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# **Paul's Ponderings...**

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#### "A Loving and Caring Congregation"

*Let me invite you to open your Bible and read the 13th Chapter of Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth.* 

This week I have been tallying the results of our congregational survey to determine the Core Values of our Chapel and I have been writing a wedding ceremony that I will use to celebrate my brother-in-law's marriage. Both of these seemingly unrelated efforts actually have one central One of the Core theme...love. Values that our Board members proposed is, "We are a loving and caring congregation" and surely all of us can agree that at a wedding, love between two people stands center stage.

No doubt Paul's wonderful essay on love in 1 Corinthians is the most misused and overused scripture in wedding liturgies... misused because this verse has absolutely nothing to do with the ideal of marital love and overused because preachers like me just can't give up misusing it. This passage was originally written, not to address romantic love or even the love between friends, but the love that people share within a community of faith. Paul wrote this letter to a church whose members were struggling to love one another. At the church in Corinth they had allowed petty bickering and power struggles to infect their community and compromise their ministry. It's easy to infer how they were treating one another by noting all the negative adjectives used in the letter: love is not envious, arrogant, or boastful, rude. Surely if this is the way the folks at First Church Corinth were behaving then you can plainly see why they were having trouble, so Paul writes to remind them how to lovingly treat one another as they worship and serve God in community.

Sometimes as church members we do not love each other so well. Maybe one member hurts another's feelings by talking behind their backs. Sometimes we speak harshly to one another before we take time to think about how we are expressing ourselves. Sometimes forgiveness is hard to find and bitter resentments persist. There will be times when we disagree with a sermon, an adopted policy of the Board, or even the color of the carpet in the conference room. Some conflict in the church is normal, but it is how we respond and live with the conflict that will define us as a "loving and caring congregation".

How we love and care for one another in our Chapel family is both a reflection of our close relationship with God and an example of God's love to those outside our church. People will be drawn to a community where folks treat one another with kindness, respect, and patience...mostly because these qualities are so rare in the secular world around us. If the church... our Chapel...is a place that is indeed loving and caring...a place where love, hope, and forgiveness is found, then those outside our church will be open to experiencing God by joining our faith community. In fact, the way we love each other may very well be our most effective means of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and an essential part of any church growth program that our Board might envision for the future.

So, will I include Paul's words on love in my brother-in-law's wed-And, is the dina? Absolutely! Chapel in the Pines a "loving and caring congregation"? Without a doubt! In fact it's one of our identified Core Values and we are all so proud of it. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will give us the enthusiasm, energy, and courage to share this love throughout our larger community so that our love might be a reflection of God's love and an irresistible invitation for others to ioin us.

> Peace, Pastor Paul



#### **Prayers for Chapel Friends:**



Pat Kibbie, Sally Bagdan, Laura Lentz, Sarah Hewitt, Heather Tuft, Jessica McInnis, Reverend Bill and Marty Bruner, Patty & Jack Madden, Julie Grgurevich, Mary Faas, George Depuy, June Ann, Jack Sealey, Chris Flack, Tom Sullivan, Ernie and Lucy Dunn Martin, Phyllis Mahin, Mark Vasconcellos, Kathy Steele, Rob D'Amatto, Pricilla Johnson, Maria Karous, Jim Milliman,

Mike Augustyniak and Drew's Family, Tom Dillon, Bruce Lowe, Pamela Kos, Nathan Ritter, Carla Amburgy and family, Derrick Marshall, George Hoffman, Daquaan Gadseen, Anthony Tuliano, Doug O'Brien, Cynthia Peppe, Maggie Simmons, Reverend Elizabeth Forester, Ronnie Graham, Larry Cagle, Mary Ellen Jones and her brother Craig, Cathy Grubbs and Dave Westerman, Janet Hegeman, Tom Wetsel, Ellie Lyons, Wes Dunham, Katherine Grace, Victoria Fearon, Katy Swain, Dot Cantwell, Sabrina Levine, Brycin McCaskill, and people of the Ukraine.

#### **Prayers for Chapel Family:**

Charles Hinson, Mary Tuft, Bud Holzerland, Rob Guadalupe, Mary Kay Allen, Shirley Percival, Glenda Clendenin, Jean Lawrence, Jane Lowe, Meta Evans, Nancee Letter, Joan Tourt, Jeff Lowe, Dorene Tichenor, Peggy Olson and Marilyn McCaskill, and Dick Van Horne







Happy July, The birth month of our Nation, Happy Fourth of July.

As we move into summer when vacations and family gatherings are plentiful, we wish for all of you safe travel and uneventful trips. We also hope that those of you that fly, have smooth and uninterrupted flights. Gas prices may be a little all over but, it is what it is, and we all just have to deal with it don't we?

