

## What a Tale Taught Me

By Pastor Andy Straubel

In June the Outreach Team hosted a Disney movie, *Dolphin Tale 2*. It was a cute, yet true, story about a dolphin who finds himself at Clearwater Marine Hospital after getting tangled in fishing line and losing his tail. In Disney fashion, the story of a young man working at the hospital and the dolphin, now named "Winter," unfolds. The dolphin learns to swim, and the young man, Sawyer, finds purpose and a friend.

The hospital and the community rally to provide Winter with a prosthetic tail. One by one obstacles are overcome and Winter is back in business doing what dolphins do. It is a "feel good" movie! As in any good storytelling, tension is introduced when a crisis develops. In this case it happens when a government official comes to the hospital and finds "violations" have occurred in keeping Winter. Winter has to move to another facility. At this point everyone is upset, tensions rise, values are challenged, decisions have to be made.

As I sat watching this movie, I couldn't help think how much this story is the story of the Christian life. At one point the Director of the facility is challenged to remember the purpose for which the hospital was founded; its motto- RESCUE, REHAB, RELEASE! Those three words represented the entire reason for the hospital's existence. The goal of course was to see every animal rescued released back into the environment from which he was taken.

Isn't that what the church, the body of Christ, is all about? These three words could be written over Ephesians 2:1-10. Verses 1-3 speak of our RESCUE, "As for you, you were dead in

## Congratulations Graduates!



In June we had an outdoor Graduation Celebration/ Reception to honor our recent graduates: Tosin Dada, high school; Marina Cull, Houghton College; and Olivia Bernheisel, middle school.



your trespasses and sins in which you used to live." We "followed the ways of this world (v.2), the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient;" "All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature following its desires and thoughts" (v.3). Wow! No wonder we needed rescue.

But REHAB began with God, vv.4-5. "But because of God's great love for us, God who is rich in mercy made us alive with Christ...It is by grace you have been saved." Interestingly all the verbs found in vv.4-6 are things God did for us. He made us alive! He saved us! He raised us up! He seated us with him! Like Winter we were incapable of doing anything. Emphatically Paul says it was not of

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## “What a Tale Taught Me,” continued...

ourselves! And one might wonder why would God do such a thing or go to such extraordinary means to accomplish it.

Ephesians 2:7 gives the answer, *“that he might show the incomparable riches of his grace expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”* The key word here is *“show.”* It means to declare, demonstrate, or prove. Make no mistake about it, God is in the restoration business, and, it is total. I am a total reconstruction project, a re-creation by the Almighty for reasons known perhaps only to God. And, it is glorious! *“We are God’s workmanship created (better re-created) in Christ Jesus.”* Why? *“To do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* The word “workmanship” in v.10 is used for art work or sculpture. We are God’s re-created “piece of work.” And to think God has something prepared in advance for me to do adds volumes of application for everyday life.

I know my life is not a Disney movie and not all stories have happy endings, but the lesson of God working in my life is worth telling. And we can *“be confident that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 1:6).

## Thank You!

Thanks to Lisa Yamamoto for putting her creative skills to work and providing inviting sweet treats for dads on Father’s Day!



## All Church Picnic



Join us on July 16 immediately following the worship service for an All Church picnic. The Fellowship Team will provide

hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks. Please bring a salad and/or dessert to share.



Windsor Chapel will be hosting a Kids 5-Day Club again in partnership with CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) on July 17 - 21, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm, for children ages 5 - 12. The evening will include Bible stories, games, music, snacks and outdoor play. Register online.

Please begin to pray for the kids who will come, the families who will be impacted by the Gospel message, and for a few Windsor Chapel volunteers to help along the way. If you can help in this wonderful ministry, please sign your name on the Volunteer Sheet in the chapel foyer.

## Special 11th Hour

Join us for a Special 11th Hour on July 23. "The Hearing Ear and the Seeing Eye," is a DVD study with David Menton, a Ph.D. in cell biology from Brown University. He will take us on a journey into the marvelous intricacies of the human ear and eye, both having the clear stamp of the Creator. Charlie Muldrow will answer science questions.

