



CHAPEL CHIMES

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Inside this issue:

Paul's Ponderings	1-2
Chapel Prayer List	2
Flower Sign-Up	3
Coffee & Fellowship	3
Worship Team	4
Mission Team	5
Music Team	6
Nominating Team	7
Board Members	
Seven Lakes Cemetery / Columbaria	8
Building & Grounds Finance Team	9
Back Pack Pals and Matthew 25:40	10
Schedule for Upcoming Events	10
Birthdays & Anniversaries	11

Paul's Ponderings...

Paul's Ponderings The Chapel Chimes August 2021

In recent days I have become more and more concerned about the rise of "Christian Nationalism". On July 4th, I witnessed in-sanctuary, mega-church worship services on television and online where American flags, far too numerous to count, were on grand display, but there was not one cross in sight anywhere. At the January 6th insurrection at our nation's capital, it became apparent that many of the participants were Christians who held deep religious convictions that what they were doing was righteous or even ordained and blessed by God. And just two weeks ago, a study was released that showed that 87% of all white evangelicals interviewed prioritized love of country over their love of God.

I'd like to offer a different perspective. As a Christian, I trust that I have a homeland, but that homeland is not a political nation. Biblically and theologically I am a sojourner...an alien citizen of the United States. By virtue of my baptism into the commonwealth of God, my primary citizenship is in God's city...a non-geographical homeland that the scriptures and Christian tradition teach is fulfilled and reflected in the person of Jesus Christ. My spiritual homeland is both a way of life as a Jesus follower and a place of rest for which we all long, but whose full revelation in God's creation awaits a future time.

Today, some people claim that the biblical homeland is the state of Israel or the United States of America, but neither can truly claim this title. Indeed, in Hebrews 11:13-16, the writer describes people of faith as those who "were strangers and foreigners on the earth," men and women who were "seeking a homeland...a

better country, a heavenly one." Or, according to Philippians 3:20, "our citizenship is in heaven." Yet, for many American Christians pulling apart the interwoven threads of "Christian" and "American" has proved difficult.

One of my heroes in faith, Reverend William Sloane Coffin, the former pastor of Riverside Church in New York City said that, "There are three kinds of patriots, two of them bad, and one good. The first kind are the uncritical lovers of their country. The second kind are those who are loveless critics. Good patriots, he said, are those who love their country enough to recognize and address its flaws. They are the ones who carry on a lover's quarrel with their country, wanting it to be its best and doing what they can to help make it so." He continued, "The most dangerous threat to patriotism today is a blind, uncritical nationalism."

But let us not be fooled into thinking that there should be a divorce between religion and politics. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "Those who say that religion has nothing to do with politics do not know what religion means." Gandhi went on to explain that the role of religion is always to challenge the state to abide by the highest ethical, moral, and religious principles.

Christian patriotism is practicing a way of life based on the biblical virtues of faith, hope, and love...based on the teachings of Jesus...based on the assurance of God's kingdom revealing a new heaven and a new earth...based on God, not national pride as the first priority for our lives. We are citizens, only secondarily of our earthly nations.



*Hardly anyone in the world
believes territorial discrimination
to be as evil
as racial or religious discrimination.
But it is.
Nationalism,
at the expense of another nation,
is just as wicked as racism
at the expense of another race.
In other words,
good patriots are not nationalists.
A nationalist is a bad patriot.”
- William Sloane Coffin, 2004*

*This is my song,
O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
- Lloyd Stone, 1934*

*The love of one's country is a splendid thing.
But why should love stop at the border?
- Pablo Casals, 1971*

**Peace,
Paul**

Chapel Prayers

**Rejoicing 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)**

Prayers of the People

Chapel Friends:

Pat Kibbie, Gardenia Flores, Juster Machovi, Jeanne Stephan, Sally Bagdan, Marjorie Gump, Laura Lentz, Sarah Hewitt and Heather Tuft, Cathy Phillips, Jessica McInnis, Nancy Bingle, Reverend Bill and Marty Bruner, Eddie and Annette McInnis, Patty and Jackie Madden, Jennifer Grgurevic, Cathy and Calvin Phillips, Mary Faas, George Depuy, Thomas Martin, Sandra and Robert Rickards, June Ann, Bruce Lowe, Jack Sealey, Don Dublino, Chris Flack, Tom Sullivan, Brenda Tubaugh, Bob Hamilton, Mike Augustyniak, Ernie and Lucy Dunn Martin, Phyllis Mahin, Mark Vasconcellos, Maria Bliss, Dave Carney, Nancy Pierceall, Kathy Steele, Ron Scheil, Rob D’Amatto, Pricilla Johnson, Kaitlyn McInnis and Sandy Kerser.

