

Annual Meeting

'20





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Looking Forward

A Reflection from the Rector
by the Rev. Ben Robertson

On Sunday, 19 July 1852, the Rt. Rev. William Mercer Green, the first bishop of Mississippi, consecrated the Chapel of the Cross, "to be set apart for God's worship, the building up of the living, the remembrance of the dead, and to the praise and glory of God's Name." He later wrote later in his journal, "the services ... seemed deeply to impress the congregation, many of whom had never witnessed anything of the kind before. The only thing to be regretted was the Church could not contain one half the persons in attendance."

On 14 April 2019, Bishop Green's regret was answered when we gathered in a field behind the churchyard and prayed, "O Lord God of Israel, the heavens cannot contain you, yet you are pleased to dwell in the midst of your people, and have moved us to set apart a space on which to build a house of prayer." We finally broke ground on the long prayed for additional and larger worship space at the Chapel of the Cross.

Many folks deserve hearty thanks for bringing us to this momentous milestone, including everyone who gave to our Capital Campaign, Davis & Martha Frye and Brian & Malorise Martin, our Capital Campaign co-chairs, all who have led or served on the Vestry, Building Committee, and various other committees and subcommittees, especially our intrepid and dogged Building Committee chair, Amy Barker.

Much more lies ahead, our journey is far from complete, and construction will continue for several more months (and you can read more about all of that in the Building Committee's separate report). I just know I need to pause every now and then, as I hear the hammering and drilling and the beep-beep-beep of trucks in reverse, and give thanks for how the Holy Spirit is moving in our little corner of God's creation.

And on top of all that, the Chapel of the Cross continues to do God's work in the world. We continue to welcome new folks to our community. We continue to worship in ancient and relevant ways. We continue to study the Bible and learn from one another. We continue to laugh and cry, celebrate and mourn, post and 'gram, bake cakes and casseroles, and throw the best party in Mississippi every October. We continue to feed the hungry, lift up the marginalized, and love the afraid. We continue to be the Chapel. And I am so grateful to be part of fun.

2019 was awesome. So is 2020.

Opposite, top:
The Rev. Ben Robertson blesses a horse at the Blessing of the Animals.

Opposite, bottom:
A photo from inside the new worship space taken by the Rev. Ben Robertson.



"The services seemed deeply to impress the congregation, many of whom had never witnessed anything of the kind before. The only thing to be regretted was the Church could not contain one half the persons in attendance."

The Rt. Rev. William Mercer Green's reflection on the 1852 consecration of the Chapel of the Cross.

A VESTED INTEREST

In England the annual election of churchwardens took place in Easter week. The parishioners gathered at the church to hear the outgoing wardens render their accounts and elect their successors. Because the parishioners assembled in the vestry, the room off the chancel where the clergy vested, the group came to be known as the vestry. These were open vestries in that all adult male parishioners could participate. It was like a modern annual congregational meeting. In Virginia the parishes were very large and it was difficult to get all the male parishioners together, so they would meet only once and elect twelve of their number to serve for life. This was known as a closed vestry. The transition to a closed vestry was completed by 1633 or 1634, when a Vestry Act was passed. It provided that "there be a vestrie held in each parish." The current vestry evolved from this colonial pattern.

The vestry is the legal representative of the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property. The number of vestry members and the term of office varies from parish to parish. Vestry members are usually elected at the annual parish meeting. The presiding officer of the vestry is the rector. There are usually two wardens. The senior warden leads the parish between rectors and is a support person for the rector. The junior warden often has responsibility for church property and buildings. A treasurer and a secretary or clerk may be chosen. These officers may or may not be vestry members. The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances.

-An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church



> **Bill Buhner**

Bill and his wife of 50 years, Margaret, have two grown daughters and two grandchildren. Bill has previously served on the Vestry of the Chapel as Junior Warden and at other churches as a Vestry member and as both Junior and Senior Warden. He is an active member of the Chapel Grille, the Friday Men's Bible Study, and the Cemetery Committee, of which he is a co-chair. Bill serves us as a Licensed Lay Reader and a Lay Eucharistic Minister; and he would very much like to help guide our Parish as we begin a new chapter in our history with the completion of our new worship space.

< **Sarabeth Clark**

Sarabeth Clark has been a member of the Chapel for the last 4 years. She has four children, three that are still at home and active in the children's ministries and EYC. Sarabeth says her family felt at home from the very first service they attended at the Chapel. She feels privileged to be a part of the Chapel Choir and blessed to be able to serve as a member of the Altar Guild and Flower Guild. She also co-chairs our Bread Bakers' Guild.

