



January 2020

# Footprints

*"The Banyan Tree"*



**Conrad Sharps**  
Senior Pastor

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A very unusual tree grows in one of the parking lots of a church in downtown Bradenton, Florida. I used to park under this tree when my church youth group joined another downtown youth group for activities. I was always intrigued by this tree. It's called a banyan – a name derived from the Hindi word for traders, who set up their markets under its spreading branches. It's also called the tree that lives forever.



A species of fig, the banyan tree can reach a height of over 100 feet; but what makes it so unusual is the way it grows more in circumference than in height. The canopy of a mature banyan can cover several acres!

As the tree grows, broad branches spread outward, sprouting aerial roots that descend into the ground to form new trunks which nourish and support further growth of the tree. Thus the banyan tree is constantly expanding and growing, actually moving forward with every new trunk it puts down.

In many parts of the world under the shelter of this tree's broad canopy, schools hold classes; village councils conduct business; artists display their paintings; merchants set up shop; villagers escape the searing summer sun; children climb and play. Alexander the Great camped under a banyan tree that was large enough to shelter his entire army of 7,000 men.

One of the largest banyan trees known today has 350 large trunks and about 3,000 small ones. Yet by comparison, the banyan seed is so small that if you were to split it in two, your eye could not distinguish the subtle something which produces this mighty tree – a tree made up of a thousand branches, intertwined together, merging the past and the present, forever changing, forever growing, yet always the same.

It's a perfect image of Christ and the Church: Christ, the trunk (the vine); His Church, the branches. You see, Christians are the roots that support the branches and provide the nourishment needed for growth, ministry, witness and service.

Continued on page 2

Amelia Plantation  
Chapel

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# THAT A HARVEST MAY COME

## Stewardship in 2020



Imagine the faith a farmer must have when he or she takes a single seed, plants it in the dirt believing it will grow, not only grow but bear fruit. The farmer's faith and diligent effort, by the blessing of God, will result in a harvest to nourish his family, his community, and indeed many people. It does, indeed,

take faith to go out and sow seed and hope a harvest will come.

Giving in gratitude to God through committed stewardship also requires faith. We believe if we invest our lives, our faith and our resources into the ministry and mission of the gospel God will also bless our efforts with fruit that is pleasing to Him.

Jesus taught this spiritual principle in the Parable of the Sower: *"still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty or even a hundred times."* (Mark 4:8) What a wonderful promise which grants joy to those who believe in the good news Jesus shares ... that God will take our gifts of time, talent and resources and multiply them abundantly to His Glory.

Paul expands Jesus' teaching in his letter to the Corinthians. He writes, *"Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all you need, you will abound in every good work."* (II Corinthians 9:6-8)

The board and leadership of our Chapel family believe in God's Word - if we sow the seed of the gospel a harvest will come from our efforts of Christian stewardship. We have seen repeatedly, how God through our commitments of talent, time and resources has transformed lives in our congregation, our community and the world.

In 2020 we humbly commit our prayer that we might continue to offer quality worship and music, teaching compassion and outreach through our mutual ministry. We believe and pray fervently that the harvest of our efforts near and far will come: *"investing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundred fold, to the glory of God."*

## "The Banyan Tree" (continued)

Though to us our gifts to God's work might seem as small as the banyan *seed* in comparison to the *tree*, they are what enable the church to function on this earth. We never know when we give to God just how far reaching the effects will be; but we can be certain that no gift is insignificant to God.

Scripture tells us that each one should use whatever gift he or she has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. That's what it's all about - serving others in Jesus Christ.

How are you using the energy, intelligence, imagination and love God has given you in life? As a church family we have many needs that God is meeting - through our commitment of our time, talent and resources. Help us today by making a pledge of financial support to the ever-reaching branches of the ministry of Jesus Christ through this chapel.

Give yourself in prayer for our ministry, our staff, and our pastors. Give yourself by becoming committed and involved in some form of ministry: our Christian Education program, join one of our many Bible Studies, the ministry of our choir, our Deacons' ministries of compassion and in-reach, our petal pushers, men's breakfast or efforts of writing notes to visitors or those facing difficult times or needing our prayer. For a more hands on approach don't forget the many local outreach and mission efforts we support: Christian Light School, The Nest, Wears Valley Ranch, Remedy Project, Safe Harbor Maritime Academy and so many more.

