



AMELIA PLANTATION CHAPEL

Footprints

Monthly Newsletter

January 2024



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A Letter From The Pastor

Shape the Future

BY KEN JONES, SENIOR PASTOR

Stewardship is an invitation to prayerfully give of your time, talent, and treasure in response to God's grace. Pledging a gift for 2024 both provides you an opportunity to intentionally consider how you may give to God and helps us plan the Chapel budget.

We encourage members and friends of the Chapel to live lives that are abundantly generous. Through giving regularly, joyfully, and sacrificially we demonstrate the truth of the gospel of Christ—that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most generous gift ever given.

We aim to start 2024 strong for the sake of Christ and the many ministries of our chapel and our outreach program. In this light, we have determined that a 15% increase in giving by every member will put us right on track to fulfill our ministry goals. Please prayerfully consider promptly sending in your pledge to support our Chapel's calling.



Your New Board Members

BY BRUCE COMRIE, BOARD OF GOVERNORS PRESIDENT



We are very happy to welcome Jon Schneider, Grace Lipman, and Lorelei Jacobs to your Board of Governors this year. Jon will be the Chair of Christian Education, Lorelei will Chair the Communications & Marketing Committee and Grace will be our Pastoral Care Committee Chair. They will all be strong contributors to not only growing our Chapel family, but also growing our faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please extend your warmest welcome to all of them.



Christian Education, Jon Schneider– He was born in Peoria, Illinois, and blessed with two Godly and loving parents who brought him up in the Methodist Church. As a high school freshman, he found salvation as a member of a Young Life group. Following law school, he moved to Colorado and began a 37-year career in the electric utility industry. It was there that he met and married Erin, the love of his life. The Schneiders have two children and six grandchildren, all of whom are dear to their hearts.

While living in Colorado, Jon was privileged to have Bible teachers who gave him insight into both the truth and relevance of the Bible and gave him a continuing desire to know God's word. Eventually, Jon began teaching adult classes himself, enjoying the opportunity to dig into the Word with others who want to draw closer to God. After retiring in 2019, Jon and Erin moved to Fernandina Beach and began attending the Chapel just in time for the Covid pandemic. Even so, it didn't take long to recognize that they had found their new church family.

Pastoral Care, Grace Lipman– She was raised in Teaneck, NJ. She is the first grandchild of Sicilian Immigrants. She was educated at St. Anastasia School, Immaculate Conception High School, and Fairleigh Dickinson University. She is the mother of three daughters, Sandra Scudato, Jocelyn Scudato, and Tina Allen; and grandmother of Amelia, Zachary and Alexander Allen. She retired in December 2022 from the real estate business after 42 years as a broker associate in New Jersey and Florida. She moved to the island and built a house in Golfside South in 1990 and became involved with Amelia Island Museum of History as docent and later employed to train docents. She partnered to open a shop on Centre Street called Classy Needle, selling fine yarns, hand painted needlepoint canvases, and teaching classes. She also became involved with Amelia Community Theatre as actress, board member, and past president. She was an active actress with Amelia Musical Playhouse. She was a past board member and President of Amelia Island Nassau County Association of Realtors as well as board member and President of Nassau County MLS, past RPAC Chairman for Amelia Island Nassau County Association of Realtors. She came to the Chapel from First Presbyterian Church in 2021. Her interests are history, archaeology, politics, finance. Her hobbies are cooking, baking, no-dig vegetable gardening, and needlework.

Communications, Lorelei Jacobs– Having grown up in Texas, and later living in Arizona and Tennessee, Lorelei Jacobs moved to Florida in 1999. She has been a member of the Chapel since 2012 and she and her husband Buddy were married in 2010 by then-Chapel Pastor Ted Schroder. Lorelei's favorite activities are spending time with her and Buddy's combined and



extended family, taking every opportunity to try to fatten everyone up! Other greatest pleasures are studying and discussing the Bible, participating in charitable and cultural events, and pleasure reading on rainy days. Almost every weekend finds Lorelei and Buddy out on their boat, loving to go to Jekyll Island, St. Augustine or St. Mary's. Lorelei has been employed as the City of Fernandina Beach's Grants Administrator since 2017.

