



## MAY DATES

- 1 -- Beach Worship Begins 8:00am at #4
- 8 -- Mother's Day
- 14 -- MS Walk (Long Leaf Park) 9:30am #5
- 28-30 -- Parking Lot Fund Raiser
- 30 -- Memorial Day



MAY 2022

*The Little Chapel with the Big Heart*



Dear Members of Little Chapel,

Our Easter worship service has come and gone and we continue to live as an Easter people. I believe that all who worshipped were blessed with the music of the choirs and those who worshipped departed from our celebration of Easter with a deepened faith and a larger hope which will help us to live triumphantly. Peter Marshall said of the resurrection that *"it never becomes a fact of experience until the risen Lord lives in the heart of the believer."*

In the April newsletter I mentioned the need to pray for your church leadership here at Little Chapel. Your Nominating Committee draws closer to the formation of the Pastoral Nominating Committee and your Elders and Deacons continue to discern God's will which will have a direct impact upon the pastor you call. Friends, I believe in your leadership and know that they are seeking God's will. As they continue to share and trust each other as the Body of Christ there will soon be an opportunity for them to share with the larger congregation their conclusions which are nothing less than hopeful steps into the future.



Now all of us hold our breath as we enter into summer. The early service heads to the beach on May 1 and the 8@4 service will continue through Labor Day.

How deep the truth: *"the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world"* as we celebrate Mother's Day on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Brief is our opportunity to forever impact the lifetime of a child that is entrusted to our care. This is true for the families of Little Chapel and also for the larger congregation which values sharing the love of Christ as a church family.

Finally, Memorial Day Weekend will arrive and many of you will be traveling. Of all weekends it is Memorial Day weekend which deserves our prayers for those on the roads and for all who have served, and continue to serve, our nation.



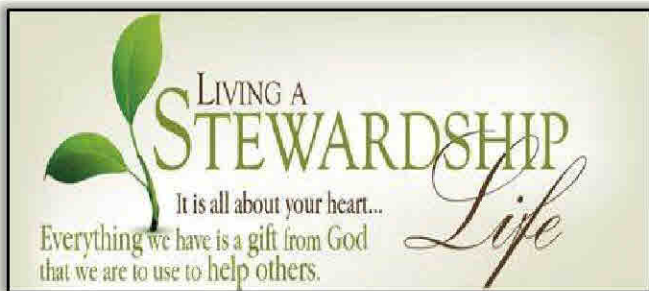
You have warned me of the numerical surge which is about to happen and the variety of reasons people head to the sand and surf. My first awakening happened early Easter morning prior to the sunrise service. I was waiting for the service to begin but noticed a little boy standing down at the water's edge. I joined him staring out at the ocean and asked: *"Are you looking for fish?"* Without breaking a smile, he responded: *"No, my mother told me that if I was going to pass gas I needed to go down to the ocean!"* Following that response, I'm not sure any other response will come as a surprise.

I thank all of you for your continued faithfulness in worship and in your financial giving. Because summer days pull all of us in different directions, please remember that your church depends on your financial giving 365 days a year. We are all individuals who have been enormously blessed and we are blessed to be a blessing to others. My gratitude is shared in knowing that all of us serve Christ here.



*Blessings, John*





"God gave. Now it's your turn."

I was sitting behind a church bus at a red light. On the back was painted, "Christ has given everything." Something about that bothered me. It seemed incomplete. I wanted to go up there and paint another phrase underneath it. I wanted to add. "Now it's our turn." I didn't, so I'm not writing this from jail.

Stewardship is not only about conducting a campaign for pledges in the fall. Stewardship is a lifestyle of managing the talents and treasures that God has given us every day of our lives. It's about paying attention to invitations to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed every day and to discern what God is inviting us to do about the cries of suffering and need that come to us. Stewardship invites us to be willing to stand for the poor, the suffering, and the outcasts. Each of us is given these opportunities. The Holy Spirit calls us to be more than bystanders, more than observers.

God has given us so much. Now it's our turn.

As Partners in Christ,

Your Stewardship Committee



## BEACH SERVICE TO BEGIN MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>!

On Sunday, **May 1<sup>st</sup>**, we will begin what has become an annual event in the life of Little Chapel and that is worshipping on the beach during the summer. On that day, we will gather at access **#4 at 8:00am**. This 30-minute service will continue at this location (weather permitting) for the months of May, June, July, and August, with the **last service Sept 4<sup>th</sup>**. Beginning Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, we will move indoors to the Fellowship Hall. Keep an eye on the bulletin and website for any changes.

This service is well attended each week by members of Little Chapel as well as many vacationers. *Please extend a warm welcome to visitors.* Arrive early to get a close parking space! Remember, Wrightsville Beach begins charging for parking at 9:00am, but be alert to signs for changes.