Just as each root is necessary to support the branches of the banyan tree, you are vital to the well-being, growth and quality of the ministry of Jesus Christ through our chapel family.

# NASSUA COUNTY FAMILIES in TRANSITION

## HOMELESS TEEN MINISTRY

Thank you, Dear Chapel Family and Friends, for sharing God's compassion, love, and bounty with 25 teens this Christmas season. My neighbors in Isle de Mai sponsored another 10 teens. Our Chapel family donated more than was needed for the students who signed up early. The extra funds, \$582, were given to Angie McClellan to serve students who signed up late – there were several on the list. Angie is the Nassau County Liaison for Families in Transition Homeless Students. Each year over 500 students qualify for the programs, with about 40-45 being teens who do not receive Christmas gifts from other agencies.

Because of you, these precious teens received new shoes and clothes as well as a wished-for item or two, Christmas stockings and food baskets. Six teens received bikes, helmets, pumps, and locks. Each teen received two Christian books - a Bible, devotional, gratitude journal, picture storybook of Jesus' birth, or Chicken Soup for teens. Seeds were planted. I have hope in God's promise that some of the seeds sown fall on good soil, grow, and bear fruit! (Matthew 13:23) You may have guessed that The Sower in our Chapel garden has special meaning for me!

Thank you, each and every one of you who prayed for, sponsored, donated, shopped, wrapped, or delivered gifts. God sent you, His angels, to do the work. You appeared at just the moment you were needed. A total of 37 Chapel families participated, as well as donors

from Jan Smith's Thursday class and Millie Stevenson's Tuesday class. A special thank you to Angie, Judy, and all of the helpers at the collection site in Yulee, who made sure all of the gifts reached their students in time for Christmas. I hope all of you feel as blessed as I do.



Affordable housing is an issue in Nassau County. These homeless students and their families/caregivers may live doubled up with family or friends, in a shelter, in a motel room, in tents, in cars, in campgrounds, on the street, or in abandoned or unsafe buildings. Many of these homeless families have jobs, but cannot afford even the most basic housing in Nassau County. Sometimes the student's parents are not able to care for them. Grandparents and others step in if they are able. Courts and social services may be involved in the lives of these students. When we can share the good news and great joy of our Savior Jesus, and help in any small way to brighten one day, or light a candle of love, hope and joy for a teen, we are going to do it! Easter is coming ... watch for details of our Easter Basket Ministry.

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* (Romans 15:13)  
Thank you, God, for these overflowing Chapel family and friends.



# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE

By Valerie Gsell



## Construction of our Chapel

A building fund for a permanent Chapel home was first established in 1982 by the Chapel Board with \$27,500 acquired from donations and memorial contributions. Following a successful pledge campaign, two one-acre lagoon parcels were purchased in 1988

and 1989, and a building committee was formed. Chapel President Norm Bryant served as its Chair to oversee the construction and completion of the project. Key subcommittees were Finance, chaired by Hal Latimer; Exterior, by Tex Crawford; and Interior, by Barbara Chase. Important committee contributors were Marge Phillip, Pastor Don McGarity, Don Chase, Ken Neill, Bill Hicklin, Alice Latimer and Carol Wyatt.

Congregational input was incorporated into the planning process, along with direction from Reverend McGarity about essential elements and specifications required for the sanctuary. The building program moved forward with the retention of an architect, David W. Beer & Associates. Groundbreaking took place on September 3, 1989. There were just 135 members in the congregation at that time!

Once the Chapel's architectural plans were approved by members, a competitive bid process was completed, and construction began on December 8, 1989. The 6,633 square-foot structure included a sanctuary with seating capacity of 350, a choir area with space for 30, a sacristy, chancel, narthex, an unfinished balcony, two offices, and a fellowship room with kitchen (today's nursery and loft staircase).

The Lord's light was chosen as the architectural theme of the new sanctuary and its central feature is its beautiful clear, beveled-glass cross in the center of the twenty-eight-foot chancel window behind the altar. It was designed and installed by monks from the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Georgia, along with windows of similar design in the front wall. These were intended to be constant reminders of the love God radiates to the world through His beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

The April 27, 1990, Chapel bulletin reported that *"Progress on the construction of our new Chapel building is proceeding well. At this point we are under roof, which will allow for continued progress, whether rain or shine. There is clear definition to the choir locations, the pastor's office, the secretary's office, Fellowship Hall and the kitchen."*

The eager congregation held its first service, *"A Day of Praise and Thanksgiving,"* in the nearly completed building on July 29, 1990, in an overflowing sanctuary. Work continued with the finishing details of the building, landscaping, the Meditation Garden that overlooks Red Maple Lake, and the parking lot. The long-awaited dedication of the Chapel was held in the Fall, on October 28, 1990, for maximum attendance by members and guests. It commenced with the formal opening of the Chapel's remarkable hand-carved mahogany entrance doors which depict the light of that first resurrection morn'.

