



AMELIA PLANTATION CHAPEL

# Footprints

Monthly Newsletter

February 2021

## Content

Light In Darkness Cont. Greetings From The Nurse	002
Boneyard Beach	003
You Who Are Born... Ephesians Bible Study	004
Return to Ephesus	005
Nassau Homeless Kids	006
Defying Handicaps	007
Love! Love! Love!	008
Gifts For Grands	009
Christmas Eve Photos	010
Upcoming Events	011

A Letter From The Pastor

## The Light Shines In The Darkness

BY CONRAD SHARPS

*"In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." (John 1:4, 5)*

Born August 27, 1910 in Skopje, Yugoslavia, her given name was Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiv. You probably know her as Mother Teresa. Mother Teresa is a woman whose life we examine and say, "This is how we should live! This is what the life of humble Christ-like service is all about." Her ministry to the poor, the destitute and the marginalized on the streets of Calcutta began in 1946 and has continued even beyond her death in 1997 through the sisters of "The Missionaries of Charity." Mother Teresa was a child of God that people of faith everywhere can look upon and say, "This woman has allowed the light of Christ to shine through her life even in the darkest of human circumstances."

The mass media once reported (although it been public knowledge for several years) that, during the process of investigating Mother Teresa's life for elevation to sainthood, it was discovered that she had extended periods of great personal struggle; periods of darkness, of doubt, of the feeling of abandonment by God. It's not hard to imagine that one might write these feelings in a journal or in a letter to a mentor or friend but what surprises me is why some people are shocked. Folks, if you are going to serve Christ in the world and seek to share his light, there are going to be periods when you wonder if the darkness is winning, overtaking the one true light.

As a Protestant pastor far removed from the process of Roman Catholic Canonization, I believe these discoveries speak not only to Mother Teresa's personal honesty but also the depth of her faith in God. I say this confidently because despite the darkness and doubt in her own life she rose every day, dressed simply, ate modestly, spent time in prayer and worship and then went out to care for the children of God the world has often forgotten. In other words, she put her faith in him who is life. Despite her own darkness, despite her own doubts she continued to share his light in the world. Christ's light shined through her.

Continue to page 02



## Continued: Light In Darkness

In these final days of our stewardship emphasis, the theme of which has been “Let Our Light Shine,” may it become our prayer for God to grant us the faith to know and stand firm in the light of Christ, to feel his radiant warmth, to understand his absolute power to overcome the darkness. Yes, we know the darkness of war, of terror, of human hatred, of fear and doubt and frequent feelings of abandonment. Yes, we know the pain of death, of disease, of divorce. We have watched children disappear into the dark night of alcoholism, drug abuse, mental illness, and violence. But we also have been given the faith to rise every day, to seek God’s presence through scripture, through prayer, through community and through sacrificial service. Our proclamation is that the darkness shall not overtake us, for Christ is the light of life.

If you have not already made your pledge of commitment to the ministry of Christ through our beloved Chapel in 2021, I hope you will do so today; and as you do rejoice with me in the words penned by Henry Nouwen in his book, Return of the Prodigal Son:

People who have come to know the joy of God do not deny the darkness, but they do not choose to live in it. They claim that the light that shines in the darkness can be trusted more than the darkness itself, and that a little bit of light can dispel a lot of darkness.

Soli Deo Gloria

---

## Greetings From Your Nurse

BY: **DANA MCCOY**

Greetings,

We are about a year into the COVID-19 pandemic and it is still impacting everyone’s day-to-day life. Many people are feeling isolated, stressed, and burned out in dealing with the fallout from this disease. The other frustrating thing is that there are still so many things we don’t know. If you have had COVID, how long are you immune from getting it again? How long will the vaccine protect you from COVID? When will I be able to get the vaccine? How long will we have to wear masks? We will get these answers as time goes on because the only way to get the answers is by monitoring people’s reactions to the disease and vaccines over time. I will share information as it becomes available and can be validated.

