



AN INDEPENDENT, INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH
UNIFYING ALL CHRISTIANS THROUGH THE WORD OF
GOD

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The Chapel Herald

WORSHIP | LEARN | SERVE

Rev. Dr. Ashley Smith, Senior Pastor

The Memory of Spending Epiphany in Bethlehem, Is-

Walking through the streets of Bethlehem on Epiphany (2018) was absolutely surreal. There was a spirit about the place that surprised me. Crossing into Palestinian controlled territory, passing the armed IDF soldiers, signaled that we were not on the “Israeli side”

any more. But walking down the high street and seeing the many smiling faces made me feel welcomed and at home. Maybe I was experiencing the kindred spirit of being in a predominantly Christian enclave—Christians tend to send off good vibrations in the presence of other spirit-filled believers. On several occasions, I have asked a person if they were a Christian, discerning they were, to be met with an expected, “Yes, I am!”

I was surprised to see a giant Santa on the side of a building, holding a Coca-Cola! (I also wasn’t surprised). It produced a big smile on my face. People are people; Consumers are consumers, and therefore I felt I was with my tribe.

Our two oldest daughters were with us – Abigail and Sarah. We were approached by a small, elderly man, with a beaming countenance. He offered 400 camels for one of my daughters, to which I quickly countered, “Make it 401, and you can have both!”

The city was teeming with holiday goers. There was a gigantic Christmas Tree in the city center, with a live nativity – as one would expect being in Bethlehem, for goodness sake.

Entering into the Church of the Nativity was a holy moment. It was one of the first places to have a church built, under the direction of Helena, Emperor Constantine’s mother who was tasked with the job of locating and commemorating all of the early Christian historic sites. We had to duck down to go through the small, narrow main entrance (it was to keep enemy horses from entering, we were told). Engraved above the door was the iconic 3 wise men. They were dressed in Persian garb. Persians who invaded centuries after this first Holy Land church was built, spared its destruction after seeing their Persian depiction—It was an unofficial nod to Persia’s Zoroastrians who were some of the main characters in the Holy Nativity.

After making our way into this beautiful, Greek Orthodox bastion of smells and bells and icons, I remember our guide telling us, “watch out for the PMS priests!” I later learned she was talking about the local priests who get a bit aggravated by the constant barrage of pilgrim (more like



tourists!) who were noisy and less than reverent—I certainly understand their frustration.

Then, there it was! One of the holiest places in the world! The place Jesus was born. The site of the Incarnation. It was special. I was moved with emotion. Even if it wasn’t the exact place (many would argue it is), I was keenly aware of Jesus’s humanity- tangible baby Jesus. Perhaps like visiting the place of our own birth? As quick as it began, it was over. We had to move away so others could experience the joy of the Incarnation.

Before leaving Bethlehem, we went to Shepherd’s Field (there were no fields). We entered a cave that was hewn from the bedrock. The ceiling had been stained by smoke soot, hearkening back to a time when people lived there, cooked there, and slept there. Perhaps it was a place like this that housed the first Holy family, until their flight to Egypt, later returning to Nazareth.

It was only after I went back a second time in 2020, while doing a Men’s Bible study, that it dawned on me, that Bethlehem was also where David was born and raised, along with his father, Jesse, in the land of tribe of Judah. I look forward to the day we can return...

Epiphany Blessings,



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Children and Youth -pg. 6 | Birthdays and Anniversaries -pg. 7 and much more!

Rev. Trey Majure, Associate Pastor

“Love and the Fulfillment of the Law”



I have always been fascinated with the story found in John 3, where Jesus sits down with a Pharisee named Nicodemus. The Pharisees are a group that are often picked on and put down. But truthfully, they seemed to be devout people who were trying to

follow God. For the Pharisees, following God meant obeying “the Law.” They were strictly about the law and doing what it said, all 613 of them. Not only did they insist on obeying all the laws found in the Old Testament, but they also created their own laws to keep from breaking the original ones!

This thought process can even be justified by using verses of scripture such as, “To obey is better than sacrifice.” (1 Samuel 15:22) And yet it seems from Jesus’ conversation in John 3 (as well as many other places in the Gospels) that the Pharisees were missing something. Well, if following 613 laws isn’t enough, what more could there be? At this point you may be thinking the same thing I thought, “All of this sounds very religious.” And I would argue that the reason you may think arbitrarily obeying 613 laws is religious, is because it is.

