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Paul's Ponderings...

Radical, Biblical Hospitality

This past year our Board of Directors has put a laser focused effort on preparing our church to implement an intentional and organized church growth program in this new year. Preparation is still underway through the Board's efforts and through input from the congregation at two Chapel Cafe's where responses to two questions flowed freely and constructively..."What is a church growth program and why would the Chapel choose to participate in one?" The third Chapel Cafe will be held on Thursday, January 19th, at 4:00 where we will continue to explore the "what" and the "why" and begin to discuss the next major question which is "how" to design and implement a particular church growth program appropriate for our Chapel.

With this in mind I would like to share with all of you a number of concepts that our prayers, studies, and discussions have become to identify as critical to the future growth of our Chapel

Every church - and every Christian is called to practice radical hospitality. This call is rooted in scripture, where in both the Old and the New Testaments we discover God's desire to use us as conduits of God's love to others. When a community of believers truly shares radical, biblical hospitality...loving and welcoming others as God does...it gives people a taste of the kingdom of God.

Biblical hospitality is centered on the love of others and particularly the love of those who make a choice to



visit our faith community. This type of hospitality is focused on servanthood. It demands something from us and requires us to see things from the perspective of someone else. Radical, biblical hospitality means we are willing to be uncomfortable, taking on the position of a servant so that others can become more comfortable and feel welcomed, included, and loved. This kind of hospitality surprises the visitor in our midst and invites them to take the first or next step on their journey of faith ... because they begin to feel that they belong.

As church communities we recognize the value of radical, biblical hospitality, but the truth is, we don't show hospitality nearly as well as we could. (Thus the need for an intentional, congregation-wide church growth program.) Often strangers find it hard to find a comfortable place within our church home. We have unintentionally built barriers that make it difficult for those on the outside to find their way in...and far too often, we have become blind to those barriers. Recognizing those barriers and eliminating them requires us to have fresh eyes and do the hard work of looking through the lens of a first-time quest to our church.

All this begins by developing a heart to reach people for Christ and an attitude that embraces change. It will mean that we will have to give up things that make us comfortable to help guests feel more comfortable. We will have to not just accept and adapt to change but we will need to be active advocates for change among our family and friends here at the Chapel. In fact it will mean that we will need to covenant together as members of the body of Christ to assist and encourage and love each other through the changes ahead.

(All of the above is found in *The Art of Hospitality; A Practical Guide for a Ministry of Radical Welcome* by Debbie Dixon, Executive Director of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection and the author of *Catch; A Churchwide Program for Invitational Evangelism.*)

You know, change is a frightening thing to some people in some instances. In an effort to identify and eliminate possible barriers to radical hospitality in worship I suggested three changes.

That we all make an intentional effort to sit in a different place each Sunday in worship. This would allow us to greet and get to know different people each Sunday, visitors and members.

That we make an intentional effort to pass the peace to everyone within ten feet and take three minutes to greet someone we don't know at the end of worship. That we pass out the Welcome Pads later in the service so as to not miss the registration of guests and members who happen to arrive after the announcements. (And, there are many each Sunday.)

These are but the tip of the iceberg of the changes called for in an intentional, organized, and congregation-wide church growth program and I must admit that these few and simple changes were not roundly and enthusiastically received by everyone...in fact some met stiff and rather wholehearted resistance. As I said, changes like this can be frightening.

So, Thursday, January 19th at 4:00 is your chance to express all your fears and concerns at the third Chapel Cafe. Board members will be there to listen to your ideas and take them in consideration as the planning moves forward.

As always, my door is always open to everyone to discuss these issues as we make plans to share the good news of the gospel and the love of God with more and more people in our community.

A.

Peace, Pastor Paul

1-



Patty and Jackie Madden, Jack Sealey, Phyllis Mahin, Anthony Tuliano, Cynthia Peppe, Janet Hegeman, Ellie Lyons, Maggie Simmons, Dot Cantwell, Kathy Steele, Sabrina Levine, Chandler Steward, Mike Karnish, Evangeline Caliandro, Laurie Stevens, Little Daniel Auman, Koran Sanders, Joseph Rickards, Katie Halus, Charlie Murray, Father Gary Sawtelle, Kevin Alley, Val Scantlin, Cami Thistles, Nick Benschoter, Angie Pinyan, Lou Mathews, Mary Faas, Eddie McInnis, Israel Duncan, Olivia McDonald, Denise DuLeon, Lerici Racine, the family of Ernie Martin, and the people of Ukraine.

