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CHAPEL CHIMES

Volume 1, Issue 6

February 2020

Paul's Ponderings...

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Paul's Ponderings The Grace of Les Miserables

Les Misérables is a French historical novel by Victor Hugo, first published in 1862, that is considered one of the greatest novels of the 19th century. Beginning in 1815 and culminating in the 1832 June Rebellion in Paris, the novel follows the lives and interactions of several characters, particularly the struggles of ex-convict Jean Valjean and his experience of redemption.

Toward the end of the novel, Hugo explains the work's overarching structure. "The book which the reader has before him at this moment is, from one end to the other, in its entirety and details...a progress from evil to good, from injustice to justice, from falsehood to truth, from night to day, from appetite to conscience, from corruption to life; from bestiality to duty, from hell to heaven, from nothingness to God."

Victor Hugo's Les Misérables is a truly epic story of the intersection of law and grace. Whether you've read the fourteen hundred page novel,

seen the Broadway musical, heard its soundtrack, or enjoyed the several screen adaptations, you already know the power of the story and most especially the power in the music.

During Lent this year I am excited about a study called The Grace of Les Miserables in which together we will explore six ideals...grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope...each represented by a character in Hugo's story.

- Session #1 - Grace Well Received; The Story of Jean Valjean
- Session #2 - When Grace and Justice Collide; The Story of Javert
- Session #3 - The Poor Are Always with You; The Story of Fantine
- Session #4 - The Gift of Love; The Story of Marius and Cosette
- Session #5 - Building the Barricade; The Story of Les Mis
- Session #6 - The Blessed Garden; A Hopeful Vision

The goal will be to draw parallels between the iconic story and our Christian calling,

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Paul's Ponderings...

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inspiring us to both understand our faith and live it out in the world.

To remind us of the characters and to revisit the story I will be showing one of the film versions of Les Miserables later in February for the entire congregation and I pray that you will join in this most promising Lenten Bible Study, the details of which will be published shortly.



Chapel Prayers

***Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, giving 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, Meta & Jim Evans, Mama Dot Riggins, Ray Mackay, Ray Tourt, Mary Tuft, Dot Macdonald, Thom Moran, JoAn Moses, Gordon Zeller, Bob Donaldson, Mary Greene, Henry Kelly, Claire Collins, and Kiona Baker.

Our Chapel Friends

John Moses, Laurie Stevens, Pat & Maureen Kibbie, Robert Gatto, Anna Verra, Tom Sullivan, Juster Machovi, Robin Welch, Abbe Wells, Bruce Lowe and Christina Buble, Matt Northcutt, Gardenia Flores, Bill Wilson, Ray Cooper, Jeanne Stephan, Rev. Bill and Marty Bruner, Rob D'Amatto, Kinsey Lee and Aaron Davenport, Caitlin Provencher and Kenny Stoll

Chapel Choir

On January 9, those attending The Gathering enjoyed an Epiphany Sing along with a covered dish dinner. After the delicious potluck, the focus of the program was the carol, The Twelve Days of Christmas. Many participants were surprised to learn that this repetitive, silly traditional carol, was actually a secretly coded teaching tool devised by Roman Catholic clerics during the late Middle Ages, which the Catholic faith was outlawed in England. While it was punishable by death to teach the tenets of the church openly, the song was written to allow faithful followers to learn and remember important parts of Christian doctrine. In the pre-Industrial age, the twelve days of Christmas, beginning on December 25, were a time of reflection, when weather generally prohibited much working outdoors in the Church as the day of the arrival of the Wise Men with their gifts for the Christ Child. Each verse of the song has particular meaning, as follows:

