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CHapel CHIMES

Volume 2, Issue 9

December 2021



Paul's Ponderings...

Inside this issue:

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

Paul's Ponderings The Chapel Chimes December, 2021 *Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch*

Advent is the time of the church year that we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, and part of that preparation is to remember the Christmas story well. When the Magi saw and followed the star they were first led to Herod's palace and inquired as to where the new King of Israel might be found. It is at this point that we discover that even Herod did not remember the story well.

Herod had to call the priests, scribes, and scholars to a meeting to scour the scriptures to find a clue as to where the child would be born. All these religious experts told Herod, "You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you the least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel." (Matthew 2:6 that refers to Micah 5:2). If Herod had recalled the story, he would have known that the Messiah "will stand and shepherd his flock in

the strength of the Lord...and he will become one of peace." (Micah 5:4-5)

If Herod had remembered the story well, through his anger, greed, and insecurity the entire gospel story may have been cut short, but, who knows, if power hadn't gone to his head he might have welcomed a successor who would unite all of Israel under the banner of peace. Nevertheless, scripture tells us that Herod became afraid and all of Jerusalem with him. This is how tyrants work. The people knew that when an autocrat doesn't have his way, it is the people who will pay the price... and this time the price would be the lives of their newly-born children.

Why would the good news of a righteous, uniting, and peaceful king be met with such hostility? We might ask the Grinch a similar question. Why did the Grinch hate the Whos' celebration of Christmas? Why did he snarl at their stockings and growl at their greenery. Why did the Grinch only hear noise

when the Whos sang their Christmas songs while celebrating and feasting together.

We may not know why the Grinch hated Christmas, but we do know that the Grinch's hatred seriously affected his understanding and his memory of what Christmas truly was, just as Herod's fear and desire to remain in power prevented him from seeing the birth of Jesus as good news. That's what hate does. It takes something beautiful, turns it into a weapon, and makes it ugly. Hate turns our good memories into bad ones.

This Advent we need to remember the Christmas story well so that we, unlike Herod and the Grinch, realize once again that Christmas is beautiful. We need to reawaken all our good memories so that we can once again see that the story surrounding the incarnation is profound. Reverend Matt Rowle says that "pondering the mystery of Christ's birth is never exhausted, but the Grinch's hate for the Whos meant that the only solution that would satisfy his small heart would be to take what they love, use it as a weapon, and forever mar their memory of Christmas."

I pray that all of us will spend the four weeks of Advent remembering the story of Christ's birth...and remembering it well. May we ask God to search our hearts and drive out all the hate and distorted memories that make our hearts two sizes too small. And, as we approach the mystery of the incarnation this Christmas, may our hearts, just like the Grinch's, grow three sizes larger to make room for the hope, peace, joy, and love that we meet in a baby born in a stable and laid in a manger.



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)

Prayers for Chapel Friends:

Pat Kibbie, Gardenia Flores, Juster Machovi, Jeanne Stephan, Sally Bagdan, Marjorie Gump, Laura Lentz, Sarah Hewitt, Heather Tuft, Jessica McInnis, Reverend Bill and Marty Bruner, Eddie and Annette McInnis, Patty & Jack Madden, Jennifer Grgurevic, Cathy and Calvin Phillips, Mary Faas, George Depuy, Thomas Martin, Sandra and Robert Rickards, June Ann, Jack Sealey, Chris Flack, Tom Sullivan, Bob Hamilton, Ernie and Lucy Dunn Martin, Phyllis Mahin, Mark Vasconcellos, Maria Bliss Dave Carney, Nancy Pierceall, Kathy Steele, Rob D'Amatto, Pricilla Johnson McInnis, Maria Karous, Ronald J. Beck, Katy and Colette Kelly Joe and Ashley McInnis and their newborn baby, Noah, Jim Milliman, Lou Matthews, Carmen Chung, Mike Augustyniak, Bruce Lowe, Bill Hughes, Evaligene Caliendo, Ross Tilley, Janice Vanderwerff, Bruce Keyser, Sue Freischlag, Pamela Kos, Jerry Poston, Philip Jimenez, Nathan Ritter, and Steve Auditore.

