



February 2021

The Little Chapel with the Big Heart

Dear Little Chapel
on the Boardwalk family,

Even though it looks like we will continue to meet outdoors for worship throughout the month of February, there are some exciting events coming up that I want to share with you.



As you probably already know, Sunday, February 7, is SOUPER BOWL Sunday. (Yes, I spelled it wrong on purpose).

On that Sunday you are going to be encouraged to bring cans of soup and place it on the table for either the Kansas City Chiefs or the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

All the soup collected will help those less fortunate in our community.

In addition to it being SOUPER BOWL Sunday, we will also be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the outdoor service.

On Sunday, February 14 we will be celebrating BOY SCOUT Sunday at Little Chapel. The service which will be outside at 11 am, will look a little different than Scout Sunday's in the past, but I hope you will join us on that Sunday as we recognize troop 232.

Wednesday, February 17th is ASH Wednesday, and it marks the beginning of the Lenten Season in the life of the church. We will have two identical services on Ash Wednesday, outside.

One service will be at noon and the other service will be at 5pm. Both services will last 30 minutes and will include the imposition of Ashes.

Lent is a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. In our busy, secular world, this season offers us the opportunity for renewal, prayer and service to others. Lent is a time for penitence and the discipline of prayer, leading up to recommitment at Easter. Lent is not just a time to give up something, but mainly a time to give ourselves up to God anew as disciples of Christ.

Lent is a way of paying attention to our own lives. We receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads at Ash Wednesday service to focus our attention on who we really are. In this way, we remind ourselves that we are bound for death – and that we are bound to the death of Jesus Christ.

Ash Wednesday and the whole season of Lent provides a time to focus our attention on the mystery at the heart of the Christian life: that through death, the death of Christ, we have entered new life.

During this season of Lent let us all experience the thorough cleansing that comes from Jesus' death on the cross.

Take a moment and carefully inspect your own life. Examine the dark corners. Take a tour of the places that have been corroded by your self-centered ways. Maybe you're still holding a grudge. Maybe you're constantly worrying about life. Perhaps it's a problem with pride or greed or fear. Don't rush through this experience.

Yes, you might discover things you don't want to see. Yet, when you do, let the words of David's prayer flow from your lips: "Create in me a clean heart, O God." Allow God to thoroughly clean your spiritual dishes this Lenten Season. He won't miss a spot.

Blessings,
Pastor Pat

*If we take the time
to look inward, we will
realize a greater
capacity for patience,
tolerance, love, and
understanding.*

SESSION MEETING

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

by Mary Jo Kohunsky

Our January 18 meeting covered a wide variety of topics. Each committee reported about activities and plans.

The Property Committee reported that all window repairs have been completed, and now long-term planning and a reserve study are under way. This will involve the areas of buildings, safety, landscaping, operations, technology, and security.

A report from Finance showed that LCOB finished the 2020 year in the black, in spite of challenges and constraints brought about by COVID-19.

Although the annual stewardship campaign was conducted during a unique situation this year, members have remained generous. Members are urged to continue to send in their contributions, as monthly expenses remain, despite limited activities.

Worship will continue in the parking lot for the foreseeable future. The Session will reexamine our worship status periodically in view of the availability of vaccine, and with the guidance from Presbytery and the health department.

Average attendance since March has been about 103, with an additional 100 views on the website and Facebook each week.

Members of the Christian Education committee are investigating new ways to reach our youth since they have not been meeting due to the virus. Watch for information in the coming weeks.

The Annual Easter Egg hunt is returning, but in a new and creative way – outdoors and with limited participation. Details will be announced once plans are finalized.

As Pastor Pat has announced his retirement at the end of this year, the Personnel and Planning Committee has begun the process of seeking a new pastoral leader for Little Chapel on the Boardwalk. The committee is working with guidance from the Presbytery, and will update the congregation as developments occur.

After an exhaustive search, an art conservator from Raleigh has been selected to professionally remove, pickup, restore, return, and rehang the Claude Howell paintings from our narthex. This company was highly recommended by our insurer, and has an excellent reputation.

The paintings will be gone from Little Chapel for about a month while this work is being done.

Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, February 7, during the parking lot service. We will continue using the same type of elements that can easily and safely be distributed to worshippers in the parking lot and in their cars.

On that same Sunday, our annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place in the parking lot. Cans of soup will be collected

and donated to the Salvation Army.

