OCTOBER 2026

CHAPEL BELLS

A Letter From The Pastor

BY KEVIN ANDERSON

Route 66 is 100 years old.

The official date of the establishment of the highway is November 11th, 1926, so the 100-year anniversary is fast approaching. As many of you know, Route 66 is a 2,448-mile highway that runs from Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California, and it crosses 8 states with multiple iconic stops along the way. It's been called the **"Mother Road of the United States."** Of course, the interstate system replaced Route 66 with highways providing a much faster means of traveling across the country. Since this is the 100-year anniversary of Route 66, there are numerous celebrations planned along the highway, and stories are emerging about the quirky places one can still visit along the route.

Psalm 66 is another kind of "route," for the psalm takes the reader on a different journey, a journey of praise to God! In what ways can we travel this route of praise?

1. We can praise Him for the things He has done in our past. The psalm reminds worshipers:

Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. (v. 5-6)

A Letter From The Pastor continued...

2. We can praise Him for His presence in our lives, even in the testing of challenging times:

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs; you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance. (v. 10-12)

3. We can praise Him through a consistent habit of worship in our lives:

I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my vows to you, which my lips uttered, and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. (v. 13-14)

4. We can praise God for His forgiveness:

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me! (v. 18-20)

You may not have a road trip on Route 66 planned for the future, but you can still travel the route of Psalm 66!

Faithfully,

Kevin

Upcoming Chapel Highlights

- **Communion - Sunday, October 4th**
- **Church Picnic – Sunday, October 25th** immediately following the worship service on the Chapel grounds. Picnic attire is encouraged for the worship service that day!



Coffee For Veterans



Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, October 8th at 10 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. We will be celebrating the Navy's 251st Birthday. All veterans are welcome! Here is a photo from our September Coffee when we celebrated the Air Force Birthday with our USAF veterans, Ken McAlear and Jim Womack.

Coffee - Camaraderie - Connections

Pathfinder's Student Ministry

Our next Pathfinders will meet **Sunday, October 4th** and **Sunday, October 18th, from 5:30-7:00 PM** in the Chapel Fellowship Hall. Come join us for food, games, and Bible study! For all students 6th grade – 12th grade.

Women's Ministry Fall Dinner



Friday October 9th at 6:00PM

Guest Speaker: Dr. Joy Scott, New Administrator/Director at Lake Lure Classical Academy
Menu: Chicken Pot Pie, Salad, & Dessert

All Ladies are welcome and invited to attend!





Men's Ministry

***Breakfast and the Bible, Saturday, October 24th at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall.**

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office to attend.

***Helping hands Ministry** is intended to help both people in our own congregation and neighbors in the surrounding community with tasks such as moving boxes, cleaning up debris in yards, helping with light maintenance tasks in the home, etc. Again, we're looking for volunteers that would be willing to perform these tasks.



If you're interested in taking part in either or both of these ministry opportunities, contact **Mike Clardy** at 828-532-4102 or at mclardy10@gmail.com.



Coffee Hour Fellowship REFRESH

In order to increase our focus on welcoming members and visitors, the Elders have decided to refresh coffee hour. Our goal is to build community and get to know our visitors during this time. Each week of the month will feature a pared-down offering along with coffee and juice.

1st Sunday- Celebration Sunday – We will provide a cake to celebrate those with Birthdays and Anniversaries each month.
2nd Sunday- Donuts and fruit
3rd Sunday- Savory Sunday – light lunch offerings
4th Sunday – Cheesy Sunday
5th Sunday if needed – Donuts and fruit

Chapel Elders

The current Chapel Elders are now praying and asking members to consider serving for the new term to begin in January 2027. Our Chapel Elder Board is comprised of nine members who serve three-year terms. Three current elders, Charlie Ellis, Katherine Cox, and Tammy Martell will be finishing their term of service at the end of the calendar year, and the congregation will vote for three members to replace them in December.

An elder is-

- A member of the Chapel that is a committed follower of Christ.
- A dedicated participant in the life and ministry of Fairfield Mountains Chapel.
- One who is willing to commit to serving a three-year term to help lead, guide and shepherd the church.

Elder meetings are held once a month, with occasional special called meetings.

If you believe God can use you as a Chapel Elder and are interested in serving, please speak to one of the current elders (Charlie Ellis, Katherine Cox, Tammy Martell, Ken McAlear, Dee Montgomery, Heidi Owen, Dot Wardsworth, Dianne Johnson, and Mike Clardy) or the Pastor. Also, please fill out the attached Elder Application Form, which is included in this newsletter. Paper copies of the form are also available in the Chapel Office and on the bookshelf counter in the Fellowship Hall. Once we have your application, a current elder will follow up with you and be available to answer any questions you may have about serving. The final slate of elder nominations will be presented to the church and voted on in a congregational meeting on the first Sunday in December. **The deadline for submitting the application is Sunday, October 18th.**



ELDER APPLICATION FORM

1. NAME/ ADDRESS _____

2. CELL PHONE/EMAIL ADDRESS _____

3. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE CHAPEL? _____

4. HOW HAVE YOU SERVED IN THE CHAPEL? IN WHAT WAYS HAVE YOU VOLUNTEERED WITHIN THE CHURCH? _____

_____

5. LIST ANY COMMITTEE/MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHAPEL AND INDICATE IF YOU SERVED AS THE CHAIR OR TEAM LEADER _____

_____

6. PREVIOUS CHURCH COMMITTEE MEMEBERSHIP OR PREVIOUS CHURCH LEADERSHIP ROLES (DEACON, ELDER, BIBLE STUDY TEACHER, ETC. _____

_____

7. LIST ANY NON-CHURCH VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE _____

_____

(over)

ELDER APPLICATION FORM cont...

8. GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR FAITH JOURNEY WITH GOD

_____

_____

9. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S) TO BE USED HERE IN THE CHAPEL?

_____

_____

10. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU COULD SHARE WITH THE ELDERS TO HELP THEM BETTER UNDERSTAND YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE AS AN ELDER?

_____

_____

Christmas Concert

The Chapel Choir's Christmas Concert will be on **Saturday, December 5th, at 4 PM.** If you would like to join the choir to sing in this year's Christmas Concert, rehearsals will begin on **Wednesday, October 21st, at 4:30 PM.** Please contact Lyn Weaver, the Chapel's Music Director, for more information.

Dear Chapel Family,

We have been so blessed by the outpouring of love and support from our Chapel family. The notes, texts, calls, prayer shawls and offers of help have been incredible.To say nothing of the mountains of prayers we know have been offered up to God for us. We're humbled by the peace we've felt as we travel this journey with Mike's cancer. God hears and answers His children praying and He's faithful. Thank you just doesn't seem sufficient but Thank You all!!

With love,
Mike and Doris Clardy

Scholarship News

Over the next few months, we will share some updates from previous Chapel Scholarship recipients to help you see how your contributions to the Scholarship Fund impacts lives!

From Jordyn McCollim, Scholarship recipient in 2025…

This first year at UNC has been an amazing experience. Transitioning from a class of 30 to a class of around 6000 was a challenge I hadn't expected. It was amazing to meet so many different people, of all different cultures, and find a new group of friends from all walks of life. Apart from the community, the academics were also a learning curve. The classes were much more challenging than I expected but left me feeling fulfilled with how much I learned by the end.

I managed to get through the year without acquiring any debt, and I am incredibly grateful for the support from the church and the Lake Lure community. Without the scholarships I received, I would never have been able to learn and grow in the way that I have.

From Westyn Woodard, Scholarship recipient in 2024…

As I recently completed my sophomore year at High Point University, I wanted to express my sincere gratitude to both the scholarship committee and the entire FMC community for the Chapel Scholarship and the continued support and encouragement that everyone has provided throughout my college journey. The investment that FMC has made in my education has been a tremendous blessing, and I am grateful for the role the church has played in helping me pursue my…

goals. I am also appreciative of Pastor Kevin Anderson and Lanita Anderson for establishing Pathfinders youth group at the chapel before I left for college. The engaging fellowship and spiritual learning helped me to further my role as a young adult. I have reflected on what I learned in understanding how I can use faith to create meaningful relationships and continue to make an impact on my community.

Over the past two years at HPU, I have grown academically, professionally, and spiritually. Through every challenge and opportunity, my relationship with Christ has remained the foundation that carries me forward. My faith continues to guide my decisions, shape my goals, and strengthen me through difficult seasons. It has also led me to meaningful friendships, mentorships, and opportunities to serve others both on campus and in the community.

Academically, I am pursuing a degree in Biochemistry and recently made the decision to transition from the pre-med track to the pre-dental track. This change came after gaining greater exposure to the dental profession and recognizing how well it aligns with my interests and long-term goals. To further explore this career path, I have shadowed oral surgeons, general dentists, and orthodontists, learning firsthand about the different specialties within dentistry. I also serve as the Outreach Officer for the HPU Pre-Dental Club, helping connect students with professional development and service opportunities. Most recently, I participated in a dental volunteer and mission trip to Costa Rica, where our team provided dental services to local communities. Experiences like these have strengthened my desire to pursue dentistry as a profession centered on both healthcare and service.

In addition to my coursework, I have been involved in research within both the Chemistry and Physical Therapy Departments. This spring, I had the privilege of presenting chemistry research at the American Chemical Society (ACS) Conference in Atlanta, which was an incredible opportunity to represent HPU, grow in my professional and communication skills, and engage with scientists and researchers from across the country.

Outside the classroom, I remain actively involved in Air Force ROTC, where I have taken on increasing leadership responsibilities and enjoyed mentoring younger cadets. This year, I was awarded the AFROTC Silver Medal of Merit for exemplary leadership, military skills, service to the community, and dedication to the principles of duty, honor, and country. This summer, I will attend Field Training, a significant milestone in the ROTC program, before returning to campus as a Professional Officer Course cadet next year. One of my favorite leadership opportunities this year was leading the HPU Color Guard during the university's graduate commencement ceremony. These experiences have challenged me to grow in discipline, leadership, and service while preparing me for future responsibilities.

Faith and fellowship continue to be some of the most meaningful aspects of my college experience. I have been actively involved with Campus Outreach and the HPU Board of Stewards, where I served as Philanthropy Chair this past year. Through this role, I have helped coordinate fundraising and service initiatives that support both the chapel community and local outreach organizations. Our organization successfully reached semester fundraising goals of $10,000 while also participating in community service projects through the Angel Tree Project, Habitat for Humanity, West End Ministries, and Open Door Ministries. These opportunities have reinforced the importance of serving others and living out my faith through action.

Perhaps the greatest blessing of college has been the relationships I have built along the way. Through classes, AFROTC, Bible studies, church involvement, athletics, and student organizations, I have developed friendships and mentorships that continue to shape me. These experiences have challenged me to grow in discipline, leadership, faith, and service while helping me become a better mentor, friend, and future professional.

As I prepare for the second half of my college journey, I am excited for the opportunities and responsibilities ahead. Thank you again to you and the entire FMC congregation for your generosity, prayers, and encouragement. I am truly grateful for the support of FMC and for the impact their investment has had on my education and personal growth.

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