calvinism and the Reformed/Presbyterian Churches. The reality is different however. This doctrine first appeared in the Bible itself. The 5th century bishop and theologian, Augustine worked out the doctrine in the early church; all the medieval theologians and major Reformers held it; and it is also written into the creeds of Episcopalian and Lutheran churches. Nowadays, the doctrine of election or predestination raises many questions. What is it? What does it mean? What does the Bible say about election or predestination?

During six weeks we will join RC Sproul as he carefully explores what predestination actually is, and explains the meaning of God's sovereignty in the work of redemption and shows how it relates to the will of man. During each session we will watch a video and then we will have time for questions and discussion. RC Sproul is an engaging speaker, and he explains things in a way that is easy to follow, but not at all simplistic, so plan on joining us!


If you have lost a loved one or loved ones, you know that grief is a difficult and painful process. Our GriefShare Support Group is for people like you, dealing with the death of a family member or friend. GriefShare provides a safe, welcoming place where you will be among people who understand the difficult emotions of grief. Over 13 weeks, you will find relief and comfort as you learn what to expect in the days ahead and how to navigate your personal grief process. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you will learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability - and gain solid support each step of the way.

Topics include how to manage grief-related emotions such as:
Loneliness, anxiety, sadness, anger, regret; how to cope with the changes in your life and relationships, how to recognize what is normal in grief and what to do if you feel stuck or hopeless.

At a weekly meeting, you will view a video featuring respected counselors, teachers, and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics. Afterwards, we have time for sharing, support, and personal application of what you learned in the video. You will receive a book to take home filled with valuable exercises for navigating your personal grieving process. There is a $\$ 20.00$ fee for the GriefShare book.

GriefShare is led by facilitators Walter and Agnes Taylor, and Allison Pickard. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Agnes Taylor at 910-278-9741 or go to Griefshare.org. To register for the group, go to GriefShare.org, locate our church through "Find a Group," and our church's group will pop up. Click on our group and it will give you all our information, plus a button to register for our group. Once we have accepted your registration, you will be able to access lots of useful information on the GriefShare website. You will also be able to watch the video of the previous Sunday in case you missed that day, or you would like to see it again. You can sign up for comforting daily emails and find many helpful articles.


Look at our wonderful new handrail made by: Property Up-keepers: Bob, Jim, and Marshall

- OIEPC offers two Bible Studies for women which provide a wonderful opportunity to get to know the Bible better, while enjoying the fellowship of a small group.

Contact: Agnes Taylor 910) 278-9741. It is never too late to join!


Gather: Monday Night's 7:00 PM/Disciples Room
At present, the group is studying the Old Testament wisdom book of Proverbs.
Did you know Proverbs still has a lot to say to us today?
You can join this study at any time. It is never too late. Bring your Bible and come to the church on Monday evening at 7:00 PM to enjoy the small group fellowship, laughter, and discussion!

Books and Cotter
Do you enjoy reading, studying, and discussing books that help you grow in your faith and knowledge? Join Books and Coffee!
Gather: Tuesday mornings 10:00 AM/Disciples Room
Currently, Books and Coffee is studying "Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation," by Nancy Guthrie together. Discover that Revelation is NOT a book of terror, but a book full of hope and blessing. Nancy Guthrie is a wonderful, gifted Bible teacher who reveals many wonderful and yes, comforting, truths about this challenging book of the Bible.

## 

## Oak Island EPC

## You-Night! (Unite!) <br> Saturday Evening, May 11 6:30 to 8:30pm, Fellowship Hall

You-Night! will be two hours of compelling, amusing, delightful, and intriguing stories from among our Oak Island EPC members and regular attenders! We've heard many great stories one-on-one; so we thought what could be better than to share all the intrigue with one another?