2024 CHAPEL BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Executive Committee:

Bruce Comrie - President & Outreach Chair

Bob Stichweh - Vice President & Building & Grounds Chair

Fred Edwards - Treasurer & Finance / Stewardship Chair

Katherine Hoehn - Secretary & Fellowship Chair

Board Members:

Lorelei Jacobs - Communications Chair

Jon Schneider - Christian Education Chair

Frank Vacirca - Membership Chair

Grace Lipman - Pastoral Care Chair

Carmen Drake - Worship Chair

Ken Jones - Senior Pastor (ex-officio)

Chapel Tables

BY KATHERINE HOEHN

Chapel Tables is a social activity of informal, small lunches and dinners (in homes or restaurants) with groups of four to eight. Group members rotate responsibility each month for hosting in homes (a different home each month) or making reservations in restaurants. All adults in our congregation are invited to participate.



Spring groups will meet once per month, February, March, April, and/or May (three or four meals).

- Single? Don't stay home because you are! Many singles participate in Chapel Tables and lots of couples enjoy the company of singles. It's a perfect fit!
- New to the Chapel? We want to get to know you; come dine with fellow Chapel members and grow closer to others in the Chapel family. You are welcome here!

If you are interested in joining a group (for lunch or dinner, in homes or restaurants), please let us know by completing a sign-up form in the narthex or in the Chapel office or emailing KatherineHoehn@me.com (with your contact information and preference for lunch or dinner, restaurants or homes.)

Everyone registered by Sunday, January 21 will be assigned a group. Group leaders will contact group members before the end of January. Groups will meet for the first time in February.

Assignments to groups will be made according to individuals' preferences. Questions? Email Katherine Hoehn, katherinehoehn@me.com, or Sandy Sproat, ssproat43@aol.com.

Homeless Children Ministries, Inc

BY CLAUDIA SMITH



Homeless Children Ministries, Inc., and a host of dedicated shoppers were blessed to select gifts from personal shopping lists for 150 teens and siblings in Nassau County this Christmas. The gifts and Christian materials, lovingly handpicked and wrapped, were collected by the parents/caregivers on December 11th. Each child received a variety of materials sharing the message of the Good News and Great Joy of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Matthew 13:8 tells us that some of the seeds we sow fall on good soil where they produce a crop! Mollie Cressey, the school liaison, wrote "We are so grateful for everything that you and the people at Amelia Plantation Chapel do for our families. You all have blessed so many and sowed many seeds."

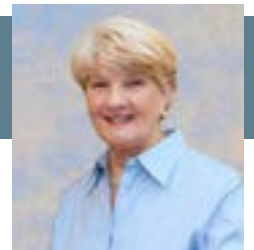
The Holy Spirit directed our daily efforts. A new miracle blossomed every day. What a joy it was to be at the distribution center when the parents arrived—to see their grateful expressions and sweet smiles. With the donation of 16 bikes from the Omni and tune-ups by Fernandina Beach Cycles, 35 bikes and gear now have new homes. Beyond the basic shoes, shirts and pants, a mountain of special requests were filled. Thank you to Regina who translated for the Spanish families. A Nassau teacher helped by shopping for six more children whose families registered for HCMI just days before Christmas. I'm so grateful for the work of our entire team!

One of the parents wrote "thank you for giving us help and hope at Christmas time!" Another wrote "this makes a huge difference in my daughter's life, from feeling like she's not all that wanted to feeling overwhelmed with Love." And yet another wrote "If it wasn't for you my kids wouldn't have a Christmas. It really means the world to me." One of our callers learned of a HCMI family member who is in the military in the Middle East. She and her husband asked how they could help, and sent him a love-filled Christmas package! God works in wonderful ways!

