



# AMELIA PLANTATION CHAPEL

## Footprints

Monthly Newsletter

May 2021

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A Letter From The Pastor

### Midnight Worship

BY CONRAD SHARPS

When I served as a Chaplain on Holland American cruise lines the duties I was requested to perform were to provide Sunday services of worship for the passengers, as well as pastoral care and morning devotions on days at sea.

Added to my obligations was one wonderful additional request. The crew, most of them from the Philippines, asked me to come and lead them in their own worship service. The only catch was, because of work schedules, the only time they could get together was shortly after midnight.

No problem. Even though I could tell they were exhausted from a long day of work, each came bringing his or her own Bible. One of them also brought a guitar.

Their prayers were so sincere. They prayed for the crew, for their families at home, for their country and our world, and for those who have not yet come to know Jesus Christ. They also sang beautiful songs of praise—songs full of joy and hope. After I shared the Scripture and the message I had prepared for them, they began to discuss its meaning and how it applied in the life of their own community of faith.

By then it was nearly 1:20 a.m., and two of the three gathered told me that although they'd like to stay, they still had a lot to accomplish before going to bed. (Mostly, I believe they wanted to write home.)



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# A Letter From The Pastor Continued

Yes, only three could make it that night, but they were committed to come together, to be the church, to worship God, and to pray for others and the world.

*They were a pure fellowship of disciples, and worshipping God with them was a gift. That night my wife and I were given a greater understanding of Jesus' words and the promise of his Spirit's presence when he said, "For when two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20).*

Yes, this small community of Christian believers was a church where the people knew that all their blessings from God were given solely that they themselves might be a blessing to others—a witness, not to their goodness and commitment, but to God! The presence of Jesus Christ in their midst was most evident.

How much we all could learn from this church! They knew it was the Spirit of Christ that united them and made them one. Neither their size, nor their power, nor their influence made them special, but the Holy Spirit evident in their love and compassion for others set them apart as the body of Jesus Christ.

My prayer is that disciples everywhere could be renewed by the same Spirit that united and empowered these three disciples whose love of the Lord could bring them together at midnight to joyfully worship God and pray for others. May God grant us this Spirit today.

## I Send Mine Out Into All The World

BY JANET MCGUGAN



I send Mine out into all the world to shine the light of truth into the darkness. And I shall come again, it shall be soon. I shall come bearing the Light and I shall illuminate the night and expose the deepest darkness in men's hearts.

I shall gather My own to Me so that they shall be safe from harm and there will be judgment upon the earth for all who have turned from Me.

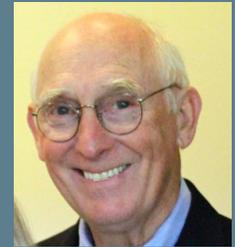
Keep your eyes constantly on Me and My Cross for it is in Me and Me alone that salvation lies.

I AM not so far removed that I do not hear your prayers, indeed I hear your every sigh whether it be at noonday or in the far watches of the night.

My Heart reaches out to you. I shelter you under My Wing. I call you by name. I shall answer your please, for you are My chosen ones, My holy ones and I shall come again to be with you always.

# Board Splinters From April 2021

BY STAN WILSON, BOARD PRESIDENT



Some highlights from our Board meeting on 15 April 2021

1. The Treasurer reported our giving for the first quarter exceeded our budget. Stewardship cards continue to arrive. Our pledges are close to what they were last year at this time.

2. The Building and Maintenance chairman introduced a concept to build a porte-cochere over the walk from the parking lot to the entry of the Narthex. This would facilitate entering the Narthex during inclement weather. Also, the concrete walkway to the Memorial Garden would be replaced by pavers. Funds were provided for architectural drawings and estimate of the cost.

3. Vacation Bible School will be held in June. The Vacircas will be in charge of the activities. Bible study classes by Jan Smith were given permission to use the Fellowship Hall for the Monday morning class.

4. Fellowship time between services will restart in September and outside help will be obtained to provide food and drink, prepare and clean up the room for the event.

5. There were five new members approved for membership.

Barbara Colwell - regular membership

Michael Grebe - associate membership

Linda and Dennis Hall - associate membership

Grace Lipman - regular membership

Give them a warm welcome when seen in church.