Chapel Family:

Jane and Charles Hinson, Nancee Letter, Bob Dantzer, Dorene Tichenor, Ralph Olsen, Mary Tuft, Marilyn McCaskill, Pat Donaldson, Bud Holzerland, Phil Thingstad, Rob Guadalupe, Mary Kay Allen, Dick and Sue Van Horne, Shirley Percival, JoAn Moses, Johanna Moran, Glenda Clendenin and the Family of Henry Kelly.



August Flower Sign-Up

If you are interested in signing up to volunteer to provide flowers for the chapel in **August**, please contact the office at 400-5188 or e-mail Pat at

citp10@7lakeschapel.com.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>
August 1st	Dan and Asa Stoltz (In honor of their Wedding Anniversary and in remembrance of Dan's parents' birthdays)
August 8th	Bob and Joan Tourt (68th Wedding Anniversary)
August 15th	Shirley Percival (In memory of her sisters, Patricia and Monica, from all her sisters)
August 22nd	
August 29th	



August Coffee and Fellowship

If you are interested in signing up to volunteer to make coffee for Sundays at the chapel in **August**, please contact the office at 400-5188 or e-mail Pat at

citp10@7lakeschapel.com

<i>Date</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>
August 1st	Kathy, Stacy and Alicia
August 8th	Esther Robinson and daughter, Cathy
August 15th	Leslie While
August 22nd	Bruce and Vickie Bedder
August 29th	

Worship Team

Worship Team Chiming In...

Although we did not meet in July, some of our most recent discussions have included the following:

The Gathering has returned and the next date will be Thursday, August 19th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. More information will be forthcoming.

As you may know, this year's Homecoming will be the weekend of September 24, 25 and 26, 2021. Suggestions to-date include each Team should plan a get-together for previous members, that we should hold golf and tennis tournaments again, institute a 'games' evening and plan a covered dish luncheon after the Homecoming service. More to follow.

We understand some of you have not received your COVID vaccinations. To keep you safe we ask you to join us, but wear a mask. If for some reason you cannot wear a mask, please call Pastor Paul and he can advise you. You may want to consider joining us via ZOOM on Sundays. For any assistance, please contact our Audio/Visual Team at **avteam@7lakeschapel.com**.

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Look forward to seeing you in the Sanctuary or on ZOOM!

Worship Team

Shirley Percival



Mission Team (Submitted by Tracey Olsen)

Mission Team August Newsletter

The Mission Team met on Friday, July 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

We are busy bees preparing for the October 30th Rummage Sale. We will be periodically pricing and sorting items as they come into the Kid Zone. This will cut down on the anxiety of pricing and sorting the day before the sale. If you have items for donation, please call the office prior to bringing them in so someone can unlock the door.

Acceptable items for the sale: linens, books, holiday items, kitchen items, children's toys, puzzles, household items, working electronics, lamps, purses, sporting goods and furniture.

If you need someone to help pick up a piece, please call any member of the Mission Team to assist you.

September 1st, between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., the Chapel in the Pines will be a designated Intake Site for the families who are in need of help during the Christmas holidays. We will set up tables in the Fellowship Hall. If you notice lots of cars coming and going that day you will know why.

Our next Team meeting will be August 13th at 10:00 a.m.

The Mission Team would like to challenge the other teams by asking each team to take a few weeks to a month of providing breakfast items for our weekly Fellowship after church. We have committed to September.



Music Team (Submitted by Tamara Lee)

One hundred and fourteen years ago, two Vaudeville musicians, Cobb and Edwards, wrote a tune that began, "School days, school days, dear old Golden Rule days..." Many of us recall and can even finish out the song, and although it seems they just got out for summer break, students are now preparing to go back for a new school year. Sales are advertised for back-to-school supplies, and there is the excitement of a new pair of shoes or a new lunch box, or maybe just a whole new pack of colored pencils, while there are also unknowns, such as mask protocols, new buildings or perhaps even a new way of doing school as many are considering homeschool, un-school, or private schools. No matter how education is delivered, there will inevitably be butterflies in the stomach for teachers and students, many questions and many plans for future studies.

In 1919, Benjamin Mansell Ramsey, of Bournemouth, England, composed the hymn, "Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord," Mr. Ramsey served as organist, music teacher and composer, with some modest success with hymns and carols, but is best known for this hymn that employs the phrase, "teach me thy way," thirteen times within its four verses. There are several phrases in this hymn that echo David's Psalms 25, 27, and 86, as well as words from Deuteronomy and 2 Corinthians, which could be part of a prayer for all students and teachers as they look forward to the official beginning of school: prayers for grace, unobstructed paths, safety, comfort, the Holy Spirit's guidance and endurance to finish the race and win the prize.

