



— the Chapel at Seaside —

FROM THE TOWER

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Mission over Model

When I first stepped into full time ministry I took the experiences I had and assumed it would all translate perfectly...

Before I graduated from college, I had served in my youth group, I had led a college ministry, and I had led worship at a small church plant. One thing I did when I led the college ministry was take really well known songs and make a sort of “Christian” version of them. I was like Weird Al for Christian college ministry...

You name any popular song from around the early 2000s and there’s a good chance I rewrote it. This was fun and made sense in our context.

After college, I became a youth pastor and tried the same tactic...it failed miserably. It turns out these kids had no interest in singing along with songs that sounded like popular songs but were actually about Jesus.

I realized, the gospel never changes, but how we deliver it may. As they say, and as I believe “mission over model.” I assumed every mode of ministry would work everywhere, but it turns out context is more than meets the eye.

After almost 20 years of full time ministry I continue to remind myself of this when I lead. I’m not sure if you know this, but our church, the body of Christ that gathers at The Chapel at Seaside, is just about the weirdest church of all time. Nearly every week we have a full house, both inside and out, of people who choose to worship with us. Locals who call the Chapel home, guests who are visiting the beach, and people just curious about what is going on in our beautiful building. They range across the spectrum of Christian traditions. Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Anglican, Bible Church, Pentecostal, nondenominational, Lutheran, and everything else you could imagine. We are a varied bunch and it is both incredibly beautiful and wildly challenging. Everyone comes to church with an expectation based on their home church, or previous experience. We all have a worldview...and rarely do we leave it at the door. One of our challenges was, “How do we share the sacrament of communion with this varied body of believers?” Many of those traditions listed above split over how they viewed or practiced communion/the Lord’s Supper/Eucharist/breaking bread...so how do we share this incredible sacrament together?

The Solution: For about the past year or so, we’ve been practicing communion the first Sunday of every month at a communion service. This falls in line with many Protestant traditions. Though even within that group, there is a question about when to serve and who gets to share. Because we have so many people, we’ve recognized that we never want to catch someone off guard *as it relates to things I can control*. The Holy Spirit can gladly do that, but I won’t. Church is not a time for an old trick-a-roo or bait and switch. We want our time of communion to be intentional for those who call this place home (as well as any visitors who desire to share in communion) to gather at the table, check their hearts with Jesus, and share in the body and blood.

If you haven’t been able to join us yet, we hope you will on the first Sunday morning of every month at 9am and share in this beautiful moment. A moment where we believe Christ is with us and calling us to remember the Passover in Exodus, and the new liberation through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. He’s calling us to remember the fulfillment of the covenant and the new covenant. He’s calling for us to turn from our sin, to repent and turn towards him and his way of life. And in that beautiful and mysterious moment, by the power of the Spirit we encounter Jesus, his body broken for us, and his blood shed for us.

I would love for you to join us next time we share this together. It’s a simple 15 minutes or so together followed by our normal time of worship at 10am. This month we are planning to have some refreshments between the two services so we can connect with one another in this time that is intended to be communal.

I remember there is a saying for pastors, don’t change the way they do communion your first Sunday. After 20 years I can confirm, those are wise words. We waited a year, prayed and discerned and tried a few things. This communion service is what we feel strength in. We just want to make sure you know and if you so choose, join us for this special time together. And don’t worry, no Weird Al style rewrites...at least not this month.

-Andrew Beard

Serving Our City

One of our church partners is Caring and Sharing and we love to partner with them this time of the year. This year are joining into the area's Angel Tree program, providing "Christmas" to 40 kids. We will have our "angels" on Nov 3 and would love to have a list of people who are going to adopt them. The main guideline you should know, before agreeing to sponsor a child is this,



- **We recommend spending between \$100-\$200 per child.**
 - If this amount is more than you are able to spend, please consider partnering with another family to purchase the gifts. If you would like to spend more than this, please consider sponsoring an additional child/sibling or donating gift cards that can be used for last minute needs/sign ups.
- **All packages need to be delivered to Caring & Sharing of South Walton - 112 Lynn Drive in Santa Rosa Beach between Monday, Nov 27 at 9 a.m. and Friday December 1, at 3:00pm. Drop off hours are M-F, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

If you are up for adopting an angel, Please reach out to me, Sarah@thechapelatseaside.com and I will make sure you are on the list...or you can wait to sign up at the Chapel in person on Nov 10th.



If you are a woman and call the Chapel at Seaside home for any time of the year, we created this on-going event for you!

Women have an innate need to fellowship with one another often connected by a supportive network. We need to gather T.ogether and E.ncourage one another to A.ction. (See what we did there with TEA?) In September we hosted a lovely evening to kick off our first meeting. Our Focus was Praying the Psalms and it was such a gift.

We followed up on our first T.E.A with at T.E.A in-between which met last week for further discussion of our September topic. If you missed either of those, no worries, we meet again Nov 14th.



