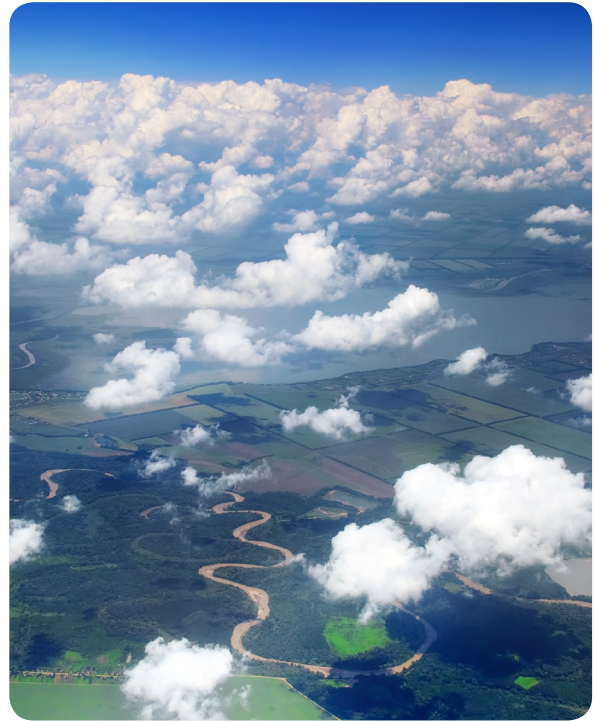


welcome to *the leaf* magazine!

I do not know about you, but I am fascinated with drones. I do not own one, but I love to see what people can do with these flying cameras that hover above everything and give you a “bird’s eye” view of things happening on the ground. It is much like getting the window seat on an airplane, because I like seeing the view of the ground from 30,000 feet.

If I was in an airplane or taking a drone picture of this edition of *The Leaf*, I would see an impressive landscape of several articles that give you a great snapshot of the life and future of Long’s Chapel. There are some pieces that will give you a perspective of our new building project and provide an opportunity to allow our campus to be more of a spiritual center for the Haywood County community. You will read about why generosity is not just something we do, but why it is a lifestyle of those that follow in the way of Jesus. You will learn about some folks whom you see on Sunday but, until now, did not know their story. Hopefully, you will better understand about the heart of worship and why worshipping God is the heartbeat of our mission as a church. Finally, you will savor a few ministry spotlights of the impact that Long’s Chapel and its servants are making in this community.

Long’s Chapel is an exciting place to be in this season of ministry. The view from the air and on the ground is exciting and promising, and *The Leaf* is telling part of that story. As you read the following pages, may you be inspired and respond by being more involved in the call that God is placing on your life.

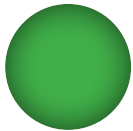


Pastor Chris
Chris Westmoreland
Lead Pastor



the fall 2019 trail guide

The Fall 2019 edition of our GROW Ministries Trail Guide is available and will help you connect to varied learning opportunities available this fall. Listed below is more information on our GROW groups.



Exploring GROW Groups are designed for those who are seeking to find joy, purpose, and fulfillment in their lives. If you are searching for God's presence and hoping to GROW more toward living a life in Christ, one of these groups may help guide you.



Developing GROW Groups are for disciples who are living into a committed relationship with Jesus. If you are seeking opportunities to explore the Scriptures in more depth or are longing to understand how God might be calling you to engage in the church, community, or world, consider participating in one of these groups.



Maturing GROW Groups are for people who are moving toward the life of a disciple who is totally devoted to Jesus. If you are looking for study opportunities that will further your understanding of the knowledge of God, love of God, and obedience to God, or if you want to serve in the church, reach into the world, and make disciples for Jesus Christ, these groups will direct your path.

make sure to pick up a copy!

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- Wayne Ebinger** Photography



announcing **Imagine...** prayer walks

Are you interested in “behind the scene” experiences of the campus expansion?

Tim McConnell will lead periodic **Imagine...** prayer walks throughout the expansion of the campus. These will be held on Sundays after the 8:40am and 11:00am worship experiences. Tim will take you to areas that are otherwise not accessible. Each will be a unique experience as the campus will be continuously evolving until completion. Watch for upcoming dates in The Chatter.

your input is requested

This *Leaf* magazine marks the third edition in one of our newest communication methods. We hope you have enjoyed and shared the magazine. Please provide your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions for future editions. Also, tell us what impact the campus expansion will have on our church and community.

We would love to hear from you.
Please email communications@LongsChapel.com and
your comments may appear in the next magazine.

heaven's choir

Written by Caroline Merrell, Director of Worship and Music

Did you know that every time we worship together as a community we are in a rehearsal?