### HELP IS NEEDED FOR THE BEACH SERVICE...

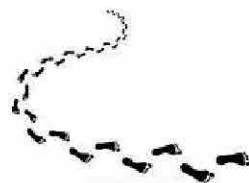
We need volunteers willing to set-up and take-down the equipment and possible backups to pull the trailer to the beach. The trailer contains the sound equipment, including keyboard and other items necessary for the service.

There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the Narthex for those who can help with this exciting ministry. **SIGN UP TODAY!**



In order to best facilitate the beach service, and begin planning for the 8:30 fall worship service, the following individuals have agreed to serve on a sub-committee to the Worship Committee. They are:

Janet O'Neil – representative to Worship Committee  
 John Moore  
 Barbara Tyndall  
 Rhonda Woodell  
 Pat Hatcher  
 John Earl



If you can assist with the Beach service, please contact one of the above or on the sign-up sheet. **See you at the beach this summer, 8:00am!!!**



Many members and friends are unaware of the Endowment Fund and its mission. This article will provide an update on the background and financial results of the Fund through December 2021.

The Endowment Fund was established on 6/17/16 with a \$ 1,000,000 position after the sale of the original Manse on the waterway and after building the new Manse and paying off existing mortgages.

### **PURPOSE OF ENDOWMENT FUND**

- a. To provide the members and friends of LCOB with the opportunity to make charitable gifts that will become a permanent endowment of financial support
- b. To provide funds on an annual basis to support missions
- c. To provide funds on an annual basis to support capital improvements

### **GOVERNING COMMITTEE**

7 members-

3- Elder members

3- Members of the congregation

LCOB Pastor

### **DUTIES OF GOVERNING COMMITTEE**

- a. Select the financial institution to manage the funds with guidelines set by committee
- b. Charged with investing the Endowment Fund
- c. Solicit donations from members and friends of the congregation

### **INVESTMENTS OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND**

The goal is to manage the fund to preserve capital, while obtaining returns which will enable the Church to support missions and the capital needs of the Church

### **DISTRIBUTIONS FROM THE ENDOWMENT FUND**

The committee may distribute 3.5% of the funds annually, above the \$1,000,000 base investment

Of the 3.5%,

70% distributed goes to missions (Charitable 501c3 Organizations) the funds available are approved based on grants received and approved by the Mission Committee

15% distributed to Capital Improvement Reserve Fund-Insurance Deductible Fund

15 %distributed to Capital Improvements designated by the Property Committee

### **GIFTS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND**

Donors' gifts or bequests to the Fund must be given without designating a specific purpose of the gift.

Continued...



## ENDOWMENT FUND PERFORMANCE

6/17/16 TO 12/31/21

<b>Beginning market value 6/17/16</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
Deposits minus withdrawals	-241,039
Net invested capital	758,961
Investment results	+551,935
<b>Market Value 12/31/21</b>	<b>\$1,310,896</b>

Net weighted return 9%, Total net income \$96,641 since the inception of the Fund. This is a very favorable performance in the stock and bond markets, however past performance is no guarantee of future results.

### TYPES OF GIVING (DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

1. Gifts in memory of someone (memorials)
2. Gifts from individual wills
3. Cash gifts and gifts of securities
4. Gifts from retirement accounts (IRA's)

### HISTORY OF FUND DISTRIBUTIONS TO NON-PROFITS

LCOB has distributed \$142,000 in total to validated 501c3 Charities as a result of Grants Requests sent to the Mission Committee, by the charity, which are then reviewed and upon approval, authorized by the Session. This process is done annually with Grants Requests sent by June each year. Following is a list of past charities given funds.

Team First Book

Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministries (WARM)

The Carousel Center

Girls Leadership Academy (GLOW)

Domestic Violence Shelter

Saint Mary 's Health Center (dental health)

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Good Shepherd Center (for Veterans)

A Safe Place (victims of human trafficking)

Community Counseling Center

Welcome Home Angel

Step up Wilmington

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard of Wilmington

Eden Village

Continued...

The Fund is currently managed by Wells Fargo Advisors along with the Endowment Committee made up of Susan Long, Chair, and members Pastor John Earl, Dean Cobble, Dickson Bridger, Kathy Blizzard, Jack Homestead, and Gary Gischel.

Unrestricted gifts may be given to support the Endowment Mission and Memorials at any time by check, indicating "Endowment Fund" or by giving cash or securities or individual IRA contributions by contacting Joan Denney at the church office.

If you have any questions please contact Susan Long, Chairperson.

## Session Meeting Highlights

### April

Your Session met for a stated meeting on Monday, April 18, at 6:00 p.m.

At the beginning of each meeting, Pastor John Earl leads us in a devotion and prayer. This month we are particularly praying for wisdom and discernment of the best vision for the future of the entire congregation.

