

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

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# The Chapel Herald

WORSHIP | LEARN | SERVE

**Rev. Dr. Ashley Smith, Senior Pastor**

## Angling Toward the Light

(Article adapted from Axis- The Culture Translator)

Here's an article that Pastor Vickie shared with me; we found it so moving and thought provoking that I wanted to share it with you all. It has tremendous theological and biblical significance and application. It's a story about an angler fish--enjoy!

“‘I wish it need not have happened in my time,’ said Frodo. ‘So do I,’ said Gandalf, ‘and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.’”



A doomed anglerfish swimming from the dark depths to the sunlit surface of the ocean has captured the internet's heart this week.

Why it's connecting with people? The tale almost writes itself: an anglerfish, knowing her end is near, chooses to reject the darkness of her home and, as her final act, swims to the surface to see the sun for the first and final time. The light hitting her face—a face some might consider horrifying—is maybe the only “true” light she has ever seen. The internet's telling of the tale has been poignant, beautiful, and with a hint of tragedy. Of course, a variety of things could've motivated the fish's final exodus, but that doesn't change the empathy the doomed anglerfish is inspiring in others.

Let's translate this one further...

Human beings use stories to make sense of the world—and some of the most enduring stories are tragedies. Orpheus goes to hell and back to rescue Eurydice, only to lose her at the last moment. Romeo and Juliet love each other but can never truly be together. An anglerfish quietly swims to see the sun as its final act.

Tragedies remind us that our time on earth will, eventually, come to an end—but despite being a stark reminder that our lives are a “mist” as James describes (James 4:14), tragedies also remind us that what we do with that limited time has deep significance. In the Fellowship of the Ring, Frodo begins to realize that his story may end in tragedy, and in a moment of honesty, he laments to Gandalf:

You may be thinking that this is an overly dramatic way to talk about a tiny, dying anglerfish—an anglerfish who, whether because of a malfunctioning swim bladder, a misfiring instinct, or some other reason, left her perpetual darkness to spend her final moments in the light. But even a tiny, seemingly insignificant anglerfish can remind us of our hope. That even when the “nations rage” (Psalm 2:1) and tragedy strikes—even when life seems dark, we can still choose to follow after “the light of the world.” And the difference is that instead of tragedy, the Christian's story ends with “everything sad coming untrue.”

Turn your face and your life toward the light!

Pastor Ashley

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**and much more!**

Rev. Trey Majure, Associate Pastor



“Why Lent?”

We were all born, we will all die, and in between we pay taxes. And while all of us have been born, and we have all paid taxes, the one thing that we have yet to experience for ourselves is death. I did not intend for this article to be sad or morbid, but death is as much a part of life as

birth is. The exact meaning and beginning of Lent is debated, but what we know is that Lent is meant to be a time of preparation. You may ask, “Preparation for what?” Preparation for our death.

I feel that we as humans are naturally inclined toward celebrating and feasting, and we can easily allow the joy of this life to overtake us. But how often do we spend thinking and meditating on our mortality, realizing that one day this life will come to an end and on that very day a new life will begin? Lent is a time to slow down, fast, pray, and contemplate the brevity of life.

This somber spirit is echoed in the liturgy of churches all around the world. On Ash Wednesday we place ashes on our heads, reminding us that from the dust we came and to the dust we will return. We fast to separate ourselves from the comforts and joys of this life, so that we can meditate on the things of eternal consequence. Sermons focus on our sins and depravity, coercing us to evaluate our true nature and in turn to seek fully after Christ and the higher life. The songs and hymns of the church take on a darker tone,

highlighting the finality and eventuality of death for us all. I admit, throughout my years of ministry the most misunderstood (and even disliked) season of the church calendar by parishioners has been Lent. Trust me, I understand their feelings. They want the joy and hope found in the resurrection, and to that I say “Amen!” But I would caution us all not to rush past the temptation in the wilderness. Let us spend some time meditating on the fact that to live is to be tempted. May we not rush past the cross, but meditate on what it means to carry our own crosses. And may we not rush past death in order to get to eternal life. For it is the reality of death that brings meaning and power to the resurrection.

