



Summer 2020

Footprints

“Christian Nature”



Conrad Sharps

Letter From Conrad Baby Bottle Boomerang	pg 2
Lyn Freitag Christian Education	pg 3
Dwelling Place Feed My Sheep	pg 4
Rich In Years Just One More	pg 5
Summer Updates!	pg 6

Several years ago I participated in an extended tour around St. Augustine, Florida. Our tour guide asked the bus driver to make a special stop in order to show our group a very curious natural phenomenon. About ten feet above the ground, a palm tree was growing right out of the side of an old oak tree. The sight of two very different species of trees thriving together, united and perhaps even interdependent, amused us and amazed us.

What a great illustration from nature for Christians everywhere. People who confess Christ as Lord recognize a unique interdependence. We need Jesus Christ to thrive as Christians, and we also need one another.

No individual or church has everything it needs in talents or resources to make an abundant life or sustain a fulfilling witness. The Holy Spirit comes among us however, and binds us together as a living and dynamic community of faith. Yes, we need one another: some to lead, some to teach, some to administer and govern, some to dream, some to provide special care, prayer and nurture, some to serve, and even some to preach.

Every Christian has a call to minister in some manner. Christ does not call us to be volunteers who can come and go at our own will. Rather, God calls us to be disciples who respond faithfully to the call to be part of His body, the Church. No individual disciple can make it alone. As we grow together in Christ, the needs of the community become clear to us and they also become a priority! If one is in need, all respond. If one basks in joy, all rejoice, for all are truly bound together in Christ. I have not only witnessed this within our Chapel family, I have also personally experienced it!

May we as members of the Amelia Plantation Chapel family continue to explore and nurture ways to share the love of God with one another, but also with others both near and far. For this is who we are!

“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.”
Philippians 2:1-2

Amelia Plantation Chapel
36 Bowman Rd
904-277-4414
www.ameliachapel.com



Find us on
Facebook

A Prayer Letter From Conrad

During this time of worldwide Pandemic and social separation, we have had several members die and enter the Church Triumphant. Their deaths were not due to Covid 19, but to the reality of life and death in our mortal existence. I therefore would like to offer this prayer:

God of mercy and compassion, make real the promise of eternal life to those who are facing the reality of death. Surround and sustain them with your everlasting arms. Grant them your Spirit of peace, and turn every moment into a measureable awareness of your Holy Presence. And for the beautiful children of God who have died, may the fellowship of the Saints become a joyous gathering of welcome and praise, a promise of life in your presence which is not bound by time nor physical limitation. We pray also, for your intercession for all those who are suffering. We pray this in the name of Him who was, and is, and is to come, our glorious risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen

My friends, God is Present! Always! When we feel lost or anxious or alone, or when we suffer in ways we could never imagine, the words of the Psalmist can reassure us:

“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.” (Psalm 139:7-10)

No matter where we are, and where we are unable to be, God is present! God has no limitations in power or in presence. Time and space are not limiting to God. Therefore, even when we are faced with the dilemma of our finite human limitations and natures, let us remember that we can turn to God. God has the ability and desire to be there for us and for those for whom we pray.

Who are the persons you are thinking of today? Are they near or far? What are their needs? Intercede for them to God in prayer. We may never comprehend the how or the why of life, but we can rest assured of God’s merciful presence and intercession in all of our lives.

Pastor Conrad Sharps

Baby Bottle Boomerang Time!

The Baby Bottle Boomerang benefiting the NEST, a Women’s Center, **will kick off as soon as we are able to worship together again.** Last year we gave over \$4600. for this wonderful ministry that seeks to lead people to a saving relationship with God, and to then “choose life” for their babies. There is no charge to the clients for their services including counseling, parenting classes, and a “baby boutique” of baby “necessities.” Hopefully we can give even more this year and break our record!! We will keep everyone updated on the start time via our email service for the Chapel.