The Session approved the new schedule for the beach service for 2022. Regular 8:00 worship on the beach will begin on Sunday, May 1, and the last service will be on Labor Day, September 4. The service will move indoors on September 11 and will be held in the fellowship hall.

More than thirty members of LCOB participated in the spring cleanup day on Saturday, April 2. Thanks to generous donations in honor of or in memory of loved ones, funds allowed the purchase of new plants to beautify the property. Participants enjoyed the fellowship and the chance to do useful work together on a lovely day.

The Personnel and Planning Committee recently held a training session for volunteers who will cover office duties during an absence by our administrator, Delores Dyer. The team is ready!

Although the position of part-time Youth Director has been posted for a few weeks, we have yet to receive any responses. The Session will be informed of new activity in the future.

The recent forum on the beach service was attended by several members, and the general consensus was that there should be no changes to the time, place, length, and format of the service at this time. There is concern, however, that the service could be better marketed, and options are being investigated.

Members of the session prepared casseroles and packed lunches for Meals on Wheels on April 23. Any groups at LCOB may sign up to serve this mission on one Saturday, and no driving is required. Contact Patty and Wilson Rogers, MOW coordinators, or Beckey Smith or Marti Shogi of the Mission Committee.

The LCOB website is updated as needed. Committee leaders are encouraged to let Gary Kohunsky know of needed changes or additions.

The next stated meeting of your Session will be on Monday, May 16, at 6:00 p.m. LCOB members are welcome to attend.

By Mary Jo Kohunsky, Clerk of Session



Stunning sunset after the Maundy Thursday service





# Finance Update

	MARCH 2022 YEAR TO DATE				TY 2022
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	VARIANCE %	BUDGET
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	128,475	130,458	(1,983)	-2%	457,834
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	95,619	106,435	(10,816)	-10%	457,834
<b>NET INCOME</b>	32,856	24,023	8,833	37%	-

The church ended the first quarter of 2022 with a Net Income/Surplus of \$32,856. This is \$8,833 better than budget.

First quarter pledge income of \$128,475 was 2% below plan. We are grateful for the support of the congregation and feel that we are still on target to meet the total year income budget of \$457,834.

First quarter expense of \$95,619 was 10% below plan. All committees did a good job of expense control. The drivers of the underrun are listed below:

- The youth director position was unfilled for most of the quarter (\$4,276). The personnel committee is currently advertising for a replacement.
- Church utilities – The property committee anticipated that utility usage would increase in 2022 as the church emerged from the pandemic. The increase has not occurred and this has created an expense underrun of (\$2,803).
- Property repairs and maintenance has experienced a \$(2,633) underrun in the first quarter.

In summary, the church had a good first quarter. We are thankful for the continued support of the congregation.

John Copeland, Finance Moderator

## FEED THE PIG



Thank you to all who have been filling your piggy banks and giving your donations to Priscilla, the pig, ceramic pig in the Narthex. So far this year, your change has added up to \$154.50!!! These funds are sent to our Presbytery's Hunger Program which gives us the opportunity to submit a grant to the Presbytery requesting funds for one of our local missions that serves the hungry. Take a smaller pig with you, fill it up, and empty it in Priscilla, & Repeat! Or, just bring your change in a baggie each week. So, please keep giving your change to Priscilla!





*“If you would like to help maintain the positive presentation of the church and its grounds, we welcome your help”.*

**The Landscape Committee**

By Leita McCormick

Have you, like me, never noticed the thousands of square feet of landscaping that surrounds Little Chapel, in addition to the plantings in front of the church entrance? It totals thousands of square feet...from the landscaping in front of Matthew House, all along Fayetteville Street to the corner, then around on Lumina Avenue to the corner of Oxford Street, all the way down to the Manse.

The church grounds haven't always looked as good as they do now, thanks to the guidance of the Landscaping Committee and the LCOB volunteers.



**Landscape Committee: Gary and Betty Gischel, Neale Turlington and Barry Lindholm**

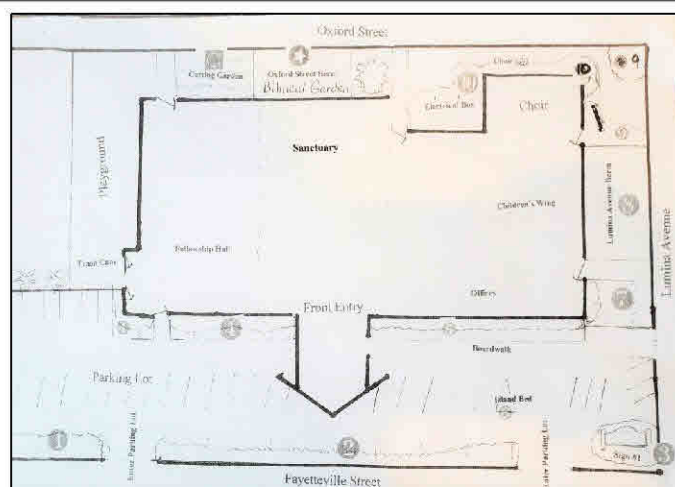
The Committee came into existence when under various leaderships, some members of the Property Committee (and their wives) were considered a “subcommittee” who were responsible for taking care of the plants and new

landscaping projects – there was a lot of self-funding contributed in addition to their work.

