



AN INDEPENDENT, INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH
UNIFYING ALL CHRISTIANS THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD
PINEHURST, NC SINCE 1898



The Chapel Herald

WORSHIP | LEARN | SERVE

Rev. Dr. Ashley Smith, Senior Pastor



The Incarnation – A Reflection on Titus 2:11-14 “...the Grace of God Has Appeared...”

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this

present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (NIV)

It's not often that we think of the Book of Titus when thinking about the incarnation of Jesus. Yet, the Apostle Paul gives us a pericope that not only helps us to understand the Incarnation, but how we should respond in kind.

Notice that Paul refers to Jesus initially as “the grace of God.” Jesus was the embodiment of Grace – the unmerited favor of the Father. “Grace” here meaning, that God, out of love and care for His creation, gave Jesus. If you were to describe God’s grace, it would be reflected in the person, nature, and ministry of Jesus. For example, to explain grace as, God giving us what we don’t deserve, or to accept us as His children, based solely upon His good will, and not our “good works” (or not so good works), is most definitely reflected in the incarnation of Christ. Jesus is God’s gift of Grace to us. Jesus is God’s good will gesture to us. Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God (Col 1:15). How do we see God’s grace? Behold the Son of God! How do we receive God’s grace? Accept Jesus. Receive Him – like opening a present on Christmas morning. The gift of Jesus was and is the gift of God. God gave Himself.

Now consider our response to this indescribable gift (2 Cor. 9:15). Paul says the incarnation teaches us “to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives...” But how? Through Christ’s teaching and His life as an example, we learn and

are encouraged to put into practice holy living. What is holy living? Do what Jesus did. Say what Jesus said. Our response to God’s grace, is first realizing that there is a better way to live our earthly lives, a way that is more fulfilling more pleasing to God, and it is allowing God’s spirit in us to give us victory of the reign of sin, ungodliness, worldly desires that war against God’s will for us. Paul says that this is all possible because God gave Jesus to us, in order to redeem us. To be redeemed is to be purchased, bought back, freed, delivered, made holy. So, it’s the Incarnation of Jesus that allows us to just say, “No!” – no to self, no to our own worldly lusts that war against our spirit, while saying “Yes!” to Jesus. The Incarnation allows us to do and believe, what we could do, and we didn’t believe before Grace appeared.



Advent Blessings,

Pastor Ashley



Also in this Issue—
Pastor Trey pg.2
Meet the Congregation pg. 3
New Members -pg. 4
Music pg. 5
Children and Youth -pg. 6 & 7
Outreach pg. 10
Birthdays and Anniversaries -pg.10
and much more!

Rev. Trey Majure, Associate Pastor



“A Light In The Darkness”


Advent is here, and many Christians throughout the world celebrate Advent with the beautiful tradition of lighting the Advent wreath. The Bible as well as the entirety of the Christian faith is full of symbolism, one of them

light, presumably light in the darkness. One theory for how Christmas lights became a tradition was as a way of lighting up the darkness, as the Christmas season takes place during the darkest point of the year. This light symbolized Christ coming into the world, but also symbolized the Church exuding the light of Christ in His world.

The Advent wreath is another example of this powerful symbolism. As we approach Christmas and the coming of the Christ child, we light more and more candles as the light becomes brighter and brighter. The first candle is sometimes referred to as the “Prophet Candle.” This candle displays the hope that the prophets had in the coming King, and the salvation found in Him.

The second candle is called the “Bethlehem Candle” as we remember the incarnation of Christ, and how the King of Kings was placed in a manger. Often, we relate this to the great love that God has for us, that he was willing to give up eve-

rything to meet us where we are and save us. The third candle is the “Shepherd Candle” and displays the joy that the shepherds had at the coming of the young King. Shepherds were considered unclean and outsiders from the Jewish community, but it was the Shepherds who first recognized Christ and worshipped Him.

The fourth candle is the “Angel Candle” and it represents peace, as the Angels declared peace on earth at the birth of Christ. And lastly is the “Christ Candle” which is lit on Christmas Eve, representing the purity and power of Jesus. Jesus truly is the light of the world, come into the darkness. During this season may we focus on His light, and do as the shepherds did that wonderful night, worship the King. 

