



AMELIA PLANTATION CHAPEL

# Footprints

Monthly Newsletter

March 2024

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A Letter From The Pastor

## Shepherding Ministry at Amelia Plantation Chapel

BY KEN JONES, SENIOR PASTOR

Dear Chapel Family,

Jesus twice teaches the vital nature of a shepherd following after the sheep in order to protect them (Matthew 18, Luke 15). In the Gospel of Matthew (18:11, 14, 20), the context is about shepherding those in the church whereas in St. Luke's gospel (15:1-2, 7) it is about being a shepherd to those in the community. This is why in the Chapel's Shepherding Ministry; we have two types of shepherds, our Congregational-Care and our Outreach Shepherds. You might remember that both recently were commissioned by prayer at the Chapel.

We desire that each household at the Chapel have a Care-Shepherd as their official contact, so shepherds will be periodically checking in on you, but please don't hesitate to reach out to them if you start to experience a situation where you need prayer and pastoral care from your Chapel family.

We also assign to each of our 36 ministries that we support an Outreach-Shepherd who does the important work of walking with our mission-partners to encourage them and keep updated about their pressing needs.

As we assist the shepherding of God's flock, we are responsible to God the Father, under Jesus Christ, by the power of His Spirit, to invite the congregation and the community into the green pastures of God's Word that leads to the true worship of Him.



# February Men's COED Breakfast Recap

BY BILL LITTLE



The Friday Men's breakfast included wives in celebration of Valentines. The guest speaker was Amie Shields, Founder and President of Bring Your Brokenness, Inc. The Mission of BYB is assisting women with eating disorders through outpatient and inpatient care. Located on Amelia Island, the ministry began in 2017 and began the following year with support groups. Being faith based, Amie emphasized the importance of a Christ-centered life with treatment focused on the physical, mental and spiritual needs in recovery from this disorder. Speaking from her own personal struggle, Amie shared how God had rescued her and placed a passion in her heart to assist women who desperately need help in being set free from this addiction. She brought our attention to the fact that eating disorders are at the core a mental illness and should be treated as such.

In December 2020 The Chartis House was purchased and soon began in-patient treatment with a full staff of professionals. From its beginning BYB has provided outpatient treatment care through coaching, support groups and retreats. The average cost for residential treatment is \$2000 per day with a 60 day stay. BYB has reduced that amount to \$500 per day through effective planning and management. Amie expressed her great appreciation for the financial assistance of the community of believers and the many volunteers.

Amie concluded her presentation with a beautiful solo and her personal testimony. Her life did not end with a disaster but through the grace of God a new life began with an open door for ministry to thousands who need the hope found in the gospel of Jesus of Jesus Christ and a life set free from eating disorder.

BYB relies heavily on financial support and volunteers to continue the ministry for so many who desperately need it. Her ministry is a 501-4C so that donations are tax deductible.

For more information go to [bringyourbrokenness@outlook.com](mailto:bringyourbrokenness@outlook.com).

# Chapel Library

BY LINDA COLE

Our dear friend, Carol Ann McKay, served as the librarian to Amelia Chapel for many years. During that time she wrote excellent reviews of many books in the library. Occasionally, I like to feature one of her articles.



Easter comes on March 31 this year, so this month would be a good time to read or reread this inspiring book.

*Easter Stories, Classic Stories for the Holy Season* by C.S. Lewis, Leo Tolstoy, Oscar Wilde, Anton Chekhov, and twenty-two others.

Those who want to entice more than bunnies and eggs from the Easter story will be happy to read this 2015 collection of tales selected from writings of the famous and not-so-famous. Chosen for their spiritual and literary value and illustrated with original woodcuts, these twenty-six unique stories bring interesting and inspiring messages.

C.S. Lewis' tale, "The Death of the Lizard," which depicts human souls being met by angels, is a chapter from his book, *The Great Divorce*. There are imaginary narratives that disclose lessons from the Gospels, along with examples of historical fiction such as Tolstoy's tale of two old villagers who set out for Jerusalem, and then there are others that are more mythical. Although very different, each and every account reveals the glory of Jesus and His resurrection. The beautiful woodcuts lend further charm to an engaging volume.

