



October



Oak Isl and Evangelical Presbyterian Church

~ From Our Pastor ~

Be an Organ Donor!

Our new organ will arrive the week of October 20. Our new organ is made by an English organ company, Makin, and will be a fully digital organ. What that means is that you will hear a noticeably different sound from our new Makin organ than what we are presently hearing from our older analog organ. Our present organ was made around 1983, and since then the technology of church organs has come a long way.

A “digital” organ is an instrument that makes use of digital recordings of actual organ pipes taken from different organs. Since the organ we are purchasing is made by an English company, all of the pipe sounds are digital recordings of English pipe organs. Our new organ is gently used, being 6 years old, and has been in the showroom of the R. A. Daffer Organ company in Jessup, Maryland. It has been used, from time to time, as a rental organ (for church events, usually, when an organ was not on the premises—as for church conventions, etc.), and once as temporary replacement organ for a church while they awaited the arrival of their new organ. This is the reason that the price of this organ was \$35,000, well less than half of the retail cost! To get an instrument like this at this price is a blessing. In addition, it is hard even for “experts” to distinguish between the sounds made by an actual pipe organs and made by digital organs.

But why invest in an organ anyway?

The organ, in various forms, is one of the most ancient musical instruments, going back to the days of the ancient Greeks, who used water organs for their public music. It seems that organs began being used in Christian worship somewhere around 900 A.D. The organ is a versatile instrument that mimics the sounds of so many other instruments. Our Makin Windermere organ, for example, has over fifty (50) “stops,” each represented by a draw knob that the organist can pull to engage. Each stop controls a different sound. On a traditional pipe organ, each stop controls a certain set of pipes.

The organ also, perhaps better than any other instrument, mimics the human voice. This is why the organ has been used in Christian worship for more than a thousand years in churches of all different denominations and traditions. The organ accompanies and encourages singing better than any other instrument. Like the voice, the sound is produced by air, unlike the “percussive” sound of a piano, which makes its sound when a hammer hits a piano string. In fact, one of the stops on our new organ is called the “Vox Humana”, the “human voice,” which is an attempt to mimic the sound of the human voice.

Once our new organ is installed in place, it will then be “voiced.” What this means is that its sounds will be adjusted to best fit the acoustics of our sanctuary. It has been said that when an organist plays, he or she is not only playing the instrument, but “playing the room” itself. This, again, is part of the versatility of the organ.

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The total cost of our new organ, including a “sequencer,” (something you’ll hear more about) with sales tax (which we will get back from the state) is just under \$39,000. As I am writing this, we have had contributions a little over \$25,000. Would you consider contributing to the organ fund (and thus become an “organ donor” for Oak Island EPC)? If you would like to write a check, please write on the memo line “Organ Fund”, and it will be so designated.

I look forward to hearing the sound of our new digital organ used in the worship and praise of God here at Oak Island Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Walter L. Taylor

Makin Windermere 3-45 Organ



Upcoming
Communion:
November 2



**November
Newsletter**

**DEADLINE:
October 15**

October Worship



I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; Let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! (*Psalms 34 :1-4*)

October 5

Matthew 25:14-30: "Parable of the Talents"

What are we to do with the gifts that God has entrusted to us? This parable of Jesus teaches us that we are to live in faithful service to God, using well what he has given us, for ultimately it all belongs to him.

Hymns: 324 Christ Is Coming
 432 We Give Thee But Thine Own
 434 Lord, Thou Lov'st the Cheerful Giver

2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the meeting of the Council of Nicea, the first "Ecumenical Council" of the ancient Church, out of the which the Nicene Creed began to take shape. In the coming weeks, our sermons will be based on the major teachings of the Creed, which is but a summary of what Holy Scripture teaches us to believe.

October 12

Nicene Creed: We Believe: Unlike the Apostles' Creed, which begins with the words "I believe," the Nicene Creed begins with the words "We Believe." But what does it mean to believe? Where does faith come from? What difference does it make for our lives?

Hymns: 570 Faith of Our Fathers
 705 I Know Whom I Have Believed
 111 This Is My Father's World

October 19

Nicene Creed: Father and Maker of All: The Nicene Creed begins with the confession that God is our "Father" and our "Maker". Why is this such an important part of Christian faith?

Hymns: 92 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
 120 All Things Bright and Beautiful
 125 Let All things Now Living

October 26

One Little Iota: Is Jesus Christ of the same substance (or nature) as the Father, or is he of a similar substance (or nature) as the Father? In the original Greek text of the Nicene Creed, this difference came down to one letter, the letter iota, essentially the same as our letter "i". Yet, this was the central debate at the Council of Nicea. What difference did it make? All the difference in the world, and in the world to come, you might say. At the heart of the matter was the issue of whether Jesus was God Incarnate or not.

