



— the Chapel at Seaside —

# FROM THE TOWER

CHRISTMAS 2024 | VOL 24 | YEAR END

## Becoming Christmas

This year marks the Beard family's fifth Advent and Christmas with you, and we're filled with excitement for what the Lord is doing in this place.

We have spent a lot of time in prayer and seeking the Lord for The Chapel. We've taken to heart Jesus' call to "Come, follow me." If you've been with us in recent months, you've likely heard us say that we believe we are called to this: Abide in Jesus, be changed by Jesus, and embody the ways of Jesus for the glory of God and the good of others.

(you will notice it on Sunday bulletins and even on the bottom of this page!)

This goal of ours has inspired our Advent theme: Becoming Christmas. We believe that through Jesus, we have access to hope, peace, joy, and love—and we are called to embody these attributes. This Advent season, let's focus on Christ together as we practice becoming Christmas.

We have hard copies of our 2024 Advent Guide available at The Chapel. When they run out, or if you want a digital version, you can find that right here:

[2024 Advent Guide](#)



THE CHAPEL AT

Seaside

ADVENT 2024

*Abide in Jesus. Be changed by Jesus. Embody the ways of Jesus.*  
FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE GOOD OF OTHERS

# CHRISTMAS EVE

*at the Chapel*  
2024



CHECK OUT OUR SPOTIFY PLAYLIST  
FOR SONGS OF THE SEASON

## 4:00 AND 5:30 PM

**WE WILL HAVE INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SEATING. OUTDOOR SEATING WILL BE IN THE GROVE AND UNDER A TENT. ALL OUTDOOR SEATING HAS ACCESS TO SCREENS FOR VIEWING THE SERVICE. SERVICES ARE IDENTICAL. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.**

## *Bible Study Wrap up*

As the year comes to a close, we love to take a look back on the year.

If you were with us this year we studied Matthew, James and the first half of Exodus! One of our core principals is, "if you go slow, you learn more." And we are doing a ton of learning! It is always so exciting when you see how the Hebrew Scriptures in the Old Testament shed light into the New Testament.

The most fun thing for us this year is the way we have integrated the Podcast for our Bible studies. We want everyone who wants to go deep with us to be able to!

With our **Chapel Study Notes Podcast**, you can keep up with where we are - no matter where you are! It has been so fun to have y'all stop in and not feel like you are behind or lost!

Thank you for learning along with us this year!

Stay tuned for our Bible Study Schedule for 2025. Until then, we hope you join us through Advent using The Chapel Advent Guide. (link on previous page)

We will see you in the New Year!!

# Noon Prayer Hour



One of the most special things that has come of 2024 is the noon prayer hour at The Chapel with 30A Prays. We have grown as a community in depth of our communion with the Lord. It has been a beautiful journey and we are looking forward to what the Lord has for this time in the new year.

As the year comes to a close, we want to make sure that you know there are some dates that we will not be meeting.

**We will not meet for our  
Noon Prayer Hour on the  
following days:  
Nov 26, Dec 24th  
& Dec 31st.**

## PODCAST

Never feel like you are disconnected. Keep up with us by tuning in weekly via our Podcast.

Download your Podcast app. (or Spotify) and search "The Chapel at Seaside". You can tune into the Teaching from Sunday Mornings and our Weekly Bible Study Notes with Andrew and Sarah.



# Building projects to begin shortly!

We will begin two big building projects at The Chapel soon. The financially larger of the two projects is to replace ALL of the windows at The Chapel. In case you haven't noticed, after almost 25 years, more than ½ of The Chapel's beautiful windows have extensive wood rot damage; the damage is so extensive, that we can no longer patch and repair the windows. In addition, the current windows are single pane and not hurricane rated. We have been working with The Chapel's original architect (Scott Merrill) on the best replacement strategy. The new windows will be "clad construction" which should last much longer, and the windows will be hurricane rated. We are coordinating with the contractor to ensure minimal disruption to the operations of The Chapel. This project will start on January 2nd and, hopefully, finish in February. The contractor will clean up each Friday and Saturday to enable Sunday services.

**The Chapel will be open for services every Sunday during construction.**

In addition to the window replacement project, we will be making improvements to the property on the west side of The Chapel in order to create a space that will be helpful for families with children too young for Kids Church. The design will allow these families to attend the services without worrying about their children running into the street or feeling pressure to keep them quiet. We believe this place for families with toddlers to worship in a defined space will help to form community with one another and ease the worry of disturbing visitors while keeping their kids safe. In the future, this space could also be used to host our toddler Kids Church. The space will be finished with a small wall (to contain and protect the children and mirror the design of east side of the building), grass and benches. This project will begin as soon as Walton County issues the building permits, and it may be done concurrently with the window project.

The Board is pleased that we can proceed with both projects ... one that is absolutely necessary for our physical building, and the other project that should make Sunday worship more conducive for young families which we believe is necessary for the future growth of our community.

As you might imagine, the window project is very expensive ... just over \$500,000; the improvements to the west side will be approximately \$75,000. Because of the generosity of those who support The Chapel, we will be able to pay for all of the work out of our capital reserves – but, this will be a significant drain on those reserves.

So, I ask that as you consider your year-end giving, please keep The Chapel in mind. It would be wonderful to build back our monetary reserves after completing these important projects.

**Mike Cross**  
Chapel Board Chairman



# End of year giving

We say every week at offertory, "we don't just keep the lights on and put on a worship service." Your generous giving does do those things, but it is also the reason we can have strategic partnerships with so many amazing outreach organizations.

