



October 2020

# Footprints

## *"A Call For Patience"*

Several years ago I was invited to go deep-sea fishing with several friends. By midday we were so caught up in our success that we failed to notice a fast-paced storm approaching. Our captain, a seasoned boater, instructed us in the task of battening down the hatches and then opened up the full power of his engines to head for the jetties.

Before long we were right in the middle of really dangerous weather. The rain was blowing sideways, the waves were larger than the boat and lightning was striking all around us. When the captain told us that we were of no help to him up top and to "get down below," I didn't argue. A few moments of prayer were called for anyway.

Huddled in the cabin we discovered another danger not previously conceived. In our haste of moving everything off the deck, we had stacked on a cushioned seat a cooler of fish on top of a cooler of drinks, which worked fine until a large wave sent the top cooler flying. I'm glad no one was injured. Explaining how a cooler of fish broke my nose might have been embarrassing.

The intrigue of the high seas that day offers many parallels to our day-to-day life. In the great storms of life, including the raging storms within our nation and culture today, we try to hide, to protect ourselves in whatever space seems quiet and secure. Often, however, the greatest danger is not to be found outside in the elements but rather within—within our own hearts and minds.

Evil is without question a reality in our world. Storms often blow, rivers overflow, and volcanoes erupt, causing great pain and sadness. But the greatest evil exists within, which is even more troubling because often our sinful human natures cannot detect it. We often inflict this kind of evil not only upon ourselves but others as well.

The only hope we have against the malevolent powers of this world lies in the cross. For us, the cross is a powerful and contradictory symbol representing the worst of human sin (the kind we inflict upon others and ultimately upon God) but it also represents our only hope. The great paradox of our faith is that Jesus Christ was nailed to the cross that we might be set free. Though sin and iniquity perplex us and bring suffering, the gospel teaches uncompromisingly that God overcomes all evil. This is the good news of the Resurrection!

As Christians, we affirm that though the malicious forces of evil seem to have free reign in our world, it does not have the last word—God does! And God has spoken that word in Jesus Christ. Salvation is not of our own making; it is a gift of God. We have the hope of Jesus Christ. In the storms of life we must place our faith in him. He commands the storms both of the sea and soul to cease, and they obey. He stands with us on the deck of life and guides us to safe harbor. Call on him this day and be saved not only from without but from within.

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."* Ephesians 2:8-9

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Conrad Sharps

# Chapel Anniversary

*This is the day which the LORD hath made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalms 118:124*

Where were you on Sunday, October 28, 1990? While most of us were elsewhere during the dedication of our beautiful sanctuary Chapel on that day, today we are ever grateful for the commitment of our founding members whose legacy we celebrate this month.

Thirty years! And it was sixteen years prior to that, that a few Plantation residents came together with a desire for a place of worship on the south end of the island. Initially, Sunday services were held in the bicycle shop on the Plantation, in the Owners Room, and the Cumberland Room at the Amelia Inn. As the congregation grew, services were held in the Conference Center. All the while, these members, from different Christian affiliations, prayed for a sanctuary to call their own.

A year-long emphasis on the history of our Chapel and its members began last October, with our 30th anniversary replication of Groundbreaking Sunday. This month we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of our Chapel building's completion and dedication on Sunday, October 25 at a special service mirroring the 1990 Chapel dedication. Music will include many of the same beautiful hymns sung that day, and we will be blessed to have some of our early Chapel members present the same readings and prayers that comprised our Chapel's original dedication service.

In addition to the special worship service, plans had been made to celebrate our milestone with a fellowship luncheon in the newly remodeled Ocean Club. We can all understand why the luncheon celebration cannot happen right now, but on Sunday, October 25, whether we gather in person or virtually, we will all joyously celebrate our Chapel's history and give thanks to God for our founding members at this special 30th Anniversary Dedication Service.

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. Matthew 18:18*



Celebrating 30 Years of God's Grace

# 30th

*Anniversary Service*

Sunday, October 25, 2020  
At 9:15a

## Chapel Member Marguerite Doyle Empowers Women in Egypt



Marguerite Doyle has a heart for Egypt, having been born to Egyptian missionary parents. She and her siblings were raised in their early years in Kenya and Sudan where hippos, lions, snakes and monkeys were common.



Lee Mulder

When the political situation in Kenya became dangerous, the family emigrated to the U.S. where Marguerite's dad became a professor at the University of Illinois. Marguerite met her husband Greg at the U of I where they were both recruited by IBM for careers that took them to many parts of the world. Her dad retired at age 75 only to spend the next 16 years working with the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo. In her retirement Marguerite also returned to Egypt to empower poor and struggling women in rural villages.