The goal was to ensure that the outside of the church was as welcoming and positive as the inside of the church. “The image needed updating, particularly with our exposure along Lumina to car and foot traffic”.

When Barry Lindholm became Chair of the Property Committee, this became even more important. It was determined that a more formal plan was needed.

So, in 2019, the Committee hired Tracy McCullen, a landscape architect, to set up a five-year plan for all areas around the church.



**The plan developed for the zones of landscaping areas around the church**

(Continued on next page)



Once the plan was adopted, the question was, "How do we fund it?"

The idea was to partner with garden clubs that could help coordinate and provide resources for the beginning of the landscape conversion.

It came to fruition on November 9, 2020, when 20 LCOB volunteers and 20 from the New Hanover and Harbor Island Garden Clubs worked together weeding, pruning, planting, and putting down mulch. The Committee estimated that there were about 120 "people" hours worked that day.



Combined workday – November 9, 2020



Combined workday – November 9, 2020



Combined Workday – November 9, 2020

Thanks to Kathy Blizzard's connection with the New Hanover Garden Club, we also received a donation of \$3,000, plus the purchase and installation of a Meditation Bench.



Meditation Bench along Lumina Avenue

Covid prevented the Committee from holding Spring and Fall workdays in 2021, but on April 2 of this year, 33 LCOB volunteers – spouses, children and even grandchildren – came together to work on the "Spring Spruce Up Day" event, which was a huge success!

I was very impressed with the organization of the event by the Landscape Committee. A table was set up under the portico with a list of everyone who had signed up to volunteer that day. Each person was given a specific zone to work in (See zone areas in plat on Page 1). They were told to check back in when done for their "reward": a bag of cookies, a granola bar or both.

The work continued all day as dead and overgrown bushes were removed, flowerbeds were weeded, existing plants were repurposed, new plants were put in and mulch was put down.



Out with the old pink Azaleas...

(Continued on next page)





...and in with the new Autumn Embers Azaleas



Attracting attention from passersby while spreading mulch



Pink Azaleas repurposed on side of the Matthew House



Autumn Embers Azaleas planted on corner of Lumina Avenue and Oxford Street



Workers loading up mulch to be spread

The budget of the Landscape Committee is a little over 11 percent of the Property Committee Budget. Because of the need for more consistency and upgrading this year, it was decided by the church that members could designate donations to the landscaping fund as part of the yearly One Hour of Sharing collected on Easter Sunday.

In an effort to maintain the church grounds on a continual basis, the Committee is asking for volunteers to select a designated landscape area to be responsible for its weeding as needed.

For example, Jim and Ann Martz are solely responsible for maintaining the outside garden areas of the Matthew House. Betty Gischel has selected a corner area in the parking lot to oversee and seasonally plant.

(Continued on next page)





**Betty's Corner**



**Tree trimming company working along Lumina removing broken branches and aerating trees to prevent damage from storms and hurricanes.**

There are a variety of plants, bushes and trees, such as Crepe Myrtle, Palm, Podocarpus, Camelia, Pyracantha, Ligustrum, Jasmine and Mondo Grass, to name a few. You don't have to have professional knowledge or experience of any of these to be a garden volunteer.

Gary, Betty, Barry and Neale's only experience comes from taking care of their own properties for years. They are looking for members who want to join in the community effort to maintain a small section of church grounds.

If you would like to become involved and give an in-kind contribution to the church, please contact Gary Gischel at 910-509-0544 or [ggischel@gmail.com](mailto:ggischel@gmail.com)

Many thanks to the volunteers who made our "Spring Workday" successful.