In Christ,

Trey



ATTENTION: END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Internal Revenue Service regulations require that contributions for **2023 must be received** at the

Chapel *or postmarked no later than*

December 31, 2023

*Gifts received after that date will
be posted to 2024 contributions*

TVC Scholarship Program

The Village Chapel Scholarship Program, new last year, is now open for applications for 2024-2025. Students already enrolled in college or graduating high school seniors are eligible to apply. Up to \$10,000 in scholarships will be awarded for the 2024-2025 school year. Applications are due by January 31. Details of the program and application instructions are available on The Village Chapel website. <https://tvcpinehurst.com/tvc-scholarship-program-2/>

Questions should be directed to Kay Beran, Secretary, The Village Chapel Foundation Committee, at kayberan770@gmail.com or 910-315-3322.

Meet the Congregation– The Lovells



Bob and Connie Lovell have been attending the 8:00 service at The Village Chapel since they purchased their first house in Pinehurst in 1998. They were drawn by the history of the Chapel, the quality of the sermons, and the fact that they could walk there from their house. They moved to CCNC in 2008 and still attend the 8:00 service—although they now have to drive to get there.

The Lovells are both from Michigan. Bob graduated from the University of Michigan, where he was a linebacker on the football team. Connie graduated from Stephens College in Missouri, before returning to Michigan where she started her own interior design studio in Birmingham. It was there that she met Bob, although she already knew his name from attending Michigan football games with her older brother while she was still in high school.

Bob was working for a brokerage firm in Birmingham when he spotted a beautiful girl driving a convertible and said “that’s the girl I am going to marry.” A friend told him he wanted to introduce him to the owner of a design studio next door to his office, thinking she would be a good match for Bob. They hit it off and Connie agreed to go to dinner with him; then he noticed the convertible he had seen and realized that Connie was the very same girl with whom he had already fallen in love.

After more than sixty years in years in Michigan, punctuated by visits to their home in Pinehurst, the Lovells retired to their permanent residence at The Country Club of North Carolina, where they reside with their three dogs. Both are active (and accomplished) golfers. Connie contributes commentaries to The Pilot, and to The North State Journal. She also maintains her skills in interior design, and played an active role in the recent renovation of CCNC’s Clubhouse.

Bob and Connie are friendly and outgoing, and although it requires getting up very early on a Sunday morning, be sure to look for them and say hello at the 8:00 service.

Contributed by Pam Bradley 

The Chrismon Tree

On Monday, November 27, our Chrismons Committee got together to decorate the annual Chrismon Tree.

Each Chrismon (or Christ Monogram) represents Christ’s life, His word and His resurrection. They are all hand made by members of the Chapel.



Meet Our New Members

RICHARD & TOYE PAYNE

Originally from Kernersville, NC, Richard & Toye, have been dividing their time between their homes in Kernersville and Pinehurst, for the past 20 years. They are lifelong Baptists and attend the 9:30 service.

Richard came to Pinehurst in the '80's when he was the state director of Prison Fellowship. The Outreach Director of TVC took a "green kid" and helped him in his ministry. TVC supported him for 5 years. They bought a house in Pinehurst in 2004 and have attended TVC when in town. Richard attended Bill Wetmore's Bible study for a number of years and helped with the Men's Ministry. Richard and Toye walked through the Bible with Pastor Ashley in 2022-2023.

They attend part-time at TVC because Richard still works as the chaplain of the race team at Richard Childress Racing and volunteer sports chaplain at High Point University. Richard is a veteran of the US Navy Seabees and served 1965-1970.

Toye is a retired CPA from the public accounting firm of Forvis (previously Dixon Hughes Goodman). She was the first female partner of the firm. She retired early and asked the Lord what she should do in retirement. A door was opened to join the internal audit department of Samaritan's Purse as a volunteer. That position has led to travel around the world to more than thirty countries.

Richard and Toye recently celebrated their 50 year anniversary. They share interests in antique cars and beekeeping. Richard enjoys golf and Toye enjoys gardening and traveling.



GARRY & NANCY RAINS

Ohio natives, Garry and Nancy have literally lived "coast to coast," including Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wyoming, California and NC. They retired and moved from Kinston, NC to Middleton Place in Southern Pines about two years ago. Of course our climate - practically no snow! - and abundant golfing opportunities were major influences.

