



AMELIA PLANTATION CHAPEL

Footprints

Monthly Newsletter

April 2024

A Letter From The Pastor

Shepherding Ministry at Amelia Plantation Chapel

BY KEN JONES, SENIOR PASTOR

Dear Chapel Family,

Our Chapel's Vision Statement is "To develop mature Christians who compassionately respond to the needs of others." So, what does a "mature Christian" discipleship profile look like in the life of a Chapel Member? Well, here are some of my thoughts on what God is calling us to be and do as we apply the Lordship of Jesus Christ to our lives:

- **Jesus Our First Love:** Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, is our First Love. We love the Triune God because He first loved us. We proclaim Christ and Him crucified. Our joy is knowing Jesus personally and following Him always for He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). Jesus is our perfect Prophet, Priest, and King who shed His precious blood for us on the Cross and is the Risen One who is coming again in glory!
- **Bible Engagement:** Each person reading the Bible, knowing our identity in Christ, listening to the Word of God preached in worship and taught in Bible studies. Becoming more like Christ by growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus through Faith, Hope and Love.
- **Seeking God in Christ:** The Chapel is dedicated to the glory of God so we treasure worshipping with God's gathered people and being edified by Biblical Fellowship at the Chapel each Sunday; daily seeking God through prayer and thanksgiving, while living in a way that pleases God by "each contributing our time, talents, and treasures" to Him.
- **Great Commandment Church:** We love the Lord and we love our neighbors. Putting our spiritual gift(s) to use in worshiping God and serving others.
- **Great Commission Church:** Equipped to share the Gospel with all. Our God is a missionary God, so "each a minister; each a missionary." Inviting an unchurched person to attend a church service/program because the church exists for the benefit of its non-members.

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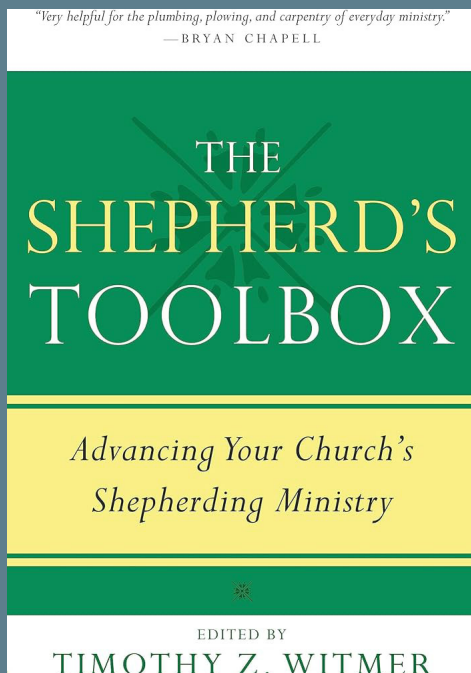
Pastor Continued

- Following Jesus and Denying Self: Joyful to celebrate Christ's life throughout the church year from Advent to Pentecost, so He gets the glory as we follow in His footsteps. Obeying God, repenting of negative attitudes; demonstrating a humble, teachable spirit with a demeanor of sweet reasonableness. Dedicated to finishing life well-aligned with God's glory, gospel and plan.
- Exercising Faith: Trusting God in difficult circumstances; believing God has a purpose for one's life. Desperately dependent upon the power of the Holy Spirit to live a life worthy of our heavenly call. Believing that authentic biblical Christianity will be blessed by God.
- Integrity In Relationships: Getting together with other Christians by participating in biblical fellowship. Praying for others, loving others, mentoring others, living ethically, sharing our story of how Christ saved us. Communicating truth in love while protecting the church's peace, purity and unity.
- Interdenominational Family: Respecting all Christian denominations, yet rejoicing in being a "Christ-Centered, Bible-Based, and Ministry-Focused Chapel Family." Committed to balanced Christianity as expressed in the motto, "In-Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All-Things, Love." Acknowledging that we do not have it all together; but together in Christ, we have it all.
- Guardians of the Gospel: On the authority of God's Word alone, we believe that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone to the glory of God alone. Together, these truths form the foundation of and the guardrails for God's household of faith. We will guard the Gospel and hold forth the Word of Life to all (Philippians 2:16).

