



AMELIA PLANTATION CHAPEL

Footprints

Monthly Newsletter

May 2024

A Letter From The Pastor

Chapel in the Woods

BY KEN JONES, SENIOR PASTOR

Dear Chapel Family,

When entering our majestic Chapel Campus on Amelia Island, you discover it is filled with **directional signs** along the way that point us to the glory of God. Whether you come by car, bicycle, golfcart or by foot onto the Amelia Plantation Chapel campus, it is hard not to notice a beautiful chapel nestled in the woods with **canopy tree coverings** and the adjacent majestic Red Maple Lake, which reminds us of the awe of our glorious Creator who is good, great, and gracious. In fact, the sanctuary is many-windowed and gives one the sensation of God's great out-of-doors within. This, indeed, is a church in which God's presence is "felt." Also, a stunning touch is when the **Chapel Bells** ring out letting everyone hear the songs of peace and inviting them to taste and see that the Lord is indeed good!

The outside of our Chapel building is the starting point of the richness and beauty of Christian discipleship as seen in the church's architectural design. You first notice **the steeple**. The steeple tower points to God the Father in heaven. One of the stain glass windows points to the cross of our Lord who is our Risen Savior. The other stained glass pane presents the Holy Spirit hovering over the earth to bring forth the gospel of grace.

As you come closer to the welcoming **mahogany entry doors**, you see **the cross under your feet and on the doors** showing that Christ alone is the only way to heaven (John 14:6) as His cross is the bridge that we guilty sinners walk on by faith alone in order to come into the presence of the all-Holy God.

As you come through the front doors, you enter the **narthex** where we can begin to trace the life of Christ through the handmade needlepoint banners that eloquently lead us from **Advent** to **Epiphany** to **Lent** to **Easter** and then to the Day of **Pentecost**.

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Pastor Continued

Jesus is indeed the **Light of the World**. Radiating light comes through the **ten-foot beveled cross** in the **Chancel Window** depicting God's love in Christ. Our Chapel Family's heartfelt prayer is that *"everyone who walks through these Chapel doors will experience the light and love of the Lord Jesus Christ."*

The wide-open **center aisle** in our chapel nave leads directly to the cross embedded in the chancel window, which speaks of our coming together in worship to fully access **God's throne of grace** (Hebrews 4:16). We then contemplate the reason for those **lower widows**, called the Windows of Opportunity, because they call us to look outside to see the needs of a hurting world.

Upfront in the **worship platform** (chancel), you see the dignified pulpit that acts like a sentry to show forth the permanency of God's inspired **written Word** as the Prophet Isaiah proclaims it, "the grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of God stands forever. (Isaiah 40:8)." Moreover, the **visible Word** in the Holy Sacraments is showcased in the **Baptismal Font** and the **Lord's Table**.

Outside the Chapel, you see **the Sower** calling us to spread the seeds of the Gospel everywhere testifying that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:13)." Then on the grounds are the **Meditation Gardens** that testify of the great cloud of witnesses who live in peace with the church triumphant in heaven (Hebrews 12:1-2).

If you have eyes to see, you'll see what is most treasured by our Chapel Family . . .

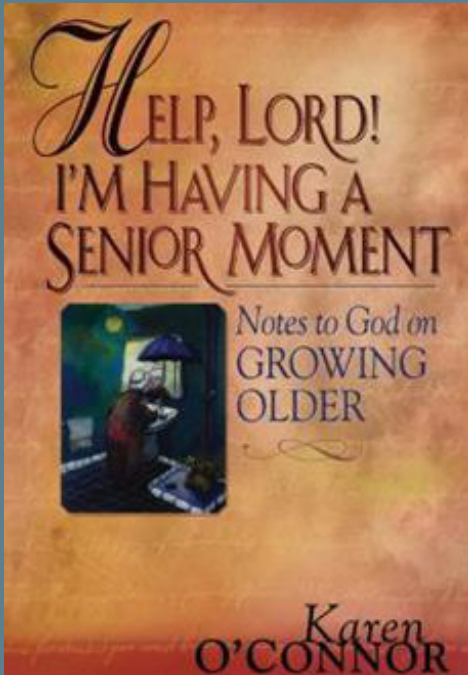
- The blessed **Kingly Trinity** is cherished inside and out. Remember outside of the Chapel the Steeple is designed to honor the Triune God (Matthew 28:19) and inside in the chancel area, the **Four Sacred Chairs** do the same. As one chair represents the One God of the Bible (Deuteronomy 6:4) and the each of the other chairs stands for the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:10).
- The Chapel's great Gospel conviction, like the Apostle Paul, is to know nothing but Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2). As you walk through the mahogany doors with **the copper cross** and then see the **beveled cross embedded in the 28-foot chancel window**, you know you are in a House of God that is not ashamed of the Gospel (Romans 1:16).
- Jesus is the Light of the World, and this is prominently on display in the Chapel as **light** floods in from many directions. Plus, the **Word of God** being left open in the chancel area shows that we hold forth the Word of Life (Philippians 2:16) to all.