There is no question that during the last year the burden of isolation and uncertainty has been a growing side effect of the COVID pandemic. We are seeing a worsening of chronic health problems and mental health as well as an increase in tobacco, alcohol, weight gain and lethargy. I want to encourage everyone to find healthy ways to

cope with the issues connected to this pandemic. Locking yourself away and over consuming news and internet material can only contribute to the problem. You need to find a way to build a constructive positive life around the current limitations. Call your friends and loved ones more often, plan a social engagement, have an outdoor gathering for a couple of friends where you can sit at a distance and visit. Do activities to stimulate your brain. This could be as simple as looking at old photos or a recipe book to more complex such as learning a new language. The key is to find ways to live your life in a positive way.

My commitment to you all is that I will share information as I have it. I am available as a resource to help you manage this situation answer questions and provide support. I urge you to continue to live your life as best you can as the time we have with our friends and loved ones is so precious.

Stay Healthy,  
Dana McCoy, RN CMC





## Boneyard Beach

BY KATHERINE HOEHN

Boneyard Beach on Big Talbot Island (Jacksonville, Florida) was my last nature adventure destination of 2020 and turned out to be a great choice. Fresh from a family Christmas in the frozen Midwest, my eldest son and I had a few solitary days for bonding and to say good-bye to a year that wasn't entirely wonderful. Boneyard Beach was symbolically appropriate and a grand way to ring out the year.

Hiking through the woods to the beach, we talked about the many nature opportunities in Northeast Florida and the fun of discovering the Real Florida. While studying the bark on one of the trees next to the trail, we noticed unusual white and black "growths." I took a photograph and then we looked closer. Proof that first appearances aren't everything, the growths were push pins, maybe remains of a posted notice.

We planned our visit for low tide and were not disappointed by the wide beach and amazing

“ ***While walking the wide beach, we summarized the year and discussed the things to come in 2021.*** ”

scattering of driftwood large and small. Most of the beached trees are victims of island erosion and now serve to protect the shore from wind and waves of Nassau Sound and create a sculpture garden of smooth, dramatic bleached giants.

While walking the wide beach, we summarized the year and discussed the things to come in 2021. Worth investigating were the tidepools in the black "rocks" on the beach, soft and made from soil (spodosol formations), filled with snails and prowled by shorebirds. We marveled at the size of the trees, patterns in the bark, smooth surfaces of the bleached bark-stripped trees, and the barnacles that indicated some trees had been beached for a long time.

Far down the beach, Matt spotted a bald eagle at the top of a tree on the bluff. Looking simultaneously majestic and patriotic, he stayed in place for his lone paparazzi to snap dozens of photos from far below his perch.

It was a perfect outing and the best way to close out 2020, confirming my good fortune to live where natural wonders consistently rise above the forgettable.



## You Who Are Born of The Spirit

BY JANET MCGUGAN



You who are born of the Spirit, rejoice and listen to Me. Never do you need to worry about the deeds of man; they can never touch you for your spirit is of Me and is eternal.

Therefore do not be anxious or fear what the world can do for I have taken you out of the world and you have been set apart by Me.

The world no longer can harm you. You no longer think or feel as the world does. All your senses are heightened by my divine Spirit within you.

You are indwelt by Me so your thoughts are of Me. Be aware always, though your flesh can be torn by the world your soul is of Me and shall remain forever unblemished, as pure and as blameless as when you became one with Me.

Never fear the world and what it can do to you. The victory is yours for you are in Me and I in you. I have pronounced you blameless, I have grafted you onto The Vine, I have saved you by My Blood, you have been forever absolved by Me.

Therefore I say unto you, dare to do, dare to be for my hand holds you and no manner of evil can prevail upon you.

# Ephesians Bible Study

BY JAN SMITH



We at the Chapel have continued to offer a Bible study for the people of God during this last year of covid and isolation. It has been well attended with about 40 people meeting on Zoom each Monday morning to study together. I would like to invite you to check out this class sometime and see if the Lord would have you become a participant.

Frank Malone has graciously agreed to give a testimony of his personal experience with the class. It has been my prayer for a long time that God might use me to create a hunger and thirst in others, that they might come into a deeper, more intimate relationship with Jesus, and receive a better understanding of scripture. Frank has given a wonderful word of encouragement on how we all need more revelation of the Word of God.

