

## What Does the Lord Require of Us?

By Cindy Shaw

January is Sanctity of Life month with the Sunday before or after January 22 set aside as Sanctity of Life Sunday. In the past, I've participated in the pro-life march in Washington, DC, so I watched excerpts from pro-life marches in Washington, DC and San Francisco. On January 22, 2019, New York state enacted laws that expand abortion rights, and other states will follow suit. These events have compelled me to consider the Christians' responsibility as champions for the sanctity of human life.

For Christians, sanctity of life is not a political issue; it is a biblical mandate. Sanctity of life encompasses more than protecting unborn babies. What is sanctity of life? Focus on the Family defines it this way: "Human beings are created by God in His image. Therefore, every person, from conception to natural death, possesses inherent dignity and immeasurable worth—including preborn children, elderly individuals, those with special needs and others marginalized by society. Christians are called to defend, protect, and value all human life."

While our society equivocates on when human life begins, the Bible makes it clear, as we read in Psalm 139: 13-15: *"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth."* The truth that life begins at conception is backed by science. Pro-life advocates are often criticized for caring only about unborn children without any concern for the babies or their mothers after birth. But this



**Harish Sureshkumar and Richard Armstrong are members of Scout Troop 66 that meets here at Windsor Chapel. Pictured with Pastor Andy on Scout Sunday, February 17, they volunteered to serve as greeters and ushers.**

is not true. Today many faith-based pregnancy care centers provide services to women, men, and families, including counseling; ultrasounds and pregnancy testing; parenting and childbirth classes; resources, supplies and clothing; community education; and counseling for women who have had abortions.

Micah 6:8 states, *"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* Christians are involved in ministries and organizations that do justice and love kindness, including those that serve the homeless, at-risk youth, veterans, the elderly, immigrants, people with mental illness, those struggling with substance abuse, and human trafficking victims.

This past week, my Facebook news feed has been filled with photos from the February 9 Night to Shine event, where friends either volunteered or proudly posted pictures of their

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## “What Does the Lord...” continued...

children who were honored guests. Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, is a prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs ages fourteen and older. These guests begin the night by walking the red carpet, and at the end of the night, every guest is crowned king and queen of their prom. In 2019, over 200,000 volunteers in 650 churches around the world participated, with more than 100,000 young adults crowned as kings and queens. Volunteers served as fundraisers, buddies, greeters, paparazzi, food servers, seamstresses, and more. Locally, a Philly news reporter covering a prom marveled at the fact that this event was wholly managed by volunteers and no one was paid for running the event. Night to Shine serves as just one illustration of how Christians can come together to celebrate the sanctity of human life.

Proverbs 31:8-9, exhorts: *“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”* Cherishing the sanctity of life has nothing to do with party affiliations and everything to do with loving others, because Jesus Christ first loved us. It begins with praying for the light of the Gospel to transform the hearts and lives of those who participate in deeds of darkness. God has equipped us to do good works. Each of us can ask the Lord to reveal how we can do our part to celebrate and protect the precious gift of human life from the womb to the grave.

## Financial Update

(Through January 31, 2019)

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

|                | Actual   | Budget   |
|----------------|----------|----------|
| <b>Income</b>  | \$31,711 | \$23,750 |
| <b>Expense</b> | \$19,784 | \$23,750 |

Windsor Chapel has sent \$3,274 to our missionary partners this year. That's 10% of your giving!

## Online Giving Is Now Available

Everything we have is a gift from God, and we are called to be wise stewards of those gifts. Our new eGiving options make it easy to carry out the call and support Windsor Chapel's mission through sacrificial giving. eGiving enables you to set up one-time or automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history at your convenience. Visit [www.windsorchapel.org](http://www.windsorchapel.org), click on the Giving button, and follow the easy instructions.

### GivePlus Mobile App

If you would like to use your smartphone to make your recurring contributions, Windsor Chapel is excited to offer a simple way for you to support the church that is convenient for you by using the **GivePlus Mobile App**. Visit the App Store or Google Play and search for **“GivePlus Church”** to download the app and then type in “Windsor Chapel.”

For further information, contact Helen Cull ([bookkeeper@windsorchapel.org](mailto:bookkeeper@windsorchapel.org)) or the church office ([chapel@windsorchapel.org](mailto:chapel@windsorchapel.org)) with questions.

## Worship Team Gathering Saturday, March 9 6:30 PM

All are invited to join the Worship Team in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm, Saturday, March 9, for an hour of worship through song, followed by a pot-luck dessert!



## Chase Away the Winter Blues!

Join us at Windsor Chapel for a fun,  
adults only, game night.

**Saturday, March 16 at 7 PM**

Let's get together and have some fun playing

### *Dessert Bunco!*

**A fun game of chance with delicious dessert prizes.**

No skill or experience necessary.

If you know how to toss dice,

Add numbers to 21,

Recognize three of a kind,

Eat dessert,

And are willing to laugh a little,  
then you can play *Dessert Bunco!*

**It will be fun!  
Bring a friend or two!**

**RSVP to Lisa Yamamoto or Lorraine Brown if you plan to come and play.**

You will receive game instructions prior to game night.

**Bring a dozen cookies to share while we play.**

## **Windsor Chapel Women Save the Date!**

The Montgomery Evangelical Free Church in Belle Mead invites you to a women's mini retreat on Saturday, April 27.