The total budget and final cost of the project was \$1.3 million. The last payment on the construction loan was made in March 1992, a splendid tribute to all those inspired by the Lord to pledge so generously and to provide a permanent home at last for the Amelia Plantation Chapel.

## Tables of Eight

Have fun, meet friends, and help build our Chapel community! Sign up for Spring **"Tables of Eight"** by Sunday, January 19, 2020. You will join a group of 8 people, to have a meal and social time, once a month in February, March, April, and May. Singles and couples welcome.

Sign-up sheets with details are in the Narthex and Church Office.

Questions? Call Patti Pitts at [jlpitts@juno.com](mailto:jlpitts@juno.com)  
Or feel free to use previous write-ups with updated information: Note date and contact name changes.

# OUR CHAPEL NURSE

By Alan Donaldson



Some newer members of the Chapel congregation may be curious about the origin of the Chapel Nurse program. Here's how it started.

Back in April 2003, then Pastor Ted Schroder invited Professor Harold Koenig of Duke University to speak at a Chapel conference. Professor Koenig reviewed the value and importance of having a medical professional available to help advise members of the congregation with health-related issues, supplementing the care which is a part of a pastor's job.

Following up on that concept, Pastor Ted contacted Audrey Newman, a registered nurse who had fairly recently moved to Amelia Island and who had extensive experience as a parish nurse and hospital chaplain in Virginia. Audrey met with Ted and then with the Chapel Pastoral Care Committee which enthusiastically endorsed the concept and Audrey as the nominee for Chapel Nurse. The Committee Chair, Joan Donaldson, then presented the proposal to the Chapel Board which authorized Audrey Newman as

our part-time Chapel Nurse, to start on January 1, 2004.

The role of the Chapel Nurse continues to include visiting home-bound or hospitalized Chapel members; communicating their condition and need for prayer to the Pastor and Pastoral Care Committee as well as family and friends; providing advice and counseling to members in matters of physical, mental and spiritual health; and other contacts with members leading to their understanding of health-related matters and the resources available for health care.

Audrey Newman filled this role admirably for more than three years before she found it necessary to move on in her life. She introduced Dana McCoy, RN as her successor. We have been blessed with Dana's care and attention since May of 2007. Dana has a strong educational background in parish nursing as well as long-time roots in Amelia Island. Her family has lived here for over 100 years. Dana also leads *Angel Watch Home Care* in Fernandina.

To learn more about Dana and the Chapel Nurse program, ask for a copy of the Chapel Nurse brochure at the Chapel office.



## My Light By Janet McGugan

My Word is the Light that shines forevermore. Dwell in it and on it, keep it in your heart to feed upon.

It will lighten your load and lead you into all wisdom, all knowledge and all truth. In the days that are to be it will be important to be rich in My Word. The whole world will be in turmoil but My Word will stand as a beacon of Light to all who believe in Me. It shall lead My people to Me and their salvation. My Cross is before you, it is for you to follow with the Light into all nations. Shed My Light upon the multitudes, it shall illuminate the path that leads to Me. It shall set the captive free and unbind hearts from the fetters of fear. Be of good cheer, great glory approaches, the goal is in sight. Great joy awaits for all My children. Persevere with singleness of purpose. Press on for I AM ever with you.

**Come and pray with the ladies of the Chapel on Thursday mornings at 9:00a in the Upper Room. Our *Adventures in Prayer* group meets this month on January 2 & 16.**



**Hanging of the  
Greens!  
December 7, 2019**



# LIFE WITH FREEDOM

by Ed Weihenmayer



Joseph Ryu

Most of us have lived only in countries which are essentially free. We have read about the hardships faced by those who live under harsh dictatorships, and can imagine the pain, but we have not personally felt it. One man, Rev. Joseph Hyo-Keun Ryu, has experienced the severe restrictions and cruelty which accompany ideological regimes. He was born in North Korea in 1933, and lived first under Imperial Japan, and then under the tyrannical rule of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Imagine being forced by the Japanese to give up your Korean surname, to speak Japanese in school and in all public places, to profess allegiance to the Emperor and to worship at its shrines. At the end of WWII, Korea was liberated from the Japanese Empire. It might have gotten better, but instead Korea was split in two: the Soviets were given control of North Korea, and the North became an even more restricted and controlled environment. Because his father was a Presbyterian minister with a congregation, Joseph's family was watched closely. When Joseph was 12, his father disappeared mysteriously, never to be heard from again. The communist regime took the family farm where chestnut trees were in abundance, and where Joseph had fished peacefully with his father.