Immediately following worship on February 7, there will be a short Congregational Meeting to approve the Pastor's terms of call. This process is required to be done annually in February.

The annual observance of Scout Sunday will take place on February 14 at the outdoor service. Scouts from our Troop 232 will serve in a variety of roles that day.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent at Little Chapel. Pat and David are preparing a service to be held on February 17, at noon in the parking lot. An identical service will also take place at 5 pm that day for those unable to come during at noon. Each service will be about 30 minutes long.

Lenten devotional booklets are being researched and should be delivered mid-February. They will be made available at that time.

David Heinzman is preparing a series of Lenten recitals to be presented from 12:30 – 1:15 pm each Wednesday during Lent. The details are still being worked out at this time, and further information will be announced in weekly bulletins.

In Memoriam

Mr. W. Lawrence Bass

Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Robinson

Honorarium

Mr. W. Lawrence Bass

Ms. Joan Robinson

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 7

The Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 with a simple prayer said by Reverend Brad Smith at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."

22 churches raised \$5,700 in the first year. The number of groups involved has steadily grown each year, and so has the amount raised and put back into the communities.

Since that day, more than \$71 million has been raised for local charities across the country during Super Bowl weekend. Through this mission, young people learn what it is like to make a positive difference in the world - as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

You can share God's love with those in need by donating money and canned goods Super Bowl Sunday for the Salvation Army. Don't forget, we also use our donations to vote for your favorite team!



There will be tables set up outside during the February 7, 11 am outdoor service for your donations.



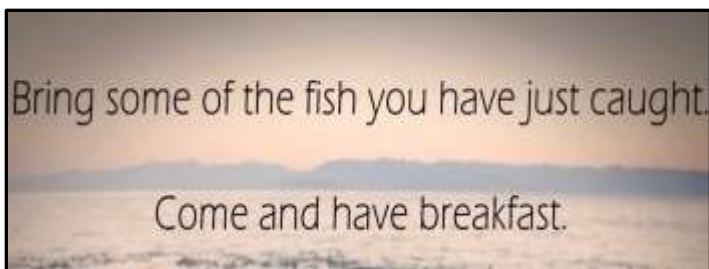
February 21 & 28

Hope comes in many forms: in blankets wrapped around a survivor of a deadly tornado, flood, or hurricane; in seeds to replant fields destroyed by floods; in a cup of clean, safe water for a child struggling to fight off diseases.

Through the blanket offering to be held on two Sundays in February - the 21st and 28th - our church can give hope to people in great distress and provide assistance to help create a brighter future for so many. Please remember those in need during this special offering and thank you for your help.

February Dates to Remember

- 7 - Communion**
- 7 - Souper Bowl Sunday**
- 7 - Congregational Meeting**
- 14 - Boy Scout Sunday**
- 14 - Valentine's Day**
- 17 - Ash Wednesday Service**
- Noon & 5 pm**
- 21 & 28 - Blanket Offering**



The Miraculous Draft of Fishes

Compiled and authored by Janice Allen

Little Chapel on the Boardwalk is very fortunate to have wonderful art - the beautiful faceted stain glass windows; art done by our own talented members, and at the center of this art, the wonderful and inspiring triptych hanging above the sanctuary doors in the narthex by iconic Cape Fear Artist, Claude Howell.



These all fulfill the role art has in the Presbyterian Church as defined in The Book of Church Order. It states that artistic expressions such as architecture, furnishings, appointments, vestments, music, drama, language and movement should awaken us to God's presence. If they are only there to call attention to themselves or are present for their beauty as an end in itself, they are idolatrous.

Having started as an Episcopal/Presbyterian effort for a summer chapel Little Chapel on the Boardwalk later became solely Presbyterian. As the beach population grew the original building became too small. A campaign was launched and the resulting building was dedicated in 1951.

Charles Boney, the architect, felt there needed to be a collaboration between architect and artists to bring art forms into the church. Claude Howell was chosen to work with the architect to accomplish this. Because the Little Chapel thought that it was

what they could afford they asked him to do a small painting for the back of the sanctuary.

He said, "NO" and chose to do the paneled painting that is hanging in the narthex today. At first it was thought that Howell would paint the mural directly on the plaster on the rear wall of the sanctuary but Charles Boney was concerned that because of the opposition to the building's contemporary design someone could come in one day and make some changes that might destroy the painting. Also because of the occurrence of hurricanes on the coast, it was thought that it should be portable.