So, we close with a Chapel prayer, *"Open our eyes Heavenly Father to help us see, by the power of the Holy Spirit, wonderful things in Your Word. Empower us to appreciate the providential signs at our lovely Chapel in the Woods that point us all to the glory of Christ. May everyone who walks through these Chapel Doors experience the light and love of Christ the Lord—asking this in the name of our blessed Jesus, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, forever and ever. Amen."*

With Lord Jesus as our Shepherd,
Ken Jones, Senior Pastor

Chapel Library

BY LINDA COLE



I hesitated a bit to feature this book from our Chapel Library because none of us really old yet, are we? However, it is such an enjoyable read and one that hits the nail on the head quite often, so maybe it does deserve our attention. *Help Lord, I'm Having a Senior Moment* is a collection of short, lighthearted essays that most of us can easily relate to, such as "Here's the Parking Lot, Now Where's My Car?" and "Tell it Again, Sam!" I guarantee you will smile and perhaps shed a tear as you read it.



The author, Karen O'Connor, has written over 50 books and is a popular speaker. She has 5 children and lives in California.

Christian Education

BY JON SCHNEIDER

The month of May will see a continuation of the Bible education classes under Jan Smith and Jon Schneider. Jan is doing double duty for the first part of the month. She will continue her Monday morning class titled "One Body in Christ," using Watchman Nee's book, *The Normal Christian Life*. In the current section, Jan looks at the Church becoming the body of Christ, with each member fulfilling the calling for which it exists and accomplishing God's will through the leading of His Spirit. Jan will also wrap up her Sunday School class that began in April. She has titled the class, "What Man is This." It examines the person of Jesus as He is seen in John 1: 1-18. This passage offers a remarkable vision of both the humanity and divinity of Jesus.

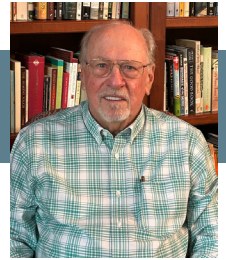


On May 12, Jon Schneider will return from vacation and resume his class on the Epistles of Peter. He will continue with the review of Peter's life and experiences with Christ and also as a leader of the New Testament church in Jerusalem. The knowledge and understanding gained by Peter through these events will become apparent in the profound truths found in the letters he would write near the end of his life. If you would like to receive weekly e-mail updates of the Sunday School class topics, please e-mail Jon Schneider at jpsadastra@outlook.com.

Sadly, Vacation Bible School had to be cancelled this year. We no longer need the requested materials. Suzanne Vacirca launched the program and had great plans for it. Unfortunately, she found it necessary to withdraw from her leadership role, and no replacement was found. The Board of Governors, with input from the Membership Study Team, will evaluate how best to structure future children's programs at the Chapel to reach out and attract young families in our community.

Board Of Governors First Quarter 2024 Update

BY BRUCE COMRIE, BOARD PRESIDENT



All Board members have “hit the ground running” since the start of the year! Every Board Committee has set their 2024 Goals and shared them with the entire Board. We will use these goals to evaluate each committee’s performance at year end, as well as the performance of the Board of Governors overall.