Lent may not be full of wonder like Christmas, as awe-inspiring as Epiphany, nor as joyful as Easter. It may not be those, but Lent

is an essential part of the Christian life. We would be wise to allow it to form us more deeply into the image of our Lord. +

In Christ,  
-Trey



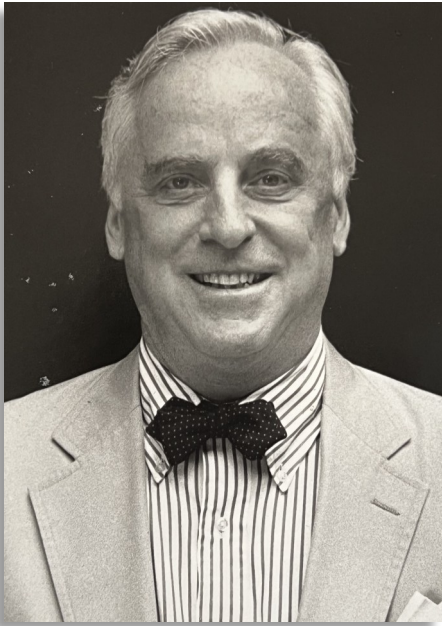
Realm® Connect

To better meet the needs of our growing TVC family, we have made the decision to upgrade our Church Management software with Realm!

Over the next few weeks, be on the lookout for videos and information on our updated system. Once we are ready to launch, there will be a new app for all members to download as well as a new member portal on our website. This will allow all members to see their personal profile, make changes and updates, view our calendar and register for upcoming events, connect with service opportunities and committees, and get better connected with our church.



# Meet the Congregation– Charles Meyer



Charlie was born in 1938 in New York City, and grew up on Long Island. He met his first wife, Katherine and they had three children, Katie, Charlie, and Ted. In the course of a happy life in New York.

Charlie fashioned a career in three areas. He is an architect, he was active in real estate development, and served on three bank boards. He also served as President of The New York Association for the Blind, The Lighthouse. Charlie and his family worshipped at Oyster Bay Presbyterian Church, in Oyster Bay, N.Y. Katherine was deceased in 2006 in New York.

Charlie met Diana in 2007 while she was visiting her daughter on Long Island. They were married in the Spring of 2008, and Charlie moved to Pinehurst. Diana’s family included her children, Donnell G., Beth and Rob. Charlie began attending The Village Chapel where Diana had been a member for some time. Diana served as Chair of Community Donations, now known as the

Stewardship Committee. Diana died in May, 2022.

Charles has served The Village Chapel as Chair of the Stewardship Committee and as a member of the Board of Directors (currently serving a 2nd term). All who attend the 11:00AM Service may recognize Charlie as one who particularly enjoys the reading of Scripture. He is thankful to the Village Chapel for so many things; among a few: Stephen’s music, the choir and in particular the application of Scripture to and within our lives.

The church is grateful for his dedication and service. +

~Contributed by Gerri Crutchfield



## REMINDER!!!

Daylight Saving Time (DST) starts *THIS* Sunday, March 9!! Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead 1 HOUR on Saturday night!

### BAPTISMS



We were very blessed to have a double baptism on Sunday, February 16, 2025. Congratulations to the Wolfe and Manley families.



Holder Walter Wolfe



Paige Elise Manley



Music in a Penitential Season

Every Sunday in the liturgical year is a celebration of the Resurrection. While music in a typical worship service can range from joyous to stately to reflective to solemn, it is always offered in celebration of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. Be it a congregational hymn, choral anthem, or organ voluntary, music in worship is always an expression of faith. I find it especially poignant, almost humbling, that immediately following a most joyful and triumphant celebration of one hundred years of worship in our sanctuary, we shift gears completely by moving into the season of Lent.

Easter is April 20, just over a month away. It will be a day of great rejoicing with triumphant music and shouts of “Hallelujah, He is risen!” And it should be. We must first go on the Lenten journey to Easter: the forty days and forty nights beginning with Ash Wednesday. While the Sundays in Lent are not counted among the forty days, they are equally as important in this season of penitence. Lent should be a time of self-reflection in addition to penitence, as people and as Christians. In our lives, it can be easy to focus solely on the pomp and celebration. However, it is crucial to hold space for the full journey which can encompass a range of emotions and experiences. This is true for our Christian journey. It is difficult to know the full joy of Easter without experiencing the full scope of Lent and Holy Week.

Our Lenten journey will be especially reflected in the words we sing and the music that accompanies them. Among the choir’s offerings during Lent will include settings of familiar texts such as There is a Balm in Gilead, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross and Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley.

Our worship will include many hymns relevant to the season with some being intentionally introspective. Hymn 382, Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive, uses words from the Lord’s Prayer as its crux in a most introspective fashion. The third stanza is particularly poignant the way the clear image of the cross is compared to our dim knowledge of the truth; the truth being that any earthly debt owed to us pales in comparison to the debt owed to Jesus.

Every year during Lent we sing What Wondrous is Love (Hymn 257), a text that dates to the early 19th century. The opening line can be viewed as a statement or question. The idea of this “wondrous love” serves as a starting point for the writer who goes on to reference Christ laying aside his crown for their



soul. The third and fourth stanzas are inspiring statements by the writer who commits to singing the news of the great “wondrous love” both in this mortal life and “when from death I’m free.” A common theme in this hymn is repetition of words. Repeated lines in music are often a tool for heightening drama in a poem or story. As put by Dr. Michael Hawn, formerly of the Perkins School of Theology, these are not carefully crafted words, but rather utterances from one’s soul.