It was hung on the wall at the back of the sanctuary and hung there until the mid-90's when the last renovation took place and the narthex was added. In 1998 it was hung where you see it hanging today. One member says that he remembers getting on his knees on the last pew when it was hanging at the back of the sanctuary and with his fingers tracing the painting.

Howell made a journal entry in December 1951 that there "were absolutely no strings attached to the painting of this mural." By spring he had a vision in his mind - a triptych much more complicated than anything he had ever before undertaken.

Because of his interest in water and the relation of the church and the beach, Jesus' seaside ministry was chosen. The title is based on the story found in John 21 when Jesus showed himself to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias following his resurrection. On the left the apostles are catching fish.



On the right the apostles are bringing in the net.



In the center Jesus and the apostles are sitting at “the table” eating the catch for breakfast.



Howell purchased the smooth English linen canvases from a dealer in New York. He stretched the two small sheets of linen at his apartment but because the larger one required more space, he used his “studio” in the basement of First Presbyterian Church.

He recruited friends to help with this. Some of the local fishermen and watermen were used as his models for this painting. One friend said he posed for various feet and hands. Charles Boney says he went by First Presbyterian one night to see the progress on the work. Claude told him to sit down that he needed a model for an ear. Mr. Boney said

he didn’t know which ear was his, but he guessed that it was in the painting somewhere.

It is said the craggy faces look like those of real Wrightsville Beach men who might have descended from Ulster Scots or English who first settled the coast of North Carolina.

Howell continued painting his vision even going against a fellow artist’s constructive criticism when she asked him to not paint an early morning red sky. He worked on these paintings from February to July 1952 devoting almost every minute of his free time to them.

This triptych was dedicated in 1952 and drew some criticism. Even though Claude Howell is well known as an artist, he is less known for having a solid background in Bible study. He grew up and was active as a youth at First Presbyterian Church.

He had at least one mountaintop experience during a retreat at Davidson College. Later he distanced himself from the church. Painting this triptych sent him back to private Bible study to learn all he could about the disciples. His response to the harsh critics of this painting was, “that I care little of what they think. I did it for God and not for them.” This response makes it clear his early religious training left its mark.

This painting did not just have critics. A visiting minister from Union Seminary and other ministers have said that it is Biblically amazing.

Claude Howell did not have an earned degree although he had two honorary degrees. He was a Wilmington native who graduated from New Hanover High School, but because of extenuating circumstances, was not able to attend college.

In 1953 despite him not having a degree after seeing this painting, Dr. William Randall, president of Wilmington College (now UNCW) invited Claude Howell to become part of that school’s staff and to found the art department.

He did this part time until 1956 when he resigned from The Atlantic Coastline Railroad and became full time. At least two of our members took classes from him there.

Do not be alarmed if you come in the church and do not see the mural hanging. Since October 2019 the Art Committee has been working to make sure these paintings are being cared for properly.

Ann Brennan from Cameron Art Museum and her team have been out and examined them twice. For insurance purposes the triptych appraised in December 2019 for \$210,000. It was examined in detail at that time.

Reports and photographs have been sent to three conservators in North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina. In December 2020 our insurer, Guide One, sent an art restoration team in.



The news was good in the fact that the bubbling you see in the paintings does not involve the paint but was caused by the canvas drying unevenly and creating cupped indentions in the surface of the paintings.



It has been determined that the dampness in the canvases was caused by the moisture in the building as a result of hurricane Florence.

So, you think to yourself, “the paintings are insured.” Yes, they are, but the deductible is greater than the cost of getting the work done.

If you would like to contribute to this effort please feel free to make your contribution to LCOB Art Fund. The Art Committee is committed to moving forward to preserve this magnificent Biblical representation from John 21.

When Virginia Holman was visiting the church to photograph this painting - The Miraculous Draft of Fishes to go with an article she was writing for Salt Magazine, she chatted with some of the members as they were leaving an Ash Wednesday service. She recalled that one woman described the mural as ‘our great treasure’.

IT TRULY IS A TREASURE!

