

We All Have One..... Or Two.....

By Char Bystrom

Most of us have it memorized by heart. It just happens, even if we don't do it intentionally. It may have been the same for years, or, decades. Or, it may be relatively new. But, still, we have it memorized! We need it to function on a daily basis. We would be, quite literally, lost without it planted securely in our memory bank or written somewhere easily accessible. And it is not just for us—others need access to it, too! What could possibly be SO important? *Your address!*

What is an even more important address is the other one God has given us as His children, beyond the here and now. And yet, do we "retrieve" it as readily as our street address? How often does the ultimate address God has given us affect our daily "destination" or plans? Recently, when Billy Graham died, there was a quote from him (apparently, as some sources quickly pointed out, patterned after a quote by DL Moody) that was hard to miss on social media. He said, *"One day you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! I shall be more alive than I am now. . . I will just have changed my address! I will have gone into the presence of God."*

This world is terribly broken. It doesn't function the way God originally intended. If you haven't noticed, people are flawed...friends are flawed...family is flawed...you are flawed...I am flawed! Is there ever a week when something doesn't go as planned? Conversations don't go as planned. Relationships are strained. Taxes are higher than expected! And, for me recently, I quite unexpectedly found myself taking huge breaths just trying to take the next step. Then, I was whisked from my doctor's office, to the ER, to the hospital and voila!—Char has a pacemaker! *Whaaaaat?* No known cause. The electrical firing system in my heart suddenly, unexpectedly, wasn't working as God designed. My heart rate was getting progressively lower and lower—31 beats per minute was the last I saw. It all

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Easter Egg Hunt



“We All Have One...,” continued...

happened so quickly and felt rather surreal. It left me “shell shocked”! Just days before I was working the Chapel outdoor clean up, checking off my “to do” lists with life and ministry, thinking about so many other things. And now, if there were no pacemakers to give my heart assistance, my “address” could have changed, just like that—from two, to one. And, it will—one unexpected day—even with a pacemaker.

But, here is the real reality, if I can use those terms together without confusing you. We think this life, here, is our home, and of course, it is, sort of...but not really! If a line represented eternity past, present and future, our lives on this earth would be nothing more than a tiny speck somewhere on that line. This life is a gift, but it is temporary. Our street address is our home, but only temporarily. If we believe in Jesus as our Savior, if we are His children, then our true home is with Him. There is some semblance of that even as we live here.

God knows exactly where you live—where I live. No GPS needed! He knows the circumstances of our lives, the people in our lives, the disappointments, challenges, struggles, and the unexpected before it comes our way. Psalm 139:3 says He is “*intimately acquainted with all our ways.*” Not only are our lives here under His care and love, but He has secured and prepared our eternal address. We have two addresses as His children. You know that...I know that...but now it has become a bit more “front-and-center” for me.

I confess this recent event and accessorizing with a pacemaker has caused me to struggle at a much deeper level with Paul’s words, “*To live is Christ, and to die is gain.*” (Philippians 1:21) Yes, I intellectually agree. Yes, my life has been transformed because of knowing Christ and growing in my understanding of and dependence upon Him. Yes, I know my

eternal destination is heaven and will be nothing short of absolutely glorious, free of sin, pain and the brokenness of this world. God’s Word is replete with promises, truths, and hope not only for living life at our/my present address, but for our/my eternal address. But, still, (and herein lies the challenge), I do love my husband, our girls, our grandchildren, delight in the multifaceted, amazing aspects of His creation, and enjoy, overall, life, friends and ministry, and, I’m not that old, right?

In the midst of all of this and the wrestling, I find it not only helpful, but refreshing to daily take a few moments to view my life, my days, in light of eternity, and more purposefully, to surrender anew my every day at this present address, to Him; To give my expectations, my plans, my health and the number of my days to Him. God has done the dramatic in my life before, mostly, I would suspect, to get my undivided attention and help me see some truth more clearly and, hopefully, to never forget that truth! Maybe this is one of those times. It certainly was dramatic! And I am seeking to listen with a changed heart!! (Pun intended!)

Sundae Sunday!

June 3, 11:00 am



Enjoy a fun time of fellowship and cool tasty treats with your Windsor Chapel family immediately after the church service.