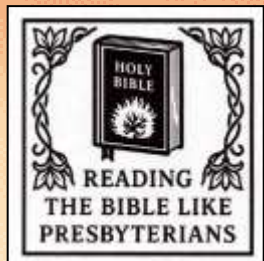
Hymns: 162 Of the Father's Love Begotten
 163 At the Name of Jesus
 103 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

OIEPC Adult Sunday School Schedule

Sunday, October 5 through October 26

9:15 to 10:00 a.m.

Pastor Walter Taylor



When it comes to reading the Bible, different denominations and church traditions approach it differently. While one often hears the claim that someone "just teaches the Bible and the Bible alone," the fact is that it is more complicated than that. The Bible is not an "easy" book. It comes to us from different times, different places, and covers a long span of history. It was written in languages very different from our own. One of the blessings of being a Presbyterian

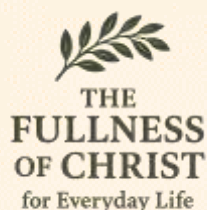
(which is a part of the Reformed Tradition) is that we are a part of a living theological tradition, one that takes education seriously.

This class will be a 4-week Sunday School on how to read the Bible and make sense of it. Pastor Taylor will lay out some of the guidance the best of the Reformed Tradition gives us about reading Scripture, and where our Reformed Tradition differs from other ways of reading the Bible that are common in America today (for example, "Dispensationalism," made all too popular by the "Left Behind" series.) Come and join us and let us explore the Bible as we learn how to "rightly divide the Word of Truth."

Sunday, November 2 through December 14

9:15 to 10:00 a.m.

Charles Bogardus



In this 8-week Fall Sunday School class, we will uncover how our faith in Christ and the Scriptures provides a reliable resource for providing what everyone needs in their everyday lives. These Scriptural provisions will be compared to the temporal and shallow offerings of the world, and show that it is ultimately Jesus Christ who offers the most abundant life.

November 2 - Freedom
 November 9 - Peace
 November 16 - Hope
 November 23 - Identity
 November 30 - Satisfaction
 December 7 - Meaning
 December 14 - Community

Sunday, November 9

Dirk Mroczek



Oak Island EPC

Pre- Service Prayer

Starting Sunday, September 28

10:05 a.m.—10:20 a.m.



After Sunday School, we will commence a regular group prayer meeting. Given the brevity of this meeting, our prayers will be laser-focused on God's glory, the purity of worship, and the edification of the saints. With the worship service in mind, we will pray for:

1. God-Honoring Worship
2. The Preaching of the Word
3. The Congregation's Hearts
4. Repentance and Humility
5. The Work of the Holy Spirit
6. Love & Unity Within the Body
7. Local Evangelistic Reach of the Church & for the Nations

Everyone is invited to join us: elders, deacons, church members & regular attenders. Whether you've previously participated in a church prayer meeting, or not; please join us, even if only to pray silently. We will keep these two Scripture verses in mind:

Psalm 29:2 - *"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness."*

Hebrews 12:28 - *"Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe."*



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

On Monday, September 15, we began another study by Kristi McLeland, *"Luke in the Land: Walking with Jesus in His First Century World"*.

With this new study, we will travel through Israel in video sessions filmed in Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem,

and more to see the gospel story in a whole new way. We will gain a deeper understanding of stories of Jesus's life from a first-century point of view and explore cultural and historical concepts that will give new perspective on well-known biblical stories. Kristi McLeland will deepen the way we read the accounts of Jesus. We will spend a couple of weeks exploring each chapter together.

It is never too late to join! Buy a book (Amazon, Christian Book Distributors) and join us this Fall! You will be surprised how many new insights you will gain! Contact Rev. Agnes Taylor @ 910-278-9741.



BOOKS AND COFFEE



Our Books and Coffee group resumed meeting on Tuesday, September 30th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Disciples Room. We will continue our in-depth study of Nancy Guthrie's book *"Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation"*.

Blessed covers the full text of the book of Revelation, exploring its call to patient endurance as God's sovereign plans for judgment and salvation are worked out in the world. This book shows that Revelation is less about when Jesus will return and more about who we are to be, what we are to do, and what we can expect to endure as we wait for Jesus to return to establish his kingdom in the new creation.

