



INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN WORSHIP IN HISTORIC PINEHURST, NC SINCE 1898

January 2021

Volume 10 Issue 1

The Chapel Herald

A New Year's Prayer



Heavenly Father, together we start a new year, full of new resolutions, unresolved situations, and new opportunities. Together we pray that we can embrace all that these twelve months have to offer us. We ask that you continue to be with us, and that your presence be felt in all things. We ask that you extend unto each of us the wisdom, the strength, and the fortitude to meet each new day and each new challenge head on and full of eagerness. Give us the boldness to accept whatever you offer.

Let this year be filled with things that are truly good. Let us look beyond our everyday struggles and see the blessings that wait for us. Bless us with the warmth of strong relationships, the strength to help those in our community that need help, and the courage and humility to accept help for ourselves, in the moments when we need it, too.

As we consider those around us who begin this year fighting sickness, disease, or spiritual battles, help us to meet them with hearts full of compassion. Let us find the way to connect with them, so that in each of us they find a strength that eases their pain, and reminds them that there are people who care, who will fight alongside them.

Let all things be new this year. Remind us that you are the God of fresh starts and second chances. Let us become new creatures again, beginning today in this moment. Let the ministry of all your children, and of your Church, be not confined within these walls or the small circles of our lives, but rather be directed throughout our community and the world.

Remind us that it takes only one person – one person willing to step out, speak up, and take a risk, to make a difference. Remind us it takes only one person to change the world. Help us to be the people who choose to do just that. Help us to be the people who are willing to let our light shine, no matter the cost.

Together, we celebrate you in praise and prayer, and we do so at The Village Chapel with one voice, as one people, and as one church. Amen.

Blessings of Epiphany,

Pastor John



These banners – given to us by Don and Laurie Hamilton – represent the liturgical seasons of the Church year, observed with devotion at The Village Chapel. As we celebrate and display these representations of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost Sunday, and the season of Pentecost, let us give thanks for the Hamilton's and their contribution to our worship.



Decorating the Chrismon Tree

The Chapel decorations at Christmas time would not be complete without the beautiful and ever growing Chrismon tree. Each unique ornament is handmade. Thank you to all those who come to help put the tree up each year, your work is appreciated.



We were blessed on January 3, 2021, to have as a guest preacher the Reverend Clarence Henderson. One of the students involved in the civil rights “sit-in” at a Greensboro, NC Woolworths luncheon counter in 1960, the Rev. Henderson shared his message of courage and freedom to The Village Chapel.



You can watch the service on our YouTube page by clicking the YouTube link on our website, www.tvcpinehurst.com

St. Luke 14th Chapter speaks on the 10 lepers and how (1) returned back to say thank you. The Leslie family realized you all were a blessing to our family and we want to represent the (1) that says thank you for the gifts. A very special thank you for the bibles. During a time like this moment we all are living in the word of GOD is needed the most. May GOD continue to bless you!

One of the real joys of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to say thank you and to wish you the very best for the new year.

*- The Leslie Family
Michael, Amy, Damonique
Paris & Michael Jr.*

A sweet note from one of our very gratefully families adopted during the Angel Tree program.

Thank you to all those who have shown your support by shopping, donations, your time, and prayer!



Juan Russ

The Village Chapel has for years enjoyed the reputation of having one of the finest music programs among churches in the area. Part of that success is in large part due to the very fine music directors we have had over the years. But even the best leaders in any field need the best human resources to set the high standards to which they aspire. In that regard, few Chapel regulars would be able to recall when Juan Russ was not leading the procession for the 11 o'clock service. Juan has been a stalwart of the Village Chapel choir since 1991 and has been leading the processional since about 1995, nearly 25 years. It is difficult to imagine the Chapel Choir without him.

Juan has played an especially important role these last few months in keeping vocal music alive in our services as we have scaled back due to coronavirus concerns. His presence in our services cannot be overstated and we are so grateful for his time and his talents.

Unfortunately, we are going to have to adjust to a new reality as Juan will be stepping away from the Chapel choir. Anyone who knows Juan knows that music is his passion in life. He began singing while he was still in grammar school in Pinehurst and continued through middle school and at Pinecrest High School, where he graduated in 1978. Juan attended the Sandhills Community College for two years before finishing his bachelor's degree at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington in 1982. He continued singing in glee clubs and choruses while doing his university studies.