**Jim Alexander**

**Jeannie & Scott Willetts**

**Rhianna Willetts & Mason**

**JJ Willetts & friends**

**Janice & Steve Willetts**

**John Moore**

**Jim and Ann Martz**

**Joan Welsh**

**Robert McIver**

**Al Wordsworth**

**Patty & Wilson Rogers**

**Jane Hughes**

**Hank Metzger**

**Gene & Janet Auvil**

**Harriet Andrew & Emma Ennis**

**Leita McCormick**

**Susan Love Lewis**

**Pat Hatcher**

**Pastor John Earl & Nadja-Sefcik-Earl**

**Beth Price**

**Barry Lindholm**

**Neale Turlington**

**Betty & Gary Gischel**



**All the time,  
God is good!**

**God is good,  
all the time...**

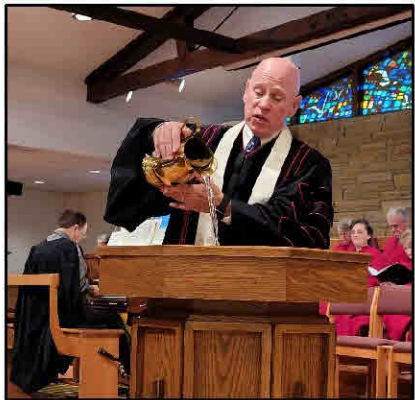




# Baptism

*Anderson Lynn Crouse  
April 24, 2022*

*Infant daughter of Mike and Erin Crouse  
Granddaughter of Scottie Anderson*



## **Mission Committee is gearing up for the SUMMER HOLIDAY WEEKEND PARKING LOT BONANZA !!!**

For those of you who are new to our summer fun, Wrightsville Beach allows us to open our parking lot to the summer visitors who can't find parking at meters and in official parking lots.

We open the gates and invite people to park in our lot all day on Saturday, half of Sunday (after the church crowd leaves) and all of Monday. We do not charge them to park. However, we ask for a generous donation in cash or through VENMO (an online cash thing). Last summer we collected almost \$15,000 in donations!

We would like to ask you to volunteer for a 2-hour shift in the parking lot. We need gate keepers who usher in the cars until we are full! We need people to help them park...they have trouble with lines...and to maximize parking spots in our lot without damaging cars or blocking them in. We need money collectors for all those donations. We need lunch for those who volunteer all day. And we just need people who want to chat with our visitors and keep everyone happy!!

So, if you think you can volunteer during Memorial Day, look for the sign-up sheets in the narthex on the kiosk!!!

**Note:** This year we will not be reserving parking spots for church members, family/friends.

This is our only outreach fundraiser. Funds raised go to pay for our Eden Village house, built in honor of Pastor Pat and Marcia Rabun.

Mission Committee Co-Moderators,  
Becky Smith and Marti Shogi



2021 first shift May 29<sup>th</sup>





## 2022 Montreat Youth Conference June 11 – 18



This year's trip is dedicated to Sarah McLaughlin; daughter, wife, mother, friend, Ruling Elder who gave so much to enthusiastically help others especially the youth at Little Chapel and loved Montreat. She will be greatly missed and always remembered.

**Attendees:** Mia Kennedy, Emma McLaughlin, Amelia and Julia Laursen, and Frank Lucchese.

**Leader:** Christine Kennedy

**Chaperones:** Catherine and William Slany (Christine's parents)

## Please Consider a Sponsorship



**\$50:** This will get you a handwritten thank you note and photo from the youth attending.



**\$75:** This will get you a handwritten thank you note, photo from the youth, and handpicked (by the youth) rock from Montreat.



**\$100+:** This will get you a handwritten thank you note, the photo, the rock, and also a small piece of artwork made by the youth participating in this year's trip.

All checks may be made payable to LCOB (in the memo, Montreat 2022) but also include a slip available in the Narthex noting the choice, name, phone #, and address. We are grateful for your generous donations which allow these students to experience God's word in a Christian environment with other Christians.



**Theme: NOAH'S ARK!!!**

## Vacation Bible School 2022

June 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

9:00am – 12:00 noon

(Preschool – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, limited to 25)

Christine Kennedy is looking for volunteers to help with crafts, snacks, music, check-in/out, group leaders, supervision, and help getting the word out! FUN TIME FOR ALL!!! Everything will be planned and set up to make the experience easy and fun! Christine has a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and you may contact her with questions, (910) 465-5310. **SIGN-UP NOW BEFORE THE SPACES ARE TAKEN!!!**





- 1 Gary Gischel
- 3 Janice Willetts
- 4 Dean Cobble
- 6 Heather Schild
- 6 Nan Spainhour
- 10 Sherman Criner
- 11 Andrew Almy
- 12 Allison Clark
- 12 Benjamin Elijah Register
- 13 Delwood Herren
- 13 Barry Lindholm
- 15 Miia Backstrom
- 15 Brian Ennis
- 15 Patsy Nelson
- 16 Larry Daniel
- 18 Emma Ennis
- 18 Ethan Ennis
- 19 Lisa Jordan
- 19 Christine McKirachan
- 21 Charles Holden
- 21 Mary Roche
- 21 Kristin Skiba
- 24 Robert Andrew
- 25 Marley Hall
- 25 Margie Smith
- 26 Faye Hall
- 27 Mike Leach
- 27 Marti Shogi
- 28 David Heinzman, Jr.
- 28 Nicholas Herren
- 30 Robert McCarl
- 30 Emma McLaughlin
- 30 Doug Vass



