

# CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!

## 240 Years of Disciple Making

*“In the summer of 1780 Bishop Asbury visited this section. On July 10, 1780 he records: ‘Made my journey to Roger Jones’, about sixty people. God was with us.’ Dating from this visit of Bishop Asbury to Roger Jones’, the history of Plank Chapel can be traced.”*

Each time I read these words on our Plank Chapel website, I ponder a few things. The first one that comes to mind is someone took attendance and it was the Bishop. He counted 60 people. In July of 1780 he gathered with 60 people. Consider with me how those numbers came to be. It wasn't the first time they gathered. I imagine this house church began with a few followers of Jesus Christ and a faithful leader. Over time those numbers grew. I imagine this first community of believers in Bobbitt was very much like the one we read of in Acts 2:46-47 which says *"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."* (NRSV)

We did not know in 2020 we may be back in our houses worshipping together because it was not safe to worship in person, not even for 60 people. It is from house churches that the church of Jesus Christ became a world wide religion. When Jesus met with the disciples after his resurrection and commissioned them to “Go!”, he promised to be with them and us to the ends of the ages. This body of Christ we call Plank Chapel United Methodist Church has an ancestry much older than 240 years in Bobbitt. Bishop Asbury's words give us a point in time that we can turn to and say that God was with us in 1780 and we were making disciples for Jesus Christ. We are part of the fulfillment of that promise. God is not done yet. We may celebrate that marker of our faithful witness differently than we had begun to plan, but we will celebrate and we will move into the future



God has for us as disciples.

As I write July's Chapel Chatter, I am sitting in the Fellowship Hall of Plank Chapel. I am waiting and watching for UPS to come and deliver our new paraments for the altar. Birds have been playing on the lawn, or maybe fighting for territory on the lawn. An occasional car pulls into the driveway to either wait on someone or to turn around. The bells chime in the hour as the new District Superintendent stops in to visit the church. So I shared with him a little of our history. We walked through the empty rooms and each one had its own story to tell of Vacation Bibles Schools, youth lock-ins, UMW meetings, Willing Workers Sunday School, Darlene's elementary school classroom, the nursery filled with babies, UMM breakfast and BBQ. As we stepped through the breezeway into the sanctuary time moved in reverse. My words created the picture of a church without a Fellowship Hall or Education wing. An outhouse appeared on the back lawn and the addition was stripped away until all that remained was the sanctuary. Light poured through the stained glass windows creating prisms of color on the walls. If I got still enough, I could hear voices raised in song and prayer and maybe just maybe the preacher pounding on the pulpit calling sinners to repentance. The words of Bishop Asbury come to my spirit, "*God was with us.*" As I refocus my thoughts to 2020 standing in an empty sanctuary, I can echo those words with the faithful assurance that God is with us. God's presence in this space is almost palatable. We will be back here in worship, in God's time.

Our spiritual ancestors continued to serve the Lord, building upon the groundwork of Father Young and Roger Jones. Our place of worship has changed over time, practices have changed over times, what remains is that God is with us. The future of God's church is in God's hands. The future of the world is in God's hands. We, as faithful followers of Jesus Christ are called to teach, to preach, to heal, to baptize all out of love for God and love for one another. These are hard and trying times and people, all people, need to know how beloved they are by God and that there is a place where they can flourish as a child of God, a place where they are valued and loved. God planted a church in Bobbitt during the revolutionary war and the story its walls could tell of the lives of those who worshipped here are filled with triumphs, despair, failed crops, disease, deaths before their time, war upon war upon war, lost jobs, lost houses, droughts, snow storms, hurricanes, and still God was with us. Our task is to be faithful, to love and give God control over our future because God is still with us and still calling us to go, make disciples.

Praying with you,

Pastor Carolyn

### From our Finance

#### Chairperson: Mac Wilson

Your continued support of the ministries of Plank Chapel United Methodist Church are greatly appreciated. Thank you for what you have done and as you are able may continue to do. You are more than welcome to drop your offering at the house or mail it to Plank Chapel, c/o Financial Secretary, Mrs. Judy Wilson, 3969 Bobbitt Road, Kittrell, NC 27544.  
*(Thoughts were his, my secretary edited his words)*

## Words from our Field Education Students

Though these past months have been challenging for all of us, each day we are still invited to catch a glimpse of the heart of God. Each day we get to interact with people who have been created out of the breath of life that is the Holy Spirit. Each day God shows up in the lives of people in all sorts of places. In classrooms, and grocery stores, on phone calls and in church pews. But God also



shows up in prisons, bars, and dead end streets on the other side of town. All corners of the unthinkable universe, touched by a God who showers light and love over every crevice. A God who works in spite of the darkness that looms over the world. God has and will always continue to love this world and invites us to share in that love with all of creation.