With a friendly and engaging tone, *Blessed* takes the fear, intimidation, and confusion away from studying Revelation, providing a solid and accessible resource that we can use to study this important yet often avoided book.

The group does not meet every Tuesday, but whenever our busy schedules allow us to gather. We invite you to join us on a journey to discover the blessings of the book of Revelation! For meeting dates, contact: Rev. Agnes Taylor @ 910-278-9741.



Martha's Circle

*invites members and friends to a reception for:
Pastor Walter Taylor and Assistant Pastor Agnes Taylor*

*Pastor Appreciation Day
Sunday, October 12
~ After Church Service ~*

*Appetizers and desserts for the reception are welcome
as well as donations for our Pastors.*

Prayer Requests

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

All urgent prayer requests will then be shared through email to all church members. 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.

PANCAKE *Breakfast*

FREE

**Men's Fellowship
Saturday, October 11
8 - 9 a.m.
Disciple's Room**

**FREE**

Is This You? Come Find Out!



The Men's Fellowship will be having a pancake breakfast on Saturday, October 11 in the Fellowship Disciple's Room from 8 to 9 AM. All men of the church are invited! Enjoy our free breakfast and fellowship.

FREE

You never know who you'll meet or the topic's of discussion. Contact: Dirk Mroczek

[WILL YOU HOST A FELLOWSHIP TIME?](#)

Do you enjoy our Fellowship Time after the worship service, and the opportunity it gives to connect with others in our congregation? Why not sign up to be the host for one of our Fellowship Times? Or how about co-hosting it with someone else?

You would be responsible for providing some simple goodies (a plate of cookies will do just fine!), and if needed some beverages to be enjoyed during our time of fellowship. Need help with the coffee maker?

No problem! *Lisa Milligan* or *Agnes Taylor* will be happy to assist you!

[OUR NURSERY NEEDS YOU !!](#)

We may not have little ones in our Nursery on a weekly basis, but when they and their parents join us for worship, we would like to be able to welcome them with open arms in a safe, welcoming environment!

We are blessed to have a beautiful, well-equipped Nursery, plus a wonderful, experienced Nursery Worker, Keena Knox, but what we do NOT have are enough volunteers to assist Keena.

For reasons of legal liability, we NEED to have two adults over 18 in the Nursery if we have a child or children, so the future of our Nursery depends on our congregation members. If there are no children on the Sunday you signed up for, you will be able to return to the Sanctuary.

Will you be a blessing to families with young children?
There is a sign-up sheet on the small bulletin board right next to the Nursery.

Let's fill the open slots together!
Thank you.



Men's Morning

Bible Study and Discussion

Wednesday, October 8, Wednesday, October 22
Wednesday, November 5

This fall we'll be discussing
some of the parables of

Christ and then considering the practical applications for our own lives. Our goal will be to seek a deeper walk with Him.

We'll meet every two weeks on Wednesday mornings from 8:30-9:30. Meet at the Mroczek's home at **305 Lord Thomas Avenue** in Southport.

Contact: Dirk Mroczek: mroczek.dirk@gmail.com

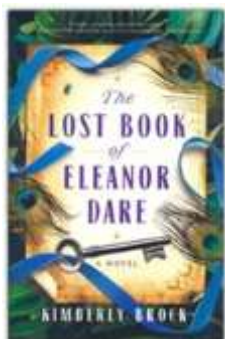
Make plans now to join us for Bible study, fellowship and great coffee!



Look for these new books available in the OIEPC library. **Brenda Hall**

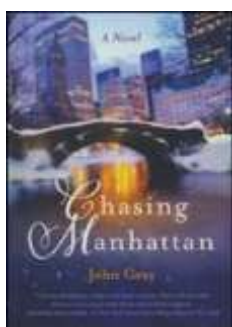


An Amish quilt unlocks secrets from the past in *The Apple Creek Announcement* by Wanda E. Brunstetter. Welcome to Apple Creek, Ohio, where piano teacher and artist, Andrea Wagner, has a fascination with painting the rural Amish landscapes around her home. She has made it to her thirties feeling like she has had a charming life and finally has fallen in love with Brandon Prentice, a local veterinarian. But then she discovers she was adopted and all she thought she knew about herself has crumbled. Andrea becomes so fixated on finding her birth mother that she pushes Brandon away, so she writes to the "Dear Caroline" column in the newspaper for romance advice.



