



AMELIA PLANTATION CHAPEL

Footprints

Monthly Newsletter

October 2021

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A Letter From The Pastor

It Only Takes A Spark...

BY CONRAD SHARPS

She should have never mentioned how long we had enjoyed our current toaster oven in such close proximity to said appliance, because within three days it flamed out and died. Fortunately, I was nearby, and there was no damage except to my finger prints when I tried to remove the shell of its worthless carcass before it had fully cooled off.

The true challenge to the family arose the next morning as three of us stood rather dumbfounded at the counter, holding bagels that needed toasting. My wife and I grew up in an era before the rise of toaster ovens and therefore could rely upon prior experience to overcome this unfortunate state of affairs. We preheated the broiler on our oven, buttered the bagels, arranged them on a baking sheet and placed them under the red glow of the elements.

Because it was a chilly morning, my wife and I were also able to relive one of those favorite of childhood memories. (It doesn't take much to make me happy.) Standing in front of the slightly ajar oven door we basked in the radiant heat as we rubbed our hands and rotated from facing the oven to facing away from the oven every few seconds. What came to my mind was the all too often over-sung campfire song: "It only takes a spark to get a fire going ..."

It reminds me of the event recorded in scripture that details the time the resurrected Jesus met his disciples for breakfast around a campfire on the beach. Perhaps you recall that the disciples had fished all night and caught nothing, when a stranger called out from the shore, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some (fish)."

When they did as he requested, they recognized that this was no stranger; it was Jesus who then told them to bring some fish in and have breakfast. We read in the gospel of John: "When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the



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A Letter From The Pastor Continued

net ashore. It was full of large fish, but even with so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.'" (John 21:9-12a)

The risen Lord prepared breakfast for his disciples, but that's not all. He directed them vocationally, in that, they were fisherman who had caught nothing until he showed them where they needed to place their nets.

He also goes on to dramatically demonstrate his love and his forgiveness to Peter, whom he challenged with the task of feeding Jesus' sheep.

Whatever need we may have: physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs (Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs), Jesus is prepared to meet those needs. We may not always recognize how Jesus comes to meet us (through the voice of a stranger on the beach, or in the power of sheer silence), yet come he does, and the natural response as faithful disciples should be to give thanks to God for meeting all our needs!

Do you know what your needs are today? Are you hungry? Do you thirst? Are you in need of challenge or forgiveness? Good! Come to the table, for our Lord has prepared a feast of salvation ... and you are an invited guest.



Adventures in Prayer

BY JANET MCGUGAN

I hold you in My Hand. Although the world may shake in its foundations and great mountains fall and crumble into dust, the Rock you stand upon will remain solid and upright. Though nations fall and great wars ravage the earth, all Mine shall remain strong, steadied by My victorious right Hand. Though pestilence scourges the land and evil men defile Me, My light in each one of you shall endure as steadfast as the stars.

Though great storms rip the earth and droughts sear the land, My Word shall remain as a beacon of Light to all of Mine. And I shall come again to bind Mine to me, to heal their wounds and dry their eyes, to mend their hearts and draw them to Me forever safe. Judgment shall be upon the earth for those that have not harkened to My Light and heeded My Voice; great shall be their grief. I AM the Lord your God and I assure you this will occur in the time to come.

Board Splinters From September 2021

BY STAN WILSON, BOARD PRESIDENT



Our Board met on September 16, 2021. The meeting opened with prayer. Here are some highlights of the meeting.

