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# CHAPEL CHIMES

Volume 4, Issue 2

February 2023

## Paul's Ponderings...



### Ash Wednesday, 2023

*By the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread  
until you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;  
you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.  
Genesis 3:19*

On Ash Wednesday we Christians go to church, pray a solemn liturgy, and are marked on the forehead with the sign of the cross made from ashes as a sign of our mortality and penitence. As the ashes are imposed the pastor says to each person, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

In the natural order of things we do indeed return to the dust of the earth...a slow decay that replenishes the soil from which new life eventually springs forth. So, perhaps we should look upon Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent that it sets in motion as a time of renewal, of rebirth, of new life instead of a reminder of death.

Church historian, Diana Butler Bass writes in her book Grounded, "We are animated dirt. Soil and life joined. From living grounds we were made; to living ground we will return." This is a part of what we refer to as "the

circle of life" which has been going on for eons since God first spoke creation into existence and made everything we see and everything still invisible to us.

Perhaps this whole idea that we are made from dust and will return to dust is a shockingly beautiful concept. Dust, after all is made from exploding stars and from all the life that ever existed on earth. It carries the memories of billions of years, of immense wisdom, and of lives lived long ago. Through the dust we are connected so deeply with all that has come before and all that will ever be.

For years, along with many of you, I have perceived this idea that I will return to the dust as a sad, sad Ash Wednesday reminder but now I am amazed by it. My body is connected to ancient matter, distant stars, to all living things...we all share the same stuff.

Diana Butler-Bass continues, "The church has always emphasized this verse (Genesis 3:19) as penitence in anticipation of death. You came from nothing...you return to nothing. This is the starkest of all reminders of fleeting existence, the ever-present reminder of death. But this verse also



points in another direction - not toward death but toward creation."

Earlier in Genesis (Genesis 2:6-7) we hear these words, "...but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground - then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the grounds and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being."

Dust may be our ending, but it was also our beginning. Dust and ash are reminders of our mortality and calls us to repentance, but dust is also the stuff of creation. Again, Diana Butler-Bass comments, "Deserts do bloom. Charred landscapes birth new forests."

From dust and ash come flowers and trees and fruitful fields. Dust is not nothing; ash is not nothing. Dust and ash are necessary for life."

Perhaps Ash Wednesday and the entire season of Lent is not so much about our mortality and our need for repentance as it is about renewal, new life, and rebirth. So, let us pray for that which will be reborn in our spiritual hearts and renewed in our daily lives these forty days that will bring us closer to God, to God's amazing creation, and to one another.



### Prayers for Chapel Friends:



Patty and Jackie Madden, Jack Sealey, Phyllis Mahin, Anthony Tuliano, Janet Hegeman, Ellie Lyons, Maggie Simmons, Kathy Steele, Mike Karnish, Evangeline Caliendo, Laurie Stevens, Little Daniel Auman, Koran Sanders, Val Scantlin, Cami Thistles, Nick Benschoter, Mary Faas, Israel Duncan, Olivia McDonald, Denise

DuLeon, Lerici Racine, the family of Lou Matthews, the family of Ernie Martin, Joseph, Sandy and Ricky Rickards, Jamie Raskin, Joe Currie, the family of Ray Cloutier, Donna Ayers, Keven Carter, Sharon Thomas, Nelda Crow, Birdie Mendence, and the people of Ukraine.

### Prayers for Chapel Family:

George Hoffman, Bud Holzerland, Mary Kay Allen, Nancee Letter, Jane and Jeff Lowe, Dave Westerman, Joan Tourt, Bill and JoAn Moses, Meta Evans, Charles Hinson, Tamara Lee, Ralph Olson, Jon Tichenor, Mama Dot Riggins, Daisy Kirit, Phyllis Alexander, Tim and RJ Peppe and family, Pat and the family of Dick Weber.



# President's Corner



Wow a twelfth of the year is gone already. I guess time flies by even faster now.