Listen to the words of the picture the apostle John paints for us in Revelation 5.

"Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders."

In a loud voice they were saying "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Can you imagine the splendor and total abandon of this scene? As we worship together on Sunday mornings, we are rehearsing for heaven's choir. In fact, we are joining with the song of heaven that is currently taking place and joining with all of creation in acknowledging the awesome goodness of our God. We are participating in that other reality, singing and speaking with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

My prayer for our time of worship together each week is the veil that keeps our understanding earthbound will be lifted, and we, with all of heaven, will see Jesus.

See you at rehearsal!



THE BODY OF CHRIST

Written by Tom Henderson Owens, Executive Pastor for Ministries

There was one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It did not matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. So the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts.

Suppose the foot says, 'I am not a hand. So I don't belong to the body.' By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. And suppose the ear says, 'I am not an eye. So I don't belong to the body.' By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how could it smell? God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? As it is, there are many parts. But there is only one body.

The eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you!" The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you!" In fact, it is just the opposite. The parts of the body that seem to be weaker are the ones we can't do without. The parts that we think are less important we treat with special honor...If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part shares in its joy.

"You are the body of Christ.

Each one of you is a part of it."

1 Corinthians 12:12-23, 26-27

Friends, what a beautiful reflection of our relationship to God and to one another that Paul wrote to the church in Corinth! I marvel at the radical inclusion that early believers embraced as identities such as "slave, free, gentile, and Jew" took secondary importance to the unifying power of the Holy Spirit as it held together the Body of Christ. Together, followers of Jesus created a counterculture that defied the divisiveness of the world around them and bound them together in Christian love. And this love, friends, this loose organization of groups called the early church, radically changed the world and continues to work in powerful and profound ways today in our communities.

It has been an absolute honor to join this church body as one of your pastors and to be part of this centuries old tradition of creating a spiritual family for God's glory. In the last several weeks I have observed how this spiritual body operates, communicates, and interacts through the connection of the Holy Spirit. I have participated in the joys of worship; I have contributed to our discernment

in committee meetings. I have prayed with the care team and have watched in awe as our *REACH* team dreams of exciting ways to be a blessing to our extended human community. I have laughed with the children in our Childcare Enrichment Center and have connected to many of you through relational meetings. I am still processing the profound nature of this collective body of believers and know that my imagination cannot hope to contain the impact that this church will have in our community in the coming years.

As we continue working together to uncover God's will for this church body, I recognize the important questions that face us. "How can we reach a new generation of believers? Who are the 'least' of these among us who need us to look past their worldly identity and embrace them as God's children? As the body of Christ in the world, how can we bring the kingdom of God to our surrounding community?"

As we ponder these perpetual questions, it is my prayer that the Holy Spirit will course through the connective tissue of this body of believers and guide our discernment. I see how profound the impact on our community already is, and I know that God's will is for us to tap into that potential and exponentially increase our proclamation of the Gospel. As we anticipate the physical changes around our beloved church building, let us also embrace the growing Spirit of witness and outreach that is driving our growth. I am so excited to go on this journey with you. May the Holy Spirit be our guide as we embrace this adventure together.

FINDING JOY & POTENTIAL

in the expansion project

Written by Susanna Shetley

Long's Chapel has been contemplating expansion and renovation for well over a decade. Several senior pastors have been at the helm during this reflective and thoughtful time of planning and decision-making. In 2019, crews broke ground on a new space that will offer abundance to the heart and soul of Long's Chapel.

By biblical definition, "church" means "assembly." In ancient times a church was a group of faith-driven individuals who congregated to worship. As humanity evolved, the church became synonymous with a physical building as opposed to just a group of Christians. From log cabins to primitive chapels to massive contemporary structures, churches have grown and changed with the times.

Before construction crews began digging in the dirt and grading the land, Long's Chapel had a vision, an idea for what we could be and do with the right facilities. Several clear indicators served as the impetus for this vision. We wanted our children and youth to enjoy better facilities; we knew the gathering area was not conducive to socializing and connecting with others; the Fellowship Hall limited us in terms of size and seating. For these reasons and others, it was time to make a change. But first, we needed our congregation on board, because what idea can come to fruition if the people involved do not believe in the mission?

Like so many things in the life and ministry of Long's Chapel, it is people like Mark and Denise Teague who have encouraged and supported the expansion project.

The Teagues are lifelong members of the United Methodist Church and have served a church in every community in which they have lived. In 1997, Long's Chapel became their home church. Denise said their three children Matthew, Amanda, and Zachary have not been raised "in a church" but "by the church." By those words, Denise means her family has not simply attended church week after week, but the people and experiences of the church have contributed to the raising and shaping of her children.