Create and devour your own delicious ice cream sundae!

Ice cream and yummy toppings will be provided!



Elder's Corner

By Ron Bystrom

An Amazing Truth

Have you ever found yourself being “full of faith” in one situation, and then, at another moment in another situation, struggling with unbelief? The scriptures seem to be replete with examples of this. The Israelites saw God do many miracles in Egypt, then doubted Him when water seemed to be lacking. They saw God provide manna for food, and then made a golden calf to worship when Moses didn't return when they expected.

In 2 Chronicles 14 and 16, we see another example of this. In Chapter 14, Zerah the Ethiopian came against King Asa of Judah. Outnumbered nearly two to one, Asa drew up in battle against Zerah. In 2 Chronicles 14:11 it says, *“Then Asa called to the Lord his God and said, “Lord there is no one besides Thee to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength. So help us, Oh Lord our God, for we trust in Thee, and in Thy name have come against this multitude. O Lord, Thou art our God, let not man prevail against Thee.”* God proceeded to give King Asa the victory over the Ethiopians.

But, two chapters later when Asa faced another battle, rather than seeking the Lord and His deliverance, he trusted in Ben-hadad, King of Syria for deliverance. As a result, God sent a prophet to rebuke him for his faith in a man rather than trusting and depending upon the LORD. Referring back to the situation with the Ethiopians, the prophet in 2 Chronicles 16:9 declares, *“For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout all the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.”*

Oh how I desire, and I suspect, how you desire, to be the type of man or woman that

the Lord would want to strongly support. How different our lives might be if HE were to strongly support us in all that we did for His Glory. It may be that we need His support related to a personal or family situation. Or as we are involved in serving in some way within the Chapel. Recently, as we were together as Elders prior to a time of prayer, I shared how my perspective, expectations, and faith were shifting as I stood on this verse and truth. As **our hearts are completely His**, wanting His Will, wanting Him to be glorified, depending on Him rather than ourselves/man, **God is actually looking for us, willing and ready to STRONGLY support us.**

Though I am certainly not perfect in my dependence upon God, as I seek to live with this amazing truth in mind, my hopes, expectations, and motivation in life change. I hope it will do the same for you.

*Congratulations
to Ed and Barbara MacQueen
on the birth of their eighth child,
Catherine Genevieve.*



*Catherine was born April 10, 2018,
at 7:31 am,
And weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces.*

Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

Birds of the Air

Like many of my counseling clients, I struggle to overcome the negative influences of my family of origin. My history of shame and invalidation often manifests itself in anxiety. And like many of my clients, I am quite familiar with Matthew 6:25-33, Christ's antidote for anxiety:

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

And so I've done what I can to build my faith—worship, Bible study, prayer, and moving beyond my comfort zone when He leads me to do so. And of course, I consciously and

conscientiously seek the Lord's kingdom as a matter of priority.

And I worry.

I do the best I can, the best I know to do, and it is never good enough. And therein lies the problem. It is very easy for me to make my faith an issue of spiritual performance: to do, do, do in order to please a Father, who, if He is like my earthly father, can never be pleased. In the counseling world, it is called transference: I transfer my experience with my earthly father to my heavenly Father. And while recognition of this issue is an important step toward denying the lie and embracing truth and moving toward healing, and growth, it is an obstacle that is difficult to overcome. It takes time.

But I have also missed something critically important. Jesus asks me to look at the birds of the air and to think about the Father caring for them even though they are of less value to Him than I am. Central to Jesus' message is the Father's care of me and for me, because I have great value to Him. While it is easy for me to believe that my value to God is based on how well I obey Him, how well I serve Him, that is not what Scripture teaches. God knit me together in my mother's womb; He created me in His image to partake in His nature and participate in His glorious, eternal purposes. He takes delight in me. And so I need to take another look at this passage, to see not performance but relationship. God values me! And from that platform I can depend on His care and provision, and then obey Him and serve Him out of joy in our relationship.

In William P. Young's *The Shack*, God admonishes Mackenzie to learn to "live loved." While Mackenzie is concerned about meeting (and not meeting) God's expectations, God wants Mackenzie to feel His love. In a similar

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“Birds of the Air,” continued...

manner, I believe that Jesus’ words recorded in Matthew teach us that the Lord wants us to learn to live valued.