For the last two years, Sarabeth has served the Chapel as our Vestry Clerk. She would be honored to be part of the Vestry and continue to serve our parish.



> **Stan Herren**

Stan has been an active member of the Chapel for 24 years and a resident of Madison for 39 years. He and his wife Becky have two children, Amanda Camp and Seth Herren, and four grandchildren.

Before joining the Chapel, Stan served as chairman of the administrative board; chairman of the pastor-parish committee; and church treasurer for two years at Madison United Methodist Church. Here at the Chapel, he serves us as a Licensed Lay Leader; as the head of the Boiled Peanuts and Corn booth at DITC; as an usher and a gravedigger; and as a former finance committee member.

Stan retired after 44 years with Regions Bank as Senior Vice President and commercial relationship manager. He believe his administrative training and experience will help the Vestry oversee with efficiency both the day-to-day and long term operations at the Chapel, while improving the transparency for all charged responsibilities and issues that are considered by the Chapel Vestry.

< **Meredith Bailless**

A native of Rolling Fork, Mississippi, Meredith adventured to Dallas for college and then on to New York City for the early years of her career in public relations and corporate communications. Having grown up as an active member of First Baptist Church Rolling Fork, Meredith sought a church home in the City and became a part of the volunteer choir at St. Bart's in Manhattan. It was during these years that Meredith found her love for the Episcopal tradition and worship.

After moving back to Mississippi in 2006, Meredith made the Chapel her church home in 2007 and immediately became part of the Chapel Choir. She was confirmed here in 2009 and expanded her service as an EYC chaperone and occasional youth Sunday School teacher in the following years. Meredith also served on the Rector Search Committee in 2013-14. Meredith and her husband, Brett, were married at the Chapel in March 2014, and they welcomed their daughter, Kennedy, in December 2015. They continue to make their faith and involvement at the Chapel a central part of their lives. Together, they served as Chairs for Day in the Country 2019 and are active members of the Chapel Young Adults (C'YA) group. Meredith also serves on the Flower Guild, continues to sing with the Chapel Choir and seeks the next opportunity to serve God as part of our special congregation.





> **Marvin Koury**

Marvin is a Certified Property Manager (CPM®) employed by Hertz Investment Group. He is "a recovering Catholic," joining St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in 1998. There, he served as Interim Senior Warden and as Junior Warden, as well as chairing Finance, Stewardship and the Building Committee following Hurricane Katrina. Marvin has participated in two priest search committees and "survived a Discernment vote on marriage blessings." At the Chapel, he has served as reader, usher, Verger, red-bean-cooker and community organizer of the Chapel Grille. He feels humbled to have been approached to enter his name for Vestry, and he will use his previous experience to make sound decisions on behalf of the parishioners of the Chapel of the Cross.



> **Ed Moody**

Ed was raised in the Methodist church in Sylva, North Carolina. He graduated from UNC at Chapel Hill, where he met his wife Trudy, in 1988. After graduate school and Trudy's graduation in 1992, the pair moved to her home state of Florida, where he was lucky enough to become an owner of Costa Sunglasses. After 13 years in FL, the family moved to Jackson in 2005 to pursue an opportunity for Trudy. He remained a senior executive at Costa for the next 12 years.

Growing up in the mountains of North Carolina, Ed's values are very similar to what he has found in Mississippi. He says his core values are integrity, honesty to a fault, dependability, discipline, candor, and loyalty. He pursues his interests with passion.

Currently semi-retired, Ed is CEO of a small, emerging biotech in NC, and he pursues a lifetime hobby of active conservation at the Moody farm in Benton, MS. Most of all, he enjoys raising his 3 children, Anne, Christine, and Hayden Moody, ages 11, 11, and 10, who attend St. Andrew's Episcopal School, and being a dedicated husband. His family found its church home here at the Chapel in 2015. He says, "Converting to the Episcopal Church was an easy step for our family. We have found a lifetime home here, and I look forward to years of service."

< **Hal Flowers**

Hal and his wife Tell have been active members of the Chapel for 30 years. They are blessed with six children who were all raised in the Chapel. Hal served on the Vestry during the funding and construction of the Education Building and the Parish Hall. He was also a member of the Chapel's finance committee. Subsequently, Hal served as Co-Chair of our Retire the Debt Campaign, and we were able to completely retire the debt incurred in the building of these facilities. More recently, he participated in fund raising efforts for the Capital Campaign for the new sanctuary.

