

JANUARY 2021

The Little Chapel with the Big Heart

Dear Little Chapel on the Boardwalk family,

As I sit here at my desk, I am cautiously excited as I am hearing about the approval of the COVID-19 vaccine and how people will soon begin receiving the injection. Maybe that will mean for all of us that in the near future we will be able to get back to some degree of normalcy, whatever that means for us.



In the meantime, I want to thank everyone at Little Chapel for your patience and flexibility as we continue to find ways to best share in worship and in mission endeavors. Many of you like Gary Kohunsky and Barbara Tyndall have gone beyond the "call of duty" being at church every Sunday to take care of your responsibilities.

And there are so many more of you who have done what you can to help take care of things around Little Chapel, and to you,

a big "THANK YOU."

The New Year is a time of freshness, new beginnings, starting over. It is a time for second chances and new opportunities. Hopefully this will be a wonderful new year for all of us.

For some, the new year is a time to make resolutions about how to make 2021 better than 2020.

But by most accounts that will not be hard to do as I am not sure we will ever experience a year like 2020 again, at least let's pray we don't.

I am not one of those who is much into making resolutions because usually before the end of January, the resolutions I have made are either forgotten or just abandoned.

That is until I came across this article by the late Erma Bombeck. I am not sure these are necessarily resolutions, but I am convinced that if all of us would heed these words of advice from Miss Erma, that this world would be a better place, even in the midst of a pandemic.

If I Had My Life to Live Over...

I would have talked less and listened more. I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained and the sofa faded. I would have eaten popcorn in the "good" living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire

in the fireplace. I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

I would have never insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.

I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television – and more while watching life. I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband.

I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day.

I would have never bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I would have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside of me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

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When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would have never said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner." There would have been more "I love yous" ... more "I'm sorrys" ... but mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute...look at it and really see it...live it...and never give it back.

I hope your 2021 is everything you want it to be and much more.

Blessings,

Pastor Pat

Alternative Gift Market

In the midst of all the turmoil of this year, the Mission Committee wants to thank you for finding a way to buy gifts during the 2020 version of the Alternative Gift Market. Some visited the table set up outside on Sunday mornings, while others mailed in, dropped off, or placed orders online.

Because of your generosity a check in the amount of \$2995.00 has been sent to Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry (WARM).



This gift will go a long way toward helping WARM continue their

ministry of making critical repairs to homes of our low-income neighbors, most of whom are elderly and/or disabled.

J. C. Lyle, the Executive Director of WARM, recently sent an email to many of WARM's supporters, asking for \$8000 to help a woman, who had completed her home repairs for many years by herself, but is now unable to take care of her older home. The following is a quote from Mary:

"It's just myself and my disabled nephew who has Down syndrome. Our bathroom floor has rotted due to our cracked tub and toilet. I'm scared (Isaiah) is going to get injured."

This is just one of the many examples of how WARM continues to support our neighbors so that they can live safely and independently in their own homes. Thank you so much for supporting this year's Alternative Gift Market, making this hope a reality for Mary, her nephew, Isaiah, and so many others in our community.



- 5 Elizabeth Dinko
- 6 Robert Avent
- 7 Harry Paterson, III
- 8 Zoe Laakmann
- 9 Martha Anne Efird
- 12 Helen Brumbaugh
- 13 Sam Durham
- 13 Lauren Miller
- 14 Joanne Purnell
- 18 Hugh Milton
- 18 Patty Rogers
- 19 Karl Allen
- 19 Reuben Allen, III
- 19 Caroline Barnes
- 20 Roman Schaffer
- 23 Mary Jo Kohunsky
- 23 Megan MacDaniel
- 27 Tonia Hines
- 28 Riley Shogi
- 28 Abe Walston
- 31 Phyllis Warren



WHO ARE THESE MASKED PEOPLE AT THE ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET?



Thanks to Lori Holcomb for her photography

DECEMBER SESSION MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS

By Jean Schild

The Session met for a stated meeting on December 14 at 7:00 PM in the church sanctuary. New session members Sarah McLaughlin and Marti Shogi were welcomed to the meeting.