## In Loving Memory

TOMMY BANCROFT

Mr. & Mrs. Doug Vass

Mr. Donald Peterson

PETE & SYBEL BOOTH

Mr. & Mrs. Doug Vass

JIM LEGG

Ms. Peg Atkinson

SARAH McLAUGHLIN

Ms. Marti Shogi



*Maggie's Children*

*Sharon Bear*

*Debbie Gorbis*

*Lori Richardson*

*Suzanne Please*

*John Polk*

*Chuck's Children*

*Cindy North*

*Charles North (Chick)*

*Mark North*

*Belores*

*Thank you so much*

*in helping arrange the*

*flowers in honor of*

*memory of our mother*

*Maggie North. Her Church*

*family was so important*

*to her and we were so*

*happy she found Little Chapel*

*& the peace & glory of God*

*there - Sharon Bear*

Dear Dr. John Earl and Our Little Chapel Family,

Thank you all for your cards, messages, your thoughts and your prayers.

We are so thankful to each of you during this difficult time.

With Appreciation,  
Bryan and Margaret McIntyre

## Mother's Day Offering

The Mother's Day Offering supports the Children's Hope Alliance and Elderhaus. CHA is the combination of Barium Springs and Grandfather Home for Children joining forces to serve children and their families by creating hope for the future. CHA also provides different services in 61 counties in NC.

The mission of Elderhaus of Wilmington is to promote and sustain the independence of seniors wishing to remain in the community.

Our collection will be equally divided between

CHA and Elderhaus.



Thank you to all who so generously made a donation in April for the One Great Hour of Sharing. This donation was received for helping Ukraine and their people, who so desperately need our help! I am so happy to say that the money collected was \$5,262.50. We truly are The Little Chapel with the Big Heart!!

Bonnie Warwick



**Saturday, May 14, 2022**  
**Wilmington, NC**  
**Site Opens: 8:30 AM**  
**Walk Starts: 9:30 AM**  
**Long Leaf Park (#5)**  
**Donate to LCOB Team!!!**



# ACTION AND CONTEMPLATION

By Dr. Christa Metzger



Let me begin with a few reflective questions for you about the CHART below

## *"Paradoxes to Ponder"*

- *What is a balanced and integrated Christian life?*
- *Are both dimensions on this chart important? Why?*
- *Why might they be considered paradoxes? Or are they two sides of one coin?*
- *Have you ever experienced the tension (tug of war) between these two poles?*
- *Is there truth and false in both extremes?*
- *How familiar are you with such paradoxical, mystical, contemplative thinking?*
- *Is the reconciliation between these seeming opposites at a higher (or deeper) spiritual level?*
- *In your own life, with which of these poles have you wrestled?*
- *What paradoxes could you add to this list that have been important in your own life?*
- *Can you recall the line from the hymn we sang in worship on March 27<sup>th</sup>? You may want to look it up again – No. 667, vs. 1 ... "Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair..."*

If you are struggling with these questions, you are not alone. Whether we are aware of them or not, we move between each of these poles throughout our lives. Maybe you want to use this chart as a self-assessment tool to discover where on these continuums you live much of your Christian life. Then pay attention to how you might need to integrate its other pole.

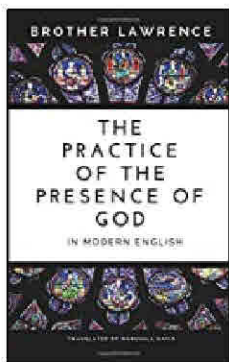
In the next few months, I will continue to address these issues. My article about the *Cloud of Unknowing* in the March newsletter and this month's topic are introductions to such themes.

## PARADOXES TO PONDER

ACTION	↔	PRAYER
MARTHA	↔	MARY
OUTER	↔	INNER
WORKS	↔	FAITH
FLESH	↔	SPIRIT
LABOR	↔	REST
DOING	↔	BEING
HEAD	↔	HEART
(THINKING)		(FEELING)
MOVEMENT	↔	STILLNESS
SECULAR	↔	SACRED
SINNER	↔	SAINT
JESUS	↔	JESUS
HUMAN		DIVINE

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## MEET BROTHER LAWRENCE

Today I want to introduce you to a favorite character of mine – **Brother Lawrence**. If you glance at the photos surrounding this article, you will discover that he is pretty well known in Christian literature.

To me, Bro. Lawrence embodies the way I would like to live my life – in **BALANCE** between action and contemplation. The way he lived his life would probably also apply to many of the other seeming opposites in the chart above.

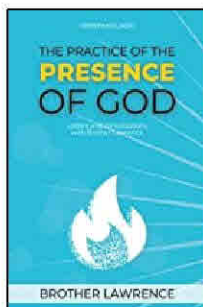
You know that there is no right or wrong. We must pay attention to what **both** sides of these ranges have to teach us about living as a Christian in this world! I know... Jesus seemed to laud Mary's place at His feet more than Martha's busy preparations, but (theological interpretations aside), none of the people there would have had a meal without Martha. The Apostle Paul talked in most of his letters about "flesh" *and* "spirit" – and the Protestant Reformation was all about "works" *and* "faith." In our worship services, we "saints" regularly practice confession of our sins.