## Elder's Corner

By Ken Bills

Recently, the Worship Team introduced a new song, "This I Believe (Creed)." The words to the song are based on the Apostles Creed, proclaiming powerful truths about God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit that have united Christians for more than 1,000 years.

Singing this song has gotten me thinking about the role of good doctrine in our lives as Christians. We live in an age that generally does not place a high value on doctrinal truth. The reasons for this are no doubt complex and influenced by powerful cultural trends that I can't pretend to fully understand or explain. But among the reasons is a general skepticism about the very existence of absolute or objective truth, and an emphasis instead on subjective and personal reality. Doctrine is also perceived as dry and boring, and at times it can be. Further, there is a sad history among Christians of doctrinal disputes that have been conducted with rancor and without charity or humility, creating division and bitterness. As Paul stated in his first letter to the Corinthians, "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up", and we have seen the tragic result of doctrinal disputes without love over and over.

But correct doctrine is still important. Even Christians are constantly tempted to view God as we wish he was, and to create a conception of God that fits with our conscious (and unconscious) desires, experiences and needs. When we do that, we are engaged in a subtle form of idolatry, worshipping a god that we have created. Instead of letting the truths about who God is change us, we put our trust in a god we have invented.

Correct doctrine protects us against making God in our image, by drawing us back to the objective truths of who God is and what he has

done. This starts, of course, with scripture, in which God has told us truly (if not exhaustively) about himself. The historic creeds are another helpful check on us, as they anchor us in what Christians throughout the centuries, and not just in our current time and place, have agreed the scriptures teach about who God is.

One of my favorite parts of the song, "This I Believe (Creed)," is that in the middle of declaring timeless truths about God, the song turns to proclaim: "I believe in You". Suddenly we are not just declaring truth, but we are facing God himself in worship. That is a powerful reminder of the ultimate purpose of doctrinal truth. Good doctrine is intended to draw us to God, to cause us to bow before him, to surrender our hearts, and wills, and minds to him. And to help to ensure that when we do so we are worshipping him not only in our spirits, but in truth, as he truly is.

## Family Bingo Night



## Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in  
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

### Birds and Squirrels

On a bright and sunny spring day a few weeks ago, I glanced out of my kitchen window and noticed a bird perched on our back fence. Since that particular section of fence is close to our bird feeders, the sight wasn't unusual. But what caught my attention was that this particular bird appeared quite unstable and wobbly as it tried to step along the pickets of the fence. As I watched, I realized that the bird was a fledgling, not quite confident in flight and uncertain about the best way to get to and from the feeder. Eventually, it flew awkwardly into a nearby tree, and I was left to my thoughts.

One of the most common sights on our fence is that of squirrels, lightly dashing over the same pickets that gave the fledgling so much difficulty. And yet, if you were to ask a group of people which of the two had the advantage in mobility, most would choose the bird: it has wings; the squirrel does not.

Appearances can indeed be deceiving, and it is all too easy to interpret differences among us as differences in value. If we were to anthropomorphize my bird and squirrel, it would be easy to see how this might play out. Those in community with the bird and the squirrel would admire the bird for its ability to fly, its ability to cover significant distances in little time, and the freedom and power associated with it. The squirrel would be seen literally as a pedestrian member of the family.

And what about the bird and squirrel? It is easy to imagine the bird feeling superior to the land-bound squirrel; the squirrel would easily see himself as a lowly, common inhabitant of the community, having little significance or purpose.

Now if we return to my fledgling and squirrel in my back yard, there are several observations I would make. Each is ideally suited for its role in the environment, and each develops its God-given gifts over time. Neither is better than the other. The fledgling needs to develop its gift of flight, and its struggle negotiating the fence picket is a reminder to the bird that it is not necessarily superior to the squirrel in all aspects of movement. The squirrel needs to not feel inferior to the fledgling and appreciate that it has all the abilities it needs to be a spectacular squirrel.

In the body of Christ, there are "birds" and "squirrels." Some believers have more impressive gifts and abilities that enable them to fulfill their calling from the Lord. Other believers have less flashy gifts but are no less important for the effective functioning of the church. To view the birds as better and the squirrels as unremarkable is tragically short-sighted. And for the birds and squirrels, it is absolutely imperative that each develop his own gifts while at the same time appreciating the gifts of the other. As both birds and squirrels reflect the glory of God, so do we as we develop and use our gifts in concert with one another.