During 20 years as members of Long's Chapel, the Teagues have observed many changes. They have followed the expansion project from the beginning and are excited to see how the church can use this new innovative space. Mark has been involved with the long-range planning team, vision team, and the building committee since at least 2006.



Long's Chapel has always welcomed and nurtured people of all ages. We are a multi-generational church in every way, but our existing facilities have inhibited us from blending in the ways we would like. Several members of various leadership teams have used the phrase "functioning in silos," meaning each generation tends to function separately because our building does not easily allow co-mingling.

As Denise said, "The new space will be a place where generations can share together in mission and outreach, where there is enough space to meet the needs of our program offerings and ministries, and where new programs and services can be explored as we grow our membership and reach those beyond our walls."

The existing Long's Chapel structure is dear to many hearts. Our walls have seen joy, sorrow, grief, and celebration. They have watched numerous babies being baptized, young couples expressing their wedding vows, and children jumping and singing during Vacation Bible School. These walls have witnessed numerous candlelit Christmas Eve services, monthly communions, and oceans of tears as loved ones have left this earth to meet Christ in heaven.

Change can be challenging, but it can also be rewarding, full of potential and exciting expectations. The new space will not only benefit worship and programming, but it will also allow members to truly serve as the hands and feet of God.

"Long's Chapel has always had a vibrant, caring community. It is what drew us to become members, join small groups, and stay involved. The expansion will provide much needed community space, welcoming people who might otherwise never step foot on Holy Ground, thus allowing us to show hospitality and generosity. This plants the seeds of faith and will allow vulnerability and growth for these individuals."

– Denise Teague



REACH • GROW • SERVE

Finding your Discipleship Path at Long's Chapel

Long's Chapel exists to worship and *SERVE* God by reaching others and growing together as passionate followers of Jesus, because ALL people matter to God. We are called to *REACH* others, *GROW* together, and *SERVE* passionately, and it is our hope that every person in our congregation will each find a place to *REACH*, *GROW*, and *SERVE* within the life of our church.



LONG'S CHAPEL
REACH MINISTRIES

REACH:

Discipleship opportunities to *REACH* into the world around us.

We value being "on mission" with Jesus. Reaching out in Jesus' name is the way we share God's love with the world God loves. *REACH* encompasses all ministries

that *REACH* into the world around us. Our *REACH* Ministry focus is to fulfill the great commission of making disciples.

- Community *REACH* engages with our neighbors in Haywood County.
- Regional *REACH* engages with our neighbors in our state and nation.
- Global *REACH* engages with our neighbors around the world on an international scale.



LONG'S CHAPEL GROW MINISTRIES

GROW:

Discipleship opportunities to *GROW* in our relationship with God.

The primary place where we all connect through growth is in worship. Long's Chapel is one church with many expressions of worship throughout our Sunday morning worship experiences. Though our worship services are diverse, we still remain connected through common sermon themes. We also *GROW* through our opportunities to participate in our age-specific *GROW* groups and ministries. We believe that spiritual growth begins at birth and accompanies us throughout our lives.

- LCKids is the place to be for children from birth through fifth grade.
- Revolution Students focus on small and large group opportunities, retreats, and mission trips for youth in sixth through twelfth grade.
- Adult *GROW* Groups meet on Sundays during every worship experience as well as throughout the week.



LONG'S CHAPEL SERVE MINISTRIES

SERVE:

Discipleship opportunities to *SERVE* at Long's Chapel.

We value serving the Church and our community. *SERVE* Teams focus on serving within the ministries of Long's Chapel on our campus. *SERVE* Teams are subdivided into four areas:

- Church Life *SERVE* Teams are our volunteer servants who work within the many ministries of our church.
- First Impressions *SERVE* Teams provide a welcoming presence to share Jesus' radical hospitality to all who enter our doors.
- Leadership *SERVE* Teams facilitate the work of the church and provide opportunities for current and new ministries to *GROW*.
- Worship *SERVE* Teams are our volunteer servants who share their musical and creative gifts to develop authentic worship experiences at Long's Chapel.

To find out more information about how to engage in discipleship through *REACH*, *GROW*, and *SERVE* Ministries, please contact the church office or visit our website.



HIS CHURCH IS RISING

*Written by Tom Fogarty, Stewardship Ministry
& Chris Westmoreland, Lead Pastor*

After years of planning to expand the reach of Long's Chapel to fulfill our mission, what was once a parking lot is becoming a symbol of our belief and trust in our great God. The truth of Ephesians 3:20-21 has been a core Scripture, speaking God's truth to us. "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work in us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations."