We will gather November 14th at 6:30 (location TBD through registration) for desserts, tea and coffee and will continue to grow in relationship with each other and with the Lord.

There is no limit on attendance and no cost for this event.

We just hope you will register and join us. **You can register here!** or by scanning the QR code above.





Wanna live like **this** guy?

If you like kids and love Jesus, would you consider being a leader for Kids Church. If you have thought it about this before, let this be the "sign from God" you were waiting for. We have made it so easy for our leaders to lead. All you have to do is a little prep and show up to love these kids. Here is your next step. [Click this link](https://thechapelatseaside.com/volunteer) or go to thechapelatseaside.com/volunteer.



If you have kids in town ages 5yo-7th grade, we would love to have them join us for Kids' Church. You can fill out the info below and drop them off with us at the Seaside Neighborhood School. If you want your kids to join us for Kids' Church, they must be in our database.

You can fill out info on-site at drop-off or ahead of time, right here: <https://thechapelatseaside.churchcenter.com/people/forms/239938>



SERMON PODCAST

Check out the latest sermons from the Chapel at Seaside on Apple Podcasts or most places where podcasts are streamed.

Bible Study

If you have never been involved in one of our Bible Studies, now is the time to plug in. We believe that when we study the Bible together we are informed, enlightened, led and changed! We have 2 different Bible studies going on.

Men and Women's Bible Study meet on Wednesday mornings at The Chapel. Check out the updated schedule

Both the men and women are studying the Gospel According to Matthew.

20's and 30's Meet at 8:00am on Thursdays at The Chapel. On Thursdays at 8:00am you will find a growing group of young people in their 20's and 30's gathering together to dig into the book of Genesis.

If you are in your 20's and 30's and are looking to get plugged in, join us on Thursdays and join our [20's and 30's group here.](#)

FALL BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN 2023

MEET AT THE CHAPEL AT SEASIDE
MEN MEET AT 8:30AM
WOMEN MEET AT 10:00AM

10/25 WEEK OFF

BEFORE THIS DATE...READ THIS

- 11/1 ▶ MATTHEW 8
- 11/8 ▶ MATTHEW 9
- 11/15 ▶ MATTHEW 10

11/22 WEEK OFF

THE FOLLOWING TWO WEEKS MEN AND WOMEN WILL MEET AT 9:00AM TOGETHER

- 11/29 ▶ MATTHEW 11
- 12/6 ▶ MATTHEW 12



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WE WILL RESUME OUR STUDY ON WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24

Why a Beach Bonfire?

It didn't take us long to realize that "sunset" was both a noun and a verb in our community. We "sunset". The real question is, "what is better than a beach sunset in Santa Rosa Beach in fall?" The answer is, "Nothing...other than doing it with friends."

Our church is growing, which means, we *need* to gather together, meet in a common space, enjoy the beauty God has blessed us with, and get to know each other better.

Our church is so interesting, isn't it? We have babies to retired folks, young families, and a ton of new young adults. Our locals travel all the time, we have part timers, half timers, seasonal people...all who need to have community here for when they are here.

With this being the case, you may not know that in addition to Sunday Morning service, we have 3 Bible Studies, 7 home groups, and a communion service. This makes up a lot of spaces where people may be that you are not.



We would love for you to join us at the easiest place to be (the beach) to get to know each other a little better on Thursday Nov, 9th. Bring the kids, bring the pets (as long as they have their beach permit), bring your dinner and a drink, and make some new friends in our community!

So, why a bonfire? It is the perfect event for the introvert and extrovert alike. Bring a chair and stare at the view letting the extrovert come to you or be the person who never sits down and gets the games going. No matter how you spend your time on the beach, we hope you will come with us. To find out time, location, and to register, [click here](#) or scan the QR code.

Sabbath Reflections

You didn't think we would just leave it alone, did you? After the Sabbath Experiment in October, I sent an email out asking people what their experience was. Here are just a few of the responses.

It's very different from anything we've ever done, because we've always been such a high, achieving/performing family. But it has given us a chance to just slow down and be appreciative and delight in the small things that really matter.

I feel like my mindset is really starting to shift and realize what sorts of things (and people) are life giving versus what sorts of things am I doing out of obligation or because I thought it was "restful" when really it's draining. It's changing my life daily and helping me prioritize what I'm willing to allow to consume my time. It's definitely a much more intentional way of living and I love that.

It is about us planning to NOT work, NOT scroll socials, NOT watch tv and to allow things to slow down, celebrate, have dinner with family and intentionally practice gratitude. Living more simply and pulling away from all of our distractions. This is going to be a game changer for us!

Incase you haven't started your own Sabbath journey, we have created a permanent place on our website for all the Sabbath resources to live. We think it is that important. Check it out anytime at <https://thechapelatseaside.com/sabbath/>