With the Lord Jesus as our Shepherd,
Ken Jones/Senior Pastor

Chapel Library

BY LINDA COLE



*The Shepherd's Toolbox, Advancing Your Church's
Shepherd Ministry,*
edited by Timothy Z. Witmer.



When you get a new appliance or gadget, do you read the instruction book first or do you (like most people) casually toss it aside and fend for yourself? How many times, after flailing around, do you find yourself hunting for that same instruction book because you realize that the secret to success is hidden in it? I encourage you to think of this book as a very handy instruction book for church leaders who want to shepherd their flock successfully. Timothy Witmer has asked several ministers, including our very own Pastor Ken Jones, to share their experiences and advice in this worthwhile endeavor. If you are one of the leaders here at Amelia Chapel, I encourage you to hunt down this "instruction book" in the Chapel Library sooner rather than later.

Upcoming Men's Breakfasts

April—Chapel Member Harry DeNoers will speak on Friday, April 12 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.

May—News-leader columnist Richard Doster will join us on Friday, May 10 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?

Sharing Jesus, Sowing Seeds!

Easter Baskets, Homeless Children Ministries, Inc.

BY CLAUDIA SMITH



Thank you, dear Chapel Family, for sharing your love through service and support for our Nassau County homeless children and their families. Thank you to the 27 donors who contributed so generously. Thank you to the 29 dear folks who helped prepare the 130 baskets for children ages 1-18. Thank you to the 4 drivers who transported the baskets to Yulee! Thank you for making our 9th annual Easter Basket Ministry go so smoothly. Several parents and caregivers for homeless children were at the Clothes Closet when we arrived. They were so grateful to receive the baskets for their children. The school liaison, Mollie Cressey, helped unload, along with 2 other volunteers, Judy and Susan.

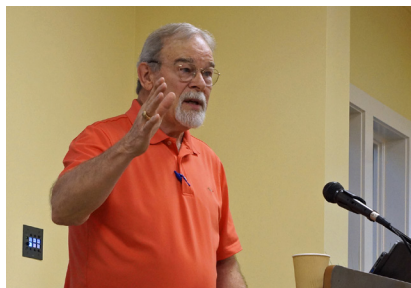
The baskets contained New Testament Bibles, Easter activity books, devotionals, prayer journals, Bible verse coins and bookmarks, Easter story books, necklaces and bracelets with crosses, and Easter greeting cards with handwritten messages in them. Personal care items, art and school supplies, toys, stuffed animals, and snacks filled the baskets to overflowing.

We ask God to bless each family and each child who receives a basket—that they will want to learn more about Jesus and His Love for them. We are sowing seeds!



March Men's Breakfast Recap

BY BILL LITTLE



The men gathering for the March breakfast at the Chapel were blessed with a presentation by Dr. Stacy Rinehart, founder of MentorLink International. This ministry offers leadership training throughout the world for those leaders with little or no Biblical training. Dr. Rinehart shared with us that less than 5% of the pastors and ministry leaders around the world have any seminary or Biblical training.

The training by MentorLink begins with the Leaders Covenant based on Matthew 16:24-27 where Jesus proclaims "If anyone would come after me, he must take up his cross and follow me." These men and women affirm that they want to grow in Christlikeness as leaders and make a commitment to lead more like Christ. Further, they are taught to multiply themselves by mentoring other leaders and pastors much like Jesus did with the Twelve, like Barnabas did with Paul and John Mark and like Paul did with Timothy, Titus and many others. This multiplication of leaders and pastors is essential to building the quality and quantity of Christlike leaders needed in every nation and language around the world.

One of the ministry's most effective tools for leadership development is their video-based discipling resource produced in partnership with the Jesus Film. This is known as *Days with Jesus*. It has been translated into 46 languages, reaching people in over 168 countries. In addition to the main languages of the world, MentorLink strategically developed *Days with Jesus* in many places in the Muslim world. To view *Days With Jesus* go to www.Mentorlink.org.