Because Joseph refused to attend indoctrination classes, he was denied admission to high school, which was required for entering the seminary (which soon was closed anyway). With a few Christian friends, he found a Bible School which taught basic courses and English. Soon, though, the group was arrested on fabricated charges and hauled off to prison, endlessly interrogated and tortured. Finally released, he escaped inside a piece of furniture to a village house, where his mother, the only person who knew where he was, fed him in secret. When the Korean War broke out in June 1950, with troops moving back and forth across the 38th parallel, he used the inherent confusion to escape to the South with family. But North Korean soldiers stopped them, and Joseph had to separate from his family to avoid putting them in danger. They were forced to return to the North. He managed to escape. It would be 47 years before he ever saw them again.

Joseph made his way south through the mountains, crossed rivers using the ice, hid in abandoned houses, finally connected with the South Korean Army, and

landed in Seoul. A church built by and for North Korean refugees was his refuge. For the first time in his life, he now felt he could talk freely without fear. He continued his education, graduated from Yonsei University in Seoul, and got a scholarship to the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa. Joseph was only 23, but what a packed 23 years it was. Whew!

The rest of the story is simply the American dream. Joseph meets his wife Hannah at college in Iowa. They were married 59 years ago. She comes from a prominent South Korean family, her father being an Ambassador to the Philippines and her mother the first woman physician to be trained in Western medicine in Tokyo (they have their own perilous survival story). Joseph attended Princeton Theological Seminary while Hannah supported the family. Joseph served in churches in Tennessee and New York, and in many Christian leadership positions. After several tries, in the 1990's, they were finally able to meet members of his family in North Korea, but they were carefully monitored, and could risk no mis-steps which might be detrimental to them. The Ryus retired to Florida in 2004. They still pray every day for their Korean brothers and sisters who do not know the blessings of freedom.

We need to hear stories like this so we more genuinely appreciate our own freedoms, our chance to go to the schools of our choice, to work where we want, and to worship where we please. Please stop Joseph and Hannah in Chapel when you see them on Sunday, and congratulate them on their amazing journeys.

Joseph: *"Reflecting upon my own life in North Korea, I am deeply convinced that God through His grace saved my life and that He through His compassion led me to escape safely to South Korea to resume my deprived education in the North, even to finish college, and furthermore to allow me to come to the U.S. to pursue my advanced education. My education from the Dubuque and Princeton Seminaries led me to become an ordained minister of the PCUSA. With this position, as a Korean American, I was privileged to work with the PCUSA to help the immigrated Korean ministers and churches to be integrated effectively with the PCUSA for the common ministry of our Lord, Christ Jesus."*

# BUSINESS-AS-MISSIONS Brings Christ Back to Romania



Jeri Little

In 1988 Jeri Little was a card-carrying capitalist, having just moved into a 5,000 square foot house in Orange County, California, the reward, he thought, for having worked hard as a successful benefits broker to corporate America. Yet, he says, after taking a mission trip to Communist Romania, something felt wrong. *“I had always thought my business success was a gift from God meant to fund missions but now The Lord was telling me to be the missionary.”*

Little, the author of *Merchant to Romania*, was the guest speaker at the December Men’s breakfast at Amelia Plantation Chapel. This is his story:

*“My wife Gloria and I left the business, sold the house and the vacation condo and prepared for a life with a new material norm. In December 1989, Romania was in flames following the fall of Communism and Romanian Dictator Nicolae Ceaucescu. After several trips to Romania with Church Resource Ministries, I was looking for ways to serve when, in June 1992, the Lord clearly told me he wanted three thrift stores open in Iash, Romania. We had never done such a thing but then, business is business and we knew economic enterprise is the only permanent way out of poverty.”*