As we move into February we have a lot going on — all of which is good for the Chapel.

Our new Board is working hard on the Chapel Growth Program. We are seeking members that would like to work with us as we are developing the next phase of the program working toward implementation in late April. If you would like to get involved please contact a Board member for consideration.

As you know we have hired a Financial Secretary, Paula Montgomery, to work with Jim Beck, our new Board Treasurer. Paula and Susan will manage the day to day bookkeeping and provide the reports and details to Jim and the Board. Paula is very experienced and will be a great asset to the Chapel. Paula will be in the Chapel office on Monday afternoons so feel free to stop in and meet her.

We had our third *Chapel Café* two weeks ago and it was another success. We continued to discuss the Growth Program, reviewing: "*What is a Growth Program?*", "*Why it is necessary?*" and this last Café we discussed "*How do we implement a the Growth Program?*" We will be summarizing all of the results from our *Chapel Café's* and providing them to the community in the future.

We will be having a Virtual *Chapel Café* as well as a fourth live *Café* over the next two months.

Live Streaming Is Almost Here.

As you all know, last year we finally completed the installation of our new Live Streaming equipment that will enable us to conduct broadcasts online without using the ZOOM platform. Don't get nervous. We will still be straddling the live streaming service with ZOOM before and after the service. This is wonderful news. We will be contracting with Dillon Corral, as our video and sound operator each Sunday and for other services. I will stop here and let you know there will be more information coming out about how you can use the new streaming prior to implementing it.



### The Preschool in The Pines at the Chapel.

For many years the subject of starting a Preschool at the Chapel has been discussed. The opportunity has really never been an option for it to become reality. Well that opportunity has now presented itself and I am excited to share it with you.

An outside person, Alison McCloskey, (Pastor Paul's daughter) approached me last fall asking if there was a possibility of renting the down stairs of the fellowship hall so she might open a preschool in Seven Lakes. She explained that there was a need in the community since the two preschools that had been operating in Seven Lakes closed during the pandemic and had not reopened, leaving families to drive into Pinehurst or Carthage for school.

We discussed the possibilities and she developed her business plan. We met again in late December and then again in early January. Her plan is to operate for the nine months of the school year, 8:00 am – 12:00 or 1:00 pm TBD. There will be no construction required and she will provide all the necessary furniture and equipment. She will rent the space for nine months, at which time it will revert back to the Chapel for the summer. I am not going further into the details.

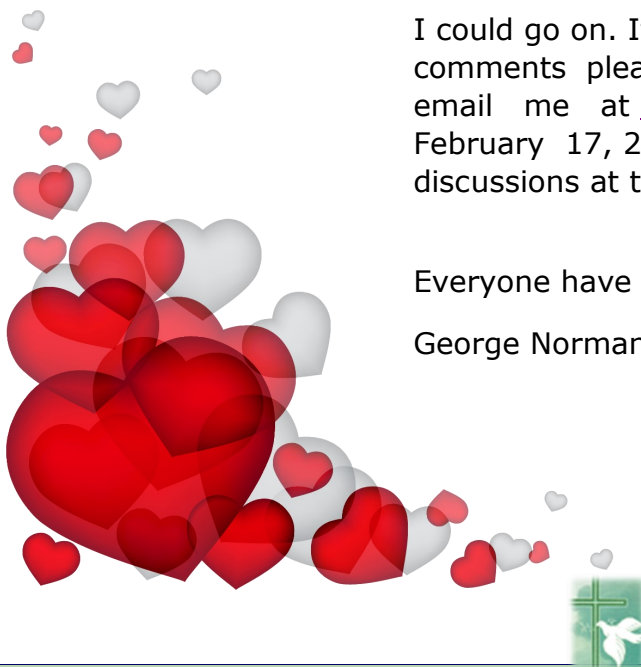
The mission team was worried about the timing and elimination of storage space for the Rummage Sale. After discussions, they agreed to conduct the Rummage sale in early August 2024 with collection of items starting in June 2024, thus eliminating any conflicts.

