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CHAPPEL CHIMES

Volume 4, Issue 12

December 2023

Paul's Ponderings...

The Light of the World

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined...

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us...
-Isaiah 9:2,6*

When the days of Winter darkness are upon us it is so warming and hopeful to ponder the light of Christ that has come, is coming, and will come again into the world. The prophet Isaiah foretold it's coming, during Advent we patiently wait for it's coming, and we prepare to celebrate it's coming two thousand years ago. And, if you think that timeline is confusing, the author of the Gospel of John tells us that the "Light" has always been present in the world since the beginning of time. (John 1:1-4)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Now, of course we go all out on December 24th to celebrate the

coming of the light into our world with the birth of a baby in a small village in Israel, but before all that,

the pagans were observing the Winter Solstice on December 21st. That day is significant because it is literally the longest night of the year and the pagans gathered to pray for the light to return...the days to lengthen...so that crops could be grown to feed the people for another year.

Christians didn't want to miss out on that celebration or the people who might be attracted to our new religion, so they absorbed this pagan holiday into their yearly cycle and they called it the day of "Darkness to Light," meaning that going forward the nights would grow shorter and the days would grow longer because that was God's plan.

But, we didn't stop there. No, our Christian ancestors recalled that Jesus once called himself "the light of the world." (John 8:12)

...I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.



But, again, we didn't stop there. No, our Christian ancestors continued this theme of darkness and light...once again using Jesus' own words directed at his disciples to proclaim that we are the light of the world. (Matthew 5:14)

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

But, again, we didn't stop there. No, we Christians made a radically bold claim about the light brought into the world by Jesus. (John 1:5)

*The light shines in the darkness, and
the darkness did not overtake it.*

This entire theme of darkness to light must have been foremost on the mind of Phillip Brooks in 1868 when he wrote the words to our beloved hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem" that included this line:

*"Yet in thy dark streets shineth the
everlasting Light. The hopes and
fears of all the years are met
in thee tonight."*

Imagine! The hopes and fears of all the years come to a head at this one point, this turning point in the history of the cosmos. And, of all things, it's a baby! In him, in this everlasting light shining dimly from a manger, are met the collected pains, fears, tragedies, triumphs, hopes, cries, prayers, and sufferings of everyone who has ever lived. Just think about the sheer volume of that!

All of it...all of the baggage we carry, all the things we fight against, the wars and hunger, the losses and loves...it all looks toward this one singular point. This light. Like the Bethlehem star that alerted the wise men to the coming of Christ, it's a light that shines high and bright, for all the world to see.

So, as is the tradition of this Chapel we will come together this Advent season to contemplate and celebrate the light of Christ that overcomes the darkness. We begin on Thursday, December 7th, with A Service of Darkness to Light where we will worship in silence and meditate on our personal "darknesses" and give thanks to Jesus for being the light in our lives.

And, we will gather once again on Christmas Eve and rejoice that as we share the light of Christ from candle to candle, increasing the glow of peace, joy, love, and hope until our sanctuary is ablaze with the light of Christ, that we have been commissioned to join Jesus' ministry of light and life for all people.

Happy Advent,
Pastor Paul



Prayers for Chapel Friends:



Patty and Jackie Madden, Jack Sealey, Phyllis Mahin, Anthony Tuliano, Janet Hegeman, Evangeline Caliendo, Laurie Stevens, Little Daniel Auman, Koran Sanders, Olivia Macdonald, Lerici Racine, Jamie Raskin, Kevin Carter, Neida Crow, Kerra Paduano, Kathy Steele, Harry Wahlquist, Walter Hundley, Esther Robinson's sister Judy, Cindy Hess, Lynn Garbarino, Bob Macdonald, Elsie Keeshen, Elaine Bertino, Mary Farley, Kitty Price, Kerri Klein, Jean Schmidt, Ed Barry, Bill Bohl, Cynthia Fetty, Bob Lovin, Dwight and Faye Jessup, D.J. Kirit, Steve Hall, Phil Westerman, Lucy Dunn Martin, Jerry Hyatt, Chandler Stewart, Mary Ann Weiss, Drew Carr and family, Mary Faas, Robert Allen, Ann Rorie, Sharon Hacker, Agustina Barry, Ron and Sara (Cissy) Ellis, Michael Taylor, Gerry Crow, Rev. Bill and Marty Bruner, Mabs Wahlquist, the family of Thomas of Polished Nails, Dee and the family of Dennis Lombard, Dorene and the family of Barbara Sass, Enola and the family of Dr. Tom Lineberger



Prayers for Chapel Family:

Bud Holzerland, Nancee Letter, Dave Westerman, Meta Evans, Charles Hinson, Tamara Lee, Butch and Mary Kay Allen, George Hoffman, Glenda Clendenin, Jean Lawrence, Bob Dantzer, Mary Tuft, Phillip Thingstad, Sue Van Horne, Jimmy McCaskill.