Jesus didn’t think this was enough, in fact Jesus says something astonishing. “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again.” (John 3:3) Perhaps you have never meditated on this passage before, but it seems stranger and stranger the longer one dwells on it. To be born again, specifically born of the Spirit of God. This language seems so foreign as it is nearly impossible to grasp what Jesus is talking about. At the least it refers to an incredible event or change that takes place in the life of an individual.

Throughout the Old Testament, especially in the prophets, there is this idea that people will no longer follow laws that are written on stone, i.e. the ten commandments. But men and women will instead follow laws that are written on their hearts. I may be wrong, but what I believe Jesus is conveying to Nicodemus is that for the Pharisees, “the Law” is still something they have to look for in

books and scrolls. “The Law” is something that they have to consult lawyers and theologians on in order to come to a consensus.

Jesus changes all of this, with what James the brother of Jesus refers to as the “Royal Law” which is loving your neighbor as yourself. When taken in this perspective, love is the fulfillment of the law. Love is not something outside of you obligating or motivating you in a certain direction. Love is internal, it is the law written on your heart.



I pray that during this new year, we will meditate on what it is to have a new birth and a new heart. May all of this lead us to a deeper sense of God’s love for us, and the love that he has placed within us. God bless!

In Christ,

Trey +

Meet the Congregation— The Skinners



Dale and Darlene Skinner

Dale was born and reared in Chicago. After high school graduation, he joined the Navy in 1946. After his honorable discharge, he returned to Chicago as a commercial photographer. This was short-lived when he pursued a profession in sales with Swift & Company for ten years. In 1956, he accepted a position as a manufacturer's representative in eight mid-western states and moved to Warsaw, Indiana,

Darlene was born in Goshen, Indiana. By the time she graduated from New Paris High School she had 14 years of piano lessons; ten years of violin lessons and played in the North Manchester Civic Symphony; two years of private flute lessons from the South Bend Symphony flutist and played seven years in the New Paris High School Band (it was a small school); six years of three-manual pipe organ lessons from Mrs. Clayton of the South Bend United Methodist Church and was a church organist at the age of 13.

Dale and Darlene met on a blind date and were married on November 20, 1965, (58 years ago). At the time, Dale had decided to enter the insurance business. He received a number of degrees; Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC) and Master of Science in Financial Services (MSFS). He formed his own General Agency representing major insurance companies and to this day is still servicing clients. He served on the Indiana State level with the Indiana Association of Life Underwriters and was president of the County Association. He was very active in Rotary and the Masonic Lodge, being Master of the Lodge for two years.

He was an ordained ruling Elder of the Warsaw Presbyterian Church and served as president of the Board of Trustees.

In 1966, Darlene became the Director of Music at the First Presbyterian Church in Warsaw and left thirty years later when they moved to Pinehurst. She directed Adult and Children's choirs, handbell choirs, musicals, etc. She also accompanied for the school system in both choral and band departments. She was a secretary for many years until their first son was born in 1971. Their second son was born in 1973. Both Drew and Darrin now live with their families in Charlotte NC and have produced five grandchildren.

The Skinners started coming to Pinehurst in 1992 for three months in the spring and three months in the fall and had dual memberships at both The Village Chapel and the Presbyterian Church in Indiana. Darlene sang with the Chapel Choir and the Moore County Choral Society since 1993 whenever they were in town. She also filled in for John Shannon when he was on vacation or had surgery. In 2001 when they became full-time residents, Darlene took the position of Music Director for the new 9:30 service, which started Sept. 16, 2001, developing vocal and Choir Chimes choirs. She also started playing flute with the Moore County Concert Band and was their web secretary until she retired in 2020.

Dale was a lay reader at the 8:15 and 9:30 services for many years. He is still a Greeter at 9:30. They are responsible for supplying and scheduling Readers for all three services and Greeters for the 9:30 service.

Darlene retired from the 9:30 service in 2011 after ten years as music director. She now sings with the 9:30 choir and occasionally subs for Stephen when the need arises.

