



AMELIA PLANTATION CHAPEL

# Footprints

Monthly Newsletter

September 2021

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A Letter From The Pastor

## Labor As A Act Of Faith

BY CONRAD SHARPS

The Pinewood Derby Car Kit had sat on the counter for weeks and would have probably been there for many more if it had not caught my eye as we were walking out the door. We were on our way to visit my parents when I grabbed the kit and told my son he was in luck because no one had a better woodworking shop than grandpa.

I knew what my father could do with the simple block of wood and wheels because I had literally grown up in his shop. Although he worked in a great variety of vocations, he was apprenticed as a cabinetmaker. I would often walk into his shop as a youngster and ask, "What are you making?" His answer was always the same, "Sawdust." As I watched him working with my son to craft the perfect pinewood car, I became very nostalgic; a memory that remains so very dear to me this day!

I believe that as we look at our nation today it may be easy for some to become dismayed, even resigned, to the difficulties we face. Some cannot yet find employment, while others simply opt for unemployment benefits that are in some cases greater than their normal working wage. Labor, however, has benefits that a family's bottom-line income can never match! Just think of the blessings that we have inherited as the results of the inspiration of generations of women and men made the sacrifice and gave the effort to build a great nation through their labors.

What we have, as citizens of this nation, is no accident. We have been blessed by the enterprise of many who have gone before us and for that we should stop and not only give thanks to God, but also ask ourselves how we will continue their work? What heritage of labor will we leave to the next generation? Will it also be a legacy of imagination, industry, insight and faith?

I believe the most important question regarding our labor deals with our faith. As a people we must also be willing to continue building upon that foundation which was laid by our Lord Jesus Christ. If we are his disciples, he is



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# A Letter From The Pastor Continued

the foundation upon which we must build our lives, our families and our society. Christ is the one who has begun a great work, and he is calling all those who believe in him to finish what he has begun.

With joy and thankfulness in our hearts we are invited, and encouraged to approach all our labors as acts of faith dedicated to the glory of God. Let us remember Paul's advice to the Colossians, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." (Colossians 2:6,7)

This upcoming Labor Day weekend, let's not only give God thanks for the privilege of our labor, let us also reflect upon and envision how God is calling us to continue to share the message of His work of salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.



## Tables of Eight

BY SANDY SPROAT AND KATHERINE HOEHN

Tables of Eight is a social activity of informal, small dinners (in homes or restaurants) with groups of 4-8, open to all adults in our congregation. We're starting this fall and will either begin monthly dinner groups in October or, if safety issues come into play, postpone until February and plan monthly events through May.

In the Fall of 2018, we held our first Tables of Eight gatherings and had so much fun that the event grew larger in the spring. Then along came Covid and gatherings were cancelled, and our socializing came to a halt. We're ready to get together again.

We are gathering names of those who are interested in joining a group (for lunch or dinner, in homes or restaurants) and getting to know new people or reacquainting yourselves with people you do not know well. It is designed for fellowship and to be inclusive of all adults, single or couples, regardless of age. It is a great opportunity for long-time and new members to meet and share a meal.

Understanding that Covid is the wild card, we're opening registration, with a deadline of Sunday, September 19. You can complete the registration form online, or you may print it out and drop it in the basket in the Narthex or return it to the church office.

Everyone registered by Sunday September 19 will be assigned a group, group leaders will be identified, and group leaders will get back to you by the third week of September with more information. We'll make assignments according to preferences for lunch or dinner and restaurants or in-home gatherings.

If we can begin in October, we will. If Covid pushes us into February for in-person meetings, we'll keep our groups and your group leader will reach out to you. The most important thing right now is to know who wants to join in the fun!

Questions? Call Katherine Hoehn, (703) 901-2434, or Sandy Sproat, (904) 491-0390.