By action of the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 13, Sarah McLaughlin, Terry Paterson, Marti Shogi and Barbara Tyndall were elected as elders and Brenda Parker elected deacon. Gary Kohunsky continues in his role as Moderator of the Communications Committee, a diaconate committee. These new officers have agreed to give of their time and energy to serve God through activities and programs at the Little Chapel and we are very grateful to them.

Outgoing Elders Janice Allen, Jane Hughes, Gail Miller and Mary Jo Kohunsky were recognized and thanked for their loving service to the church during their tenure as elders.

Jean Schild is outgoing Clerk of Session and was thanked for nine years of service as clerk. Mary Jo Kohunsky has graciously agreed to take over this responsibility beginning January, 2021. Jean reported that our Sessional Records for 2019 were recently reviewed according to Presbytery guidelines. This is a yearly requirement for each Presbyterian church.

Dean Cobble was elected church treasurer for 2021. Mary Jo Kohunsky was elected Clerk of Session at the November session meeting. These terms are one year and must be re-elected each year, according to our church guidelines.

The Worship Committee has worked with Pastor Pat to finalize plans for our Christmas Eve service, to be held in the church parking lot to allow for social distancing. The service will begin at 4:00 PM, with communion and glow sticks to replace traditional candles. For those who wish to remain in their cars, the service will also be broadcast on the car radio.

We are pleased that our outdoor Sunday morning worship services continue to be well attended. This service is also broadcast on our website on Sunday afternoons, thanks to Gary Kohunsky.

While many churches remain closed during the pandemic, the staff and members of the Little Chapel have adapted to conditions and continue to be committed to worship and service to our members and community. Much credit for all this goes to Pastor Pat. We are very blessed!

David Heinzman, Music Director, has provided a lovely program of Christmas music this year and it is available on the church website (www.littlechapel.org). The organ selections are wonderful and vocalists Zoe Laakmann and Angela Daughtry provide angelic voices! We are blessed to have such dedicated and talented musicians in our midst. David has made DVD's of this music program so that everyone can enjoy the lovely concert. See him to get a copy. Many thanks to David!!!

Plans continue for Christmas Day Meals on Wheels. We have been asked to provide 125 meals this year. Janice Willetts is LCOB Coordinator and we thank her for this major undertaking! It is especially challenging this year, given Covid and the need for social distancing. Thanks to all the volunteers and also to the many members who provide the shoe box gifts for each person who receives a meal from the church.

The Finance Committee continues to review budget requests for 2021 in view of the projected income from pledges received from the congregation. We face a deficit but are working to deal with that probability. The congregation has been very faithful in keeping up with 2020 pledges and we are very thankful for that, especially considering the challenges of this year. The church has experienced several deaths and relocations during the past year and we have fewer pledges for 2021. Pledges are still being received in the church office.

The Mission Committee reported that a total of \$2,995.00 was donated to WARM, due to our Alternative Christmas Market. Members of the Mission Committee worked diligently on this project and we are happy with such a great result.

The Property Committee has been very busy with landscape initiatives which have greatly improved

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our church grounds! Thanks so much to the committee for spearheading this work. Church volunteers, along with volunteers from New Hanover Garden Club and Harbor Island Garden Club have succeeded in sprucing up our property and we are very thankful for their efforts.

The new Artwork Committee, coordinated by Janice Allen, continues its efforts to maintain and/or restore the Claude Howell paintings in the narthex. Art conservators in the region are being consulted and we are finding that this process is long and frustrating but we are thankful to Janice for her diligence and efforts in this endeavor.

Each year our church is expected to contribute to the Presbytery finances by (1) pledging a Per Capita assessment which is paid to underwrite the General Assembly and Synod and (2) contributing to the Shared Mission which supports committees, staffing, programs and ministries of the Presbytery. This pledge for 2021 to the Presbytery from LCOB totals \$7,207.99.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be observed at our Sunday worship service on January 3, 2021.

The next session meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 18, 2021.

Thank you.

Thank you so much for
your donation to CWS!
Your congregation's gift will
help support CWS mission
of building a world where
there is enough for all.

