

The Chapel Herald

WORSHIP | LEARN | SERVE

Rev. Dr. Ashley Smith, Senior Pastor

Former President Jimmy Carter Attends The Village Chapel

I remember after the service was over, when we all walked out onto the portico, I saw photographers peering around our large pines with extended lenses, hoping to capture a picture of the former president. It seemed to be quite a buzz in the community at the time. Vickie and I were invited to attend the reception at the Table on The Green. “Where is that?” I thought. I later thought it was a humble place for a “presidential” wedding; When I tasted the food, it all made sense—entirely gourmet.

Just inside the entrance of the restaurant and off to the side, stood “Jimmy and Rosalynn.” They were very approachable, and we were able to enjoy a conversation with them. I remember the former president saying that he was going back to Plains, GA to teach his weekly Sunday School class. We enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship and conversation with The Carters and The Stapletons.

I decided to write this article after hearing that the former president had passed. 100 years of life! Jimmy Carter was the longest living U.S. President. He has now been reunited with Rosalynn, who passed in November of last year, and with our LORD. I wanted to share my personal memory and experience and write a brief homage to the only former president (or sitting president), that I know of, that has ever visited The Village Chapel.



May he rest in eternal peace.

Pastor Ashley 

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**Angel Tree, Women of the Chapel,
Upcoming Events and much more!**



The year was 2011. I'll never forget standing in the Chapel's administration building in front of the administrator's office (Steve McKenzie's current office). Three people came walking in, one through each entrance—East, North, and West entrances. Turns out, they were Secret Service agents. I asked if I could help them. I learned that they had come to map the layout of the Chapel's campus. Former President Jimmy Carter and former first lady Rosalynn Carter were to attend a wedding that I was officiating on the upcoming Saturday, which was normal protocol for a former president attending a semi-public event.

On cue, I walked from the vestry, acknowledged the altar, and turned to face a nave filled with smiling faces. Sitting in the front row—pole position—was the former president and his wife. I was a bit nervous. The Stapleton family, from Fayetteville, NC (relatives of the Carters) was counting on me to “tie the knot,” so I focused on the sacrament of matrimony.

Rev. Trey Majure, Associate Pastor

“The Gospel of the Kingdom”



In January our minds naturally focus on our plans and expectations for the upcoming year. Often I will pick a word or phrase that I feel led to hold on to as I move through the year, and this year the phrase is “The Gospel of the Kingdom.” This comes from several places in the Word of God, one of which is Luke 16:16, “The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the Gospel of

the Kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.”


The word “Kingdom” has two distinct parts. The first is obvious and it is king, in this instance it is Christ. The second part is -dom which is referring to domain or dominion, and when you put these two together we see the meaning of kingdom is a king’s domain. In Revelation 19, we get a picture of the Gospel of the Kingdom as Christ is riding on a white horse as a warrior into battle, and His armies are following. The King is riding into battle with His army, taking back what is rightfully His. This battle is not with flesh and blood for as Paul says in Ephesians 6, “we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

There are a few things that I am choosing to focus on this year, and I hope you will as well. Firstly, spiritual warfare is real and can easily be defined as the typical Christian life. To be a child of God, is to have Satan as your adversary. From the first day the “spiritual hosts of wickedness” will be seeking to destroy your faith, family, and anything else they can. This is a battle, but praise God we have Christ leading us into the battle, and His name is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We have nothing to fear, but we need to acknowledge that spiritual warfare is all around us.

Secondly, Paul describes the “Armor of God” in Ephesians 6 by we can stand fast against the evil one. The belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the Gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. To survive and thrive in the battle, our focus must always be on our relationship with God. One preacher once told me that the key to the Christian life is to, “Stay close, and stay clean.” Maintain a daily, close relationship with God and keep yourself pure before Him.



Finally, Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:18 that our chief “weapon” in this spiritual war is prayer. I think we often pray for our friends, loved ones, and even strangers. We pray for people in need and dire situations. But do we pray that God would advance the Kingdom of Light against the kingdom of darkness? Do we pray that God would eliminate all His enemies surrounding a person or situation, that He would “bind the strongman” as Jesus says. Do we pray with a focus on the real enemy, not flesh and blood, but against Satan and his legion of darkness? This is warfare prayer, recognizing the spiritual nature of life and place our hope and trust in the One who brings victory.

May we this New Year remember the Gospel of the Kingdom, put on the whole armor of God, and follow the King of Kings and Lord of Lords into the battle. God bless you all! 

In Christ,

-Trey

'Is 2025 the Year of Prophecy?'