Casting light on the deeper meaning of the Holy Season of Easter is the thrust of each inspiring story. Plough Publishing has mined jewels that proclaim "He is Risen" while creating Easter blessings for us each year as we celebrate Christ's resurrection.

# New *Footprints* Feature from the Library

BY JON SCHNEIDER

Each month, *Footprints* will feature a great Christian website for those who want to find online resources to expand their faith and understanding. This month's website is <http://www.gotquestions.org>. This site features thousands of questions people ask about the Bible and Christianity with straightforward answers that include Bible references and clear theology. So, if you've ever asked yourself, "Why does God permit evil?" or "What does the Bible say about angels?" this is a wonderful resource. You will find it both user-friendly and fun to browse.



# Sharing Jesus, Sowing Seeds!

## Easter Baskets, Homeless Children Ministries, Inc.

BY CLAUDIA SMITH



Easter Baskets for our Nassau County Homeless Children will be assembled on Monday, March 4 from 10:00 to 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Each basket is Jesus-filled. Baskets include Easter story and activity books, New Testament Bibles, devotionals, other Christian reading materials, Christian bookmarks and bracelets, cross necklaces, Bible-verse coins, stuffed animals, games and toys, school and art supplies, personal care items, and treats to eat. After the baskets are completed, they will be delivered to the Nassau Schools' Clothes Closet for the homeless in Yulee for distribution. A total of 130 baskets will be assembled for 5 groups, ages 1-18.

Thank you to Mollie Cressey, Nassau Schools Homeless Liaison, and Judy Hall, the Clothes Closet Coordinator, for facilitating this partnership between our public schools, our homeless families, and our loving congregation.

The cost per Easter basket is \$40 to \$50 depending on the age group. Donations can be sent to Homeless Children Ministries, Inc, c/o Sandy Malone, 110 Marsh Creek Road, Amelia Island, FL 32034.

If you would like to help on March 4, please contact Claudia Smith 912-294-4778 or email [gandcsmith@gmail.com](mailto:gandcsmith@gmail.com) so we know how to plan. Thank you for your support!





## Upcoming Men's Breakfasts

**March**—Stacy Rinehart will speak on Friday, March 8 at 7:30 am. Stacy serves as Facilitator for Pastor Mentoring International Network ([www.pastormin.org](http://www.pastormin.org)). Stacy is the Founder of MentorLink International ([www.MentorLink.org](http://www.MentorLink.org)). He holds a ThM from Dallas Theological Seminary and a DMin from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is the author of two books on Spiritual Leadership: *UPSIDE DOWN: The Paradox of Servant Leadership* and *LEAD IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY: The Jesus Model*. Stacy and his wife Paula live in Raleigh, North Carolina and have two grown children and seven grandchildren. For the last 5 years, Stacy and Paula have been spending a month on Amelia Island and attending the Chapel. He will be talking about the critical need for developing pastors (quality and quantity) for the global Church. He will also talk about their ministry's outreach into the Muslim world. His ministry touches over a hundred nations.

**April**—Chapel Member Harry DeNoers will speak on Friday, May 10 at 7:30 am. From Harry: A Florida native, I began my academic journey at the University of North Florida, earning a B.A. in 1976 and an M.A. from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1983. My life's joy is my family with Jan, my wife. Our blended family includes six children, fourteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Together with Jan, I've navigated the entrepreneurial world, building and selling three businesses over 35 years. Our shared passions include traveling, biking, and walks on Amelia Island. In quieter times, I engage in Bible study and reading. Currently, I'm fine-tuning my faith-based screenplay, "Unholy Justice," aspiring to see it on the big screen.