Thank you to the following sources whose works were used to help compose this article:

Salt Magazine April 2020

Wrightsville Beach Magazine, January 2007

Little Chapel History - Linda Shahaltough

Sessional Records

Interviews

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for all you have done for us after the passing of Pat's brother. The cards, letters, phone and email messages, prayers and support meant a great deal to us as we struggled with our heartbreaking loss.

Please know that your generosity and thoughtfulness have touched us deeply. Knowing that we were not alone helped us bear our grief and sadness.

Thank you for being there for us.

Love,

Pat and Doug Vass

Happy Birthday, Boys Scouts of America



1910 – 2021

By Leita McCormick

The Boys Scouts of America (BSA) was founded on February 8, 1910. Its origins began in London in 1909, when a Boy Scout came to the aid of a visiting Chicago publisher who had gotten lost in the fog. When he was guided to his destination, the publisher tried to tip the boy, but the boy refused to accept it, saying as a Boy Scout, he would not accept payment for doing a good deed.

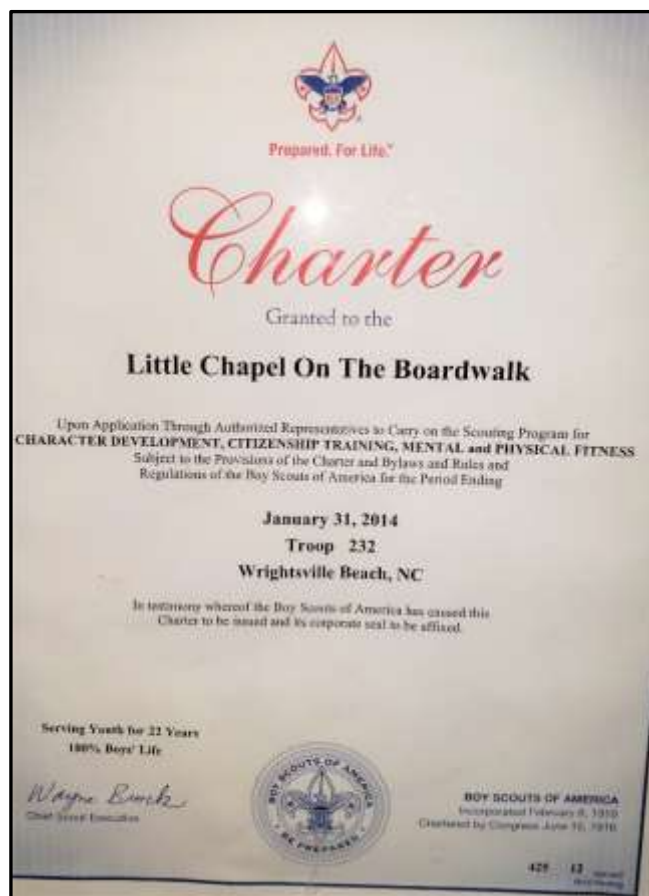


This notable gesture inspired the publisher to organize several regional US youth organizations into the Boy Scouts of America. Today the Scouting organization is composed of over two million youth members and about one million volunteers.

The Scouting program prepares young people to make ethical and moral choices by instilling in them the values and principles of the Scout Oath, Scout Law and Pledge of Allegiance, which are recited at the beginning of every troop meeting.

In order to become a troop, you must have a sponsor to back up the organization. In 1963, Little Chapel on the Boardwalk became a charter

organization which qualified it to use the Scouting program to form Troop 232. The charter, shown below, has to be renewed annually to continue using the program.



In the over five decades that LCOB has sponsored Troop 232, there have been eight dedicated scoutmasters. The current Scoutmaster is Glenn Buck, who took over last year from Steve Boehling, who had led the Troop for five years.

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Previous Scoutmasters from 1963 to 2016 were: Hardy Wessel – 7 years; George Benedict, Jr. 5 years; Henry Rehder, Jr. 10 years; Steve Gillham, 8 years; John Bennett, 17 years; Tony Saffo, 5 years.

Under the Scoutmasters' leadership, 135 young boys from Troop 232 have earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Many have stayed involved and continue to give back to the community; some have gone on to become assistant scoutmasters

A list of all the Eagle Scouts names and dates their earned the rank are listed on the back of the Troop trailer parked next to the Matthew House.



In addition to Scoutmaster Buck, there are five committee members who attend the meetings: Ginger Reynolds, Charter Rep who is the church liaison; Desiree Morgan, Committee Chair, who facilitates the meetings and inputs scout advancement data; Jason Tam, Advancement Chair, who keeps the boys on track in achievements; Jennifer Walker, Secretary, who keeps everything on track with meeting notes and Tracy Jones, who keeps up with the money.