We are looking for twenty individuals to tell a personal or human-interest story; perhaps an uncommon circumstance or happening, a predicament, an adventure, a historical event, a conversion experience, anything unique that you could share with all of us. 5 minutes maximum! So we are looking for quick, concise content. (Anyone going over five minutes be denied access to the dessert table! :)

We will orchestrate the evening to be fast-paced, but also informal, casual and fun. To enhance the storytelling, we'll project supplemental photos up front (where possible). We'll have an array of extraordinary desserts. And we'll have drawings for two door prizes (sure to be appreciated by anyone!)

We are aiming to have a total attendence of at least 50 congregants. So even if you do not participate in the storytelling, come and join in for a good time of fellowship and getting to know the folks around you! (We'll finish for sure by 8:30pm.)

Why are we having this event?

- That our hearts may be encouraged, "knit together" in love. Colossians 2
- Let us consider how to stir up one another to love \& good works. Hebrews 10
- To have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, tender hearts. Philippians 2

To participate with a story, contact either Agnes Taylor or Charles Bogardus. (Our contact information is in the church directory.)

We will have sign-up sheets for dessert the week prior to You-Night!


## Crildren's <br> Chulich

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY?

No, we do not have children in the Nursery or in Children's Church every Sunday, but whenever we do we want to be able to welcome them with open arms and provide a safe space for them! We need YOUR help to provide this important ministry to children and their families!

Sign up to help in the NURSERY a couple of Sundays! There is an orange sign-up sheet on the small bulletin board right next to the Nursery. Pick a Sunday and sign up! You will assist our Nursery provider Keena Knox. She will take care of picking up kids and changing diapers, so you can simply enjoy them!

Or how about assisting with CHILDREN'S CHURCH? We have three teachers in place, plus two assistants which means we only need one more assistant to complete the team!!!!

Our Children's Church teams use a rotating schedule. Each team is prepared to lead Children's Church two Sundays in a row and is then four Sundays off. Team members are always able to switch Sundays if needed. Assistants do not have to prepare anything, but provide assistance where needed, while fulfilling the requirement to have two adults (18 and older) present at any children's ministry.

Do you want more information? Are you willing to fill that LAST Children's Church spot?
Contact our Assistant Pastor, Agnes Taylor, at 910-278-9741 and she will be happy to talk to you.



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { CLOSED } \\ \text { EFOR } \\ \text { EASTER } \end{gathered}$ | 2 10:00 Books \& Coffee 6:30 Inissions Committee | 3 9:30 BSF <br> 3:00 Choir Practice | 4 | 5 8:00 Emmaus 12:30 Nuture Committee |  |
| $\begin{array}{ll} 7 & \text { 9:15 Sundayschool } \\ \text { 10:30 } & \text { Worship and } \\ & \text { Communion } \\ 4: 00 & \text { Grief.Share } \end{array}$ | 8 11:00 Mathas's Circle <br> 7:00 Women's Bible Study | 9 <br> 10:00 Books \& Coffee | 10 9:30 BSF 1:00 Crat Cluo 3:00 Choir Pracice 4:00 Deacon's Il eeting | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9:15 SundaySchool 10:30 Worship 4:00 GriefShare | 15 <br> 7:00 Women's Bible <br> Study | 16 <br> 9:00 Finance Committee 10:00 Books \& Coffee | 17 9:30 BSF <br> 3:00 Choir Practice | 18 | 19 8:00 Emmaus | 20 |
| 21 9:15 SundaySchool 10:30 Worship <br> 4:00 Griefihare | 22 <br> 7:00 Session <br> 7:00 Women's Bible <br> Study | $23$ <br> 10:00 Books \& Coffee | 24 9:30 BSF <br> 1:00 Crat Club <br> 3:00 Choir Practice | 25 | 26 <br> 6:00 p.m. -9 p.m. <br> FortCasvell <br> Church Retreat | 27 <br> 7:30 a.m. -5 p.m. <br> Fort Casvell <br> Church Retreat |
| 28 9:15 SundaySchool 10:30 Worship <br> 4:00 Griefihare | 29 <br> 7:00 Women's Bible Study | 30 <br> 10:00 Books \& Coffee |  |  |  |  |

