



Chapel Chimes

July 2022

As I was writing for the newsletter today, I saw news of the shooting at St Stephens Episcopal church in Alabama. A gunman entered the church as members were enjoying the delight of a potluck meal together; something we are thrilled and hungry to do here at Chapel by the Sea.

Before the meal was finished, two of the members were shot dead and one died later at the hospital, from gunshot wounds. At this point it seems the gunman was someone who occasionally attended the church. Not too different from a recent potluck at the Taiwanese Presbyterian church in California where, before the meal was ended, one person was shot dead and 5 were wounded. Not too different from a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Mobile, Alabama, where 9 were shot dead. All of them were open, welcoming people gathered together in Christ, like sitting ducks.

Besides the gun violence and the deaths, these gatherings are just like what we do regularly at CBTS, what people of faith do across the world every day. Every Sunday morning Bill Porter stands at our unlocked doors, as we welcome in the friend and the stranger. We make ourselves vulnerable, just as the people of St Stephens did right before they were shot. As the people of Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church did. As the people of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church did.

For safety's sake, do we stop gathering? Should we stop eating together? Will we stop going to the building and opening the doors? Can we stop welcoming the occasional visitor? We need to talk about safety and minimizing risk, but as people who follow Jesus, we know that risk can be reduced but not eliminated.

At a press conference the Rt. Rev. Glenda S. Curry, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, answered questions from reporters. Will the people of the church gather this Sunday, someone asked? Will those vulnerable, hurt people go back into that building and risk being together? They wondered, as maybe you wonder, is it too dangerous to go to church now?

Bishop Curry answered with a simple, "Yes, we will gather together on Sunday". Then she said to all the reporters gathered there, to all the viewers watching, *do you want to know what you can do to help? Go to church this Sunday. Go TO a church and pray for peace.*

I think the fine Bishop, like Jesus, was suggesting that people of faith go into the vulnerability. When we are scared and hurt and vulnerable, sometimes courage is what we put on, not armor. "We are Christians", she said. "When we are slapped, we respond with love."

I long to gather with you in church on Sunday. I long for us to be together in Christ in our vulnerable journey of faith. I long to pray with you for peace. Now, especially now.

May the peace of Christ be with you and through you,
Pastor Wendy



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Janelle Winn- July 2
Carol Lind – July 2
Terry Johnson – July 8
Roberta Porter – July 8
Linda Kreutzer – July 14

Don Gillmann – July 15
Jennifer Hamilton – July 18
David Rastler – July 21
Lavon Lawyer – July 22
Rachel Gillmann – July 25



BOOK BY THE SEA

Book by the sea meets on Thursday July 14, 2022, at 1:00PM at the church. This month's book is "Are You Afraid of the Dark" by Sidney Sheldon, presented by Linda Palmer.

All around the globe, people are being reported dead or missing.

In Berlin, a woman vanishes from the city streets. In Paris, a man plunges from the Eiffel Tower. In Denver, a small plane crashes into the mountains. In Manhattan, a body washes ashore along the East River. At first these seem to be random incidents, but the police soon discover that all four of the victims are connected to Kingsley International Group (KIG), the largest think tank in the world.

Kelly Harris and Diane Stevens—young widows of two of the victims—encounter each other in New York, where they have been asked to meet with Tanner Kingsley, the head of KIG. He assures them that he is using all available resources to find out who is behind the mysterious deaths of their husbands. But he may be too late. Someone is intent on murdering both women, and they suffer a harrowing series of near escapes. Who is trying to kill them and why?

Forced together for protection, suspicious of each other and everyone around them, and trying to find answers for themselves, the two widows embark on a terrifying game of cat and mouse against the unknown forces out to destroy them. (Amazon review)



SOUP WITH FRIENDS

This month Soup with friends will be a hybrid mix of meeting on Zoom and meeting in person. July 7 and July 21 will be on ZOOM and July 14 we will be meeting at the home of Mark and Wendy Olson. The last Thursday of the month will be focused on parking lot Vesper services at the church. If you have thought of joining with others to share fellowship and prayer, you are very welcome to join in this weekly gathering. You can talk to Mark or Wendy or Melissa if you need more information or to be added to the ZOOM link.



VESPERS

Vesper service in the parking lot is back again for the summer months. Gather on the last Thursday of the month at 4:00PM for Vesper services, with singing, prayers and sharing in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

The first of the summer Vesper services will happen on July 28, at 4:00PM under the portico at the church. Those who attended last year found this to be a spiritually refreshing time.



FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

The fellowship committee has exciting plans with an activity planned for each month of 2022 starting with the barbeque following Vespers on July 28. Following the service all are welcome to stay and enjoy a barbeque with hot dogs, burgers, veggie burger, and fellowship. You are asked to bring a side dish to share.

Coming up-

August: Ice cream social following Vespers

September: Beach Bon-fire at the beginning of the month and a game night at the end of the month

October: Pumpkin decorating

November: Movie night

December: Caroling in the neighborhood and to shut ins.