 FOR
 UNTO US A
Child is born,
 UNTO US A *Son*
 is given; and
 the government will
 be upon his shoulder, and his name
 will be called
Wonderful Counselor
MIGHTY GOD
Everlasting Father
PRINCE OF PEACE.
ISAIAH
9:6




President's Corner

Happy Holiday... I think that is appropriate for this time of year.

Hopefully, we have just had a Happy Thanksgiving, celebrating with family and friends.

We now move into the Advent Season and quickly to the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ on Christmas in 25 days.

This is a glorious time of year with so much love and happiness among us all.

So, I will say Merry Christmas to all a few days early!



It is bittersweet that I write this President's Corner.

After two years of being your Board President, keeping you informed each month of Chapel Board activities and the State of the Chapel, this is my last one.

I would like to thank everyone who has served on the Chapel Board during my tenure as President. You have all served well to keep the Chapel on good footing and moving forward into the future.

I want to thank all the Team Leaders for their continued effort each and every day to take care of the many volunteer duties required to keep the Chapel operating smoothly.

I want to thank Susan Williams our Administrator, for her invaluable help to me and each and every Chapel Member. We are so lucky to have such a top-quality person in this position. Thank You, Susan.

Then I come to Pastor Paul James our spiritual leader, navigator, and devoted Pastor of our Chapel. It has been a delight to work with Pastor Paul day to day. His guidance knowledge and experience at the Chapel have been paramount to me as we worked through the many issues we face throughout each year. Thank you, Pastor Paul. It has been my pleasure.

As for all of you reading this piece, I encourage each of you to look deep into yourselves to find that light that excites you, bring forth your talents, and share your knowledge with each of us. There is so much work to be done and with a small amount of effort, each of us can make a huge impact, physically, mentally, and financially. We are all needed to help share God's word.



With that, I will sign off for the last time as your President.
George Norman – Board President

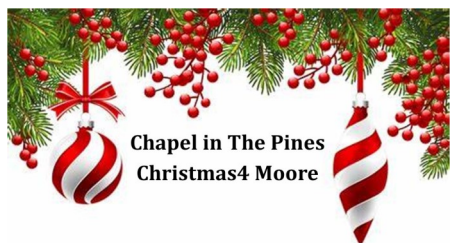


Team Updates

Mission Team

The Mission Team met on November 10th at 10AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Lydia Litteral has stepped up to the plate and will be our new team lead and Deb Rush will be her assistant. Lydia recently joined the Chapel. Please give her a warm welcome when you meet her! Joyce and Tracey will assist as needed throughout the year.



It's hard to believe that Christmas is right around the corner! We have sponsored 14 families thanks to the generosity of the congregation and individual Mission Team members. We hope you will find it in your heart to give to the Mission Team to help offset the cost of the Food Lion gift cards.

Fran's Friends continues to bring the ladies of the Chapel together for wonderful fellowship. As we say, you DO NOT have to drink wine! They have plenty of NON-ALCOHOLIC choices or just bring your own. Snacks are always fun to share, but certainly not required. Please mark your calendars for the FIRST Thursday of every month at 3PM.



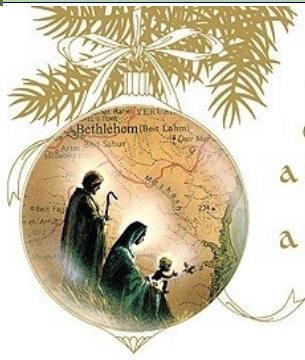
We have Chapel in the Pines vinyl decals for sale. We are asking for a \$5 donation per decal. See Susan in the office to purchase.



Bunco will take place on Tuesday, December 12th at 6PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please mark your calendar. Moving forward, we will be playing on the second Tuesday of each month. If you have friends that would be interested in subbing, please tell Laura Beth or Tracey and they will add it to their calendar.

Our 3rd annual Christmas Wrapping party will be held on Friday, December 8th at 10AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your gifts for your family to the Fellowship Hall in the morning and we will have them ready for your family to pick up between 2PM-4PM, unless you have made other arrangements. Remember, we will attach the Food Lion gift voucher to your gifts.