Let's meet Bro. Lawrence and see how he united *action and contemplation*. **Contemplation** is a kind of prayer – just being with God, often without words, prayer of the heart – according to what the scripture asks us - to "pray without ceasing".

## PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

**Brother Lawrence (1611-1691)** was an obscure seventeenth century French Carmelite monk, who entered the monastery after a career as a foot soldier.

He was born into a poor family in Lorraine, France - Nicholas Herman (later known as Brother Lawrence). He described himself as a "clumsy fellow who used to break everything." He was installed by his superiors in the kitchens as a household servant, washing pots and pans. Brother Lawrence resolved to use his time to be constantly aware of God's Presence.



He sought to create an habitual state of communion with God, determined to live every moment constantly aware of God's presence. He blended his work with prayer – transforming his mundane chores in the kitchen into glorious experiences of heaven.

In time, he acquired such holiness that even the abbot would go to him for advice. His conversations (and letters) were recorded and later published (in 1692). It has since become a classic source of inspiration – "*The Practice of the Presence of God*."

## Brother Lawrence's Prayer

***My God, here I am all devoted to Thee. O Lord, make me according to Thy heart***

Before you read Bro. Lawrence's quotes from the book, here some more **QUESTIONS** to ask yourself:

- How do you "recollect" (tune in to) the presence of God in daily life? What helps you to become more aware of God's presence?
- When – in what life situations - might this be particularly crucial?
- How do you seek to practice the command in the scripture to "Pray without Ceasing"?

**EXCERPTS** from the book *The Practice of the Presence of God* [**bolded parts are mine**]

*I renounced for [God's] love everything that was not Himself, and I began to live as if there were only He and I in the world...[I kept] my mind in His holy presence and recalling it whenever I found I had become distracted from Him. I continued in spite of all the*

*difficulties I found in practicing it, not becoming troubled or worried when I was involuntarily distracted. I maintained this practice no less during the day than during my times set aside for prayer."*

*There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful than that of a continual conversation with God.*

*I make it my business only to persevere in his holy presence wherein I keep myself by a simple attention and a general fond regard to God, which I refer to as an "actual presence" of God. Or, to put it another way, an habitual, silent, and secret conversation of the soul with God.*

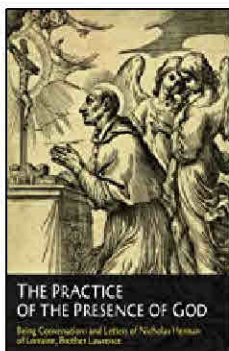
*That all bodily mortifications and other exercises are*

Continued on next page...



are useless, but as they serve to arrive at the union with GOD by love... the shortest way, to go straight to God by a continual practice of love, and doing all things for God's sake.

*Amid the clatter and confusion of my kitchen...I hold to God, and with great tranquility as though I*



*were on my knees...*

*This is how I began... for the first year I spent much of the time set apart for devotions thinking about death, judgment, hell, heaven, and my sins. I applied my mind to these thoughts in the morning and then spending the rest of the*

*day, even in the midst of all my work, in the presence of God... and yet I must tell you that for the first ten years I suffered a great deal. The awareness that I was not as devoted to God as I wanted to be... of my past sins... and the great yet unmerited favors God did for me were the source and substance of my suffering.*

[He finally concluded...] *That there was need neither of art nor science for going to GOD, but only a heart resolutely determined to apply itself to nothing but God, or for God's sake, and to love God only.*

#### Words of Bro. Lawrence's Abbot in a conversation with him

He told me that...

*... it was a great delusion to think that the times of prayer ought to differ from other times; that we are as strictly obliged to adhere to God by action in the time of action as by prayer in its season...and that when the appointed times of prayer were past he found no difference because he still continued with God, praising and blessing him... his prayer was nothing else but a sense of the presence of God, his soul being at that time insensible to everything but divine love, and that when the appointed times of prayer were past he found no difference because he still continued with God, praising and blessing Him with all his might...*

So, now it's up to us to practice as Brother Lawrence did – whether at home or in our workplace – in constant awareness of the abiding presence of God's Spirit with and within us.

I want to conclude with a quote by one of my favorite modern mystics. It gives us clues about how that can happen, how we can pay attention to both “poles” – such as action and contemplation - at the same time.