A brief mention, concerning Covid and the people that have unfortunately tested positive. We are keeping our eye on this and hope it is just a flash in time. We are not changing any policies at this time but will continue to monitor what happens. We do encourage you to make your best judgement as to wearing masks and attending events.

You all may know the Board as embarked on an extensive program to prepare the Chapel for a major growth program in 2023. This is a major undertaking and is 100% focused on you as individual members and attendees of the Chapel. Your input is critical. This is your Chapel, and your thoughts and desires for how the Chapel operates and grows into the future are very important.

The requests for feedback have been going well and we appreciate all of your responses. We have considered each one while determining the key Core Values, of the Chapel. We will continue to request your input as the program develops. So please respond to our requests.

The next phase of this program is to have group meetings and discussions. We are calling these Café's and we will have a total of four of them over time. Your participation in the Café's is critical to the success of the program and the development of a clear direction the Board needs to go in planning our growth program.

The first Chapel Café will be held on July 14<sup>th</sup>, the date of our regularly scheduled Gathering with the meal provided by our Worship Team. Moderators (Board members) will be available and rotating tables as each table (in groups of 5 or 6) discuss questions to be considered when approaching a church growth program. The Moderators will collect the data with the goal of returning feedback as soon as possible.

We will schedule the second Café later in the summer and the remaining two later in the year. Please make yourself available and join us in developing our goals and strategies for growing the Chapel Community.

We are also working on our Stewardship program for 2022. We will be launching in the next few weeks so please begin to think of what areas of the Chapel you would like to offer your talents and time. We will be defining each team clearly very shortly as the Stewardship Team brings those requests to you.

Pledging is so critical to the Chapel. We appreciate every pledge or donation that each of you make each year. In 2023 we have several significant projects scheduled, so as we move into Stewardship season, please look at what you may be able to pledge for the upcoming year.

Have a GREAT Summer and see you on Sundays.

George Norman President of the Board







### Fínance Team





Through May 31, 2022, Chapel income stands at \$107,094.23 against expenses of \$94,613.24. The Chapel currently has total liquid assets of \$302,759.47, including a balance of \$65,560.58 in the Schwab Investment Account.

Richard Van Horne Chairman



### Cemetery Team

The Cemetery team is investigating the cost of a sister columbarium at the cemetery as a future growth project and looking at adding a Columbarium to the backside of the existing Columbarium to save room and money. We will be getting an estimate from Custom Monuments Co. who has a lot of experience in building Columbariums.

There was one interment at the Cemetery Columbarium and one at the Chapel Devonshire Columbarium, in July.



So far in July, two plots were sold at the Cemetery, one in Section **B**, which has been newly opened, and one in Section I. Section D has also been opened.

I sold a ground level headstone, as a test, thru Custom Monuments Co. who also installed it in our Cemetery. A profit of \$520.00 was made. I am looking at increasing our profit ratio on these headstones, which I have presented to the Cemetery Committee.

The team has discussed raising the prices of all the Cemetery Plots and all of the Columbarium Niches to put us more in line with the surrounding Cemeteries. The decision was made to raise prices and the Cemetery Team will bring it to the Board for approval.

Mike Barry Cemetery Team Chair



### Building & Grounds/Finance Teams

The Building & Grounds Team has received a generous donation towards the replacement of the Chapel roof. We are currently seeking estimates and pricing for replacement of just our Sanctuary roof, as well as estimates and pricing for replacement of full coverage roofing of our Chapel building.

Estimates are being obtained for the cost of shingle replacement and estimates are being obtained for the cost of replacement with a metal roof. Though metal roofing generally cost a bit more, the longevity and life expectancy far exceeds that of a shingle roof.

While the team is looking at estimates from roofing and metal companies, George Norman is exploring and has applied for a federal grant that could be used to offset replacement cost.

Once the team has a firm proposal, the proposal will be brought to the board for approval.

### Mission Team

After a successful Rummage Sale with the assistance of many of the Chapel members, the Mission Team is in the planning stages of other events. Those in mind are:

- (1) A Game Night (possibly in August) for the community as well as the Chapel;
- (2) Participation in Christmas4Moore (serving as a screening site and adopting families in need for Christmas);
- (3) Providing needed items for the students and faculty at West End Elementary School.

The Team has already contributed to Habitat for Humanity and The Moore Free Care Clinic and will be considering other charitable organizations from the monies gained from the Rummage Sale.









# Music Ministry

The Chapel Choir is enjoying summer hiatus, and will return to practice Wednesday, August 24, at 5:30 pm. Since we began again this past spring, a dozen former members have rejoined the choir, as well as four new members!