There are also parents who are involved and provide help with troop activities. Many have sons in Troop 232 and there are some whose

sons have aged out of the troop or reached Eagle Scout status.

To become a boy scout, you must be 11 years old, or have completed the fifth grade or earned the Arrow of Light Award (a rank which is earned by completing five adventures) and is at least 10 years old, but is not yet 18 years old.

There are two ways Boy Scouts can earn recognition of their achievements: Merit Badges, based on qualified activities in over 130 areas of interest of their choosing; and by completing requirements for ranks earned in sequence... Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle.



Scoutmaster Buck Recognized Eagle Scouts Anders Jensen and William Shakar as Junior Assistant Scoutmasters at a recent Court of Honor Ceremony, keeping them involved in helping the younger scouts.



Court of Honor Ceremony awarding Scout Rank advancements or Merit Badges

The Scouting program provides boys with an opportunity to develop both leadership and life skills that they can take away with them. It also builds character and integrity.

Troop 232 meets every other Monday night in the church parking lot. Prior to Covid-19, they met in the Fellowship Hall.



Scouts working on First Aid skills in church parking lot

One of the activities scouts (and scoutmasters) enjoy most are the camping trips, where they learn how to build fires, plan and cook meals, go on hikes and be a part of a patrol.



Assistant Scoutmasters Mike Edmonds and Pete Jensen with scouts on camping trip in Mount Airy



Pastor Pat received his Eagle Scout rank in the 10th grade while his father was stationed at Elmendorf AFB in Alaska and Scoutmaster of the troop.

Pastor Pat said, "Although I must admit I tried to on a few occasions, my father would not let me quit."

He added, "The worst thing about camping in Alaska during the wintertime was being assigned duty to be the first one up to get the fire started. No one ever wanted that responsibility."

Some of the community projects Troop 232 scouts performed last year:



Relocating donated bricks that were sinking and causing a tripping hazard at Harbor Way Gardens



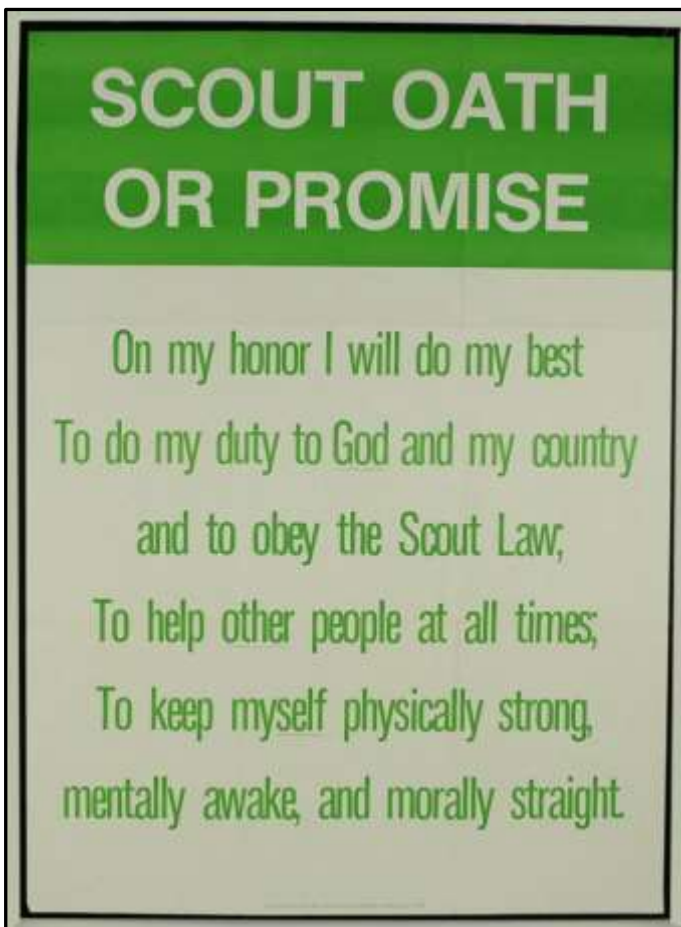
Beach Sweep and clean up at Masonboro Island

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Food collected for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