Over 700 people either attended one of the Easter worship services or watched it by live-streaming.

6. A new handrail is being installed just right of the pulpit. This is to help prevent falls on the steps.

7. Reservations for both the 9:15 and 11:15 services will no longer be required beginning the first Sunday in May. Wearing a mask will still be required until the CDC guidelines change.



# Surviving A Pandemic As A Freshman In College: A Reflection

BY JANE COE FLEMMING

Starting my freshman year at Georgia Southern University during a national pandemic was not ideal, but I was determined to make the best of it. Back in August 2020, at the height of the pandemic, I moved into my dorm with a complete stranger, who has now become one of my best friends. I dug into my studies and took on the daunting task of sorority recruitment through a computer screen. I received a bid from Kappa Kappa Gamma and started meeting new people and making friends by getting involved in the Sisterhood and accepting a position on the New Member Committee.

It took time to get acquainted with online classes and Zoom learning, but once I got the hang of it, it became second nature. Thankfully I have some in-person classes, but it's been nowhere near normal. I had always heard that you make lots of friends with classmates, but with masks and social distancing, very few friendships were made in the classroom; people keep to themselves. Early on in my first semester I asked myself, "Is it really worth it?" and the answer was "Yes!" I began to reflect and remember why my family and I decided that I should go off to college in the first place, live on-campus, etc. I recognized that there is only one time in my life when I will go to college and experience Freshmen move-in day, roommates, bro-sis events, Homecoming weekend, and 3:00 a.m. runs to Waffle House with my roomies

(even though I have an 8 a.m. class). These are all moments that are making up my college experience. Dealing with Coronavirus is part of my college experience, but I refuse to let it define my first year of independence.

Although it was difficult to leave my parents, home, friends and Amelia Plantation Chapel family, I was strengthened in knowing that you all have been praying for me. I am so appreciative of my Chapel family and what you all have done for me. Attending Easter Sunday service made me realize how much I miss your fellowship and how excited I am to come home for the summer and see everyone again. I will be keeping busy as CFO (Chief Fun Officer) of Jane's Babysitting/Dogsitting Service, and otherwise enjoying my Mom's home cooking and laundry services.

We are being told by university administrators that starting in Fall of 2021, campus life will be back to "normal." All classes are scheduled to be in person, athletic events will be in full swing, and I have the amazing opportunity to live on campus in my sorority house. I am very excited for what's to come next year, throughout my college career and beyond.

“ ***Just think! In 50 years, I'll be able to tell my grandchildren how I survived COVID-19 as a college freshman, way back in the year 2020.*** ”

## Book Review:

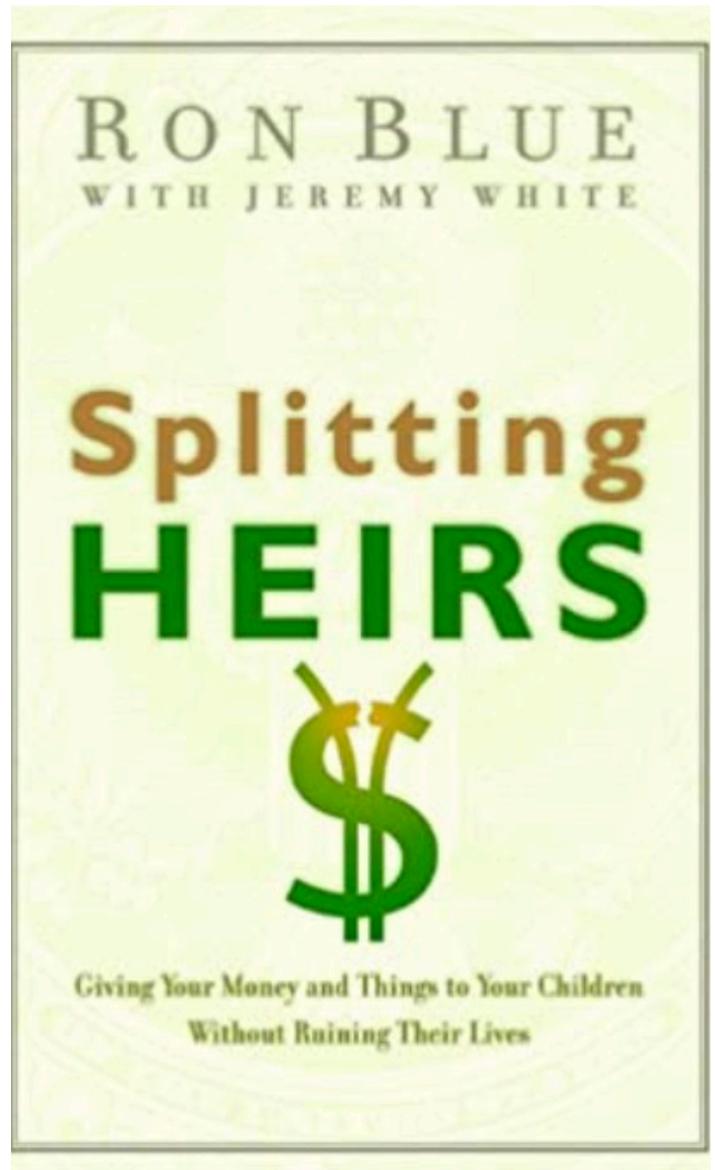
*Splitting Heirs* By Ron Blue  
BY LEE MULDER