MentorLink also does live training and mentoring with pastors and ministry leaders. Last year, they conducted training and mentoring in 52 nations. All of MentorLink's materials are available on the MentorLink.org website.

One such example of live training is Sam from Chennai, India. Sam is the leader of a Trade School. When he first saw the Leader's Covenant, he was deeply touched by it and knew it was needed among many pastors in his part of India. He developed a one-day seminar. Over the last two years, he has conducted 37 of these events, with over 1700 pastors attending. Many of these pastors came to deep repentance for the way they have ignored the ways of Jesus in their leadership and ministry. The call of these "Covenant Leaders" is to live and lead like Jesus.

At the end of Dr. Rinehart's presentation it became obvious to all that MentorLink is making a positive impact throughout the world.



Expect The Unexpected

BY JENNIFER ST. CLAIR



The amazing sights and wonders I see on the St. Johns River Ferry each week always put a smile on my face. Whether it's playful dolphins swimming beside the ferry as we make our way to the Heckscher side or entertaining pelicans sitting on the dock posts preening and grooming with an occasional neck stretch up to the heavenlies as we passengers await take-off. Who cannot help but be amused at all this activity?

A few rides ago, a pair of pelicans caught my attention. I quickly exited my vehicle and rushed to the side of the ferry in order to capture a closeup shot of them before the warning horn sounded alert that all cars were onboard and ready to proceed. They were smack dab in front of me! So close I could almost touch their feathers. Initially, each pelican twisted its neck and head to pluck out whatever little insect or parasite had no business being there. But, the sweetest gesture then occurred. I watched one begin to assist the other in the grooming process by poking its beak into those thick feathers.

Quite honestly, I have never given a thought as to why a pelican pecks at his feathers. Have any of you? It would seem logical to me there could be an annoyance of some sort buried beneath the protective covering. Well, yes and no. Ectoparasites and mites can attack them and thus require removal.

However, there is another answer. The main function of preening behavior is to waterproof the feathers by distributing preen oil from the uropygial gland at the base of the tail to the feathers in addition to positioning feathers that have become separated.

Let's get back to the two up-close-and-personal pelicans in my photo. They obviously appeared to be showing some affection to each other to my mind's eye. Voila! They were! It's called allopreening, where a bird uses its bill to groom a mate, twirling each individual feather in its beak. Seems like love was in the air that morning and lucky me got to witness it first hand. I am soooo grateful for my multi-trips to the Chapel!!!

As I perused the many articles on pelican characteristics, a 'symbolism' tab caught my attention. Click! Did you know the pelican was believed to pierce its own breast with its beak and feed its young the blood? Although the story of the pelican pre-dates Christianity, it was used in early churches to illustrate the blood shed by Christ Jesus to save the World. Personally, I have not seen any artwork using pelicans in the many churches and cathedrals I have visited in this country and abroad. However, Durham Cathedral in the UK has a lectern, dating from the late 19th century and designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, depicting a golden pelican in her piety.

Surprise elements definitely occur with every article I write for Footprints. There are too many times to count where I have no clue what the subject will be much less how the storyline shall evolve. This was one of them. And to think my intention was to share a cute picture of two little pelicans sitting on the dock. God just had something else in mind. When I lifted a prayer before sitting at the computer earlier today...

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer." Psalm 19:14 (KJV)

...He heard my prayer!!! Amen.

Christian Education

BY JON SCHNEIDER

Hopefully, everyone had a chance to participate in our some or all of our activities in March, beginning with Dennis Hall's excellent Sunday School classes on the evidence for Christ's resurrection. We also wrapped up the month of March with the Chapel's annual Easter Egg Hunt, and finished our study of Billy Graham's excellent book, *The Secret of Happiness in the Men's and Women's Tuesday classes.*



Beginning in April, the Sunday School class will start studying Peter's epistles, starting with a look at Peter's life taken from the gospels and the book of Acts. Jon Schneider will be teaching on Peter and his epistles throughout the summer. On April 28 and May 5, Jan Smith will be teaching while Jon is on vacation. Jan is one of the Chapel's most popular teachers, filling the classroom to overflowing every Monday with her Bible lessons. Jan has been teaching for 33 years, including 12 years at the Chapel. Her Sunday classes will be titled "What Man is This?" a study of John 1:1-14. Jan will look at how each verse portrays both who Jesus is and what He does. Also stay tuned for Jan to return in the fall with a series of classes on Paul's prayers from the book of Ephesians. If you would like to receive weekly e-mail updates of the Sunday School classes, please contact Jon Schneider by e-mailing jspadastra@outlook.com or calling 904-310-9506.