Blessings,
Sam Fore

AND DON'T FORGET TO DO GOOD AND TO
SHARE WITH THOSE IN NEED.
HEBREWS 13:16



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

In Loving Memory

Suzanne Jenkins

Ms. Janice Allen

Peter Paterson

Ms. Janice Allen

Douglas Knowles

Mr. & Mrs. Karl Vass

Carolyn Bancroft

Mr. & Mrs. Karl Vass

Mr. & Mrs. James Rivenbark

**WE JUST WANT TO
SAY A GREAT
BIG
THANK YOU!**

To our Little Chapel Family,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation and thanks for the kindness you have shown to us during this Christmas season. The love gift from the congregation as well as your cards, notes, phone calls, letters and individual gifts have been so kind and generous. We are so grateful to be a part of such a loving church family. You are truly the Little Chapel with the **BIG HEART!**

Blessings,

*Pat, David, Delores,
Dan, Angela, and Joan*

Property Committee



*We commit to being
generous stewards of our
gifts -
time, talents, resources
and, indeed our lives.*

Even though 2020 has been a less than normal and challenging year – one of the standard practices for any committee during this time of year is to not only look back at what was accomplished, but also to look ahead to the opportunities in the new year.

We had great results this past year even with the impacts of the virus to maintaining a “clean” facility. This year we were able to address many of the needed repairs and improvements. During the advent season, we continued to manage 2020 expenses and adjust our planning – but we don’t believe at this time that our committee will need to leverage the Christmas spirit and the need for a small miracle ☺.

Special thanks to committee members, staff, and others in our congregation who continue to support us when called upon to volunteer – as we address the physical, operational, planning, & the landscaping needs of our Little Chapel properties.

Key Focus Areas - 2020 in review

Fix / Repair Focus: Fellowship Hall door & all doors secured; HVAC (needed to replace 2 systems in Church); Computer System Upgrades, & the DialMyCalls new telephonic system for Pastor Pat to once again use for his Friday morning messages

Improvement Investments: Comprehensive Manse upgrade; Security improvements (camera, speaker/buzzer and overall Admin controls); and Landscape enhancements

Property Driven Savings:

\$ **Substantial** annual on-going savings due to our copier and phone system adjustments

\$ Savings on incorrect or waived invoices

\$ Property Committee Members’ personal contributions

\$ Extraordinary window replacement savings that were covered by our insurance carrier

\$ Considerable contributions by local Garden Clubs to improve our Landscape - including a great new bench facing Lumina - hopefully, to be installed soon.

Budget Perspective

Budget 2020: We had many challenges but we are on target to meet our overall Property budget objectives. The following are just some of the completed projects and results this year:

Manse Major Improvements ✓

Fixed / Improved security – Camera, Admin controls, front door auto lock ✓

Replaced 2 “Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning” Systems [HVAC] ✓

Replaced the Manse Fence facing the parking lot – also all needed repairs ✓

Fixed / Replaced 40 plus Windows (paid for by our insurance policy) ✓

Replace Fellowship Hall doors ✓

Oxford Doors safety push bars ✓

Front Doors painted and refurbished ✓

Professional Cleaning, Sanitizing, and “Fogging” of key Church Areas ✓

Complete Staff Systems Windows upgrade and computer replacements ✓

Updated and Implemented HVAC, Roof, Fire, etc. Service Agreements ✓

Added WBFD fire box keys for all 3 buildings – faster emergency access ✓

Budget 2021: We have restructured some of our responsibilities to better focus our attention and energies on facility and property management. Below, are some of the key considerations:

Potential Financial Impacts: Any new cleaning/sanitizing supply requirements; Operational systems impacts i.e., security and staff technology systems.

Currently needed “Non-Financial” Volunteer Support: New Bench installation which will be facing out towards Lumina; Property Manual & Audit assistance; and Landscape “work parties” as needed

Note: Our resident painter extraordinaire, John Moore, painted the entrance sign; has once again volunteered to paint our new Pulpit Shield support base, if needed, when we move inside & the on-going touch up of our front doors – thank you!

Facility / Capital Reserves Funds

Strategic Considerations: Reserve Study to estimate needed future major funding for our parking lot, roofing improvements, building repairs, and major support systems i.e., HVAC; Update Property Guidelines & Policy Considerations

Key Funding Projects: Security System & Monitoring Enhancement; Landscape Improvements; Church maintenance repairs (stucco and roof) & painting (inside & outside);

Potential Funding Impacts: HVAC system replacements & any potential major storm damage NOT covered by our insurance.