By now, most of us have done some estate planning because we're all aware we won't need money or assets when we are called home. But before that day we must think about what will happen to our life's stuff and what will happen when our heirs find out what we've decided.

Ron Blue, well known as a Christian-thinking financial advisor, gives us plenty to think about in his book *Splitting Heirs*. All too often, he says, just leaving our estate to the kids causes anger, conflict and disappointment we would never wish on our family while we are around. So in his eminently readable, experienced-based way, he offers some suggestions.

1. Taking the easy way out – just leaving it all to the kids – more often than not, for a variety of reasons, can do more harm than good.
2. However you decide to divide your estate, make sure everyone involved knows about it ahead of time, perhaps a weekend rendezvous with all parties. Family needs to understand these are your assets and these are your decisions and why. If there are questions or objections, they can be dealt with as a family at that time, not when you no longer have a voice.
3. If you plan on having family handle business assets, make sure they are involved in the business, hopefully for years, to understand your vision and their responsibility. Be deliberate about your succession planning. Make sure all involved are included in developing the plan.
4. Do the kids need the money? If not, or if there is enough money involved, you may consider sending it where it will do good in the world...



maybe with yourselves involved directly. And don't forget the church.

5. You may also consider structuring your estate so you can use funds to do good in the world while you are still living, thereby reducing taxes at the end.

I found a lot of wisdom in this book. There is something to be said about finishing well.

# Baby Bottle Boomerang

## A LITTLE CHANGE ... A BIG DIFFERENCE



**You can help The Nest share truth and provide free services to those who find themselves facing an unplanned pregnancy.**

**Return your bottles full of coins, bills and/or checks to help those served by The Nest by:**

### **Baby Bottle Boomerang!**

A Little Change...A Big Difference

BY SALLY ERICKSEN



The 2021 BBB benefiting The Nest, a Women's Center is underway and ending on Mother's Day, May 9!

Please pick up a bottle, if you haven't done so, fill it with coins, bills, or checks (made out to "The Nest") and return it to the Chapel. Your support provides those facing an unplanned pregnancy with FREE pregnancy testing, options counseling, ultrasounds, adoption advocacy, a men's program, post abortion healing, parent education classes, Bible studies and material assistance. Thank you for your donation which encourage "Choosing Life" for unborn children in northeast Florida. If you prefer to give virtually to this cause you can use the link below: <https://thenestjax.com/virtual-baby-bottle-campaign.html>



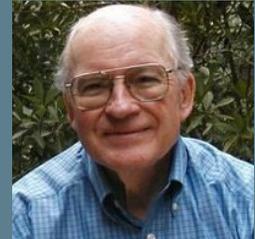
Alex Pantelyat



Elizabeth Hilles



Dr. Diane Schneider



BY BILL HILLES

# Harps and Heartstrings

## A Musicial Healing Technique

An impressive form of music therapy comes from the heavenly vibrating sound from one of the world’s oldest instruments – the harp. The history of the harp’s worldwide use to heal can be traced back 3,000 years. It was played in the healing temples of Ancient Egypt, by 11th century French monks for death rites, and by West African musician-entertainers to heal communities and used on several other continents. Meditations, or the expression of deep thoughts, were often accompanied by harp music.