For
unto us
a Child is born.
unto us
a Son is given.

Worship Team

The 47th anniversary covered dish brunch was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who brought delicious main dishes, sides, and desserts. We are blessed with many wonderful chefs.

Christmas will soon be upon us, and the days are getting colder, which is a reminder that the Chapel will be having our soup, bread, and dessert dinner immediately following the Darkness to Light

service on December 7th. This service is such a wonderful uplifting service allowing us process the grief we feel for loved ones who have passed on.

Just a note that we will, NOT be having Coffee Hour following the Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24th, so that everyone can go be with their families and friends after the service.

Please feel free to sign up for Coffee Hour. Remember, keep it low maintenance, with coffee cake, cheese and crackers. Or simply cookies, or even a fruit salad. Fun is the key and a quick cleanup is the goal. Most importantly, it is time for fellowship with each other. Please volunteer when and where you can. Many hands make little work.

Enjoy the holiday season helping each other out whenever possible. A little kindness goes a long way.

Leslie While

Building & Grounds Team

The Building and Grounds team had a very busy 2023. Many projects were attempted and completed this year allowing us to be good stewards of our treasures investing in the stability of our facilities. During this past year we fixed the lower parking lot entrance and repaired the sidewalk entrance through the columbarium and redirecting problematic standing water. Our Chapel also replaced the glass in our beautiful bell tower and invested in extending the life of the Chapel facilities by replacing the worn out shingled roof with a durable metal roof.





Advent at the Chapel - 2023 Heaven and Earth; Advent and the Incarnation



November 29 Heaven and Earth; Advent and the Incarnation/Bible Study
Session #1 - *Meanwhile* - Mark 13:24-37 - 3:00

December 3 The First Sunday of Advent - Hope - Worship at 9:00

December 3 Daily Advent devotions by email begin.

December 6 Heaven and Earth; Advent and the Incarnation/Bible Study
Session #2 - *Surprised* - Mark 1:1-8 - 3:00

December 7 A Service of Darkness to Light - 4:00

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of Christmas and
spend an hour to ponder the real meaning of Christmas. Holy
Communion

December 10 The Second Sunday of Advent - Love - Worship at 9:00

December 13 Heaven and Earth; Advent and the Incarnation/Bible Study
Session #3 - *Light* - John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 16 The Chapel Christmas Cantata - 4:00
Voices from The Chapel, Bensalem Presbyterian, and
West End Methodist combine to celebrate the incarnation.

December 17 The Third Sunday of Advent - Joy
Worship at 9:00 that includes Holy Communion

December 17 The Bensalem Christmas Cantata - 6:00
Voices from The Chapel, Bensalem Presbyterian, and
West End Methodist combine to celebrate the incarnation.

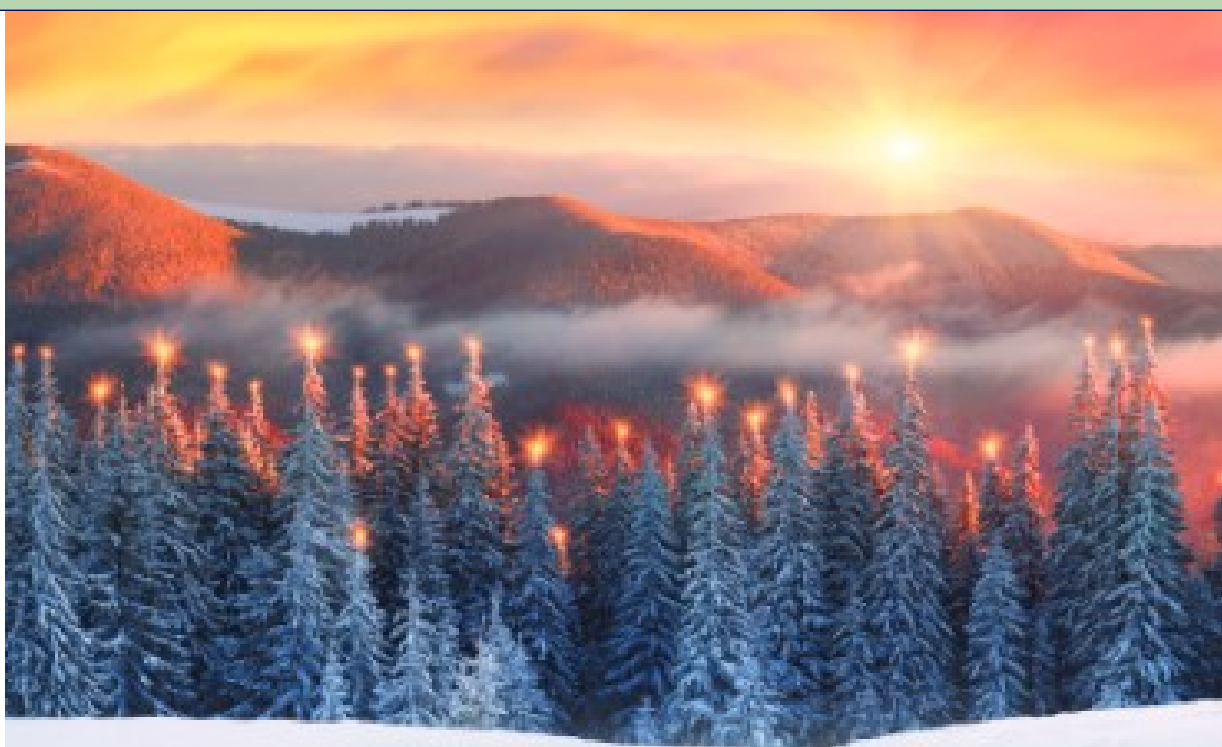
December 20 Heaven and Earth; Advent and the Incarnation/Bible Study
Session #4 - *Rejoice* - Luke 1:26-55

