

The Chapel Herald

WORSHIP | LEARN | SERVE

Rev. Dr. Ashley Smith, Senior Pastor

The Real “Stairway to Heaven”

On Sunday, January 14, one of our lectionary texts was from the Gospel of John, chapter 1. In my sermon I talked about the misconception Nathaniel had about Jesus and the misconceptions we often have as well – even after meeting Jesus. I also highlighted the age-old, “people-to-people” evangelism technique that Philip and Jesus used by

not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.” (NIV)



What amazing texts to read together! It is equally exciting that Jesus now places Himself in the context of Genesis 28. Jesus was the fulfillment of the promise God made to Israel and “the families of the earth.” These promises were made first to Abraham and later to Jacob for the benefit of Israel and the totality of the human race. I wonder if it was the pre-incarnate Jesus (Lord) that “stood” above the top of the ladder. The answer to the question, “How did God fulfill His promise to bless all people?” is... through Jesus. The promise of land and the covenant of a relationship between God and all those who believe – as Abraham did, the man of faith – was consummated with Jesus’s death, burial, and resurrection, and the sending of the Holy Spirit. Jesus referred to Himself as “the door” – the gate. (John 10) The door and gate to what? To heaven and to Salvation – eternal life! For you Led Zeppelin fans, now you have another understanding of the “stairway to heaven.” Jesus is the Stairway to Heaven! And it cannot be bought as it is in the song, it can only be accessed by Grace, through faith.

Epiphany Blessings,

Pastor Ashley 



inviting others to “Come and see.” Then, I concluded the sermon with Jesus “seeing” Nathanael, illustrating the story of Hagar and the new revealed name of God – El Roi, “the God who sees.” I actually meant to address the last part of the Gospel reading but ran out of time. So, I want to address it now. Consider, again, our Epiphany text from John 1:

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” ⁴⁸ “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” ⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.” ⁵⁰ Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” ⁵¹ He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.” (NIV)

Does this remind you of a sermon you heard not long ago? Perhaps it was the *Story of Israel-Part 1*? Here is the text I referenced from Genesis 28:

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the Lord, and he said: “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will

Rev. Trey Majure, Associate Pastor

“The Mystery of the Faith”

The words of Jesus found in Matthew 7:7-8 have always made me stop and think. “⁷ Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the

I would go so far as to say that there must be a moment of desperation for people to really begin to seek.

This time of desperation was often referred to by the ancients as the “Dark Night of the Soul.” A turbulent time in the life of a person, where they begin to seek for the light in the midst of darkness. This is not a requirement for someone to start genuinely seeking, but it is common. Sometimes it can be even more difficult for people who grew up around the Faith to begin and seek it, as well as we can become comfortable in the Faith the longer we are around it.

We can so easily lose our sense of awe in Jesus and the Truth, and we begin to go through the motions of knocking on a door because that is what we feel we must do. But Jesus tells us that the greatest thing we can ever experience is waiting for us to seek after it! If we really believe that then do we ask? Do we seek? Do we knock? Have we become comfortable and content with a taste rather than the banquet? May the words of Jesus continually challenge us as we enter into the season of Lent, to never be content until we understand His truth in its fullness. God bless!

Pastor Trey 

Ask

Seek

Knock

one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Ask. Seek. Knock. And Jesus says that if you do these three things then you will receive, find, and the door will be opened. In many ways, this passage encapsulates the truth of the Christian faith.

First, the promise comes from Jesus himself. He initiates the conversation, and he says that the truth is out there for everyone to find. What is interesting about this is that Jesus does not force anyone to accept the truth. Jesus is not tying a rope around anyone’s waist and dragging them to the truth. No, he states that the reality of the Christian faith is out there for anyone to take hold of but leaves the decision up to us in the end.

Which leads us to the second point. Jesus may have initiated things, but ultimately it is up to us to ask, seek, and knock. Jesus is not the one who does the asking, seeking, and knocking on our behalf. Nor is it our parents, grandparents, family, or friends who can do the seeking for us. We can do what Jesus did and present the truth of the Gospel, but we can never seek on behalf of anyone else.

We Need Writers!