Jan Smith is also wrapping up her study on "Walking in the Spirit," using Watchman Nee's book, *The Normal Christian Life*. Beginning on April 1, she will start "One Body in Christ," looking at the basic facts of the Blood of Christ for forgiveness and salvation, and the Cross of Christ for our death, burial, and resurrection in Christ. Students will see that what started as an individual work in each of us has now become a corporate work as we learn to work together. The Church literally becomes One BODY in CHRIST; each member doing its calling and thereby blessing the whole Body as we accomplish God's Will by the leading of His Spirit.

Finally, we are in full planning and preparation stages for our Vacation Bible School that runs from June 24-28. This year's theme is "SCUBA Diving into Friendship with God." The VBS team is still looking for volunteers for set-up, guidance of students, and clean-up. We are also searching for someone to lead this ministry up. If you are interested in being the leader contact Jon Schneider at jpsadastra@outlook.com MOST IMPORTANT, though, if you have children, grandchildren, or great grandchildren, or even if you know some children in the community, please make sure they know about this free, fun, and educational way to learn about Jesus and His love for them. Check in the Narthex for invitation cards and important information about the program and how to register.

Membership Matters

BY FRANK VACIRCA



I am not blessed to be a numbers person but recently I did an informal survey of Chapel members and asked them “ What do you like about the Chapel?’ and” “Why Are You A Member?’ Upon reading a synopsis of my findings, you may not be surprised. However, their responses may be a refresher as to why our Chapel is important to our lives and to the life of our community and the world.

At the top of their responses was that our pastoral leadership is strong in scripture and in biblical testimony. The Sunday message is inspirational and reaffirms our faith as believers in a world that needs to hear Pastor Jones regularly. Following that response is that our pastor is approachable. He makes time to meet and talk to us , one-on-one. The pastor visits the members of our Chapel family who are in the hospital or sick at home. Coming in at Number 3 is that Pastor Jones empowers our congregation to be leaders in our Faith to spread the gospel. Over time, the Chapel has always been blessed with strong pastoral leadership.

Praise and Worship is an engaging and important component in our church services. From the gathering music to the choir’s voices in communal song, music is a strong connection to our time of devotion as a church family. The consensus appears that we are very fortunate, blessed may be a better word, to have people who are not only talented but are committed to giving God the glory not only with their voices but their skills and talents playing musical instruments.

The sanctuary is always ready for both services on Sunday. The flowers, the altar cloths and the overall beauty of the church reflects our love of God. There is a cleanliness and order that is easy to take for granted . The worship team ensures us an engaging setting that is conducive to communicating with our Lord and Savior in scripture, music and prayer. There is the sunlight of nature and God’s effusive love present during our time of worship.

One recurring response to my questions is the overall feeling that our Chapel Family is happy, loving and truly cares for one another. Wouldn’t it be great if our world embraced this behavior? This feeling goes beyond the greeters at both services and the warm and wonderful fellowship between services. It is evident in the weekly Pastoral Prayers, Petal Pushers, Chapel Tables and the Food Tree for members who are infirmed at home. The new Shepherding Program ensures that Chapel members are never out of the loop. They are simply a phone call and a prayer away from help and from love.

The Global Outreach Committee was defined by one person as God’s stewardship front and center at home and in the world. There is very little doubt that the Chapel’s charitable giving, thanks to its generous members, reaches far and wide. Charitable Giving is a major part of the Chapel’s DNA! Having a Nursery when needed and also having two Christian men who not only know how to direct traffic but display genuine affection for members and visitors is also an important part of Chapel life.

