

The COMMUNITY MESSENGER

Community Church of Oak Orchard
Millsboro, Delaware 19966

October 2025
Volume 3—Issue 10

Message from Pastor Allen

AS THE STORM PASSES BY

It's hurricane season again. Living near the beach, we all watch as experts track distant storms, waiting to see how close they might come to us. Category 1, 2, and hopefully not a superstorm "Cat 5" beach busting apocalypse. It makes for anxious times. A hurricane can do a lot of damage to house and property but with a lot of effort and a little help, people can usually recover pretty well. Sometimes people even end up with better things than what they lost. Even if the storm passes by it can be very stressful.

Experts say that there is good stress and bad stress. Good stress provokes us to do what we need to do, but bad stress can have a crippling effect on us. Many illnesses are stress related, and stress is a primary cause of host of emotional and mental health problems. Knowing that doesn't always make dealing with stress any easier.

"Til the Storm Passes By" is a hymn that metaphorically likens the trials and troubles of life to storms that blow through our lives. One verse goes as follows:

In the dark of the midnight, have I oft' hid my face.

While the storms howl above me, and there's no hiding place.

'Mid the crash of the thunder, precious Lord, hear my cry,

Keep me safe 'til the storm passes by.

'Til the storm passes over, 'til the thunder sounds no more

'Til the clouds roll forever from the sky,

Hold me fast, let me stand in the hollow of Thy hand.

Keep me safe 'til the storm passes by.

God is still on the throne when storms come, and He will still be on the throne when the storm passes by. You are in the hollow of His hand. Nothing will ever snatch you from His hand. John 10:28. He's a shelter in the time of storm and better things are coming.



October 12



*And I will give you
pastors according to mine
heart, which shall feed you
with knowledge and
understanding.*

- Jeremiah 3:15

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Ministry in Motion!

MINISTRIES & COMMITTEES

Our Church is growing. ***PRAISE THE LORD!*** As this is happening, we need help! Ministries are an important part of our church. They help our church family to grow in faith, minister to the needs of the community, and provide outreach to those in need.

COMMUNITY EVANGELISM MINISTRY



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF OAK ORCHARD

Community Evangelism Ministry—Engaging our community and drawing people to our church. If you are interested in helping to expand our church's reach, we encourage you to join us. We also support the Visitor Ministry.

Contact: **Elder Art Schmidt**, artisea@msn.com, 443-676-3588
or **Kristi Williams**, emschic17@hotmail.com, 240-841-5959

Home Care Ministry—We need more volunteers who are willing to bring a little cheer to those who are temporarily or permanently homebound. We love each other too much to let anyone be lonely. Contact: **Bonnie Shaw** 724-689-3894 or **Diane Long** 302-945-7627.

Kids Ministry—We would love for you to be part of our Children's Ministry team! We're looking for caring teachers and helpers to serve with kids of all ages (infants through 14 years) on Sundays from 11:00–12:15. Whether you enjoy rocking babies, helping little ones learn Bible stories, or encouraging our older kids, there's a place for you. Your time and heart can make a lasting impact! Our hope is to build 4 teaching teams so that each group only serves once a month. This way, no one carries the load alone, and everyone still has plenty of Sundays to worship and recharge while making a lasting difference in the lives of our kids. "If you feel God nudging you to be part of this ministry, we'd love to have you join us! Just add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulleting board in the hallway of contact Elder Mike Koly or Pastor Ed Vidzicki directly.

Contact: **Elder Mike Koly**, dmkoly@verizon.net, 610-350-8025
or **Pastor Ed**, Pastoredvidzicki@gmail.com, 717-940-7433



Men's Ministry—Our Men's Ministry exists to disciple men into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, equipping them to live as godly leaders in their homes, church, and community. We seek to create a brotherhood where men encourage one another, grow together in God's Word, and sharpen each other through accountability, prayer, and service. By modeling Christ's humility, strength, and love, we strive to raise up men who courageously stand firm in their faith, lead their families with integrity, and impact the world with the gospel.