Hal says many positive changes have occurred during his 30 years at the Chapel, and he is excited about our future. He feels that his experience could be an asset to the vestry, and he would be honored to serve.



< **Tommy Roberson**

Tommy has a long history with the Episcopal Church, having served on the vestry and as both senior warden and junior warden at the Church of the Holy Communion in Memphis, Tennessee. After retiring, he moved to Madison with his wife, Margaret, to be closer to their children and grandchildren, all of whom attend the Chapel. They joined the church in 2014 and have loved calling the Chapel their parish home.

If elected to our vestry, Tommy will share the knowledge he gained from his past experience with our parish as we grow in membership and in facilities. The construction of our new worship space marks a new phase in the life of our parish, and he would like to work with our members to ensure that we encourage and accommodate growth while maintaining the closeness of our community that we love. As a vestry member, Tommy will focus on enhancing available programs for each segment of our parish, help to keep us on a path of fiscal responsibility, and listen to the diverse opinions of our members as we plan for the future.



2020 VISION

In 2019, the Chapel of the Cross gained over 60 members— good thing we broke ground on a new worship space to hold them all! We hosted our 40th annual Day in the Country, packed over 700 food boxes for Our Daily Bread (feeding 2,800 families in Madison County), and celebrated three weddings and 10 baptisms. 2020, here we come!

2019 has been *by far* my best year at the Chapel. Ba-dum tsss. Okay, I know, cheap joke. Since I started at the Chapel in June, I've been amazed by the way this place has grown, by the kindness with which you all have welcomed me, and by the strength in the bonds of this Parish.

2019 at the
Chapel of the
Cross
by Emily
Tipton

When I arrived, the new worship space was nothing but a hole in the ground and a stack of plans. Now, it stands tall saluting the sunrise as I enter the office each morning. The frame of the rose window filters the reds and pinks of morning light, reminding me of the joy of every new beginning.

There's no shortage of new beginnings to celebrate around here. We've welcomed lots of new babies to the Chapel family this year, and new families are joining us every month. The shouting, singing, squealing children on Wednesday nights are precious hopes for the future of God's church and of the Chapel itself.

Read ahead to learn about all the goings-on at the Chapel in 2019. I cannot wait to see how this place continues to grow (physically and spiritually) in 2020!



Flat Stephania Jackson, Dana Tiffin, the Rev. Ben Robertson, Heather Flowers, Emily Tipton, Sarah Anderson, and the Rev. Will Compton (from left) jump for joy.

Adult Formation

Introduction

by the Rev. Ben Robertson

Adult Christian Formation is a cornerstone of our community at the Chapel of the Cross and we are so thankful for the many volunteers and staff who work so diligently on our many Formation offerings. On Sunday mornings at 10a, we feature four Formation classes: the Covington Room Book Group, which recently finished reading the Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor's Holy Envy and will return to studying the lectionary readings this spring; C'YA on Sundays, a weekly primer on adulting with Christ led by the Rev. Will Compton; the St. Clare's Guild, also known as the Knitters, who celebrate fellowship and servant ministry while honing their handicraft; and our newest class, the Middle Path, led by Davis Frye and the Rev. Ben Robertson. Middle Path just finished reading *Unafraid* by the Rev. Adam Hamilton and will study Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's *Short Stories by Jesus* in the spring. All of our Sunday offerings are welcome to newcomers anytime! Just bring yourself and join the fun.

During the week, there are several opportunities to learn and connect with fellow Chapel members. On Wednesday mornings, folks gather at 9:30a for Bible Study and prayer in the Parish Hall. On Friday mornings, men of the parish enjoy coffee, fellowship, prayer, and study at M7 Coffeehouse at 7a. The Daughters of the King, an order of women within the parish, meet the fourth Tuesday of every month and all Daughters' meetings are open to all women. Many Chapel folk are part of the Cursillo movement which gathers periodically in different locations across the state - for more information about Cursillo visit cursillo.dioms.org And finally our excellent Young Adults, a.k.a. C'YA, meet once a month (besides their Sunday morning class) for fellowship and service (please read their distinct report). There's a lot going on around here!

In 2020, we look forward to continuing these offerings, as well as introducing three additional Adult Formation offerings, two new and one old favorite. In Lent, we will be offering a weekly lunchtime study in Ridgeland - details to follow. This spring, Eric Eaton, Will, and Ben will launch a new podcast - creatively named Chapelcast - which will feature interviews with members and friends of the parish as well as reflections on scripture, theology, and liturgy, and general frivolity. And, we are thrilled to announce the return of Education for Ministry (EFM) this autumn. Stephania Jackson, our Director of Children's Ministries and an EfM graduate, is being trained as a mentor and looks forward to beginning a new class this year.

