



The Chapel Herald

An Epiphany Resolution



Every New Year, the secular world resolves to better itself. Professions of self-improvement are the mantras that propel the need in us to excel, and the purveyors of betterment (e.g. fitness centers, weight loss programs, plastic surgeons, etc.) depend on such resolutions for their financial sustenance.

For those who profess Christianity, our focus in the New Year is not on ourselves, but our dependence on the grace of God for the excellence we seek in our lives. Maybe that's why the first full season of the year is "Epiphany" – a word that means "manifestation" or "shining forth" – which Christians interpret as incidents when the divinity in Jesus Christ break out from his humanity, by which we are reminded that God is indeed with us.

The gospels are full of events when the humanity of Jesus is overcome by his divinity – the Word shining forth from the flesh – and how startling and enlightening the effect is on its recipients. Our gospel readings during this season usually begin with the baptism of Jesus and end with the Transfiguration, interspersed with miraculous works of Jesus as reminders of his incarnate nature. In our daily lives, we typically use the word "epiphany" to describe those occasions when the presence of Christ is with us when we really need it, or when we receive the guidance or wisdom for which we've been praying.

I've always thought that the most revealing aspect of Christ's epiphanies is not the miracle itself, because I accept without reservation his divinity. Rather, what I find most interesting is the reaction of those who witness the epiphanies. Our response to Christ's revelations in our lives can define who we are, and the paths we choose in our journeys through this world.

What better way, then, to start the year, than with the light of Christ shining forth, showing us the way to proceed and grow in God's grace? And where is this

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What Do We Three Kings and the Little League World Series Have in Common?

By Dr. Ashley Smith



Both have their origin in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The Little League Baseball World Series is an annual baseball tournament that was first held 69 years ago in

1947. Each August in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, youth from all over the world come to compete for the title of "World Champions."

90 years before the first pitch, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. wrote the lyrics to the famous carol, "We Three Kings", in 1857. At the time he was serving as the rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsport.

Hopkins initially wrote the carol for a Christmas pageant (We sing this carol in our Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve). Originally titled "Three Kings of Orient", it was sung within his circle of family and friends, and then it was published in 1862.

The carol commemorates the Biblical account from the Gospel of Matthew, when the wise men visited Jesus during His Nativity, and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew never mentions that there were three, nor that they were kings. The number three likely derived from the three gifts.

So if you are ever on Jeopardy and you see categories entitled "Christmas Carols" or "Little League Baseball", there is a good chance that Williamsport, Pennsylvania might be among the correct responses- You're Welcome!

Following yonder star,
Pastor Ashley



The Adoration of the Magi by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo 1660

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light reflected from, but from us, manifested in our relationships and encounters with each other?

The Village Chapel – 2017. What will be our epiphany, and how will we respond to it? It begins with the love of Jesus Christ, showing forth through us, as we sacrifice our self-interests for the sake of our church and the needs of our community. May our epiphany be an epiphany to others, as the light of Christ burns brighter still in Pinehurst.

Yours in Christ,


Pastor John

WORSHIP, ANYONE?

by John Jacobs



Just a gentle reminder to all those “standing in the need of prayer” – which I assume is all of us – that *every* Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel, a prayer service takes place with communion, prayers for those close to us and far away, and a brief homily by Pastor John. Regardless of our present circumstances, we are all in need of prayer, so please consider making Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. a regular feature of your weekly prayer schedule.

The Women's Discussion Group



will meet Thursday, January 10, 2017 at 10 AM in the choir room. All women in the community are welcome to come, discuss the reading, and share opinions. The reading material may be picked up outside Heather's office at TVC.

The reading for January is an essay, called ‘Love—In Other Words’ by Harper Lee, the writer of ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’. This essay was published in the April '61 issue of Vogue magazine.

Ann Torok will facilitate the discussion on January 10. She discovered the article on-line after researching Harper Lee when her book club discussed ‘Go Set a Watchman’, a controversial book, which may have been published without Lee's full permission. Other than those two novels, Harper Lee only wrote a few articles for magazines; Vogue, McCall's (in '61 and '65) and Oprah's magazine, much later, in 2006. Harper Lee died on 2/19/2016.

If you have questions about the Discussion Group, call Molly Thomas, 910-693-7897.

Bulletin Bloopers

Submitted by George Trail

The office staff works hard to ensure that the Sunday Bulletin, the Herald, E-mail blasts and other communications to the congregation are accurate and timely. And they do a great job of it. We thought you might be amused at some of the announcements that found their way in to other churches around the country. And we welcome any submissions that members may have to add a little pulpit humor to the Herald.

Here are a few:

“The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.”

“The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on Water. The sermon this evening: Searching for Jesus.”

“Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.”

“At the evening service tonight, the sermon will be ‘What is Hell?’. Come early and listen to our choir practice.”

“Miss Charlene Mason sang ‘I will not pass this way again,’ giving obvious pleasure to the congregation”

More next month. We think God has a sense of humor.



New Year, New Take on the Shepherd Ministry

By Christine Warren



“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, “ ‘you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment, and the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 22: 36-39

The Renewed Shepherd Ministry: Loving our Village Chapel Neighbors

In last month's Herald article, we highlighted the need to renew this vital Ministry that answers the call of Christ: love your neighbor as yourself. This is not a commandment for a select few, but for all believers. So, going forward, all members of the chapel are encouraged to take an active role in this ministry as both a sheep (believer) and shepherd (caregiver) of their flock. **How will this look?**

Step one: The congregation has been divided into 13 flocks based on geographic proximity and natural boundaries. See below:

1. Pinehurst Village, Old Towne, Donald Ross
2. Pinehurst Lake & Foxfire (West of McKenzie, South of Linden)
3. Pinewild, Cotswold
4. Village Acres, Pinehurst Trace, #6
5. Midland Road East (Longleaf, Talamore, Middletown Place, Pine Needles, Whispering Pines, Pine Knoll and Southern Pines West of HWY1)
6. Forest Creek
7. Belle Meade
8. #7 and #9
9. Morganton Road (Doral Woods, Lawn and Tennis Club, Monticello, & Quail Haven)
10. CCNC
11. Southern Pines (East of Hwy 1 & Penick Village)
12. Aberdeen
13. West End and Seven Lakes



Step 2: In early January, our flock leaders will be announced. Their role will be to notify their flock of a member/neighbor's current need for support and care. This will be done with the use of a questionnaire that the person or family in need completes (by phone or in writing) indicating their individual needs or preferences. This questionnaire will include important information regarding visitations, meals, food allergies, prayer requests, etc. Ideally, different flock members will offer to serve as coordinators for the support efforts. Flock members are also encouraged to notify their Flock Leader and/or Pastors of a neighbor in need.

Step 3: Also, in January, our Flock Leaders will be trained to use the Chapel data base to send out group emails to their flock. For members that do not receive emails, a phone tree will be established. Utilizing this software system, called “Access ACS” will allow our Shepherds to send their emails from any location as long as they have their device with them!! Member and new member contact information will be kept up to date by our own Heather Dunn- bless you Heather!

Step 4: If you have questions, or would like to serve with our implementation team, please contact Christine or Buck Warren at 704.641.5325

Christinewarren10@gmail.com
Buckwarren10@gmail.com



Meet the Raffaele's



If the Village Chapel had a Most Valuable Player award as they do in professional sports, Bev and Jack Raffaele would be among the leading contenders - and the Hall of Fame, too.

Since joining the Village Chapel fifteen years ago, both Bev and Jack Raffaele have served the Chapel and congregation with distinction in a variety of roles - and indeed through some very challenging times and turbulent waters. But the journey that eventually brought them to Pinehurst was a long and interesting one, which enriched their lives in many ways, and helped prepare them for service they have rendered joyfully to us all.

Everyone is familiar with Punxsutawney Phil, the legendary groundhog whose appearance the whole country anticipates every February. Beverly Slater, of good German stock, was born in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania in 1938 but claims she never saw the famous groundhog while she was growing up. Maybe that's because she didn't stay there long enough. When she was just eight years old, her family moved to Wellsboro, Pennsylvania where she graduated from high school before going on to Bay Path College in Massachusetts where she earned her degree in executive secretarial science in 1958. No one named Jack Raffaele was on radar when Bev went to work with Chase Manhattan Bank in New York City.

Jack was born in Brooklyn in 1935 but grew up a rabid Yankee fan. His father worked for a large dairy company and often took Jack with him when he delivered milk to Yankee Stadium. His father was first generation Italian and Jack learned to speak Italian at an early age. When he was five years old, his family moved to New Jersey. Apparently feeling that Jack needed some extra-familial discipline, his parents enrolled him at the Fork Union Military Academy when he was in sixth grade. He spent a couple years at the Valley Forge Military Academy but graduated in 1953 from Fork Union. The military life obviously suited him so when he matriculated at Syracuse University he signed up for the Army ROTC program. In 1957,

he graduated as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

In September 1959, the wife of one of Jack's colleagues arranged a date for Jack in New York City with one of her schoolmate friends. Guess who? Jack and Bev were married the following April and 56 years later remain a formidable team. Bev and Jack have separately and together traveled the world. As an Army engineer, Jack served at Fort Belvoir, Fort Drum, and the University of North Dakota, also in Vietnam, Korea and Germany. After studying Italian together at the Defense Language School in Monterey, California, in preparation for an assignment with the Italian Army, Bev and Jack spent three years in Verona, Italy. Jack wound up his career in Connecticut supervising regional Army Corp of Engineers projects, while Beverly began a civilian career with the American Red Cross. After his retirement in 1981, Jack spent 15 years with Covenant Insurance Company in Hartford, CT.