1. Pastor Conrad continues with a busy schedule of in-person pastoral care. He has begun the fall Men's Bible Study using Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Life* and it meets each Tuesday at 10:30am. The women are doing the same with Millie Stevenson and several other women leading the discussion.
2. The latest memorial service was for Kathy Bosland on Saturday, September 18, 2021 at 2:00pm in the Chapel.
3. The treasurer reported our giving is still ahead of last year's giving and we continue to exceed our budgeted numbers.
4. The annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for **November 7, 2021**. It will be held immediately after the 9:00am service. There will be proxy voting available for those who cannot attend. This allows the Secretary to vote for you on the issues discussed.
5. The Chapel continues to follow the CDC guidelines regarding the wearing of masks: recommended but not mandatory.
6. We began our change to 9:00am service on September 12, 2021, to allow more time for Sunday Bible class, which began on September 19, 2021. The first study is on John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* and is touted to be a very interesting study. Questions? Contact Sally Ericksen at 904.775.5122.
7. A proposal for a porte cochere at the front entrance to the Chapel is being prepared. The Board has approved the concept. Look for further information in The Footprints and at the annual meeting in November.
8. There are a couple of repairs needed for the Chapel's roof in order to fix water leaks and deteriorating infrastructure. Estimates are being obtained for these repairs.
9. The first catered fellowship time since the pandemic began took place on September 12, 2021 and it was a great success. The plan is to continue doing this. Also the postponed church picnic has been rescheduled for October 24, 2021 and will begin at 1:00pm at Walker's Landing.
10. Outreach has begun their annual vetting process of all the ministries we support. This is to assure they are still eligible for our funds.
11. Pastoral Care has revamped the Chapel's Deacon program. It now consists of Emergent Deacons to help in time of crises, Shepherd Deacons to assist members in need and Prayer Deacons to help in prayer at the prayer altar after the church services. Volunteers are welcomed. Contact Linda Legg if interested.
12. Our busy time of the year begins soon: Fall picnic, Fall Conference, Congregational meeting, Thanksgiving and Christmas. I think we are all ready for closer fellowship.

Stan Wilson
Board President



Powerful Prayer

BY KATHERINE DUDLEY HOEHN

My son, Matt, sent me a shocking text picturing six-month-old Harrison Dudley, attached to tubes and lying in a hospital bed, along with the message “back in the pediatric hospital...” My first reaction was to fall to my knees and pray. Next, I called my sister and asked for prayer, then texted Sandy Sproat (Adventures in Prayer), Kayla Murray (Chapel communications), and my Bible study group because I knew these warriors would ignite prayer like nobody’s business. The Chapel’s Adventures in Prayer group became his “Prayer Aunties.”

Very quickly, I felt warmth and comfort from the prayer I knew was going on, and the sweet messages I received. As the days wore on (he was hospitalized for five), I heard from Chapel members each day, assuring me they were praying for little Harry.

Conrad called to check on him and we prayed together over the phone. I knew at that point that the Lord was certainly present and doing his business as only He knows how. Matt checked in several times each day and after getting through the first rough 24 hours, my youngest grandchild began to improve.

That Sunday, I had an indescribable sense of peace when I heard his name spoken aloud by the congregation. In addition to shedding tears, I had a tremendous feeling of comfort and protection. A few hours later, he was released from the hospital.

The next week I flew out to see them and had a wonderful visit with all three grandchildren and their parents. I call him Harry in private because he was named for my Dad who went by Harry. He changed every day and during my visit he had his first solid food and delighted in the tastes and the opportunity to paint it on everything within reach. I didn’t forget

to say thank you to our Lord who helped him through a rough patch and returned him to us unscathed.

On Sundays, and in an occasional electronic message, I still have inquiries about Harrison’s health. It is a heartwarming reminder of what a wonderful community we have, and that prayer is powerful and binds us together in our faith that God provides. Thank you to all of you who prayed for Harrison, including his “Prayer Aunties” in the Chapel’s Adventures in Prayer. You all made a difference!

If you need prayer, call the church office or go to the website where you can describe your prayer need. You will be heard.

If you would like to know more about Harrison, please see this blog, written shortly after his birth, <https://www.katwritesandsnaps.com/post/never-let-a-good-baby-go-to-waste>.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)



September Men's Breakfast!

Speaker: Grayson Marshall

BY FRANK VACIRCA

After an 18-month hiatus because of the Coronavirus, the Men's Breakfast restarted on Friday, September 10th in the Fellowship Hall. Originated by Ed Weihenmayer ten years ago, this monthly event has become a longstanding tradition in the Christian life of the Chapel and in the Christian life of our community. It is well-attended by men of all ages, who come together in Christian fellowship to hear from an individual who has faithfully brought the message of the Gospel to the world in a remarkable way. It is also an opportunity to eat the best "Five Dollar Breakfast" in Nassau County, thanks to Bo Duffy and his energetic kitchen volunteers.



The Men's Breakfast on September 10th featured nationally acclaimed writer and motivational speaker, Grayson Marshall, Jr. A Clemson University alum and an outstanding college basketball player, he is recognized as Clemson's all time leader in assists and in the ACC. Grayson was inducted into the Clemson Hall of Fame in 2009. Today, he is widely known for being an author and motivational speaker. He has spoken to audiences across the country and around the globe. He is often referred to as "The Coach of Coaches" because of his ability not to solely motivate others but to inspire them.