Again, thank you to all the folks who make these offerings possible. Growing in and wrestling with the faith is a vital part of our journey with Christ. We invite you to learn and grow with the Chapel.

Opposite:
Susannah Silvia, Sarabeth Clark, Lauren McNichol, Mindy Morton, and Anna Arnold (from left) knead dough for Day in the Country.





Chapel Young Adults (C'YA) Tacky
Sweater Party at the Farmer's Table
Cooking School in Livingston.

Have you hugged a Chapel Young Adult (C'YA) lately? If you need a hug, you can find them singing in the choir, serving as a worship volunteer, teaching Sunday school, serving on the Altar and Flower Guilds, sitting on the Vestry, chairing Day in the Country, chairing Kids Country, coordinating Chapel weddings, digging a grave, hanging out at the Chapel Grille, or-- if you're lucky enough-- sitting next to you in church.

The future of the Chapel is this group, but with all the ways our C'YA members are involved, it is apparent that the future is now! This group continues to grow each year and do exciting things. We meet at 10a each Sunday in the education building for Sunday school. Last year, we discussed the Book of Common Prayer, including what is in it and how to use it for our own prayer lives. This Spring, we will make our way through the lectionary by discussing the gospel readings each week.

We also gather once per month during the school year for a fun activity. Such activities include our annual game night, a crawfish boil, the trunk or treat and chili cook-off, our tacky sweater party at the Livingston Cooking School, and not to mention the annual parish retreat at Camp Bratton-Green.

So, what are you waiting for? Come join us!

**Chapel Young
Adults (C'YA)**
by the Rev. Will
Compton

**The Order of
the Daughters
of the King**
by Joy Breslin

During 2019, The Daughters of the King met monthly, with scheduled exceptions. Each meeting consisted of a light supper, program and business meeting. All women in the Chapel congregation were invited to attend.

The mission of the Daughters of the King includes prayer, service and evangelism. In support of these, the Daughters sent hand-written notes to ill congregation members and presented hand-made Anglican rosaries to those in need of pastoral care. A hand-made wooden box was added in the Chapel narthex so congregation members can easily submit requests for prayers for friends and family.

In keeping with other chapters world-wide, the Chapel chapter selected and ordered a banner design to commemorate the Constance Chapter at the Chapel.

A major event in 2019 was the Chapel chapter hosting the Mississippi Diocesan Annual Retreat in April. This included a light breakfast, program,

Eucharist with Bishop Seage and a luncheon. Lastly, the Chapel chapter grew in 2019. New daughters were installed in September at one of the 8:45 services. Luncheon at Anjou followed.



Daughters of the King (DOK) with their new banner at new member initiation services.

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.
2 Thessalonians 1:3

**Friday Men's
Bible Study
Group**
by Ralph
Stillions

The Friday Morning Men's Study Group meets every Friday morning at 7:00 a.m. at M7 Coffeehouse just off Main Street in Ridgeland. The time is, of course, very early, but it was designed so that those who work may participate and still make it to work on time.

This group has been gathering in fellowship, prayer and study for over 15 years. It is open to all men of the Chapel. The group is structured so that each week does not necessarily build on the previous week. Participants can therefore join at any time and not miss out if some meetings are missed.

The group studies a particular book and usually covers and discusses one chapter at a time at each meeting. Examples of the books studied include: Praying the Lord's Prayer With A New Understanding; Spiritual Disciplines; What Think Ye of Jesus; The True Measure of a Man; The Screwtape Letters; and Conversations with Scripture- Romans.

A typical gathering normally consists of: a short period of sharing one's previous week with the group, what is colloquially call a "weather report" (i.e: sunny, cloudy, stormy, etc.); an informal discussion of our study chapter for the week; and ending with a devotional, which includes prayer requests and intercessions.

This is a very informal group and, again, all men of the Chapel are invited to participate as little or as often as you can. Simply show up at M7 at 7:00 a.m. on a Friday mornings to get a flavor of the group. Or, if you have further questions regarding the group, call the parish office or contact Ralph Stillions at (601) 856-6623 or rstillions@comcast.net.

Ministries

Servant Ministry Team

by Michael Barker

2019 was another busy year in community outreach for the Chapel. We prepared and served food for Stewpot on every fifth Sunday as usual. Each time we serve, a team of volunteers prepares the meal on Saturday; then a group of volunteers (including our youth group this year!) serves the meal on Sunday. Through these efforts, we fed around 700 people alone! Mark your calendars for the dates in 2020 in March, May, August, and November!