The church you see rising is for His glory, worship, and praise! It will stand and lead many generations to a relationship with Jesus. God is doing far more than we could ever imagine in our wildest dream, and we are so excited with what He is doing in our midst. Eight million dollars is a large goal, but we also know that this "build" is a once in a generation chance to shape this campus for God's glory. The truth is God's Spirit dwells in His Church, and Ephesians 5:25 tells us Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her.

During this time of continuing excitement, we should also be thinking about what else God is planning. We have joined in the "Prayer of Jabez" by asking God to bless us and "expand our territory." Now, it is happening right before our eyes. Let us take this time to renew our commitment to be everything God has created and called us to be and think of this expanded campus as:

1. A Place Where His Word is Clearly Proclaimed!

Titus 2:1 says, "Your job is to speak out on things that make for sound doctrine." 1 Peter 1:25 says, "the word of the Lord stands forever." 2 Timothy 4:1-2 talks about the charge we have to preach the Word with great patience and careful instruction. In Luke 19:47, we are reminded that Jesus was teaching every day and all the people hung onto His words. We too want to be people who literally "hang on the words of Jesus." It matters what we know and believe, because it will directly affect the actions of our lives.

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Imagine... this new facility that will reshape our gathering area to create a very different "welcome" for those seeking God through our church. A new multi-purpose community room will house our modern worship ministry; children and youth will use this space to learn about the God's grace. God's word will be proclaimed throughout this new facility as everyone has a safe space to learn about God's will for his or her life.

2. A Place Where Prayer is Practiced Daily!

Jesus was very clear in Matthew 21:13 in telling us, "My house will be called a house of prayer." Paul's letter to the Thessalonians encourages us to "pray continually, and to give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will." In Romans 12, Paul encourages us to be transformed, to renew our minds, to use our spiritual gifts, to love one another, and to be faithful in prayer. The early church was based on prayer, and we know God listens to and works through our prayers. Acts 2:42 tells us the apostles "devoted themselves to prayer."

Imagine... having a space to come and pray and center ourselves in Bible study, fellowship, prayer, and holy conversation. Space, in and of itself, is not holy, but space dedicated to the purpose of God is indeed holy.

continued on next page

3. A Place Where God's Love is Experienced!

What better place than the church for everyone to deeply experience the love of Jesus. "For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." Jesus said loving one another was not optional. John 15:34 says, "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, you must love one another." In 1 John 4 we learn that love comes from God, and if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us. We seek to bring the lost to Long's Chapel so they can experience the true love of God.

Imagine... not everyone knows they matter to God. The church that effectively reaches its community to share the love of God will be able to meet people where they are and draw them into a safe place to explore the Scriptures. Everything we do should be motivated by the love of God. Why should our new facility include an indoor playground, a café, and newly remodeled space for youth? The answer is these things reflect love and welcome and God's heart for all people. Our new space needs to tell the story of the radical welcome of God and tell it well.

4. A Place Where God is Worshipped!

For the most part the book of Psalms is one of prayer and praise to God. "Praise the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary." We are invited to enter His house with thanksgiving, praise, and love. Psalm 22 reminds us that all the earth will come to worship Him and future generations will be told about the Lord. We often sing, "How Great Thou Art" as an act of worship. Throughout the Bible we learn that we were meant to worship God and be with Him forever. Colossians 3:16 encourages us to "sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in our hearts to God."

God certainly smiles when His people gather to worship and celebrate His presence. **Imagine...** is about bringing focus to the vision God is giving Long's Chapel to worship and serve Him, thus building a community of passionate servants.

5. A Place Where Lives Are Transformed!

Many of us can remember being among “the lost” even though we may not have admitted it at the time. We might not even be able to describe exactly how or when we became among “the found.” It is quite possible a local church became the key to your coming to know the forgiveness and love of Jesus. Jeremiah 29:12-13 says that those who seek the Lord will be found. Long’s Chapel has been a beacon in the community for over 100 years for those “seekers.” Where else will you find Jesus in this fallen world except in church? Jesus “came to seek and save the lost.” What better place to do so than in His church!

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It may look like brick and mortar rising up from the ground to us, but just as God's ways are not our ways, God may have a very different view of what is happening right before our eyes. The church matters! How else can people hear God's message of forgiveness, hope, and love? God may see thousands coming to know, love, and serve Him and be with Him for all eternity. Let us all thank God for the privilege of being even a small part of building His Kingdom in our midst.

The mission is large! The task is great! His grace is sufficient – ALWAYS!



continued on next page

his church is rising continued from previous page

Renderings of the *Imagine...* Expansion





ministry spotlight long's chapel knitting ministry

Written by Cy Youse, Knitting Ministries

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The first meeting of the knitting ministries took place on June 19, 2003. We have been meeting every Thursday morning and knitting items that meet the needs within our community. These items are then distributed throughout the area. The knitters make baby sweaters, hats, lap robes, leg warmers, Pea Pods, scarves, shawls, Twiddle Muffs, and dress teddy bears.