It is the Boards feeling that this is good for the Chapel for several reasons. 1) It will offer a needed service to the community. 2) It will expose 30 – 40 families to the Chapel that otherwise would not come here. 3) Though the rent is not a lot, it will provide additional revenue to the Chapel.

I could go on. If you have questions, concerns or comments please contact a Board Member or email me at [genorman3@gmail.com](mailto:genorman3@gmail.com) prior to February 17, 2023. The Board will have final discussions at the board meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

Everyone have a Happy Valentine's Day.

George Norman - Board President





## Team Updates

### Finance Team



The Chapel in the Pines had a successful budget performance in 2022. We are looking forward to 2023 and the Chapel Growth Program.

#### **2022 Budget "Year-End Report"**

Budget Estimated Income: \$196,500

Actual Year-End Income: \$220,068

**Difference: + \$ 23,568**

Budget Estimated Operating Expenses: \$220,075

Actual "Year-End" Operating Expenses: \$228,551

**Difference: - \$ 8,476**

**2022 YEAR-END BUDGET BALANCE = \$ 15,092**

Liquid Assets = **\$278,000**

### Building & Grounds



The plexiglass in the sanctuary bell tower is looking tired and needs replacement. Mike Barry sought two repair estimates for "insulated plate glass." Estimates included rental of a mechanical lift to reach the elevated area. The best value was a \$4,200 estimate and the Board has approved the expenditure. Hopefully, the installation will be completed prior to March 1, 2023.



#### **Sidewalk Replacement Project:**

There is a 20ft. section of sidewalk just outside the Chapel office entrance that needs replacement. Rain water and underground seepage has caused the existing sidewalk to drop 8-10 inches over the years. Mike Barry is seeking contractor estimates for the tear-out, fill and cement installation.



## *Cemetery Team*



We have sold 2 niches at the Cemetery and we had two interments. One has been at the Chapel and one was at the Cemetery.

We have some major repairs coming up for the Columbarium at the Cemetery from ant damage. I am not expecting a large cost for this repair.

We were investigating the cost of adding a Columbarium on to the backside of the existing Columbarium, but the cost was beyond our resources. I am now looking at putting a new Columbarium across from the existing one, that would hold many more guest than the present one.

Mike Barry  
Cemetery Team Chair

## *Mission Team*

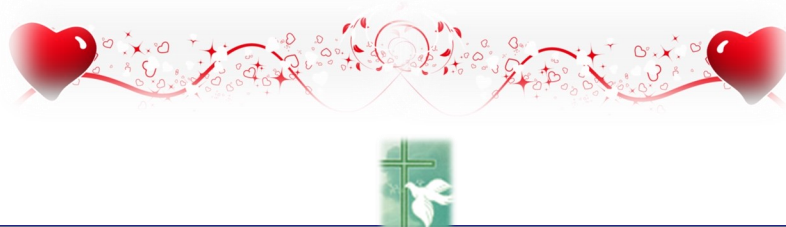
On January 13<sup>th</sup> we held our first meeting of the year in the Fellowship Hall. Our membership certainly has grown as we delve into the new year! We served lunch from Petro's as an added bonus giving us a wonderful opportunity to talk to friends and get acquainted with new friends. Our agenda quickly grew as we discussed ways of helping those in the community.



As a recap, we donated to the Ukraine, Food Bank, Team Workz, West End Elementary, West Pine Middle, Life Care Pregnancy Center and Moore Free Care Clinic with a total of \$7,500.00.

### *Gift Vouchers*

We spent \$1,758.00 on Food Lion Gift Vouchers to accompany our Christmas 4 Moore gifts and we spent \$1,726.00 on purchasing gifts for the additional families not served through our congregation. Again, we could not reach the number of families (24) without you! We hope everyone who participated in this wonderful blessing had a memorable experience.