Lastly, we enjoy and appreciate a dedicated office staff and our always helpful custodian. These folks are paid employees of the Chapel but their attention to our needs on a daily basis helps make the Chapel run smoothly each and every day. We are truly blessed with a church that shows its love in big ways and in small ways but in all ways it is about giving our Father the glory. I am certain that you can think of more reasons why this beautiful place we call the Chapel is so very special. If I missed you, I will try to get you in my next informal survey. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support.

New Subject: Monday Bible Study

BY JAN SMITH



ONE BODY IN CHRIST

Starting April 1 we will be studying what it means to be One Body in Christ. First, we will see that everything in the Bible is now ours because we are joint heirs with Christ. We will learn that while these great gifts of God are indeed ours, we need the teaching and training of the Holy Spirit in order to walk them out.

God is a great teacher: very patient, and kind. Through His Spirit He takes us from being a baby Christian into becoming mature in Christ. God's will for His children is that we all reach the measure of the fullness of Christ. He works this in us line upon line, precept upon precept over many years. Through this process we receive revelation of the Godhead. The continual goal of our Bible Study is greater intimacy with Jesus.

We would love to have new men and women come join us on Monday mornings as we study the Bible together, trusting the Holy Spirit to give us new revelation of God's ways and God's thoughts. Monday Bible study will start this new subject on April 1, at 10AM in the Meeting Room. Contact Jan Smith for more information: janiceusmith@bellsouth.net

Online Resource Recommendation

BY JON SCHNEIDER

In last month's Footprints newsletter, we began a new feature recommending online resources for your consideration. This month, we are recommending the teachings of Bruce Gore. He is a regular teacher at the First Presbyterian Church in Spokane, Washington, and an adjunct professor at Whitworth University. His teachings are delivered in plain English for believers at every stage in their faith journey. You can find studies through the entire Bible and also topical lessons on issues such as church history, science, and philosophy. For time well spent, check him out on his YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@GoreBruce> or on his own website, <https://www.brucegore.com/bwg/About.aspx>.

West Virginia, Almost Heaven

BY JOE MARASCO



In April 2023, I attended a wonderful concert by the Amelia Island Singers at the Chapel. Before starting the second half of the concert, there was an audience sing along of John Denver's song Country Roads led by Chapel guitarist, Terry Thrift, extolling the wonders of West Virginia. In a recent discussion of immigration issues, a TV network pundit who lives in Virginia, snidely commented about having a border with West Virginia.

West Virginia has its problems with poverty and drug abuse along with some others. But the people are some of the most welcoming and helpful in the nation. That statement is based upon real experiences with West Virginia natives. Every person that I have known from the state has been kind and unassuming. They would "give you the shirt off their back." Let me give you a couple personal examples of my experiences in the state.

Many years ago, we were returning from a family vacation at Kiawah island and wanted to stop for a break south of Weston, West Virginia after dark. Unfortunately, the car hit a concrete block on the turn-off that caused a flat tire. We limped to the convenience store and service station. My AAA membership apparently was worthless at that time of day so I tried to change the tire with no success. The convenience store manager noticed my difficulty and said "Let me call my brother to help you." His brother after having been awakened from his sleep arrived and quickly removed the tire from the Mercedes whose lugs were the reverse of usual domestic cars and I was tightening them rather than loosening them. When I offered to pay him, he said "You don't owe me any money. Just help somebody whose in trouble when you get a chance."

Two other car incidents occurred a few years later and involved the West Virginia State Police. They bent over backwards to help me and were the kindest and friendliest law officers that I had ever experienced. Service was in their DNA and went beyond enforcing the law.

Let's respect all people as children of God and think twice before making stereotypical assumptions about them. Let's evaluate people as individuals and not by other criteria. On the other hand, most West Virginians are good role models for kindness and humility. Perhaps, that is influenced by the natural beauty of the state. It is the pinnacle of beauty in the Appalachian chain- Mountain Momma, Almost Heaven!

About the Volunteer Chapel Leadership

BY LORELEI JACOBS



Would you like to know more about the volunteer leadership committees of the Amelia Plantation Chapel? If so, read on!