Over the summer our music program will include soloists, instrumentals, and small groups.

When we return in August we hope and plan to begin preparations for our 2022 Christmas Cantata, in addition to practicing for first and third Sunday worship services each month.

If you like to make a joyful noise, please mark your calendar for August 24. No former experience is required, nor is the ability to sight-read music.

Come lift up your voice in praise to God, the giver of good gifts, and enjoy the musical fellowship.

Thank you, Tamara Lee





If you are interested in volunteering to provide flowers for the chapel, please contact the office at 910-400-5188 or e-mail Susan Williams at citp10@7lakeschapel.com to have your name added to the Flower Sign-up List.

July	
7-3	Daisy Kirit
7-10	Edward and Tamara Lee
7-17	Wendy Tetreault
7-24	Alice McPheeters
7-31	Alicia & Steve DeLong
August	
<b>8-</b> 7	Stoltz Family
8-14	Joan & Bob Tourt
8-21	Elvia Guadalupe
8-28	Alicia DeLong
September	
9-4	Julie James
9-11	Jon Tichenor
9-18	Marilyn McCaskill
9-25	Bart & Peggy Reuter







We are seeking 2-3 volunteers each Sunday to host our Coffee Fellowship of lite snacks following the Sunday service.

I'm sure you are asking—What exactly does this mean? How do I "Host" this Coffee Fellow-ship?

It's quite simple really.....

The Chapel Kitchen has All the supplies you need:

- $\Rightarrow$  Coffee Maker  $\checkmark$  (complete with instructions and assistance if needed)
- $\Rightarrow$  Coffee  $\checkmark$  (*Regular*  $\checkmark$  *Decaf*  $\checkmark$ )
- $\Rightarrow$  \*\*Creamer  $\checkmark$  Sugar  $\checkmark$  Sweetner  $\checkmark$
- $\Rightarrow$  Plates  $\checkmark$  Forks  $\checkmark$  Spoons  $\checkmark$  Napkins  $\checkmark$
- $\Rightarrow$  Orange Juice  $\checkmark$
- $\Rightarrow$  Chocolate Milk  $\checkmark$  (chocolate milk? -Yes!)
- $\Rightarrow$  AND a **Fund** is available to assist with any cost!  $\checkmark$

All you and a friend or two need to do is arrange to bring the "goodies."

(\*\*Most will bring some creamer—just in case the creamer in fridge has expired)

#### Fellowship is KEY!

Keep it Simple!

Keep it FUN!

Just bring a basket of blueberry muffins, brownies, cookies **OR** Pickup a Fruit Tray, Veggie Tray, or a Fruit Pizza

Let us know you are interested by signing up on the bulletin board outside the Church Office or calling our Church Administrator, Susan Williams (910 400-5188) and letting her know which Sunday you'd like to be our **Hostess Team**.

You can also email Susan at citp10@7lakeschapel.com







- 7-10 Esther Robinson
- 7-11 Audrey Tourt
- 7-12 \*\*<u>Hal Blake</u> \*(100)

Happy

- 7-13 Meta Evans
- 7-18 Carole Faas
- 7-18 Elvia Guadalupe

7-20 Jean Lawrence

**Birth**day

- 7-21 Daisy Kirit
- 7-22 Bud Holzerland
- 7-24 Gordon Zeller
- 7-27 Harlan McCaskill
- 7-31 Marilyn Holzerland



- 7-7 Jim & Christine Beck
- 7-8 Jimmy & Marilyn McCaskill
- 7-10 Edward & Tamara Lee
- 7-10 Bruce & Sandi Keyser
- 7-23 Phillip & Angie Thingstad
- 7-31 Steven Welch & Alicia DeLong







# Usher Schedule July—August

Offertory – after you hand the plates back to Paul and he turns to the alter, please return to your seats.

#### <u>July</u>

5 Sun 9 am Gordon Zeller, Kathy Goodman, Bob & Pat Dantzer
12 Sun 9 am RJ & Tim Peppe, Bob Tourt, Wendy Tetreault
16 Thu 5:30 pm Gathering w/communion, Gordon Zeller, Kathy Goodman
19 Sun 9 am George & Cathy Norman, Gisela Danielson, Joyce Singletary
26 Sun 9 am Peggy & Bart Reuter, Jim Beck, Thalia Beam

