



MAY 2026

CHAPEL BELLS

A Letter From The Pastor

BY KEVIN ANDERSON

One of the most beautiful areas of the Fairfield Mountains Chapel grounds is our Garden of Remembrance where our columbarium is located. This shaded, creek side plot has been a quiet place of serenity and meaningful sacred memories since 2001.

Clark Kessel, former chapel member, relayed to me in conversation the history of the Garden of Remembrance. While an elder, Clark investigated the possibility of purchasing land across Buffalo Creek, adjacent to the chapel for a possible cemetery site. When it became evident that the land was not available, the pastor and elders pivoted to a plan for a columbarium on the chapel grounds.

The original columbarium, (which is the closet to the parking lot) was built in 2001. It contains 60 single niches for cremains. The need for additional niches led to the construction of the second columbarium in 2009. The newer side has 60 double niches (space for two cremains each.)

Since it has been almost 17 years since the second side of the columbarium was completed, nearly all the niches in the columbarium are now reserved. Currently, there are only **two** open niches available on the single side of the columbarium and only **five** niches available on the double side of the columbarium. If you are interested in reserving one or more of these remaining niches, please call April Hill at the Church Office, 625-2411 for information on how to reserve a niche, or if you have any questions about the columbarium.



A Letter From The Pastor continued...

In the near future, the elders will present a solution for expanding our columbarium to support the needs of the congregation.

Faithfully,

Kevin





Upcoming Chapel Highlights

- **Memorial Service for Margie Hornaday**, Saturday, May 2, at 2 PM with reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Sunday, May 3**, Communion Sunday
- **Mother's Day**, May 10th
- **Scholarship Sunday, May 24th**. We will recognize the awardee(s) for the 2026 Everette and Jenny Chapman scholarship in our morning worship service.

Coffee For Veterans

Our next meeting will meet on **Thursday, May 14th at 10 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. All veterans are welcome!

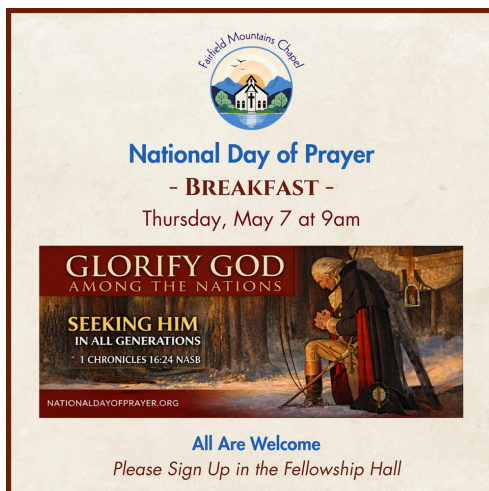
Coffee - Camaraderie - Connections



National Day of Prayer Breakfast

May 7th, 9am

Join us as we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the National Day of Prayer. Following breakfast, we will gather in prayer as our nation comes together to "Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations." **Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend.**





Women's Ministry Lunch Outing, Strawberry Hill, Chesnee, SC



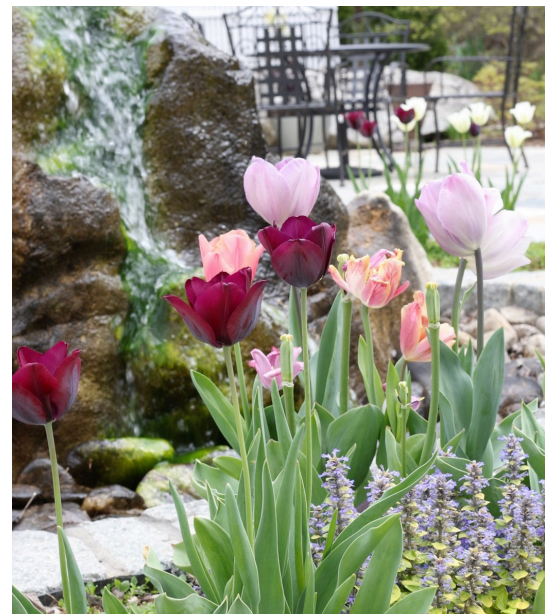
Wednesday May 13th - 11:00 AM.

All ladies are invited to join us for our annual outing to Strawberry Hill. We will enjoy lunch and ice cream in the restaurant and visit the Farm Stand/Produce Market for fresh strawberries. (Other produce as also available). **We will meet at the church at 10:00 A.M. to carpool.** Mark your calendars and make plans to join us – invite a friend or neighbor to go with you!