This is my favorite time of the year as we get to catch our breath a little (outside of shopping) and celebrate in all the things we are thankful for – the opportunity to provide emotional support and financial giving to others who are not as fortunate – and the opportunity to pursue a fresh start in the year ahead.

Special Thanks to All and we hope you are pleased with the improvements made to our three (3) facilities and property this year.

Thanks also to the service providers who assisted us with their expertise and with our 2020 projects:

Alfredo Santiago & his crew that have provided our landscape maintenance for many years; Stone Garden – provides mulch delivery and much more; Computer Warriors – Systems Maintenance; Jay Taylor – pest control; BFPE – Kitchen Fire and Alarms inspections; Blanchard Refrigeration; and Hooks Burglar Alarm.

We hope everyone stays safe over the Holiday & as we “celebrate” the New Year!

Barry Lindholm,
Property Committee - Moderator



2021-2022 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Little Chapel on the Boardwalk is pleased to announce that scholarships will be awarded for the 2021-2022 school year to individuals who are pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies.

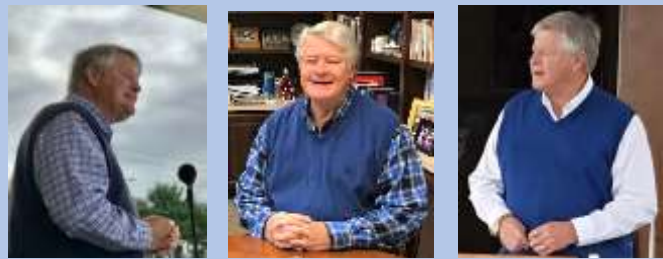
To qualify for a scholarship, the applicant must be a member (or a son or daughter of a member) as well as an active participant in church activities.

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic, church and school activities, and community involvement.

Applications are now available and are located in the bookcases opposite the church office, and also in this issue of the newsletter. Application deadline is April 30, 2021. Award notification will be made around June 30, 2021.

More details and information can be obtained by calling the church office at 256-2819 or by accessing Little Chapel's website at www.littlechapel.org.

Getting to know Pastor Pat ...



A Conversation

By Leita McCormick

Pastor Pat has been pastor of LCOB nearly 10 years. Since I have been a member for only a few years, there are many things that I did not know about Pastor Pat and about the church in general, so I asked if I could interview him. Fortunately for all of us, he agreed. The following are excerpts from our conversation.

What challenges has the pandemic presented to you?

“Initially, preaching to an empty congregation. When Gary Kohunsky volunteered to video tape the service so we could try to have some kind of connection with the congregation every Sunday, there was nobody there most of the time except Gary, David, Marcia and Mary Jo.”

“My energy level feeds off of people and to stand out there at the pulpit and preach and have nobody out there...that was the most difficult thing.” Other difficult things for Pastor Pat are not being able to go to the hospital or retirement center to visit with people in need or to be able to do funerals the way they used to be.”

When did you start sending daily devotions? “I started it when the pandemic struck as a way to try, at least, to keep us all connected with the devotions, to make sure with the announcements that people are kept up to speed on what is going on and to bring a smile or two to people. These are difficult times for everybody, and I will continue to do those until we move back inside.”

He said it's been an “interesting time” sending out devotionals four times a week. I offered that it seemed more like a challenge...he agreed.

During the Advent Season, Pastor Pat has been going back each day and looking at old Advent devotional booklets to see who said what, when.

Then he decides which one he will use. Up until this year, members were doing their own devotional booklets where members were asked to write up the devotion for each day. This has made it easier to put out daily devotion.

When I asked where did he get all the “smiles,” he said people from the church send him things, he has a book of jokes he uses, and he gets a lot of emails from members saying, “You might want to put this in as the smile of the day.” With a smile, he said, “I use everything that people send me...as long as it is clean.”

Tell me about your childhood. “We moved every three years with Dad being in the air force. As far as I can remember, we always lived on the base in assigned houses. In a way, I grew up in a bubble. You couldn't pick your neighbors and you never knew how long you would be there. With traveling all the time, we had to make friends very quickly. The friendships that developed is what I remember most.”



Pastor Pat as a child

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Pastor Pat was born in Oklahoma City. From there the family moved to Alaska, then to Georgia, then to Nevada, then back to Alaska and then to Louisiana.... "Either with Dad being stationed there or traveling through, I have been in every state except Hawaii." He said to be able to travel and see the country like he did as a young person was a wonderful thing.