Prayers for Chapel Family:

Jane and Charles Hinson, Nancee Letter, Dorene Tichenor, Ralph Olsen, Mary Tuft, Pat Donaldson, Bud Holzerland, Rob Guadalupe, Mary Kay Allen, Shirley Percival, Glenda Clendeni, Tamara Lee, Jean Lawrence, Kathy Golzio, Meta Evans, Jane Lowe, and the family of Fran Stark.



Mission Team News

December



Rummage Sale brought in \$3,738.10.

Cash donations for Christmas are still coming in.

We spent \$1,036.00 on food vouchers to Food Lion to give to the families we are sponsoring for Christmas. We were given a 3% discount due to buying the gift cards in bulk.

We are serving 16 families and a total of 57 individuals.

Wrapping Party for the gifts we are giving to families with Christmas4Moore is Friday, December 10th at 10AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Lunch will be hosted by the Mission team on December 10th.

RSVP if you plan on attending.

Gifts will be picked up the week of December 13th at the Chapel or sponsors will deliver to their families at an agreed upon day and time.

Gift boxes and gift tags are needed.

Donations are appreciated.



Music Team

(Submitted by Tamara Lee)

While some of the most glorious Christmas hymns and carols come from our European ancestors, one of the most haunting and simple carols was inspired right here in North Carolina, in the town of Murphy in July of 1933. John Jacob Niles, a collector and composer of south-eastern folk songs, heard a little Appalachian girl of maybe seven or eight, obviously from a very poor family, singing the song as part of a traveling evangelical program. The little girl only sang one part of the song, and Niles quickly scribbled down three lines of her words and part of her melody, for which he paid her a quarter. He paid her seven more quarters to sing it over seven more times so that he could be sure of the notes he had taken. Niles continued to travel, working on the tune as he went, and by October, 1933, he completed the folk carol, rounding out the melody to four lines, and three stanzas of lyrics, telling the story of Jesus' birth, God's gift to us. He performed the completed song the first time at Christmas of 1933 in Brasstown, NC, and it was published in Songs of the Hill Folk in 1934.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aceilSjQ5g>

Nashville Children's Choir



Seven Lakes Cemetery

(submitted by Mike Barry)

We have had one interment at the Cemetery's Columbarium in November, and also sold one niche. At the same time opening two more single niches at the Chapel courtyard columbarium, which gives us a total of 8 open niches for sale.

The Wall of Honor celebration that took place Saturday, November 13, 2021, at our Cemetery and was a total success. There must have been over 500 people there and everyone was quite impressed, also with Pastor Paul's Invocation, which started of the program. I can no longer refer to the cemetery as my SECERT GARDEN.

Please take a few minutes and stop by the cemetery and visit the Wall Of Honor that is dedicated to all of our Seven Lakes Veterans an beyond.

Mike Barry
Cemetery Team Chair





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

The chapel has received the refund of our down payment from the company that was hired to raise the sidewalk and did not show up to do the job. I will now look for a new company.

We also received reimbursement from the person's insurance company that damaged our irrigation system when they ran into the front fence. All is good!

We have winterized all the outside waterspouts except the one in the courtyard because we are still using that one.

We will be contacting those individuals who volunteered for the Building and Grounds Team after the holiday to help with filter changing and other duties.

Richard Van Horne, Mike Barry
Building Team



Finance Team Report (Submitted by Dick Van Horne)

At the Annual Meeting on October 17th, congregation voted to approve the Chapel budget for 2022.

Projected Income = **\$196,500**; Projected Expenses = **\$218,075**.

Pledges for 2022 currently stand at \$152,278.