Current Priorities:

- Expanding the Chapel member “volunteer” pool to support current and future Chapel activities.
- Identifying three Board position candidates to begin serving as Committee Chairs starting 2025 for Outreach, Fellowship and Membership. If you are interested, please submit your name to Sally Ericksen, Chair of the Nominating Committee or any Board member.
- Identifying a replacement children’s Vacation Bible Study volunteer leader.
- Encouraging annual pledged offerings be sent on a quarterly basis, rather than concentrated at year end.

Key developments in the first quarter (January to March) this year:

- Actual Tithes & Offerings have increased more than 30% compared to the same period in 2023. The response by the congregation to our Stewardship Call has been excellent!
- Operating expenses for every Board Committee and Chapel function (excluding Outreach - reported separately below) are being monitored and when necessary, questioned before an expenditure is committed.
- Total (non-Outreach) First Quarter Operating Expense is \$250,000, or 7.6 % below budget estimate.
- The Outreach budget had an unexpended balance from 2023, together with allocations from First Quarter “Tithes & Offerings” have increased the Annual Outreach Budget by 15% to \$460,000. Quarterly disbursements were made to 40 Ministries totaling \$112,000 at the end of March. All budgeted ministries are being supported at levels at least equal to 2023, while some have been increased because of inflationary impacts on their programs.
- Cash management is receiving the highest priority, as we concentrate on building sufficient cash to place in new Certificates of Deposit that will bolster Chapel financial reserve levels.
- The Board Music Program Review Team led by Worship Chair- Carmen Fenn Drake, has completed their study and recommended improvements are underway with our new Director of Music Ministry-Joseph Mayes. Our Chapel Choir is growing significantly.
- The Membership Growth Team, composed of twelve Chapel members, has been actively working on a Next Generation Ministry strategy that will be presented to the Board in May. This strategy is being designed to establish a pathway to attract both new and younger families, expand the Chapel experience for existing members, and implement the technology needed to support this pathway. This strategy will be the key to the future growth of the Chapel. As our Membership Growth Plan takes shape, we will communicate the key recommendations and implementation details to you. All Chapel visitors who fill out contact information on the “Friendship” pads are being contacted both by a Chapel “Thank You” for attending note and personally by a Chapel Board Member. We are seeing an indication of new member growth from this follow-up.
- Our Communications Chair- Lorelei Jacobs, has initiated a review focused on increasing the Chapel’s visibility in the Fernandina Beach community and beyond. We are already seeing seeing initial results from outreach to the Ritz and Omni Hotels. The Communications group is working closely with the Membership Study Team.
- The Fellowship Committee, led by Katherine Hoehn, Fellowship Chair, oversees the weekly Fellowship hour between Sunday services. In March they implemented the new “Lenten Soup Supper,” which was a rousing success attended by 70 Chapel members who provided numerous delicious homemade soups. A Chapel family BBQ & Oyster Roast was

held in April with over 120 attendees and another focused on Welcome Back and New Members will be held in October.

- Pastoral Care, led by Chair Grace Lipman, is actively implementing and fine tuning the congregation Shepherd initiative, as well as working closely with the Pastor and our Chapel nurse in meeting the individual pastoral care needs of Chapel members. New Shepherds for this program are welcome and needed.
- The Human Resource Committee membership has been increased from three to five members and includes two from the Board and three from the congregation.
- All Chapel Board of Governor Policies have been reviewed, cancelled or updated, while areas requiring a new policy have been identified and added.
- Building and Grounds Committee - Chair Bob Stichweh, has reviewed and revised all Chapel campus maintenance contracts to insure both adequate and economical coverage. Rationalizing operating expenditures is the key focus.
- Christian Education - Chair Jon Schneider, has developed an active Bible Education platform that has been implemented on Sundays and during the week. Bible Study programs will continue throughout the summer with a very active and varied schedule. We are actively seeking a volunteer leader for Vacation Bible School for 2025, so if you are interested in leading this Christian Education program, please contact with Jon Schneider or a Board member.
- The Worship Committee - Chair Carmen Drake, has been instrumental in providing a very welcoming atmosphere in our sanctuary through decorations, communion service and other Chapel functions, all while maintaining excellent expense control. The Worship Team is really providing an atmosphere conducive to worship.