Prayers for Chapel Family:

Prayers for Chapel Friends:

George Hoffman, Bud Holzerland, Mary Kay Allen, Nancee Letter, Charles Hinson, Jane and Jeff Lowe, Dave Westerman, Meta Evans, Joan Tourt, Peggy Olson, Shirley Percival, Alicia Delong, Audrey Tourt, Bill and JoAn Moses, Jimmy McCaskill, Edward and Tamara Lee.





Well Happy New Year Everyone.

We are off on a new year in our personal and Chapel lives.



I thought I would like to review what we have done at the Chapel in 2022 and take a look at what we hope to accomplish in 2023.

In January we seated a new Board of Directors and I was elected by the Board as President. I want to say it has been my privilege to serve as your President and look forward to serving as President again in 2023.

We started the year with several challenges ahead. As we do every year we are challenged with a budget that is always exciting as we manage it to insure our cashflow is adequate to pay our bills without tapping our reserves. I have to commend Sue Barry our Chapel Treasurer for the past three years for doing an excellent job managing that process and we will miss her as a member of the Board and as Treasurer.

We brought on a new Chapel Administrator, Susan Williams in January. We are very fortunate to have Susan, she is very talented and has really taken on the position with authority and broadened her responsibilities. She keeps all of us up to date on all the activities and organizes the day-to-day operations very nicely.

The Chapel and the Board launched into a Chapel Growth program in February that has continued each month for the remainder of 2022 and will be continuing into 2023 as we begin to really launch the program.

Much of what the Growth program has consisted of so far is a major self-evaluation of the Chapel preparing us to be able to implement a successful growth program in years to come. The Board has completed a number of items including revising our Bylaws, team descriptions, employee job descriptions and much more. We have studied the processes that have been used successfully in other churches to grow their communities.

The most important part of this preplanning is getting our own house in order and identifying who we are as a Chapel and what do we want to be as we move forward. We have conducted two Chapel Cafes with great success. We will continue those in 2023. These have been very helpful to the Board in determining our identity and desired purpose in our community. I believe we now have an excellent understanding of who we are and what place we fit in God's community and our local community.





As we develop the Chapel Growth program, we will need all of your involvement and for you to volunteer and participate in

many activities. Always keep in mind that the change that will happen will always be positive and is all done for the benefit of our community.

We had another successful Rummage Sale, and a Christmas in Moore program conducted by the Mission team.

Our worship team continues to shine as they prepare the Chapel for a variety of services as well as The Gatherings, we have had this past year.

Our Stewardship season was successful, and we thank all of you that have pledged, as well as those of you that completed the Time and Talent sheets. The Board will be establishing a permanent Stewardship Team to work on team development as well as the financial aspects as Stewardship Season approaches. If you would be interested in working on that team, please let the office know.

As we came to the Holiday Season, and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, we had some unfortunate news. Tamara and Edward Lee, our wonderful music team has chosen to resign to participate in other endeavors. The Lee's have been with the Chapel over 10 years, and we will miss them greatly. We wish them the best as they leave us. We are on the hunt for a new music team but in the interim Phyllis Alexander will be our organist. Welcome Phyllis.

As we move into 2023, we welcome two new Board Members, Joyce Singletary and Jon Tichenor. They will serve you for the next few years as we move forward with our new programs. Welcome to both of them.

The Board has offered to Pastor Paul a new three-year contract, and he has excepted it. So we will have the privileged of working with and being educated by Pastor Paul for years to come.

In closing I want to thank every team member that has served this year. Your participation and commitment have been invaluable, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You. For those of you that are joining new teams this year I also want to thank you. You are the life blood of the Chapel and without you we would get very little done.

Goodbye, 2022 and Welcome 2023. Happy New Year to All.



Team Updates

Fínance Team



The Finance Team is happy to announce that we have had a good year here at the Chapel. We are leaving 2022 and heading into 2023 with liquid assets standing at \$278,641.

Response to our annual stewardship campaign resulted in pledges for giving in 2023 to be \$164,492 representing 46 of our Chapel members. Our Chapel could not complete the tasks

of being here and meeting the needs of our community without the support of our members. Each pledge and gift of giving from our Chapel family is a blessing and greatly appreciated by our Finance Team as we strive to make the best financial decisions for the Chapel in 2023.

Building & Grounds

The Building & Grounds Team has been looking at options for replacement of the bell tower windows in the narthex. Currently, these windows are made of plexiglass and time has taken it's toll on the beautiful bell tower. As with most building structures, time has weakened the seal around the glass and a small leak has started causing damage to the wall as well.