# Board Splinters From August 2021

BY STAN WILSON, BOARD PRESIDENT



Our recent Board meeting was held on August 19, 2021. We had not met in June and July so we had much to discuss. We asked for guidance by the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit was certainly present. Here is a brief summary of the Board's actions:

1. Pastor Conrad has been very busy with pastoral care and memorial services since he returned from vacation.
2. The next Memorial service will be for Lee Mulder on August 28, 2021.
3. The treasurer reported that our giving is in keeping with the past two years' giving. We are ahead of our budget needs for this year.
4. The Board approved Bruce Comrie to fill the chair of the Outreach committee vacated by the death of Lee Mulder. Bruce also has been approved by the Board to continue in that position beginning in January 2022.
5. The nominating committee, chaired by Barney Smith, presented a slate for the three positions beginning in January 2022. They are Bruce Comrie for Outreach, Frank Vacirca for Membership and Katherine Hoehn for Fellowship. The Board approved all three. They will be voted in at the congregational meeting in November.
6. The Chapel will continue to follow the CDC guidelines for wearing the masks in church services: strongly recommended, but not mandatory.
7. Christian Education has asked that the 9:15 church service begin at 9:00 in order to lengthen and encourage our Bible Study Class between services. The Board approved of this change and it will begin on September 12, 2021. Look for announcements from the church office and from Conrad on Sunday morning.
8. The Fellowship hour restarts on September 12, 2021 when we welcome back our members who have been gone for the summer. It will begin at 10:00am so the attendees can go the Bible Study Class. The Chapel BBQ that was scheduled on that day is postponed to a later date because of the resurgence of COVID.
9. The Fellowship coffee and snacks will now be catered by Lauren Murray.
10. Tables of Eight will start in October. Signup sheets are in the narthex or one can call the Chapel office. You can also sign up on our website.
11. Membership reported that our attendance is holding steady. The head count for the two services plus the number who livestream the service is averaging 314+. More than one may watch the livestream on the same device. Twenty new members for 2021 were introduced to the congregation in July.
12. Petal Pushers and Pedal Express are operating again.
13. The Deacon ministry is undergoing reorganization.
14. Look for the song "Prayer for The Nation" to again be sung in church.

Stan Wilson  
President of the Chapel Board



## Petal Pushers/Pedal Express

BY LINDA LEGG

“These flowers have been on the Altar of Amelia Plantation Chapel. They come now to you still fresh from the Holy Atmosphere of Worship, bringing with them our loving thoughts and tender prayers.”  
The Petal Pushers

These meaningful words accompany beautiful flower arrangements created on Monday mornings by a group of special Chapel ladies named “The Petal Pushers.” Petal Pushers is a ministry made up of dedicated ladies who rearrange the altar flowers into individual bouquets for members who are ill, home-bound, bereaved or celebrating a joyful event. The ladies are experts in flower arranging and thoughtful note writing, and they really enjoy their time of fellowship on Monday mornings. The group includes Latrelle Maddox, Bev Arnold, Ann Adele Alf, Lucy Bryan, Cheryl Donaldson, Linda Kamback, Dee Phillips, and Vicky Easton.

Preparing the flowers and writing encouraging notes are aspects of the ministry, but how about getting the bouquets to the recipients? That’s

where The Pedal Express committee comes in! The Pedal Express team makes sure the flowers are delivered promptly and with a smile. Currently, John Hopkins, Ned Flemming, Howard & Sandy Jones, and Toby Schubert make this happen every week. Petal Pushers/Pedal Express is truly a group effort.

If you wish to commemorate a special day or event in your life, please find the sign-up book in the Narthex. The cost is only \$65 for a beautiful bouquet and there are several slots left in 2021.

The thoughtful sharing of flowers each Sunday brings the recipients some of the peace and blessings that are present at Sunday services. What a special way to share God’s love!

P.S. If you have been a recipient of a Monday flower arrangement, we would appreciate you recycling/returning the bud vases to the Fellowship Hall for future use!