She sandwiches this between the 8:15 and 11:00 services at Pinehurst United Methodist where she is starting her 12th year as Music Associate. She jokes that she says the Apostle's Creed three times every Sunday. Thankfully, the traffic circle is not very busy as she travels between the two churches.

We love to travel and have been in all 50 states and 56 countries.

Contributed by Darlene Skinner

TVC Scholarship Program

The Village Chapel Scholarship Program 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 and 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.

First Wednesday Fellowship Dinner is BACK!

Begins Wednesday, February 7, at 6:00pm

Carolina Brass



On Sunday, December 17—we welcomed Carolina Brass



Friday, February 23,
2024, 7:00PM

Kristina Henckel
in concert

Music of
Bedrich Smetana
Jaroslav Jezek
Frederic Chopin

A Special 'Thank You' from Angel Tree



Acts 20:35

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

The Angel Tree Committee would like to thank the Village Chapel congregation for generously supporting the Christmas for Moore/Angel Tree program. For all of you that sponsored families, donated financially, and prayed for these families in need...we thank you! Your kindness will bring smiles to our 70 sponsored families.



We'd like to extend a special thanks to...

- ◆ The many wrappers who came on December 4th and 5th to be sure all gifts were wrapped and ready for distribution. You are an amazing bunch!
- ◆ The Hospitality Committee of Julie Huggins, Karen Emmett, and Kathy Elsea who provided breakfast goodies and lunch for the wrappers as well as coffee and donuts for the volunteers on Distribution Day. We appreciate you!
- ◆ Brynn Neely who took charge of our Toys for Tots
- ◆ Linda Lasson for donating many beautiful handmade quilts to be given to some of our families
- ◆ Rich Cowell for taking charge of getting outside volunteers for Distribution Day and for Rich and his son for getting the grocery carts needed for Distribution Day.
- ◆ The many helpers on Distribution Saturday and the children who brought smiles and candy canes to each car. What an efficient crew!!
- ◆ Pastors Ashley, Vickie, and Trey for welcoming our families and passing out Bibles
- ◆ Our office crew of Heather, Stanley, and Steve who were always there for us in any way that we asked! We so appreciate you!

Our Angel Tree program has been a tradition at the Village Chapel for a long time. As you can see, it takes many hands to make this work. We are truly blessed and grateful for all of you!

A heartfelt thanks from The Angel Tree Steering Committee,

~Faith Clay, Eleanora Voelkel, Janice Bezanson, Sally Brown, and Brynn Neely



Outreach

COMING IN 2024

Changing Destinies Ministry

Jan 19 - Human Trafficking Symposium, 10-12:30, Pinehurst Village Hall, visit <https://www.changingdestiniesministry.org>.
Jan 26 - Human Trafficking Awareness, 6-8 pm,

Friend to Friend Annual Benefit Luncheon

January 30, 2024, CCNC, Pinehurst | 11:30am
www.friendtofriend.me

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—12-2pm | Whispering Pines CC, <https://www.sandhillscoalition.org>.

Habitat for Humanity of the Sandhills, Pastors Day of Apostles Build

Mar 14, 2024 - 8 am - 1 pm, location to be announced.

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 or 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."

Children and Youth

Celebrating Christmas!



We had a birthday party for Jesus!



Santa came for a visit!



And we topped it all off with a great afternoon of singing Christmas Carols with some of our dear friends!



Welcome to Women of the Chapel 2024!

Did you know that ALL women in The Village Chapel congregation comprise the Women of the Chapel?

Our Mission Statement:

To teach & encourage women to draw closer to God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We offer programs, outreach opportunities and fellowship that fosters spiritual growth.

As the incoming Chairs of the Women of the Chapel in 2024, Lyla Renai Elliott and Renee Cassidy along with our dedicated Steering Committee are planning a year filled with events open to all women of The Village Chapel. We encourage you to bring friends, neighbors and guests to join in our journey of faith and fellowship for all interests and ages in keeping with tradition of WOC and honoring our mission statement through fellowship and supporting one another. The goal is for the women of our beloved church family to always know they are an important part our women of the chapel, as without you the WOC wouldn't exist!

Comments from some of the ladies....

"Getting involved with the women of the chapel in 2021 was just perfect timing for me. At first, I just observed before I wanted to get involved..."