Blessings, Morgan



Jacob Dye

*What's bringing you peace during this time? With so much of life as we know it disrupted, physically distanced from our friends and church family because of COVID-19, and becoming more and more aware of the injustices around us, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed. While we are right as Christians to grieve the hurt in the world and work towards justice, it is also important to seek out peace in the midst of chaos.*

*I myself am writing this devotion just before heading out to Umstead State Park to do some fishing. I find great peace in being out in Creation, enjoying the beautiful world that God has made, and that God has called us to be a part of. I wonder what places in Creation bring you peace? What places in Creation help you feel closer to God?*

*At Prayers in the Pavilion the other day, I invited everyone to close their eyes and picture one of their favorite places in Creation, and then imagine God creating that place. Then I invited them to imagine God creating that place with them in mind. I invite you to do that today. Or better yet, if you are able, perhaps you could actually go to that place and consider those questions. Maybe you could take your Bible along with you and read Psalm 65 or Psalm 104, or one of the many other passages that speaks of God's relationship with Creation.*

*While taking this time to experience God's peace may not change what is happening all around us, seeing God's presence in Creation might just help us to see where God is working in all aspects of our lives. Perhaps then we can hear more clearly the Holy Spirit guiding us to bring peace and comfort to our neighbors, both near and far.*



### Church School

Donald Rose McGhee

#### Summer Theme: Community

This summer, our lessons support the theme of "Community." The writer of the student book lessons is

Robert Gardner; the teacher book writer is Martha Myre. Books are on the Red Table in the Fellowship Hall.



Cemetery Sentinels

#### A New People

Scripture - Jeremiah 23:1-8 | Daniel 1:8-17 | Daniel 3:19-30 | Nehemiah 9:9-17, 32-33

Spiritual Practice - Prayer

While the Lord invites all to be people of God, the Old Testament is essentially the story of God's dealings with a specific group of people, the Israelites. The four lessons of this unit give us an opportunity to look at some



key stories related to those dealings: God and the remnant, the community's connection to God, God's care for the people in a time of great stress, and how God's love for the people continued despite their unfaithfulness. All these stories have applications to us today, but we begin to learn about God's ways through biblical stories about God and the Israelites.

### A New Way of Life

Scripture - Luke 19:1-10 | John 4:7-30, 39-42 | Luke 10:25-37 | Matthew 15:21-28 | Mark 5:1-20

Spiritual Practice - Hospitality

The Bible passages in the five lessons of this unit are all intended to enlarge our understanding of the word neighbor. Four of the five are incidents that directly involve Jesus, and the fifth is a parable Jesus told expressly to show what it means to be a neighbor, the parable we call the parable of the good Samaritan. All these passages are important, for they elucidate Jesus' summary statement of one of the two most important commandments: "You must love your neighbor as you love yourself" (Matthew 22:39).



*Austyn Abbott shares how God moved through love and grief to open a path for her future.*

We have all had times in our lives where we have struggled with something. For those of you that don't know, in the summer of 2016, I lost my grandmother, Hilma Smith to a short-lived battle with lung cancer. If you've ever been in a situation where you've seen a loved one deal with something like this, you know what a helpless feeling it is having to sit back and know that there is nothing you can do to stop it. It leaves you feeling broken, confused, angry, scared, frustrated, and every other emotion you can think of and in some cases, questioning everything you believe in. I'm afraid to admit it, but that's what happened to me. Having to watch my grandma suffer made me feel immense anger towards my faith and I couldn't seem to understand and comprehend why. Why her. Why did it have to be her that was taken away from me, she never did anything to deserve this. Why was it her, the devoted Christian woman, and not the drug dealer down the road? It wasn't long before I realized how selfish I was being and that I wasn't meant to understand why. Proverbs 3:5-6 says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." I began to realize that I'm not necessarily supposed to understand his will, but rather I'm supposed to trust in his plans. During the grieving process, my mom shared two bible verses with me that have since stuck with me. The first being Philippians 4:13, which reads "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I take the verse to heart, taking comfort knowing that with Christ, you can get through anything, even grief. The second verse was Psalms 46:10 which says "Be still and know that I am God" which reinforces the idea that we should follow in faith and trust in his will. In hindsight that time in my life, although very dark and emotional, was a period of growth for me. I eventually grew stronger in my faith, I grew stronger within myself in general, and it led me to my career choice. That summer I spent a lot of time at my grandma's house helping to take care of her which led me to discover my potential of becoming a nurse. I know that grandma would be ecstatic about me heading off to Liberty to train like a champion for Christ in my journey to becoming a nurse to help other patients like her in need.