# Update!

## *Vacation Bible School*

BY FRANK VACIRCA



We were very blessed to have a successful VBS Outreach this past June. The “Rocky Railway” got our children on track to truly trust in our Lord and Savior. Thirty youngsters, ranging from kindergarten through Grade 5, participated in activities that were fun and faith filled. One of the very important goals of VBS is to get to know Jesus at this very young age. These days in their lives are formative as they grow with guidance, scripture, and prayer to be the future of our faith. It is a message in His love.

Our valued and much appreciated volunteers were instrumental in creating an engaging and welcoming atmosphere each and every day on our Chapel campus. God blessed us with wonderful role models for our children. Special Thanks to Lauren Sharps and all our Chapel bakers for creating a yummy “Cookie Train.” The cookies were loved by one and all. On Friday morning, the last day of “Rocky Railway,” our parents and grandparents participated in food and festivities to celebrate a successful week.

In prayer and appreciation we are looking forward to VBS next summer.



# Morning Glory

BY JENNIFER ST. CLAIR



God's sweet surprises await me every morning as I make my way to the beach for that first glimpse of the sea beyond. A few days ago, my walk was delayed due to the wet weather conditions. As we beach people have learned, five minutes can make all the difference in the world, and so it was the case that particular day. The sun suddenly made an appearance with the summer heat and humidity slapping me in the face the second I stepped outside, despite the early hour!

My normal routine takes me to the 17th Avenue crossover where I ooh and aah like it's the very first time I've ever seen the ocean. Quite frankly, the slide show does present a NEW frame every time I arrive. Never any reruns when God controls the stops! My eyes absorb beauty to the east, then to the north and finally take in the wonders to the south. As my feet reach the bottom step, off come the flip flops, and my bare feet touch the damp sand. A sigh of delight escapes my voice. It is then I do an about face to the west, lest I miss something magnificent in that direction.

That's when I spotted the long, green vine trailing down the sand dunes. As I walked closer it became apparent this was a Morning Glory. For some reason I usually associate them growing in fields where I grew up in North Carolina, not at the beach. Yet, indeed I was looking at one. The bright fuchsia bloom made it clear to me. Naturally, my 'camera eye' kicked in and several photos later, well, you get to witness the proof!

Isn't God good? Just when we least expect it, a small miracle appears, even on the sand dunes, to teach you and me to glorify His name every minute of every day, wherever we go. We must look for His clues. They are everywhere!

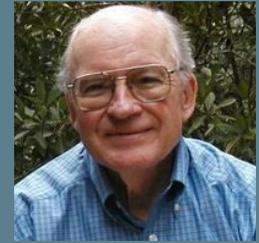
*"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."* (Luke 2:14)



# When Farewells Are Not Goodbyes

DARLENE'S FAITH IN ACTION—EVIDENCE NOT SEEN

BY BILL HILLES



Within our short memories, as we left a Chapel service, most were comfortable with parting good-byes to fellow parishioners since we believed our paths would cross again in the near future. Though we will have to wait a while, we may be comforted by the tales of others whose faith was extraordinarily strong.

Many may be unaware that Jeremiah Rankin, a prominent pastor of Washington, DC's First Congregational Church, observed that the term "Good-bye" is really an abbreviated form for "God be with you." During the 1880s, he made this clear to his congregation by providing a song—written in 1882—for them to sing when his service adjourned for the week.

*"God be with you till we meet again,  
By His counsel's guide, uphold you  
With his sheep securely fold you.  
God be with you till we meet again."*

The piece was later popularized and sung worldwide, including the area around New Guinea as war clouds rolled over the Islands.

When Darlene Rose was 10, she was in a church meeting in her small Iowa town; she heard an appeal for volunteers to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the remotest areas of the world. She was quick to respond and never forgot her commitment to carry His message to faraway places.

