

Congregational Meeting

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational meeting of the Chapel in the Pines was held immediately following the worship service on Sunday, November 10. Having declared a quorum, the meeting was called to order by President of the Board Harlan McCaskill. Board member, Rev. Fran Stark, opened the meeting with prayer.

A report was presented from the members of the Nominating Team.

The 2019 Nominating Team members are Jane Lowe, Dot MacDonald, Lee Connelly, Bob Tourt, Joyce Singletary, John Caggiano and JoAn Moses. Ex officio members of the Team are Pastor Paul James and Board President Harlan McCaskill. JoAn Moses served as chair of the nominating team.

For 2020, Jane Lowe and JoAn Moses will rotate off the nominating team and will be replaced by Jeff Lowe. All other members will remain on the team.

Retiring from the 2019 Chapel Board of Directors will be Lee Connelly, Kathy Golzio, Amanda Bryan and Peggy Olson.

Those who resigned from the 2019 Chapel Board of Directors before completing their term were Doug O'Brien, Bob Bishop, Brenda Massimo and Henry Boore.

Those nominated to serve on the Board of Directors for the 2020 year are:

- Harlan McCaskill
- Bob Racine
- Rev. Fran Stark
- JoAn Moses
- Dick VanHorne
- Tracey Olsen

The slate listed was unanimously approved by the Congregation.

President McCaskill reminded the members that positions that still remain to be filled are for Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Member-at-Large. Members were asked to please step forward if they had computer, bookkeeping or accounting skills and would be willing to serve the chapel with bookkeeping and data entry.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Paul.



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Paul's Ponderings...

From Darkness to Light

Long before there were Christians inhabiting this earth, people gathered to celebrate the Winter Solstice which occurs this year on Thursday, December 21, at 11:28 a.m. Winter Solstice happens in the Northern Hemisphere when, because of the earth's tilt on its axis, the North Pole is the farthest away from the sun, rendering it the shortest day and longest night of the year. Ancient rituals and traditions were developed to note this special day called "The Longest Night" and the early belief was that if the god of the sun was not properly honored with certain festivities that it might not return.

These pagan Winter Solstice traditions were part of a bigger celebration called Yule, and differed depending on where you lived. Originally the Longest Night was observed to pray to the gods that there was enough food to last through the Winter. In pre-16th century northern Europe feasts were a big part of the festivities, particularly because locals had just killed their cattle to

avoid having to feed them during the winter. In Scandinavia, the Feast of Juul (Yule) included the burning of a Yule log, which took place over 12 days to honor the sun's re-birth. The Feast of Saturnalia, the Ancient Roman tradition, included feasting and gift giving.

Sound familiar? As you can tell, many of these rituals became modern-day Christmas traditions and have become just another example of how Christians borrowed from the ancient pagans to develop their annual celebrations.

Over the past years the Longest Night celebration continued to evolve and be modified by the church into what was called "Blue Christmas", an Advent celebration to be held on or near December 21st. The image of darkness that the Longest Night brings to mind reminded us that everyone is not overjoyed with the Christmas spirit each year. Some of us have suffered great loss the preceding year...downsizing led to the loss of a job, moving led to the loss of community, death led to the loss of a loved

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one. The church recognized that for some, Christmas was not “the hap-hap-happiest season of all” but a time of mental “darkness” and responded by developing a healing service appropriately called Blue Christmas.

At this Chapel we as a community of faith have continued to develop our understanding of the Longest Night and Blue Christmas into a celebration that moves us “From Darkness to Light.” We recognize that Advent is when we celebrate the fact that God chooses to bring the world’s greatest hope into the very darkness of life that weighs us down most days but especially during the Christmas season when we may be sad but feel forced to put on a happy seasonal smile.

Maybe this year isn’t your year of feeling hopeless — maybe you’re ready for a holly jolly Christmas with all of the trimmings. But, being Christian means thinking of others besides yourself. And being a Christian during Advent means being willing to stand in the darkness with others because that’s where Emmanuel promises to show up first. While Advent for many churches is little more than a pre-Christmas celebration with festive traditions and rituals, at our Chapel, From Darkness to Light gives space for the real meaning of Christmas — our saving hope promises to come as a light that our darkest moments cannot conquer.