**May**—News-leader columnist Richard Doster will join us on Friday, April 12 at 7:30 am. For the past nine years Richard has written "Practical Theology," a weekly column in the *Fernandina Beach News-Leader*, where he hopes to show readers how biblical principles are to be woven into our everyday lives. He's also been the editor of *byFaith*, the magazine of the Presbyterian Church in America, since 2004. Richard's planning to talk about the Cultural Mandate (Genesis 1:26-28): What does it mean to Christians today, in our culture? And how does it relate Jesus' Great Commission given in Matthew 28:19-20?

## Monday Bible Study

BY JAN SMITH

Jesus is the fruit of righteousness and the fruit of the Spirit. He is the One who supplies all our needs.

The fruit of righteous living is available to us every moment. It is not my fruit, it is His fruit of Righteousness manifested in me as I look to Him. I must look to Him alone for holiness, righteousness, redemption, salvation. I also look to Him alone for the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience. He is my answer to every need.

Now, the trouble comes in many times because I do not see my own deficiencies. It is much easier to see the deficiencies of other people than it is to see my own. Therefore, God in His Grace, has to show them to me. He does this in many different ways, most of them unpleasant. (1 Peter 1:6-9) He wants us to see how bankrupt we are in our own self. He wants us to comprehend that He is our fullness, because we are truly empty, whether we know it or not. But, God is faithful, and he will accomplish His purposes.

My prayer is that our study of the Bible will be a great encouragement to us. One of the biggest encouragements is that our weaknesses can be overcome by the death of Christ, and God's mighty power, as we walk in the Spirit. As I decrease, Jesus will increase. He is our strength as we depend totally on Him.

Jan Smith's coed class will study *Walking in the Spirit* for the next few months using the Bible, and the *Normal Christian Life* book, available in the Chapel office. We meet on Mondays at 10AM.





## Oh, Who Can Make a Flower?

BY JENNIFER ST. CLAIR



Often we forget just HOW amazing the human body really is with every cell and organ working in perfect harmony with each other, allowing us to function day after day without giving the process a single thought. It's much like the ebb and flow of the tide I witness every time I walk to the crossover. The same process repeats itself and has done so forever. Granted, that doesn't keep me from oohing and ahing upon first sight of the lapping waves every day as if I've never seen anything as spectacular in my whole life. Well hopefully, this childlike wonder at God's beauty follows me ALL the days of my life!

One reason photography thrills my senses so much is that those repetitive occurrences can be captured on film in order to be revisited over and over again whenever we choose. Yet, there are those people who tell me to simply enjoy what is happening. Relax. Store it in your memory bank of keepsakes. No need to bother taking sooooo many photos. And it is true we Humans BeComing are blessed creatures to be able to hold in our mind images of life's experiences. However on those days when I feel a little discouraged, I like little visual reminders to jar my memory back to that point in time. Voila! Thus, a photo moment!

But what about those 'keepsakes' that pop up in our minds out of nowhere without rhyme or reason whatsoever? You cannot even sort out a recent trigger that could have caused you to remember out of the wild blue yonder something that happened decades ago. It's got to be a God-thing. Most definitely. So, when I sat down to begin writing this article, not really having a clue what words would appear on the computer screen, suddenly a song from my childhood began to play: "Oh, Who Can Make a Flower?" Some of you may know it. There were several verses. Here are the first two:

*Oh, who can make a flower? I'm sure I can't. Can you?*

*Oh, who can make a flower? No one but God, is true.*

*Oh, who can make the sun shine? I'm sure I can't. Can you?*

*Oh, who can make the sun shine? No one but God, is true.*

Nowadays, there are those who think God died and put them in charge, so to speak. You know what I mean, I feel certain. So there is absolutely no reason to elaborate more on that subject. But I do believe it is up to Christians like you and me to counter any such false notions at every opportunity presented to us. Maybe it's as simple as sharing the little song from my childhood... Oh, who can make a flower? No one but God, is true!

## Introducing—Joseph Mayes, Director of Music Ministry



Joseph is excited about joining the staff at the Chapel. A native Virginian with a lifelong love of both music and the church, Joseph earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Averett University in Danville, Virginia, and a Master of Arts in Church Music from Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He has served as Minister of Music for Presbyterian and Methodist churches in Georgia, Virginia, and Florida. He has also founded and directed community chorales and enjoys making music in the community where he lives, including singing with the Amelia Island Singers.