The last Monday of each month, volunteers go to Our Daily Bread in Canton and serve lunch. This is a quick and easy way to serve. Just show up - the food is already prepared; they just need extra hands during lunchtime!

Several times during the year, we came together to collect food to help replenish the food pantry at Madcaap. There is always a need for non-perishables as well as help in their community garden.

Summer is always marked by our school supply drive. This year, Chapel members provided backpacks and supplies for 21 foster children.

In October, the Chapel sponsored a team for the Stewpot Red Beans and Rice festival. This is always a fun event, and this year was no exception, from the Chapel Young Adults chopping party to the team onsite that cooked and served. We may not have taken home the trophy, but everyone who helped or came out to support the team was still a well-fed winner!

November marked the return of Rise Against Hunger. This event is also fun for all ages, and Chapel members packed enough food packs to feed 10,000 people affected by global crisis! We don't know yet where our food packets are being sent, but they will let us know once they are deployed. We also continued our annual partnership with the DOK group here at the Chapel. Servant Ministry funded personal "care" bags for women in prison, and the DOK group purchased the items and packed them for distribution.

December is perhaps one of the busiest months for community outreach. Chapel members adopted 42 foster children through the Angel Tree program. For many, these are the only gifts they receive each Christmas, so your generosity is so very appreciated. This year, the party was held by our friends at Christ Life Church in Ridgeland, but Will and several Chapel folks were on hand helping during the festivities!

And who could forget the Christmas food boxes? You did it again this year! Through generous donations, corporate sponsors, and many hands on deck, we were able to provide 700 food boxes for Our Daily Bread. Each box feeds a family of four,

and we also purchased a turkey for each family. That's another 2,800 people fed in Madison County. Our plan is to continue this important ministry into 2020, but there's no need to wait until December. If you or your business would like to plan a large collection effort or donation in the coming year, please let Will or anyone on the vestry know.

In addition to participating in all of these activities, money from the Servant Ministry budget helped fund programs for Caring and Sharing, Holy City Church, Stewpot Community Services, and Our Daily Bread, to name a few.

All of you here at the Chapel have hearts of service, and you have blessed many people with your time, talent and treasure. Thank you for all you do, and please join us again in 2020.

A special thank you to these businesses who donated Christmas Food Boxes:

Northeast Eye Care

Crotty Management Company

BankPlus

B & B Electrical

Sebrell Funeral Home

Guiding Investments

Millennium Outdoors

Southern Conveyor

Serve with your whole heart, as if serving the Lord, not people.

Ephesians 6:7

Opposite:

Trey Denton helps unload groceries for the Our Daily Bread boxes we packed in December.





Children's Nativity Pageant in the Parish Hall this Advent season.

We have increased the number of children in Children's Chapel and Level I by 50% this year. We are building a new Level I Atrium in 2020 because we are exceeding the required 18 square feet per child space. We opened a Toddler Atrium, which is very popular with parents new to Chapel.

Ashley Herden has been instrumental in identifying techniques to teach all these children and ways to grow our program. She helped provide "the best Vacation Bible School" we've ever had, according to many parents and children. Level II is thankful to have grandparent Catechist's Assistants, and Annell has made updates to that Atrium the children love. The annual Nativity Pageant was great fun and Ashley was a fabulous director, once again. Michael Beattie, Katie and Stephen Chew provided the Christmas music.

The Chews lead the Children's Choir Wednesday nights and taught our children new songs, which they sing joyfully. The children have lots of fun and aren't ready to leave when it's time to go.

Pam and Ruby presented the changes they made to the Level III Atrium at the National Conference, and they've been invited back for 2020. Level III is the age we lose children because they often view the program as "uncool." Well, it's definitely cool now with lava lamps and bean bag chairs! The attendance has increased and the children are bringing their friends on Sunday. We use the same religious works and suddenly we have interested children. If you haven't seen it, please come by for a viewing. The Level II children "can't wait to be in Level III." We are so pleased to have so many children at Chapel. Some Sundays last year, there were six children in Level I. Many days now we have more than 16. The total number of children on Sundays has been 46 and more. Children at church is how a church grows. Thank you to all the Catechists, parent volunteers and parents who do all they can to get their Children here on Sunday. It's a huge indication of hitting the mark when a child on Sunday asks the parent, "Is it time today for Wednesday supper? I'm not ready to go home."

Children's Ministries
by Stephania Jackson

St. Elizabeths Guild
by Nelwyn Madison

St. Elizabeth's Guild is better known as the Pastoral Care team.