The summer between his sixth and seventh grade, Pastor Pat's Dad was able to take a month off. "We spent the entire month, traveling to every National Park from Utah to Arizona. We'd camp out for a few days...in a tent!...and about every 5th day or so, we would stay in a hotel to get cleaned up. I will never forget that experience of going to all those parks with my sister, brother, Mom and Dad."



Grand Canyon National Park

What were your aspirations before getting the call from God? "I wanted to be a high school history teacher. That started early on. I had a junior high school history teacher who had a profound impact on me. I actually wanted to do that even after I started college. I had the idea of wanting to be in youth work."

"While in college, I got a job with the Methodist church working as a consultant, going to various churches that were either trying to start youth programs or were having problems with their youth program. I did that for two and a half to three years while at Florida Southern College. That's where I met Marcia."

Were you married before getting the call from God? "Yes. Marcia knew what she was getting into. When I went to Florida Southern, I went as a pre-ministerial student, knowing I was going to do something in the area of ministry. I really felt called to be a youth director and do youth work. The plan was to go to Florida Southern and then go on to Candler School of Theology in Emory to go to seminary."

"We were on that track, but during my first year there, after talking with the Bishop about how in our denomination, we are moved around so much, Marcia and I decided that if I was going to be in youth work, I would leave the seminary and go to work full time at a Methodist church in Atlanta as the youth director."



Mr. and Mrs. Pat Rabun, August 25, 1978

"For me, to be in youth work, you need to make a commitment of being in a particular spot for a while. You can't go in and start developing a relationship with young people and then in two years leave. I spent eight years in Atlanta, then moved to Florida and continued to do youth work at a Methodist church there."

"At that time, I had reached a point where it started to get hard to be a youth director -- taking more and more time to get my energy back after a week-long

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trip. That and other reasons prompted me to go back to seminary."

Pastor Pat's Road to Ordination

"We moved to Lexington, Kentucky so I could go to Asbury Seminary. At that time, I had no job possibilities...Marcia had no job possibilities... but she did get a job almost immediately at a Presbyterian church as an office administrator. So, we started going to church there while I was going to seminary."

"One of the pastors at the church told Marcia there was a job opening for a part-time youth position at First Presbyterian Church in Lexington. At the time, Jeb Magruder, of Watergate, was the senior pastor there. So, I interviewed with Jeb for the position. He hired me, and I went to work as their youth director. After I had been there about a year, Jeb said, 'My goal before I leave here is to make you a Presbyterian.' Ultimately, I became a Presbyterian."

"The Presbytery of Transylvania, where I was, required you to have at least two years of Presbyterian Seminary. So, I transferred from Asbury to Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, which was about an hour and half drive from Lexington. I commuted over there every day for two years and finished at Louisville Seminary, which was a wonderful experience for me."

"First Presbyterian allowed me to continue to work there; not only as youth director but with an unofficial title of associate pastor without being ordained. When I finished my seminary, First Presbyterian called me as an associate pastor. I was there for another year and a half -- a total of more than seven years. It was a great experience."

"First Pres was a downtown church, like Little Chapel, very much mission-oriented. It was an interesting time to work in that setting and to work with Jeb Magruder. I learned a lot from Jeb. I learned what to do and what not to do.

"When I left Lexington, I went to Atlanta and was an associate pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Trinity was a congregation of 2500 members. That is the largest church I have ever served. I was at Trinity for three and a half years as an associate before moving to Birmingham, Alabama to be pastor at Chapel in the Pines. I was there for eight and a half years before coming to Little Chapel."

You mentioned you became a Presbyterian. What were you before? "I was raised a Methodist and I

still remember when I called Mom to tell her that I was going to become a Presbyterian, her first words were, 'Why would you join a denomination that's name is so hard to spell?' Interestingly enough, my Mom is now Presbyterian."

Was Marcia supportive in your decision to become a pastor? "Very much so. I don't know if there is a definition for what makes a good pastor's wife, but Marcia is one. And I've heard that throughout my ministry. People have said, 'Maybe your strongest asset is your wife.' It's not easy to be a pastor's wife. The expectation of doing this or being here or doing that is there-- and she does it and does it always with a smile. She is an ideal pastor's wife."