*“Using \$15,000 of personal funds, we set up regular container shipments of church-donated clothing from the U.S. and opened our first store. We also moved to the city of Iash, Romania from the U.S. with two young sons in 1993. Romanians had money and were eager to buy American-made clothing in a place with great customer service. The enterprise took off. A*

*second store was opened in 1993 and a third shortly thereafter.”*

*“With store profits, we helped to build a community center and Christian school. We employed Christians, who were oppressed under Communism and openly presented the Gospel on the sales floor. Many came to Christ. We employed women as managers, which empowered them as never before.”*

*“By 1995 we realized there was no decent restaurant in a town of 350,000 so, in 1997, in spite of many who said it would fail, we opened one, with a Texas theme. We also noticed there wasn’t a decent hotel in town so, in 1999, we opened The Boutique Hotel, another success. Profits from the hotel went into developing four apple orchards in the neighboring country of Moldova.”*

*“In 2013, the Lord told us to move on. We sold the stores, restaurant, hotel, all of which are still prospering today and moved to the Jacksonville area. Gloria and I are actively working with the ministry on enterprises in Lebanon and with Muslims throughout the Middle East who are eager to know Christ. Throughout this odyssey, Gloria and I have learned that **business-as-missions** works because it is both transactional and transformational. The people who came into our lives, the relationships we created and the standards we set have had a ripple effect reflecting a kindness and honesty we believe Jesus would enjoy.”*

Article written by : Lee Mulder

## Men’s Breakfast - Friday, January 3 at 7:30am



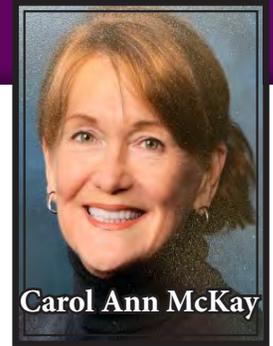
Tony Samuels

Tony Samuels, a Brit who is well known to local prayer groups through frequent visits to his second home on Amelia Island, is one of the most fascinating speakers of our series. Born a Jew, and still culturally of the Jewish tradition, Tony will share his pathway to becoming a Believer in Jesus, which involves huge encouragement from his Amelia neighbor Ed Stanley. Last year, from his seat as the Chairman of the State of Surrey in the UK, he decreed that all Full State meetings at the State Capitol begin with a prayer. From humble beginnings, Tony became a sports attorney (and soccer player) and non-Executive Chairman of a bank. He speaks numerous languages, including Old Testament Hebrew.

This is a *“Can’t Miss.”*

CALL Beth TODAY (277-4414) as this men’s breakfast is THIS FRIDAY!

# NEARING HOME: Life, Faith, and Finishing Well



Carol Ann McKay

Many people, even Christians, fear growing older. We don't like to think about losing independence and control in our lives, but perhaps learning to accept these changes is the first step in dealing with them. Scripture is filled with examples of men and women whom God used late in life, often with great impact – Noah, Abraham, Moses, Elizabeth, and Anna, to name a few. They were ordinary men and women who discovered that the latter years of life can be some of the most rewarding and fulfilling. *“For them, growing older wasn't something to be denied or dreaded;”* says Billy Graham, *“it was to be embraced as part of God's plan for their lives.”*

This renowned evangelist encouraged people of all ages to live with purpose and grace. He discusses the importance of building strong foundations in relationships, facing life's traditions with trust, and understanding our glorious hope in Jesus. In

**Nearing Home**, he also shared how he learned to deal with grief, uncertainty, and loss, by focusing on the promises found in the Bible. He faced the challenges of aging while gleaning foundational truths from Scripture. We are invited to journey along his path, enjoying the golden years while anticipating the hope of being reunited with loved ones in His heavenly home.

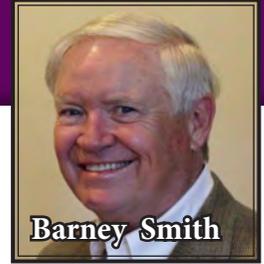
Billy Graham's invitation:

*“Explore not only the realities of life as we grow older but also the hope and fulfillment and even joy that can be ours once we learn to look at these years from God's point of view and discover His strength to sustain us every day.”*



## Amelia Chapel Members Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army!

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Winter Session



2020 has arrived and the Amelia Plantation Chapel is chock full of Christian Education classes available for those who desire to enhance their understanding of the Holy Scriptures. Start this year determined to walk with the Spirit of the Lord. Find a class! Invite a friend to join you ... an accountability partner, if you will!