The Amelia Plantation Chapel Governing Board of Officers (GBO) is composed of nine volunteer members initially identified by their Chapel involvement and active Bible study and confirmed through Chapel membership vote. Four of the nine Governing Board of Officers (GBO) serve as the GBO's Executive Board in the roles of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Pastor Jones is also member of the Executive Board, in a non-voting capacity.

Each of the nine Governing Board of Officers is asked to serve for a three-year period, a substantial commitment of time and labor which is gratefully and humbly performed in the service of Jesus Christ. In addition to serving on the GBO, each member, including members of the Executive Board, also serves as Chair of one of nine GBO Subcommittees: Buildings & Grounds; Communications and Marketing; Christian Education; Fellowship; Finance; Membership; Outreach; Pastoral Care; and Worship. Dozens of volunteer Chapel members also serve on the nine Subcommittees, helping to determine and complete Subcommittee tasks and activities. The Governing Board of Officers (GBO) and each Subcommittee meet at least monthly and work between meetings with the shared objectives of helping guide the Unsaved to the joy of Christian fellowship, and everlasting life available only through acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and to grow Chapel fellowship and discipleship.

In a Footprints article in each of the next nine months, a GBO Subcommittee Chair will share the Mission and Goals of his or her Subcommittee and summarize work accomplished and underway this year. We hope that Chapel members find the articles informative and that they perhaps inspire new future service on a Subcommittee or the GBO.

Thank you!

Lorelei Jacobs, Communications and Marketing Committee Chair

If questions or comments, I can be reached at loreleijacobs15@gmail.com or (813) 363-0375.

Romans 12:11: Not Lagging Behind in Diligence, Fervent in Spirit Serving the Lord.



Chapel Family
BBQ &
Oyster Roast

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

5 PM-OYSTERS

6:15 PM-BBQ DINNER & HYMN SING

AT WALKER'S LANDING

\$30 per person-BBQ dinner only

\$40 per person-oysters & BBQ dinner

Iced tea and lemonade are provided,
or bring a beverage of your choice

RSVP with prepayment to
the Chapel office by April 15

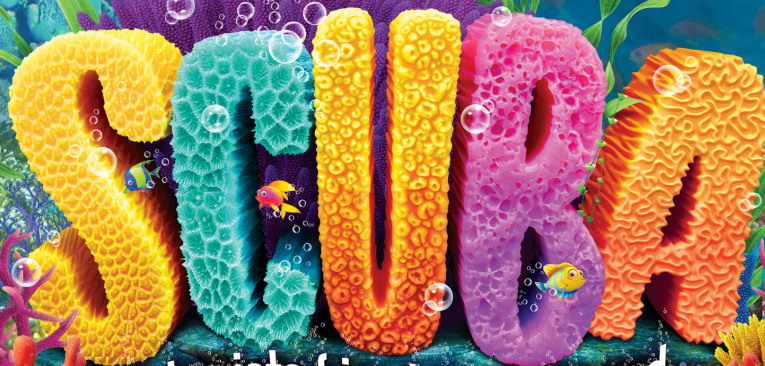
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

JUNE 24-28
9 AM-NOON
AGES 4 YEARS-5TH GRADE

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW WITH
YOUR PHONE CAMERA TO REGISTER



OR REGISTER BY GOING TO OUR
WEBSITE AMELIACHAPEL.COM



diving into friendship with GOD



Chapel Happenings



Chapel Happenings



Chapel Calendar

April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Petal Pushers & Pedal Express 10 am Coed Bible Study 10 am	2	3 Shepherding Meeting 10 am AIP Ladies Book Club 2:30 pm Choir Practice 3 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 3 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	17 Choir Practice 3 pm Osprey Village Communion 1:45 pm	18 Adventures in Prayer 8:55 am Board Meeting 10 am	19	20
21 Sunday Bible Class 10:15 am Chapel BBQ 5 pm	22 Petal Pushers & Pedal Express 10 am Coed Bible Study 10 am	23	24 Choir Practice 3 pm Lakeside Communion 2 pm	25	26	27
28 Sunday Bible Class 10:15 am	29 Petal Pushers & Pedal Express 10 am Coed Bible Study 10 am	30				

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