#### <u>July</u>

3Sun 9 am Carole Faas, Lee Connelly, Marilyn & Jimmy McCaskill
10 Sun 9 am Dot Macdonald, Bob Tourt, Pat & Bob Dantzer
14 Thu 5:30 pm Gathering/communion Gordon Zeller & Kathy Goodman
17 Sun 9 am Peggy & Bart Reuter, Wendy Tetreault, Lee Connelly
24 Sun 9 am RJ & Tim Peppe, Gisela Danielson, Carole Faas
31 Sun 9 am George & Cathy Norman, Joyce Singletary, Thalia Beam 3

#### <u>August</u>

7Sun 9 am Marilyn & Jimmy McCaskill, Jim Beck, Bob Tourt 14Sun 9 am Dot Macdonald, Shirley Percival, RJ & Tim Peppe 21Sun 9 am Gordon Zeller, Kathy Goodman, Wendy Tetreault, Thalia Beam 28Sun 9 am Sue & Dick VanHorne, Pat & Bob Dantzer

Worship Team

#### Retraction

Last month's Chapel Chimes Worship Team report stated that a prayer vigil was held for the Ukraine and donations were given to Samaritan's Purse and Mercy Chefs.

A Community Prayer Vigil was held in March and donations were collected. However, **no donations were given to Samaritan's Purse**.

Donations instead were given to the following organizations:

**Mercy Chefs**: Food, water, baby nutrition; with established feeding centers and warehouses with food deep inside Ukraine reaching thousands of Ukrainian people.

**Project Hope**: Providing medicine, medical supplies and equipment, hygiene supplies, infant supplies, mental health and psychological support to people inside the Ukraine.

**Global Giving**: Providing shelter, food, water, mental health, psychosocial support and access to continued education for children. Primarily working with refugees in the border countries of the Ukraine.

Please accept our apology for any confusion this may have caused.



## Back Pack Pals and Matthew 25:40 Programs

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

### <u>Mathew 25:40</u>

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

### **Backpack Pals**

Juice Boxes, any flavor Pop Tarts, any flavor Peanut Butter/Cheese Crackers





Sunday-July 3 Monday-July 4 Sunday-July 10

Tuesday-July 12 Thursday-July 14 Friday-July 15 Sunday-July 17 Friday-July 22 Sunday-July 24

Sunday-July 31

## Schedule of Upcoming Events for July 2022

9:00 am	4th Sunday after Pentecost			
Happy July 4th—Church Office Closed				
9:00 am	5th Sunday after Pentecost			
	Chapel Board Meeting			
3:00 pm	RSVP Deadline for The Gathering			
5:30 pm	The Gathering—1st <b>Chapel Cafe</b>			
9:00 am	Mission Team Meeting			
9:00 am	6th Sunday after Pentecost			
9:00 am	Newsletter Article Submission Deadline			
9:00 am	The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time			
	Holy Communion			
9:00 am	The 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time			





# 2022 Board of Directors

George Norman, President Sue Barry, Treasurer Dick Van Horne, Secretary TraceyOsen, Assistant Secretary Dot Macdonald Lee Connelly Blue Baker Bob Donaldson Jim Beck

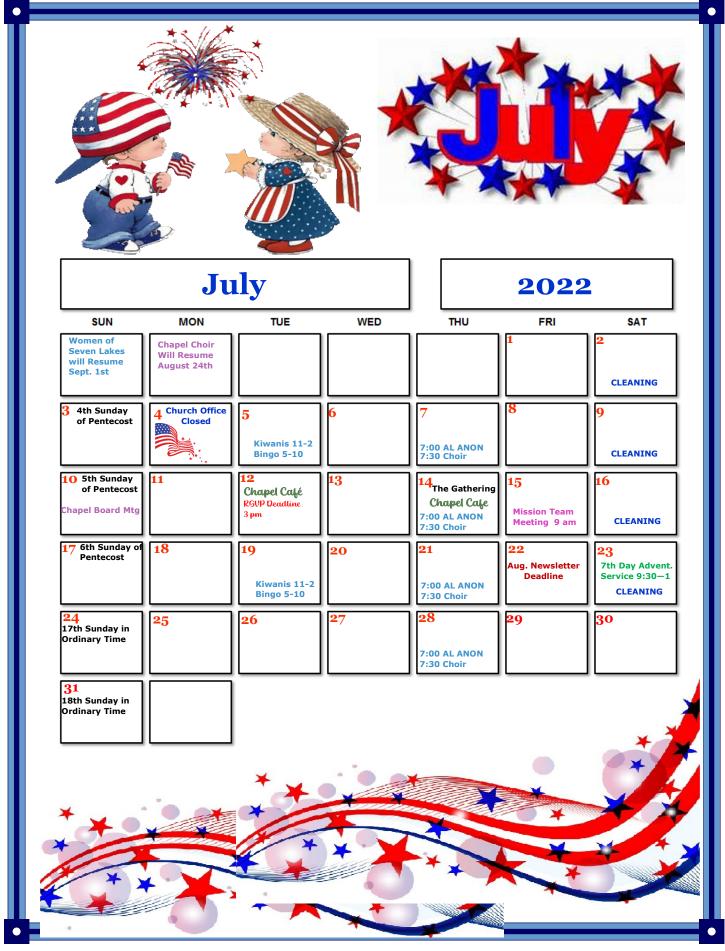
gngolfer@nc.rr.com	910-987-4664
suelongdrive@yahoo.com	910-466-9100
<u>rvanhorne@embarqmail.com</u>	910-673-3123
<u>tolsen415@gmail.com</u>	704-604-7930
<u>dotjmac1957@gmail.com</u>	910-673-3866
<u>lrconne@nc.rr.com</u>	910-673-2521
<u>blue.baker3@icloud.com</u>	910-783-5383
<u>rhd138@gmail.com</u>	910-466-9064
<u>lotsaoaks@gmail.com</u>	910-673-5682

