



NOVEMBER 2025

CHAPEL BELLS

A Letter From The Pastor

BY KEVIN ANDERSON

Thanksgiving is known as the quintessential American holiday. Before that holiday arrives, there is another holiday in November that is meaningful to many of us- Veterans Day. Recently, I came across something I shared with Sailors aboard the JOHN F. KENNEDY when I was deployed with a Carrier Air Wing years ago. I wrote about "standing your ground" and used this illustration...

The miniseries Band of Brothers is the story of Easy Company, a U.S. Army Airborne Paratrooper division, and their World War II operations in Europe.

The miniseries was based on historian Stephen Ambrose's nonfiction book. In episode six, Easy Company is surrounded; cold, and short on ammunition and winter gear near the Belgian town of Bastogne, a crucial position in the Allied defensive line during the Battle of the Bulge (December 1944 to January 1945). Eugene Roe, one of three company medics, is scurrying to save lives—scrounging for morphine, scissors, and bandages.

*While Easy Company is dug in and holding the front line, Roe discovers Joe Toye sitting in his foxhole with his boots off in the dead of winter. Roe looks at Joe's limp, discolored, and frostbitten feet and tells Joe that he could get gangrene and lose them. In this condition, Joe could have been taken off the front line to a warm bed, but instead he looks cold-eyed at Roe and says, "**I ain't coming off the line, Doc.**" (Toye later lost his right leg when he was hit by a barrage of enemy fire while shouting for the men in his company to take cover in their foxholes.*



A Letter From The Pastor continued...

Toye was awarded the Silver Star for his service. Easy Company went on to make it all the way to Adolph Hitler's mountaintop retreat, Eagle's Nest.)

Joe Toye stood his ground. The men of Easy Company stood their ground. Many have served in peacetime and in war because they have been motivated to serve by stories like the one above. The children of today follow their fathers, grandfathers, aunts and uncles and other family heroes who have served sacrificially. Someday, you will tell stories of your days in the United States Navy; you will get out the pictures, the medals and ribbons, and you will tell a few sea stories and plant in the hearts of the younger ones who listen, the seed of self-sacrificing service to country. Stand your ground and be proud you serve.

As hard as it is for me to believe, I wrote that over twenty years ago. And as I read it now, I realize I am the veteran telling the sea stories and there are many young members of our military "standing their ground" right now for us. We can be thankful for veterans, those now actively serving in our military, and most importantly, for a God who gives strength and courage to all who "stand their ground."

Faithfully,

Kevin

Chapel Finances (as of September 30)



General Fund Budgeted: \$304,500

General Fund Receipts: \$325,606.39

This fund will have to cover the cost of our landscaping project that exceeds what we have in the B&G Reserve Fund.



Building & Grounds Reserve Balance: \$32,011.74

This is our most under-funded account. It will be depleted by the landscaping project. We urgently need to start building this fund for long-range projects like parking lots resurfacing and for the unknown and non-budgeted "emergencies" that pop up unexpectedly -- like heat pump replacements.



Compassion Fund Balance: \$3,662.79

Compassion Fund YTD disbursements: \$13,059.74

Disbursements from the Compassion Fund assists local people with housing needs, food, utilities, and car repairs.



Scholarship Fund Balance: \$10,169.45

We give \$10,000 in scholarships each year. As you see, we have reached our goal for our scholarships for next June, but it is time to start building the fund for June 2027



To donate online visit www.fairfieldmountainschapel.org/donate

When you're ready, click "Donate Now" and follow the instructions



Upcoming Chapel Highlights

- **November 2nd**, Communion Sunday (Turn Clocks Back One hour!)
- **November 9th**, immediately following the worship service, there will be a Congregational Meeting to vote on the proposed 2026 Chapel Budget and Missions Budget. Copies of the proposed budget were mailed on October 24. Members may also view the letter online under the "Members" section of the Chapel website. (If you have not received the password for the "Members" section, please contact the Church Office.)
<https://www.fairfieldmountainchapel.org/members>

- **November 30th**, First Sunday of Advent

Coffee For Veterans

Our next meeting will meet on Thursday, November 13th at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall, and we'll be celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday (November 10th), though as always, all veterans are welcome! Here's a picture of our proud U.S. Navy veterans from last month's coffee...

Coffee - Camaraderie - Connections



Thank you!

Not only was the Joshua Messick Hammered Dulcimer Concert last month amazing, it also generated an offering of \$2,498, which was given to the Town of Lake Lure's Lake Restoration Fund. Thanks to all who generously donated!



Pathfinder's Student Ministry

Pathfinders will meet **Sunday, November 2nd** and **Sunday, November 23rd**, 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.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

The collection date for all shoeboxes to be returned to the Chapel is **Sunday, November 9th**. Please return filled shoeboxes to the chapel choir room. Packing tips and gift ideas are available at the Chapel and online at www.samaritanspurse.org



Chapel Potluck

Join us on **Sunday, November 9th** after the worship service and congregational meeting for a "Family Favorites" Fall Potluck in the Chapel Fellowship Hall. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall to attend and indicate dish(es) you plan to bring!