The Lost Book of Eleanor Dare by Kimberly Brock

Eleanor's descendants know that the truth about Roanoke's Lost Colony lies in a mysterious carved stone and book she passed down through 15 generations. But 13-year-old Alice broke the legacy. Years later, as Alice returns to her abandoned family home intent on selling, her daughter Penn unveils secrets, forcing Alice to reckon with her enigmatic inheritance.



Chasing Manhattan by John Gray

Chase Harrington is hiding out in Manhattan, hoping for life to return to normal. Instead, she gets plunked into more heart-pounding intrigue when she lands an assignment involving an elusive millionaire, a secret-revealing letter, coded messages, a mansion of mysteries, and misfit characters who need her help!

Oak Island EPC

ACTIONS OF THE SESSION

September 17, 2025

Tom Jarvis representing the Board of Deacons made a presentation regarding the proposed Security Program detailing what is already in place and additional items to be considered. The Session was receptive to the plan.

Nurture/Education Committee: Sunday School has resumed. and Sunday Morning Prayer Meeting will begin on September 28, 2025,

Missions Committee: Doug and Abbey will be visiting the first Sunday in November.

Outreach Committee: The Home Bible Study for men was held at Dirk's home with 8 attending.

Worship Committee: Congregants will be served in pews for next communion to be held on October 5, 2025.

Stewardship and Finance Committee: The UV film has been installed over the stained-glass windows in sanctuary. Approval was given to contract with Mocean Contracting to replace the siding on steeple. Approval was given for replacement of the cloth grills for the speakers in the sanctuary. Pledge campaign has begun, and pledge letters are being sent this week.

Scholarship Committee: Sandi Scott expressed her appreciation to all the volunteers who helped with the yard sale. Ken Eagle reported receipts for the yard sale as \$4916.86.

Clerk's Report: The death of Reva Riddle on August 26, 2025, was reported.

Presbytery: Sandi Scott and Patricia Bressler will be commissioners to Presbytery on September 26-27, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted, Brenda Hall, Clerk



Do you love Christmas music?

**CHOIR
CHRISTMAS MUSIC
MINI RETREAT**
Saturday, Oct 11
9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Join us for our annual "Lessons & Carols" music!

Whether you think you can sing or not - this is your chance to be part of the OIEPC Choir without a (serious) commitment!

Join us on Saturday, October 11, at 9am for coffee, biscuits and pastries to sing through our Christmas music! This is a no-commitment way to see if you want to join us for our Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 14 at the 10:30 am worship service. Call **Donna** for more info or questions. 704-798-9842 (text is better for a first call). We'd LOVE to have you sing with us!



OUTREACH MINISTRY

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

CHANGE

Believe it or not, the church's *Little Free Library* has now been in existence for over one year! Our red book-sharing box near the sidewalk has attracted a lot of attention from passersby, and the nearby bench has been appreciated by many visitors. We have kept the Little Free Library stocked with a variety of donated books, including Christian

inspirational books and biographies, novels and non-fiction, classics and children's books. About half of the donated books are shared by visitors to the Little Free Library, and about half are donated by you, by way of the collection box in the hallway near the church office.

I'm excited to announce that during our very first year of operation, a grand total of 480 books were "checked out" of our Little Free Library! This is quite an amazing number! On average, it's over

nine books per week! And of those books, close to one third were Christian books! It's a good feeling to know that we have been able to help provide wholesome and inspirational reading materials to those in our community. It's been my prayer that our visitors will take advantage of this easy opportunity to learn more about Christ, and to grow in their faith. In addition, we leave copies of Our Daily Bread devotionals, and information cards about our church for visitors to take home.

I have loved keeping track of the books that go in and out of our Little Free Library, and now, it seems all too soon that the time has come for me to pass on the torch of managing it. I appreciate the volunteers who have assisted in this work, especially *Jane Wydra*, who has often helped me to determine if certain donated books were suitable to be included in our collection. I'm pleased to announce that Jane will now be in charge of our Little Free Library, as my husband and I will be spending more time away from the area.

Thank you to all who have donated books for this worthy endeavor! *Cindy Lane*

The Little Free Library's greatest need currently is more children's books. There is a cardboard box in the church hallway near the office for anyone who wants to drop off books.



FROM THE HEART

- During the From the Heart meeting on Sunday, September 14, the following was discussed:
- ⇒ Potential projects for the 4th quarter of 2025 and the 1st quarter of 2026.
 - ⇒ “From the Heart” review of funds. Thanks to contributions from church members who wanted to assist the group’s efforts through financial support, the current fund is \$155.00.
 - ⇒ Those in attendance discussed potential projects, timeframes, and conflicts with other OIEPC activities. Based on those discussions a draft plan was put together.