Thank you to our Chapel Family, Carlton Dunes, Isle de Mai, neighbors, friends, and family who joined in—47 donors and 85 workers—compassionately responding to the needs of others!

Monday Bible Study

BY JAN SMITH



Jan Smith's Coed class will resume on January 8. We will study Walking in the Spirit for the next few months. You are invited to join us each Monday at 10AM.

Galatians 5:16 says Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the desires of the sinful nature. We all sin because we are encouraged to do so by our old selfish nature inherited from Adam. However, God's plan is for us is to be free from sin by being controlled by His Holy Spirit.

Pastor Ken often quotes Romans 8:1 on Sunday: There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. The reason for this truth is found in Romans 8:2 where it tells us The Law of the Spirit has set us free from the Law of sin. God does not condemn us, and further, He states in Hebrews 10:17, THEIR SINS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.

Galatians 5:1 says It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. How can we experience this great freedom from sin and self? The only way is Jesus Himself. As the Spirit controls us Jesus is free to live His life through our mortal body. Then His attributes will be clearly seen in us.

In 2 Peter 1:2 it says By God's divine power He has given us everything we need for Life and Godliness. He did this by giving us Jesus, and the Spirit, to direct and control us. Our goal in Bible study is to learn to be in subjection to the Holy Spirit in reality.

Upcoming Men's Breakfasts

January—Chapel Member Dennis Hall will speak on Friday, January 12 at 7:30 am. Dr. Dennis Hall, formerly a nationally known healthcare executive as CEO of one of the largest faith-based hospital systems in the US will be speaking to the Men's Breakfast in January. He will describe his odyssey from a tire tool-wielding youngster to a popular religious podcaster. He holds a doctorate degree in Theology and Christian Apologetics. Today, his ministry is aimed at the homeless, substance abusers, and those in prison.

February—COED—Join us on Friday, February 9 at 7:30 am as Amie Shields from Bring Your Brokenness speaks! Amie Shields is a faith-and family-loving writer, speaker, singer, and leader. She lives on Amelia Island with her husband, and they have four amazing children. She graduated from Liberty University with a BS in Multi-Disciplinary Studies (Education and Psychology) and a Master of Education in Teaching and Learning. She is also a certified life coach and biblical counselor, and it's her joy to serve those who struggle with eating disorders through Bring Your Brokenness, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that she founded in 2018. She currently serves as the CEO of Bring Your Brokenness and as Executive Director at The Charis House, a nonprofit residential treatment center for adult women with eating disorders. Amie is looking forward to her time with us in February and plans to share her testimony and recovery story, help us understand more about eating disorder recovery, and tell us what God is doing through the ministry of Bring Your Brokenness. Our church is a big part of that as they are one of our mission partners. Amie is so excited to tell us what God is allowing them to do through our gifts.

March—Stacy Rinehart will speak on Friday, March 8 at 7:30 am. Stacy serves as Facilitator for Pastor Mentoring International Network (www.pastormin.org). Stacy is the Founder of MentorLink International (www.MentorLink.org). He holds a ThM from Dallas Theological Seminary and a DMin from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is the author of two books on Spiritual Leadership: UPSIDE DOWN: The Paradox of Servant Leadership and LEAD IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY: The Jesus Model. Stacy and his wife Paula live in Raleigh, North Carolina and have two grown children and seven grandchildren. For the last 5 years, Stacy and Paula have been spending a month on Amelia Island and attending the Chapel. He will be talking about the critical need for developing pastors (quality and quantity) for the global Church. He will also talk about their ministry's outreach into the Muslim world. His ministry touches over a hundred nations.