Chapel Workday

Saturday, November 8th – 9 AM. A light lunch will be provided. All (ladies, too!) are welcome to participate.





Chapel Day of Prayer – Thursday, November 6, 9 AM – 3 PM.



The sanctuary will be open during that time for anyone to come and pray on their own. We will have prayer guides available, but you are encouraged to come and pray in your own way for each other, our church, our community, our nation, and the world. Also, you may share prayer requests with the church office if you want those gathered to pray for your request.

Women's Ministry Lunch Outing - Friday November 14th - Mi Pueblito Mexican Restaurant in Rutherfordton - 11:30 AM.

All ladies are invited to join us for our monthly lunch outing! We will meet at the church at 11 AM to carpool to the restaurant. **There will be a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for your RSVP!**



Lake Lure Classical Academy Feed the Children Program

On Sunday, October 26th, Connie and Joel Brown shared with the church the LLCA Food Program and we continue to share with you this opportunity to help. See the flyer on the next page for more details.



Lake Lure Classical Academy

Feed the Children Program

Lake Lure Classical Academy (LLCA) invites the community to support students in need by providing nutritious meals during the school year. LLCA currently has more than 215 students in need of this support. Following Hurricane Helene, the need for hot, nutritious meals became clear, significantly improving student health.



Sponsor a Student

Help transform the lives of students in need by providing nourishing meals at Lake Lure Classical Academy. Your generous support makes a real difference:

- **Sponsor a student for the school year — \$324**
This amount covers the food cost of approximately \$3.00 per meal, providing three meals per week over 36 weeks, ensuring healthy hot lunches.

Every donation is deeply appreciated. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Your generosity creates brighter futures, one meal at a time.

Donate Now



828.625.9292
llcharter.org



Community Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 6th, 4 PM at the Chapel!



Angel Tree

Each year, the chapel has an Angel Tree with tags for children from Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach that members of the congregation may take and purchase gifts or gift cards for Christmas. This year's tree will be up, and tags will be available on **Sunday, November 2nd**. Here are the details:

- The amount to spend will be \$50
- Gifts will be turned in UNWRAPPED
- Donations of boxes for clothing will be appreciated
- All gifts will be turned in to the chapel
- Gifts are due back to the chapel on **Sunday, November 30th**
- We will be wrapping the gifts and preparing them for delivery to Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach on **Monday, December 1st at 10:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall

Volunteers are needed to help, so mark your calendars and make plans to join us!

Blanket Project

Additionally, HNGO is collecting blankets of all sizes in anticipation of the winter months. If you would like to participate in the blanket drive as well, please bring blankets to the chapel by **Sunday, November 30th**.



THANK YOU!



*Thank
you*

"I am writing to say thank you for all the prayers and cards, emails, phone calls, visits, gifts and food. Words can't describe how I felt before my surgery on September 30th, I had such peace for my surgery and after. Then the unfortunate blood clot journey I have been on. I am scared to be honest but The Lord has me and has not let me go. I have healing to do but I am getting better each day. I truly love each and every one of you. Prayers do work and I am proof of them. I still smile every day knowing I am Blessed beyond means." **Love, Maria Deckert**

*Thank
you*

On behalf of Lake Lure Classical Academy's "Feed the Children" program, Joel and I are overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredibly warm and heartfelt welcome from you and your entire congregation. Your boundless love and generosity have touched our hearts in the most profound way. We are deeply moved by the commitment of six wonderful volunteers who have signed up to serve the children throughout the school year, ensuring they are nurtured and cared for. Additionally, your congregation's generous donation of \$1,825 will make a lasting impact on the lives of these children. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, and may God bless each and every one of you for your kindness and compassion. **Joel and Connie Brown**



New Chapel Landscaping

In the Congregational Meeting on October 12th, the vote to proceed with the full landscaping plan passed with 84% approval. The contractor work will begin soon.

Love Offering

In the past, we have given a love offering to our Chapel staff at Christmas-time - Pastor, Music Director, Office Manager, Pianist, Sound Technician and Facilities Manager. This year we're changing that tradition slightly by providing our love offering at Thanksgiving-time.



We are grateful and truly blessed to have the services of all these people throughout the year and will happily accept your offering of love and gratitude for these individuals through **Wednesday, November 19th**. You may use the "Love Offering" envelopes in the sanctuary pew racks and place your gift in the offering plate over the next several Sundays or you could mail a check directly to the church office. It should be made payable to the Chapel and designated for the Love Offering.



1384 Buffalo Creek Road,
Lake Lure, North Carolina 28746
fairfieldmtnchpl@bellsouth.net
Tel: 828-625-2411

www.fairfieldmountainschapel.org



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