We will be sharing future updates of the Board's activities, accomplishments and ongoing challenges as we grow our Chapel and serve our Lord and Savior.

Last Men's Breakfast of the Season!

May-News-leader columnist Richard Doster will join us on Friday, May 10 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?



Joy! Joy! Joy!

BY JENNIFER ST. CLAIR

As the sweetest predawn birdsong begins to let me know that all things bright and beautiful await discovery, I find myself thrilled to pieces to greet another day of Human BeComing-ness. Even though it's an hour earlier than usual, how can one be annoyed by such beautiful little chirps and trills? I find them as motivating as uplifting words from a friend.

Once I arrive at the crossover, a childhood song begins to take shape in my memory. It's another one of those Sunday school songs my Mama sang with the children before class began. I was her accompanist and just a young girl myself. And oh, how the little ones loved this particular song. They sang their hearts out! Here are the lyrics:

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart...down in my heart...down in my heart.

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart...down in my heart to stay,

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart...down in my heart...down in my heart.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart...down in my heart to stay.

I've got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart...down in my heart...down in my heart.

I've got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart...down in my heart to stay.

Catchy, yes? More often than not, the simple messages and examples brought to our attention seem to run deep roots into the core of our very Be-ing. These lyrics do that for me. Hopefully, you as well. What an uplifting song to sing as a new day is on the horizon. Guess you can say this tune and lyrics prepare my heart and mind to let the Christ Light shine brightly wherever I go as this day the Lord has made begins and moves forward. Amen and Amen!!!



A Testimony of Sovereign Grace

BY HARRY DENOERS AND BILL LITTLE

The April men's Friday morning breakfast at the Chapel witnessed a compelling testimony delivered by Chapel member Harry DeNoers. His presentation revolved around the transformative power of God's sovereign grace in salvation, offering a glimpse into his personal journey of faith.

DeNoers began his narrative by recounting his early years attending what he termed a "Cultural Church," where despite regular attendance, he felt spiritually empty. Despite being ordained in 1982 and graduating from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary the following year, the profound impact of the gospel seemed elusive to him.

However, in 1995, a pivotal moment arrived with the birth of his son. His deep love for his son stirred a fervent desire for his salvation, despite DeNoers' own spiritual struggles. While successful in his business endeavors, DeNoers realized the bankruptcy of his spiritual life, prompting him to cry out to God for help during an ordinary Monday morning commute in April 2000.

In a moment of despair, DeNoers' prayer was met with a startling response from God: "I can't help you. I won't put a band-aid on an old filthy heart, but I will give you a heart transplant." This encounter marked the beginning of a profound transformation fueled by the sovereign grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

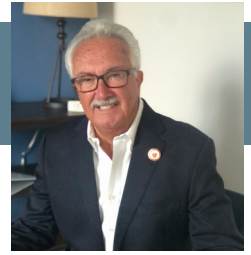
DeNoers emphasized the truth of John 3:5, where Jesus declares the necessity of being born of water and the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God. His testimony resonated with the audience as he encouraged them to fervently pray for their families, citing 2 Corinthians 5:17 where Jesus says in responding to Nicodemus "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

In conclusion, DeNoers painted a vivid picture of his journey to discovering the abundant life offered by God through Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord, and Life, empowered by the Holy Spirit. His testimony served as a powerful reminder of the life-transforming impact of God's sovereign grace in the lives of believers.



Membership Matters

BY FRANK VACIRCA



Not too long ago on an overcast afternoon while waiting for a meeting to begin, I took a cursory look at a book of photos located in the back of the Fellowship Hall. At first, I just flipped through the pages and decided to go on a scavenger hunt for something to eat. I hadn't eaten all morning and I was hungry. However, I turned around and reopened that timeless book of Chapel memories represented in photos, thank you cards and personal notes. It saved me at least 200 calories and the wrath of my cardiologist.