<http://www.scriptureway.com/home/teach-me-thy-way-o-lord-hymn-story-and-scriptures>



Nominating Team (Submitted by Dot Macdonald)

The Nominating Team has submitted the following candidates' names to the Board for their approval for the class of 2022:

For Board Membership – Bob Donaldson

For Nominating Team – Marilyn Holzerland and Esther Robinson

Best Regards, Dot Macdonald

Chapel Board Members

President: Dick Van Horne - 910-673-3123 - rvanhorne@embarqmail.com

Vice-President: George Norman - 910-987-4664 - gngolfer@nc.rr.com

Second Vice-President: Drew Augustiniak - 910-466-9131 - augustyniakd@gmail.com

Secretary: Tracey Olsen - 704-604-7930 - tolsen415@gmail.com

Assistant Secretary: Lee Connelly - 910-673-2521 - lconne@nc.rr.com

Treasurer: Sue Barry - 910-466-9100 - suelongdrive@yahoo.com

Assistant Treasurer: Dot Macdonald - 910-673-3866 or 910-470-0939 - dotjmac1957@gmail.com

Member at Large: Blue Baker - 910-783-6486 - blue.baker3@icloud.com

Chapel Staff and Contact Info

Pastor—Reverend Paul James - pastorpaulchapel@gmail.com—910-673-3123

Chapel Administrator—Pat Scheil—citp10@7lakeschapel.com—910-400-5188

Choir Director—Edward Lee—edhlee@icloud.com—910-695-6751

Organist—Tamara Lee—tamaraclee@icloud.com—910-690-7671

Seven Lakes Cemetery (submitted by Mike Barry)

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

Current Updates

Again, we have had much activity at the Cemetery and at the Chapel's Columbarium this past month. We have had one interment at the Columbarium and three at the Chapel's new Center Courtyard Columbarium. Pastor Paul James held services at the Chapel for the families of their loved ones that were interred there.

We sold two niches at the Cemetery Columbarium in July for a total of \$3,600.00 and had three names engraved at a cost of \$270.00.

The road and approach to the cemetery have been regraded. I will attempt to get one of the water wells working later this month and do more repairs on the gazebo.

Mike Barry

Cemetery Team



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 Pat Scheil, Chapel Administrator, at (910) 400-5188 or citp10@7lakeschapel.com.





Building & Grounds Report (Submitted by Dick Van Horne & Mike Barry)

The air conditioning unit on the lower level of the Fellowship Hall failed. It requires the replacement of the compressor, which is under warranty. Temp-Control, Inc. will install a Bryant compressor for a total of \$1,085.05. Replacement cost would normally run \$5,000.00 outside of the warranty.

Our basement toilets have not been flushing properly. Mike Barry received advise from Stackhouse Plumbing and called A Paul's Septic Service to pump out our septic tank and install a copper sulfate box. Jimmy Stackhouse will bush-hog the trees over the leach field as well. We are waiting for an invoice for the contracted work.

Mike Barry and Dick Van Horne



Finance Team Report (Submitted by Dick Van Horne)

Total liquid assets of the Chapel stand at \$269,605 as of June 30th. Income and expenses are within budget estimates for 2021. We continue to thank Chapel members for meeting their pledge commitments. The Board recently approved an expense of \$1,020.98 for a new computer and monitor for the Chapel Treasurer.

Dick Van Horne



Back Pack Pals and Matthew 25:40 Programs

Back Pack Pals and Matthew 25:40 Programs

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

Back Pack 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

Fruit Cups

Apple sauce cups



Schedule of Upcoming Events for August 2021 (updated by Pat Scheil)

- August 1 – The First Sunday in Ordinary Time – 9:00 a.m.**
- August 1 – Chapel Board Workshop – following Coffee and Fellowship**
- August 4 – Chapel Office Closed**
- August 5 - 7 – Pastor Away**
- August 8 – The 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 9:00 a.m.**
- August 8 – Chapel Board Meeting – 10:15 a.m.**
- August 10 – Worship Team Meeting – 6:00 p.m. (online)**
- August 11 – Chapel Office Closed**
- August 13 – Mission Team Meeting – 10:00 a.m.**
- August 19 – The Gathering – 6:00 p.m.**
- August 22 - 1st Stewardship Sunday and Blessing of the Backpacks**

August Birthdays

Fran Stark	August 5
Bill Moses	August 6
Laura Beth Urie	August 11
Jade Baker	August 11
Sandy Carr	August 15
Lee Connolly	August 15
Steven Welch	August 17
Pat Price	August 21
Butch Allen	August 22
Frank Carney	August 24
Dave Noble	August 31
Bart Reuter	August 31



August Anniversaries

Dan & Asa Stoltz	August 4 - 9 years
Ralph & Lore Olsen	August 6 - 66 years
Bob & Joan Tourt	August 16 - 68 years
Dave & Sandy Carr	August 25 - 37 years