For people like me with a history of needing to “earn my keep,” this is difficult. And we all have inherited Adam and Eve’s spiritual DNA which encourages us to want to be like God, to do life ourselves. Our pride is fed by our culture which values performance and success above all else. We can help one another by cultivating a body attitude of genuine love and respect, for everyone. We may prefer to work with some rather than others; we may find some easier to love and respect than others; without doubt we will be more comfortable with some than others. But the degree to which we can offer love and acceptance to each individual member of the body of Christ and treat everyone as having the highest value is the degree to which we will experience and manifest the love of Christ. This is a high calling, indeed.

Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557 or cbills@verizon.net) to continue the dialogue....

Believers Baptism

A Baptism will be held on Sunday, May 6, during our worship service. Anyone desiring to follow the Lord in a believer’s baptism can contact pastor Andy (andrew.straubel@gmail.com or 484-354-8813).

If you would like additional information, please see the pamphlet entitled “Baptism” located in the literature rack by the front doors or speak with Pastor Andy or one of the elders.



Ladies Evening Out

An enjoyable evening of crafting produced seventeen beautiful and unique wreaths at the recent Ladies Night Out. Many thanks to Lisa Yamamoto,



our instructor, who also provided the supplies, friendly encouragement, and inspiration.



Made with two-sided paper



strips of coordinating colors and patterns, the wreaths look complicated, but were nearly fool proof in construction.

Everyone went home with a fun, colorful wreath. Thanks also to the Fellowship Committee who provided refreshments.



If you have any items or information you would like to share in the newsletter please e-mail:

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How God Sees Us

By Janet Berrill

Parenting is tough; it's a constant stream of challenges that never end but rather evolve and change with children as they age. Little kids, little problems; big kids, big problems. Although the terrible twos can be a very trying time for parents, I think they are usurped by the infamous teen years when it comes to issues parents must deal with.

In their teens, children are maturing physically and hormones are going crazy. Teens are starting to think more independently and want to become their own person apart from their parents. This causes a lot of trouble in the home as teens think they are much more capable of being independent than parents know they are. They become more socially aware, and all of a sudden being with your parents is no longer cool. And, they get *The Attitude!* You know what I'm talking about: the rolling of the eyes, the comments under the breath, the sudden onset of not being able to hear their parents, the death stares, etc. All of these things make parenting teens a challenge beyond compare!

I want to be fair and say that not all teens cause their parents as much trouble as others. There are some very fortunate parents who have teens who cruise through the teenage years gracefully, causing little anxiety to their parents. And for parents who did have a teenager that was difficult, it is not a reflection of bad parenting! The best parents can have teens that have a difficult transition time from childhood to adulthood.

As it turned out for my family, I had a particularly difficult teen. He had the attitude with a capital "A"! If looks could kill, I'd be dead. (Someone else would have to write the monthly Chapel Challenge article.) He was ungrateful, rude, and unkind at home, yet he

was a model student at school. I was glad he was doing well in school, but it just made how he was treating us at home that much more hurtful.

Although many nights I was at my wits end not knowing what to do, I never let go of hope. I knew the teenage years would pass and all his bad behavior with it. Through those tough years, that is how I chose to view my son. I viewed him with future eyes, eyes that saw him as the thoughtful, grateful, loving adult I knew he would become. As I dealt with the day to day conflicts, I reminded myself that this was only temporary and that one day he would live as the godly man I knew he was.

Colossians 3:22 says, "*But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.*" When we receive Jesus as our savior, we are given a new nature. Our new nature is like the nature of Jesus: we are free from sin and are in a right relationship with God, we are holy in His sight, without blemish. This is how God sees us. Unfortunately, our old nature stays with us for a time and the two battle inside us for control (see Romans 7:20-25). But God sees us in our new nature, He sees us as His righteous, reconciled children, purified from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8).

Having a tough teen and viewing him with future eyes helped me to understand better how God can see me as righteous even though I still struggle with sin. God sees us in our new nature; He sees us as who we are in Christ. He works with us now where we are, but He sees us as who He knows we will be. Hallelujah!