Join a study taught by JAN SMITH  
All of Jan's classes meet in the MEETING ROOM.

**MONDAYS at 10:00 a.m.** (begins January 6th)  
Watchman Nee's classic, *The Normal Christian Life* continues. Discover how your life can be changed by "walking in the Spirit."

**WEDNESDAYS at 6:30 p.m.** (begins January 8th)  
An in-depth study of the *Gospel of John* continues. This is a "deep dive" into each verse of John with the floor always open for your questions and comments.

**THURSDAYS at 10:30 a.m.** (begins January 9th)  
Discover the meaning of Scripture pertaining to our walk in His Victory with a study of *The Pursuit of God* by A. W. Tozer.

**BE ASSURED - it is NEVER TOO LATE  
to join a Jan Smith Study!**

*Books for these studies are available  
in the Chapel office*

## SUNDAYS at the CHAPEL

**A new Sunday class will begin on January 5  
at 10:25 a.m. in the Meeting Room. We welcome back  
the much respected teachers Jim and Terry Magro.**

From the reference book *God in You - Volume 2* written by David Jeremiah, we will be studying releasing the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Notes will be provided for each class, but you are welcome to order this reference book from *Jeremiah's ministry - Turning Point*.

The purpose of this class is to reinforce Dr. David Jeremiah's dynamic, in-depth teaching on the Holy Spirit and to aid us in applying biblical truth to our daily life.

Come and join Terry and Jim as together we explore and discuss the practical impact of life in the Spirit. These lessons will encourage us to yield our will to the Holy Spirit, which will help us to have the experience of knowing better the God in us - *The Holy Spirit*.

**On TUESDAYS there are two studies going on  
at 11:00 a.m. A study for women meeting in the  
Meeting Room with Millie Stevenson while  
the men will meet in the Church Library with  
Conrad Sharps. Both studies begin Tuesday,  
January 21st.**

## Chapel Ladies and Friends

For the winter term our 10 week study will center around Anne Graham Lotz' latest book, *Jesus in Me*.

We all know a little bit about God and Jesus but how much do we really know about the Holy Spirit? "During life's changes and unsure times, we each need a FRIEND ... a Confidant, Helper, Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengtheners and Standby ..." says Anne. In her book, *Jesus in Me*, Anne explores the practical side of the Holy spirit in us and how, as our constant companion, "we can draw from his presence, purpose, power and provision."

Anne's father, Billy Graham referred to his daughter as "the best preacher in the family." She is a prolific, best-selling, award-winning author who has traveled the world carrying her message of personal faith.

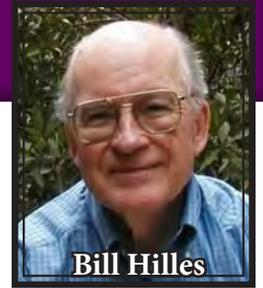
You are invited to join us for this exciting study as together we discover how we can embrace the Holy Spirit to improve our daily walk with God. This class is open to all so please bring a friend. Start your New Year right. Study God's Word!

## Chapel Men and Friends

This winter's Bible Study for men will explore the scriptural text Conrad will be preaching on the coming Sunday. The desire for this class is to make the Word proclaimed more relevant as we will spend time examining its meaning for our lives. The class will not require extensive study and the main resource will be the Bible. Come join us and together we will grow through examining God's Word as the Holy Spirit leads us.

# 2019 WINTER CANTATA

## The Winter Rose



Supported by an eighteen-piece orchestral ensemble, comprised of harp, brass and stringed instruments, the Chapel's Chancel Choir enthralled the congregation in a single service on Sunday, December 15, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. Following several weeks of intense rehearsal, some forty-four members of the Choir contributed to the event – *The Winter Rose*, by Joseph and Pamela Martin. The composition and lyrics offered a varied range of pieces – some familiar, others new. The music's theme, however, never left its focus, the enduring Rose in bleak midwinter, spotless against harsh surroundings.

Martin's masterful composition highlights the earliest Christmas time, when the ROSE was a symbol of divine love echoing through our sanctuaries and bringing to life striking visions of beauty and hope. It points to a remembrance of the birth of Jesus.

Sopranos Glynis Wood and Lisa Flick contributed beautiful heartfelt solos, while alto Mary Williams

provided resonance to the program in the *Advent Cry*. Tenor Matthew Eldredge-Bratsch gave testament to Christ's birth, "long, time ago." In a tender lullaby, Marjorie Meders and John Salter provided in song the story of Jesus being cradled in the arms of Mary and Joseph.