Newly married in 1937, Darlene and Russell Deibler spent six months of language study in Holland, then left in August, 1938 for Batavia, Java in the Dutch East Indies as Christian missionaries—on their first anniversary. After landing, both plunged enthusiastically into the work of building a church and bringing the Gospel to the natives. She was the first American woman to enter the Baliem Valley

of New Guinea. By early 1942, Japanese forces invaded and shortly captured both husband and wife. They were permitted to stay together for a short while—until the day their captors took Russell away to a separate prison camp. His parting words to Darlene were "Remember one thing, dear, God said that he would "never leave us nor forsake us." Their paths would never cross again. Russell had been taken to an internment camp for men at Pare Pare, north of Makassar. Russell died there of dysentery in August, 1943.

Darlene during her four years of captivity endured extensive mental torture and physical suffering. There appeared to be little evidence that God was there in that place, except for the unending faith at work in her heart, alive with His power as she touched many lives around her prison jail cell.

When Darlene was released from her Japanese prison at Kampili, she sketched an image of her imprisonment quarters. By then she had become a bitter 28-year-old widow—her body debilitated by exhaustion, starvation, malaria, and beriberi. As she departed the islands, she determined she'd never return to that part of the world, which, in her words, had robbed her "of everything that was most dear to me." But then she heard Indonesian voices in the distance. She realized the power of her Heavenly Father and recalled that she and her husband had transformed the lives of hundreds of the natives who had gathered on the shore and were singing:

*"God be with you till we meet again."  
"God be with you till we meet again  
When life's perils thick confound you  
Put His arms unfailing round you.  
God be with you till we meet again."*



## A New Wednesday Class:

*Starting October 6*

BY JAN SMITH

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Galatians 5:1

I would like to invite you to join us as we begin a new Bible Study this fall. We will be doing THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE book. This book reveals what Jesus accomplished through His Blood and His Cross. We all know the Blood of Jesus gave us forgiveness, but do we know it also freed us from guilt, and from Satan's accusations? Do we know that the Cross gives us victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil? Jesus gave us abundant Life; His very own Life. Come and study with us as we search the scriptures to learn all that we inherited when we became joint heirs with Christ. (Romans 8:16-17)

The NCL class will start on Wednesday October 6 at 10:30am in the Meeting Room at the Chapel. Contact Jan Smith at [janiceusmith@bellsouth.net](mailto:janiceusmith@bellsouth.net) for information about the live class or attending by internet on Zoom. Books are available in the Chapel office.



## Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

BY CLAUDIA SMITH

It's time for our Amelia Plantation Chapel's, Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry! This is our Chapel Family's opportunity to join multitudes of others in preparing shoeboxes to share the Good News and Great Joy of Jesus Christ with the estimated 11 million children who receive them, in over 100 countries! A particular focus in the next three years is to visit and share the gospel on each of the 1000 islands in the Pacific Ocean. Franklin Graham's hope is for every child to know how much God loves them. Children are invited to a discipleship program called The Greatest Journey ([www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)).

Last year, because of Covid, Samaritan's Purse OCC gave us two ways to prepare shoeboxes. Our Chapel family prepared 200 shoeboxes through our Chapel's own online website and 112 shoeboxes locally for a total of 312 shoeboxes to bless the children, their families and communities. The online and locally filled options are available again this year.

Our Kickoff Sunday is September 26 and our Blessing of the Boxes is October 24. This gives us 4 weeks to either go online to our specific Chapel website or to pick up shoeboxes from the narthex and fill them locally. There will be a link each week in the Chapel Weekly email so you can click the link and easily access the Chapel's online website.

Volunteers are needed to prepare and set out shoeboxes in the narthex a couple of days before the kickoff. Volunteers can also help before and after each service to receive filled shoeboxes and hand out empty shoeboxes. A couple of days before the Blessing of the Boxes, the shoeboxes will be placed near the altar for the Blessing of the Boxes on October 24. Shoeboxes are then stored at the Chapel until November 15 when they are loaded up and taken to the local collection site. There will be a need for a couple of extra cars to deliver boxes on that afternoon.

