

Village Chapel of Bald Head Island's Annual Report

Meeting Weekend, Jan 26 2020

Before I begin sharing with you what the Village Chapel of Bald Head Island's team has done over the past year, let me see by a show of hands who has been to a chapel service this past year. No, I am not taking names.....

Ok, how many have helped out with some type of Chapel-related effort over the past year? It's amazing to see, as I look at this flier (hold up volunteer flier), just how many people come together to help make the Chapel successful.

My wife and I have been attending services here since 2012, but I'll be honest, I had no idea how much the Chapel did and represented, besides being home to weekly services on the island - until now that is, when I was charged with putting together the information I'm about to share.

Unlike most churches that have a full-time pastor and staff, the Village Chapel only has two part-time administrative staff and a part-time choir director - -- but we have a plethora of volunteers. So the glue that binds us together as a congregation is a group of people with shared beliefs who come together to do God's work, led by our Board of Trustees. I ask that you keep this in mind as I share with you where we've been this past year.

Before I share where we've been and what we've done, I'd like to thank those departing the Board of Trustees; many thanks to Tom Watjen, Robin Prak and Bob Porter. And with their departure, we welcome a few new members to the Board of Trustees; Mary Mears, David Beam, and myself.

So what have we done? Let me start with chapel services - our most visible ministry; this past year almost 6,000 people attended chapel services. And we hosted 53 ministers and their families to conduct those services.

The intent with bringing in outside ministers, in case you weren't aware - is to allow ministers and their families a respite from their daily ministerial lives – to come here to recharge and relax, staying in our Chapel condo for up to 5 days, in return for conducting services. If you know a good minister, please feel free to fill out the sponsorship form on our website, as guest ministers must be sponsored by a homeowner.

Let me talk now a bit about what we do to keep up the Chapel. This past year we replaced all the flooring in the back-office administration area, renovated the administration spaces, and purchased new office furniture. There has been plenty of routine maintenance as well, which I won't bore you with, but suffice it to say, when we had AC problems a few times this past summer, thankfully we were able to get the right folks in here quickly to fix it. It's never fun to be at church when it's hotter inside than it is outside during the summer months. We also manage the upkeep of the guest minister's condo.

It's the little things like this that keep the Chapel and condo going - because of volunteers.

This past summer we conducted a pilot program, offering Sunday evening Catholic masses at the Chapel. Supported primarily with priests from the Raleigh diocese, we had nearly 600 people attend 10 masses.

This past summer we also we offered for the first time a Children's Church program, attended by more than 70 children. We've also added a Communications Chair position to the Board and produced our first e-Newletters.

It's the little things like this that keep us relevant – finding new ways to reach out and minister to more people. And it's happening because of volunteers.

Now, those are all the kinds of things I'd expected and known the Chapel did to minister to others.

But here are some things you likely were not aware of – some of the hidden gems of the Chapel's ministry - helping others in the community. And when I say community, I mean not just here on the island, but Southport and beyond.

Those on the island receive ministry such as bible study, prayer requests, and meal provisions.

Those outside the Bald Head footprint also benefit from our ministry. Here's an example of just a few of our efforts:

- Supporting the Southport Elementary Teacher's Wish List, fulfilling their entire wish list of needs with donations of classroom supplies.
- Participating in the Supporting Hunger and Relief Efforts program, in support of the Southport Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship Pantry, where we contribute monthly to help stock shelves.
- Organizing the Chapel's Angel Tree program, with all 25 tags on the tree adopted to help elderly recipients in Brunswick County.
- Organizing the Re-CYCLE effort, which yielded enough donations to purchase 47 bikes and nearly 300 helmets, to donate to The Bicycle Man Community Outreach Projects, a non-profit organization that annually distributes more than 1,000 bikes, with helmets, to at-risk youth in 7 surrounding counties and this year included Brunswick County children for the first time.

In addition to outreach efforts, the Chapel has played host to many events, serving as a community gathering place.

Some of the community events we hosted include: the National Day of Prayer, the annual Memorial Day ceremony co-hosted with Old Baldy, numerous Friends of Music events, and 21 weddings.

So that's a bit about what we've done. Where are we headed next year?

From a ministry perspective, we will continue our Catholic masses and Children's programming next summer. And we will continue to seek out new guest ministers.

Our many and varied outreach efforts will continue, both on and off-island, always on the lookout for new ways to minister to others.

From a building maintenance perspective, we are planning several projects around the entrance stoops and back deck, planning to install an inclined brick walkway where the small steps currently exist in the Chapel courtyard, and purchasing new furniture for the guest minister's condo.

Let me close with this from Philippians 2:4. "Let each of you look not only to his own interest but also to the interest of others."

In keeping with that, we are on a solid glide path for ensuring we continue to serve others – both on and off-island. It's that sense of community and willingness to help others, that's helpful not only for the Chapel's success, but for the island's as well. One would never know there are only a few hundred full time residents here, many of whom are knee-deep in volunteering, and that the other volunteers are only here part-time. This truly is a team effort. That's what makes this island such a special place. We appreciate the support each of you offers, whether it's attending a worship service, singing in the choir, or helping with outreach efforts. It's all about ministering to others. And without you, we would not be successful in our efforts.