Chapel members, the Reverend Norm Dalton and Pat Panella crisply and warmly introduced each of the music's passages.

The message of Martin's cantata reminds us that even in the deepest winter, we are a people of joy and life ... children of the garden.

The Chapel thanks Director Don Edwards, Organist Peter Deane, the soloists, and other participants for their talented contributions to this first-class program.



# WAVES of LIFE

by Jennifer St. Clair



Another year on our *Human BeComing* journey has arrived with the speed of lightning! Where did last year go? Some say the older we get the faster time passes by us and it surely seems to be the case this year. Although, I can recall my parents saying the same thing to me back when youth was on my side and honestly, their words went in one ear and out the other. Can any of you relate?

But as long as I can remember, people do become anxious on the last day of December to make 'new year' resolutions in hopes to update and amend those intentions jotted down twelve months earlier that may not have come to fruition. Last year, anyway. They even take extra steps to banish the negatives and things no longer serving their highest and best good in Bowl Burning ceremonies. I myself participated in quite a few and did feel better after writing my unwanted 'stuff' on a small piece of paper and then tossing it into the flames. Poofff! Gone!

Well, now a new ceremony takes place each year. And no it's not the Polar Plunge! But rest assured the ocean is involved. I put my feet in the cold, salty water and release the things that no longer serve me nor matter

in my daily life, whether it was a painful event from days or often, years gone by that just keeps popping its ugly head into my daily affairs just when life is running smoothly, or those toxic relationships which seem to cling like a leech to me, sucking every ounce of energy out of my body. Whew! And then...? I lift a little prayer of gratitude to God for ALL the experiences and special blessings received in the previous year, both pleasant and unpleasant ones. What comes next is my favorite part! I take a deep breath, raise both arms and do my very best to let go and let God carry the "waves of life" out to sea!

This year my resolutions are simple. Be kinder than necessary. Love generously. Care deeply. Put wheels on intentions to make a difference in this world. And finally, remember that 'attitude' determines the kind of day I live.

Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*



Robert Rodenmayer said, "There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving and thanksgiving. When Christ is the motive of our giving it is thanksgiving. Our giving for the physical and spiritual needs of people is a telling measurement of what Christ means to us. We are writing our autobiographies every day ... in our checkbooks!" (*Silent Strength*, Lloyd John Ogilvie)

# JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE</b> Worship at 9:15a & 11:15a Coffee Fellowship at 10:15a Adult Sunday Classes at 10:25a Communion at 11:15a each Sunday			1 <i>Offices Closed</i>	2 9:00a Adventures in Prayer	3 7:30a Men's Breakfast w/ Tony Samuels  9:00a Governing Board Meeting	4
5 <b>COMMUNION 9:15a</b>  <i>New Sunday Class 10:25a</i>	6 10:00a Petal Pushers & Pedal Express  10:30a Coed Bible Study	7	8 4:00p Choir Rehearsal  6:30p Coed Bible Study	9 10:30a Coed Bible Study  2:00p Outreach Meeting-Library	10	11
12 <i>Sunday Class 10:25a</i>  <i>Planning Meeting 30th Anniversary Celebration 3:00p</i>	13 10:00a Petal Pushers & Pedal Express  10:30a Coed Bible Study	14	15 2:30p Exec. Committee 3:00p Board Meeting  4:00p Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Coed Bible Study	16 9:00a Adventures in Prayer  10:30a Coed Bible Study	17 <i>Planning Meeting 30th Anniversary Celebration 3:00p</i>	18
19 <i>Sunday Class 10:25a</i>  <i>Mission Minute Eddie Staub</i>	20 10:00a Petal Pushers & Pedal Express  10:30a Coed Bible Study	21 11:00a Tuesday Study begins	22 11:00a Deacons' Meeting  4:00p Choir Rehearsal  6:30p Coed Bible Study	23 10:30a Coed Bible Study	24	25
26 <b>Guest Speaker:</b> Albert Moeler <b>Sunday Class 10:25a</b>	27 10:00a Petal Pushers & Pedal Express  10:30a Coed Bible Study	28 11:00a Tuesday Study	29 4:00p Choir Rehearsal  6:30p Coed Bible Study	30 10:30a Coed Bible Study	31	