In addition to completing a list of requirements to earn merit badges and going through basic steps in Scout advancement, boy scouts are required to memorize the following:



Did you know that Paul McCartney and John Lennon were both Scouts? *McCartney made his debut as a performer at Scout camp, singing before his fellow Scouts at the annual jamboree in July 1957. (He would perform with John Lennon in a non-Scout show for the first time just three months later).*

THE SCOUT LAW

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Scout Motto

"Be Prepared"

Scout Slogan

"Do a Good Turn Daily"

Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to-
Be Clean in my outdoor manners,
Be Careful with fire,
Be Considerate in the outdoors, and
Be Conservation-minded

Scout Sunday at LCOB is usually the second Sunday in February. Members of Troop 232 and their families are invited to join us for worship.

It has always been a great Sunday as it allows the church members to see the Troop that they sponsor, and it gives the young men a chance to participate in the worship service.

In the past, Scouts have assisted in the worship service as ushers, leading the congregation in the Pledge of Allegiance, and doing the children's message for the youngsters in the congregation.

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Normally a Scout and the Scoutmaster say a couple of words about what the Scouting program means to them and thank the church for their support.

This year Scout Sunday will take place on February 14 during our regular church service, but their participation will be somewhat limited.

In talking with adults about their involvement in Troop 232, the consensus is that the success of the boy scout troop would not be the same if not for LCOB's support.

"It has made a huge impact on the community."



One way LCOB supports Troop 232 is by buying fresh Christmas wreaths



To all who donated shoe boxes, filled and wrapped them, and delivered them to our Christmas Day Meals on Wheels recipients,

A BIG THANK YOU!

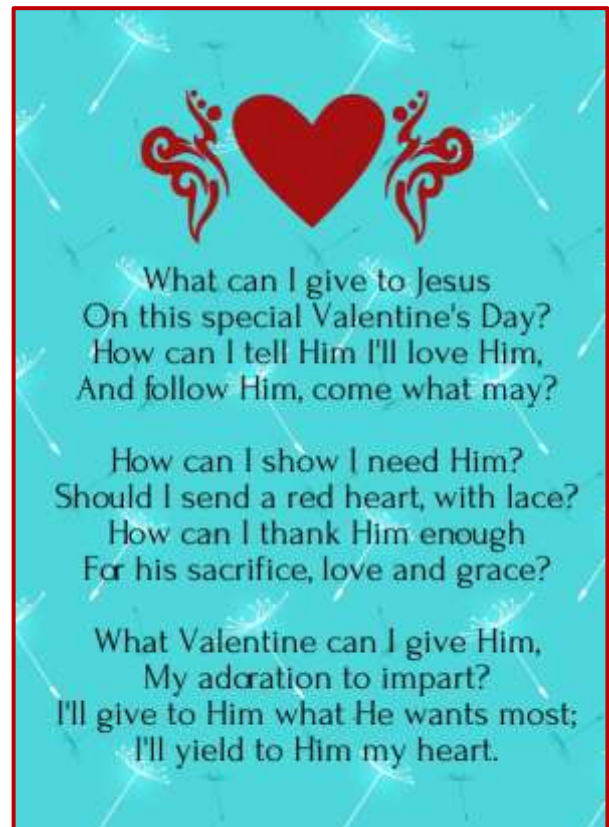
You brought each of them much joy.

God Bless,
Helen Swartz



Birthdays

1 Marsha Casteen	12 Elizabeth Criner
3 Shirlee Gearhart	13 Susan Love Lewis
3 Corey Miller	16 Ann Leach
4 Rebekah Alexander	17 Miriam Smith
4 Charles Smith	18 Jacalyn Bristow
6 Janel Daniel	19 Mia Kennedy
7 Taylor Hammond	22 Cameron Dudley
7 Tim Hines	23 Rajah Arab
7 Constance Houser	23 Janet Doxey
7 Everly Elizabeth Long	24 Arlene Pulley
8 Cynthia Avent	25 Tommy Rogers
9 Roxana Boyd	26 Woody Boyd
10 Harriet Andrew	28 Susan Laakmann





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Church Office: 910.256-2819
www.littlechapel.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE – 11 am (Outdoors/Parking Lot – weather permitting)

Bring your mask, lawn chair, and practice responsible social distancing

Sunday worship service videos are available @ www.littlechapel.org and on Facebook

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