The Raffaele's gravitated to Pinehurst where Jack's parents had settled in 1970. When Jack's mother passed away in 1982, he bought property in Pinehurst although he and Bev continued to live in Clayton, North Carolina where they had moved in 1995. Their daughter Wende and family still live there. When Bev and Jack made the move to Pinehurst in 2001, they almost immediately joined the Village Chapel and threw themselves wholeheartedly into Chapel activities.

Bev was raised in the Presbyterian Church by parents who took her to Sunday school and Church every week. Jack was baptized in the Catholic Church but his parents were not regular churchgoers. Jack was required to attend chapel at Fork Union and Valley Forge and he and Bev attended services at post chapels as they moved around in the military life. But it was while they were at Fort Belvoir in 1972 that the Raffaele's religious trek reached a turning point. They decided that their religious commitment was too shallow and that they should become more committed Christians. Praise God for that.

Soon after joining the Village Chapel, Jack began working on property management issues and helped develop a standing committee. He also served on the Finance Committee. He still serves on both of those committees. Two years ago, he and Don Goulet became the first male members of the Altar Guild.



Jack has been an usher for 10 years and with the Radio Ministry for the past four years. Beverly served on the Membership Committee, as Chair of the Break Night, Altar Guild and the Chair of the Worship Committee, is active with the Upper Room, Women's Prayer Breakfast, sang in the 9:30 choir and has worked with the Shepherds and Angel Tree programs.

Perhaps the most critical service Jack provided was when he was on the Board of Trustees (2008 to 2010 and 2013) and especially as Chairman in 2010. During his tenure as the chairman, it became apparent to him that tensions were building between the Board and the Senior Pastor over the division of responsibilities as provided for by the Village Chapel Bylaws. The Senior Pastor wanted to usurp personnel, managerial and financial authority that the Bylaws dedicated to the Board. In what was arguably the most difficult period of the Chapel's history, the Senior Pastor sought to replace the Board, which subsequently brought the matter to a specially convened Congregational meeting in early 2011. The congregation voted by a margin of 60% to 40% against removing the Board and changing the Bylaws. The ensuing split was traumatic for the Chapel as some 200 members left, but the Chapel has recovered, membership continues to grow and the Bylaws continue to serve as an excellent and well-conceived structure for the spiritual and administrative management of the Chapel. Jack and others who were involved during that trying time deserve our gratitude for their courage and their love of the Chapel as God's church.

To Beverly and Jack, our heartfelt thanks and may you continue to serve God through our beloved Chapel.



One of our wonderful Caroling groups bring musical Christmas cheer to a local nursing home

KUDOS KORNER

If we gave a KUDOS to each person who helped make the **Angel Tree** such a great success this year (again), we would have to order a new supply. Suffice it to say then, a huge mega-KUDOS to Eleanora Voelkel, Lori Valentinas and the dozens of others who organized and carried out the program and to the dozens of generous members who made it possible for 75 needy families in Moore County to count their blessings this Christmas, one of them being the Village Chapel.

Sharon Trail sends KUDOS to all those who have been giving her empty pill containers to send to clinics in Malawi. They constituted a good portion of the one million containers sent to this very poor country.

KUDOS to Rich Cowell and Doug Sherwood for the energy they have brought to the Men's Ministry. More than twenty Chapel men attended the kickoff program on December 17 where golf pro Kelly Mitchum talked about his journey in the golf world and his faith.

And another KUDOS to Music Director Stephen Gourley and the Chapel Choir for the inspirational music presented with the Carolina Brass on December 18. What a beautiful service!

We think the entire congregation deserves a great big KUDOS for the generous giving on Sunday, December 11. The collection of over \$49,000 brought year-to-date giving to \$630,519, exceeding the \$620,000 that had been budgeted. Well done.

An especially warm KUDOS for all the Chapel carolers who volunteered their time and voices to cheer our members whose mobility is limited. How much does it mean to them? Just look into their eyes. Here is a written expression: "...the music was great...I would appreciate it if you could relay our thanks to all....We are so fortunate to be a part of such a caring group as we have in the Chapel. We have been members for over 30 years and the older we get the more we appreciate the "family". Again, thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. God Bless you all". Is that not a wonderful payment for our efforts? KUDOS of great appreciation to Hunter and Barbara Hess for the wonderful post-caroling Christmas party at their home".