Grayson has written three books: *The Keys to The Life You Have Always Imagined*, *Maintaining Greatness- Managing Your Gifts for Limitless Living*, and *The Second Half*. This latest book is considered a manual of applications for athletes and individuals alike who desire to live a positive, winning, and purposeful life. Grayson continues to use and maximize his experience in sports and his firm belief in God to make a faith-filled impact in our modern world.

The breakfast was attended by a receptive audience of nearly 50 men, who not only listened attentively but also asked questions of the presenter that they could practice in their daily walks. True to form, the lessons of the Men's Breakfast do not end with the presenter's last words but resonate in unified brotherhood that Christ is alive and active in our lives each and every day.

If you would like to discover more about Grayson Marshall, Jr. please visit Graysonmarshalljr.com
For information regarding future Men's Breakfasts and related events, kindly contact Ed Weihenmayer at ed@touchthetop.com.

Thy Word Is A Light

BY JENNIFER ST. CLAIR



Walking in the bright rays of the sunrise each morning signals a reminder to make certain God's Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path during the new day gifted to me. It's a jump-start, charging my battery with faith, hope, and love as I go about daily routines and to prepare me for those unexpected surprises life frequently renders.

One of my favorite definitions of "success" is the following: When preparedness and opportunity meet. We all know by now that our plans do not always coincide with God's plans despite how fervently we utter positive affirmations each day. I have heard it said that if you want to cause God to laugh, tell Him your plans! And yet, we humans seem to forget to remember this memo! I do.

However, each day I pull the full armor of God on knowing that I am protected from the darts of evil whizzing through heaven and earth, some known and some unknown, this-worldly and other-worldly, and seen and unseen. Scripture sums it up for us in Ephesians 6:17...Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

So, we Christians know how to be prepared! Speak out loud each day God's Word, not just "think" it. After all, God spoke the World into existence. Rest assured "opportunity" will confront us. But....Hallelujah! We are prepared! Thanks be to God!

Mere Christians: Inspiring Stories of Encounters with C.S. Lewis

edited by Mary Ann Phemister and Andrew Lazo

BY LINDA COLE



Fifty-five people, including some names you might recognize, like Charles Colson of Watergate fame and the author Philip Yancey, have written how Lewis influenced their faith and changed their lives. Titles like "I Became a Believer," "Conversion of a Skeptic," "How Much I Didn't Know," and "Starving for Heavenly Truth," give you an idea of what these contributors felt. Many of you could write your own essays on the influence Lewis had on your life. Those of you unfamiliar with his writings might want to see what you have been missing. Luckily, our church library has many of Lewis's most famous books, including *Mere Christianity*, whence this book gets its title. That is one I would like to read again.

September Men's Breakfast and Welcome Back Sunday Coffee Fellowship!





The Importance of Knowledge

A Testimony from Jan Smith

BY JAN SMITH

When I was about 35, and struggling to walk out the Christian life, someone said to me one day at church, “Jan, you need to pray for revelation.” Then she just walked away. I had no idea what that was. I thought Revelation was just a book of the Bible. However, being in a miserable state of being, I thought it could not hurt anything to start praying for revelation (whatever that meant). The result of praying that constant prayer still confounds me to this day.

As I began to pray for revelation the Bible opened up in a whole new way. As I read I would see things in the scriptures I had never noticed before. Then I started praying for revelation about specific verses I did not understand. The Holy Spirit began to give me greater comprehension.

Through all this I sensed a call from God to teach others about Revelation Knowledge as well. I started a small Bible study and began to see the Grace of God abounding. That was 33 years ago, and in all those years I have never tired of teaching, and seeing the transforming work of the Holy Spirit first hand.

Much of what we learn about Jesus comes through small group Bible studies. I encourage all Christians to consider joining a group of believers who study the Word together. We have many classes at the Chapel to choose from:

Ephesians on Mondays. *The Purpose Driven Life* on Tuesdays. *The Normal Christian Life* on Wednesdays. And *Pilgrims Progress* on Sundays. Jesus is exalted in every class as we learn to depend on Him.