If you would like to visit one Monday just go to the App Store and download Zoom Cloud Meeting. After getting online put in the following codes to join the group: Meeting #254-740-9215 & Password #189056.

If you prefer to join by phone instead, please email Jan Smith at [janiceusmith@bellsouth.net](mailto:janiceusmith@bellsouth.net) and I will send you more information.

On page three you will find Frank's testimony. I hope you'll take a moment to read it.

# Return To Ephesus

BY FRANK MALONE



About twenty years ago, my wife, Mary, and I, had an opportunity to visit the ruins of the ancient Asia Minor city of Ephesus, located close to the shores of the Aegean Sea, not far from the modern day city of Kusadasi, Turkey.

The oldest information about Ephesus goes back to the middle of the 7th Century BC, and it has a long and colorful history, especially as it relates to the early Christian church. The apostle Paul first visited Ephesus on his second missionary journey, and during his homeland journey to Jerusalem he established the Ephesian church in AD53. He returned a year later and remained there for three years, teaching and preaching with great effectiveness.

Just a few years later, Paul was arrested and imprisoned in Rome where he wrote his letter to the church in Ephesus which became the New Testament book of Ephesians.

Unfortunately, when we visited Ephesus, I did not have the biblical knowledge and insight that I do today. I was therefore unable to fully appreciate and comprehend the historical importance and significance of Paul's teachings to the early church and to all believers everywhere.

Which brings me to the reason for writing this article. I want to recommend, with the highest level of enthusiasm, the Bible study classes offered here at the Chapel, conducted by Jan Smith! No matter what your level of Bible study maturity is, you will benefit from Jan's classes. She has the unique ability to not only explain what you are reading, but to show you

the inner-most meaning of a verse, how it applies to your life, and then to confirm its meaning by showing you additional verses throughout the Bible that underline God's truths.

To know the Lord's mind we must rely on His Word. In the pages of Scripture, God has revealed who He is, how He works, and how his followers can deepen their relationship with Him. Jan's classes have helped me so much with this. The truths I am learning become a filter for everything I see, hear, and experience. I can then make wise, godly judgments that I know will be consistent with the Word of God.

Jan's class is currently studying the Book of Ephesians which Paul wrote as a letter of encouragement to the young church. In it he describes the nature and appearance of the church, and he challenges believers to function as the living body of Christ on earth. As we meet each week via Zoom, to dig deeper into this masterful description of the church, I continue to marvel at the beautiful gift Jan has been given and how she uses it so effectively to bless her students with a rich and rewarding understanding of God's Word. And by the way, as a side benefit, I feel as if I have truly returned to Ephesus, this time with a much better understanding of its place in the history of the early Christian church.

Won't you consider joining us as we continue our study of Ephesians? I think you will be glad you did and I know you will grow in your spiritual journey by learning biblical truths and how to apply them in your life.



# Nassau County Homeless Student's Easter Basket Ministry

BY CLAUDIA SMITH

With Ash Wednesday on February 17, it's almost time to assemble Easter baskets for our homeless students in Nassau County. This will be our fifth year preparing Christ-centered baskets for four categories, ages 2 through 18. In 2020, 120 baskets were prepared.

The baskets include Easter story and activity books, other Christian books, Bible verse coins, Footprints in the Sand or Books of the Bible bookmarks, stuffed lambs and bunnies, toys, school supplies, personal care items, and Easter eggs full of candy. Many of the items will be purchased online. The items purchased locally will be purchased after Valentine's Day when the Easter items are put on display. Funds remaining from our Christmas Gift Ministry for Homeless Teens will be put toward purchasing the Easter items.

Because of the continuing pandemic, I will plan to do all of the shopping—unless there are one or two who would like to take part, as in past years. To keep our assemblers safe, I will prepare boxes with everything needed to fill 10 baskets. Anyone who



would like to assemble baskets in her home can call to make arrangements.

Baskets will be collected and delivered on Monday, March 1, at noon. The Clothes Closet distribution center in Yulee is open only on Monday afternoons. Angie McClellan, program liaison, and her dedicated volunteers will make sure the baskets are distributed to the parents and caregivers who come by to get services for their students and families.