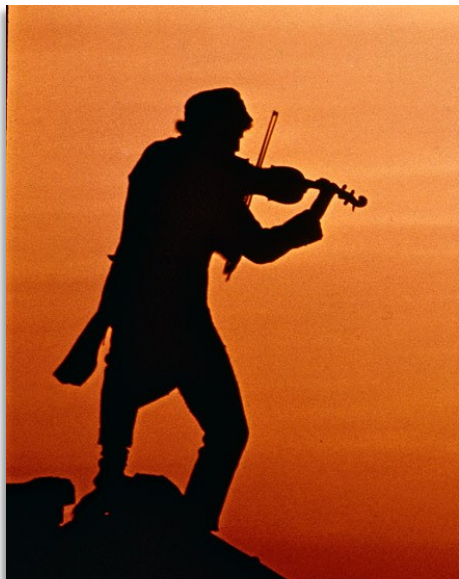
They've belonged to various Presbyterian and Methodist churches during their forty-five years of marriage. After visiting many local churches, they decided to join The Village Chapel. Our adherence to "Reformed Theology" and a welcoming, friendly congregation were appealing. They attend the 9:30 Family service. Both had careers in medicine: Nancy was a pediatric dentist and Garry was a physician anesthesiologist.

They have two adult daughters - one in NC and the other in CA - and 2 grandsons. Nancy is a Master Gardener (over the years, recognized in multiple states), not only does she have a "green thumb," she volunteers in the community, sharing her knowledge of all things horticultural. Garry has various interests including piano, reading and rowing. Oh, and yes, he enjoys "hitting the little round ball" - after all Moore County is the Golf Mecca!



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS- One area of interest to the congregation is learning more about our new members. We post new members each month. If you do not already know them, please seek them out at various church services or events and let them know you are glad they have joined The Village Chapel.

From the Director of Music



In the opening number of the classic musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye ponders how a particular tradition began and exclaims, “I don’t know... but it’s a tradition!” Tevye also acknowledges that because of their traditions, “everyone knows who he is and who God expects him to be.”

We all have a great multitude of traditions that have been the source of many great memories throughout our lives. The Village Chapel is home to many traditions which our church family look back on with great fondness. Many of these falls within the months of November and December. Such traditions include various worship services, the women’s Christmas brunch, and our Angel Tree outreach. One of our newest traditions is our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, held the Sunday after Christmas. While these traditions have been organized and led by generations before us, our current members and staff have picked up the baton and helped to breathe new life into these meaningful occasions.

For me, leaning into the season of Advent is fundamental to celebrating the birth of Jesus. Without understanding and acknowledging the reasons for Jesus’ coming – his advent – we cannot successfully appreciate his birth. We are fortunate to have at our fingertips some deeply profound texts in our hymnal that can enhance our worship during the season of Advent. While there are a handful of Advent hymns that are relatively well-known to us all, there are another few hymns that can be especially important to our Advent worship. I am looking forward to introducing two of them this year. Georgia Harkness’ words, *Hope of the World*, leans into the “hope” of Advent and the ways our world needed Jesus to come and save us. This hymn, hopefully pleading and gratefully rejoicing, takes us on a journey from Christ’s birth to his death and resurrection. Another hymn I will introduce is *Tell Out, My Soul*, with words by the noted hymn author Timothy Dudley-Smith. This hymn will especially be appropriate on the fourth Sunday of Advent, also known as Mary’s Sunday, when we read the passage from Luke’s gospel where Mary is visited by the angel Gabriel and is told that she will give birth to the Most High Jesus Christ. When the angel left her, Mary’s response to this somewhat terrifying news was to give praise! This hymn proclaims the greatness of the Lord, his name, his might, and his Word. These profound hymns will help us lean further into our Advent, so that we might lean further into our Christmas.



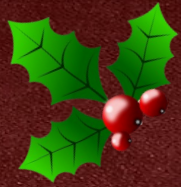
I believe we must hold on to our traditions that make our worship so meaningful. As Tevye exclaims at the end of the song, without tradition, “our lives would be as shaky...as a fiddler on the roof!”



Sunday, December 17
in the Sanctuary-10:30 a.m. Service

Carolina Brass

Festive music for choir, organ, brass and percussion



The Holidays are HERE!



Always an exciting time of year at our church!
We started off with our annual FRIENDSGIVING meal on November 19.



Then the youth made ginger bread houses, decorated the tree and made ornaments!



Children and Youth



Christmas at The Village Chapel is always such a special time. Full of traditions and heartwarming events that help us remember the REAL reason for the season. Last year the youth went Caroling (see above) and brightened the day for a lot of people who weren't able to get out for Christmas (pictured: 2022 youth sang for Eleanor Hargan) This year we'll go again on December 10 at 3:00pm!

And the BIG FINISH will be on Christmas Eve at the Annual Christmas Pageant! (Details Below)

CHRISTMAS EVE

Children's Pageant 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Be sure to join us for this very special service featuring our annual Children's Pageant. Nothing brings home the Christmas spirit like watching these kids tell the story of the birth of Jesus.

We hope to see you.

Christmas Eve Rehearsal- December 23 at 3:00 pm

Thank you!!