The photo book dates back to 2006 just around the same time as our faithful floral artists known as the Petal Pushers started. I saw several faces that I recognized immediately such as Billie Parkin who recently crossed the bar to glory. There were many other faces that I did not recognize and some that I did. Bev Arnold, Cheryl Donaldson, Claire Salmond, and Nancy Jewell stood smiling, together, for a group photo. The smiles on their faces in service to our Chapel family were as beautiful as the bouquets of flowers that they had created. Charlotte Davenport appears the same today as she did in these photos.

And let's not forget, a few of the men who delivered the flowers each Monday, such as Dan Lee, Don Davis, and Bill Hilles. They were known as The Petal Pushers Express. There was an array of pictures from their first year anniversary. The flowers are long gone but the Petal Pushers Outreach continues each and every Monday bringing comfort and encouragement to those people in our Chapel who need it.

Pastor Ted and Antoinette smiled back at me from Ted's birthday party. The photo of a beautiful couple on a beautiful day caught on camera for all to enjoy. He was the first pastor to welcome Suzanne, Ella, and me to the Chapel family. There was a wonderful color photo of the Thanksgiving display of flowers, gourds and pumpkins in the sanctuary which reflected not only the beauty of autumn but the love for God and the season.

In the back pages of the photo book is a treasure trove of writings. These envelopes contain a collection of thank you notes and letters. I did not have time to read all of them. People wrote "thank you" notes then. In reflection, they actually put pen to paper unlike the many emails that I am often guilty of sending. I read one letter from Barrie Hooley. There was another one on heavyweight stationery from Don Boyd. A whole series of these warm and touching missives held my attention. Their handwriting was not only legible but I could tell that these faithful believers put their heartfelt thoughts and feelings into them.

My meeting was about to start and so I closed the photo book. I am certain that this article does not do the book or the many participants justice for their service to the Chapel and their love for God. I vow to return soon for a second look. In the meantime, I invite you to take a look and appreciate the wonderful photos of our members, past and present, who did so much then and faithfully continue to do so today with just as much love.

Monday Bible Study

BY JAN SMITH



One Body in Christ

As our Monday class begins a study on One Body in Christ we find that Revelation Knowledge is of great importance. Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:13-14 that to fulfill God's Will in our lives we will have to walk through a narrow gate, into a difficult path. The path to Spiritual maturity is difficult because it requires of us things that we just cannot do: Love others more than we love ourselves, and serve God rather than self-interest.

These commands of God are hard because they go against the grain of our natural tendencies. God has asked of us things He knows we cannot do without looking to Jesus as our strength, and depending on the Holy Spirit to accomplish them through us.

This is God's plan and purpose for His children: That we learn to let Christ be our life as it tells us in the Bible.

Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me."

Philippians 1:21 "For to me, to live is Christ."

Colossians 3:4 "When Christ, WHO IS OUR LIFE is revealed, I will be revealed with Him."

God makes demands on us as joint heirs with Christ. But, He has also supplied us with His Power, through His Spirit, to do these things in our behalf as we look to Jesus every moment.

Jan Smith's Coed Monday class meets in the Chapel Meeting Room at 10AM each week.

Online Resource Recommendation

BY JON SCHNEIDER

This month's online resource recommendation is an excellent site for all-around Bible searches and study. Check out <https://bible.org> for resources of every kind, including scholarly studies of every book of the Bible. You can also find scores of topical studies ranging from archaeology, to suffering, to spiritual gifts. Look for articles and lessons written by a variety of authors like Sue Bohlin, Bob Deffinbaugh, Bob Utley, and Charles Spurgeon. You may want to know the meaning of a particular Bible verse. Type in the verse and find a multitude of comments on that verse. Finally, the site is a resource for men's and women's blogs offering discussion and encouragement geared toward your particular needs.

We hope you will find these online resources helpful in your own Christian walk. If you have a website that you think deserves a shout-out in this column, please contact Jon Schneider at jpsadastra@outlook.com.

Happy Mother's Day–The NEST

BY KATHERINE HOEHN



A small house in Yulee recently opened with soft grey walls, cheerful prints, and counseling rooms with comfortable couches. The new home of the The Nest, one of only two crisis pregnancy centers in Nassau County, also features sonogram equipment and a baby boutique of donated diapers and other necessities. The center serves women with unplanned pregnancies with programs and services provided free of charge.