Through the years since graduation, Juan maintained his passion for music and is closely identified with the music programs of Moore County. In addition to his years with the Village Chapel, he has been singing with the Moore County Choral Society since 1987 and with the Golf Capitol Chorus since 1986. He still sings from time to time with his home church, St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church of Pinehurst.

Juan met music director emeritus John Shannon while both were singing in the Moore County Chorale and in 1991 John invited Juan to sing with the Chapel choir. Over the 29 years Juan has been singing with the Chapel Choir, he was a close friend and associate of some of the Village Chapel choir legends who are no longer with us - Alzira Mason, Don Sommerville, Ron and Linda Stamey, Susie Hess, Judy Van Steenberg, Gene Hilsby - to name just a few. We are most fortunate to have had a man of Juan's musical talents and personal character and we are grateful for all that he has contributed to the Chapel's music program over the years. We will miss his voice, his attitude, his sense of teamwork and his leadership but we can look forward to his return on special occasions in the months to come. As he leaves us, we want to offer our profound gratitude for his contributions to our music program and to wish him nothing but the best in the future. Thank you, Juan.



MISSION STATEMENT OF THE VILLAGE CHAPEL: “As an interdenominational Christian community, we worship God in spirit and truth; teach and encourage the Christian faith; support the spiritual needs of our congregation, and reach out to others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

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.”

Our Outreach/Mission grants supported these efforts in 2020.

RECIPIENTS WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT

Grant recipients

GUARDIAN ANGELS Graduation cards
 SUPPORT TO MOORE COUNTY HIGHSCHOOL STUDENTS
 KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY Reaching inside the walls.
 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Hand up, not hand out.
 THE COALITION Short term help with long term goals.
 MEALS ON WHEELS Food to those in need at home.
 FAMILY PROMISE Supporting family integrity.
 MOORE FREE AND CHARITABLE CLINIC Basic needs.
 BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB We all need to belong somewhere.
 N.C. BOYS AND GIRLS HOME We all need a home.
 ADULT AND TEEN CHALLENGE Struggling to recover.
 YOUNG LIFE OF THE SANDHILLS Going to where they are.
 SANDHILLS CHILDREN’S CENTER All kids are precious.
 TRANSWORLD RADIO (TWR) Broadcasting the Word.
 SATELLITE MINISTRY (SAT-7) Bringing the Word to all.
 WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS The Word in all languages.
 CHRISTIAN AID MINISTRIES Daring to go anywhere.
 KARIMU Bringing light to remote areas of Tanzania.
 FRIEND TO FRIEND Rescue shelter for abused women.
 LIFE CARE PREGNANCY CENTER Sustaining the unborn.
 THE ARC OF MOORE COUNTY All God’s people are special.
 USO Providing a welcome to our troops.
 GOD SENT ANGELS Feeding those In need.
 PILGRIMS PROGRESS Addiction recovery
 TEAM GREEN/ NEIGHBORS FEEDING NEIGHBORS

Liaisons

(What do we do? Ask us.)

Outreach Committee
 Jimmy Schneider
 Jimmy Schneider
 Susan Joslin and Ann Torok
 Esther Acker
 Esther Acker
 Esther Acker
 Yvonne Gale and Dan Joslin
 Dan Joslin
 Susan and Dan Joslin
 Bob Esselman and Guy Veni
 Doug Sherwood
 Ellen Woodard and Susan Joslin
 Doug Sherwood
 Doug Sherwood
 Dan Joslin
 Dan Joslin
 Dan Joslin
 Esther Acker and Pastor Ashley
 Susan Joslin and Yvonne Gale
 Ellen Woodard and Dan Joslin
 Esther Acker
 Pastor Vickie and the Chapel youth
 Pastor John
 Dan Joslin

The Outreach Committee thanks our congregation for the support of these worthwhile organizations.

Additional Local Mission Support by The Village Chapel Community

TAMBRA’S PLACE Homeless College Women Angel Tree and Jimmy Schneider
 EAGLE SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH Feed & Clothe My People The Village Chapel



Hunter Hess Farewell



We have been blessed at the Village Chapel with so many interesting, personable and dynamic individuals from all walks of life. Good Christians who literally did God's work in so many ways. There is no better example than Hunter Hess, whose untimely death in early December stunned all of us. How do you describe Hunter? A song from *The Sound of Music* inquired "how do you hold a moon beam in your hand?". Perhaps with Hunter it should be "how do you hold a sun beam in your hand?".