***“There is a way of ordering our mental life on more than one level at once.***

***On one level we may be thinking, discussing, seeing, calculating, meeting all the demands of external affairs.***

***But deep within, behind the scenes, at a profounder level, we may also be in prayer and adoration, song and worship and a gentle receptiveness to divine breathings...***

***ever the accent must be upon the deeper level --- a mental habit of***

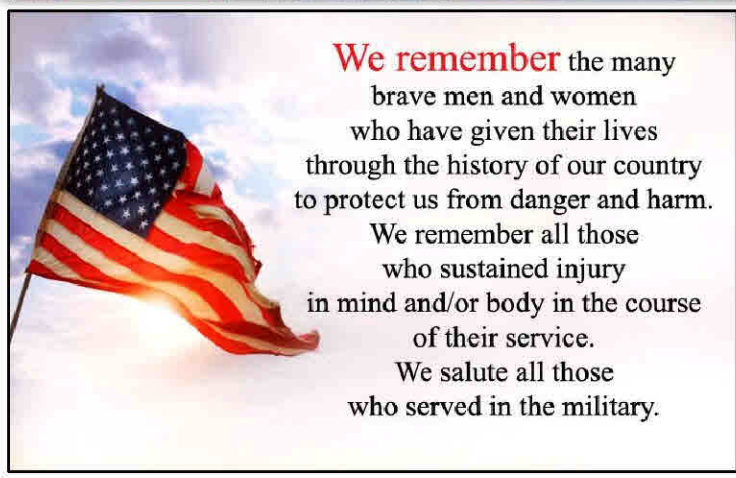
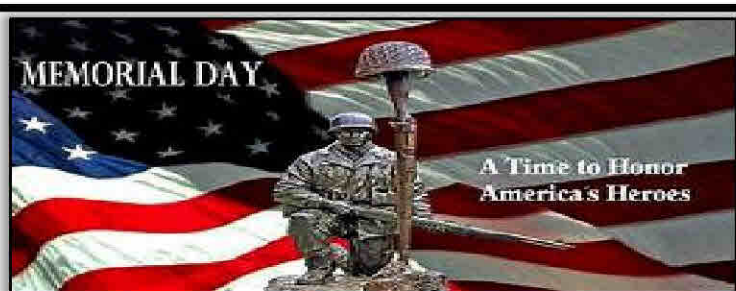
***inward orientation must be established ...”***

Thomas Kelly (1893-1941, from *A Testament of Devotion*).

Christa Metzger, PhD – your fellow pilgrim on this journey - [christame@twc.com](mailto:christame@twc.com)

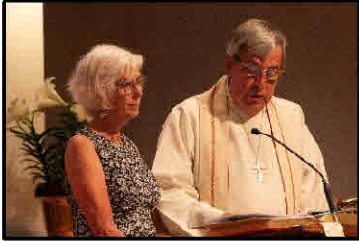
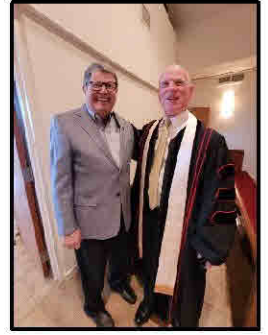


*“Queen of the Swamp” was my painting selected for the WAA show in April 2022*





## 2022 Easter Memories





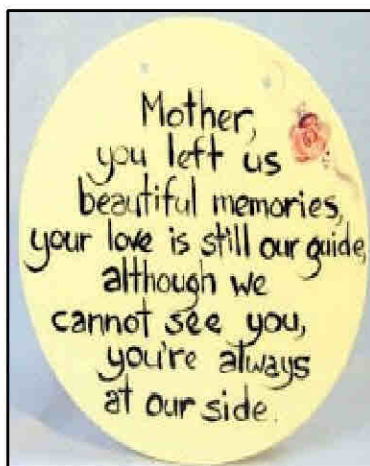
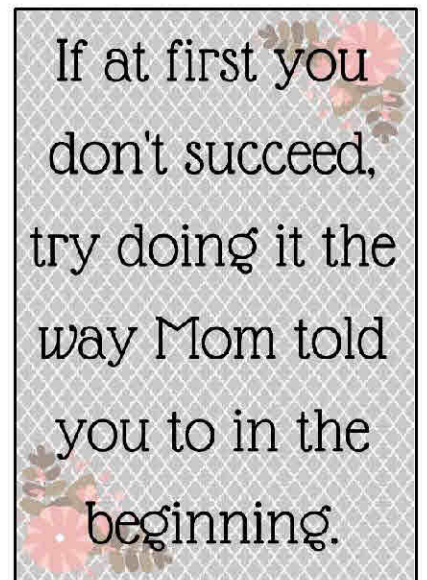
## Breakfast, April 24, 2022

### It's Baaaaack!!!

With COVID restrictions easing up, breakfast is back thanks to the hard work of our regular cooks and planners! Lots of smiles and hungry appetites! The next one may be in the fall, but keep a close eye on future bulletins. You don't want to miss this! Thank you to those who came out and gourmet cooks!











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Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480  
Church Office: 910.256-2819  
[www.littlechapel.org](http://www.littlechapel.org)

**Worship Services**  
**8:00 am Beach Access #4**  
**10:30 am Sanctuary**

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