December 24 The Fourth Sunday of Advent - Peace - Worship at 9:00

December 24 A Christmas Eve Service - 4:00
Carols, Candles, and Communion

December 25 Daily Advent Devotions conclude.





Heaven *and* Earth

ADVENT *and the* INCARNATION

Join us Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 pm

Wednesday,	November	29th
Wednesday,	December	6th
Wednesday,	December	13th
Wednesday,	December	20th

December

Birthdays

Friday, December 1

Phyllis Young

Tuesday, December 5

Bob Dantzer

Tuesday, December 5

Peggy Reuter

Tuesday, December 12

Stacey Golzio

Sunday, December 17

John Moses

Saturday, December 23

Kathy Golzio

Sunday, December 24

Roberto Guadalupe

Wednesday, December 27

Amie Collins

Thursday, December 28

Bill Baker

Saturday, December 30

Anna Lee

Sunday, December 31

John Shaunessey


Friday, December 15

Leslie & James While

Monday, December 18

Dave & Mimi Giannini

Thursday, December 21

Roberto & Elvia Guadalupe



Upcoming Events



Sunday-December 3	9:00 am	The First Sunday of Advent
Wednesday-December 6	3:00 pm	<i>Advent Bible Study</i>
	4:30 pm	Chapel Choir Practice
Thursday-December 7	4:00 pm	<i>A Service of Darkness to Light</i>
		Covered Dish—Soups 'N' Bread
Friday-December 8	10 :00 am	<i>Christmas Wrapping Party</i>
Saturday-December 9	7:45 am	Men's Fellowship
Sunday-December 10	9:00 am	The Second Sunday of Advent
Tuesday-December 12	6:30 pm	Bunco4Missions
Wednesday-December 13	3:00 pm	<i>Advent Bible Study</i>
	4:30 pm	Chapel Choir Practice
Thursday-December 14	3:00 pm	Fran's Friends
Saturday-December 16	4:00 pm	<i>The Chapel Christmas Cantata</i>
Sunday-December 17	9:00 am	The Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday-December 17	6:00 pm	<i>The Bensalem Christmas Cantata</i>
Wednesday-December 20	3:00 pm	<i>Advent Bible Study</i>
	4:30 pm	Chapel Choir Practice
Sunday-December 24	9:00 am	The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday-December 24	4:00 pm	<i>Carols, Candles, and Communion</i>
Wednesday-December 27	4:30 pm	Chapel Choir Practice
Sunday-December 31	9:00 am	Lessons & Carols



Usher Schedule

December 2023—February 2024

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.

