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Paul's Ponderings...

The Trinity; The Jesus Perspective

Years ago I taught a Senior High Sunday School Class and the topic of the day was the Trinity. After I completed my presentation and asked for discussion one of the students said, "I don't understand why people care about this stuff. All it does is turn something that ought to be simple into something complex."

Now that I am a minister I realize that the student was correct. In fact those of us who study theology make it so complicated that we're not at all sure we understand the Trinity ourselves. In fact two minutes into any sermon that I might present, every first grade graduate in the congregation figures out that 1+1+1 doesn't equal 1, after which I doubt that they listen to another word I have to say on the subject.

And, that's all good except when we speak of the Trinity we are talking about the heart and soul of the Christian faith. We're talking about a God who empties God's-self, takes on the form of a servant, gives up his Spirit, and is crucified for us. In short, we are talking about Jesus.

To understand this we need to start in a most unlikely place...the

Old Testament...and ask ourselves, "What is the sin that keeps getting the Israelites in trouble all throughout the Old Testament?" The answer is "idolatry". Any Old Testament prophet can tell you that we humans desire a God who acts and thinks like us. The temptation to remake God in our own image is seductive and universal.

So, what kind of God do we make for ourselves? Certainly, a God of power. Why do we want this kind of God? Because we wouldn't mind having that kind of power ourselves and since getting it hasn't always worked out for us, we would sure like to know that someone who has that kind of power has our backs.

The problem with this particular form of idolatry is that when we speak of God in terms of power, we imply that human power is a form of godliness, and that those with the most power are the most like God. Isn't this what kings and despots and dictators have said throughout the centuries. "You have to listen to me because God wants order around here and God has blessed and empowered and ordained me to make sure that we all stay in line."

And, this is where Jesus comes in. Because we can't help ourselves and we continue to define the word "God" in terms of power, God decides to come show us what and who God really is...what God's power is really all about. God becomes human in Jesus of Nazareth and on the cross paints us a picture of the very heart of God. Jesus shows us that God's power is the power of self-sacrificial love. And, because Jesus is God, the story of Jesus on the cross becomes the truest definition of the word "God".

This is why the early church insisted that God is triune. If we take a deep dive into who God really is we find that God is eternally the Father of the Crucified One. If you want to know about God's ongoing presence among us then we must look to the Spirit of the Risen Christ. But, most important, if you want to know why we make such a big fuss about Jesus, it's because in him and him alone we see and come to know God. In other words, the Doctrine of the Trinity isn't an attempt to turn something that ought to be simple into an incomprehensible mystery. No, it's God's way of telling idolaters like you and me to pay attention and focus on Jesus.



Prayers for Chapel Friends:



Patty and Jackie Madden, Jack Sealey, Phyllis Mahin, Anthony Tuliano, Janet Hegeman, Ellie Lyons, Evangeline Caliandro, Laurie Stevens, Little Daniel Auman, Koran Sanders, Cami Thistles, Mary Faas, Macey Duncan, Olivia Mcdonald, Lerici Racine, Jamie Raskin, Joe Currie, Kevin Carter, Neida Crow, Kerra Paduano, Kathy Steele, Abbe Theodore, Harry Wahlquist, Walter Hundley, Scott Olson, Norma

1 McKeithan, Esther Robinson's sister Judy, Cindy Hess, Nell Ostby, Bob Macdonald, Rev. Bill and Marty Bruner, Elsie Keeshen, Michelle Kraus, Elaine Bertino, Abe Wells, Kitty Price, Lore Olsen, Dwight and Faye Jessup, the family of Irene Klein, the family of Ron Jarvis, the people of Ukraine, Turkey, and Syria, and the people devastated by tornados in the south.

Prayers for Chapel Family:

Bud Holzerland, Nancee Letter, Dave Westerman, Meta Evans, Charles Hinson, Tamara Lee, Butch and Mary Kay Allen, George Hoffman, Esther Robinson, Glenda Clendenin, Jon Tichenor, Jean Lawrence, Jane and Jeff Lowe.





Summer is here, we have raced through five months of 2023 already, where does time go these days?

As you have seen we are making a lot of repairs and improvements to the Chapel. On behalf of the Board, I want to thank Mike Barry for his continued diligence keeping the Chapel maintenance and the cemetery and columbium in good repair.