We knit prayer stoles for Long's Chapel, and our pastors give these stoles to families who are going through a difficult time in their lives. A devotion booklet with Bible readings and prayers accompany the stoles. The knitters also knit baptismal blankets with embroidered crosses on them to present to families during the baptism of their babies.

"The knitting ministry represents the best of Long's Chapel, as these folks use their God-given gifts to bless people in our community. I am so grateful for the wonderful service of these amazing women. It is not uncommon that I hear stories in the community about prayer shawls and baptism blankets and chemo caps and how they have shared God's love with people who needed a special touch."

- Chris Westmoreland, Lead Pastor

The knitters enjoy friendship and fun together while working on the projects. We take field trips to check out yarn shops, hold meetings

in various homes so that we can 'sit and knit on the porch' and often gather for lunch as we share in our friendship. We also exchange knitting techniques, answer questions on personal projects, give knitting lessons, and enjoy our camaraderie together.

"Words cannot express the joy and appreciation the prayer stoles bring to those who receive them. They are opened immediately and placed on their hospital bed and held as we talk and pray. People realize the sincere love and compassion the knitters transfer into the stoles as they knit. Words of thanks are heard from these grateful folks for weeks and even months after the health crisis is over. What a meaningful and unselfish ministry."

- Tim McConnell, Pastor of Congregational Care

This ministry is not only for those who are in our Long's Chapel family, but it is also open to anyone who is interested. We are a registered charity-knitting group on the Internet, and one of our knitters from Sylva found us through this source. How exciting that our reach goes beyond our county! If you are unavailable to meet, please consider becoming a "cottage knitter" and use your patterns and yarn to knit at home. What started as six knitters has now turned into 35 knitters, and we are still growing. We know God has a place for us.

The Blessing

Written by Denise Looock

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The first time Dave and Adele Gildersleeve attended a Sunday worship service at Long's Chapel, they knew they had found a new home church. "We received a warm welcome that day, and in the following weeks we quickly learned the depth and breadth of ministries in which this church was involved," Dave says. "It was, and is, an outward-looking church."

Shortly before Dave retired in 2018, Pastor Chris Westmoreland asked him to be the chairman of the *Imagine...* campaign. Although Dave had served on vision-casting teams and building committees at other churches, he had never led a building campaign.

After he and Adele prayed about the opportunity, Dave said yes to Chris. "The needs here at Long's Chapel were so clear to me. Our vision did not match our facilities. We had to accept this challenge if we wanted to grow and expand the ministries of the church." The congregation grabbed hold of the vision in the spring of 2018 and pledged over \$4 million in funding.

As we fast-forward to September 2019, \$1.8 million of the pledged money has been given. Tons of dirt have been moved, and a massive hole exists where the parking lot used to be. The hassle of finding a parking space as well as entering and exiting the building may have dampened some people's enthusiasm but certainly not Dave's. "It is exciting to come each Sunday and see what progress has been made. The foundations will soon be laid, and the shape of the building will emerge."

"Construction is always frustrating," he admits. "Ever remodeled a kitchen? You are inconvenienced to the nth degree. We have faced some challenges, like an underground spring, that have resulted in some design changes. There will be more challenges, but God is faithful. He will provide."

"When the doors of the new facility are open, Long's Chapel will engage in new ministries and embrace new opportunities. We will forget all the inconveniences and celebrate all the benefits. When all is said and done, I believe this new facility will be one of the most significant things we have ever done as a church."

Construction is also expensive; however, Dave is confident God will supply the needed funds. "My goal for the **Imagine...** campaign from the get-go was 100 percent participation from the congregation." Although that goal was not initially reached, Dave still believes it can be fulfilled.

One of his favorite moments of the campaign was learning that Torry and Lynn Pinter's six-year-old son, Nathan, had started a homemade lip balm business to raise money for the new facility. Sally Hundley, Director of Children's Ministries at the time, had ignited the kids' enthusiasm for the campaign. With a sales-savvy offer of one tube of lip balm for \$2.00 and two tubes for \$5.00, Nathan raised \$400.

"If the little ones can do it, so can the big ones," says Dave. Many new people have started attending Long's Chapel since the **Imagine...** campaign kicked off in May 2018, and some may not



have realized they can still participate. "Jump in," he says. "Do not miss out on the blessing." Even if finances are tight, everyone who believes in the mission of Long's Chapel can contribute in some way, big or small.