December

- 3 Sun 9 am Lee Connelly, Gisela Danielson, George & Cathy Norman
- 7 Thu 4 pm Darkness to Light – Kathy Reszka, Gordon Zeller
- 10 Sun 9 am Tim & RJ Peppe, Bart & Peggy Reuter
- 17 Sun 9 am Joyce Singletary, Leslie While, Lee Connelly, Carole Faas
- 24 Sun 9 am George & Cathy Norman, Lee Connelly, Leslie While
- 24 Sun 4 pm Carols, Candles, Communion – Kathy Reszka, Gordon Zeller
- 31 Sun 9 am Gisela Danielson, Carole Faas, Bart & Peggy Reuter

January

- 7 Sun 9 am Joyce Singletary, Tim & RJ Peppe, Gisela Danielson
- 14 Sun 9 am George & Cathy Normans, Kathy Reszka, Gordon Zeller
- 21 Sun 9 am Lee Connelly, Carole Faas, Joyce Singletary, Leslie While
- 28 Sun 9 am Tim & RJ Peppe, Bart & Peggy Reuter

February

- 4 Sun 9 am George & Cathy Norman, Kathy Reszka, Gordon Zeller
- 11 Sun 9 am Lee Connelly, Carole Faas, Gisela Danielson, Joyce Singletary
- 14 Wed 5 pm Ash – Lee Connelly, Leslie While
- 18 Sun 9 am George & Cathy Norman, Tim & RJ Peppe



Sanctuary Preparation Teams

December

3	Sun	9 am	Alice McPheeters, Kathy Hilton
7	Thur	4 pm	Darkness to Light Sandy Cifranic, Mary Snead
10	Sun	9 am	Lee Connelly, Marilyn McCaskill
17	Sun	9 am	Daisy Kirit, Kathy Hilton
24	Sun	9 am	Alice McPheeters, Mary Snead
24	Sun	4 pm	Christmas Eve Sandy Cifranic, Marilyn McCaskill
31	Sun	9 am	Lee Connelly, Leslie While



Coffee Fellowship



November

5	Sandy & Dennis Cifranic
12	Debbie Kessler & Renee Maness
19	Volunteer Needed
26	Volunteer Needed

December

3	Volunteer Needed
10	Stacy & Kathy Golzio
17	Volunteer Needed
24	Volunteer Needed
31	Volunteer Needed

To volunteer contact our Church Administrator, 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.





Flower Schedule



If you are interested in volunteering to provide flowers for the chapel, you may call **910-400-5188** or e-mail cit10@7lakeschapel.com to have your name added to the Flower Sign-up List.

December	
12-3	Bob Dantzer
12-10	Phyllis Young
12-17	Alice McPheeters
12-24	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
12-31	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>



Back Pack Pals and Matthew 25:40 Programs

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

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

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

Pastor Reverend Paul James	pastorpaulchapel@gmail.com	910-690-5529
Chapel Administrator Susan Williams	citp10@7lakeschapel.com	910-400-5188
Financial Secretary Paula Montgomery	citp-treasurer@7lakeschapel.com	910-986-9191
Choir Director Kristen Thompson	kristen.webb@gmail.com	910-220-1979
Sound/Video Tech Dillon Corral		

Church Office: 910-400-5188

Church Email: citp10@7lakeschapel.com

Church Website: <http://7lakeschapel.com>





2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3 First Sunday of Advent <i>**Note: OLA Choir Our Ladies of The Americas</i>					1 10:30 Cemetery Team Meeting	2 9:30a—1p 7th Day Advent. Services CLEANING
4		5 Kiwanis 11-2 Kiwanis Bingo 6-10	6 3:00 Advent Bible Study 4:30 Chapel Choir	7 4 Service of Darkness to Light 7:00 AL ANON 7:30 OLA Choir	8 Board Team Rpts 10 Christmas Wrapping Party	9 7:45 Men's Fellowship 9:30a—1p 7th Day Advent. Services CLEANING
10 Second Sunday of Advent	11	12 BUNKO 4:30-6:00 p.m.	13 3:00 Advent Bible Study 4:30 Chapel Choir	14 3:00 Juan's Friends 2-4 7 Lks Gdn Club 7:00 AL ANON 7:30 OLA Choir	15	16 9:30a—1p 7th Day Advent. Services 4:00 Chapel Christmas Cantata CLEANING
17 Third Sunday of Advent Chapel Board Mtg 6:00 Bensalem Christmas Cantata	18	19 Kiwanis Bingo 6-10	20 3:00 Advent Bible Study 4:30 Chapel Choir	21 10 Ladies Bible Fellowship 7:00 AL ANON 7:30 OLA Choir	22 *January Newsletter Article Deadline	23 9:30a—1p 7th Day Advent. Services CLEANING
24 Fourth Sunday of Advent Candles, Carols and Communion 4:00	25 	26	27 4:30 Chapel Choir	28 7:00 AL ANON 7:30 OLA Choir	29	30

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*Seven Lakes
Chapel in the Pines*

*2125 Seven Lakes South
West End, NC 27376*



**Serving our Community by Preaching, Teaching,
and Living the Gospel of Jesus Christ**