April—Newleader columnist Richard Doster will join us on Friday, April 12 at 7:30 am. For the past nine years Richard has written "Practical Theology," a weekly column in the Fernandina Beach News-Leader, where he hopes to show readers how biblical principles are to be woven into our everyday lives. He's also been the editor of byFaith, the magazine of the Presbyterian Church in America, since 2004. Richard's planning to talk about the Cultural Mandate (Genesis 1:26-28): What does it mean to Christians today, in our culture? And how does it relate Jesus' Great Commission given in Matthew 28:19-20?

May—Chapel Member Harry DeNoers will speak on Friday, May 10 at 7:30 am. From Harry: A Florida native, I began my academic journey at the University of North Florida, earning a B.A. in 1976 and an M.A. from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1983. My life's joy is my family with Jan, my wife. Our blended family includes six children, fourteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Together with Jan, I've navigated the entrepreneurial world, building and selling three businesses over 35 years. Our shared passions include traveling, biking, and walks on Amelia Island. In quieter times, I engage in Bible study and reading. Currently, I'm fine-tuning my faith-based screenplay, 'Unholy Justice,' aspiring to see it on the big screen.



Crossover of Hope

BY JENNIFER ST. CLAIR



As we venture into another year, maybe it's time to assess the lessons learned from the previous twelve months. It seems to me they have flown by in record-breaking speed, so much so, I could barely catch my breath while the next event was at the threshold of BeComing. Some people like to focus on difficult situations endured and reflect on how the outcomes could have been resolved in a better way....'if only.' Not me. We all know in the depths of our innermost Be-ing 'if only' doesn't count. I learned years ago while working for Mary Kay Cosmetics that 'if only' was definitely considered a negative comment and very unwelcome in conversation.

Despite the trials and tribulations of the past year, I find myself reveling in the beauty shared and received from family and friends and yes, even strangers. The many acts of kindness surpassed the difficult situations presented to me. Seems God put a spark of enthusiasm in my Soul from the get-go, and that spark flickers constantly no matter what. I am grateful for the blessing. It brings me great joy and hope during challenging times.

Crossing over into a new year illuminates a boundless hope for the future that is yet to come. I do not buy the notion of doom and gloom that surrounds every nook and cranny in today's world. We serve a great God. And as long as we pull on the shield of faith daily with the other armor cited in Ephesians 6, no weapon can be used against us. Amen!

So...the prayer I leave with you can be found in Romans 15:13 *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,"*

Chapel Library

BY LINDA COLE



I always get excited when someone I know actually gets a book written and published. Since you know her also, you can be excited with me! Yes, indeed, our own Jennifer St. Clair, pianist and organist extraordinaire, has written a novelette, *Beyond the Swing*.



Naturally, the Chapel Library has a copy, but since I was out of town, I purchased a copy from Amazon on Kindle because I wanted to read it right away. It was a touching and poignant story about how bullying can affect people of all ages. After I finished, I talked with friends and family about it. I was pleased but surprised about the conversation it generated.

This is what Jennifer had to say about her book: "I'm hoping and praying those who are being bullied or have been and are still suffering from residual fallout will discover this little book and that a 'nugget' from the script will give them courage and insight to deal with their personal situation. Recognition diffuses! Many people, I find, do not acknowledge exactly what is happening to them. Once they name it bullying, denial ends and the healing process can begin."

I invite you to get the copy in the library, or do what I did and hunt it up on Amazon.

New Sunday Class

BY JON SCHNEIDER



Join us on Sunday's beginning January 21 in the Meeting Room at 10:15am as Harry DeNoer teaches us about the "I AM's" of Jesus.



In the Gospel of John, Jesus makes seven profound "I Am" statements describing himself in different metaphors that illustrate his divine nature and mission. Discover the depths of Christ's nature and mission revealed in his profound "I AM" statements from the Gospel of John. Each week, we'll dive into one of these declarations, such as "I am the light of the world" or "I am the good shepherd," and unravel their significance in understanding Jesus and His vital role in our lives. Through this journey, we'll learn how Jesus's teachings can transform our daily interactions, decision-making, and challenges, guiding us toward a fulfilling relationship where we intimately know Christ and are known by Him. Join us for this exploration that will deepen your faith and impact your daily walk with Jesus.