The key is a willing heart. "Through our obedience and generosity, God is going to bless us tremendously. Not only will we have a greater capacity to reach out to Haywood County, but also as our church grows, our ability to serve in foreign missions will also expand."

Dave also encourages us to pray for our pastoral staff, administrative staff, and leadership team. "Each has a role in the program; all are important. They are carrying a big load and making major decisions. God has promised to never leave us or forsake us. He will never forsake Long's Chapel, if we are an obedient church."

the 2019 long's chapel
**SUMMER
SPEAKER
SERIES**

Written by Paul Ervin, Director of Generous Living

The 2019 Summer Speaker Series:

Dr. Stephen Gunter - Theologian in Residence at Church of the Servant United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City and the Director of Professorships at The Foundation for Evangelism.

Dr. David Wilkinson – British Astrophysicist/Theologian and Principal of St. John's College and Professor at Durham University in the UK.

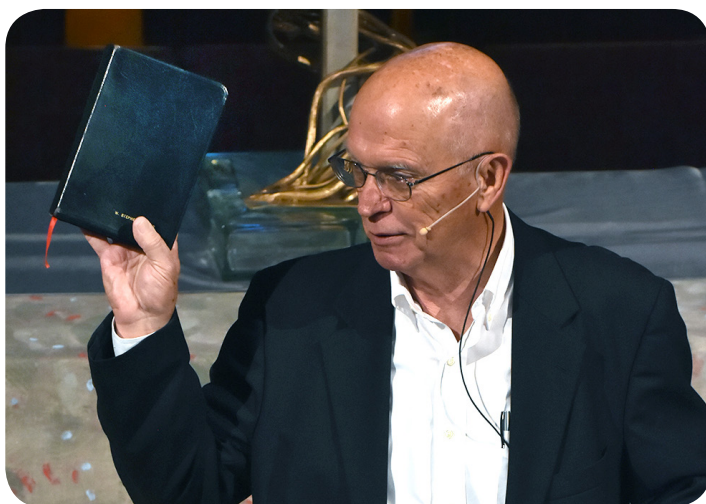
Rev. Alison Wilkinson – British Methodist Pastor and the Director of a Fresh Expressions Community Art Ministry in New Castle, England.

Paul Lembo - A Haywood County resident who oversaw and coordinated the Apollo Lunar Assent Module for Grumman Corporation and NASA.

Dr. Steve Moore - Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust in Vancouver, Washington.

These renowned speakers brought us insight into the Christian faith and biblical truths in the Wesleyan tradition. We heard from and about committed people of faith in the business world, science, and space exploration. They provided time to allow us to be in dialogue with them and to reflect on the importance of lay and clergy leadership in helping lift up Christ in the world, which is “our Parish.”

Our guests were impressed by the church's commitment to “reach” out to others, to “grow” by expanding our facilities for mission, and to “strive” for greater service beyond our walls. They spoke at Sunday services, special events, and to civic clubs. With words of encouragement and humor, they challenged us to continue to reach people for Christ in our community and beyond.



Dr. Stephen Gunter

Dr. Gunter began our series on June 2 by preaching at all three sanctuary worship experiences on “Following in the Footsteps of Barnabas.” On Saturday he taught three sessions on “Understanding Truth in the Wesleyan Tradition.” The lectures were on Scriptural Christianity, the Great Tradition, and Experiential Religion. Dr. Gunter taught at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University and Duke Divinity School before ‘retiring’ to his home in Oklahoma last year.

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summer speaker series continued from previous page

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Rev. Dr. David Wilkinson, Rev. Alison Wilkinson, and Paul Lembo

The second weekend of the series was July 20–23 with three speakers in our midst.

On Saturday afternoon, July 20, Paul Lembo, who is a resident of Canton, NC, joined David. Known by magicians and large collectors of Victorian magic tricks such as David Copperfield, Paul Lembo repairs and rebuilds magic tricks for magicians and collectors around the world. Mr. Lembo came to Long's Chapel to share the platform with Dr. David Wilkinson about his role in the Apollo 11 mission. Paul led and coordinated the over 1,000 dedicated engineers and builders at the Grumman Corporation who built all of the Apollo Lunar Ascent Modules, including the one that lifted Neil Armstrong and Ed Aldrin off to the moon on July 21, 1969. He and David spoke to and answered questions on the worldwide significance of that mission. At exactly 4:17pm, Paul Casper showed a short video of the Apollo 11 mission, which was 50 years to the minute from Neil Armstrong's famous 'first step on the moon.'

Dr. David Wilkinson spoke at all three worship services in the sanctuary on Sunday, using John 15: 1-11 as his text. He used these verses to remind us that "God is the Vine and we are the branches."