"I have seen how Christian women in a Muslim patriarchal country face prejudices and abuse which translates to poor healthcare, illiteracy, violence, malnutrition, diseases and unemployment. In addition to financial struggling, these women experience psychological and social isolation. They are devalued. Yet, they are clever and strong and persistent.

"We learned this when my organization, Finding Freedom through Friendship (FFF) organized the Karma Women's Development Center in the town of Minya. Our goal was to improve women's social and economic situation, to promote social equality, and economic independence. To date more than 300 women have graduated in vocations such as sewing, cosmetics, hair styling and baking. Forty-Two percent have opened a business and are earning an income.

"In 2019, we launched a micro-loan program to accelerate these changes. Over 100 loans have been granted and repaid. The story of The Bridal Suite Widow is an example.

"When FFF met Eman in the slums, she was close to death due to lack of funds for a C-section to deliver her overdue baby. Her tiny three-room home with a dirt floor had a filthy hole for a toilet and a bucket to be used for cold showers. The entire family was at risk of disease. On the spot FFF paid for the safe delivery of baby Batul. In the following months, FFF delivered food, paid for tutoring, refurbished the house with a bathroom, kitchen, tile flooring, furniture and appliances. Eman named her home The Bridal Suite. Then, with a micro-loan, she opened a printer store. Today, the shop is thriving. Eman has gained freedom, confidence and dignity which inspires other women."

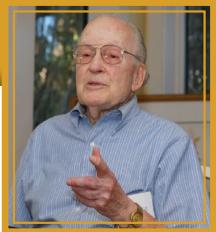
The Chapel Outreach Committee supports Marguerite's work.

# A Thrilling Musical Legacy

## Our Resonate Chimes



Over five years ago, on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary, the Chapel received a magnificent gift from one of its long-time, beloved members – Rene Childress. She and her husband, Bill, had moved to Amelia Island from Atlanta and were long-standing members of the Chapel. Though Bill had passed away several years before, Rene wanted to give a musically meaningful gift to the Chapel. The chimes were purchased from Chime Master, leading manufacturer of chimes and carillon systems. Speakers were installed on the ridge beam at the rear of the Sanctuary, with cabling to the A/V station on the balcony. This provided easy access for programming the chimes, including one of over 4,600 hymns to be played and shared with the Chapel and community. Fortunate listeners hear the ringing tones daily at 9:00 am, 12:00 noon and 5:00 pm. Those in the Chapel community are particularly inspired during the Christmas season.



Bill Hilles

This addition to the Chapel's musical instruments is a welcomed supplement to our organ, piano and choir. The carillon offers a choral symbol among our many visual symbols both inside and outside the Chapel.

As a long-standing Choir member, I value tremendously the musical accompaniment to our singing voices. We choristers greatly appreciate the chimes on Sundays as they complement our choral offerings and show the inspiration that Rene left to our Chapel. Both Rene and Bill are at rest now in the Chapel's Columbarium.

### A SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE PRAISE OF GOD

#### THE DEDICATION OF THE CARILLON

And

THE RE-DEDICATION OF THE  
AMELIA PLANTATION CHAPEL,  
ITS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,  
IN THE SERVICE OF CHRIST

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF

THE CHAPEL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1999

9:15 A.M.

#### CARILLON AND ORGAN PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

"Make A Joyful Noise"

John Ness Beck

#### CALL TO RE-DEDICATION AND RENEWAL

Come to the living stone rejected as worthless by humanity but chosen as valuable by God. Come as living stones and let yourselves be used in building the spiritual temple, where you will serve as holy priests.

You are a chosen people, the royal priests, the holy nation, God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God, who called you from darkness into marvelous light. (I Peter 2:4,5,9 adapted)

Sisters and brothers, we come this day to dedicate an instrument of God's praise, to re-dedicate this house of worship and our own Christian commitment. Come let us praise God with cheerful songs.

# Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry 2020

Welcome to another “reinventing” of how we do things at Amelia Plantation Chapel.

Our most significant difference this year with our OCC ministry is what Samaritan’s Purse calls the “Shoebox Goal Page.” Samaritan’s Purse is anticipating that many contributors would prefer to order their shoeboxes on-line this year instead of shopping locally for the items. Last year our congregation prepared 300 shoeboxes. This year we have set the goal of 250 boxes to be purchased online and 100 or more to be filled locally. It will be wonderful to see how close we can get to that goal. Online, you, the builder, will select how many boxes you would like to prepare. The online cost per shoebox is \$25, or \$31 if you select to provide your child with the book, *The Greatest Journey*, in your child’s native language. Both of these prices include the \$9 shipping per box.

Official preprinted OCC shoeboxes can be picked up from the Narthex at the Chapel on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday each week from 9am to 1pm as well as after the Sunday Service each week in October through November 8. Filled shoeboxes can be dropped off at the Chapel during those same times.