*Mission Team*

# April 22, 2023



Last spring the Rummage Sale made **\$4,049.00**. This will be our number to beat. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 22, 2023 between 8:00 AM-12:00PM. We will be receiving donations from the members and friends of the Chapel each Monday and Wednesday between 10 AM-12PM, beginning Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>- Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. After that point we will open it up to the community. If you need any more information please contact Joyce Singletary or Tracey Olsen as well as any Mission Team Member. You may also call Susan at the Chapel Office. We will be running an ad in the Seven Lakes Times as well as putting flyers in the post offices on all 3 sides. We will have an e-blast on the

North/South Family Facebook and on the West Side Family Facebook. We continue to discuss new ways of fundraising. More will follow.



| <i><b>Monday 10 am-Noon</b></i>   | <i><b>Wednesday 10 am-Noon</b></i> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                   | <b>2-1 CITP Member Donations</b>   |
| <b>2-6 CITP Member Donations</b>  | <b>2-8 CITP Member Donations</b>   |
| <b>2-13 CITP Member Donations</b> | <b>2-15 CITP Member Donations</b>  |
| <b>2-20 CITP Member Donations</b> | <b>2-22 CITP Member Donations</b>  |
| <b>2-27 CITP Member Donations</b> |                                    |
| <i><b>Monday 10 am-Noon</b></i>   | <i><b>Wednesday 10 am-Noon</b></i> |
|                                   | <b>3-1 Community Donations</b>     |
| <b>3-6 Community Donations</b>    | <b>3-8 Community Donations</b>     |
| <b>3-13 Community Donations</b>   | <b>3-15 Community Donations</b>    |
| <b>3-20 Community Donations</b>   | <b>3-22 Community Donations</b>    |
| <b>3-27 Community Donations</b>   |                                    |





## Music Ministry

The February spotlight falls on Dot McDonald!

### **Where are you from originally?**

Born and raised in New Jersey - moved to 'Wallace, NC from upstate New York in 2000

### **How did you get to the Seven Lakes community and Chapel in the Pines/**

We had boats and were drawn here by Lake Auman. We lived on the West side for 9 years and moved to the South side 7 years ago. I had friends who belonged to the Chapel and I started attending here.

### **What was your usual occupation?**

I was a teacher for 15 years in Pennsylvania, and a principal for 19 years in upstate New York.

### **What part do you sing? Alto**

### **What was your first singing experience?**

I sang in assemblies in elementary school. One I remember - I popped out of a big cardboard Uncle Sam's hat and sang God Bless America. I think that was first or second grade.

### **What other singing experiences have you had, than church choir?**

I've sung with my husband for over 60 years - at parties, family gatherings, nursing/assisted living homes, weddings, and church choirs.

### **Why do you choose to sing in the Chapel choir?**

When I first joined the Chapel, Jane Hinson asked me to join the choir. She kept after me for several years until I finally joined about 8 or 9 years ago.

### **What is the best part of being in a choir?**

The camaraderie of working with other who enjoy music. The challenges of learning different kinds of music.

### **What is your favorite style of music?**

I like all kinds of music, but mostly listen to classical.

### **What is your favorite song?**

It would be impossible for me to pick ONE.

### **Do you play musical instruments?**

No - wish I could!

### **What other activities do you enjoy?**

Anything with family! Attending concerts, plays and movies, reading, working outdoors, cooking (some).

Thank you Dot, for letting us get to know you better!





**THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 9, 2023 • 7 PM**



# **THE GUT BRAIN CONNECTION:**

*New Approaches to Mental Health*



**Dr. Karen Sullivan**

Founder of the Pinehurst  
Neuropsychology Brain and Memory  
Clinic and I CARE FOR YOUR BRAIN

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**LECTURES ARE ALWAYS FREE TO THE PUBLIC!**



# Sanctuary Preparation Schedule

## February 2023— April 2023

### February

- 5 Sun 9 am Laura Beth Urie and Katy Swain  
 12 Sun 9 am Lee Connelly and Mary Snead  
 19 Sun 9 am Daisy Kirit and Leslie While

#### **Holy Communion**

### Lent

- 22 **Ash Wednesday** – Wed 4 pm Alice McPheeters and Katy Swain  
 26 Sun 9 am Laura Beth Urie and Mary Snead

### March

- 5 Sun 9 am Lee Connelly and Marilyn McCaskill  
 12 Sun 9 am Daisy Kirit and Katy Swain  
**Holy Communion**  
 19 Sun 9 am Alice McPheeters and Mary Snead  
 22 Wed 4 pm **Ash Wednesday** – Alice McPheeters and Katy Swain  
 26 Sun 9 am Laura Beth Urie and Marilyn McCaskill

### Holy Week

### April

- 2 Sun 9 am Lee Connelly and Leslie While  
 6 **Maundy Thursday** Daisy Kirit and Mary Snead  
**Holy Communion**  
 7 **Good Friday** Alice McPheeters and Marilyn McCaskill

### Easter

- 9 Sun 9 am Laura Beth Urie and Leslie While  
**Holy Communion**  
 16 Sun 9 am Lee Connelly and Katy Swain  
 23 Sun 9 am Daisy Kirit and Marilyn McCaskill  
 30 Sun 9 am Alice McPheeters and Leslie While

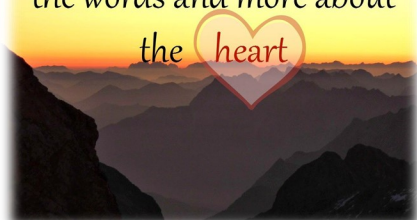
*"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

*Matthew 5:13-20*





True worship is less about  
the words and more about  
the heart



## Usher Schedule December 2022 – February

**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 | <b>Darkness to Light</b> – 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 | <b>Cantata</b> – Gordon Zeller, Kathy Goodman                    |
| 18   | Sun 9 am | Jim Beck, Thalia Beam, Joyce Singletary, Gisela Danielson        |
| 24** | Sat 4 pm | <b>Christmas Eve</b> – RJ & Tim Peppe, Carole Faas, Lee Connelly |
| 25   | Sun 9 am | Marilyn & Jimmy McCaskill, Thalia Beam, Jim Beck                 |

### January

|      |          |  |
|------|----------|--|
| 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 | <b>Ash Wednesday</b> – Gordon Zeller, Kathy Goodman   |
| 26 | Sun 9 am | RJ & Tim Peppe, Peggy & Bart Reuter                   |



Thank You! Each and every volunteer for this wonderful time of fellowship after our services on Sunday mornings. If you or a friend would like to volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact our Church Administrator, Susan Williams at 910-400-5188 or citp10@7lakeschapel.com and let her know which Sunday works for you. You can also sign up at the podium just outside the entrance to the fellowship hall.

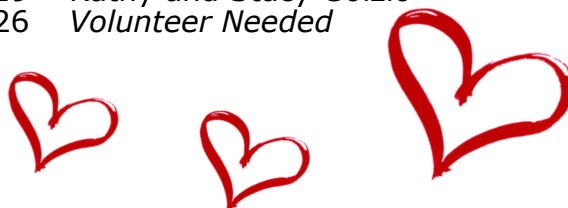
## Coffee Fellowship

### February

|    |                             |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 5  | Bruce and Vicki Bedder      |
| 12 | Katy Swain                  |
| 19 | Leslie While                |
| 26 | Marilyn and Jimmy McCaskill |

### March

|    |                            |
|----|----------------------------|
| 5  | Helen Scholl and Jody Monk |
| 12 | Mary Snead and Meta Evans  |
| 19 | Kathy and Stacy Golzio     |
| 26 | Volunteer Needed           |