Rev. Alison Wilkinson preached at the two modern services in the Venue. She lifted up an inspirational message of conviction and faith. Her sermon and personal testimony gave the congregation insight into the faith and ministry of a British Methodist pastor in a local church and community ministry in Newcastle, UK. The next morning David and Alison spoke at the Foundation for Evangelism.



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Dr. Steve Moore

On Sunday, August 11, our final summer speaker was Dr. Steve Moore. Dr. Moore preached at all three sanctuary services using John 14:5-14 as the morning text. He expanded on our current sermon series "Are We There Yet?" Steve gave personal stories of being "lost" and suggested remedies for us to find our way through periods of being "lost." In the afternoon Steve lectured on "The Essence of Christian

Leadership." He showed video clips of inspirational leaders and commented on how important volunteer and effective lay leadership is to Kingdom work. Probably the most referenced of Steve Moore's quotes is that "our culture is always in need of leaders ... holistic leaders who are about helping people find the fullness of life in Christ regardless of their vocation. It is not about maintaining institutions; it is about forming faithful disciples who are helping serve and change the world."

My personal thanks is expressed to the church membership and leadership for supporting this ongoing ministry. We strive to seek new and exciting speakers and ministers who come into our lives each summer with challenges to help us grow. I am especially grateful for the dedicated work of Adele Gildersleeve and Sandy Breitmeier and their team volunteers in serving as hosts for these events in this series.

LONG'S CHAPEL CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Written by Kayln Wiley, Pastor of Children's Ministries

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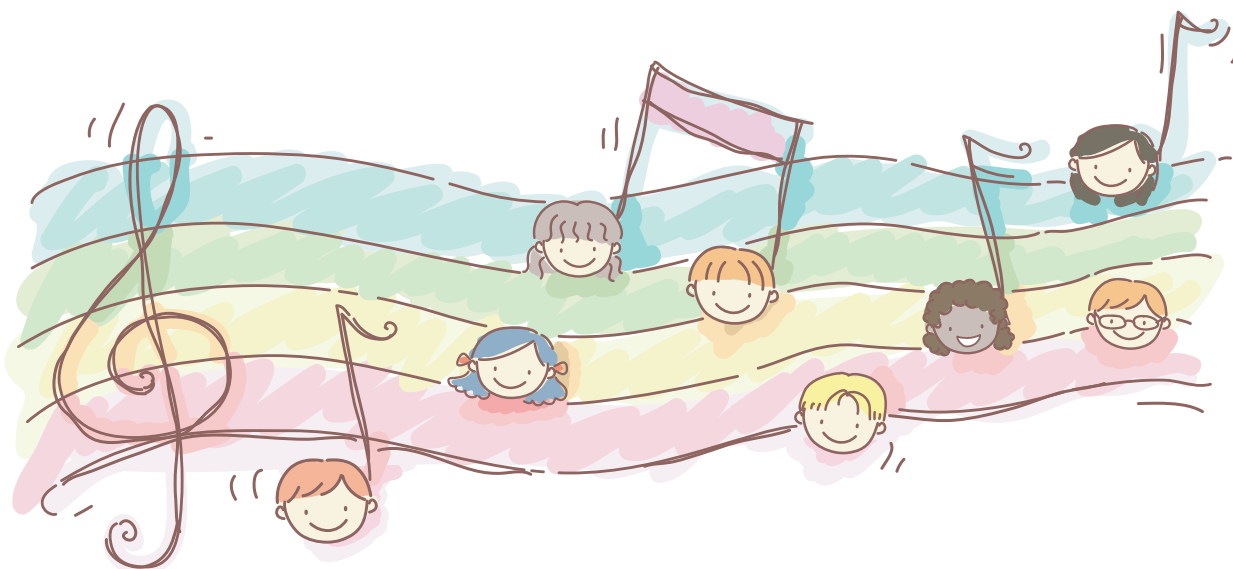
"Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music."

— Martin Luther

Music, without a doubt, is what led me to Christ. Through God's prevenient grace, music taught me all about God's love and led me to the beautiful language found in the Word of God long before I even knew that my identity was found in Christ.

This fall, for the first time in decades, we are offering an opportunity for children in our community to discover for themselves the love of God through music. With the first ever Children's Music Camp this past summer and now through the newly launched LCKids Choir that meets on Wednesday nights, we are offering yet another way for children in the community to discover that they are marvelously made as written in Psalm 139.

The launch of music programming for children at Long's Chapel has already been met with great excitement, and here is what some children and adults have to say about this exciting new program and their love of music.