The **Communications Committee** needs writers for various projects coming up in 2024. If you have a way with words and would like to help us out we’d love to hear from you. We need folks to write-Herald articles, press releases, event promotions, blog information and many other projects! We hope you’ll bring your talent in and give us a hand. Please contact ;

Shirley Aquino at saquino@gmail.com or **Gerri Crutchfield** at GCrutchfield@twc.com

Meet the Congregation– The Whitleys



Ann and Ron Whitley

Ron and Ann Whitley grew up in different places, Ron from Stanly County, NC and Ann from Maryland in a small town on the Delmarva Peninsula. Their paths did not cross until college.

Ann decided to initially attend a small Methodist school in Delaware, [Wesley College] later transferring to High Point College.

Ron also attended High Point College and this is where they met. Ann was dating Ron's roommate, but she evidently sparked in interest in Ron. It wasn't long before he asked her out. They began dating on a regular basis. Their relationship continued throughout college and they were married in 1974.

Early in their marriage, Ron worked with Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L) and Ann taught school (computer programming, accounting and also served as media specialist). They moved to Southern Pines in 1985. After a number of years, Ron left CP&L and started a career with FirstHealth of the Carolinas. He is eligible for retirement, but chooses to continue working with FirstHealth because he really likes the job he is doing and enjoys his co-workers. Ann retired from the Moore County School System in 2001 and now spends a good deal of time with family (caring for grandchildren, etc.) and serving in various capacities here at The Village Chapel.

Ron and Ann have two children and six grandchildren. Their son, Josh, lives in Lumberton with his wife, Jen, and their chil-

dren, a son and two daughters. Some of you probably know that their daughter, Katie Barrett, is also a member here at the Village Chapel, along with her husband, Rob, and their three daughters. They live in Pinehurst also.

Prior to coming here Ann grew up in a Methodist background while Ron's faith tradition had been Baptist. When they moved to Southern Pines, they were drawn to the Methodist Church there, because of the strength of its children's programs and because they enjoyed the worship services, as well.

In 1998 they moved to Pinehurst and later decided to explore new options for worship. They attended several services at The Village Chapel and liked it. They respected the work and support of the Rev. Glenn Miller. It was during this time they decided to become members here at The Village Chapel. Since coming here, Ron has lent his support and expertise to the Buildings and Grounds Committee when needed. Ann has served in a number of roles filling various positions on committees and in groups, most notably serving on the Search Committee for a new associate pastor after Pastor John Jacobs retired. She shares the feeling that God answered many prayers in leading Pastor Trey Majure to The Village Chapel a little over a year ago.

She now serves as the chairman of the Human Resources Committee. Both Ron and Ann stay busy with family life, occupations (Ron) and other endeavors. Next summer, Ron and Ann look forward to celebrating fifty years of marriage and continuing to provide support, assistance and care to their church home. Maybe there will even be time for some well-earned rest and relaxation. We thank both of them for all they do for The Village Chapel.

~Contributed by Gerri Crutchfield

New Members– Dave & Judy Fedder

Originally from IL and WI, Dave & Judy met in Chicago, and lived in Cincinnati where Dave completed his Sports Medicine fellowship. They relocated to the Old Town area, VOP in 1992.

As former members of Baptist and Episcopal churches, they began attending TVC during the Covid pandemic. TVC was a good 'fit' as it was w/in walking distance and continued to have in-person services. Also, we can thank their neighbors, Wes & Anna Smith, who invited them to visit TVC during this period.

Dave, is a retired Orthopedic Surgeon; Judy is a neonatal nurse practitioner in the NICU at Moore Regional Hospital, and plans to join Dave in retirement in a few years. They have 3-adult children - two daughters; one lives in Kansas City & was recently wed, and another who lives in Raleigh; their son resides in Durham. They both enjoy traveling, exercising and working on home projects, which is expected as their home was built in 1895. As Dave said, "There's always something that needs fixing."



From the Director of Music

SAY: AU
The Stuttering Association For The Young

I recently returned from a second journey to *Melbourne, Australia* where I assisted in leading the second edition of Camp SAY: Australia, an extension of the summer camps I have worked for in America under the same name. After a successful maiden voyage last year, our 19 campers enjoyed a meaningful experience where they were free to stutter openly and join a community of other young people who stutter.