His wife, Dawn, is the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Fernandina Beach. They have been married for 29 years and share their home with Jackson, a Golden Retriever, and Maya, a house cat. Joseph loves all kinds of music, from Beethoven to Jimmy Buffett. He enjoys spending time in outdoor activities, especially hiking, biking and anything on the water and in the Florida sunshine.

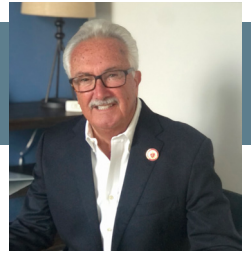
## The Trial Of Jesus; Good Friday Presentation

As Described from the perspective of a Sanhedrin Judge who “was there.” A one-act play written and performed by Buddy Jacobs on Good Friday, March 29, 2024 at 5 pm.



# Membership Matters

BY FRANK VACIRCA



“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it but God grows everything.” 1 Corinthians 3:6

Our good friend and brother in Christ, Henry Turner, told me not too long ago that a smile can get you in the door. There is truth in that statement. As members of the Chapel, we do have many blessings to smile about and generously share with others. In January, I asked if we would make a New Year’s resolution to invite new people to worship with us. How are we doing on that request? Here are several suggestions that may help us .

Let’s make an effort to meet someone new who may be visiting the Chapel for the first time. Invite that person to Fellowship between services and introduce that person to other members, especially Pastor Jones. Remember to invite them back. A visit begins with a warm and welcoming invitation. If the opportunity arises, try to get contact information from them so that either you or a member of the membership committee can reach out to them. If there is an upcoming special event, such as The Men’s Breakfast or a special musical event, please extend an invitation . And be sure to remember that Chapel Tables are not solely for members.

Invite them to visit our website and that the first service is published via livestream so that they can enjoy it throughout the week. Are you using your Facebook Page to publicize activities and events at the Chapel? If not, please consider doing it. Did they sign the Visitor’s Pad so that we can keep in touch with them? Are we able to exchange contact information with them? When we are out and about in the community, is there an opportunity to bring our “Chapel life” into the conversation? Could we serve as a guest speaker at a civic or social event where we could talk about our Faith and the Chapel’s role in the community? Or the difference the Chapel has played in our lives.

Can we truly be disciples and provide encouragement to new and prospective members? My experience is to take an honest and personal interest in them. Doing this may present an entry point to our Chapel family. You can open the door for them knowing that in time people find one another. We gravitate to folks who have common interests, such as careers, hobbies, parenting and grandparenting. I do not pretend to know all the ways that you can reach out but I am pretty certain that together, as members, with prayer and pastoral leadership, “ God will grow everything.” Let’s pledge to bring at least one new member to our Chapel family this year!

Thank you.



# Christian Education in March

BY JON SCHNEIDER



In February all Chapel members should have received a book of Lenten Meditations to help draw us to a better understanding of Christ's sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. If you do not have one, please look for copies in the Narthex. All Chapel members and guests are encouraged to follow the Lenten Meditations that have been written, edited, and put into a convenient devotional book format by 40 of our dedicated Chapel members, under the guidance of Sandy Sproat.

Sunday School classes will also heighten our Easter observances as Harry DeNoers finishes his lessons on the "I AM" statements from John's gospel with a look at Jesus' eternal nature seen in His statement that "before Abraham was, I AM."

Then we will spend the next four weeks with Dennis Hall, D. Min., who will be leading a Bible class that will take an apologetic look at the resurrection. Since the rising of Jesus, this event has been disputed, and it is still questioned to this day by doubters, agnostics, and atheists. God has given humans the ability to reason along with many proofs that Christ indeed rose from the dead. As we approach the celebration of Easter, it is a propitious time to ask how we can prove to doubters that Christ arose. Dr. Hall will rely on the writings of a number of contemporary philosophers, theologians, and apologists to deliver his lessons. In the first class, there will be an in-depth examination of the reasoning of the naysayers. From the swoon theory to the Elvis perspective, the shallowness of these ideas will be discussed. This discussion will set the stage for the proofs of the Resurrection that will follow on the next three Sundays. The series will conclude on Easter Sunday. Dr. Hall is the former CEO of the Birmingham-based Baptist Health System. He holds a Master's Degree from the Washington University School of Medicine and a Doctorate in Theology and Christian Apologetics from the Liberty University Divinity School.