Sally Ericksen

In The Beginning: Lyn Freitag

By Marlene Strobach



With an eye on the Chapel's upcoming 30 year dedication celebration in October, we write another story about one of our members who added her talent and influence from the beginning of our history through today.

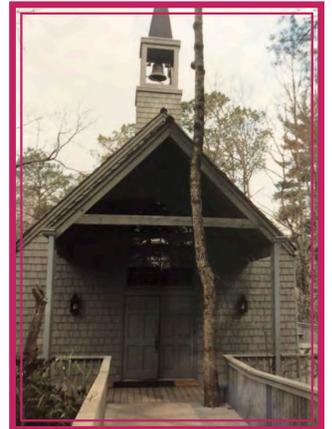


Lynn Freitag moved to the Plantation in 1980 with her husband, Bill, and settled on Belted Kingfisher where she resides still. She worshipped at First Presbyterian Church in Fernandina Beach until the Chapel became more of a reality and began growing into a congregation where she felt it would be easier for her to become involved.

When the property was purchased in 1989 for the purpose of building our chapel Lynn, who at that time was on the Chapel Board, and the four other Board members started out to visit other small churches in the region to gather insight as to what would work for this congregation. They didn't have to go very far. They visited one church located in Big Canoe, Georgia and knew the design would work for us. (See pictures). David Beer, the architect for our Chapel, was able to incorporate the Board's ideas into the design of our building.



Other than being a part of the Chapel Board, Lynn sang in the choir for more than 10 years. One of her fondest memories was of the day of the arrival of our brand new beautiful organ that was installed by the choir loft. Lynn has four grown children, one who is planning to move to Amelia Island and reside in Amelia Park. This very involved lady can be seen every Sunday sitting just a few rows back from the choir loft.



Congregational thanks is extended to all who helped us become who we are today.

Christian Education

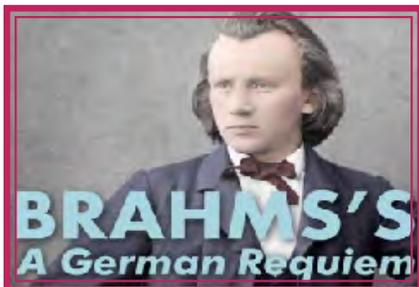
Jan Smith is doing an online Bible study 2 days a week during our isolation period. We are meeting on Zoom on Monday and Thursday mornings at 10:30am, studying the book of 2 Timothy.

If you are interested in joining one or both of these groups please email or call Jan Smith for the Meeting number and password to Zoom. You can do the meetings with your cell phone, tablet, or computer. Jan's cell phone is 478-747-3628, and her email address is: janiceusmith@bellsouth.net



How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place

Psalm 84:1-4 provided Johannes Brahms the setting for his lovely musical masterpiece. The lyrics and notes call out as a heart and flesh cries out to our living God in the Tabernacle of His grace. Brahms was born in 1833 Hamburg Germany. The son of a penniless horn and double bass player, Johannes came from the Romantic period, and showed early promise as a pianist. Between the ages of 14 and 16, he earned his way by playing in rough and tumble inns in Hamburg's dock area, while simultaneously composing and often giving recitals. He was a protégé of Schumann and Liszt. In the late 1860s and early 1870s, Brahms work flourished. The year 1868 saw the completion of his most famous choral composition, A German Requiem. He selected the Biblical texts and prepared for its introduction at Bremen on Good Friday, 1868. Shortly it was being performed throughout Germany.



Bill Hilles

Beholds, the sparrows findeth out
A house wherein to rest;
The swallow also for herself
Provided hath a nest
Even Thine own altars, where she safe
Her young ones forth may bring,
O Thou almighty Lord of host,
Who art my God and King.

How easy it is to project these passages to our hymn which promises

How lovely is Thy dwelling place?
O Lord of hosts, to me
The tabernacles of Thy grace
How pleasant, Lord, they be!

Feed My Sheep By Janet McGugan

Feed my sheep with my living word, for through my word the blind shall see, the lame shall leap with joy, and the bonds of the prisoners shall be loosed.