Claudia Smith will also have the pre-printed OCC shoeboxes available at her home, 674 Ferdinand Ct. in Isle De Mai off of Bailey Road. Just give her a call, text or email to set up a time and place to get as many as you would like to fill. You can also drop off filled boxes at her home on or before November 13. Boxes that are completed after that can be dropped off at First Baptist Church, 1600 S. 8th St. during the collection week of November 16.

Each box that you pick up in the Narthex or from Claudia will have instructions for packing. Lots of gift ideas are also available at [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org). Please take note of the items that are NOT to be included in a shoebox. If you’d like to know to which countries your boxes go, you can pay the \$9 per box postage online at ‘Follow Your Box Tracking Labels’ on the Samaritan’s Purse web site. You will need to print these at home. You will receive a notice of the delivery location in the new year. Postage can also be paid by check for multiple boxes or cash and placed in the box with the gifts. Every box is checked at the regional packing sites, so the funds will be removed at that time.

As a special part of the world-wide ministry in the next four years, Samaritan’s Purse is looking to share Jesus and OCC Shoeboxes with children on 1000 islands in the Pacific Ocean. They have engaged a small ship which will travel through the Pacific with staff who will distribute shoeboxes and train local folks who will then share the hope of Jesus. The world’s children need hope, especially now, with the global pandemic affecting everyone. OCC is more important than ever and is a wonderful way to engage our entire congregation in the OCC vision of evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication. With the online option, preparing shoeboxes is a wonderful way to stay connected and be a part of this Chapel-wide annual activity.

We can find great joy preparing shoeboxes locally. Every carefully chosen item in every shoebox touches a child, a family, a community, somewhere in the world. Preparing shoeboxes takes focus off of what is happening in our own lives and brightens the day of the preparer. A shoebox is a key to touch the heart of a child. Every shoebox opens the door to spreading the Gospel of Jesus to all who are touched by the initial gift. We are sowing seeds with love and joy, with many seeds falling on fertile soil. (Matthew 13:1-9) We are becoming participants in The Great Commission, supporting the teaching of precious children and their communities about our Jesus (Matthew 28:16-20)

We are all encouraged to write a note, send a photo, and pray for the children who will receive our lovingly and thoughtfully prepared gifts. If you are purchasing online, it is very easy to write a note and include any photo you choose.

What a blessing it is to live in a country where we are free to live and worship as our Christian Faith teaches, a country that provides opportunity and resources so we can share our time, talent, treasures with fellow Children of God around the world.

Tradition tells us that there will be harp music in heaven. One of the items that each of my children receives is a Hohner Harmonica. I look forward to harmonica concerts in heaven, too!

Volunteers are always appreciated. If you are interested, please contact Claudia Smith at 912-294-4778 or [gandcjsmith@gmail.com](mailto:gandcjsmith@gmail.com).



Claudia Smith

## Shine Like The Sun



My morning walks to see the ocean as night shifts to day remind me to always remember how great our God is. Oftentimes, I catch myself singing: “And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.” These words from Psalm 91 speak encouragement, faithfulness, protection and shine the Light of Christ on my day. What a wonderful way to begin!



Jennifer St. Clair

Curiosity got the best of me while contemplating how many times sunrise is mentioned in the Bible. One source indicates 28. Another, 101. All of you will recognize a few of my favorites.

*“So that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other.” Isaiah 45:6 (NIV) “From the rising of the sun to its setting, let the name of the LORD be praised.” Psalm 113:3 (CSB) “Because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” Luke 1:78-79 (ESV) “For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.” Malachi 1:11 (ESV)*

Who doesn’t marvel at a sunrise? Every morning I observe ‘beach people’ taking in the wonder. Some with their dog, others with a spouse. Several times I’ve even witnessed young children watching. Can you imagine how thrilling and surprising for them? It must seem like fireworks on the 4th of July to their innocent minds.



Well, there is one thing I know for certain. The day will never come when my heart doesn’t leap for joy at a sunrise! I’m just praying my daily life reflects its “LIGHT.” Amen.

## The Armor of God

By Janet McGugan

Put on the strong belt of truth  
The breastplate of God’s approval  
The shoes that speed me on the way  
As I preach the good news of peace with God  
The shield of faith  
The helmet of salvation  
The sword of the spirit  
Cleanse me again with the Holy Blood of the Lamb  
Protect me, fill me and wrap me completely in your  
Holy Spirit.



Due to Covid-19 all upcoming events are still canceled. We are beginning to hold in-person services for our 9:15a service. **We request that you call by Wednesday of the week prior to your desired service to be put on our RSVP list.** 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](mailto:kayla@ameliachapel.com). Thank you for your patience during this time. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!