## Flower Schedule

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.

| <i><b>February</b></i> |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>2-5</b>             | Bruce and Vicki Bedder         |
| <b>2-12</b>            | Jackie and Jerry Simpson       |
| <b>2-19</b>            | Dennis and Sandy Cifranic      |
| <b>2-26</b>            | Alicia Delong                  |
|                        |                                |
| <i><b>March</b></i>    |                                |
| <b>3-5</b>             | <i><b>Volunteer Needed</b></i> |
| <b>3-12</b>            | Pat Dantzer                    |
| <b>3-19</b>            | Moss Family                    |
| <b>3-26</b>            | Jody Monk                      |

## 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

### *Mathew 25:40*

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





# FEBRUARY

## Upcoming Events

|                              |            |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Thursday-February 2</b>   | 2:30 pm    | <i>Fran's Friends</i>              |
| <b>Saturday-February 4</b>   | 8:00 am    | Men's Fellowship                   |
| <b>Sunday-February 5</b>     | 9:00 am    | Fifth Sunday after Epiphany        |
| <b>Monday-February 6</b>     | 10:00-Noon | Rummage Sale Donations Accepted    |
|                              |            | Chapel Member                      |
| <b>Wednesday-February 8</b>  | 10:00-Noon | Rummage Sale Donations Accepted    |
|                              |            | Chapel Members                     |
| <b>Friday-February 10</b>    | 10:00 am   | Mission Team—Library               |
| <b>Friday-February 10</b>    | 1:00 pm    | Glenda Brendell Memorial Service   |
| <b>Sunday-February 12</b>    | 9:00 am    | Sixth Sunday after Epiphany        |
| <b>Monday-February 13</b>    | 10:00-Noon | Rummage Sale Donations Accepted    |
|                              |            | Chapel Members                     |
| <b>Wednesday-February 15</b> | 10:00-Noon | Rummage Sale Donations Accepted    |
|                              |            | Chapel Members                     |
| <b>Sunday-February 19</b>    | 9:00 am    | Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday |
| <b>Monday-February 20</b>    | 10:00-Noon | Chapel Board Meeting               |
|                              |            | Rummage Sale Donations Accepted    |
|                              |            | Chapel Members                     |
| <b>Wednesday-February 22</b> | 10:00-Noon | Rummage Sale Donations Accepted    |
|                              |            | Chapel Members                     |
| <b>Wednesday-February 22</b> | 5:00 pm    | <b>Ash Wednesday</b>               |
| <b>Saturday-February 25</b>  | 10:00 am   | Hal Blake Memorial Service         |
|                              |            | Pine Knoll                         |
| <b>Sunday-February 26</b>    | 9:00 am    | First Sunday in Lent               |
| <b>Monday-February 27</b>    | 10:00-Noon | Rummage Sale Donations Accepted    |
|                              |            | Chapel Members                     |

*\*\*Please notify Church Administrator for events to be added to the Chapel in the Pines calendar to assure availability of dates and times.*



|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Sunday-February 5</b>    | Edward Lee       |
| <b>Sunday-February 5</b>    | Kinsey Davenport |
| <b>Tuesday-February 7</b>   | Dave Gianni      |
| <b>Wednesday-February 8</b> | Dot Macdonald    |
| <b>Friday-February 10</b>   | Kathy Goodman    |
| <b>Friday-February 17</b>   | Liam Bryan       |
| <b>Saturday-February 18</b> | Marilyn Powers   |
| <b>Saturday-February 18</b> | Steve Urie       |
| <b>Monday-February 27</b>   | Dot Riggins      |
| <b>Monday-February 27</b>   | Nancee Letter    |
| <b>Monday-February 27</b>   | Mike Barry       |
| <b>Tuesday-February 28</b>  | Samuel Stoltz    |