If you are interested in helping in any way, please call or email Claudia Smith at 912-294-4778 or [gandcsmith@gmail.com](mailto:gandcsmith@gmail.com).



## A Testimony:

### *The Ephesians Bible Study at The Chapel*

BY SEWELL HARLIN, TO GOD BE THE GLORY

“God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound unto every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8 NKJV

Marilyn’s 14 month journey through Mayo with a final diagnosis of Lou Gehrig’s Disease on February 8, 2021 coincided with our study of Ephesians with Jan Smith on Monday mornings. Studying Paul’s teachings during this period has enabled us to maintain our steadfast Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ .

As we study Ephesians we constantly confirm these teachings elsewhere in the Bible. Ephesians 2:8 “by grace you have been saved through Faith” is confirmed in Romans 3. Ephesians 1:11 “we were chosen” is confirmed in Romans 8:29-30. Ephesians 3:17 “so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through Faith” is confirmed by Galatians 2:20 “Christ lives in me.”

All of these confirmations of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Savior, gets us through day by day as we tackle this ruthless disease. Also knowing from Romans 5:3-5 that: “we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because GOD has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

Only by studying the Word of God in detail, as we are in Ephesians, can we keep the Faith and peace of mind that our Sovereign GOD is in control and will carry us through tough times.

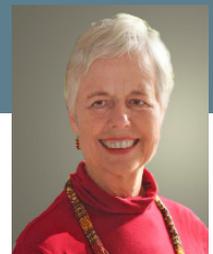
We invite you to join us in this expository search of the Scriptures, through Ephesians. We meet on Mondays, in the Meeting Room, at 10:30am.

## Browsing Around The Library

BY LINDA COLE

Browsing the shelves in a library has long been a favorite treat of mine. I never know what treasures I might discover. Imagine my delight, when as a new member of the Chapel family, I discovered your wonderful church library.

I saw several old favorites, such as C. S. Lewis’s Space Trilogy, and many that I can’t wait to read. *Really Bad Girls of the Bible* caught my eye. Hmm, what’s that about? *Answers to Questions about Heaven* by David Jeremiah looks like something I would like to read soon. There were so many others. I had better get busy! “So many books, so little time.” The library is open all during the week when the church office is open and between services on Sundays, so there are plenty of opportunities to drop in and look things over. You never know what special treats YOU might find.





## Adult Bible Sunday Study Resumes on September 19!

BY SALLY ERICKSEN

With the full opening of the Chapel in September, classes will finally return to the meeting room between worship services, 10:15-11:05 am on Sundays.

First on the schedule is *The Pilgrim's Progress, a Guided Tour*. *The Pilgrim's Progress*, written by John Bunyan over 300 years ago, is one of the most widely circulated books ever to be published in the English language. Despite its popularity in the past, many people today are not familiar with this masterpiece. Join Dr. Derek Thomas as he leads a DVD guided tour of this allegorical work. It recounts the story of Christian, who appears to the author in a dream, and his journey to Heaven through the trials and tribulations of life. Even if you have read it previously, I assure you that Dr. Thomas will uncover many insights that you may have missed. Dust off your book if you have one or a limited number will be available in the church office for \$8. I hope you will consider joining us for this study! Questions? Sally Ericksen 904-775-5122.

## The Nest - A Women's Center Banquet Invite!

### John C. Morgan

Discovered at a "Bush For President" rally in 2000, Morgan went from selling appliances to performing at the President's Inaugural. By 2007, John was bringing his big-time comedic impersonation to arenas all across America, appearing live before tens of thousands on Sean Hannity's "Freedom Concerts" and before hundreds of thousands on "The Winter Jam Tour Spectacular," where he amazed audiences with his guitar playing and singing.