Plank Chapel historian Hilma Smith has gathered early pictures of the church, including images of the Bobbitt Road structure in 1924, left, and 1909, above. The current plank structure, which has now been covered with siding, is the third of three such structures built where Plank Chapel Church is located.

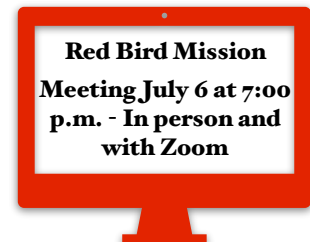


**Wil Bailey (#S-00140) San Isidro, Costa Rica**

An SEJ/Conference missionary and president of Acts One Eight Missions, Wil is responsible for working with local pastors in the southern Costa Rica and organizes construction projects at the Methodist churches in that area for U.S. work teams. He is also the director of the Costa Rica Mission Projects Missions and Ministry Center in San Isidro, where volunteer teams are housed during their stay and is the site for a day care center. Contact – Email: Jwilb4@ yahoo.com Web:

[costaricamissionprojects.com](http://costaricamissionprojects.com).

**Meetings**



**Worship and Study Opportunities in July**

**8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. — Awakenings in the Pavilion (max25)**

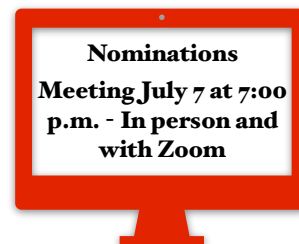
**10:00 a.m. - 10: 30 a.m. — Prayers in the Pavilion (max 25)**

**11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. — Facebook Live**

**Thursday - beginning July 9**

**6:30 p.m. - Bible Study via Zoom (from the youth room)**

**Meetings**



**Until all can safely come...**

Worship and large gathering meetings will not resume in person until all can safely come. We will have Facebook Live for worship and Zoom for meetings. Groups and committees that are 10 or less can meet in person following safety guidelines. Still some in the smaller groups will prefer to meet through Zoom, that will always be scheduled. We will have one in-person worship in July on the 12th as we celebrate 240 years of faithful discipleship.

**Virtual Plank Chapel**

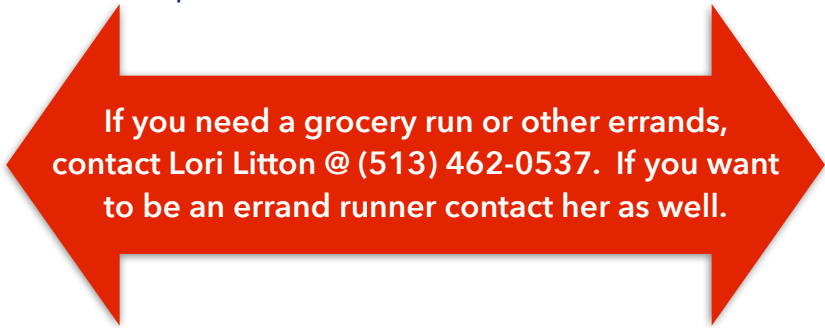
Worship without COVID-19 danger  
 Live audio during the 11:00 service is on 107.3 FM in our parking lot  
 Video of the 11:00 Sunday service is live on Facebook

Go online to: [facebook.com/plankchapelUMC](https://facebook.com/plankchapelUMC) about 10:55

Video of recent 11:00 services can be replayed at any time

Also online at: [facebook.com/plankchapelUMC](https://facebook.com/plankchapelUMC)

Replay audio or video from older services at [PlankChapel.org](https://PlankChapel.org), archives link


  
 If you need a grocery run or other errands, contact Lori Litton @ (513) 462-0537. If you want to be an errand runner contact her as well.



**Brothers  
And  
Sisters  
In  
Christ**



**B.A.S.I.C. UMYF in mission at 1st UMC preparing Sunday meals for those in need**

## Community Prayers

For... Lysa Mackey, Thomas Fowler, Patricia Rogers, Frank and Susan Babicz, Judy Hanson, Kylie Moore, Charlotte Lalas, Elizabeth Moss Wilson, William "Peanut" Hendley, Evie Odom, Brandi Dickerson, Martha Rowland, James Deans, David Driver, Ruth Hailey, Tilly Hughes, Faye Young