Co-chairs and Team Leaders:
Nelwyn Madison and Adair Cunningham

The Pastoral Care Teams provide support in the form of prayers, meals, phone calls, cards and/or visits to Chapel parishioners in times of need. It could be someone ill, a death in the family, a new baby, a deployment, etc.

Team Leaders:
Suzie Pooley, Annell Holland and Dana Tiffin

2019 was a fairly quiet year for the Pastoral Care Teams. We were called upon to provide services to a little over a dozen parishioners. Hopefully, this was because we did not have a lot of members in need and not from a lack of reporting. If you know of anyone in need of a meal, a visit or even a phone call, please let Will or Dana know.

Gravediggers Guild
by Jon Woodward

Here at the Chapel, we dig our graves by hand. With picks and shovels, we lovingly provide an eternal resting place for those of us that have gone to be with the Lord. In 2019, we prepared the resting places of five of our beloved brothers and sisters.

Anyone and everyone is invited to join this truly spiritual experience, whether you bring a strong back, food and drink, stories, prayers, or a broken heart. It is a special ministry that will have you reflecting on your own life. We encourage everyone to come be a part of the unique fellowship shared among the Gravediggers Guild. Please join us in 2020.



Youth Director Sarah Anderson (center) takes on the State Fair with EYCers Ellis Nichols, Melanie Thigpen, Lloyd Clark, and Reed Wilcox (from left).

Youth Ministries (EYC)
by Sarah Anderson

Youth Ministry at the Chapel is growing! This year we started a new Junior EYC program for our Chapel members in grades 6-8 in addition to our 9-12 grade programs. Expanding the age groups has proven to be an exciting way to make lasting connections between the youth and the Chapel!

This coming year, I hope our group continues to grow together through Christ, to work with Servant Ministries like Stewpot, to take exciting trips to learn about the rest of the world, but mostly, to learn to love this Church home we've made.

For both age groups, I aim to structure our EYC meetings around three things: fellowship, fun, and engagement. I want to create a community of young people who love each other and love the Episcopal Church. Our meetings range from discussing big questions about God, Faith, and how we fit into it all, to finding the best hiding spot possible in the education building for a game of Sardines. By creating a safe space where young people can engage in thoughtful discussion minutes before playing wild and crazy game, we can create a generation of youth that will want to keep coming back and giving back.

If you or your child would like more information about getting involved with EYC, email Sarah at sanderson@chapelofthecrossms.org. You can also just show up to any EYC event, like Sunday School at 10 on Sundays, Jr. High EYC at 5 on Sundays, or Sr. High EYC at 6 on Sundays and Wednesdays!

Fellowship

Foyer Groups

by Ralph Stillions

In 2019, over 50 couples and individuals participated in Foyer Groups

Foyer Groups are groups made up of 5-6 Chapel couples, or individuals, who gather approximately every other month for dinner, socializing and Christian fellowship. The groups gather on a rotating basis in the home of one of the group members. Foyer Groups have been a Chapel tradition for many years.

These small groups have a wonderful history of deepening our relationships with one another and strengthening those bonds that truly make us a family in Christ at the Chapel. Many have said that some of their best Chapel friendships have come out of the Foyer Groups.

If you desire to participate in a Foyer Group in 2020, all you have to do is be willing to host one Foyer Group dinner during the year and sign-up! The Foyer Groups will begin in February, so the deadline for sign-up will be tomorrow, Monday, January 27, 2020.

To sign up, simply call or e-mail the Church Office, or call or e-mail Ralph & Lynne Stillions @ 856-6623 or rstillions@comcast.net. You will be assigned to a group shortly after the deadline. Call Ralph or Lynne if you have any questions.

Wednesday Night Supper

by Emily Tipton and Dana Tiffin

Wednesday Night Supper continues to be a highlight of every week at the Chapel. Families of all ages come together for food, fellowship, and fun before EYC, Children's Choir, and the occasional meeting for the adults!

Bless this food catering continues to provide our Wednesday night meals. This year, we decreased our portion size from 75 to 60 people. For the kids, we provide hot dogs or pizza, fruit, and chips or cookies each week.