The goal of all these classes is greater spiritual maturity, that we might be God’s vessels, ready for the Master’s use. Please prayerfully consider visiting one of these groups soon.

Men’s Breakfast

Our speaker for the Men’s Breakfast on Friday, October 8 is Rev. Adam Page, Pastor at Amelia Baptist Church. Adam is a native of Jacksonville and a graduate of the University of North Florida. He holds a Master’s in Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Many of us have enjoyed his powerful messages from the pulpit or at community events. His topic will be Cultural Christianity—the Billy Graham Crusades to Today.

Sign up by calling the Chapel office at 904.277.4414 by Wednesday, October 6. Best breakfast in town for \$5.





Operation Christmas Child

Shoebox Ministry

BY CLAUDIA SMITH

Our Chapel's Shoebox local collection will continue through Sunday, October 24 with the Blessing of the Boxes.

There are two ways to prepare shoeboxes—online at our Chapel's own website or filled locally and returned to the Chapel.

There will be a link each week in the Chapel Weekly email to our Chapel's own website. Simply click on the link to easily access the Chapel's online website. The shoeboxes are \$25 per box online. The postage fee of \$9 is included. For those who prefer to fill your own box, empty shoeboxes will be available in the Narthex.

Instructions are included in each box. Please remember to include a check for \$9 for postage for each shoebox. If you'd like to know which country received your shoeboxes, follow the instructions included in each box. Please return your shoeboxes to the Chapel during the week or on Sunday.

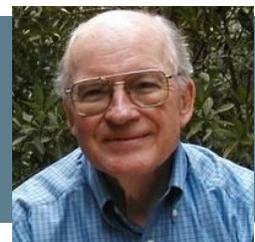
"Every shoebox gift is an opportunity to reach a child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It's about telling children around the world and their families that God loves them. He hasn't forgotten them. We're taking the Good News to the Ends of the Earth, and doing it through a shoebox." Franklin Graham

"I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Isaiah 49:6ESV
Let your lights shine for children around the world! If you need more information or would like to help, call or email Claudia Smith 912-294-4778 or gandcsmith@gmail.com.

All Things Bright And Beautiful

MEMORIES OF A COUNTRY VET

BY BILL HILLES



All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

This beloved children's story relates the life of a country veterinarian in the English town of "Darrowby." The narrow street opened on a cobblestoned square in the village. Many school-age youngsters learned about the animals tenderly cared for by a veterinarian in this quaint English town. Alf Wight, the author, chose as his pen name James Herriot. Wight's English parents spent much of their life in Glasgow. Alf (a.k.a. James Herriot) attended that city's Veterinary College and after graduation settled in the small community of Thirsk, North Yorkshire, England. His writings show the name as "Darrowby."



Christian Union Engages Freshmen

BY ED WEIHENMAYER

Christian Union works on nine college campuses, which produce a large share of our national leaders in Business, Government, Education, the Justice System, and nonprofit world. Students have just returned to campus. The biggest annual challenge is to engage freshmen in Christian activity as they begin their college experiences. Here is an early CU report.

There are self-proclaimed atheists who continue to show up for Bible courses at Cornell. There is the new ministry fellow at Brown, already building powerful relationships with women there. There is the “baby Christian” at Yale who has met her fellow believers only over Zoom, but prayed powerfully about how loved she feels. There are the students at Columbia — only one of whom has ever attended a pre-retreat, preparing to invite their classmates to come to know and love Jesus. There are the students at Princeton, feeling more normal again, asking “Can I hug you?” when they see old friends. There is the faithful women’s ministry fellow returning to again reach out to students at Stanford. There is the new ministry director at Penn blessed to find a robust team of student executives already hard at work. There are those across the country touched by the recent Day & Night fast organized by Christian Union. There are the believers in New York experiencing the Holy Spirit in the recent Gospel of the Kingdom conference.

Finally, there is the football coach at Dartmouth who is doing God’s work even though he doesn’t call himself a believer. “If faith is part of who you are, we don’t want to lose that here,” the coach tells his student-athletes, encouraging them to connect with the Ministry Director of CU on campus. What a blessing to see God using everyone in his kingdom!

Remedy Project Concert and Luncheon!