Our Lenten season will include music and words familiar to many of you, and music and words that may be less familiar. I hope that our various musical offerings will serve as valuable components of your worship and provoke a deeper appreciation or understanding of their importance during this season.

Stephen



# Music Series -Season 10

On Friday, February 27, we were treated to a very special organ concert featuring students from *North Carolina School of the Arts Organ Department*. Here is a look back at the evening.



Visit our **YouTube Channel** to see the full concert live stream.



Lots of fun coming up for Children and Youth this **SPRING AND SUMMER!** Our annual **EGG HUNT** and **VBS** are just around the corner.

We **NEED VOLUNTEERS** and **LOTS OF CANDY**  
(see the **BIN** in the Atrium)!

Please call Pastor Vickie at (910) 295-6003 ext. 102 to sign up!



**SATURDAY, APRIL 19 • 1:00PM**  
**JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL COMMUNITY**  
**EASTER EGG HUNT**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
Sunday, May 11 is  
**GRADUATION SUNDAY!**

**VBS- COMING THIS SUMMER!!**



**Save-the-Date**  
**June 16-20, 2025**

*Marvel at Jesus, Live for His Glory*



## Women of the Chapel

Save the Date

### The Ladies Spring Tea • Tuesday, April 15, 2025 • 2pm-4pm

**Georgina Verzal** will be our guest speaker, and High Tea will be catered by Elliott's. If you are interested in hosting a table, please contact Lyla Elliott ([womenofthechapeltvc@gmail.com](mailto:womenofthechapeltvc@gmail.com) or 910-773-0256). Registration for the event will begin on **March 1**.

### Discover Freedom in Christ with the Keys to Freedom Study

Join us for Keys to Freedom, an inspiring 8-week interactive Bible study designed to deepen your faith and transform your spiritual journey. Whether you're new to faith or looking to grow closer to God, this study offers a warm, approachable, and life-changing experience.

Through daily Bible readings, reflection questions, and heartfelt prayers, you'll learn to:

- ✓ Hear God's voice more clearly
- ✓ Renew your mind with His truth
- ✓ Break free from past struggles
- ✓ Embrace forgiveness and spiritual growth

Study begins: Wednesday, April 2 at 2:00 p.m. | Board Conference Room

Small group setting (limited to 10 participants for a more personal experience)

Don't miss this opportunity to walk in true freedom! For questions and to sign up (required), contact Renee Cassidy at [reneeacassidy@gmail.com](mailto:reneeacassidy@gmail.com). We can't wait to grow together in faith with you!



# Sanctuary Centennial

On Sunday, March 2, The Village Chapel celebrated its *Sanctuary Centennial*. One hundred years of having services in this beautiful facility. There was a joyous spirit that filled the service with beautiful music, praise and worship.





# Sanctuary Centennial



After the service Pastor Ashley dedicated a *new time capsule* to be opened on March 2, 2125. *Robert Tufts*, great, great grandson of Pinehurst founder, James Walker Tufts, placed a time capsule into a new vault.



A reception was held in Heritage Hall where BOT vice chairman, *Bill Lindemberger* dedicated a beautiful drawing of the Chapel.







Save the Date!!



Sandhills Habitat's 2025 Apostles Build home will have their Pastors' Build Day April 24, 8 am in **BRIGHT MEADOWS**, a subdivision in Addor (Pine Bluff area). Thank you to Pastor Trey for representing TVC that day.

**SAVE THE DATE:** The Village Chapel build weekend will be May 15-17, partnering with Emmanuel Episcopal church. Please visit the habitat volunteer login page to sign up for your desired day (8am-1

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."