The Nest is supported by Outreach funds from the Chapel and by individual Chapel members and members' support of special programs. The Chapel's Outreach budget has contributed to The Nest since 2016. In addition, \$6,200 was raised from last year's baby bottle collection – now called Baby Bottle Blessings. This winter, Pattie Pitts hosted a baby shower at the Chapel and collected diapers, baby clothes, toys, and other items for The Nest's baby boutique. Several Chapel members also supported their annual spring fundraising dinner by buying tickets and sponsoring tables.

In addition to pregnancy counseling, limited ultrasounds, and medical and community referrals, The Nest provides parent education programs and fatherhood mentors in a caring, Christian environment. Their goal is to empower expectant women with the knowledge and truth about their options and help them every step of the way toward delivery of a healthy baby and through the first year of baby's life.

A Christian organization, The Nest is not affiliated with any specific denomination. Many local churches, including the Chapel, provide support and all women of all faiths are welcome and encouraged to seek their help. The Nest has been operational in Yulee since 2016 but opened its own building only last year. They also have a facility in Jacksonville that has been operational since 2017.

With the building boom in Nassau and Duval counties, there been a baby boom. Between the two locations, they serve more than 250 clients each year. Since opening their doors at the new facility barely six months ago, they have a 150% increase in client visits.

Three of the original founders of The Nest are still working there, including Executive/Client Services Director, Lisa Miller, who gave me a tour. In addition to the staff in Yulee, there are volunteers who do everything from patient counseling to cleaning, restocking the baby boutique.

Services are provided from the time pregnancy is confirmed through age one and include pregnancy, parenting, and life skills classes such as money management, positive partnership, and fatherhood classes. By attending classes, clients earn points that can be redeemed for baby and maternity items such as clothing, toys, diapers, and cribs. The Nest also offers adoption support, post-abortive counseling, and now offers the only men's post-abortive healing program in NE Florida.

Ms. Miller emphasized that "the ultrasound is a powerful tool. Once a pregnant woman sees the beating heart of her baby, it becomes very real." She said that many women have no support system and are financially very strapped. Sometimes they have other health issues and are very anxious. The Nest's free services and referrals are confidential.

From Mother's Day (May 12) through Father's Day (June 16) Amelia Chapel and other area churches and volunteers will be filling baby bottles with coins, cash, and checks – the Baby Bottle Blessings - to support The Nest's programs. Baby bottles will be distributed in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall at the Chapel on Mother's Day. Please take a bottle and collect loose change or add a check to support the programs at The Nest, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. They do not receive government funding and rely on support from individuals, churches, companies, and foundations.

New or gently used clothing up to age 12 months and equipment are needed for expectant and new families, especially cribs.

If you are interested in hosting a Baby Shower, or donating items, please contact Lisa Miller at (904) 619-4914 or thenestjax.com, or Sandy Jones, our Chapel liaison. Donations can be dropped off at the Yulee location Wednesday – Friday. Please call before coming to drop off donations (904) 619-4914 or thenestjax.com.

Baby Bottle Blessings

Your Change - Changes Lives!



PICK UP A BOTTLE ON MOTHER'S DAY



FILL WITH CHANGE, DOLLARS, OR CHECKS



**PRAY OVER YOUR BOTTLE TO IMPACT
THOSE FACING UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES**



RETURN YOUR BOTTLE ON FATHER'S DAY





Chapel Mission Update

BY SALLY ERICKSEN

Mission of Hope International was founded in March 2000 by Pastor Lex Edmé and his wife, Renée, in the village of Thozin, Grand-Goâve, Haiti. The mission of MOHI was to positively impact the population spiritually, physically and emotionally.

The first work to begin was spiritual, with a church plant in the front yard of a dear elderly gentleman named Pastor Bauvais Gabriel. He welcomed Mission of Hope with open arms and an open heart.

At this same time preparations were being made to open the Mission's first school, with preschool through 3rd grade students, including children ages 3 to 17.

Lex was born and raised in Haiti and had moved to the US for several years prior to returning to Haiti to start the Mission. Because he is native to Haiti, he understands all the little nuances and language that foreigners may never pick up on.

