



**BLUES FAMILY**

Page 2



**EXCLUSIVELY NC WINES**

Page 8

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➔ Tom Wilson on buying American for the holidays.

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## Chapel in the Pines begins worship in new sanctuary



by Dale Chodorow

A tradition of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the largest of the Presbyterian denominations, is to reach out and grow new communities of faith. In this tradition, members are purposefully and prayerfully sent out and supported by an existing home church, and encouraged to move into areas to accommodate the growing needs of the community.

University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill has planted two new churches in its history — Church of the Reconciliation in the 1960s and most recently Chapel in the Pines, which was officially chartered in May 2008 to respond to the growing needs in northern Chatham County.

Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church recently completed construction of its first sanctuary, located at 314 Great Ridge Parkway off Manns Chapel Road, and will begin conducting worship services on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 10:30 a.m. The Rev. Landon Whitsitt, vice-moderator of the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will lead the first worship service.

Other special upcoming services scheduled at Chapel in the Pines are:

- Dec. 18 (Sunday), 10:30 a.m. — A Service of Advent Carols and Hanging of the Greens
- Dec. 24 (Saturday), 4 p.m. — Christmas Eve service
- Dec. 25 (Sunday), 10:30 a.m. — Christmas Day service (no Sunday school)
- Jan. 22 (Sunday), 4 p.m. — Dedication service, with guest preacher, the Rev. Bob Dunham from University Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Mindy Douglas Adams was called as Organizing Pastor in Feb. 2006. Supported by University Presbyterian Church and Salem Presbytery, worshipers met at Captain John's Dockside Restaurant in Cole Park Plaza and later at North Chatham School on Lystra Road while plans were being made to build the church's first facilities.

Chapel in the Pines purchased 12 acres of land in January 2010, and about a year later broke ground for the new sanctuary and adjacent administration and education

**CHAPEL CONTINUED, PAGE 9**

## Creating Community at The General Store Cafe

By Justin Johnson and Nikki Jaeger

Nature dictates that all things must grow, adapt, and find new life in the midst of ever-changing surroundings. Organisms develop ways of sustaining themselves on interactions and relationships with their environmental conditions. Personal and professional interactions work in the same way, always demanding that we, as citizens and consumers, evolve and adapt to the changes of our community, country, and world.

For over three decades The General Store Cafe in Pittsboro has been building a symbiotic relationship with Pittsboro and Chatham County, and continues to grow and adapt in order to sustain itself while supporting the community. In 1979, The General Store opened its doors as a natural foods grocery, changing owners and locations several times in order to best meet the needs of the business environment, and to better serve the needs of the community. The Gen also transformed from a natural foods grocery into a combined restaurant, art gallery, and live music venue, in order to answer the call for a downtown community gathering place and event space, and to showcase and support Chatham County's vast range of visual, performance, and musical artists. The General Store Cafe also hosts monthly Burrito Bash fundraisers on the first Monday of each month, with all proceeds going to various non-profits that directly support and maintain the health and culture of our region.

The newest offering from the General Store Cafe is "Circle City Late Nite," a brand new late night music series from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. every Friday and Saturday night, featuring bands, performance artists, and comedians, as well as a diverse late night menu.

Fridays at The General Store Cafe continue to offer live music during the dinner hours, which is now followed by late night entertainment in The Black Bird Bar, themed around community

**GENERAL STORE CONTINUED, PAGE 9**

## Chatham improv troupe wows audiences

By Gwen Blackburn-Gray

Those of us brought up on Saturday Night Live's zany, perceptive and outrageous comedic genius have become familiar with the talent churned out by Chicago's The Second City, the comedy training center and performance venue that has given us the likes of Mike Myers, Dan Aykroyd and Tina Fey. But you don't have to go to Chicago to experience the energy of improv: an equivalent creative endeavor exists right here in Chatham County, in the form of fearless comedic troupe, The Coconauts.

Founded in 1998, The Coconauts met their genesis during one of the Chatham Arts Council's community classroom series classes on improvisational comedy. But, while most students only intend to take one six-week series of classes, improv is an addiction, says Molly Matlock, veteran performer.

"Or maybe it's more like the mafia: once you're in 'the family,' you just can't leave," she says.

The group has since grown from four to more than 14 members and performs frequently in and around the area.

The group is led, coached and taught by Anoo Brod, of the Transactor's Improv Company, the oldest active improv company in the South. Brod has been performing and teaching improv both nationally and in and around Chapel Hill since 1997.

"Improv is original — it teaches you to access those parts of growing up we've all lost," she says.

According to Coconaut Bart Hubbard, Brod's style is accessible, playful, relaxed and soulful. "Learning improv from Anoo is like going on an exotic vacation with the most informed and entertaining tour guide you could imagine. The class atmosphere is one of warmth, playfulness, and acceptance," he says.

Improv, sometimes termed 'impro,' can be comedic or dramatic, but is universally characterized by actors performing spontaneously and unscripted, often prompted



The Coconauts

by the audience. Performances are usually interactive, with audience members encouraged to offer suggestions and feedback to the actors — usually loudly and enthusiastically!

The most important thing, according

to Brod, is that the style is accessible to everyone.

"Anyone can do this," she says. "Anyone. When I first did this I was

**IMPROV CONTINUED, PAGE 8**