## February Birthdays





## Board Members

### Board of Directors – 2023

|  |  |                     |
|--|--|---------------------|
| <b>George Norman,<br/>President</b>        | <a href="mailto:gngolfer@nc.rr.com">gngolfer@nc.rr.com</a>           | <b>910-987-4664</b> |
| <b>Jon Tichenor<br/>1st Vice President</b> | <a href="mailto:tichenorjon@gmail.com">tichenorjon@gmail.com</a>     | <b>910-466-9148</b> |
| <b>Jim Beck<br/>Treasurer</b>              | <a href="mailto:lotsaoaks@gmail.com">lotsaoaks@gmail.com</a>         | <b>910-673-5682</b> |
| <b>Joyce Singletary</b>                    | <a href="mailto:jsingletary31@nc.rr.com">jsingletary31@nc.rr.com</a> | <b>910-673-5554</b> |
| <b>Dot Macdonald</b>                       | <a href="mailto:dotjmac1957@gmail.com">dotjmac1957@gmail.com</a>     | <b>910-673-3866</b> |
| <b>Blue Baker</b>                          | <a href="mailto:bluebaker3@icloud.com">bluebaker3@icloud.com</a>     | <b>910-783-5383</b> |
| <b>Bob Donaldson</b>                       | <a href="mailto:rhdon138@gmail.com">rhdon138@gmail.com</a>           | <b>910-466-9064</b> |

### Chapel Staff and Contact Info

|   |  |                     |
|---|--|---------------------|
| <b>Pastor<br/>Reverend Paul James</b>           | <a href="mailto:pastorpaulchapel@gmail.com">pastorpaulchapel@gmail.com</a>           | <b>910-690-5529</b> |
| <b>Chapel Administrator<br/>Susan Williams</b>  | <a href="mailto:citp10@7lakeschapel.com">citp10@7lakeschapel.com</a>                 | <b>910-400-5188</b> |
| <b>Paula Montgomery<br/>Financial Secretary</b> | <a href="mailto:citp-treasurer@7lakeschapel.com">citp-treasurer@7lakeschapel.com</a> | <b>910-986-9191</b> |

**Church Office: 910-400-5188**

**Church Email: [citp10@7lakeschapel.com](mailto:citp10@7lakeschapel.com)**

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## Candlemas

### The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus



February 2nd is one of the most ancient of Christian holy days...the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus...also called Candlemas. It commemorates the time when Joseph and Mary brought their newborn son to the Temple in Jerusalem.

*When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord... Luke 2:22*

The purpose of the trip was Mary's purification...a cleansing ritual performed forty days after giving birth.

Upon arriving at the Temple they encountered Simeon, an elderly prophet awaiting the coming of the Messiah. Simeon took the child from them and proclaimed...

*Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for the glory of your people Israel. Luke 2:29-32*

Weeks ago Advent began with the lighting of candles in anticipation of Jesus' birth. Followed by the Nativity which is accompanied by angelic beams of light shining down on unsuspecting shepherds tending their flocks by night. Epiphany celebrates the light of a star directing the Wise Ones to the newly born King of the Jews. And, as the season following Epiphany unfolds, the light expands with the invitation to Jews and gentiles alike to simply "follow me". The final movement in the arc of light is Candlemas, where the entire world is set ablaze with God's divine/human manifestation of love.

Candlemas falls halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. It is a time of lengthening days when creation begins to awaken with new life. The intersection of the Jewish story of Mary's purification, the announcement of Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, and the seasonal return to longer and brighter days all came together to create the Christian celebration of Candlemas. So on February 2nd it became traditional for many Christians around the world to bring candles to the church to be blessed and then walk through towns and villages in candlelit processions.