The Lord called Hunter home on December 3, 2020. Maybe God just needed some more sunshine in heaven because there was no shortage of prayers. Born June 19, 1956, Hunter was just 64 but he lived his life to the fullest and made life a little better for everyone who knew him. From the beginning it was clear that he knew what he wanted to do with his life. In that regard, he was very much like his mother, Suzie Hess, who sang in the Village Chapel choir for many years and was one of the first members of the Joyful Noise, the 9:30 service choir. Hunter was born in State College, Pennsylvania, the home of Penn State University, Joe Paterno and the Nittany Lions. His mother had graduated from Penn State and stayed in State College to teach. The obvious path for Hunter seemed to be to attend Penn State and perhaps follow his mother into music. Instead, he headed south to Florida State to follow his dream of a career in the food and catering business, another path to making people happy. And he was good at it. He used his degree in hotel and restaurant management to carve out a successful and satisfying career.

We at the Village Chapel were the beneficiaries of his skills, training and personality. Hunter was, in every thing he did, the epitome of enthusiasm. He had an infectious laugh, a ready smile and a warm, engaging manner toward everyone whether an old friend or new acquaintance. He lent his culinary talents to help make Break Nights something special. And his wife, Barbara, usually was there giving him a hand. He and Barbara also sang in the choir for several years. And every Christmas, they hosted a Christmas party at their home, with the largest tree in town, where the Chapel carolers gathered after their annual visit to shut ins. Beyond the Chapel, Hunter had a huge impact on the local restaurant scene. In addition to restaurants he owned and managed, he consulted with other well known watering holes - at the Rooster's Wife, the Drum and Quill, Maxi's, among others.

But we will remember Hunter mostly for his courage, his optimism in the face of adversity and his enduring good will. Hunter lost a leg to diabetes. No problem. He got a prosthetic and kept on trucking - in the kitchen and on the golf course. Then came kidney issues, weekly dialysis sessions and an uncertain future. Well, not uncertain for Hunter. He faced the situation with aplomb, took life as it was dealt and began looking for a kidney donor. After a couple years he found a match but he had to have a knee op first. Hunter laughed and took on the challenge. Then the kidney op was successful and Hunter planned to be back on the golf course without any extra strokes for his travails. But hospitals are dangerous places sometimes. Somehow, Hunter contracted the COVID-19 while recovering from the kidney transplant and suddenly what appeared to be a great triumph of resilience and determination over adversity turned into a tragic loss for his family and all of us.

Goodbye, Hunter. How we will miss you and the sunshine you brought to our lives and to the Village Chapel. But we know you are in God's saving grace and warm embrace and we must be thankful for having you as part of our lives for so many years and for all you have meant to us and the Village Chapel. Rest in peace, old friend.



TVC Youth, Ava Taylor Walker, Plays a Piano Piece for the Congregation at the Family Christmas Eve Service



Ava Taylor has been playing the piano for about 5 years now. She started playing piano when her grandparents gifted her with lessons. Ava Taylor has enjoyed playing the piano so much that she has continued her lessons and wishes to advance her skills.



The Walker Family: Laurie, Ava Taylor, Collins, Radford, & Jim



2020 Year End Report

The Village Chapel Congregation:

The year 2020 has been an unusual and challenging year for all of us individually as well as for The Village Chapel. It has also been a very eventful year for The Chapel and the Lord has blessed our church in many ways during this difficult time. The Board of Trustees is pleased to provide this year-end report on some of the key events of the year and to thank all of you for your continued faithfulness to our church.

The biggest event of the year was the progress of our new facility, Heritage Hall, which was overwhelmingly approved by the congregation in February and by the Village of Pinehurst in July. The engineering design phase of the project has continued since then and we expect to get final VOP approval and ask for construction bids in early 2021. We eagerly anticipate that groundbreaking will take place in early 2021! The congregation's generosity in contributing to the Heritage Hall project has been a huge blessing. We are very close to our goal of \$3 million, so that Heritage Hall will open free and clear of any debt. The board, the pastors and the congregation are excited as we look forward to this new chapter in the ministry of The Village Chapel in our community.