Contact: **Pastor Ed**, Pastoredvidzicki@gmail.com, 717-940-7433



Women's Ministry—The rooted women's group meets on Thursdays at 6pm. The ministry provides a platform where women share experiences, challenges, and insights from a faith-based perspective through Bible and book studies.

Contact: **Kristi Williams**, emschic17@hotmail.com, 240-841-5959

Youth Group Ministry—We want to create a team willing to participate in youth activities.

Contact: **Pastor Ed**, Pastoredvidzicki@gmail.com, 717-940-7433

Maintenance—We need volunteers to help with church building and grounds maintenance. No experience necessary.

Contact: **Elder Ted Brown** 302-549-1450 or **Elder Steve Miller**— 302-258-7499
and_you_thought_my_last_e-mail_was_long@protonmail.com

Education—We're excited to offer many Bible Studies and Sunday Elective Classes, and we'd love for you to be part of leading them! If you enjoy sharing God's Word and helping others grow in their faith, consider volunteering to teach a class. Your gifts could inspire and encourage others in a powerful way.

Contact: **Pastor Ed**, Pastoredvidzicki@gmail.com, 717-940-7433

Thank you in advance, because I have FAITH that you are more than a pew sitter! If you are not physically able to volunteer then it is your duty to now assume the higher calling of prayer warrior.

—Love in Christ, Pastor Ed



GET INVOLVED

*Where Friends
Become Family!*



CONTAGIOUS FAITH

This month's contagious faith spotlight is on the women who attended the extraordinary women's conference.

What a trip! One man with 14 extraordinary women for four days and a demon possessed bus!

Every single one of these women are truly extraordinary. Each with their distinct personalities and gift mixes. From the planning of the event, to the games that were played, to the sharing of personal stories, to the packing of the bus and then the unloading, to the conference and what each woman gleaned from the event, and to the lesson/discussion time Sunday morning.



As I listened and watched, I saw clear reflections of the differences and gift mixes that they possessed. I was particularly struck Sunday morning as the group gathered for our Sunday morning worship time together sitting by a barn looking out over thousands and thousands of sunflower plants. It was a beautiful sight. As I watched the teaching about our responsibilities and the gift mixes that we possess, or I should say they possess. No single sunflower in that field is identical yet each sunflower points to the sun and follows it across the sky every single day until its time has ended. Christians are like sunflowers. We have a specific time here on earth to shine and be focused on the SON (Jesus) just as the sunflowers are focused on the sun.

Ladies of this church, I would encourage you to get involved in the group and experience what God has for you. May you always have your eyes on the Son and be focused on what he has for you!



—Associate Pastor Ed Vidzicki

Every day of our lives, we need to be *intentional* and *prepared* for the opportunity to share about the love of Jesus. With practice and time it will become second nature to be able to do this. You will grow in *intimacy with Jesus* and with those around us!

In Christ, Ed Vidzicki



ODYSSEA: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Message in a Bottle

By Art Schmidt

“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails. Proverbs 19:21

Dennis Komsa was 12 years old in 1963 when he wrote a note, put it in a mason jar, and tossed it into the Atlantic Ocean. Fifty years later, Norman Stanton was visiting his sister in Seaside Heights, N.J. and found the jar on the beach while combing through the debris from Hurricane Sandy in 2012. When he opened the jar, it contained a note, a 1958 nickel, and an envelope with the return address where Dennis lived. The jar had only traveled about two-tenths of a mile from where Dennis had thrown it into the ocean.