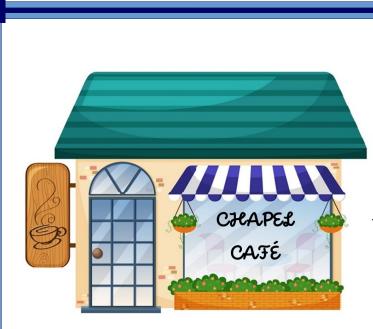


# **Chapel Staff and Contact Info**

Pastor		010 600 5500	
Reverend Paul James	pastorpaulchapel@gmail.com	910-690-5529	
Chapel Administrator Susan Williams	citp10@7lakeschapel.com	910-400-5188	
Choir Director Edward Lee	<u>edhlee@icloud.com</u>	910-695-6751	
Organist Tamara Lee	tamaraclee@icloud.com	910-690-7671	
	Church Office: 910-400-5188 Church Email: <u>citp10@7lakeschapel.com</u> Church Website: http://7lakeschapel.com		
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**Chapel Café Program** Supper províded by our Worshíp Team

The Gathering & 1st

5:30 pm Thursday, July 14, 2022

RSVP by

3:00 pm Tuesday, July 12, 2022

Chapel Café Program: How does it work?

Moderators (Chapel Board Members) will be present to gather ideas and information shared by each tables participants.

Each table will discuss a question pertinent to our Chapel with topics of "Who we are," "What do we do best?" "What do we want to do better." (examples—not actual questions). Questions which will help set the direction for our Church Growth Program.

Each table will have a designated amount of time to discuss their question(s). When time is up— Each table Rotates to another table to look at and discuss the next question(s) for the designated time. (Kind of like "Fruit Basket Turnover")







At the end of the "round table discussions" - the "Moderators" will tally the data collected and report the results at the end of the evening.







#### Core Values - A Congregational Survey Seventy-Five Total Responses

On May 22, 2022 the Board of Directors of the Chapel in the Pines met to discuss preparatory steps to implement a future Church Growth Program. One of the preparatory steps that was adopted was to attempt to determine the three Core Values of our Chapel. The entire list of Core Values suggested by members of the Board were then used to develop a congregational survey. After receiving seventy-five responses from the congregation the results of the survey showing the Core Values ranked in order with the actual vote count included are below:

- \*37\_ We enjoy interdenominational worship with quality preaching & music
- \*29\_ We are an open, inclusive, and accepting congregation
- \*23\_ We have a collective love of Jesus...his life, his teachings, his loving sacrifice...and a constant desire to follow him
- 22\_\_\_\_ We are a friendly, gracious, and welcoming congregation
- 18\_\_\_\_ We are community minded/community oriented in our mission
- 17\_\_\_ Together we faithfully share our time, talents, and treasure to further the mission and vision of our Chapel
- 15\_\_\_\_ At our Chapel there is no pressure to conform to any particular theological beliefs or doctrinal positions
- 12\_\_\_\_ We are a loving and caring congregation
- 8\_\_\_\_ We share an honest faith and sincerely express that faith
- 8\_\_\_\_ We have an exciting and passionate enthusiasm to worship and serve God
- 1\_\_\_\_ We have a strong program of Christian Education for adults

The Board appreciates all who responded to this survey because your views are absolutely essential to the development of the proposed Church Growth Program in 2023. Your next opportunity to engage in this process will be on July 14, 2022, at 5:30 during the first Chapel Cafe'. Please call and make your reservation to attend as soon as possible. (910) 400-5188

Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines

2125 Seven Lakes – South Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376