What are the responsibilities of a pastor? "I guess it starts off with Sunday worship - putting together the service, the liturgy every Sunday...what is going to be read, and David is wonderful in helping with the music."

"That takes the biggest amount of my time, except for preparing the sermon. I spend about 15 to 20 hours a week. I wish I could do it faster, but I can't."



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“And, I see that as my most important task because for most people, their entrance into a church is a Sunday morning experience, whether it is out on the beach, or inside, or here on the parking lot. I try to make sure the entire service is meaningful.”

“Another responsibility is the hospital visits, when I am able to go in. Or nursing home or home visitations. The part I least like is the administrative stuff – the bureaucratic stuff. That has to be done, but I’ll admit, I’m not very good at doing it, and part of it may be that I don’t like to do it.”

“I’d rather sit at someone’s table having a cup of coffee talking with them, rather than filing out some report. Another big part, which hasn’t happened as much this year, is going to meetings. Presbyterians are big on meetings. I try when it is possible to go to every meeting that takes place and be part of it just to let the chairpersons know that I support what they are doing. Those are probably the biggest time-consuming responsibilities.”

“It doesn’t happen so much now, but people like to drop by and visit and I always felt it was important for my door to be open and for the pastor to be present. I do most all of my work here in the office so that I am here on the premises. I think accessibility is important. I had a pastor friend tell me one time, ‘If your congregation doesn’t see you during the week, they’re probably not going to see on Sunday’.”

“Also, I teach a Sunday school class, when we have it, which has been a wonderful thing to do. I’ve been doing that since we arrived here. We meet upstairs and average 20-23 people of all ages on Sunday morning. And then up until the pandemic, I’ve been teaching a Bible Study on Wednesday nights at the Manse to a group of about 12-15 folks that come over.”

“I try to go every Saturday’s men’s breakfast to be a part of that group. In a way, I think we are kind of a support for one another. I’ve had people come up to us in the restaurant to say it is nice to see men bowing their heads and praying together.”

What is a normal week like? When do you take some time off? “I try to take Fridays off. Marcia is a very good help in getting me do that. Of course, there are times when a funeral or wedding rehearsal happens on Fridays or someone is having an emergency surgery, then I go and meet with the people.”

“Basically, Monday through Thursday, at this point, are my early mornings working on the devotional email, and if I don’t have a meeting, I spend time working on my sermon and the bulletin. Up until about noontime, it’s all about Sunday. Early afternoons, if I can, I try to do my visitations and administrative work. Saturday is going over my sermon and Sunday school lessons and bible study.”

“I love doing Sunday school and bible study classes and am ready to get back to it. I miss the interaction that you can have with the back-and-forth dialogue – instant discussion -- the one thing you cannot have when preaching. The classes have allowed both Marcia and me to get to know people on a more intimate basis...how they think and what they think.”

Did you always have a strong, projected voice? “It is a gift from my father. He was a natural speaker and had a strong voice. Mine developed more when I was working with young people. I learned early on, that when you are speaking with teenagers or in a group, if you don’t project, they don’t pay attention...and I just kept doing it.”



Would you mind sharing something about yourself that we don’t know? “I can’t eat breakfast on Sunday mornings. I may appear calm during the service, but my stomach is churning because I am so nervous. I had a seminary professor tell me, ‘Pat, the first Sunday morning you wake up and

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you're not nervous, go find something else to do, because you have lost the importance of what you are doing.' I do, however, still have my coffee."

Where do you get your inspiration for your sermons? "I try to follow the lectionary that all denominations use. It gives you specific texts to preach on every Sunday. So, if you follow the lectionary religiously, in a three-year period, you would have been exposed to just about every major verse in the bible."

"I use it so that I don't fall into the trap of only preaching on scripture passages that I understand. It challenges me to go beyond."

"What I normally do when I look at the lectionary is read four to five sermons from different pastors to get ideas of what someone has already say about the text. Then I start jotting down notes of how I want to interpret it."

"Some Sundays, I may not use the lectionary and just use a scripture passages that I think relates to what is going on. For me, it is a time-consuming process, but I think it is important."