Finally, children will be included in the Celebration with the Chapel's annual Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday.

# Lenny Ferko, American Patriot

BY JOE MARASCO



Lenny Ferko was a high school classmate of mine and a fellow high jumper using the old fashioned scissors technique. He was a better jumper than I and was a vision of grace as he executed a jump. Lenny was a great friend to all and received the American Legion Award medal for six qualities that define character-courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service. The back of the medal bears the Marine Corps motto: "Semper Fidelis" ("Always Faithful").

All of us reached draft age upon graduation. I was deferred to become a physician and serve in the military after internship. However, Lenny proudly entered military service upon graduation and after basic training was killed in action in the Korean war. To this day, I mourn his death. I can't tell you how frequently a thought about Lenny has come to mind over these 74 years since his death.

It's hard to believe how many people and institutions denigrate our country today. Sadly, it's the mantra of many in our failed educational system. Many educators at all levels have outright scorn for our country and poison the minds of our youth. Furthermore, they despise our Judeo-Christian heritage and are joined by their secular humanist buddies in tearing it down. Our Founding Fathers must be rolling over in their graves!

Many young men today are growing up with no father to guide them. The nuclear family is becoming an antique concept. What can we do to resurrect this vital institution in our society? There is no simple answer. However, I believe that re-instituting the draft and making it mandatory for men and optional for women would be helpful. This would also help to address the maturity gap between men and women. Furthermore, deferring pre-professional students, as in my case, is a good way to insure needed professional talent when such individuals ultimately serve.

Kate Smith used to remind us:

*God bless America, land that I love  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Through the night with the light from above.*

*From the mountains to the prairies  
To the oceans white with foam  
God bless America, my home sweet home  
God bless America, my home sweet home*

Amen, Kate.

America has its flaws, but is still the hope of the world. We need the patriotic spirit of Lenny Ferko to show us the way.

# Chapel Happenings



# Chapel Calendar

March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
<b>3</b> Sunday Bible Class 10:15 am	<b>4</b> Petal Pushers & Pedal Express 10 am  Coed Bible Study 10 am	<b>5</b> Tuesday Bible Study 10:30 am	<b>6</b> Lenten Soup Dinner 5 pm  Choir Practice 3 pm	<b>7</b> Adventures in Prayer 8:55 am	<b>8</b> Men's Breakfast 7:30 am	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Daylight Savings Begins</b>  Sunday Bible Class 10:15 am	<b>11</b> Petal Pushers & Pedal Express 10 am  Coed Bible Study 10 am	<b>12</b> Tuesday Bible Study 10:30 am	<b>13</b> Choir Practice 3 pm	<b>14</b> Outreach 1 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Sunday Bible Class 10:15 am	<b>18</b> Petal Pushers & Pedal Express 10 am  Coed Bible Study 10 am	<b>19</b> Tuesday Bible Study 10:30 am	<b>20</b> Osprey Village Communion 1:45 pm  Choir Practice 3 pm	<b>21</b> Adventures in Prayer 8:55 am  Board Meeting 10 am	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>  Sunday Bible Class 10:15 am	<b>25</b> Petal Pushers & Pedal Express 10 am  Coed Bible Study 10 am	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Lakeside Communion 2 pm  Choir Practice 3 pm	<b>28</b> Maundy Thursday service 5 pm	<b>29</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>  <i>The Trial of Jesus with Buddy Jacobs 5 pm</i>  <b>Chapel office closed</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>  Sunrise Service 7 am    Magnolia Garden  Sunday Bible Class 10:15 am						

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