Our son’s wife, Elizabeth, plays her harp for convalescing patients at nearby Charlottesville, VA, hospitals. She also often plays her violin for the same purpose. She has been participating in a Johns Hopkins program in therapeutic medicine whose aim has been to take advantage of various musical genres to energize patients with relaxing and comforting music. Harps have been found to fit the bill in good form. This program at Hopkins’ Peabody Conservatory for Music and Medicine has been co-directed by Neurologist Alex Pantelyat.

“This therapeutic use of harps was based upon ancient observations that the vibrations emitted by the harp possessed unusual power both to calm and to energize humans and animals,” writes harp therapist and researcher Dr. Diane Schneider on her website, Harp of Hope.

The extent to which the playing of a harp can alter a person’s physiology, temporarily or perhaps even permanently, is astounding. The theory is that within our bodies, sound vibrations are bouncing around as our atomic components move, and these pulsations can be influenced by the external sound vibrations of a musical instrument. The theory is based on the process of entrainment, where one object’s vibration pattern can be altered by a similar but stronger vibration of another. According to a study on harp therapy for hospital patients released in 2015, “the vibrational patterns of the patient’s body and mind may be influenced by the intentional sequencing of tones and rhythms of the harp vibrations, which leads to changes in how symptoms are experienced.”

The harp has indeed provided both joy and healthful moods to many healthy people as well as those with illnesses that can be reached by the harp such as Parkinson disease, multiple sclerosis and other movement disorders.

Psalm 81:1-3 speaks to the pleasant harp  
*Sing aloud unto God our strength:  
Make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob.  
Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel,  
The pleasant harp with the psalter.  
Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time  
appointed, on our solemn feast day.*

# Like A River Glorious!

BY JENNIFER ST. CLAIR



The sea always amazes me as it spills onto the sand, creating magical patterns as the tide ebbs and flows unceasingly. No two designs are the same. Each is beautifully crafted by the water rushing to the shore, staying long enough to accomplish what it set out to do. Perfectly timed. Yet never wearing out its welcome. Oftentimes I wish the salty water would linger a bit more so I can grab the little seashell treasure, spotted at the last minute, before the strong currents carry it out to sea.