Membership Matters

BY FRANK VACIRCA



Happy New Year! May it be a year that truly gives our Father the glory and faithfully spreads the gospel to our community. You will remain in my prayers and in the prayers of our membership committee for good health, peace, happiness and a year filled with the abundant energy of the Holy Spirit. We are fortunate to be members of a Christian family at the Chapel who are supportive, loving and most importantly faith based.

Last year, we added 45 new members to our Chapel family. This number is roughly the same as it was for the previous year of 2022. The total membership is 539. Our Lord and Savior has brought many new faces to us. God does not do it alone but above all, He is the prime mover. It remains up to us to be His light and love. As members, can we make a new year's resolution to share with others the ultimate gift of faith? Truly, it is the one gift that keeps on giving. It is the gift of eternal life. Let us together, pledge to go beyond simply being members. Let us be disciples in our church and more so in our community. Imagine if each member of our Chapel brought just one new person to Christ this year! Can we go beyond imagining and promise to honor this request?

It is a heartfelt feeling of exuberance when we leave one of the Chapel's services. Our pastor has given a message that not only instructs us in our faith but also inspires us in our walk. The choir and worship team have filled our ears and our hearts with beauty and love. Don't we want others in our world to hear the word and feel the same way as we do? I am challenging you to invite your neighbors, your friends and members of your family to join us each Sunday. It is not difficult to do, just simply ask them.

Your Membership Committee is composed of Clayton and Jan Smith, Jim and Barbara Tucker, Vicki Callan, Fran Kruse, Howard Jones, and Suzanne Vacirca. We are here to warmly greet you on Sundays and also to help our Chapel family and our guests to feel comfortable and ready to worship and praise God. We are blessed to serve our Father by connecting with you! If you have an interest in participating on the membership committee, please let me know at vacircafrank@gmail.com. Thank you.

Lenten Meditation Booklet

BY SANDY SPROAT



It's the beginning of January and we are well underway in publishing the 2024 Lenten Meditation Booklet in time for Ash Wednesday on February 14, 2024. We've received some meditations and promises from many more! I've been sending emails to many of you, attempting to get our "promised writers" to total 40 and the Holy Spirit is already nudging you to write.

Writers' final deadline is January 26, 2024, so there is plenty of time for you to decide on a topic and begin crafting your meditation; 375-word max, including the title and scripture passage. We are always hopeful that newer members will contribute to this prayerful publication that's been published every year for more than 20 years! Please pray about joining us and call me for more information or stop by the office and ask to see old copies for further information. Your written words will be a blessing to the hundreds who read them; I promise!

Unshakable

BY MARK EDWARDS



Hebrews 12: 28-29 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe: for our God is a consuming fire.

There is a lot going on in the world right now. Each of us has pondered the thought of what our nation and world is going to look like in the future. Every generation asks these same questions. While none of us has the answers, we can take comfort in knowing how the story ultimately ends with Christ on the throne.

This passage above from Hebrews acknowledges that every civilization will cease to exist one day. Like so many of them already have, they will either fall before Jesus returns or they will fall when He returns. God's kingdom is the only one that "cannot be shaken."

Relationships, our health, careers, possessions, and hobbies/interests all captivate much of our time and attention. Each of these can be true blessings in our lives, but they will likely be "shaken" at some point. They each need to be held in proper balance with a kingdom mindset or we risk their becoming idols that compete with our devotion to God.

Idols are takers. They drain us. They offer promise but ultimately fail to deliver what we expect from them. What they do deliver comes with diminishing returns. We'll eventually need more than they can provide before moving on to something else offering even greater deceptions.