1. The partridge in the pear tree represents Jesus, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of the Christmas season, December 25. The partridge was said to be the only bird that would die to protect its young.
2. The two turtledoves represent the Old and New Testaments, the complete story of the Judeo-Christian faith.
3. The three French hens stand for faith, hope and love, found in Paul's 1 Corinthians 13.
4. The four calling birds are the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
5. The five gold rings represent the Torah, or Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, attributed to Moses.
6. The six geese a-laying are the six days of creation, each a time when a part of our world was "hatched", or formed by God.
7. The seven swans are identified as the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit—prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion.
8. The eight milkmaids teach us that Christ came even for the lowest of the low, milkmaids, and cared of them as much as he did those of royal blood. The eight blessed include those "the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake," also known as the Beatitudes.
9. The nine dancing ladies are the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
10. Those ten leaping lords? Lords in medieval England were judges and in charge of the law, so this verse represents the Ten Commandments.
11. The eleven piping pipers stand for the eleven disciples who carried forth the Gospel message, after Judas' death.
12. The twelve drummers represent the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed.

And of course, our true love is God, giver of all gifts.

Crosswalk.com "The Twelve Days of Christmas - True Meaning Behind the Lyrics" Ace Collins, 7 January 2020.

Senior High Board Game Day and Spaghetti Supper

On Saturday, February 15th, beginning at 3:30 the Senior High Youth of the Chapel in the Pines will present its Second Annual Board Game Day and Spaghetti Supper. The fun begins at 3:30 in the afternoon when there will be board games and card games and other activities for all ages. We encourage you to bring your favorite game and teach it to others. We'll have some hot beverages and if it is like last year the competition will be addictive. At 5:30 there will be plates of spaghetti with bread and salad to enjoy with all your Chapel friends.

This event is the major fundraiser for the Youth Program at the Chapel. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children, with a maximum of \$20.00 for a family. Please support our youth program by purchasing your tickets from one of our Senior High Youth at our time of Coffee and Fellowship on Sunday, January 26th, February 2nd and 9th or you may drop by the Chapel office Monday-Friday, 9:00 - 2:00.



The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Lunch Bunch

The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pine Lunch Bunch sponsors a
Valentine Party



Everyone in the community is welcome!

WEDNESDAY, February 12th, at 2:00 pm
to enjoy the music of the **NEW HORIZONS BAND** for a **Val-
entine Celebration.**

at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Joralemon Fellowship
Hall.

There is no cost - Refreshments provided.

We will need help from the congregation baking to provide
enough cookies for the party



BackPack Pals and Matthew 25:40 Programs

BackPack Pals and Matthew 25:40 Programs

We Need Your Help—Please Donate as Often As You Can!

BackPack Pals Items Needed

Juice Boxes, any flavor

Pop Tarts, any flavor

Peanut Butter/Cheese Crackers

Matthew 25:40 Items Needed

Capri sun Juices, any flavor

Pop Tarts, any flavor

Chef Boyardee Micro Cups, in yellow and red

Small water bottles

Protein Bars, all flavors



The Odd Couple - Theatre Trip

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!!

Last year a group of us went to the Temple Theater twice to see some wonderful plays.

Now, we have another opportunity and it is right in our own back yard!

WHAT: JUDSON THEATRE COMPANY, the resident theater group at Sandhills Community College

is presenting Neil Simon's THE ODD COUPLE [FEMALE VERSION] with Married..with

Children's Amanda Bearnse and Teresa Ganzel from the TONIGHT SHOW.

WHEN: Saturday, March 28th at 2pm, in the newly renovated Owens Auditorium on the SCC Campus

PRICE: We save \$8/ticket if we have a group of 10 or more tickets so tickets will be \$30.

Neil Simon's THE ODD COUPLE [FEMALE VERSION], is that comedy classic which centers around two wildly mismatched roommates living together in NYC during the crazy 1980's.

Simon's Oscar Madison and Felix Unger are now OLIVE Madison and FLORENCE Unger. We

now get to see what happens to a friendship when a female neat-freak and a female-slob try to co-exist!

QUESTION: Last year we had lunch before the matinee in Sanford. Question for anyone who wishes

to attend,

"Do you want to have lunch as a group before the play,

or dinner after,

or just go to the play?"