The Chapel Roof

We are close to our start date for the installation of our new black metal roof for the entire building. The board wants to thank all of you that donated to the roof project. We are working hard to raise the funds for the roof and still need about \$13,000 dollars to meet our goal. Your contribution would be appreciated. You can make a pledge and pay it over a few months, or drop off a check in the office, drop box or the collection plate on Sunday. All donations are greatly appreciated.

The Gathering

The Chapel's Mens Group is hosting the Gathering on June 15th. We will be having gourmet hot dogs and hamburgers with all the fixings. Then 'Just A Li'l Grace' will play for us again. Please make sure you make your reservation by Tuesday the 13th with Susan in the office.

I want to thank the choir for all their good notes this year and look forward to having them back in the fall. I also want to thank Rebekah Lee Ritter for being our interim choir director for the last several months. We are still on the search for a new Music Director and Organist. We also want to thank Phyliss Alexander for providing beautiful organ music each week, she will be continuing into the future.

Chapel Men's Group

We have formed a Men's Group for fellowship, and other activities to further men's work in the Chapel. If you have an interest in participating please contact the office to add your name to our roles. We meet again on June 10th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall for a light breakfast and fellowship. We will be working out the cooking details for the Gathering.

Stewardship Season is upon us, and we will be reaching out over the next few months with a new Time and Talent program and additional information. We are planning a Stewardship event in July that will help each of you learn more about the needs and opportunities available to you to volunteer and support the growth efforts of the Chapel.

Thanks again for all of your support of the Board.

George Norman - President



Team Updates

Worship Team



The Worship Committee is pleased to announce that once again the Spaghetti Supper we had for The Gathering on Thursday, May 18 was a success. It was a great turn out, and everyone enjoyed the sermon, Holy Communion, and food, plus the fellowship.

I had the pleasure of meeting two new people, from Minnesota, who recently bought property here in West End. They thoroughly en-

joyed every aspect of the evening, and it was fun as they talked about how much they looked forward to living here, and the change in weather, especially. They enjoyed talking to Pastor Paul, and the music, and the songs they knew, they sang along with. It was an inspiration to see how excited they were to be at the CITP, enjoying The Gathering with the rest of us "old-timers".

In June, the men will be taking control of the dinner preparations (and cleanup) for The Gathering. The challenge is on! Will it be as good as everything else? Of course it will be ! There's no doubt in my mind.

The Worship Committee has not determined yet what we will be doing for July-October meals for The Gathering, yet, but, we are brainstorming as I am typing. We've been kicking around lots of ideas, but rest assured, whatever we decide on, it **will** be good. Pastor Paul will take care of our spiritual needs, and we will see to our suppertime comfort.

Thanks to everyone on the Worship Committee and to all who show and up and support our wonderful Chapel in the Pines.

This is all I have at the moment, Leslie



Míssíon Team

Rummage Sale was a big success. We made approximately \$4,500. Considering the weather, we were pleasantly surprised. We are grateful to the congregation for helping with this wortwhile cause. This will be our last sale moving forward.

The Mission Team has been asked to pay \$300 toward the waxing of the floors in the Kids Zone.

We will begin Bunco as a fundraiser, but more importantly we are implementing this as a way to grow and encourage a Christian love among the women of the Chapel and Friends of the Chapel. Players will donate \$10 monthly to play. \$5 will be put towards prizes and the other \$5 will be donated to the Mission Team. We will had Camp Bunco on Monday, May 22nd to

teach those who didn't know the objective of the game for an opportunity to learn. We will officially begin Tuesday, June 13th at 6:30. We will supply popcorn and players will bring what they want to drink.

Fran's Friends has continued to be a well attended event for the women of our Chapel. We had 3 new women join us who either have visited the Chapel or plan on attending.

"Change for *Change"*

We will be "rolling" out our Wheelbarrow Fundraiser. Ace Hardware donated a wheelbarrow to us. We will be asking that people give their coins by throwing them into the wheelbarrow. Our motto is **"Add your change, to be the** *Change"*





nan's Friends



Upcomíng Events

Thursday, June 1	2:30 pm	Fran's Friends
Sunday-June 4	9:00 am	Trinity Sunday
Friday-June 9	10:00 am	Mission Team
Saturday-June 10	8:00 am	Men's Fellowship
Sunday-June 11	9:00 am	Second Sunday after Pentecost
	Blessing of the Wheel Barrow—Change for "Change"	
Tuesday-June 13	6:30 pm	Bunco for Missions
Thursday-June 15	5:30 pm	The Gathering—Cookout & Concert
		Just a `Lil Grace
Sunday-June 18	9:00 am	Third Sunday after Pentecost
	Chapel Board Meeting	
Sunday-June 25	9:00 am	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday June 10, 2023 @ 8:00 a.m.