Millions more have seen him on America's Got Talent, The Family Feud, Headline News, Hannity & Colmes, E! Entertainment Network, ABC's "The View," and The 700 Club. Fans even voted him a finalist on ABC TV's celebrity reality show, "The Next Best Thing." John was awarded America's #1 Bush Impressionist along with two "Mirror Image" awards and a 2005 Cloney award for "Best Historical Impersonation" voted on by his peers. Has also been featured on NPR's All Things Considered, and interviewed in dozen's of newspapers such as The Sunday London Times.

John's inspiring journey is chronicled in print. My Life as a Bush...and My Heart for Imitating Jesus, with forward by Governor Mike Huckabee, is filled with laugh-out-loud stories, audacious encounters, and spiritual insights. Each chapter of John's story encourages readers to become imitators of the **greatest Man who ever lived.**

### Laughs for Life

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

OLD PLANK ROAD  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
8964 OLD PLANK ROAD  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32220

5:00 DOORS OPEN FOR  
SILENT AUCTION  
MEET AND GREET

6:30 DINNER BEGINS

Tables are sponsored by Chapel members so there is no cost to attend, but you will be given the opportunity to make a donation or participate in the Silent Auction if you wish. For reservations please email Sally Ericksen at [ericksenw@bellsouth.net](mailto:ericksenw@bellsouth.net) or call 904-775-5122.

# MEN'S BREAKFAST

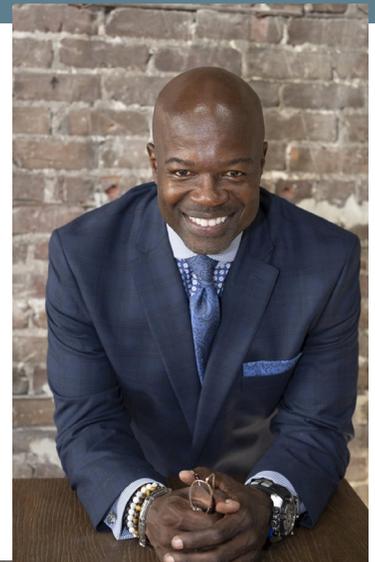
## Men's Breakfast

BY ED WEIHENMAYER



Our Men's Breakfasts will launch again on Friday, September 10. Our first speaker will be Grayson Marshall, a nationally respected influence in the basketball community, whose audiences range from teams and corporations to prisons and the pulpit. He left Clemson as its All-Time assist leader and is in the Clemson Hall of Fame. An author, his most recent book is *Your 2nd Half*, which is directed to athletes about living a winning and purposeful life after sports, but which applies to all of us who are near the end of our business or professional careers. Grayson is a Kingdom-minded servant who believes a key to a good life is a strong faith.

Best \$5 breakfast in town. Call Beth at 277-4414 by Wednesday, September 8 to sign up.



# Hello September !

## Chapel News

September 2021

### Chapel Updates

Monday, September 6 the Chapel office will be closed in observance of Labor Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, September 7 at 9:00am.

### Sunday Service Time Change

Starting Sunday, September 12 our 9:15am service will start at 9:00am to lengthen and encourage our Bible study class between services. The class beginning between services on Sunday, September 19 will now be at 10:15am in the Meeting Room. Books can be purchased for \$8 in the Chapel office.

### Welcome Back Sunday!

Sunday, September 12 is also Welcome Back Sunday! Coffee Fellowship will start back between services. The BBQ has been postponed to a later date.

### Chapel Bible Studies

Each Monday Jan Smith holds an adult Bible study through the book of Ephesians. This class meets in the Meeting Room at 10:30am. Bring a Bible and a notebook and prepare to hear from the Holy Spirit!

On Tuesday, September 14 we will begin our Men's and Women's Bible study on *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren at 10:30am. Men will meet in the Library and Women will meet in the Meeting Room. Books may be purchased for \$10 in the Chapel office.

A new adult Bible study will begin on Wednesday, October 6 at 10:30am in the Meeting Room. The class will study the book *The Normal Christian Life* by Watchman Nee. Books can be purchased for \$8 in the Chapel office.



## Amelia Plantation Chapel

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