Schwab Investment Account balance is: **\$70,060** (11/9/21) vs. **\$67,841** (10/9/21).



Back Pack Pals & Matthew 25:40

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 December 2021

Wednesday, December 1

When Everything Is Wrong—7:00 p.m.—online
The Heart that Grew Three Sizes; Finding faith in the Story of the Grinch

Thursday, December 2—From Darkness to Light—4:00—In-Person Event Only

Scriptures: Romans 13:11-14 and John 1:1-14
Message: Living in the Light
The Celebration of Holy Communion

Sunday, December 5 - The Second Sunday of Advent

The Sunday of Peace - 9:00
Scriptures: Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 3:1-6
Message: The Peace to Endure Christmas

Advent Afternoons - When Christmas Isn't Christmas - 3:00 - in-person
The Heart that Grew Three Sizes; Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch

Advent Daily Devotions continue...

Wednesday, December 8

When Christmas Isn't Christmas - 7:00 - online
The Heart that Grew Three Sizes; Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch



Friday, December 10

Christmas Wrapping Party for our Christmas4Moore Families – 10:00 a.m.
Lunch following the Christmas Wrapping Party – Please RSVP to Leslie at the Chapel office to later than **Tuesday, December 7th**.

Sunday, December 12 - The Third Sunday of Advent

The Sunday of Joy - The Celebration of Holy Communion - 9:00
Scriptures: Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Luke 3:7-18
Message: Christmas Joys

Advent Afternoons. - When Light Shines - 3:00 - in-person
The Heart that Grew Three Sizes; Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch

Advent Daily Devotions continue...

Monday (Dec. 13th), Tuesday (Dec 14th), Thursday (Dec. 16th), and Friday (Dec. 17th)

Christmas4Moore families will pick up their packages between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday, December 15

When Light Shines - 7:00 - online
The Heart that Grew Three Sizes; Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch

Thursday, December 16 - The Gathering

We will gather to go Christmas caroling with hot chocolate to follow - 6:00

Sunday, December 19 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Sunday of Love - 9:00
Scriptures: Micah 5:2-5 and Luke 1:39-55
Message: Upending the World with Love

Advent Afternoons - When Joy Is Our Song - 3:00 - in-person
The Heart that Grew Three Sizes; Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch

Sunday, December 19

Christmas Musical – 4:00 p.m. – (Online Only Event)

Advent Daily Devotions continue...

Wednesday, December 22

When Joy Is Our Song - 7:00 - online
The Heart that Grew Three Sizes; Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

A Service of Carols, Candles, and Communion - 4:00
Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, and Luke 2:1-20

Message: The True Meaning of Christmas

Saturday, December 25 - Christmas Day

A celebration of the Twelve Days of Christmas by Tamara Lee
begins today and runs through Epiphany, January 6

Sunday, December 26 - The First Sunday of Christmas

A Service of Lessons and Carols - 9:00





December Flower Sign-Up

December 5 Tim Peppe

December 19 Bruce & Vickie Bedder

December 12 Tracey Olsen & Frank Carney December 26 Tamara Lee

December Coffee and Fellowship

December Coffee and Fellowship will be provided by:

The Finance Team—Dick VanHorne



December Birthdays



12-1 Phyllis Young	12-27 Amie Collins
12-5 Bob Donaldson	12-28 Bill Baker
12-5 Peggy Reuter	12-30 Anna Lee
12-6 Sue LeClair	12-31 J. Shaughnessy
12-12 Stacy Golzio	
12-23 Kathy Golzio	
12-23 Tim Peppe	
12-24 R. Guadalupe	



December Anniversaries

12-15 Leslie While
 12-18 Dave & Mimi Giannini
 12-21 Roberto & Elvia Guadalupe



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

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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

Member at Large: Bob Donaldson - 910-466-9064 - rhd138@gmail.com

Chapel Staff and Contact Info

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

Chapel Administrator—Leslie Kern—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