*"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are*

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## “Birds and Squirrels,” continued...

*one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. If they were all one member, where would the body be? But now there are many members, but one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; or again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”*

*1 Corinthians. 12:4-26*

**Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557 or [clbills@verizon.net](mailto:clbills@verizon.net)) to continue the dialogue....**

## Financial Update

(Through May 2017)

*“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want...”*

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$113,769	\$125,415
Expense	\$124,277	\$153,863

Windsor Chapel has sent \$20,657 to our missionary partners this year. That's 18% of your giving!

## Interested in Missions?

Cairn University, in Langhorne, Pennsylvania, is hosting *Perspectives*, an excellent equipping tool for Global Missions awareness this fall on Monday nights. It is a 15-week life and learning opportunity that will change the way you view the world around you. Whether you are single, married, a student, a homemaker, a professional or retired, *Perspectives* will bless and challenge your life and direction. For additional information, contact Chuck Walton at (215) 579-4869 or [chuck\\_walton@wycliffe.org](mailto:chuck_walton@wycliffe.org)

## “Love Your Neighbor” Evangelism Webinar

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to broaden your horizons and learn how to respectfully, and relationally, share the Gospel with your Asian friends and neighbors. This online seminar is scheduled from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on two Saturdays, July 29 and August 5, and costs only \$25. It encompasses twelve hours of interactive teaching, discussion, demonstration, practices, videos and an optional field trip to a nearby temple. It concludes with practical strategies and tools for continued application. “Love Your Neighbor” evangelism materials were written by Cru staff member Cathy Douglass, and the seminar is taught by Cathy and her team of qualified associate trainers. Cathy Douglass has served as a missionary staff member of Cru since 1978 and specialized in ministering to South Asians since 1993. The training notebook contains additional articles and resources for further study. Students will find many principles applicable to evangelism with people from a variety of backgrounds. Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/jul2017>.

## Cairns

By Janet Berrill



This past May I had the blessed opportunity to go to Utah with my son, Tim, for two weeks to hike in the State and National Parks. The landscape in Utah is like nothing I have ever seen anywhere else. And even within Utah, the mountains, rock formations, caverns, cliffs, rivers, etc., from one park differed dramatically from each of the other parks we visited. Each day was an opportunity to praise God and marvel at His incredible creation.

The hiking we did was quite varied – sometimes there was a well-worn dirt path which was easy to



follow, sometimes there were signs which pointed the way, and often there were cairns to serve as an indicator of where the path lay. A cairn is a pile of rocks, usually about a foot tall, with larger rocks on the bottom tapering to smaller rocks on the top. Cairns are extremely useful for marking the path especially when hiking in rocky places where there is no well-worn path.

The longest hike Tim and I did was in Canyon Lands National Park. This was an incredible park with some of the most unusual rock formations I had seen. Much of the hiking we did here was on rocks, by that I mean the path we took involved climbing up and down large rocks. Because of this,

there was no well-worn path to follow so the trail was marked mostly by cairns. At one point as we were nearing the end of our hike, I mentioned to Tim how thankful I was for the people who built the cairns, for without them we would have been completely lost.

Thinking about the people who went before me on this hike, and how they built cairns to guide those who would come after them, reminded me of a song I used to hear back in the late 80's by Steve Green. The song is called "Find us Faithful," and the chorus goes, "Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful / May the fire of our devotion light their way / May the footprints that we leave / Lead them to believe / And the lives we live inspire them to obey / Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful."

The message of the song is that we should live our lives in such a way that it inspires those who will come after us to find faith in God, leaving to others a heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives. I want to live that kind of life; I want my life to point others to Jesus. It's easy to see that I have an influence on the people close to me. But the cairns got me thinking about how my life may influence people without my even knowing it. The cairns were built by people who had no idea who was going to come after them on the trail. I also do not know all the people who are influenced by my life, but it is my hope and prayer that the markers I am leaving will be guiding them to finding life in Jesus.

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**If you have any items or information you would like to share in the newsletter please**

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