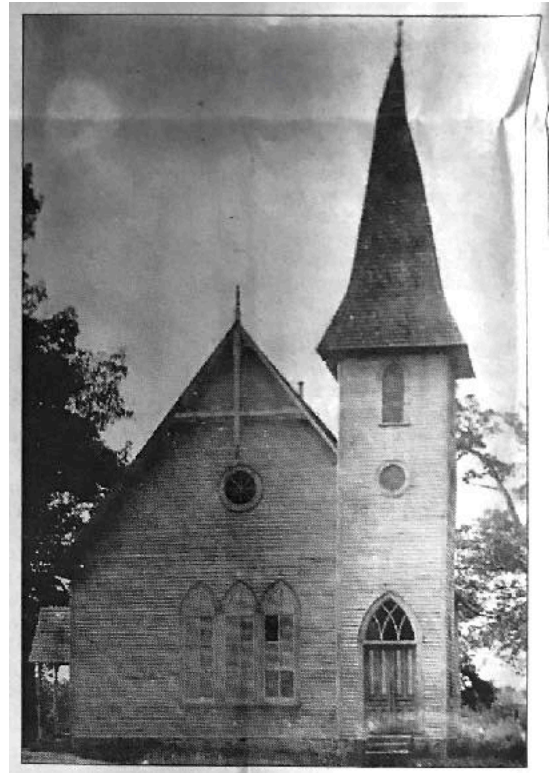
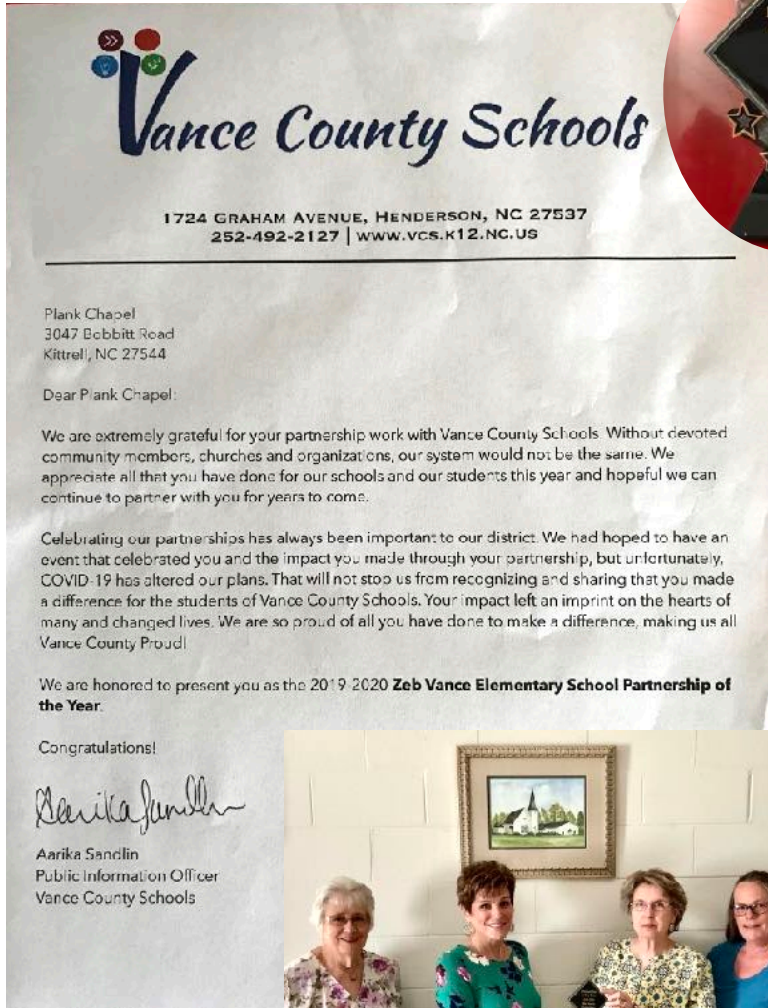
- For... healing and reconciliation
- For... those facing medical procedures
- For... those grieving
- For... those without food, jobs, shelter
- For... the lost and afraid
- For... Plank Chapel
- For... God's church
- For... Our local cities and counties
- For... Our state
- For... Medical Staff, Truck Drivers, Store workers
- For... Small Business owners, Big Business owners
- For... those whose jobs are in jeopardy or lost
- For... Our military, families, and veterans
- For... all in harms way
- For... Our nation
- For... God's world



**Feeding the  
Community**

ACTS, Cokesbury Food Pantry, The Help Center all are doing what they can to feed those in need this restricted time. If you are able help where you can. Reach out to neighbors - they too may need food, paper goods, a friendly voice, or a kind word. Thank you for all that you are doing already!

**Cokesbury Food  
Pantry Sundays**  
**July 12 and 26**  
**Nonperishable Goods**



Missional Roots of Plank Chapel UMC - In the cotton fields - organized by the Women's Missionary Society - now known as United Methodist Women - the work continues