My close friend Rich Stephens has been leading SAY: Australia since 2019 and works with young people and professionals across Australia and New Zealand in providing this important community. This year, we worked with 16 staff and 19 campers in what turned out to be yet another moving experience under the SAY umbrella. Like last year, some of our new campers had previously not interacted with anyone who stutters. Our staff includes talented professionals in the world of speech-language pathology as well as people who stutter and allies to the stuttering community. I am immensely proud to know them and to have worked closely with them. I am happy to share more of my experience with those who may be interested. You may also visit www.sayaustralia.org.au to learn more.

I must thank the pastors and staff of The Village Chapel for their continued support of this journey that I have been on and to Anne Dorsey, Janelle Francis, our staff singers, and our wonderful Chapel Choir who ensured that musical activities at The Chapel continued without falter.

Stephen

All are invited on **Sunday, February 23 at 7:00pm** as The Village Chapel Music Series presents concert pianist **Dr. Kristina Henckel** in concert. Dr. Henckel's virtuosic program will include music by Czech composers Bedrich Smetana and Jaroslov Jezek as well as Polish composer Frédéric Chopin. Originally from the Czech Republic, Dr. Henckel has amassed a widely successful performing career that has taken her across the United States and Europe. Her duo, 4HANDS with Amanda Virelles has produced two CDs and multiple prizes which has yielded them concerts in the DiMenna Center in New York City and Carnegie Hall. Her recordings have also been broadcasted on various radio stations in the United States and the Czech Republic. Dr. Henckel is a music faculty member at Sandhills Community College and Fayetteville State University. I hope you will take advantage of this exceptional opportunity to experience one of Moore County's most talented artists.

From the Director of Music

THE VILLAGE CHAPEL PRESENTS



DR. KRISTINA HENCKEL
CONCERT PIANIST

Music of Bedrich Smetana, Jaroslav Jezek, and Frederic Chopin

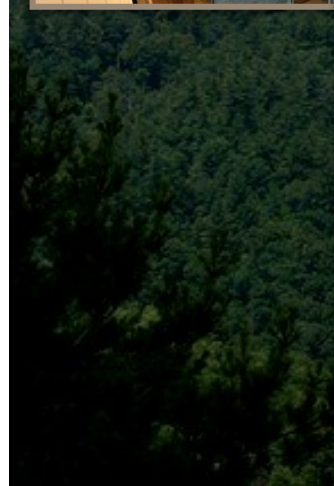
FEBRUARY • 23 • 2024

7:00PM

**The Village Chapel, Pinehurst
10 Azalea Road**

Children and Youth—Mountain Retreat

The TVC Youth Group had a memorable time together in Blowing Rock, NC.



Children and Youth—Mountain Retreat

From a trip to Grandfather Mountain, hiking Linville Falls, in-depth Bible studies, and walks by the creek, a fun time was had by all.





The Village Chapel pastors will be participating in this year's kickoff March 14.

Your Outreach Committee has signed up to work on the construction dates of **April 18 -20**. At least six individuals are needed each day up to a maximum of 12.

Please visit <https://sandhillshabitat.org/volunteer-4/> to register.

Habitat Mission:

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Our vision

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Our principles

Demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ.

Focus on shelter.

Advocate for affordable housing.

Promote dignity and hope.

Support sustainable and transformative development.



In Honor of God's Servant, Jimmy Schneider

This ministry is active again after being shut down for the past four years due to COVID-19. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate and expand the upcoming program this March at the Scotland Correctional Facility. Please contact **Buck Bradshaw at 910-695-6217** or email hbradsha18@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming a volunteer to schedule required training.

For additional information, visit www.kairosnc.org for the history of Kairos Prison Ministry's Vision and Mission's three programs: Kairos Inside (men's and women's ministry begun in 1976), Kairos Outside (begun in 1991), and Kairos Torch (begun in 1997).



Our Apostles Build Committee sponsors a build every year with the help from the faith community. Together, we break down barriers while building walls by partnering with people with different backgrounds but a common cause.

This year Apostles Build sponsored Shana and her son. She works at St. Joseph of the Pines which sponsored a major fundraising event this summer!

This type of build is a partnership that allows twelve individual churches (or coalition of churches) to join together to fully sponsor and build a house for a local family.

As Jesus' original apostles were charged with spreading the word about Jesus, our "apostles" are charged with assisting in Habitat's mission to provide decent shelter for God's children.