Starting Wednesday, January 8th, 2025, Greg Wetzelberger will begin the "Revelation in One Year" Bible Study. Join us each month to discuss two chapters of Revelation as we slowly remove the mystery and confusion surrounding the Apocalypse. This class will be easy to follow, easy to understand, and an eye-opening experience. All are welcome!

Meet the Congregation—Diane and Larry Magruder



The Magruders

how to do CT (computed tomography). The younger son is known by his middle name of Christian and has a degree in athletic training. He works in the Orthopedic Department of the Duke University Health System. He is engaged to Molly and they

Larry felt very comfortable and welcomed at The Village Chapel. In fact, the first service he realized that he had been at The Village Chapel before when he was a member of The Duke Chorale.


plan to be married next June. Larry and Diane are really looking forward to this event.

The Magruders moved here in 2018 from the Dallas area after retirement. They initially lived in Southern Pines, but have since moved to the West End area. Larry spent the first years they were here working as a physician in the Emergency Room at Cape Fear Medical Center in Fayetteville, but is now fully retired. Diane admits that she “loves” pine trees which is fortunate since they are surrounded by them!

Larry professes a faith tradition of Episcopalian and says that he learned to be an acolyte early in his childhood. Diane was raised in the Lutheran faith. After they moved here, they attended services in several different churches and felt very comfortable and welcomed at The Village Chapel. In fact, Larry said that at the first service he felt a strong sense of familiarity here. He later realized that he had been at The Village Chapel before when he was a member of The Duke Chorale as an undergraduate student when the group performed here.

Many of you may recognize Larry from his presence in the choir. Larry says that he was always interested in singing, but his family was not musically

gifted. While he attended Duke, he decided to take singing lessons. He worked very hard at this and the Duke Chorale also helped him. In addition to his choir activities, he now serves on the Buildings/Grounds Committee. He helped upgrade the defibrillators here at The Village Chapel and worked to get more members of the congregation involved in learning how to use them. Diane has participated in a number of activities of the church. She is also a quilter and a member of the Moore County Quilters Guild. Diane expressed her feelings well when she said, “I love this church.”

We are thankful they decided to make their home here and pray that God has a plan for them to stay for quite some time. 

Contributed by Gerri Crutchfield

Meet Our New Members



Daisy & Tanner Edmunds

Larry and Diane Magruder grew up in different states. Diane grew up on a farm near Calamus, a small town in the eastern part of Iowa. Larry hails from Texas having lived in several cities there. Diane went to nursing school in Moline, Ill. Larry completed his undergraduate studies at Duke University, but went back to his home state to study medicine at the University of Texas at Galveston.

Diane moved to Texas and met Larry during his medical residency at Methodist Hospital in Dallas. Larry says that he asked Diane for a date three times and she turned him down each time. Fortunately, she had a change of heart and then approached him for a date. Thankfully, he didn’t hold a grudge and they began dating! This relationship eventually led to marriage. Larry finished his residency in Family Medicine and later also worked in Emergency Medicine. Diane spent most of her career in obstetrical nursing and in the later years of her career she worked in medical review with insurance companies.

They have two sons, Robert August and Robert Christian. Larry explains that the name Robert has been in his family for many generations and he and Diane continued this tradition. They call the older son Robert. He lives in Salt Lake City and is a radiology technician who is also learning

Hanging of the Greens

On Wednesday, December 4 we held our annual Hanging of the Greens service in the sanctuary. What a wonderful way to begin the holiday season. Thanks to everyone who participated!



The Chrismon Tree

Once again, our Chrismon Committee did an amazing job decorating the tree.

Beautiful, hand-made ornaments adorn this eloquent tree, helping us to understand the true meaning of Christmas.

From the Director of Music

Dear Chapel Family,

I am excited to share with you information regarding the next concert on our Chapel Music Series. On Friday, February 28, we will welcome organ students from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. UNCSA opened as the first public arts conservatory in the United States in 1963 by Governor Terry Sanford and joined the University of North Carolina System in 1972. Today, UNCSA offers graduate, undergraduate, and high school diplomas in the areas of music, film, dance, design and production, and visual arts.

This concert will be particularly meaningful for me as UNCSA is my alma mater and gifted me four of the most important years of my growth as a young artist. It will be a pleasure to present these talented students in concert on our Austin/Zimmer organ. I hope you will take the opportunity to support these young people as they share their talents with us. Dr. Tim Olsen, professor of organ and associate dean in the music school will speak briefly during the concert about UNCSA's offerings and opportunities that organ students in the department are afforded.