Mike Barry worked with several glass companies in order to get estimates on the cost of replacing these windows and the possibility of having the plexiglass replaced with glass. Estimates for replacing the plexiglass with insulated plate glass were obtained from two different contractors with the best value of \$4,200 being obtained.

The Building and Grounds Team is happy to announce that an unnamed benefactor has donated the entire cost of the bell tower upgrade and work on the bell tower windows will begin shortly after the first of 2023.

Dick Van Horne Chairman



Míssíon Team

Paper 💩 Bows = Spirit of Giving

The Gift Wrapping Party held on December, 9th was a beautiful time of fellowship and an event for friendships to evolve. We wrapped gifts in the Kids Zone while listening to Christmas music, then continued the party as we met for lunch at The Lake House in Seven Lakes. Our greatest gift that day was not wrapped up in pretty paper and bows, but was in the spirit of giving in our own back yard.



Míssíon Team

It's a Wrap

Thanks to your tremendous support our Christmas4 Moore program this year was a huge success. A total of 23 Chapel in the Pines families partnered together to bring Christmas to 25 families in Moore County representing 63 individuals who would not have celebrated Christmas this year without their support. Your Chapel in the Pines Mission Team could not have assisted with supporting this many families had it not been for your generous financial donations.

Several of our members teamed up and pooled their resources to adopt a family, lessoning the financial obligation and allowing them to fulfil the wish list provided by their family. Families of the Christmas4 Moore program could decide if they would pick their gifts up here at the Chapel or would like to have them delivered. While most arranged to pick up their gifts, there were a few special deliveries made. These special delivers provided a very rewarding and humbling experience with families expressing much gratitude and appreciation for their gifts.



April 22nd from 8AM-12PM More Information to Follow

This is our largest fundraiser and we look forward to getting organized moving forward.

We will accept donations from *Chapel Members* each **Monday** and **Wednesday** Beginning **February 6th** between **10AM-12PM**

Donations will be *open to the community* beginning Wednesday, March 1st between 10AM-2PM.

We will follow the same Monday Wednesday schedule.

If you have any questions please call Tracey or Joyce or any member of the Mission Team.





Musíc Mínístry

January Chapel Chimes - Music Department

The January spotlight falls on Sandi Keyser!

Where are you from originally? Acme, NC, near Wilmington

How did you get to the Seven Lakes community, and/or the Chapel in the Pines? I moved in the area after college at St. Andrews to teach in Moore County.

What was your usual occupation? Elementary and Exceptional Education teacher

What part(s) do you sing? Soprano

What was your first singing experience? A children's choir and at home - my mom was a church organist

What other singing experience have you had, than church choir? College choir, solos for special occasions

What was your most meaningful singing experience? Several cantatas.

Why do you choose to sing in the Chapel choir? I have sung in choirs since childhood and it feels strange not to.

What is the best part of being in a choir? New friends, old friends, camaraderie What is your favorite style of music? Classical and dance music

What is your favorite song? O Holy Night, and Climb Every Mountain

Do you play musical instruments? No

What other activities do you enjoy? Reading and playing canasta

Thank you Sandi, for allowing us to get to know you better!



"Slight Chance" by Matt Gaffney

ACROSS

- 1. Italian mini-vehicle brand
- Recede, as the tide
 "Star Wars" universe beast
- 14. Bars under cars
- 15. As being
- 16. Late Specter
- 17. When fighters deserve permanent battle reminders, but are denied them?
- 19. Balsamic vinegar may be served in it
- 20. Greed, say
- 21. Past time
- 22. Irritate
- 24. Manning in the field
- 25. Cell name, briefly
- 26. Unnerves
- 28. Baby's shield
- 29. Put back
- 31. Ireland, in verse
- 32. Penalty
- 33. Gen_
- 35. Big card in blackjack
- 36. War deity
- 37. Annual gala in yesterday's news
- 41. City's underbelly
- 42. Jam
- 43. Utah's biggest urb
- 44. Victuals
- 45. Juanita's water
- 47. Smallest
- 51. First name in indie music
- 52. Triangle type
- 54. Teacher's assn.
- 55. That ship
- 56. "____ a Heartache"
- 57. Nada
- 58. Frustrated utterance

- 59. Capital city in the Andes
- 61. He did it, in many mysteries
- 64. Creme de la creme
- 65. Little battery
- 66. "Me, Myself & ____
- (Jim Carrey flick)
- 67. Rates
- 68. Inn spaces: abbr.
- 69. Didn't leave in the lurch