UPCOMING OUTREACH EVENTS

The Arc of Moore Benefit Gala

Feb 8 , 2024—5:30, Village Pine Venue, Carthage, NC | <https://www.thearcofmoore.org>.

Empty Bowls 2024

Mar 3, 2024—1-3 pm | First Baptist Church, 200 E New York Ave, Southern Pines
<https://www.sandhillscoalition.org>.

Sandhills Moore Coalition for Human Care

is still in need of new and gently used blankets as well as size 4-6 diapers.

Please drop in donation boxes in the Narthex or Atrium.

Deliver to the Coalition HQ office at: 1500 W Indiana Ave., Southern Pines.

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."

F	A	I	T	H	O	M	A	S
C	R	O	S	S	X	Y	P	E
R	J	H	W	K	T	N	E	L
E	E	L	A	S	H	I	W	B
T	S	Q	A	I	K	A	R	I
S	U	F	U	M	S	T	E	B
A	S	C	H	R	I	S	T	G
E	V	E	I	L	E	B	E	C
B	L	O	O	D	Z	A	P	M

WORD SEARCH

Look for the LENTEN words below in the grid. Circle them when you find them. Look forwards, backwards and horizontal.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| ASH | FAITH |
| ABSTAIN | FAST |
| BELIEVE | JESUS |
| BIBLE | LENT |
| BLOOD | MESSIAH |
| CHRIST | PETER |
| CROSS | THOMAS |
| EASTER | |

Women of the Chapel

Save The Date



*The Ladies Spring Tea
April 16, 2023*

First Wednesday Fellowship

First Wednesday of the month 6:00pm in Chapel Hall. Next up— February 7, 2024



Call the church office for reservations

The English Speaking Union's Shakespeare Competition



Saturday February 10, 2024

2:00 PM | In the Sanctuary

Call the church office for information (910) 295-6003

A video of this event will be available on **YouTube** at a later date.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cheryl Veni
- Cora Grace Cooper
- Carmeil Lapa
- 2 Sally Adams
- 3 Ed Gavin, II
- Jack Lund
- R.Q. Simmons
- Patsy Parkhill
- John Brosch
- Fred Fox
- 4 Lisa Wingfield
- 5 Ed Reeves
- Jon DeVault
- Jack Wood
- Ed Emmett
- Trisha Glover
- 6 Lori Morse
- Ruth Holm
- 7 Cayleigh Ana

- Kruse
- Whitley Barrett
- 8 Jane Jackson
- Addisyn Stayskal
- Judy Auch
- Elizabeth Shank
- Gemma Torok
- 9 Pennie Clack
- Ken Dickson
- Lin Cook
- Don Lee
- 10 Mike Bradley
- Levi Majure
- 11 Logan Totten-Lancaster
- 12 Cooper Crocker
- Mary O'Malley
- Anne De Rosa
- Hunter Shumski
- 13 Benjamin Majure

- Tom Stewart
- 15 Sarah Slade
- Jason Lee
- Cindy Cordell
- 16 Borders Utley
- 18 Janet Lowry
- Rhonda Brooks
- Danna Carter
- Anita Baker
- 19 Steve Woodward
- 20 Ceil ten Braak
- Riley Grimshaw
- Susan Joslin
- 21 Susan Jacobsen
- 22 Lesley Woodruff
- 23 Natasha Bell
- 24 Roy Longhta
- Taylor Edrington
- Grace Edrington
- Lou Torok

- Cate Goodman
- 25 Marian Schillerstrom
- Radford Walker
- 26 Richard Ballard
- Ro Kachel
- Art Romero
- Gary Strickfaden
- 28 Kim Pahk
- Rene' Chapman

Anniversaries

- 2 John & Laurie Wiles
- 8 Jack & Nancy Sadler
- 9 Jack & Allison Couzens
- 14 Don & Vickie Taylor
- Bryan & Danna Carter
- Patrick & MJ Pizzella
- 15 Mark & Yvonne Milakovic
- 21 Cam & Janice Cantelou
- 25 Greg & Tanner Page
- 26 Chandler & Kelley Adams

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.

*"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew
a steadfast spirit within me" ~ Psalm 51:10*

ASH WEDNESDAY

SERVICES AT 12:00 PM AND 6:00 PM

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

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

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