Being American, Renée brings a different sense of order and accountability to the mission. Working together, Lex and Renée have brought a wonderful balance of Haitian/American values and skills to the mission field.

After so many years in Grand-Goâve, they are esteemed by their community and are known for being fair, sharing food and supplies with everyone, no matter their religious or political beliefs. They also are not easily taken advantage of, since Lex already knows all the tricks people are accustomed to playing on foreigners.

Today, Mission of Hope International works with many different organizations, churches, businesses and individuals, from countries across the world including Haiti, the USA, Canada, Germany, England, Scotland, Belgium, Sri Lanka, Israel and Japan. They have recently expanded the ministry into the Dominion Republic. They appreciate so much the generous support that the Chapel had provided to their ministry! They were able to visit the Chapel during Fellowship time on April 28 to update us on the ministry progress!

Our Vision

Mission of Hope International operates as an interdenominational Christian mission, committed to fulfilling the Great Commission as the hands and feet of Jesus.

We believe the Holy Bible is the Word of God, a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. We believe that all have sinned and are in need of eternal salvation.

We believe it is the responsibility of every believer in Jesus, to study and obey the Bible and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) in their lives.



A Call To Persevere

BY JOE MARASCO



Hebrews 1:1 to 10:18 provides the doctrinal or central theological teaching of the book, but in Hebrews 10:19-30, we are challenged by the author of Hebrews to apply “the once and for all” sacrifice of Christ by living holy and righteous lives. Christ’s sacrifice is not an invitation to sin at will knowing that through God’s grace, forgiveness is ours. It is a call to persevere and maintain a right relationship with God. Perseverance may be defined as steadfastness, persistence, constancy, tenacity, and in modern day parlance as “hanging in there.”

We should have the confidence to persevere knowing that Christ’s words in John 14:6, are foundational in our faith—*“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* We can do much on our own to persevere and need to develop patience and self control to do so, but the effort can be made easier by interaction with other Christians in church or in fellowship and study groups such as Community Bible Study. We need to support each other.

The author of Hebrews warns us against apostasy defined as deliberate abandonment of the truth after it has been received. We need to maintain a right relationship with God. We must not let discouragement lead to outright denial of the faith and must not willfully throw aside salvation which is the unmerited gift of God’s grace for faithful believers.

There is a reward for those who endure. The author of one commentary on Hebrews states “Faith and faithfulness are rooted in God’s faithfulness to us..... Clearly, God enables the believer to stand, thus the believer must choose to stand.” Compared to those early Christians who literally placed their lives at stake for their beliefs, we have it easy. However, who knows what might happen as modern day secularism marches forward, the wheel may come full circle and in the future, Christians even in America, might be subject to persecutions as in the early days of the faith.

Hebrews 10:23-24, says it all—*“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”* Our faith may waver and sin may take its toll on our lives, but we must persevere and work hard to remain faithful.

Chapel Happenings



Chapel Happenings



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

Chapel Calendar

May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 AIP Ladies Book Club 2:30 pm Choir Practice 3 pm	2 Adventures in Prayer 8:55 am	3	4
5 David Davis Preaching Sunday Bible Class 10:15 am	6 Petal Pushers & Pedal Express 10 am Coed Bible Study 10 am	7	8 Choir Practice 3 pm	9 Pop-up Class 10 am Outreach 1 pm	10 Men's Breakfast 7:30 am	11
12 Sunday Bible Class 10:15 am	13 Petal Pushers & Pedal Express 10 am Coed Bible Study 10 am	14	15 Choir Practice 3 pm Osprey Village Communion 1:45 pm	16 Adventures in Prayer 8:55 am Board Meeting 10 am	17	18
19 Sunday Bible Class 10:15 am Chapel BBQ 5 pm	20 Petal Pushers & Pedal Express 10 am Coed Bible Study 10 am	21	22 Choir Practice 3 pm Lakeside Communion 2 pm	23	24	25
26 Sunday Bible Class 10:15 am	27 Office Closed Petal Pushers & Pedal Express 10 am Coed Bible Study 10 am	28	29	30	31	

Amelia Plantation Chapel

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