"Also, I'm one that has to have a manuscript. I don't try to memorize the sermon. I feel like if I can present it in such a way that it doesn't look like I'm reading it word-for-word, and I'm getting the message across, then I think that is more important than how it is presented."

Tell me about the prayers you recite during the service. "They are all from my heart. The longer

Sunday morning prayer, I write that down. Now, I change it from time to time, or I'll add something or leave something out depending upon the moment; but again, it is something that I want to make sure has meaning to people. Most of the time, if it is a shorter prayer, I just say it."

"But I like my morning prayer written out, even if I decide to change it from time to time. Lately, I've seen younger pastors using their iPads or laptops or even their phones, scrolling down the notes from their sermon."

"I guess in a way, I'm just old school. I want to hold the paper. With my luck, I would stand up there and something would happen, or I'd scroll over too far...something would go wrong. At least with the paper, I'm a little bit in control of that."



Who makes the decision for a pastor to either be called to a church or leave? "In the Presbyterian church, it is the congregation who decides who the pastor will be. It used to be, that if you were an associate pastor of a church, you could not become the head of staff or pastor unless you went away for six months. That is not the case now. If you have an associate pastor and your pastor moves or retires, then your associate pastor can become the head of staff at that church."

"And for me, personally, I think that probably 12 to 15 years is the maximum time that a pastor should stay at a church, simply because, I think, the pastor and congregation can get stale. Even if they are really, really good, pastors can get too comfortable; they need to stay on their toes. A

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change can be good for both the pastor and the congregation.”

I asked what takes place when a pastor wants to move or retire. “The Personnel and Planning Committee would be notified, then it would be the responsibility of the church to form a pastor nominating committee. That group would go out and look for who they would want to be pastor.”

“They do all the legwork of finding the person, but the congregation has the final vote for calling that person to the church.” *(Let’s hope the pastor nominating committee won’t be called upon for many more years.)*

As our conversation neared an end, I asked Pastor Pat to tell me about his favorite mission. “I’ve always loved mission trips.”

“Going away and doing things - I think it does two things. It helps someone else in need and it also brings the group that goes much closer together.”

“My goal in taking youth groups on trips was to take them to different cultures...to allow them to experience things differently.”

“My favorite place to go on a mission trip is to go to Crossnore.”



To go up to the Boone area and work with Crossnore Presbyterian Church and Crossnore

School. It’s about developing relationships.”

“To me, any church that is involved in missions is going to survive because they are too busy helping others to let the little things in life get them down.”

Little Chapel does more in its outreach for other people than any other churches I’ve ever been in...and I’ve been in many big churches. There’s a lot of little things that this church does that happen behind the scenes that most of the people aren’t aware of.”

As a parting comment, Pastor Pat said, he really appreciated the flexibility and patience that Little Chapel has exemplified over these last nine months.

“It says a lot about the people of Little Chapel. I’ve been so grateful for this congregation in the way they have responded during this time. It’s been very heartwarming.”



Thank you, Pastor Pat, for all you do!



2021 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

LITTLE CHAPEL ON THE BOARDWALK

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
2 W. Fayetteville Street • Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480 • (910) 256-2819

*******DEADLINE APRIL 30, 2021*******

Application Date: _____

Name of applicant: _____ Date of birth _____
(last) (first)

Mother's name: _____

Father's name: _____

Home
address: _____

Home phone: _____ Home email: _____

Student cell phone: _____ Student email: _____

If a High School Senior: Most recent GPA _____

If a College Student: Most recent GPA _____; Major, if known _____

Expected year of Graduation _____

Other scholarships for which you have applied or have received: _____

REQUIREMENTS:

- **A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PASTOR OR A YOUTH ADVISOR**
- **A FAITH STATEMENT TO BE COMPLETED ON THE BACK PAGE**
(Please share with us how Christ has impacted your life and how Little Chapel has influenced your faith)
- **The application must be fully completed in order to be considered by the committee and submitted prior to or on April 30, 2021.**

ACTIVITIES/AWARDS (including athletics)

SCHOOL: _____

CHURCH: _____

COMMUNITY: _____

WORK EXPERIENCE: _____

STATEMENT OF FAITH: _____



Presbyterian Church (USA)
2 W. Fayetteville Street
Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480
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

STAFF

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Andy Marhevsky

Gary Kohunsky

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