The following agencies have been supported by your **TVC Outreach** funding thanks to the generosity of our congregation! **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** of the NC Sandhills- 2268 NC 5, Hwy, Aberdeen, NC 28315; (910) 295-1934; www.sandhillshabitat.org.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE SANDHILLS- 160 Memorial Park Court, So. Pines, NC 28388; (910)692-0777; www.sandhillsbgc.org.

MEALS ON WHEELS OF THE SANDHILLS- 1975 Juniper Lake Road, West End; (910)691-1517; www.mealsonwheelsofthesandhills.org.

SANDHILLS/MOORE COALITION FOR HUMAN CARE- 1500 W. Indiana Ave., SP, NC 28387; 910-693-1600; www.sandhillscalition.org

MOORE FREE & CHARITABLE CLINIC- 211 Trimble Plant Rd., Suite C, Southern Pines, NC 28387; (910)246-5333; www.moorefrecare.org

FAMILY PROMISE OF MOORE COUNTY- P.O. Box 1173 Aberdeen, NC, 28315; (910)944-7149; familypromise@gmail.com

YOUNG LIFE & WYLDLIFE OF THE SANDHILLS- P.O. Box 1198 Southern Pines, NC, 28387; (910)315-7949; www.sandhills.younglife.org;

SANDHILLS ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE- P.O.Box 1701, Southern Pines, NC 28388; (910)947-2944; www.sandhillstc.org.

BOYS & GIRLS HOMES OF NC- P.O.Box127, 400 Flemington Drive, Lake Waccamaw, NC, 28450; (760)801-3562; www.boysandgirlshomes.org

SANDHILLS CHILDREN'S CENTER- 1280 Central Dr., Southern Pines, NC 28387; (910)692-3323; www.sandhillsschildrenscenter.org

WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS- P.O. Box 628200 Orlando, FL 32862-8200; (360)912-5091; www.wycliffe.org/partner/jpw1990.

SAT-7- P.O. Box 2770 Easton MD, 21601; www.sat7usa.org;

TWR Signal Fellowship- P.O. Box 8700 Cary, NC 27512-8700; (919)460-3700; www.twr.org;

SANDHILLS STUDENT ASSISTANCE- PO Box 2154, Southern Pines 28388 (910)603-8119.

FRIEND TO FRIEND- PO Box 1508, Carthage, NC 28327; (910)690-9345; www.friendtofriend.me.

LIFE CARE PREGNANCY CENTER- PO Box 519, 402 Monroe St., Carthage NC, (910)947-6199; www.lifecarepregnancy.com.

THE ARC OF MOORE COUNTY- P.O. Box 773, Southern Pines, NC 28388; 673 S. Bennett Street, Southern Pines, NC 28387 (910)692-8272; www.thearcofmoore.org;

MOORE BUDDIES MENTORING- www.moorebuddiesmentoring.org; (910)692-5954; PO Box 1966, Pinehurst, NC 28370.

CHANGING DESTINIES MINISTRY (CDM)- (910) 987-8868; PO Box 3662, Pinehurst, NC 28374; www.changingdestiniesministry.org;

SAMARITAN COLONY- 136 Samaritan Drive, Rockingham, NC 38379, (650)346-7668.

TAMBRA PLACE- POC -Tambra PO Box 4324, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Additional Mission Designated Plate Giving supported the following ministries:

GRADUATION ANGELS

ANGEL TREE (CHRISTMAS FOR MOORE)

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

GOD SENT ANGELS

DECEMBER EVENTS

Adult Teen Challenge of the Sandhills. NC 2023 Christmas Banquet

December 7, 8, 9
At the ATC facility in Carthage, NC.



Pastors Ashley & Vickie and Tom Bourne had the privilege of delivering and assembling 8 beds for 5 families across Moore County. The children we met and prayed with made my Thanksgiving weekend. Lord we praise You!

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE VILLAGE CHAPEL: As an independent, interdenominational Church, we unify all Christians through the Word of God, worship God in spirit and truth; teach and encourage the Christian faith; support the spiritual needs of our congregation, and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through community outreach.

MISSION STATEMENT OF YOUR OUTREACH COMMITTEE: "Prayerfully and earnestly distribute budgeted funds of The Village Chapel to vetted entities through rational giving, while encouraging congregational participation with organizations we support."



Dear Women of the Village Chapel,

We are delighted to extend an invitation to you for a meaningful Lenten Retreat at The Cove, Billy Graham's Mountain Retreat Center with Melissa Jones presenting Preparing for Resurrection. This promises to be a special time for reflection, growth, and fellowship.