Projects and Dates for 4th quarter 2025:
October – No activity
November – No activity
December – Christmas Caroling – December 5th.
Projects and Dates for 1st quarter 2026:
January – Potential Soup and/or Soup & Sandwich Lunch (Organ Fund or Wind and Hail Fund)
February – Hospice dinner, February 9th
March or April TBD – Soup or Dessert for Shut-ins



The next meeting of our From the Heart Women’s Group will be on Sunday, November 9, after the worship service in the Disciples Classroom.



MARTHA’s CIRCLE

Our next meeting is: Monday, October 13 at 11 a.m.
Please join us. *Ann Hunt Smith, Moderator*



Aug 2025

\$ 234,794

\$ 28,854

\$ 26,039

Doris Brozell Memorial Fund	\$ 352
Choir Fund	\$ 100
Mary Sneed Memorial Fund	\$ 2,711
Human Needs	\$ 216
Scholarship Fund	\$ 200
Scott Fogel - Netherlands WEC	\$ 21

\$ 3,600

\$ 29,639



910)278-9741
www.oipres.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:00 Choir Practice	2	3 8:00 Emmaus	4
5 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship & Communion	6 7:00 Womens Bible Study	7 6:30 Missions Committee	8 8:30 Men's Morning Bible Study/off site 3:00 Choir Practice 4:00 Deacons Mtng 7:00 Outreach	9	10	11 8:00 Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9:00 Choir Christmas Music Mini Retreat
12 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship NOON Pastor Appreciation Day	13 11:00 Martha's Circle 7:00 Womens Bible Study	14	15 1:00 Choir 3:00 Choir Practice	16	17 8:00 Emmaus	18
19 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	20 7:00 Womens Bible Study	21 9:00 Finance Committee	22 8:30 Men's Morning Bible Study/off site 7:00 Session	23	24	25
26 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	27 7:00 Womens Bible Study	28	29 3:00 Choir Practice	30	31	

Nursing/Rehab Homes:

<u>Gene Stark</u>	Southport Health & Rehab Center, #202A, 630 Fodale Ave, Southport, NC 28461
<u>Suzan Fogle</u>	Southport Health & Rehab Center, #605, 630 Fodale Ave, Southport, NC 28461
<u>Margaret Pettrey</u>	Lexington Country Place, #213B, 700 Mason Headley Rd, Lexington, KY 40504
<u>Shelvy Pasour</u>	Peak Resources Gastonia, #302, 2780 X-Ray Drive, Gastonia, NC 28054

October Prayer List

Our homebound, hospitalizations, those suffering with long-term illnesses, and other prayer requests:

Jennifer Davis (daughter of Phyllis Hendrick); Chris DeArros; Pat Kelly; Allen Walts; Louis Perry (friend of Bob and Jane Wydra), treatment for prostate cancer; Mary Ann Whitley (friend of Eagle family), undergoing cancer treatment; Jenny Muse; Bonnie Diana (friend of David and Paula Paxton) treatment for brain tumor; Lynne Barmore, chemo treatments; Jose Pena, ongoing health concerns; Gary Taylor (son-in-law of Bonnie Pendergast), ongoing cancer treatment; Charlene Harding (mother of Kent Winrich), in memory care with Lewy body dementia; Nate Winrich (son of Kent Winrich), non-believer; Jim Gerlach, in remission for multiple myeloma, Sid Hart, broken pelvis and elbow; Tony Dellinger (cousin of Jane Wydra), recovering from a heart transplant; Walter and Jane Moore, hospice; Evelyn Reynolds, hospice; Vickie Potter (friend of Glenda Dennis), cancer treatment; Cassie Hoover (daughter of Michael Byers), upcoming colon surgery; Shawn Gray (friend of Ken Eagle), recovering from kidney transplant surgery; Javier Mendoza-Diek (friend of Ken and Karen Eagle), brain bleed from bicycle accident; Bob Jenkins, under treatment for cancer; Merle Scherle, under treatment for acute lymphocytic leukemia, Keith Jackway, recovering from heart bypass procedure; Ann Myers (daughter-in-law of Ann Myers), leg infection.

LOOK AT OIEPC!

Our yard & bake sale supports
the fund of:

**THE PARKING LOT
WAS FULL FOR THE
ANNUAL YARD &
BAKE SALE!**

Oak Island Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Lamar McKee Scholarship

Thank you everyone that
participated in this wonderful event!
*We couldn't have done this
without you!*

**Thank
You**