Women's Ministry Outing Flatrock Playhouse Garden Tour & Lunch

Friday May 29th, 10:30 AM, Cost \$10

All ladies are invited to join us for a garden tour of the Flat Rock Playhouse Gardens. The tours are \$10 and are led by Master Gardeners - they explore the diverse plant life, share stories behind each garden space and help discover what makes this historic property such a vibrant, living landscape. Following the tour, we will enjoy lunch in the Flat Rock area (location TBD). **We will meet at the church at 9:30 A.M. to carpool.** Mark your calendars and join us for this fun, new outing!





Men's Ministry

Breakfast and the Bible, Saturday, May 30th at 9 AM.

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office to attend. We're looking for volunteers to set up and cook the delicious breakfast and, of course, there is always the cleanup that needs to be done.

***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 I can be reached by voice or text at **828-532-4102** or by email at **mclardy10@gmail.com**.



Relay for Life (a community event where we come together, celebrate and fight back against cancer) will take place **Saturday, May 9** at Lake Lure Classical Academy. If you would be willing to donate cakes, cookies, or brownies for the fundraiser cake walk, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall. **Everyone should have their items to the Chapel by 3:30 PM on May 8th for pickup.**



New Free Counseling Resource Available to Gorge Residents

A free counseling resource is now available on Thursdays at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Bat Cave. See flyer for details...

All Souls
COUNSELING CENTER

Now offering counseling services in Bat Cave!

FREE COUNSELING SUPPORT FOR THE GORGE COMMUNITY

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Individual counseling sessions
- Group counseling
- Community support

In-person services available Thursdays and virtual options available, with Jean Rowe, LCSW.

LOCATION:
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
106 SAYLOR LN
BAT CAVE, NC

To learn more about services or request counseling, **please call All Souls Counseling Center at (828) 259-3369.**

Services are free of charge for anyone living in the Gorge or connected to the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration.

allsouls counseling.org (828) 259-3369 35 Arlington St. AVI



Chapel Work Day in April

Many thanks to the chapel volunteers led by Marcia Fitzgerald and Pete Reese that participated in the April Chapel Workday! Our Landscaping Ministry team will be working in the flower beds to supplement the work of our facilities manager, Larry Landrum, throughout the year. We will have another Chapel Work day in the Fall.





Fairfield Mountains Chapel's Service Day at Grace of God Ministries March 2026

One of the organizations supported by the Fairfield Mountains Chapel Missions Ministry is Grace of God Ministries. Recently, the Missions Ministry Team invited members of the congregation to join them in a service day at Grace of God Ministries. The group assisted with food preparation and serving meals. The following group participated in this outreach effort on Saturday, March 14, 2026: Mary Gregg, Patti Johnson, Laura Krejci, Tammy Martell, Ken McAlear, Dee Montgomery, Gene and Jane Shuford, and Linda Turner.

The team quickly got to work, preparing both bagged lunches and a hot meal, under the guidance of Teresa and Phil from Grace of God Ministries. In total, approximately 100 people were served. Everyone involved described the day as a heartwarming experience and a meaningful opportunity to serve others together. Guests were deeply appreciative of both the hot meal and the take-away food for later.





About Grace of God Rescue Mission

Eighteen years ago, Chris Davis and Denver Buchanan of Chase Baptist Church recognized a growing need in the community. After visiting a rescue mission in Shelby and learning that many of those served were from Rutherford County, they were inspired to act. Their vision led to the founding of what is now known as the Grace of God Rescue Mission.

Today, the mission continues to grow, guided by a spirit of generosity and compassion. No one is turned away. The mission serves an average of 100 or more people every day of the week at 5:00 p.m., a remarkable expansion from its beginnings as a small soup kitchen operating just two days a week. Grace of God Ministries is located at 537 West Main Street in Forest City, NC.

The mission's success is rooted in the dedication of its director, Terry Hagaman, who has faithfully served since its founding. He is supported by his wife, Sherry, and a committed team of volunteers. Their impact is evident in the lives they touch.

Mission And Support

The mission statement of the Grace of God Rescue Mission reflects its purpose:

"We want to reflect the love of God by providing a safe haven for homeless men, women, and children, meeting their physical needs while offering the opportunity to hear the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

This vital ministry is sustained through the generosity of the community. Support comes in many forms, including financial contributions, volunteer service, and food donations. Each month, the mission publishes a list of current needs in its newsletter.



If you would like to support this impactful ministry, you can visit in person or call 828-245-9141.

The difference they make is seen every day in the lives of those who are given hope, stability, and a chance to move forward.

The Missions Ministry Team was very pleased to support their efforts through the Chapel's Missions Ministry!



Scripture Readers Wanted!

If you would like to read scripture in the Sunday worship service, please contact Dot Wardsworth, 828-289-1327 or dotwardsworth@gmail.com.



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