MARCH BIRTHDAYS			Anniversaries
1 Amy Crabtree	David Jones	Abigail Smith	4 Greg & Mandy Grimshaw 5 Jerry & Yvonne Taylor 9 Dale & Clela Mitchell 13 Mike & Irene Bradley 24 Robert & Ellen Weaver-Bailey Steve & Bonnie Jo Wurzbacher 26 David & Lynette Crosby 29 Tom & Mary Stultz 31 Marjorie & Jan Ludwig
4 Noel Roberts	13 Cam Cantelou	David Oppen	
Landen Smith	14 Susan Leader	21 Andrew Wilson	
Brook Totten-Lancaster	15 Amy Corcoran	Bo Smith	
Catherine Stewart	Nathaniel Walker	Janis Nestor	
Richard Pabst	Nathan Presnal	Charlie Yow	
5 Phil Martinello	16 Harriett Riley	24 Ron Gibson	
Gary Mullis	Mira Reynolds	Isabella Green	
7 Anne Fox	17 Walter Blackwell	26 Buck Adams	
Arlene Knapp	18 Sybil Del Bueno	Tori Marotto	
Todd Torvinen	Jim Fisher	Tom Brereton	
8 Char Rohr	Ford Grimshaw	Maribel Pena	
9 Lawson Barrett	Millard Welch	29 Jackie Garris	Members of The Village Chapel Adults 714 • Children 123  Friends of the Chapel Adults 117 • Children 7
Dale Mitchell	Melanie Burgess	Jennifer Imperial	
Stephen Stewart	Tina Coxen-	Mary Barranti	
12 Russell Zumwalt	Walshaw	Allison Couzens	
Jeff Fox	20 Roy Register	30 Kevin Brundage	
		31 Tom Schroeder	
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.			



# Who are the Graduation Guardian Angels?

The Village Chapel family are the Graduation Guardian Angels! This all started in 2018 when a few members of Men of the Chapel, Ministry (MOCM) discussed, “what if we could raise enough money to give each of these unaccompanied/homeless youth/youth in dire need a scholarship” to start their career in college, community college, or trades school. So, they scratched out some steps on a napkin and it was born at the Village Chapel.

How it happens:

- In February a member of MOCM contacts the HS social workers and they each work with their respective principals and counselors to identify the students. MOCM also reaches out to the Boys & Girls Club. This is completed by the end of February. They provide MOCM the “initials” of the students. \* In March we know just how many students we need to help. We send out an Eblast to Men’s Ministry, write an announcement for the Chapel’s weekly bulletin, and publish a short article in the Herald. The bulletin announcement runs weekly in March, April, and first week of May. The months of March and April we have a Herald article.
- In April MOCM writes a personalized “congratulations” note for each student. These are handwritten notes of encouragement on a Village

Chapel card. MOCM completes the cards by the end of April. They are all signed: Blessings, The Men’s Ministry.

- It is now the first week of May and our goal is to get the cards in the hands of the principal, social workers and counselors to present the students at graduation or in a prior awards ceremony. So, assume we have a total of 16 students to receive a \$500 VISA gift card. The funds donated exceed the \$8k needed - the remaining funds go into or “Homeless/Human Trafficking” account code we established in 2018. If the funds are short a large amount, we submit a request to the Outreach Committee or split the smaller shortage among willing MOCM members. NOTE: we have never had to take funds from the Homeless account code. We have had to split the shortage twice, but normally this Congregation rises to the need!
- The Chapel cuts a check to First Bank and receives the gift cards. First Bank never charges a service fee for the cards! We place the gift cards into the encouragement notes previously written. Then we deliver, always trying to have them to the respective schools and Boys & Girls club the second week of May. Last year we finished our sixth year by helping to “jump start the career of 100 Moore County “unaccompanied/homeless” youth. This year we have fourteen (14) young to help, so our goal is to raise \$7000.00. Please consider becoming a Graduation Guardian Angel.



## We Need Graduation Guardian Angels

This year we remain extremely thankful for all the “blessings God has provided us” and especially our wonderful growing Christian family. Unfortunately, not all the youth of Moore County are sharing in these blessings.

Moore County High School Seniors will graduate in June 2025 and this year we have twelve (12) unaccompanied /homeless youth we would like to help “jumpstart” their career path. In addition to these twelve (12) we would like to assist two attendees of the Boys and Girls Club.

As in years past, we would like to help these children of God. We will furnish them each a \$500.00 VI-

SA gift card to purchase clothing for graduation, defray enrollment costs for college, etc.

For the next weeks, through May 4<sup>th</sup>, we are inviting you to become a “Graduation Guardian Angel.” You can make your check out to the Chapel and in the MEMO mark it “graduation” before depositing it in the Chapel office or offering plate OR you can go to the Chapel’s website and under “Giving” make a credit card donation. In the drop-down menu select General Fund and in optional menu type “graduation.” Please no later than May 4th.

The “scholarship VISA cards” will be purchased and delivered to the High School Social Workers for distribution to preclude any embarrassment.

Bless you and thank you for your consideration.

Pastors Ashley, Trey, and Vickie



# Holy Week Services



Maundy Thursday, April 17

Easter Services

Meditative Music-11:00am, Service-noon

8:00 am- Holy Communion Service

Good Friday, April 18

9:30 am- Family Service

Meditative Music-11:00am, Service-noon

11:00 am- Traditional Service

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

*The Village Chapel*

The Village Green  
10 Azalea Road  
Pinehurst, North Carolina 28374  
[www.TVCPinehurst.com](http://www.TVCPinehurst.com)

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