As in the Parable of the Sower, we are sowing seeds. Jesus tells us that some of the seeds we sow fall on good soil, that they come up, grow, and produce a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times. Mark 4:8 Good News! Great Joy!

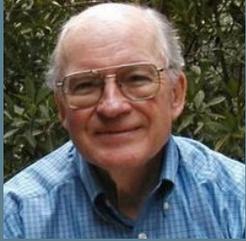
If you would like to safely participate in any part of this ministry, please contact Claudia Smith. 912-294-4778 [gandcsmith@gmail.com](mailto:gandcsmith@gmail.com)

Angie McClellan, Nassau County Schools, Families in Transition Liaison 904-277-9021

# Defying Physical Handicaps Through Faith, Love, And Hope

Odes through the Window of Music

BY BILL HILLES



## BEETHOVEN

As musicians and music lovers, has anyone ever thought about feelings that accompany such physical handicaps as **deafness or blindness**? When we review the life of a famous maestro like **Ludwig van Beethoven**, we become immersed in the beauty of “Ode to Joy,” part of his 9th Symphony. This was considered by many leading musicologists to be one of the greatest musical works in western music. Very unusual at the time was his introduction of the human voice within a symphony. Hence, it has been referred to as the Choral Symphony. It featured the largest orchestra ever known, and a play-time of well over an hour—longer than any other symphonic work.

Had we been at its premier in Vienna in 1824, we might have noticed that Beethoven had continued his directing even though the music had ended. It took one of the soloists to stop him and turn him around to accept the applause from the audience. Most in the house were well aware of his declining health and **hearing loss**. So in addition to clapping, they tossed their hats and scarves in the air so that he could see their overwhelming approval.

## CROSBY

**Blind** from six weeks old, **Frances (Fanny) Crosby**

began her hymn compositions at the age of six. She ultimately authored over 8,000 hymn texts, drawing inspiration from her Methodist faith. In 1873, Fanny was visiting friends in a palatial Brooklyn mansion. Going to the extravagant music room, her friend sat at the piano and played a self-composed piece. “*What do you think of the tune?*” Her friend asked. Crosby replied, “*Blessed assurance; Jesus in mine.*” This hymn appeared in the July 1873 issue of *Palmer's Guide to Holiness and Revival Miscellany* which included the following text and piano score.

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God  
Born of His spirit, washed in His blood.*

## THE LOST IN SPIRIT - WELLNESS OF THE SOUL

Loneliness is often the underlying contributor to one's loss in spirit. Many communities like ours, where there are retired singles and couples, living alone is often common. But it is hoped that music may frequent their lives.

*Perfect submission, all is at rest  
I in my Saviour am happy and blest  
Watching and waiting, looking above  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.*

# Love! Love! Love!

BY JENNIFER ST. CLAIR



When I think of February, a spotlight immediately beams on the 14th! Valentine's Day! That time of year when cards are exchanged among family, friends and classmates to let them know we love them! Many people add a box of chocolate candy or red roses or cupcakes with pastel candy hearts sprinkled on the thick, sweet icing.

Some of you can recall opening those thirty or more little Valentine envelopes received from your classmates at school with great anticipation of what the card said AND whether or not that 'certain someone' just happened to put a tiny candy heart inside saying: Be Mine. Truthfully, I still do enjoy those little love messages. A simple gift with enormous impact!!!

There are those who like to put a damper on Valentine's Day celebration declaring it's just another commercial extravaganza with pagan origin. I dare say the majority of people do not care one way or the other where or how it began. They just like the 'warm fuzzy' feel of the whole thing. I do! We can never express love too much!

And let's see what the Scriptures have to say about the subject of love. If you will open your Bibles to 1 John 4:7-12, you will read in verse 8: "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love." Then one of my favorites is found in Matthew 22:36-38. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment."

Are you getting the idea? It's about LOVE everywhere you turn! John records Jesus giving us a NEW commandment in John 13:34-35 to love one another



as he has loved us and this will show the World that we are his disciples. And so I rest my case.

A song has been playing in my mind that my Mamma and I taught the Pre School children before Sunday school class began way back when. I can remember playing that upright piano as a young girl as if it were yesterday.