Stephen



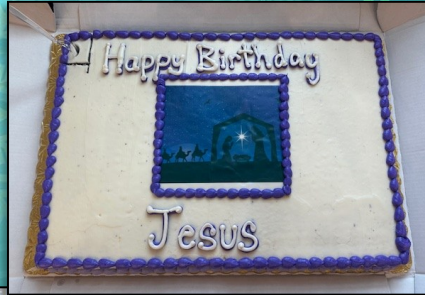
Carolina Brass

On December 22, we were treated to our annual visit from the Carolina Brass. Music Director Stephen Gourley put together an amazing program of music that inspired the Christmas season!



Christmas Youth Activities

One Sunday December 15, we had a birthday party for Jesus at Sunday school. We had cake and sang happy birthday to Jesus!



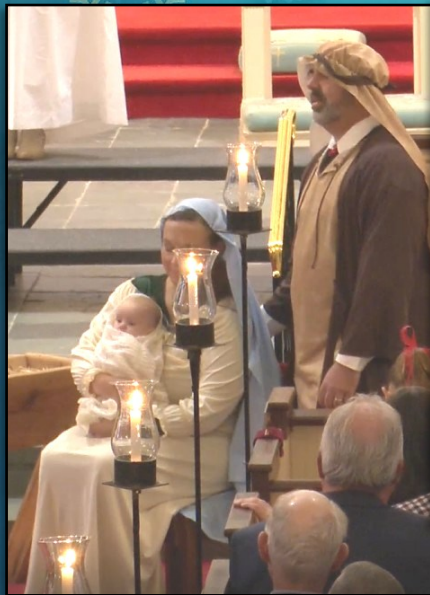
Later that same day, the Youth visited some of our shut-ins and blessed them by singing Christmas Carols!



Children and Youth



The Christmas Eve Children's Pageant



This year we had an **AMAZING** Christmas Eve Pageant with our children and youth! Thanks to everyone who showed up and made this pageant one of the best ever!



Upcoming Outreach Events

Jan 8, 5:45 pm, Chapel Hall (following Through the Bible Class). Join us for a short presentation by visiting Philippines missionaries, Paul and Elvie Barner, to learn about their very successful church planting and Barner Christian Academy in Davao, Philippines. After showing a short video of their work, they will offer an opportunity to adopt a student to assist in the spiritual growth and education at the Academy. RSVP-info@tvcpinehurst.com, Barner Christian Academy presentation.

Jan 24, 6-9 pm, Chapel Hall, Human Trafficking Awareness Seminar, sponsored by TVC and Changing Destinies Ministry.

Jan 28, 11:30, the Fair Barn. Friend to Friends' Annual Benefit Luncheon. Discover how they are providing vital assistance to victims of abuse in Moore County. To make reservations, go to <https://www.friendtofriend.me/2025luncheon> to make reservations.

Ongoing **donations are always welcome** for Life Care Pregnancy Center (diapers sizes newborn, 1 & 2); the Coalition for Human Care (canned goods and large sized diapers, 5&6); Sandhills Student Assistance (individual snacks, fruit cups and microwavable soups).

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."

WOC-Christmas Brunch



Women of the Chapel



Worship, Education, Sisterhood....Meet the Women of the Chapel

There is an unbreakable bond between women. Sisters take care of each other, comfort one another and are there for each other through thick or thin.

for if they fall, one will lift up the other..."

Ecclesiastes 4:9

Whether you are new to The Village Chapel or simply have not had a chance to become acquainted with The Women of the Chapel... this article will provide insight on all Women of the Chapel (WOC) does and ways to get involved!

The WOC was first established in 1972 as one of the first ministries at The Village Chapel. The rich history is one of sisterhood and fellowship, charitable efforts, Christian education and worship, and walking together in our spiritual journey with God. The WOC sponsors events throughout the year organized by the WOC Steering Committee. Each event or function of the WOC consists of a chair or cochairs (see list below) who oversees the event or planning of each committee.

Christmas Brunch

Bible Studies & Christian Education

Women's Health Education

Spring Tea

Chrismons & Hanging of the Greens

Open House & Community Events

Arts & Crafts*

Cross Ties Fellowship Luncheons

Garden Club - Tribute Garden*

Retreats*

** Currently seeking new Chair/Co-Chairs for 2025*

The Steering Committee meets monthly and is seeking ladies to join in the fun and fellowship of planning future events.