Day in the Country

Our 40th Year

by Meredith Bailess

On October 4, 2019, we welcomed our community to the 40th Annual Day in the Country on our beautiful grounds. Despite a bit of rain on Friday the 3rd, the Saturday of the event was absolutely beautiful, and we were joined by thousands of visitors. The biggest changes for 2019 were to the layout of the event with Kids Country moving back to its original location in the grove of trees to the west of the Chapel. Digital billboards and social media were used to generate awareness and interest in the greater Jackson area in the weeks leading up to DITC 2019. As usual, visitors were treated to classic treats, freshly baked bread and our 63-egg cake at the Country Store as well as treasure hunting at the Chapel Attic, Makers Market and Silent Auction. Our music line up featured The Rails, Come Together, Tim Avalon with Mike Painter and Steve Chester, T.B. Ledford & the

Accumulators, Ralph Miller and Sarah Roberson. Guests also had the chance to sample craft beer and wine while they enjoyed live music. Of course, the event could not happen without the amazing volunteers from our fearless parking ambassadors and Kids Country chaperones to bread bakers, booth workers and everyone in between. We also saw many new volunteers join the Day in the Country efforts alongside our veteran experts. The 2019 event was held in the shadows of both our beloved Chapel and the newly stood steel structure of our future worship space. It's almost hard to believe that guests will be able to tour the new worship space at DITC 2020! After all was said and done, the 2019 event brought in nearly \$80,000 for Chapel ministries along with countless smiles and memories for Chapel members and visitors alike.

Clockwise from top left: Stan Herren serves up his famous corn. A local high-schooler sprints to the 5K finish. Visitors are greeted at the Day in the Country entrance. Flowers decorate the Chapel doors. Two children celebrate with face paint and balloon animals. Ellen O'Neal plants a kiss on Bill Buhner's cheek. "Micro Brew" John Biesemier and his "Brew Dad" Andrew host the beer tent.



Building Our New Worship Space

Building Committee Update
by Amy Barker

The progress on the new worship space now speaks for itself. Take one look toward the east, and you will see our new building taking form. However, here are some of the details behind the new construction.

As of the end of December, construction is 42% complete.

The targeted completion date for the new church is 6/1/20. The project is currently running two weeks behind, so the estimated date for completion is 6/15/20.

When the church first opens, we will be worshipping with a grand piano while our organ is built. We have signed a contract with the Noack Organ Company, and our custom-designed instrument is scheduled to be completed and installed in December 2021.

We have also signed a contract with Pearl River Glass, and they have designed a custom rose window that will be a focal point on the west wall. It will feature the lamb of God in the center, surrounded by a frame that was designed based on the original Chapel cemetery fence. Final designs will be shared once they are available. Once completed, the Chapel should seat around 350 people.

The building committee that was formed back in 2017 is meeting twice per month to continue to work on the project and see it through to completion. The committee members are: Amy Barker, Ben Robertson, Shirley Abney, Katy Breaux, David Cato, Clay Eckerson, Russ Markle, Whit Rayner, Bob Williams and Jon Woodward.

The construction oversight committee (Bill Buhner, Scott Carter, and Jon Woodward) receive regular updates from the architects and our

As of the end of 2019, construction is 42% complete.

The estimated completion date is 15 June 2020.

Once completed, the Chapel should seat about 350 people.

When the church first opens, we will worship with a grand piano until our custom-designed Noack organ is completed and installed in December 2021.

Opposite:
An aerial photo of the Chapel, the Parish buildings, and the new construction taken by Mason Brown.



third party inspection company. They, along with Amy, meet with the architects and contractors monthly to monitor the progress and discuss any risks or needs.

Starting in December, a subcommittee began meeting that is focused on furnishings (things like pews, tables, etc.) and items of worship. Chaired by Ben Robertson, this committee includes Shirley Abney, Julie Cado, Judy McLarty, Leigh Russell, Edith Stater, Laurie Williams, Liz Welch, and Heather Wood. This team is already working hard on many details such as finishes and colors, and commissioning important work like the altar, tabernacle, and more.

This time next year, perhaps you will be reading this update from your pew in the new building. Until then, we ask that you continue to support this important work. Please lift the construction teams, the architects, the committee members, and all involved in this project, up in prayer. Please also continue to support the projects financially. There is still a need for gifts for the organ (and the choir loft completion to support the organ!) And any donations that exceed our

contracted amount will help to lower the debt we will be quickly working to retire. So every gift is greatly appreciated.