"This is a nurturing group of women who mentored and helped me to find peace and comfort in my journey with Christ Jesus"

"As a long-time member and volunteer, now I just want to attend events and meet like-minded women, and it's been lovely!"

We know everyone has busy lives. That's why this year, we are working on a full calendar

with varying days of the week and times of day so everyone has an opportunity to attend an event! New bible studies offer schedules that will fit every need... we are even looking to schedule one-day studies at a local park on Saturday afternoons (with day care if needed) for busy Mom's too! The Women of the Chapel want you to know you are not required to volunteer your time unless you would like to help coordinate an event or two... it is not necessary

One very special upcoming WOC event this year is to honor the history of the Women of the Chapel. Formally established in 1972, it is one of the longest ministries at The Village Chapel. It is a rich history filled with women who together, dedicated their time and energy through their faith and love of people to make a difference in our congregation and our community.

2024 Calendar of Events

Please feel free to reach out to anyone on our steering committee for more information or how to attend one of our upcoming events listed below.

2nd Tuesday of each month – All Welcome to attend

Steering Committee Meetings

Monthly Cross Ties Luncheon

History of the Women of the Chapel Luncheon – DATE TBD

Spring Lenten Retreat - March 19-21st - The Cove

Ladies Spring Tea – April 16, 2024

The Billy Graham Library Visit – 02/23/2024

Summer Education Series for Women – Dates TBD Various topics relating to health & wellness

Women's Bible Study Programs – Three different studies plus one-day studies to be an-

Meet the Women of The Steering Committee

Bible Study – Mary Wood, Janice Bezanson, Melissa Jones

Crossties Luncheon – Michele Miller, Janice Bezanson

Devotions – Betty Jane Wardle

Historians – Janet Lowry, Cathy Elsea

New (TVC) Member Welcome – Debbie Fasulo, Melissa Jones

Publicity – MJ Pizzella

Retreats – Eleanora Voelkel, Mary Wood

Arts & Crafts – Susan Joslin-blankets, Janis Sholtis-Crismons, Sally Adams-WOC Bulletin Board

Special Events – Renee Cassidy

Spring Tea – Debbie Fasulo, Harriet Riley

Christmas Brunch – Renee Cassidy, Sally Adams

Secretary – Janis Sholtis

Co-Chair – Renee Cassidy

Chair/Treasurer – Lyla Renai Elliott

Opportunities sponsored by the WOC for you are listed in the Bulletin each Sunday, on the WOC bulletin board or contact a member of the steering committee.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Gay Gearhart	10 Martha Romero	Zoe Wall	24 Anne Lucey
Alice Schalz	Teresa Graham	Devina	25 Ralph Newman
Larry Martin	Barbara Kelley	Sherwood	Paula Crocker
Sarah Jane	11 Jane Leonard	17 Sam Clay	Doug Smith
Harmon	Mike Moody	Glen Bezanson	Lee Carbaugh
Shirlene Bremer	Rob Moore	18 Connor Neely	26 Harriet Neely
Charlie Abner	Victor Aguilar	19 Judith Sherer	Ron Scheil
2 Allen Turner	12 Robert Adams	20 Diane Tate	27 Allinson
3 Hannah Smith	13 Janis Sholtis	Sherry Wood	Strotheide
James Hart	Ava Grey	Ellen Brown	28 Liz Skvarla
Jerry Ayers	Barnes	Olivia Newman	Byron Grantham
4 Amita Sherwood	Connie Lovell	Toye Payne	Bonnie Jo
5 Harper Kisver	Jonathan	Ellisa Granata	Wurzbacher
LuAnn Schneider	Newman	21 Jackie Tucker	29 Charles Meyer
6 Ted Williams	14 Jim Busby	22 Al Mangum	Gerri Crutchfield
Laura Goodman	15 Mary Jo	Alex Grimshaw	30 Walter Bull
8 John Sebastain	Matthies	Pam Bradley	Dick Haefele
9 Lindsey Lashmit	Curtis Anaya	23 Susan Culp	

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.

10 Azalea Road, Pinehurst, NC | www.tvcpinehurst.com

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS EVENT FOR PARENTS AND YOUTH

Friday, January 26, 6-8:00 pm

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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