The note Dennis had placed inside the jar was neatly printed in all capital letters: “TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND MAIL THEM TO ME. THIS IS A SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT BY DENNIS KOMSA, AGE 12. WHERE WAS THE JAR FOUND?, WHEN WAS IT FOUND?, HOW WAS IT FOUND?, and ANYTHING ELSE WHICH MIGHT HELP ME”¹

Dennis was 61 and living in Hillsborough, N.J. when the jar was found in 2013. He was surprised by the jar’s discovery and said, “Things happen for a reason. I guess it’s good it came to shore. It shows that anything is possible.” But Sharon Roher, Norman Stanton’s sister, said, “The jar was emotionally uplifting for me. I think it’s nice to have something like that happen in the aftermath of the storm’s chaos that left our community in a shambles. That jar carried a much bigger message for me—if a young boy can throw a bottle into the ocean and have it show up 50 years later in the same place, then Seaside can come back and be restored to a condition as good or better than it was.”¹

This story reminds us that we, as Christians, know that our words have meaning and our actions have an impact. Things we do and say will likely have an impact on someone else—a friend, coworker, or family member—either right away or at some point in the future. The impact may be profound or subtle but nevertheless it carries the Lord’s purpose. But what about the impact we make on others who we meet along the way? We may not realize it, but our words and actions set an example to people we encounter through our service to God and they take notice. The impression we leave behind could make a difference in someone’s life. We are imperfect people doing our best as we make our journey through an imperfect world. But what distinguishes us from the rest of the world? We have God’s love and have been forgiven. We have been set free from our sin to walk the new life made possible by Christ Jesus. Therefore, we should have a strong desire to be a good example for other people to follow.

So, what kind of an example are you being to those you meet along the way on your journey? It has been said that we may be the only bible that some people will ever read. What is your life saying about the faith that you carry in your heart and profess? Can people see Christ in you?



✠ BE THE MESSAGE

Oh God, help us to be “*the message in a bottle*” for someone to find amidst the ruin of our dark and broken world.

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father.
(Colossians 3:17)



Revised version of the article I wrote in October 2013 for a previous church’s newsletter.

¹ <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/50-year-old-message-found-jar-jersey-shore>

COMMUNITY DAY!



Bringing
Christ
to the
COMMUNITY

The best fries!



Fanning the flames
of faith in God!

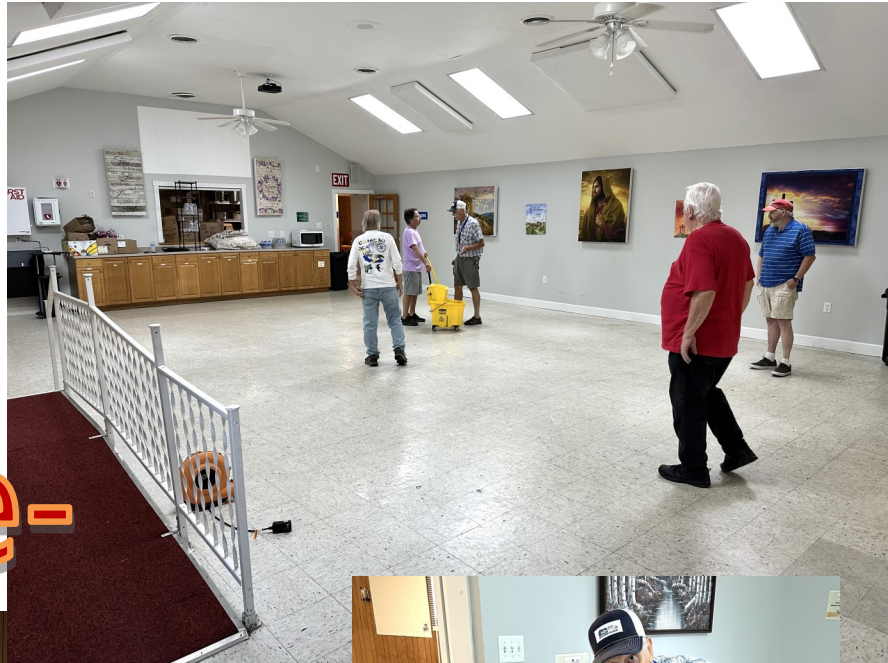


September 6

A Clean Sweep!

Ted Brown led a crew to sweep, clean, and wax the floors in the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Hallways, and Conference Room in preparation for our 60th Anniversary Celebration. They started on Friday, September 18, and finished on Saturday the 20th.