The night shall become as day and death shall be swallowed up by life. Send for my word and they shall be healed, nor shall they hunger or thirst.

Hope and joy shall be restored to the needy and all creation shall sing a triumphant song. I am coming and it shall be soon with a myriad host. A new heaven and a new earth shall be created by my word, and there shall be no more darkness, nor sin, nor

death.

All creation shall be made whole through my word which gives life in true abundance. I have filled you with my living word, which contains the light, to go forth to all people, so that they shall see to find the way to eternal life in me.

Abide in me and send forth my word and you shall see all these things fulfilled.



Rich in Years: Finding Peace and Purpose in a Long Life

by Johann Christoph Arnold



Carol Ann
McKay

In *Rich in Years*, Johann Arnold, through touching real-life stories, encourages us to see aging as a part of the normal process of life. He reminds us in a comfortable and consoling way that we age in the arms of our gracious Lord, and gently calls us to consider the GIFT of aging more than the CHALLENGE of aging.

We are shown how to face the challenges in hope and community rather than loneliness and despair. The following topics and more are addressed in the 11 chapters: Accepting Changes, Combatting Loneliness, Finding Purpose, Finding Peace, Keeping Faith, and Moving Forward. Peace of heart, the author writes, comes from a daily focus on prayer, forgiveness, and from service to others. Johann Arnold has helped over a million readers through life's challenges, and his hope for us is to rediscover the spiritual riches that age has to offer.

Now in his seventies, the author finds himself personally facing the trials that come with aging. But he knows, from decades of pastoral experience, what older people can do to make the most of the journey.

Johann Christoph Arnold, is an award-winning author with over a million copies of his books in print in more than 20 languages. He is a noted speaker as well. He is a senior pastor of the Bruderhof, a movement of Christian communities, and has counseled thousands of individuals and families over the last forty years. Other titles by the author include *Why Forgive?* *Be Not Afraid*, *Why Children Matter*, and *Seeking Peace*. See www.plough.com for more information.

Just One More



My daily walks to the beach receive extra highlights when I first glimpse the dune daisies' smiling faces welcoming me to the crossover! Most of the time many bright yellow faces greet me from the green vines meandering across the sand. But? It's the occasion when just one little daisy awakens early and says 'good morning' to me and Grandfather Sun that I realize the truth in the statements—one person can make a difference...one tiny candle can dispel the darkness...one random act of kindness can change people's lives forever.



Jennifer St. Clair

There is also a fascinating trait dune daisies possess. They spread like wild fire! So when you dare dig up a clump to transplant in your flower garden? Better make sure ample space surrounds it or you'll discover daisies, then more daisies, everywhere! Even under your feet while sitting in the swing! That's how fast they can multiply.

Maybe we Christians can follow suit as Mother Nature shows us yet another lesson as beautiful little yellow dune daisies speak their truth. Jesus says in Mark 16:15, "*Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.*" Spread the Good News! Jesus is Lord! Oftentimes, we merely need to open our eyes to the people in our backyard or those beach lovers sitting in their chairs. God's people are thirsty for hope, for encouragement, for joy...for a friend. What better friend than Jesus!

As the summer months begin, let's practice 'dune daisy' philosophy! It can start with just one friendly smile, just one nice compliment, just one helping hand, just one happy birthday card, just one hug to say "I love you," just one phone call to show you care. If just one more person makes a habit of doing this daily? Why, what a wonderful World it is going to be as the love of Christ spreads like the dune daisies across the globe.

John 20:21 "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'"

Photo by Jennifer St. Clair.

Due to Covid-19 all upcoming events are still canceled. We will keep everyone updated on all Chapel events by our email blasts. If you are not signed up to receive our email blasts please email our Communications Manager, Kayla Murray at kayla@ameliachapel.com. Thank you for your patience during this time. We look forward to getting back to normal and seeing everyone soon!