If you need a time to quietly and meditatively celebrate the advent of our Lord Jesus and if you choose to stand with those who face the darkness this Christmas season, then I invite you to our service called, From Darkness to Light on Thursday, December 5th, at 5:00 to be followed by our traditional covered-dish soup, bread, and dessert supper.

Pastor Paul
Advent, 2019

December Birthdays



- 1—Phyllis Young
- 5—Bob Donaldson
- 5—Peggy Reuter
- 6– Jeff Bryan
- 6– Sue LeClair
- 7– Bob Lovin
- 11– Gail Cummins
- 12– Stacey Golzio
- 12—Laura Hussein
- 17—John Clohessy
- 23— Kathy Golzio
- 24– Roberto Guadalupe
- 27– Amie Collins
- 28—Bill Baker
- 30—Anna Lee
- 31—John Shaugnessy

December Anniversaries



- 15– Leslie & Tony While
- 21- Roberto & Elvia Guadalupe

The Chapel in the Pines—2019/2020

The Seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany

THANKSGIVING

November 14 The Gathering - 5:30
A service of gratitude and thanksgiving
Covered dish supper

November 24 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - 4:00
Pinehurst Congregational Church
Bring a nonperishable food item for the West End Methodist Church Food Bank and a dish to share for supper

ADVENT

December 1 First Sunday of Advent - A Service of Hope
Almost Christmas Bible Study - 3:00

December 5 From Darkness to Light - 5:00
A meditative celebration of Christmas
Holy Communion
Soup, bread, and dessert covered dish supper

December 8 Second Sunday of Advent - A Service of Peace
Almost Christmas Bible Study continues - 3:00

December 15 Third Sunday of Advent - A Service of Joy
Almost Christmas Bible Study continues - 3:00

December 19 The Gathering - 5:30
Covered dish supper and Christmas caroling

December 21 Christmas Cantata (Chapel) - 5:00

December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent - A Service of Love
Almost Christmas Bible Study concludes - 2:00
Christmas Cantata (Carthage UMC) - 5:00

December 24 Christmas Eve
A Service of Carols, Candles, and Communion - 4:00
Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS

December 29 A Service of Lessons and Carols

EPIPHANY

January 5 Epiphany of the Lord Sunday
January 9 The Gathering - 5:30
Epiphany Sing

ANGEL TREE PROGRAM 2019

Thank you for being a part of this very important event during this Christmas season. We will be making several homes much brighter with your help. We are hoping that, by choosing an angel or two from the tree, you will fulfill the request(s) written on the Angel tag as closely as possible. We understand that it is not always possible, but we do hope that you can shop around so that this event will not be a financial burden to anyone participating. Please note that the Mission Team is not in a position to reimburse for the gifts, so please choose gifts from both your head and your heart. There is a suggested minimum of \$40 per person.

Here are the instructions for your Angel gift(s):

- 1) All gifts must be returned to the Chapel by December 8th. The church is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 am—2:00 pm.
- 2) Please wrap your gift(s) and attach a gift tag with just the person's first name and the family code and member number. (Example: Family code number and member number: 123-1). In the past, we have written "Santa" in the "From" section of the gift tag.
- 3) Leave the gift under the small Christmas tree with white lights in the Fellowship hall.

All gifts will be delivered by volunteers or picked up by the recipients on the morning of December 14th. If you would like to be a part of delivering these gifts, please sign up on the "Volunteer Delivery Driver sheet" or call Vickie Bedder at 673-1975. For your safety, we would like to have at least two Chapel members per delivery. If you would just like to ride along, we can also arrange that so that you may be a part of this holiday joy.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church office at 400-5188 or contact Vickie at 673-1975.

Many thanks in advance for your generosity.

The Mission Team



Chapel Prayers

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Our Chapel Family...

Joe Ambrosio, Bob Dantzer, Mary Kay Allen, Jane and Charles Hinson,
Jimmy McCaskill, Mike Parker, Meta and Jim Evans, Esther Robinson,
Mama Dot Riggins, Ray MacKay, Ray Tourt, Mary Tuft, Blue Baker

The family of Liliane Partain

Our Chapel Friends...