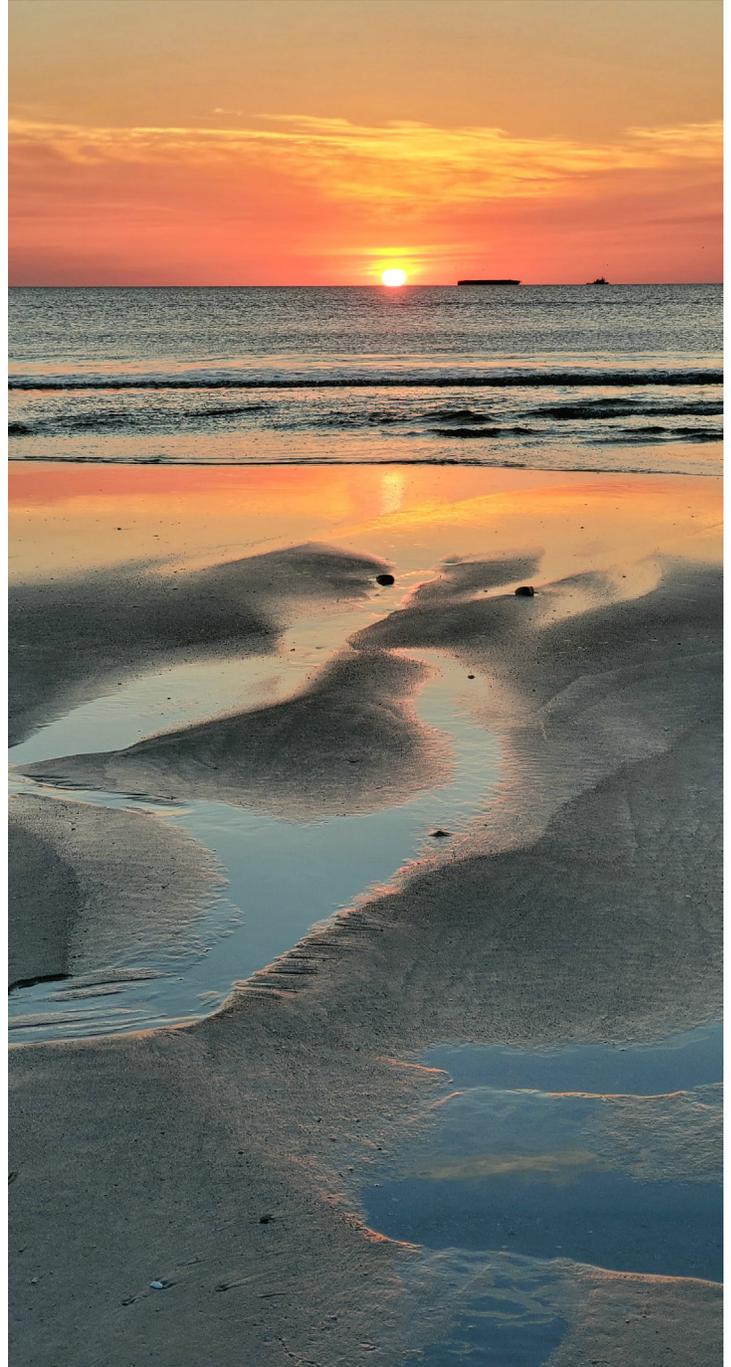
The spillage sometimes creates pools as the tide fills the indented spaces on the sand to overflowing levels, delighting children of all ages, me included! I've been known to sit in one of these pools for hours on end, especially when the ocean temperature is a bit cool. These shallow spots heat up quickly in the hot sun. And I do so love when that happens!!!

However, the most exciting moment for me is to see the "rivers on the sand" still containing ocean water from the previous day as I step on the crossover at sunrise. The reflections from the warm colors of the sky take my breath as I hurry down the steps to capture a photo moment to share with you and my other friends. God truly does click the button every nanosecond to change the slide screen! So, one must make haste!!!

A song bubbles up in my memory when this occurs:

*Like a river glorious is God's perfect peace  
Over all victorious in its bright increase  
Perfect, yet it floweth fuller every day  
Perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way.  
Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest  
Finding as He promised  
Perfect peace and rest.*

Isaiah 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." (NIV)

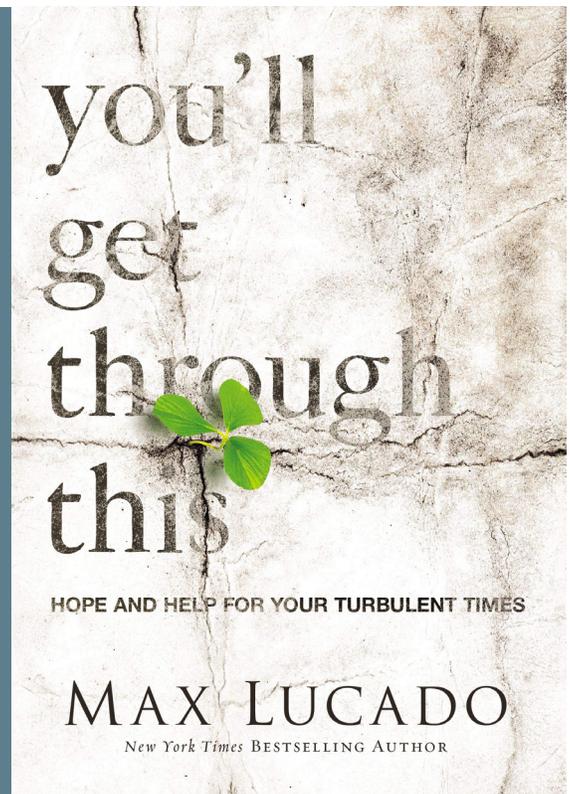




## Book Review:

*You'll Get Through This*  
By Max Lucado

BY CAROL ANN MCKAY



Will this terrible situation ever end? I'm worried and afraid. I can't take it anymore. These are common pleas expressed by those of us enduring pain, anguish and stress. Max Lucado offers much-needed practical wisdom, comfort, encouragement, and hope to help get through the dark times.