Chapel men please join us on Saturday morning for breakfast and fellowship. Please make reservations by noon on Thursday, June 8th by calling the church office at (910) 400-5188 or

Email: citp10@7lakeschapel.com





Usher Schedule

Offertory – after you hand the plates back to Paul and he turns to the alter, just turn and go to your seat. If you need a sub, the usher list is below.

June

4 Sun 9 am Reuters, Beck, Connelly 11 Sun 9 am Faas, Peppes, While 15 Thu 5:30 Gathering – Beam, Danielson 18 Sun 9 am Goodman, Zeller, Normans 25 Sun 9 am McCaskills, Singletary, Tetreault July 2 Sun 9 am Peppes, Beam, Beck

9 Sun 9 am Connelly, Danielson, Faas, While 13 Thu 5:30 Gathering – Goodman, Zeller 16 Sun 9 am McCaskills, Normans 23 Sun 9 am Connelly, Danielson, Reuters 30 Sun 9 am Singletary, Tetreault, VanHorns

August

- 6 Sun 9 am Beam, Danielson, Faas, Beck
- 10 Thu 5:30 Gathering Connelly, While
- 13 Sun 9 am Normans, Peppes
- 20 Sun 9 am Reuters, VanHorns
- 27 Sun 9 am McCaskills, Tetreault, Singletary

Coffee Fellowship



Church Administra-To volunteer contact our tor, Susan Williams by calling 910-400-5188 or emailing citp10@7lakeschapel.com. You can also sign up at the podium just outside the entrance to the fellowship hall.

June

- 4 Katy Swain & Joyce Singletary
- 11 Dick & Sue Van Horne
- 18 Marilyn & Jimmy McCaskill

25 Volunteer Needed

<u>July</u>

- 2 Mike & Sue Barry
- 9 Dennis & Sandy Cifranic Elvia Guadalupe
- Volunteer Needed 16
- 23 Volunteer Needed 30
- 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.

June	
6-4	
6-11	Alicia Delong
6-18	Jon & Dorene Tichenor
6-25	Alice McPheeters
July	
7-2	Kathy Hilton
7-9	Tracey Olsen & Frank Carney
7-16	Jon & Dorene Tichenor
7-23	Wendy Tetreault
7-30	Paul & Julie James

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



Board Members



	Board of Directors – 2023	
George Norman, President	gngolfer@nc.rr.com	910-987-4664
Jon Tichenor 1st Vice President	tichenorjon@gmail.com	910-466-9148
Jim Beck Treasurer	lotsaoaks@gmail.com	910-673-5682
Ed Burke Secretary	edembr@hotmail.com	910-477-2947
Joyce Singletary	jsingletary31@nc.rr.com	910-673-5554
Dot Macdonald	dotjmac1957@gmail.com	910-673-3866
Bob Donaldson	rhdon138@gmail.com	910-466-9064

Chapel Staff and Contact Info

Rebekah Lee Ritter Interim Choir Director	Phyllis Alexander Interim Organist/Pianist	Dillon Corral Sound/Video Tech
Paula Montgomery Financial Secretary	<u>citp-treasurer@7lakeschapel.com</u>	910-986-9191
Chapel Administrator Susan Williams	citp10@7lakeschapel.com	910-400-5188
Pastor Reverend Paul James	pastorpaulchapel@gmail.com	910-690-5529

Church Office: 910-400-5188 Church Email: citp10@7lakeschapel.com Church Website: http://7lakeschapel.com





Wheelbarrow Dedication Sunday, June 11, 2023

Mission Team Introduces Wheelbarrow Ministry - Change for "Change" Benefitting Local Missions

Be on the lookout for the Mission Team wheelbarrow, which will be placed near the front entrance of the Chapel on Sunday mornings.

The Mission Team would like you to toss in your "**pocket change**" to help them help others locally.

Tuesday June 13, 2023 6:30 p.m.



Ladies, please join us for fun and fellowship as we raise money to support local missions programs. Donations of \$10.00 to play with \$5.00 to be used for prizes and \$5.00 to be designated for Mis-

sions.



Popcorn supplied for game night.



The Gathering June 25, 2023 5:30 p.m. Hot Dog/Hamburger Cookout Special Guest

JUST A LI'L GRACE





581 7 Lakes N, West End, NC www.7lakeschapel.com