Event Details:

Date: March 19-21, 2024

Location: Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove.

Cost:

- \$378 for a double room
- \$540 for a single room
- Includes: All meals and room per person
- If transportation is needed, a minimal fee will be added.

Limited Space Available: Due to the nature of this retreat, space is limited. To ensure your participation, please make your reservation as soon as possible.

To reserve your space or if you have any questions, please contact:

- Eleanora Voelkel
 - **Phone:** 910-986-0450
 - **Email:** voelkelje@gmail.com

We look forward to sharing this special Lenten Retreat and creating lasting memories together.

**BILLY
GRAHAM**
Training Center at The Cove
1 Porters Cove Rd, Asheville, NC 28805
<https://thecove.org>

Angel Tree

We are so thankful for your generosity!

There will be many happy families this Christmas because of the kindness you have shared with our Angel Tree recipients. If you would still like to contribute to the Angel Tree fund, you can scan the QR Code below or leave a check in the marked box outside Heather's office.



GIFT DROP-OFF DAYS

Sunday, December 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Monday, December 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Drop off gifts in Chapel Hall during these times.

WRAPPING DAYS

Monday, December 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (lunch provided)

Tuesday, December 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

All are welcome to drop in and help wrap Angel Tree gifts that need wrapping.

DISTRIBUTION DAY

Saturday, December 9 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

All are welcome to join as we distribute the Angel Tree gifts to our adopted families.

Thank you again for sharing your blessings with others this Christmas season.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Dot Evans	11	Robert Hawks	Steve McKenzie
	Will Rogers		Margaret Kinker	24
2	Cynthia		Yvonne Gale	Silvia Freidrichs
	Eckard-Matthes	12	Joe De Rosa	Emmitt Orban
	Holly Davis	13	Ray Bottoms	25
	Bob Stolting		Jim Hyler	Don Hamilton
3	Ruth Stolting	14	John	26
	Jane Lewis		Hawthorne	Bob Workman
7	Richard Schoen		Jan Cooke	27
	Dale Krech			Ann-Boyd
9	Lynette Crosby	16	Sean Finkbeiner	Newman
8	Hudson Griffin			Lynne Heilman
	Gary Doern	17	Jason Barnes	29
	Brynn Neely		Caroline Barrett	Bob Knapp
	Holly Wright	18	Caroline Barrett	Matt Swicegood
	Greg Griffin	20	Peter Gross	30
			Robert Terry	Russell French
		22	Woody Davis	31
			Molly Thomas	Tom Campbell
				Suman Fischer

Anniversaries

1	Walter & Ann Blackwell
	Tom & Carmei Laird
2	Gary & Jan Mullis
9	Doug & Nancy Smith
11	Jeff & Ruth Holm
19	John & Kathy Spangler
22	Edward & Karen Emmett
	Bill & Jan Cooke
23	Bill & Pat Tomasetti
26	Jim & Lucille Buck
28	R.Q. & Sharyn Simmons
	Kelly & Beverly Walsh
31	Jim & Char Rohr

Please contact the office (910) 295-6003 if your birthday or anniversary information is incorrect, or if you need to be added to the list.

Hanging of the Greens



On Wednesday, November 29, we celebrated the annual **Hanging of the Greens** in the Sanctuary. The service included beautiful music, scripture readings, and enlightening moments about the history and meaning of Christmas.



December 19, 20, 21 | 7:00 pm in the sanctuary



10 Azalea Road, Pinehurst | www.tvcpinehurst.com

Contributions and Expenditures—October

	MONTH	YTD
Contributions : **	\$81,873	\$859,556
% of Projected Annual	7%	77%
PROJECTED ANNUAL		\$1,093,186
Expenditures:	\$81,624	\$861,138
% of Projected Annual	7%	75%
PROJECTED ANNUAL		\$1,154,186

** DOES NOT INCLUDE MISC. INCOME

2023 Holiday Services

Sunday Worship Service with Carolina Brass
December 17 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service
December 24 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Family Service with Children's Pageant
December 24 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service
December 25 10:00 a.m.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
December 31 10:00 a.m.

The *Chapel Herald* is a publication of The Village Chapel, 10 Azalea Rd., Village of Pinehurst, NC 28374; www.TVCPinehurst.com
Telephone:910-295-6003; Fax 910-295-3729; The Care Cottage: 910-295-8026 ; Email info@TVCPinehurst.com

The Village Chapel

The Village Green
10 Azalea Road
Pinehurst, North Carolina 28374
www.TVCPinehurst.com

910-295-6003

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pinehurst, NC
Permit No. 102