Early this year, when the Covid-19 pandemic forced us to temporarily discontinue live services, we might have expected a financial hardship for the church. As the year progressed, the faithfulness of our congregation in providing continued financial support became clear and we are blessed to end the year in good financial condition. This is also true for The Village Chapel Foundation, which saw a significant decline in the early months of the pandemic but more than fully recovered by the end of the year. The board is pleased to report that our church and the foundation are in excellent financial condition.

The pandemic created an opportunity to help another local church. Around mid-year, it came to our attention that the Redeemer Presbyterian Church needed a place to worship. They had been using facilities at the O'Neal School and had to find another place to worship after the school closed due to the pandemic. The Village Chapel pastors and board saw this as an opportunity to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ and agreed to let them use our sanctuary for their Sunday afternoon services. The Redeemer congregation has been meeting in The Chapel every Sunday since then and we thank the Lord for the opportunity to help them.

The pandemic increased the importance of live-streaming and recording our services, as many of our members and attendees chose to attend services in this way. This revealed a need to improve the church's audio-visual capabilities. To address this need we created a new position to be responsible for this technology. We welcomed Steve McKenzie back to our church to fill this new role and we are also making some A-V equipment upgrades. We hope you are already hearing and seeing improvement.

Earlier this year, Pastor John expressed a desire to gradually transition to Pastor Ashley some of his responsibilities as our Senior Pastor after he reached his 65th birthday. As a result, the board worked with him and Pastors Ashley and Vickie to develop a transition plan that will take place during 2021. The plan was approved by the board and announced to the congregation in September. When the plan has been fully implemented, Pastor Ashley will become our Senior Pastor and Pastor John will assume a temporary position as



Pastor Emeritus in 2022. The board is thankful for the opportunity to make this transition smoothly, gradually, and effectively; and in a way that benefits all our pastors.

During the second half of the year, the Board conducted a review of the Strategic Plan which had been completed in 2015. The review was led by Carole Southon and Dee Park. The review concluded that most of the action items identified in the Plan have been completed or are underway, a few are no longer relevant, and steps were identified to continue other action items as warranted.

The terms of three members of the Board of Trustees expired at the end of 2020 (Carole Southon, Jim Voelkel and John Rowerdink) and they are thankful for the opportunity to serve our church in this way. We also welcome three new members: Yvonne Gale, Sam Clay and Jon DeVault, and a new Treasurer, Kay Goulet. Thanks also to Alex Del Bueno, who served as our Treasurer until health reasons made it necessary for him to resign, and to Peter Gross, who filled in for him during the last few months of the year.

As 2021 begins, we are hopeful that we will soon be able to resume a normal worship schedule. We look forward to that with anticipation and in thankfulness for God's blessings and the continued faithfulness of The Village Chapel congregation.

Board of Trustees - 2020
The Village Chapel

Welcome New Board of Trustee Members

Nancy Smith – Class of 2022

Born and growing up in Pinehurst, Nancy and her husband, Doug Smith, have been members of the Village Chapel for over 20 years. They have three grown daughters that live in the Atlanta area. She attended Pinehurst Public Schools, St. Mary's Preparatory and Junior College in Raleigh, and UNC Chapel Hill, graduating with a B.A. in History. In addition, she also graduated from Katharine Gibbs School in New York and UNC Asheville with a Teacher's certificate.

She has held offices and served on the Boards of Directors of various civic and social organizations, such as Given Memorial Library, Pinehurst Civic Group, Pinehurst Historic Preservation Foundation, Friends of Given Memorial Library, and Moore Regional Hospital. Her civic participation includes service on the Planning & Zoning Board, the Community Appearance Commission, and the Historic Commission for the Village of Pinehurst. She received the Distinguished Service Award by the Pinehurst Civic Group. Her service to the Chapel has been on the Membership Committee, the Shepherd Program, Flower Chairman, Choir, and Women of the Chapel.





Jon DeVault – Class of 2023



Jon and his wife Martha have been attending the Village Chapel for twenty years. They attend the 9:30 service. They both graduated from Baylor University with Jon receiving a BS and MS degree in math and physics. Jon has previously served on the Village Chapel Board of Trustees. He also just finished a term as Chairman of the Board of the Foundation of First Health. He has served as Chairman of Board of Governors of the Fairwoods on Seven, President of the Pinehurst Forum, and is a member of the Tin Whistles.