The author shares the trials of Joseph, who, as a young boy, was abandoned to a deep, dark pit by his brothers. The story got much worse before it got better as he endured starvation, enslavement, and imprisonment. The Bible tells us however, that Joseph never gave up, never became bitter, and never sought revenge. Because of his faithfulness and complete trust in God, later in life, Joseph became the second most powerful man of his generation.

Comparing Joseph's story to ours, the author compellingly illustrates scriptural references reminding us that God is in control; there is real purpose beyond our pain, and that our greatest trials and worst mistakes can be the launching pad into our destiny.

*"You'll get through this.  
It won't be painless. It won't be quick.  
But God will use this mess for good.  
Don't be foolish or naive. But don't  
despair either.  
With God's help, you'll get through this."*

Max Lucado, in his down-to-earth style, applies Joseph's experiences to ours, showing us that God will carry us through our suffering, not just to survive, but to find our true calling in His divine plan.



# Little-While Friends

BY KATHERINE HOEHN

This morning I was reminded about a book my boys' had in the late 1980's, Orlando's Little-While Friends, by Audrey Wood. The story is about a boy named Orlando, whose parents bought a van so they could travel far and wide, all summer long. Shy Orlando did not want to leave his friends back home and he and his parents came up with the name "little-while friends" for short term friends from whom he learned about sharing and shyness, letting go and holding on, and loneliness and fear.

My family has used the "little-while friends" term loosely, to describe people, as well as animals and critters of the sea, or an especially friendly tree.

Lori Flemming texted me a photo of a caterpillar that crawled onto Ned's iPad. Just as I am sure everyone else would do, I immediately pulled my Caterpillars of Eastern North America book off the shelf and found it—a White-Marked Tussock Moth. Quite an impressive looking caterpillar, it is less attractive as a moth and a bit of a pest. This led to a brief text exchange with Lori, in which she reminded me that I made a statement to her at

some point, "God is brilliant." I commented about how pests can even be a blessing, although who knows why God made rattlesnakes. I referred to the Tussock Moth as Ned's "dapper little-while friend" and then had to explain what that was all about. It seems I do a lot of explaining for my seemingly random memories of things important only to me.

And so, a little caterpillar photo encouraged an exchange and a reminder that God provides in many ways, including dropping little-while friends on our iPads or putting a large turtle in your walking path so you can watch it dig a hole and lay eggs, which happened on my walk later the same morning.

Little-while friends come in all shapes, sizes, and species. On Amelia Island we're apt to encounter them daily, and if we're lucky enough to be outdoors, we can share a maskless smile and carry on, knowing there are friends everywhere and that our brilliant God put them there, if only just for a little while.



SPECIAL MOMENTS

# Holy Week

April 2021



# Chapel News

May 2021

## Mark Your Calendars!

We will be holding VBS this year June 21-25 from 9:00am-12:00pm. Space will be limited to 50 children. We will continue to follow Covid protocol and masks will be required when indoors. If you would like to register a child please visit <https://vbspro.events/p/events/ac9b55>. If you wish to volunteer please also register online. Questions? Call Frank Vacirca at 904.562.0566 or Suzanne Vacirca at 910.477.0144.

## Chapel Nursery

Good News! The nursery is now open every Sunday for both services! For the safety of all, masks are required, except for infants and toddlers under 2, for anyone entering the nursery.

## Chapel Library

The Chapel Library is now open during regular business hours, closing from 12-1 for lunch, as well as between services Sundays for you to come and enjoy.

## Chapel Choir

The Chapel choir has resumed! Choir practice will be every Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall from 3:30-5:00pm. If you would like to join please contact Don Edwards at [donedwds@ameliachapel.com](mailto:donedwds@ameliachapel.com).

## Sunday Service Reservations

Reservations are no longer required to services.

## The Footprints of Paul

Join Pastor Don Edwards as he leads a group through Greece and the paths that the Apostle Paul walked! The trip is planned for October 4-15, 2021. There is a flyer with more detailed information in the narthex or contact Don with questions.



## Amelia Plantation Chapel

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