John Moses, Laurie Stevens, Pat and Maureen Kibbie, Robert Gatto, Anna Verra
Tom Sullivan, Juster Machovi, Norma McKeithan, Robin Welch, Abbe Wells
Bruce Lowe and Christina Buble, Elizabeth McKenzie, Matt Northcutt
Gardenia Flores, June Ann, Heather Donnelly and her newborn baby, Lauren Riehl
and her newborn daughter, Gwen, Maria Woodruff

December Volunteers

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

1-OWEN BAKER
8-ERIC BISHOP
12- CLAIRE COLLINS—DARKNESS TO LIGHT
15- KIONA BAKER
22- ROWAN COLLINS
24- LUKE BRYAN—CHRISTMAS EVE
29—OWEN BAKER

FLOWER SCHEDULE

1- BOB DANTZER
8- PHYLLIS & FRED YOUNG
15—HARLAN MCCASKILL
22- VICKIE AND BRUCE BEDDER
29- JOHN CAGGIANO

USHER/GREETER SCHEDULE

1* - LEE CONNELLY, GISELA DANIELSON, PAT DANTZER,
CAROLE FAAS
8 - MARILYN & BUD HOLZERLAND, HARLAN MCCASKILL, LORE OLSEN
12*—DARKNESS TO LIGHT—GORDON ZELLER, KATHY GOODMAN
15* - CATHY & GEORGE NORMAN, JOYCE SINGLETARY, JIM BECK
21* - SATURDAY 5PM CANTATA—LEE CONNELLY, PAT PRICE,
HARLAN MCCASKILL, BUD HOLZERLAND
22* - PEGGY & BART REUTER, SUE & MIKE BARRY
24* - TUESDAY 4PM CHRISTMAS EVE—GORDON ZELLER,
KATHY GOODMAN, GISELA DANIELSON, PAT DANTZER

OFFICE ASSISTANTS

6- SHIRLEY PERCIVAL
13 - WENDY TETREULT
20 -SHIRLEY PERCIVAL
27 - WENDY TETREULT

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

1 - KATHY & STACY GOLZIO
8 - CHRIS & JIM BECK
12 - PAT & CHAS GRIFFIN
22 - DOROTHY & BOB LOVIN
29—DOT RIGGINS & JOAN MOSES

Chapel Choir

On Saturday evening, December 21, the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Choir, combined with the Seven Lakes Community Choir, will present its annual cantata at 5:00 pm. The program of music will span the scriptural life of Jesus, from His presence, "In the Beginning," to His life on this earth with us, "Emmanuel."

While there will be seasonal favorites, such as "O Come Let Us Adore Him," and "The Holly and the Ivy," there are also widely eclectic pieces, ranging from Thomas Ravenscroft's "Remember, O Thou Man," composed in 1611, to Leon (former Santana member) Patillo's "Cornerstone," to Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus," from Messiah.

Please mark your calendar and bring a friend to enjoy the music, celebrate the season, and worship our Savior!

For those who are unable to attend our cantata Saturday evening, the entire program will be presented again, Sunday, December 22, at Carthage United Methodist Church, at 5:00 pm.

The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will gather Wednesday December 11th at Noon. All single seniors are invited to attend the Seven Lakes Lunch Bunch for Lunch at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Joralemon Fellowship Hall. There is no cost. Reservations would be appreciated. Transportation will be provided if needed.

Mollie Wilson and her singing group will entertain us by singing Christmas carols. Anyone in the community can come at 12:30 for the entertainment.

To make a reservation for lunch and if transportation is needed please call the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines at 400-5188.



Finance Team

Tax free donations to the Chapel

IRA Minimum Distributions. If you're age 70 ½ or older, you must take a minimum distribution (4%) from your IRA each year and pay income tax on the amount of your withdrawal. However, you can make a "tax-free" charitable contribution from your IRA to the Chapel. The money must be sent directly from your IRA account to the chapel to qualify.

For a retiree in the 24 percent tax bracket, an IRE charitable contribution of \$5,000 could reduce your income tax bill by \$1,200. Even a \$1,000 would save you \$240 in taxes. Questions? Call Dick Van Horne at 910-673-3123 or email him at rvanhorne@embarqmail.com.