On the other hand, if we steward each of these as gifts from God, they fulfill His intended purpose in our lives. Godly stewardship helps us recognize the true source of these gifts. Each of them is to be enjoyed and preserved for His glory. We worship the Giver, not the gifts.

To what are we unhealthily clinging that is "shakable" in our lives? Matthew 7:24-27 compares the wise man who built his house on the "rock" versus the foolish man who built his house on the shifting sand. To build "on the rock" means that we will be hearing and responding disciples of Christ. We weather the storms of life through faith and obedience because our house is on the solid foundation of God's unshakable Kingdom.

Climate Change

BY JOE MARASCO



Today, nothing that man does or doesn't do will have any significant effect on the world's climate. Significant reductions in particulate pollution have already occurred and have acceptable cost/benefit ratios. I can remember the street lights being on in Pittsburgh at noon in 1944 when the steel mills were going full blast during WWII. We have found cost effective ways to deal with particulate pollution, but trying to control carbon dioxide emissions has reached the point of diminishing return. Today's environmentalism is one of the biggest "scientific" hoaxes in human history.

While it is true that increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels cause terrestrial warming, the effect is minuscule and only one of many factors and not the determining factor affecting climate. Earthly temperatures are affected by multiple factors including sun spot activity, precipitation, humidity, winds and ocean currents, topography, latitude and elevation. Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines is an active volcano that erupted in 1991 sending tons of volcanic ash into the atmosphere that resulted in blocking the sun's rays causing cooling of the earth's climate for 3 years.

Climate is even more complicated than indicated above. The most recent grand solar minimum occurred during the Maunder Minimum of 1645-1710, which led to reduction of solar radiation by 0.22% from the modern one and a decrease of the average terrestrial temperature by 1.0-1.5 degrees Centigrade. Interestingly, the Sun's magnetic field flips from pole to pole every 11 years and grand solar minima occur every 350 to 400 years. We're due for another Maunder Minimum to begin around the middle of the current century with a period of global cooling as the result.

Environmentalism, led by Western elites, denies third world countries in Africa, South America and elsewhere the tools to reduce their endemic poverty. Fossil fuels are the most efficient way to lift them out of poverty. God conceived, created, sustains and controls the natural world. Fossil fuels are part of God's plan for his people.

Furthermore, the mining of lithium for electric vehicle batteries is not a solution since it pollutes water sources, produces large scale mining waste and wastes millions of gallons of water while incidentally releasing large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

So my friends, believe in God who conceived, created, and controls the natural world as well as the spiritual world. The only climate that we need to worry about is the internal climate in our hearts and minds. We need an internal climate that is receptive to God's Word as Jesus tells us in the parable of the Sower in Matthew 13: 3-9.

Chapel Happenings



Chapel Calendar

January 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Chapel Office Closed	2	3 Choir Practice 2:45 pm	4 Adventures in Prayer 8:55 am	5	6
7 Sunday Bible Class 10:15 am	8 Petal Pushers & Pedal Express 10 am Coed Bible Study 10 am	9	10 Choir Practice 2:45 pm	11 Outreach 1 pm	12 Men's Breakfast 7:30 am	13
14 Sunday Bible Class 10:15 am	15 Petal Pushers & Pedal Express 10 am Coed Bible Study 10 am	16 Tuesday Bible Study 10:30 am	17 Osprey Village Communion 1:45 pm Choir Practice 2:45 pm	18 Adventures in Prayer 8:55 am Board Meeting 10 am	19	20
21 Sunday Bible Class 10:15 am	22 Petal Pushers & Pedal Express 10 am Coed Bible Study 10 am	23 Tuesday Bible Study 10:30 am	24 Choir Practice 2:45 pm	25	26	27
28 Sunday Bible Class 10:15 am	29 Petal Pushers & Pedal Express 10 am Coed Bible Study 10 am	30 Tuesday Bible Study 10:30 am	31 Choir Practice 2:45 pm			

Amelia Plantation Chapel

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