## MONTHLY REPORTS OF ALLCONTRIBUTIONS

MAR 2024

MAR:
Contributions Received Year To Date For General Funds
\$ 81,102

Budgeted Monthly
$\$ 28,667$

General Fund Contribution For March 2024
\$ 28,817

Special Funds Contributions

Bob Howard Memorial
Easter Sharing
Human Needs
Misc. Funds
Scholarship Fund
Scott Fogle - Netherlands
SOIF
Paths of Hope
Roof Repl

| $\$$ | 2,013 |
| ---: | ---: |
| $\$$ | 875 |
| $\$$ | 135 |
| $\$$ | 10 |
| $\$$ | 50 |
| $\$$ | 100 |
| $\$$ | 10 |
| $\$$ | 1,000 |
| $\$$ | 5,536 |

Total Special Funds

Total All Funds Received in March 2024
\$ 9,729
\$ 38,546

Does not include this Sunday's offering 3/31/24.


Nursing/Rehabilitation Homes:
$\frac{\text { Terra Bella. Southport }}{\text { Gene Stark }} \quad \frac{\text { Trinity Grove Rehab. Wilmington }}{\text { John Connelly }} \quad \frac{\text { Southport Health \& Rehab Ctr. }}{\text { Suzan Fogle }}$

Our homebound, hospitalizations, those suffering with longsterm illnesses, and other prayer requests:
Jennifer Davis (daughter of Phyllis Hendrick) and Bill Brown (son-in-Iaw of Phylis Hendrick); Chris DeArios, David Breeden (son-in-law of Eleanor Whitworth, colon cancer;, Mavinin and Betsy, Hamer, Pat Kelly; Eleanor: Whitworth; Koos Sierat (Agnes Taylor's father), Dementia; Carol Beatty, (Jane Moore's sister) back problems; Robbie Yoder, (nephew-in-law of Suzan Fogle in Ohio) Covid and liver failure; Gavle Crabtree, (Ken Eagge's sister in Pawley's sland), colon cancer:Allen Walts; Betty Coe; George Title, (ALS); ;oAnn Staat; Reva Riddle: Don Dysterhouse; BobbyAllison (brother of Ann Johnson) diagnosed with cancer; Loulis Pery (friend of Bob and Jane Wydra), treatment for prostate cancer; Mary Ann Whitey (friend of Eagle family) undergoing cancer treatment; Butch King (friend of Dave Loetherf; Doris Brozell, cancer treatment; Jenny Muse: Linda Robinson, (mother of Lisa Mililigan), undergoing cancertreatment; Family of Michael Archuleta (friend of Tom and Rebecca Janis), killed in a hit \& run; Karen Geller (cousin of David and Paula Paxton), diagnosed with lung cancer; Mary Snead; Bob Black, recovery from illness; Ann Love, recovery from broken ankle; Stephanie Summerin and family, Martha Chapmon (friend of Ann Hunt Smith), undergoing chemo for pancreatic cancer, Sandi Winstead, dealing with chronic asthma.

Personnel: Sue Jones and Bill Neeb are chairs. Draft policies have been sent to committees for review and comment. There is an effort to increase the accuracy of staff calendars for planning purposes. Computer problems are being investigated to determine the cause of the issues and then solutions will be determined. 'Younite' fellowship time is scheduled for May 11th. The committee is reaching out to congregants who are willing to share a story about themselves during a 5 -minute time allocation.

Nurture/Education: Charles Bogardus is chair. The Adult Sunday school class has completed its study of 1st Peter. The next study will be a 6 -week video program by R.C. Sproul entitled Chosen by God. Plans are in place for the church retreat on Friday April 26 and Saturday April 27 at Caswell Beach.

Missions Committee: Mary Margaret Carman is chair. Five team members are scheduled to go to Cornerstone Bible College where Scot Fogle serves as principal in the Netherlands. The team will assist as needed and have activities with students and families.