Our plan will be to arrange the 'car pool' leaving the Chapel at an appropriate time to fit whatever selection is made above. Please call and leave a message for the "Theatre Mavens" at the Chapel and select a choice from the above. There will be a sign up sheet in the Chapel for anyone who wishes to simply sign up there.

Look forward to lots of laughs in March!



Seven Lakes Cemetery

Pricing Structure for Chapel and Seven Lakes Cemetery Columbaria and Seven Lakes Cemetery

The Chapel in the Pines Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the new addition to the Chapel Courtyard Columbarium is complete and that these niches are now available for purchase. The Board thanks Keith Duever and his family for this wonderful gift, given in loving memory of Keith's wife, Lorene. For the generosity of the Duever family the people of the Chapel in the Pines will be forever grateful.

For members of the Chapel in the Pines only:

Single columbarium niches at the Chapel \$900.00
Double columbarium niches at the Chapel (new addition) \$2,000.00

*Special pricing for Chapel members who have already purchased single niches at the Chapel Columbarium or double niches at the Seven Lakes Cemetery who would like to convert to double niches in the new addition at the Chapel Columbarium has been established.

For members of the Chapel in the Pines and all others:

Double columbarium niches at the Seven Lakes Cemetery \$1,800.00
Cemetery plots \$1,200.00

*All columbaria pricing includes engraving and interment.

*All pricing for cemetery plots covers the cost of the plot alone.

For the answers to all of your questions about the purchase of cemetery plots or columbaria niches, please contact Mike Barry, Chapel Cemetery Director at sevenlakescemetery@7lakeschapel.com or (910) 466-9100 or Sherry Albright, Chapel Administrator at (910) 400-5188 or cit-p10@7lakeschapel.com



February Volunteers

Acolyte Schedule February

2- Claire Collins
9- Kiona Baker
16- Rowan Collins
23- Owen Baker
26- Ash Wednesday – Imposition of Ashes - Claire Collins

Usher/Greeter Schedule February

2 Shirley Percival, Pat Price, Peggy & Bart Reuter
9 choir Joyce Singletary, Jon & Dorene Tichenor, Lee Connelly
16 Dick & Sue VanHorne, Dot Macdonald, Wendy Tetreault
23 choir Mike & Sue Barry, Gisela Danielson, Carol Faas
26 (Wed) Kathy Goodman, Gordon Zeller

Office Assistants Schedule February

7 (Friday) Pat Price
10 (Monday) Shirley Percival
14 (Friday) Wendy Tetreault
21 (Friday) Dorene Tichenor
24 (Monday) Wendy Tetreault
28 (Friday) Shirley Percival

Flower Schedule February

2 Peggy Olson
9 Bruce and Vickie Bedder
16 Jane Lowe and Jeff Lowe
23 None

Coffee Hour Schedule February

2 Joyce Singletary and Cathy Norman
9 Pat & Chas Griffin
16 Laura Beth Urie
23 Tracey, Frank and Ginny

February Birthdays



2-5- Kinsey Lee

2-18 Steve Urie

2-5 Edward Lee

2-23 Jason Harris

2-5 Elyse Ruitter

2-26 Doug O'Brien

2-8 Dot Macdonald

2-27 Mike Barry

2-8 Joan Tourt

02-27 Dot Riggins (90th)

2-16 Jane Hinson

02-27 Nancee Letter

2-17 Liam Bryan

2-28 Robyn Clohessy

2-18 Marilyn Powers

2-28 Samuel Stoltz



February Anniversaries

2-25-1984 Wanda and Ollie Sweeney



Finance Team

Gifting to the Chapel in the Pines?

Name the Chapel in your will.

Name the Chapel as beneficiary in your life insurance policy.

Create a Charitable Gift Annuity.

What is a Charitable Gift Annuity?