KUDOS, KUDOS, KUDOS.



January Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Gary Gearhart | 15 Bill Matthews |
| Jerry Slade | Zoe Wall |
| Malcolm Ware | Mary Jo Matthies |
| Alice Schalz | John Curtis Anaya |
| Larry Martin | Devina Sherwood |
| Shirlene Bremer | 16 Preston Ross |
| Charlie Abner | 17 Sam Clay |
| 2 Freida Powers | 18 Richard Schalz |
| Charlie Roberts | 19 Judith Sherer |
| 3 Hannah Smith | 20 Diane Tate |
| Ian Woodruff | Sherry Wood |
| Katie Woodruff | Olivia Newman |
| 4 Christine Warren | Ellen Brown |
| Amita Sherwood | Ellisa Granata |
| 5 Edna Devansky | 22 Al Mangum |
| LuAnn Schneider | Alex Grimshaw |
| 6 Ted Williams | Franz Robinson |
| Laura Goodman | Pamela Bradley |
| 9 Lindsey Lashmit | 23 Juanita Williford |
| 10 Joan Mohr | Bill Wetmore |
| Martha Romero | Susan Culp |
| 11 Jane Leonard | 24 Jack White |
| 12 Sara Woodruff | 25 Ralph Newman |
| Robert Adams | Dan Joslin |
| 13 Pat Willis | Lee Carbaugh |
| Janis Sholtis | 26 Harriet Neely |
| Jonathan | 28 Liz Skvarla |
| Newman | 29 Pat Vickers |
| 14 Jim Busby | Ryan Walsh |
| Joyce Bauman | Charles Meyer |
| | 30 Walter Bull |

Happy Anniversary

- 3 Charlie and Lyn Roberts
 8 Gene and Jill Bonacci
 9 Al and Edie Ashdown
 10 Rich and Cricket Cowell
 18 Tim and Lesley Woodruff
 23 Henry and Louise Weiss
 26 Gary and Nancy Strickfaden
 30 Charles and Diana Meyer

Village Chapel Directory: The Production You've All Been Waiting For!

As many of you know, it has been quite a while since an updated directory has been published. One of our goals of 2016 was to distribute the latest Village Chapel Member Directory. Things did not go as planned due to unforeseen issues with the company we partnered with. Heather Dunn of the office has made it her personal mission to create and distribute an in-house directory. Unfortunately, we are unable to use the photographs that were taken this past Spring due to copy write laws. The months of January and February will be dedicated to getting photographs of all members (ones you actually want to be published.) Heather will be available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m. if you would like to schedule an appointment. Sundays that photographs will be taken on will be announced via email as well as in the Sunday bulletins.

For those of you who wish to provide your own photos, you may email them to Heather, however, there is an option through our website. We have recently updated our ACS system to allow members to login through www.tvcpinehurst.com to access their accounts, change information, submit payments, and do so much more than previous years. Follow the directions of the insert included in this issue of the Chapel Herald to set up your Access ACS account. Once in your account, there is a drop down option when you mouse over "Home." Click "My Account" from this menu. In this section, you will be able to personalize your account. On the right side, there is an "edit" option. Once you click "edit" you will see where you can upload your own photo.

Guy Veni and Heather Dunn are both willing to help anyone who would like further assistance. Guy may be reached at gveni@nc.rr.com or (910)295-1045. Heather can be reached at heather@tvcpinehurst.com or (910)295-6003. Here's to a new year and a new and improved system!

Friendship Fridays will Resume!

The first Friendship Friday of 2017 will be held on January 20th. Please check your e-mails and Sunday bulletin for more information to come.

Please contact the office if your birthday or anniversary information is incorrect, or if you need to be added to the list.



CHAPEL CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS

The ladies who worked so hard to pull off the Women's Christmas Brunch on December 3, 2016 did a fantastic job. Everything was wonderful and your hard work did not go unnoticed!



Thank you to all who helped make the **2016 Angel Tree** event a huge success! The Village Chapel was able to bless so many people through this ministry.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We are thrilled to announce that we had 45 total new members join The Village Chapel congregation in 2016!

The Village Chapel is pleased to announce that the following members joined us in **December** of 2016:

Timothy and Maureen Buckley

Liza Myrick

Will and Nicole Bacic

Welcome to The Village Chapel!

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of The Village Chapel, please come by the office to pick up a New Member worksheet.

The *Chapel Herald* is a publication of The Village Chapel, 10 Azalea Rd., Village of Pinehurst, NC 28374; www.TVCPinehurst.com
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The Village Chapel

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