DOWN

- 1. Meryl Streep's
- alma mater
- 2. Thrill
- 3. Biases
- 4. Apiece
- 5. Claimed
- 6. Put side-by-side
- 7. Dude

- 8. Big church
- 9. Game played with a rubber ball
- 10. Sheet music abbr.
- 11. Thrush variety
- 12. Straightest paths
- 13. French Riviera city
- 18. Its R indicates "Rifle"
- 23. Wants further issues
- 27. Appetizer quantity, at a wedding
- 30. Student's headaches
- 32. Slapstick fun
- 34. Emulate the NSA, maybe
- 37. "Gilligan's Island" thespian
- 38. Sweet thing

- 39. Super-famed celeb
- 40. Sunday cry
- 41. Lake fun
- 46. Vergil title character
- 49 Mont fi
- 48. Went fishing
- 49. Calm
- 50. Didn't just feather 52. Large and small
- 53. Pen's tip
- 55. Fens up
- 60. Twenty giver 62. Cured stuff
- 62. Gurea stull
- 63. Prefix with lateral



Usher Schedule

December 2022 – February 2023

Offertory – after you hand the plates back to Paul and he turns toward the alter, just turn and go to your seats.

December

1** Thu 4 pm Darkness to Light – Gordon Zeller, Kathy Goodman	
4 Sun 9 am Sue & Dick VanHorne, Dot Macdonald, Wendy Tetreault	
11** Sun 9 am Peggy & Bart Reuter, Leslie While, Lee Connelly	
17** Sat 5 pm Cantata – Gordon Zeller, Kathy Goodman	
18 Sun 9 am Jim Beck, Thalia Beam, Joyce Singletary, Gisela Danielson	ו
24** Sat 4 pm Christmas Eve – RJ & Tim Peppe, Carole Faas, Lee Conr	elly
25 Sun 9 am Marilyn & Jimmy McCaskill, Thalia Beam, Jim Beck	•

<u>January</u>

1	Sun 9 am	Marilyn & Jimmy McCaskill, Leslie While, Wendy Tetreault
8**	Sun 9 am	RJ & Tim Peppe, Sue & Dick VanHorne
15	Sun 9 am	Dot Macdonald, Thalia Beam, Cathy & George Norman
22**	Sun 9 am	Peggy & Bart Reuter, Gisela Danielson, Joyce Singletary
29	Sun 9 am	Jim Beck, Wendy Tetreault, Gordon Zeller, Kathy Goodman

February

5**	Sun 9 am	Sue & Dick VanHorne, Leslie While, Gisela Danielson
12	Sun 9 am	Marilyn & Jimmy McCaskill, Dot Macdonald, Carole Faas
19**	Sun 9 am	Cathy & George Norman, Joyce Singletary, Lee Connelly
22**	Wed 4 pm	Ash Wednesday – Gordon Zeller, Kathy Goodman
26	Sun 9 am	RJ & Tim Peppe, Peggy & Bart Reuter

**indicates choir performing



There are 3 opportunities available for volunteers to host coffee hour in January.



Please sign up on podium outside the church fellowship or call church office at (910) 400-5188 to let us know which Sunday you'd like to host. You can also email Susan Williams, Chapel Administrator, at **citp10@7lakeschapel.com**.





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.

January	
1-1	Alicia Delong & Steven Welch
1-8	Mary Snead
1-15	Volunteer Needed
1-22	Volunteer Needed
1-29	Volunteer Needed
February	
1-8	Bruce & Vickie Bedder
1-15	Volunteer Needed
1-22	Volunteer Needed
1-29	Volunteer Needed

Back Pack Pals and Matthew 25:40 Programs

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

Backpack Pals

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





<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 Monday-January 2 Wednesday-January 11 Wednesday-January 11 Saturday-January 14 Sunday-January 15 Tuesday-January 17 Wednesday-January 18 Sunday-January 22 Thursday-January 26 Friday-January 28 Saturday-January 29 Laurie Faig Jon Tichenor Bob Tourt Kiona Baker Alice McPheeters John Caggiano Ginny Horchler Mary Tuft Ken Geddes Jason Collins Katie Olson





Upcomíng Events

Sunday-January 1
Thursday-January 5
Sunday-January 8
Friday-January 13
Sunday-January 15

Thursday-January 19 Friday-January 20 Saturday-January 21 Sunday-January 22 Sunday-January 29





Coorgo Norman



Board Members

Board of Directors – 2023

President	gngolfer@nc.rr.com	910-987-4664
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Chapel Staff and Contact Info

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