Of the organizations we serve, 14 are local (this includes caring for prisoners in Walton county) , 2 are national organizations, and 2 are international, one of them being large and the other small.

We believe that there is no need to start something new in the area if someone else is already doing it wonderfully in the name of Jesus.

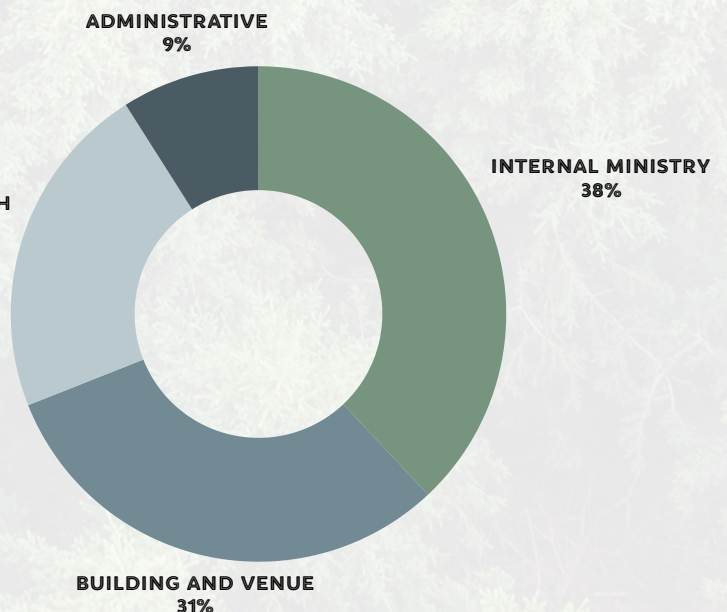
As Andrew always says, "Scripture calls for us to proclaim good news through word and action by meeting the needs of the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, prisoner, widow, and orphan. When we care for those who are often overlooked, we are caring for Jesus and living out the Kingdom of God. On earth as it is in Heaven."

If you would like to find out more about any of the organizations we serve, or become a giving partner now, you can click the link below to access our give page on the website. If you scroll down through the page you will find each partner! We employ you to take a look around and learn more about our partners! Thank you in advance for your generous gift.

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE](#)  
[OR FIND OUT MORE ABOUT](#)  
[OUR PARTNERS](#)

## Finances

Over the past several years we have had budgeted expenses and missional giving consistent with the chart to the right. This year, this is what we are allocating in regards to a budget of \$1.25 million. Because of your generosity, we have consistently exceeded in our giving towards our outreach and missions compared to what was budgeted. Thank you for your sacrificial giving and support .



# Gift Giving

Are you still looking for the perfect gift to get the people in your life? Well, we can't really help you with perfection, but we can make some suggestions for some meaningful gifts that may make a spiritual impact in someone's life...or for yourself.

None of these recommendations are paid advertisements...just things we love.

## For kids and young adults

If you have kids, you are constantly looking for things to do and read with them.

We are always going to recommend the Jesus Story Book Bible.



One of the resources that we have LOVED is this book, Imaginative Prayer.

It has been as amazing for us as it has been for our kids.

For a college student I recommend Trailblazers: A Journey to Discover God's Purpose for Your Life by Micah E. Davis.



## Books we find enjoyable or helpful

John Mark Comer released Practicing the Way. If you haven't read it. You should. This would be a wonderful book for anyone who wants to dig deeper into what it looks like to follow Jesus and become more like Him. He also rereleased God Has A Name. It is lovely.

One of our favorite books this year was The Paradise King: The Tragic History and Spectacular Future of Everything According to Jesus of Nazareth by Blaine Eldridge. It reads like a novel and a history book. Its amazing.

Some others we have loved this year: Now I Become Myself - Ken Shigematsu Thirsting - by Strahan Coleman.

Check out Sundog Books - I know they have a lot of these on hand!

## Daily Devotion

If you are looking for a way to turn your heart to the Lord rhythmically, but don't know how - we have recommended this book before and believe that it is an amazing tool! Check out the Day By Day - from Emotionally Healthy Spirituality.

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality  
**Day by Day**  
A 30-DAY JOURNEY WITH DR. DALEY DIERCK



We are always fond of the team at She Reads Truth and He Reads Truth. They have a variety of ways for Kids to learn about scripture. But what I love is that they have a subscription for men and women. Get your reading plan delivered to your door and always have a plan to dig into the Word of God DAILY. These books are not only created with scripture first, but they teach you how to read and reflect on the Word...and they happen to be beautiful. Their team also releases a weekly podcast to enhance your study experience. They also have a great selection of Bibles. This is both Andrew and Sarah's go to for our personal reading plan. It takes the guesswork out of what we should read next.

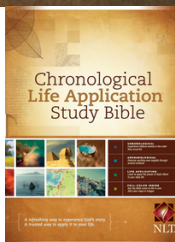
## Bible Nerds Unite

Here are a few resources we love.

NLT Chronological Life Application Study Bible  
The Bible Recap

Reading the Bible with Rabbi Jesus by Lois Tverberg

This isn't out yet, but a soon to be released version of the Bible with no chapters or verses. Just scripture. The Lectio Bible.



For a variety of options, I love the Daily Grace Co for things like Bibles, Bible studies, study tools, journals, highlighters and pens for both men and women.