1 Corinthians 3:9 says, "For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building." **While this report says that we're building a church, the reality is that the church is already here. We are the church. We are just building a place where we can grow.**

WELCOME

HOME

2019 New Members

Christina Harrell	Tom & Denise Unterbrink	Sandra Shiflett
Chris, Lisa, Hugh & Lucy Roberts	Eric, Ashley & Henry Nicholson	Bill Walsh
Ed, Emily, Josie & Marcus Henning	Stephen, Angela & John Baker	Katherine Rodenmeyer
Katie Holbrook	Applewhite	Taylor Ortner
Steward, Heather & Greer Burke	Violet Harrison	Aubrey Nichols
Thomas, Noah, James & Jennifer Hood	Betsy Compton	Josh Maatallah
Marshall, Amy, Daniel & David Ramsey	John Biesemier	Adam Maatallah
Ed, Viola, Emily & Jonathan Dacus	Chloe Flowers	Russell Bain
Rev. Linda Berry	Owen Flowers	Jeannie Aldy
Janet Wright	William McManus	Nate Adams
Will, Anna, Dolly & Adeline Smithhart	Henry Wood	David & Liane Hostler
	Kiger Conway	
	Logan Burghardt	
	John & Ellen Black	



Left:
Chloe Flowers digs in the dirt at VBS.

Right:
Russell Bain (left) co-chairs Day in the Country in his first year as a member.



Left:
John Biesemier serves up a look at the Blessing of the Animals.

Right:
Betsy Compton (right) hangs out with her big siblings at Day in the Country.



Left:
David Hostler (middle row, second from left) helps pack Our Daily Bread boxes.

Right:
Chris Roberts (right) helps his children Lucy and Hugh (from left) craft an Advent wreath.

CELEBRATION
OF THE
HOLY
EUCHARIST

Annual Meeting

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 2020

10:00 am

HYMN 616

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Mark 12:29-31

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

HYMN S-280

Gloria

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTION OF VESTRY NOMINEES

FIRST BALLOT

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

The Lord is my light and my **salvation**;
whom then shall I **fear**?
the Lord is the strength of my **life**;
of whom then shall I be **afraid**?

One thing have I asked of the **Lord**;
one thing I **seek**;
that I may dwell in the house of the **Lord**
all the days of my **life**;

To behold the fair beauty of the **Lord**
and to seek him in his **temple**.
For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe
in his **shelter**;
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a **rock**.

Even now he lifts up my **head**
above my enemies round **about me**.
Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great **gladness**;
I will sing and make music to the **Lord**.

Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I **call**;
have mercy on me and **answer me**.
You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my **face**."
Your face, Lord, will I **seek**.

Hide not your face from **me**,
nor turn away your servant in **displeasure**.
You have been my helper;
cast me not **away**;
do not forsake me, O God of my **salvation**.

THE SECOND READING

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

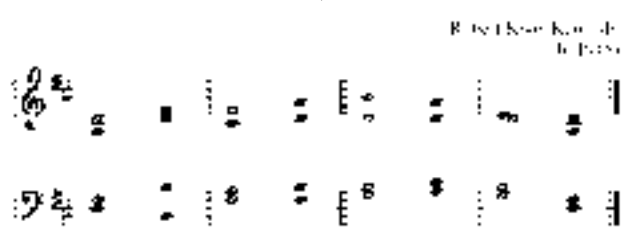
HYMN 661

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the

Psalm 29, chanted to the tone below



I Corinthians 1:10-18

They Cast Their Nets

Matthew 4:12-23

Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

ANNUAL REPORTS

- RECTOR
- JUNIOR WARDEN
- TREASURER
- BUILDING COMMITTEE

THE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary; and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form II

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of our Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND BALLOT

if necessary

THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM

Ubi caritas, by Maurice Durufle

Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him. Let us fear and let us love the living God, and may we love each other with a sincere heart.

DOXOLOGY HYMN 124

What Star is This, stanza 5 only

**To God the Father, Heavenly Light, to Christ, revealed in earthly night,
To God the Holy Ghost we raise our equal and unceasing praise!**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Prayer B

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

HYMN S-125

Sanctus

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life...

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine...

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

HYMN S-154

Christ our Passover

THE COMMUNION

HYMN 576

HYMN 304

gluten free wafers available upon request

God is Love

I Come with Joy

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THIRD BALLOT

if necessary

THANKS TO RETIRING VESTRY MEMBERS

COMMISSION OF NEW VESTRY

THE BLESSING

HYMN 618

Ye Watchers and ye Holy Ones

THE DISMISSAL

Thanks be to God!

Today's Worship Volunteers

Verger: Margie Frye

Chalice Bearers: Robert Pooley and Grace Simmons

Crucifer: Anne Barret Roberson

Torch Bearers: Sarah Roberson and Natalie Roberson

Lectors: Steve Clemmer and David Allen

Ushers: David Cado, Jon Woodward, Richard Roberson, and Davis Frye