A charitable gift annuity is a contract between a donor and a charity with the following terms: As a donor, you make a sizable gift to charity using cash, securities or possibly other assets. In return, you become eligible to take a partial tax deduction for your donation, plus you receive a fixed stream of income from the charity for the rest of your life.

Benefits of a charitable gift annuity

- Income stream for the rest of your life
 - Immediate (partial) tax deduction, based on your life expectancy and the anticipated income stream
 - Potential for a portion of the income stream to be tax-free
 - Possibility of donating many types of assets: cash, securities plus personal property
 - Reduced or eliminated capital gains tax liability for gifts of appreciated securities and personal property
- Supporting an organization you care about...**Chapel in the Pines!**

Questions? Contact the Chapel Finance Team

Dick VanHorne
(910) 673-3123
rvanhorne@embarqmail.com

HR5293: Universal Charitable Giving Act of 2019

HR5293: UNIVERSAL CHARITABLE GIVING ACT OF 2019

We have discussed the problem of reductions in contributions and pledges to the Chapel. There is no one simple reason for this to have occurred, as many discussions on a Board and Finance Team level have shown. However, after researching HR5293, one finds experts indicate this bill would solve the contribution problem for most 'middle-income' taxpayers and charitable nonprofits.

First, a little history. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act [TCJA], approved December 20, 2017 and signed by President Trump December 22, 2017 had a profound impact on individuals and businesses. The provisions effective in 2018 lowered individual and corporate tax rates, repealed several tax credits, modified deductions, enhanced child tax credit, and increased business expensing.

An immediate and unfortunate effect of this new Tax Law was a reduction in charitable giving. By doubling the standard deduction used by two-thirds of Americans, many taxpayers who itemized found it no longer beneficial. Michael Werner, CEO of United Way of Buffalo and Erie County [Dec.2019] quoted statistics where the doubling of the standard deduction reduced the number of "moderate-income taxpayers claiming a charitable donation by more than 20 million". Werner also pointed out "tax policy" wasn't the only reason people donate but had an influence on "how much people give". He noted under TCJA, "90% of taxpayers pay taxes on income that they give away" and further statistics show contributions almost nonexistent up to a taxable income level of \$200,000 .

The first solution to the reduction in charitable contributions was Bill HR651 presented in January 2019. The Charitable Giving Tax Deduction Act would have made charitable tax deductions universal and even if individuals chose not to itemize. It was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee where apparently the bill is buried or died.

HR5293: Universal Charitable Giving Act of 2019

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Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC) re-introduced the bill as HR5293, the Universal Charitable Giving Act [UCGA] December 3rd, 2019, co-sponsored by both Democrat and Republicans. This Bill would amend the tax law so individuals not itemizing could declare a deduction for charitable nonprofit donations up to 1/3rd of the Standard Deduction.

The NC Center for Non-Profits has stepped forward to encourage *all* Americans to support Congress in the passing of this Bill with a statement of support by David Heine, VP for Public Policy at the NC Center for Public Policy and Advocacy. Heine said: "...when asked about giving patterns earlier this year, nearly a third [of charitable nonprofits] said that they expect a further drop in individual giving this year. At a time when 56% of NC nonprofits are unable to meet basic needs, any decline in charitable giving takes away from nonprofits' ability to serve communities and increases the number of North Carolinians relying on government services. This costs taxpayer money and diverts public funds from other pressing needs."

The logic is suddenly clear. We need to encourage our legislators to support the passing of this bill for three reasons:

It will strengthen charitable nonprofits ability to provide essential services;

It will allow *all* individuals to support charitable nonprofits;

It would reduce the use of public funds for those essential services provided by the charitable nonprofits.

Please contact your representatives and explain why you believe passage of Bill HR5293 is important. In addition, talk to your friends, Republicans and Democrats, and encourage them to reach out and encourage support for the passage of this bill. Look at all the good you can do with simple phone calls!

Bless you for speaking up on this issue for the good of all America!