"Music is at the heart of the worship/church experience and is important on so many levels, especially for children. Repeated rehearsals of songs instill sacred words into young hearts. Being a part of a choir or instrumental group encourages community, the value of teamwork, self-discovery, and a sense of belonging. What better place to belong than at church! Icing on the cake is the research that shows how being part of a music group makes better, happier citizens, and also stimulates the brain to multi-task so that young musicians often score higher on standardized tests. Most importantly, a children's music program involves young people into the heart of the church by giving them opportunities to participate in worship and part of something bigger than themselves."

— Martha Brown, Long's Chapel Member, Community Musician and Educator

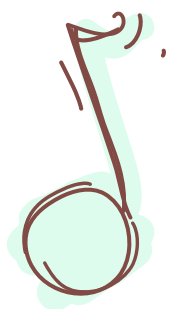
"I AM SO EXCITED ABOUT SINGING ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!
I LOVE WHEN I GET TO SING WITH OTHER PEOPLE OR EVEN IN
THE SHOWER ON MY OWN. I'M SO EXCITED ABOUT LCKIDS CHOIR!"

— Wells Jacobson, LCKids Choir Member



"I love serving in leadership with children's music because hearing children sing ALWAYS makes me cry. There is something so pure and innocent in a child's voice. It is so Christ-like, and we can see ourselves and the love of God in the children when they sing together."

— Drew Westmoreland, Long's Chapel Staff, LCKids Choir Adult Leader



"I LOVE SINGING IN THE CHOIR. IT MAKES ME SO HAPPY. SOMETIMES,
WHEN I AM THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING BAD OR SAD, SINGING
IN THE CHOIR JUST WASHES IT ALL AWAY. AND, IT'S JUST FUN!"

— Brooks Barbee, LCKids Choir Member



student summer trips

Written by Shawn Winburn, Director of Student Ministries

During the summer Revolution Student Ministries offered several opportunities for teenagers to engage in serving others, having tons of fun, and building relationships with each other and Jesus!

Our middle school students partnered with the Appalachian Service Project for one week in Jonesville, Virginia, to work on low-income housing and build relationships with the homeowners there. Students were empowered to build a handicapped ramp for an elderly couple at one house and help cover a mobile home roof for another family. In each of these places, our middle school teams learned how to work with power tools, learned invaluable carpentry skills, and loved on these families in the name of Jesus!

Our high school students partnered with UMCOR for a week and served in Burgaw, North Carolina, by helping families still recovering from hurricane Florence. These students also learned invaluable building skills as they worked on putting up drywall, cutting trim on walls and ceilings, insulating underneath a home, hanging wall board, and much, much more! They did this while forming bonds with the homeowners and each other. Each night the group was led in devotions and conversations around growing in Christ.

Finally, both middle and high school students took to hiking and backpacking the Appalachian Trail in Virginia and Tennessee for a week of disconnecting from all electronics, time, and distractions in order to focus on their souls and communing with God in the beautiful confines of the woods. Wilderness Trail is one of the most profound events we offer for our students and adults that enable them incredible moments of connecting with the Holy Spirit and being refreshed and renewed.

In addition to these incredible trips, our ministry also offered a weekly combined Sunday school class, day trips to Deep Creek and other local hiking trips, a student leadership team retreat, and Fun Fridays where we took teens swimming, tubing, playing kickball, putt-putt, and more! Here is what a few of our students and a former student turned leader had to say about their time this summer.



"This was my very first mission trip and we went to Jonesville, Virginia, where we worked on damaged houses. I can't describe how awesome it was. We were sweaty and hot, but in between all of that, we became closer not only in our friendship with each other but also closer with our relationship to God. I loved how we had personal time to play, had alone time, and reflecting time."

— Jasmine Sigman, Middle School Student

"The three summer trips that I did with the student ministry basically meant my whole summer to me. These trips were the things I looked forward to and enjoyed the most during the summer. The middle school mission trip really taught me the most because on that trip I needed to show leadership and perseverance with the middle school students. Wilderness Trail really taught me about seeing God in others and in nature. And the high school mission trip taught me that making a relationship with the homeowner and others is the big part of the mission trip, not just working on people's houses."

— Jacob Smith, High School Student



Part Two of a Two-Part Series

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

Written by Chris Westmoreland, Lead Pastor

Field of Dreams starring Kevin Costner is one of my favorite movies. Seeking a chance to play catch with his deceased father, Ray (Kevin Costner) follows a voice to build a nonsensical baseball field in his backyard, an Iowa cornfield. It is a movie that lives in the intersection of past and present, mystical and ordinary, and believable and a bit far-fetched. Why do I love it? Maybe it is because I grew up playing baseball; maybe it is because the movie has some great subplots; maybe I just like movies starring Kevin Costner. I do know I really love it because this family stepped out in faith and gave themselves over to the mystery that was calling their name, and as a result some wonderfully incredible things happened.