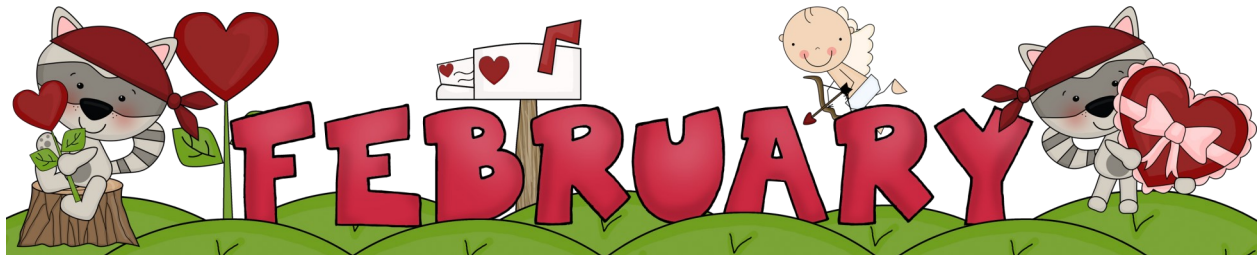
The long weeks of Winter candle festivals...from Advent to Christmas to Epiphany...end with us hearing the challenge of Jesus that as his disciples we are called to bear the light of Christ into the world. The light cycle concludes with the words of Jesus that millions of Christians will hear this Sunday..."You are the light of the world."

Yes, God created the light. Jesus is the light that the darkness will never overcome. Yet, we...fragile and flawed human beings...are the light of the world. That's God's plan. It's now up to us to shine forth the light of Christ to all people.

*I will praise thee, O Lord my God,  
with all my heart:  
and I will glorify  
thy name for  
evermore.*

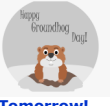



*-Psalm 86:12*





# February

# 2023

| SUN   | MON   | TUE  | WED   | THU   | FRI   | SAT  |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
|   |   |  | 1<br><br>Tomorrow! | 2<br>11a-3p<br>Women of 7Lks<br>2:30 Jean's Friends<br>7:00 AL ANON<br>7:30 Choir | 3<br>        | 4<br><br>CLEANING                                      |
| 5<br>5th Sunday after Epiphany  | 6<br>4:15 Worship Team<br><br>10a — Noon<br>CITP MEMBERS<br>DONATE  | 7<br><br>Kiwanis 11-2<br>Bingo 5-10  | 8<br><br>10a — Noon<br>CITP MEMBERS<br>DONATE   | 9<br>2p-4p<br>7 Lks Garden<br>7:00 AL ANON<br>7:30 Choir                          | 10<br>11-3 Glenna<br>Brendell Memorial<br>Svc/Reception<br>Mission Team Mts<br>11:00 am Library | 11<br>9:30a—1p 7th Day<br>Advent. Svcs<br><br>CLEANING |
| 12<br>6th Sunday after Epiphany<br><br>Chapel Board Mtg<br>3:30 Worship<br>Team Mtg | 13<br><br>10a — Noon<br>CITP MEMBERS<br>DONATE  | 14 VALENTINE'S<br>                              | 15<br><br>10a — Noon<br>CITP MEMBERS<br>DONATE  | 16<br><br>7:00 AL ANON<br>7:30 Choir  | 17  | 18<br>10:30 Boyd Mem.<br>Svc/Reception<br><br>CLEANING |
| 19<br>Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday  | 20<br><br>10a — Noon<br>CITP MEMBERS<br>DONATE | 21 Mardi Gras<br><br>Kiwanis 11-2<br>Bingo 5-10 | 22 Ash Wednesday<br><br>10a — Noon<br>CITP MEMBERS<br>DONATE  | 23<br><br>7:00 AL ANON<br>7:30 Choir  | 24<br>March Newsletter<br>Deadline  | 25<br>9:30a—1p 7th Day<br>Advent. Svcs<br><br>CLEANING |
| 26<br>1st Sunday in Lent  | 27<br><br>10a — Noon<br>CITP MEMBERS<br>DONATE  | 28   |   |   |   |  |