Before-





-After



Thank you,
Volunteers!



On Sunday, September 28, we held a baptism service. Jesus said, "Go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19.

Since the Bible does not prescribe a particular mode of baptism, I gave each one their choice of immersion, sprinkling, or pouring.

Steph Theil, Lisa and James McNeill and Steve Booth were baptized. Steph was baptized by immersion by Pastor Ed and Lisa; James and Steve were baptized by the mode of pouring.

Many others from the 11:00 worship service gathered on the northwest side of the church to encourage those following Christ in the baptism service. What a joyous celebration as each gave testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ.

The service was closed with the singing of "Jesus Loves Me". Praise the Lord.

—*Pastor Allen Miller*



September 28



Stephanie



Lisa



Stephen



James



Don't laugh,
I'm just having
a bad hair day.



I feel fine.
I always look
like this.
What's it to
you?



Praise music is a reflection of faith.



September 6



There's no place I'd
rather celebrate my
birthday than hangin'
with my homies here
in Oak Orchard.

Send your snapshots in JPEG, TIFF, or PNG file format to Art (artisea@msn.com)

COMING EVENTS

10/5 **60th Anniversary Celebration**

10am-Worship Service

11am-Church History

12pm-Fellowship Luncheon

10/6 & 10/20 **Dinner & Discussion:**

Countering the Culture

- **New Topic- Institute on the Constitution: The American View**
- **October-March 2026, 1st&3rd Monday of each month**
- **Dinner 5:45-6:30, Cost \$10**
Class Session 6:30-8pm Free

10/12 **IRVFC Breakfast**

9am at the Fire Hall; Adults \$14

Kids 6-12 \$7, 5 and under Free.

No Sunday Elective.

10/13 **Church Board Meeting 5:30pm**

10/18 **Char Brown Memorial Service**

11am with lunch to follow.

10/20 **Dinner & Discussion**

10/24 **Meals 4 Missions**

4-7pm Shepards Pie

\$15 Dine In or Carry Out;

Preorder required.

10/31 **Halloween—Trunk or Treat**

6-8pm Sign up on the Events

Bulletin Board



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Millie Charnick
- 9 Doug Kring
- 9 Josie Reitnauer
- 18 Debbie Hammond
- 18 Mary Jane Short
- 19 Linda Peiffer
- 19 Ruth Norbeck
- 23 John Lane
- 26 Lynne Brumbaugh
- 29 Tara Somers



2026 Directory Photos

Sunday, October 19—Youth Center Bldg.

9:15-10:30 am—12:30-1:30 pm

New members and those who would like to update their old photo please attend one of the sessions.

Crabby Road

10-26-11



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Community Church of Oak Orchard

Where Friends Become Family!

32615 Oak Orchard Road, Millsboro, DE 19966



Church Weekly Activities

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8am or 11am
in person or online.

Morning Elective- 9:30am
Open Prayer- 6pm

Watch our services on:
Facebook—
@oakorchardchurch
YouTube—
@CCOakOrchard/streams

Wednesdays 9:30-11am
AGAPE Bible Study
(Followed by lunch outing)

Thursdays 3pm
Kingdom Prayer Meeting

Thursdays 6pm
Rooted Women's Ministry
The Forge Men's Group

Church Monthly Activities

1st Sunday

Fellowship Luncheon
12:30pm

1st & 3rd Monday (Oct-Mar)

Dinner & Discussion:
Countering the Culture
5:45pm
Special Series:
U.S. Constitution

Other Activities

Tuesdays 10am
T.O.P.S. Meeting
(Take off Pounds Sensibly)

Tuesdays 6:30pm
Zoom Bible Study
(From Home)
Wednesdays 8pm
C.D.A.

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Pastor Ed, Ted Brown

BOARD of ELDERS

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Dave Hammer
Mike Koly
Art Schmidt



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mission and for
your faithfulness
in giving!

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