The Chapel is in for a real treat on Thursday, November 4 at 12:00pm, when Dennis Parker will entertain us in the Fellowship Hall over a delicious lunch. Dennis is a musician and vocalist for Ricky Skaggs and his Kentucky Thunder; and he shares a Grammy with Ricky on his Bluegrass Rules album. He comes to us compliments of the Remedy Project, a Chapel ministry out of Brunswick, GA, which helps those with addictions to get on a productive Christian path.

Dennis is at home with blues, soul, gospel, pop, country and contemporary Christian music. He is a master of multiple instruments including fiddle, banjo, and mandolin, but favors the guitar. He recently played at the Omni to a packed house.

Dennis knows quite a bit about God working. He regularly recounts his battle with alcoholism that ended with him in jail after a fifth DUI conviction. While in jail, a friend shared that God still loved him and Dennis was where he needed to be. “I thought that was the biggest nonsense I had ever heard in my life,” Dennis said. But after starting to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in jail, Dennis’ life began to change and God changed him spiritually and physically. Now, Dennis shares his story whenever he can. When he’s not on the road, Parker often presents his story and his music at local churches. After all, he can’t hold in what God has done in his life. And that’s what brings him here.

We expect to fill our Fellowship Hall that Thursday, and are limited to approximately 100 guests. Tickets are \$60 per person to include both the entertainment and the luncheon. Please call Beth at the Chapel (277-4414) to make a reservation and then send her a check to secure your place. Checks should be payable to The Remedy Project.



Cancel Culture vs. Kingdom Culture

BY MARK EDWARDS

The “cancel culture” that exists in our society today plays right into the hands of the Enemy. In fact, it is most likely something that he created to add to the turmoil that already exists. However, the ideology behind “cancel culture” is in direct opposition to the “Kingdom culture” that we are taught through God’s Word.

Here are three key areas where they differ:

- First, Satan wants nothing more than for each of us to act as our own individual gods based on our own societal moral code. As such, there is no absolute standard of right and wrong.
- In Kingdom culture, God’s Word is the absolute standard and doesn’t change with any cultural movement. We can trust God’s Word to be our moral guide rather than leaning on society’s flawed interpretation of morality.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

- Secondly, Satan wants to divide people. Division brings discord, distrust and all sorts of other issues. It’s exactly the type of society that he wants to create.
- Kingdom culture is very clear on this issue. Jesus wants us to seek peace with others. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves and to make every effort to live in peace with everyone.

Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

- Thirdly, cancel culture promotes vengeance and unforgiveness toward those who have been deemed to stumble.
- Kingdom culture instructs us to offer grace, compassion and mercy to others. We are to focus on restoring the sinner, not avenging the sin.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

I love cancel culture. Not the one that exists in society today but the version that is offered through our Christian faith. Societal “cancel culture” hangs on to the sin and cancels the person; Kingdom culture hangs on to the person and cancels the sin. Amen to that!



Chapel News

October 2021

Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry

Now through October 24, Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes can be filled locally using the shoeboxes provided in the narthex. Those who prefer to order online can order at the official website. The link can be found in the Chapel Weekly email which comes out each Friday.

Message About Brokerage Acc.

On August 20, the Amelia Plantation Chapel brokerage account previously held at BBVA was moved to PNC Investments. We now have a new PNC Investments brokerage account number and electronic transfer number (DTC). Contact Tina Day at (904) 277-4414 or financial@ameliachapel.com if you would like the updated instructions for transferring stock.

Welcome Back BBQ October 24!

Our Welcome Back BBQ at Walker's Landing has been rescheduled for Sunday, October 24. Gathering begins at 12:30pm and food will be served at 1:00pm. Please RSVP by calling the Chapel office as spaces are limited.

Chapel Bible Studies

- A new adult Bible study led by Jan Smith 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. Zoom meeting number – 2547409215 and passcode – 189056.
- Our adult Bible study meets in the Meeting Room at **10:15am on Sundays**. The class will study the book *Pilgrim's Progress*. It is an excellent DVD series presented by pastor and teacher Dr. Derek Thomas. A limited number of books are available in the chapel office for \$8.
- **Mondays at 10:30am**, Jan Smith holds a Bible study class in the Meeting Room. They are reading through the book of Ephesians. The class is also available online via Zoom. Zoom meeting number: 2547409215 and passcode: 189056.
- The men's and women's Bible studies are on **Tuesdays at 10:30am**. They are both studying *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. Books are \$10 and are now available in the Chapel office.



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