Here are the lyrics as best I recall:  
*Love, love, love. That's what it's all about.  
To love your neighbor and one another,  
Sister, brother, Father, Mother.  
Everybody sing and shout!  
'Cause that's what it's all about.  
It's about love, love, love.  
It's about love, love, love.*

Now, I'll be singing this little song for days on end!!! Guess that's a good thing. Some days while walking in the surf, I stop myself from humming or singing lyrics. Shhhhh...Be still. Why do you have to make a sound? Can you not take a moment to listen? Well...Yes, I can. But when joy and love fill my heart to overflow, I must admit.....All I want to do is SING! I can't help myself!!!

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV)



# GFM

## MINISTRIES



### Gifts for Grandchildren

BY ED WEIHENMAYER

Many of us look for special gifts to give our grandchildren on special occasions. Often they have enough clothes, toys and games ,,, so what would really register with them as something meaningful.

This Christmas, we gave our 12-year old very sensitive, very religious granddaughter, Gracelyn, a gift that we thought would stand out from any others—a pair of goats, but not for her, but for a family in Bangladesh... and the gift would change their lives. Our note to her:

This is a Christmas gift for you which we bought on your behalf to help a family in Bangladesh which is struggling to put food on the table. Today they may be surviving on one meal a day, possibly just a bowl of rice. You are giving this poor family a pair of goats; they will produce up to 16 cups of milk each day, and produce at least two offspring each year. This will significantly increase the family's income, helping them to eat better, maybe allow a child to go to school, and hopefully the family won't need to sell a young daughter away as a child bride. These gifts are made by a Christian organization in Dallas, Gospel for Muslims, as a way to share the love of Jesus. GFM has led many such villagers in

Bangladesh to believe in Jesus and to become Christians. Should we ask the family to name one of the goats Gracelyn? I hope you are happy to use one of your Christmas gifts to help those much less fortunate than even the poorest people in this country.

Gospel for Muslims is one of the ministries our Chapel supports, and there are other ministries which offer similar programs, such as World Vision. A pair of goats, a flock of chickens, these really do change lives, and they are not that expensive, maybe \$100-150. And, as with Gospel for Muslims, they help a Christian organization bring Jesus and His love to people who have not yet heard The Word.

This idea is appropriate for Valentine's Day. Spread the love of Jesus around the world and, at the same time, reinforce Christian values in the young people in your family.

If you're interested: <https://gfmministries.org/ways-to-give/>



SPECIAL MOMENTS FROM

*Our Christmas  
eve livestream  
service*

December 2020





# Chapel News

February 2021

## Ash Wednesday Service

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be Wednesday, February 17, at 5:00pm. If you wish to have the imposition of ashes we will have them available for you on the prayer altar. You will administer them yourselves as we continue to practice social distancing during this time. Communion will be available the way we have been doing it as well. We will require reservations. To reserve call the Chapel office to put your name on the list.

## Sunday Service Reservations

If you want to attend the 9:15am service please call and RSVP by Friday at noon each week to be placed on the list. If you attend the 11:15am service, we do not require reservations.

## Easter Sunday Services

We are finalizing the plans for our Easter Sunday services. We will keep everyone updated with the information via email, bulletin, and Footprints.

## Needed: Chapel Librarian

We have a wonderful library available to Chapel members thanks to the years of work done by Carol Ann McKay! Hopefully, you saw her article in the January issue of Footprints. She “retired” from this position recently and we are looking for someone to continue the good work she has done. If you have any interest and can spare 1-2 hours a week (or less until we return to fully opening the Chapel), please contact Sally Ericksen 904.775.5122 for more information. Consider being a blessing to the Chapel!



## Amelia Plantation Chapel

36 Bowman Road, Amelia Island, FL 32034

Phone: (904) 277-4414

Email: [kayla@ameliachapel.com](mailto:kayla@ameliachapel.com)

## Writers

Bill Hilles  
Ed Weihenmayer  
Conrad Sharps  
Janet McGugan  
Katherine Dudley Hoehn

Claudia Smith  
Jennifer St. Clair  
Dana McCoy  
Frank Malone  
Jan Smith