Outreach: David Paxton is chair. Ten people have expressed interest in joining this committee. The committee will meet soon to discuss ways to expand and improve outreach. David plans on attending a seminar called Sharing the Gospel with Clarity, Confidence and Compassion at Englewood Presbyterian Church.

Worship: Don Hammersla is chair. Communion on Maundy Thursday evening will be served from the tables. Ken Eagle, Charles Bogardus and Don Hammersla will assist with communion at the Thursday service. Ken Eagle Charles Bogardus and David Paxton will assist with communion on Sunday April 7th.

Stewardship: Ken Eagle is Chair. Kyle Polak from 1st Citizen's bank met with the committee to discuss details of loan proceedings and other services offered through the bank. The church will reintroduce the practice of taking a collection for the Human Needs fund on the 1st Sunday of each month. The church will reintroduce the practice of taking a collection for the Scholarship Fund on every 5th Sunday in a month. Due to recent damage from a water fountain leak in the fellowship area, a plan will be developed to remove the damaged carpet and replace it with vinyl matching the dining area.

Communications: Charles Bogardus chair. Charles will submit a photo and an article to the Sate Port Pilot newspaper highlighting the Church Cantata held on Sunday March 24th.

Scholarship: No chair at this time.
Board of Deacons: The committee continues to work on numerous projects on the church grounds as well as plans regarding refurbishments of the building.

Clerks Report Nothing to report.
Presbytery Report: At least two session members plan to attend the Presbytery meeting in Florence SC on April 2627 with Rev. Dr. Walter Taylor.

Pastors Report/concerns: Rev. Dr. Walter Taylor will use continuing education hours allotment to attend Mercersburg Society Conference and The Earth and Science Conference in Raleigh NC.

Rev. Dr. Walter Taylor updated session on death of Buck Matthews and recapped the impact of Buck's service as well as his late wife Helens service to the church. The prayer request needs list was also reviewed. Susan Fogle is residing at the at the Southport Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pattricia Bressler, Clerk of Session

If you have a need or prayer request, please call the church office or email us.

# Prayer 

 This will allow your prayer requests to be shared universally with your church family. Due to privacy laws, hospital admission information is not available to your pastor. Thank you.
## REQUESTS

 Functions as a safety net for members and regular attenders of OIEPC who need emergency assistance. For example, overdue rent or mortgage payments or utility bills for those who are facing eviction, foreclosure, or cutoff" due to a short-term situation that has impacted the ability to pay. Through contributions to Southport Oak Island
| Interchurch Fellowship, the Human Needs Program also assists homeless families with locating shelter, providing - counseling, finding employment, and managing expenses. Many families receiving help through the Human Needs - Program are living below the poverty level.

Recent disbursements from the Human Needs Program included:
\$2,000: November 2023, Southport Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship

- \$2,090: January 2024, assistance for members of OIEPC
- The current balance in the Human Needs Account is $\$ 2,424.74$. The Stewardship and Finance Committee recommends maintaining a balance of between $\$ 4,000$ and $\$ 5,000$.

Please consider the Human Needs Program when making contributions to OIEPC.
Yours in Christ,

- OIEPC Stewardship and Finance Committee


Evangelichl Prssebteran Church Let them give glory to the Lord, and declare his praise in the coastlands.

## Pestar

Assistant Pastor for Nurture \& Education
Boolkeeper
Office Administrator
Director of Music
Pienist/Organist
Nursery Coordinator
Custodian


Rev. Dr. Walter Taylor
Rev. Agnes Taylor
Michael Byers
Sherry Hardison
Donna Winrich
Ann Myers
Keena Knox
Rodney Ashley

## Church OffeeHors

Monday-Thuslay. 8.30..... 12 12.30...... 910) 2789741

Fax 910) 2784979 ww.oipres.org Email: oakislandpc@gmail.com
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oakisland pc@gmail.com
donna.winrich@gmail.com


[^0]:    $\sim$ Continued on page $2 \sim$