Jon's career was in advanced composite materials. He served as president of an international company that manufactured graphite fiber and composite structures. He was also on the board of directors for many companies and served as a consultant providing management and technical services to the advanced materials industry. Jon and Martha moved to Pinehurst in 1999.

Sam Clay – Class of 2023

Sam has been a member of the Village Chapel for four years. He and his wife, Faith, attend the 9:30 service. They have 3 grown children and 2 grandchildren. Daughter, Samantha and family, live in Charlotte; son, Dan, is in New York City; and daughter, Melissa, is in Chicago.

Prior to living in Pinehurst, Sam and Faith lived in Troy, MI, for 38 years. They attended a Methodist church where Sam served on the Board of Trustees, Building and Grounds and the Communications Committees. Since joining the Chapel, Sam has worked with the Building and Grounds committee to upgrade the lighting throughout with energy efficient LED. He attends the Thursday Bible Study, supports the men's ministry as well as Angel Tree.

Sam graduated from The University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in Business. Sam owned his own business for over 40 years which included dealing in imports and exports. Over time, he began focusing on improved lighting and specifically LED lighting solutions. He grew his company to over 40 employees and before relinquishing control did lighting design for a number of the major automotive plants in America.





Yvonne Gale – Class of 2023

1 Peter 4:10: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

We are expected to serve others with the gifts that God has given us, whether it be listening, caring for others, sharing our material goods, or working for justice. This belief is the foundation of my spiritual life, and the legacy that my father taught me.

Yvonne has been a member of The Village Chapel for 14 years and usually attends the 9:30 service. The Communications, the Outreach, and Angel Tree are among the committees that she has served on at TVC. She is also an active member of the Women's Discussion Group. Because she was an English and journalism teacher for 29 years, Yvonne loves to write, read, and study literature. She has written for "The Fayetteville Observer." She serves on the Board of the Sandhill's Woman's Exchange and volunteers there on a regular basis.



The word "trust" is found inside the word "trustee." Yvonne believes that serving on the Board of Trustees will challenge her to be a responsible guardian and manager of The Village Chapel's material and spiritual assets. With the congregation's trust, she hopes to make decisions that will carry out the mission of The Village Chapel, but more importantly reflect the mandates of love, service, and justice that God requires of Christians.

January Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|
| 1 | Gay Gearhart
Alice Schalz
Larry Martin
Shirlene Bremer
Charlie Abner | Teresa Graham
Barbara Kelley | Sherry Wood
Ellen Brown
Ellisa Granata |
| 2 | Allen Turner | 11 | Al Mangum |
| 3 | Hannah Smith
James Hart
Jerry Ayers | 12 | Alex Grimshaw
Pamela Bradley |
| 4 | Amita Sherwood | 13 | 23 |
| 5 | Harper Kisver
LuAnn Schneider | Janis Sholtis
Connie Lovell
Jonathan
Newman | Bill Wetmore
Susan Culp |
| 6 | Ted Williams
Laura Goodman | 14 | 25 |
| 8 | John Sebastain | Jim Busby | Ralph Newman
Dan Joslin
Paula Crocker
Lee Carbaugh |
| 9 | Lindsey Lashmit | 15 | 26 |
| 10 | Martha Romero | Zoe Wall
Mary Jo Matthies
Curtis Anaya
Devina Sherwood | Harriet Neely |
| | | 17 | 28 |
| | | Sam Clay | Liz Skvarla |
| | | 19 | 29 |
| | | Judith Sherer | Charles Meyer |
| | | 20 | 30 |
| | | Diane Tate | Walter Bull
Dick Haefele |

Happy Anniversary

- 8 Gene and Jill Bonacci
9 Al and Edie Ashdown
10 Rich and Cricket Cowell
18 Tim and Lesley Woodruff
30 Charles and Diana Meyer



The Village Chapel Music Series

presents

Music for Trumpet, Organ, and Percussion

Friday January 22, 7:00PM (Rescheduled from November)

featuring

Chris Dunn, Rob Hill, Wayne Osborne, and Stephen Gourley

Included on the program will be the premiere of a new work for voice, trumpet, and piano by
Stephen Gourley, sung by Claire fields

Our concerts continue to be available via live stream only. There will be no in-person audience. Our
thanks is extended for your continued support of The Village Chapel Music Series. Concerts may be
viewed on the Chapel's YouTube page at www.youtube.com/tvcpinehurst1/c/

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

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