If we have peaked your interest, just contact

Chair Lyla Renai Elliott or Vice-Chair Renee Cassidy at: womenofthechapeltvc@gmail.com

Our Mission: As the Women of the Chapel, we seek to worship God and to teach and encourage women to draw closer to God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We offer programs, outreach opportunities, and fellowship that foster spiritual growth.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: *BE JOYFUL*

Warren Wiersbe's study of Philippians will begin **Monday, January 13th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Care Cottage**. All women are welcome to come for this time of growing in our walk with the Lord and our fellowship with one another. Books can be purchased on Amazon. Contact Nancy Manley if you are interested. (nlby@nc.rr.com)

Celebrate with US!!



Congratulations to Luke & Courtney Taylor on the baptism of their first-born son, Daniel James Taylor



12/14/2024 we welcomed Paul Scully Wilkison on at 7:51pm! 7 lbs 0 oz. We are overcome with joy, Mary Jessup and Paul are both doing great! Thank you for the prayers!



Don Hamilton turned 90 on December 25, 2024!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Anniversaries

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Gay Gearhart | Victor Aguilar | 23 Susan Culp |
| Alice Schalz | 12 Robert Adams | 24 Anne Lucey |
| Larry Martin | 13 Janis Sholtis | Amy Brereton |
| Sarah Jane Harmon | Ava Grey Barnes | Jim Sanner |
| Shirlene Bremer | Connie Lovell | Ralph Newman |
| 2 Keith Turner | Jonathan Newman | Paula Crocker |
| 3 Hannah Smith | 14 Jim Busby | Doug Smith |
| James Hart | Carolyn Fitzpatrick | Lee Carbaugh |
| Jerry Ayers | Mark Milakovic | 26 Sandra Williams |
| 4 Amita Sherwood | 15 Mary Jo Matthies | Ron Scheil |
| 5 Harper Kisver | Curtis Anaya | 27 Allinson Strotheide |
| LuAnn Schneider | Zoe Wall | Kathleen Scurti |
| Maggie Simmons | Devina Sherwood | 28 Liz Skvarla |
| James Vestermark | 17 Sam Clay | Byron Grantham |
| 6 Ted Williams | Brynn May | Bonnie Jo |
| Laura Goodman | 19 Judith Sherer | Wurzbacher |
| 8 John Sebastain | 20 Diane Tate | Linda Peters |
| 9 Lindsey Lashmit | Sherry Wood | 29 Charles Meyer |
| 10 Martha Romero | Ellen Brown | Gerri Crutchfield |
| Teresa Graham | Olivia Newman | 30 Dick Haefele |
| Barbara Kelley | Toye Payne | Don Brown |
| Levi Pritchard | Ellisa Granata | |
| 11 Jane Leonard | 21 Jackie Tucker | |
| Mike Moody | 22 Alex Grimshaw | |
| Rob Moore | Pam Bradley | |

- 2 Jim & Judy Bartram
Keith & Laura Von Zup
- 5 Bob & Edie Gentile
- 9 Ron & Patricia Scheil
- 10 Rich & Cricket Cowell
- 14 Peter & Lisa Gallimore
- 19 Thomas Jasmine Walker

Members of The Village Chapel
 Adults 701 • Children 117

Friends of the Chapel
 Adults 189 • Children 47

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.



Hebrews 13:16

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

The Angel Tree Committee would like to thank the Village Chapel congregation for generously supporting the Coalition/Angel Tree program. For all of you that sponsored families, donated financially, and prayed for these families in need...we are truly in awe with the generosity of our Village Chapel Family. Your kindness will bring smiles to our 75 sponsored families.

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

- The many wrappers who came on December 9th and 10th to be sure all gifts were wrapped and ready for distribution. You are an amazing bunch!
- Julie Huggins and the Hospitality Committee who provided lunch for the wrappers. We appreciate you!
- Angela and Josh Fox who took charge of our Toys for Tots. They had some wonderful helpers: Kennedy and Presley as well as Kate, Ava Grey and Riley Barnes. Thank you to all of you! Toys for Tots is always very generous to our Angel Tree families!
- Rich Cowell for taking charge of getting outside volunteers for Distribution Day and for Rich and Stanley for getting the grocery carts needed for Distribution Day. You are greatly appreciated!
- 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. You are a blessing to all!
- 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, Sally Brown, Dian Moore, and Angela Fox





THE VILLAGE CHAPEL AND CHANGING
DESTINIES MINISTRY PRESENTS
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AWARENESS SEMINAR**
FOR PARENTS & YOUTH



**January 24, 2025 • 6:00-9:00pm • Chapel Hall
The Village Chapel, Pinehurst, NC**

**SPECIAL AGENT, PROJECT INVICTUS TASK FORCE SURVIVORS
TESTIMONY PANEL | RICK STOKER | FIRST FRUIT MINISTRIES
BUCK WARREN | CHANGING DESTINIES MINISTRY**

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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