*More details to come.*

## Harris Ministry Presidents Day Clothing Giveaway



We would like to thank Windsor Chapel for their generous donation of clothing, that was distributed to



many who were in need. May



God continue to richly bless you all,

Georgette  
Andrews



## *Hymn Sing Sunday*

On Sunday, March 24, Windsor Chapel will have a Hymn Sing Sunday, during which all the songs we sing as a congregation will be hymns! Many of us grew up in the faith singing hymns in church, and those hymns are part of our inheritance as believers. If you have a well-known favorite hymn you have been missing and would like us to consider, please jot it down on your chapel card on Sunday or let Don ([acdx1440@gmail.com](mailto:acdx1440@gmail.com)) or Ken ([ktbills@verizon.net](mailto:ktbills@verizon.net)) know by Sunday, March 10.

## Elder's Corner

By Ken Bills

Singing songs has always been an important part of the life of God's people. The first song recorded in the Bible is when Moses and the people of Israel sing a new song of praise after God delivers them from the Egyptians at the Red Sea. (Exodus 14:31) But not all of the songs are songs of praise. In Deuteronomy, Moses teaches the people a new song to remind them of what God has done for them, and to remind them not to wander from God. (Deuteronomy 31:30-44) The entire book of Psalms, of course, is a powerful collection of songs – songs of praise, lament, confession, encouragement, thanksgiving and instruction. We don't know what the songs of Israel sounded like, but at least the songs of celebration appear to have been enthusiastically sung: "And David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all their might, with song and lyres and harps and tambourines and cymbals and trumpets."

The singing of songs of faith continues in the New Testament. Jesus and his disciples sing a hymn at the Last Supper before going out to the Garden of Gethsemane. (Matthew 26:30) Paul and Silas sing hymns to God while imprisoned for the Gospel in Philippi. (Acts 16:25) James, the brother of Jesus, encourages "*Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.*" (James 5:13) And in the Book of Revelation, we see that heaven is filled with singing of "*new songs,*" as well as "*the song of Moses.*" (Revelation 14:2-3 and Revelation 15:3)

We aren't told what types of instruments, if any, were used by New Testament believers, or much about the types of songs. Paul tells the Colossians: "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and*

*hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*" (Colossians 3:16)

Oddly enough, while almost all translations of the Bible use the words "*psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,*" most commentators admit that we don't really know what Paul meant by those three types of songs or what the differences were. Perhaps "*psalms*" refers to the singing of Old Testament psalms. While this is apparently less clear in the Greek than it seems to us as English readers, certainly many of the songs we sing draw heavily from the Psalms. "*Hymns*" seems to refer to songs of praise lauding God, not necessarily what we think of as hymns (which had not been invented in the form we know them in New Testament times). "*Spiritual songs*" is interpreted by some as spontaneous singing in the Spirit, and by others as including any song of the faith, as opposed to secular songs.

At Windsor Chapel, we have a contemporary style of worship music that includes a blend of new worship songs, older contemporary songs and classic hymns. We try to use songs that are both theologically sound and musically singable; and that will soften our hearts, bless and engage our spirits and give glory to God. While we all have different tastes and preferences, no matter the type of song, we can all seek to sing, as Paul encouraged the Colossians, "*with thankfulness in [our] hearts to God!*"

Finally, as described elsewhere in this issue of the Chapel Challenge, on March 24, we will be having a "**Hymn Sing Sunday,**" where we will be singing only hymns for a Sunday. And if you find the long slog toward spring in the month of March is getting you down, you are most welcome to join the Worship Team at Windsor Chapel at 6:30 pm, on Saturday, March 9, for an hour of singing praise to our God, followed by a potluck dessert!

## Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in  
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

### Shelter in the Storm

We have a small garden area in our back yard. On a particularly cold day several weeks ago, we noticed a flock of mourning doves huddled in the dead leaves underneath the miniature Japanese maple tree in the garden. It was a bit of a comical sight as they looked like small hens ready to lay their eggs, but I felt sorry for their plight. Before long, though, the temperatures warmed up, and these birds returned to their usual spot under the bird feeders where they glean the leftover seed spilled by the smaller birds using the feeders.

The images of those birds have stayed with me, and I am coming to realize that my memories of that day have given me a window through which to see my self-centeredness and God's goodness. Had I paid any attention at all to those leaves, I would have sighed and added "raking and leaf gathering" to my ever-growing mental list of things to do. I saw those leaves simply as another task to maintain our property. But God's ways are not my ways. He included the loss of leaves in His plan of seasonal change not simply to renew the earth and not merely as an illustration of death and resurrection. Those leaves were His provision for the birds needing shelter from the cold. To be sure, they were still cold, but their Creator provided a measure of comfort for them even in the midst of the cold.

The Old Testament offers multiple passages that reassure us that the Lord is our shelter. We are fallen people in a fallen world. We must weather the seasons and storms of a sin-infected life. We cannot escape them as long

as we are on this side of the kingdom of heaven. But we can also find rest and comfort under the shelter of His wings. This is particularly difficult for me. I struggle with anxiety, and I do not rest well during the storms of life. But reminders of the Lord's goodness, protection, and provision such as those mourning doves help me to take small steps toward a deeper faith in our Lord. As we walk toward the Celestial City, may we have eyes of faith to see more and more of His goodness and offer continual praise for His provision along the way.

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

## Breast Cancer Awareness Event

The women's ministry at Montgomery Evangelical Free Church has invited our women to attend a Breast Cancer Awareness Event. The statistic is staggering: One in eight women are diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetimes. Come learn about recommendations for breast health and screenings from Penn Medicine Princeton Health. Also hear from two of our own women who are on this journey with breast cancer and how their faith helps them. This event is open to the community, so invite your neighbors and friends to attend Saturday, March 9, 10 am – 12:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

If you're interested, please register at the MEFC website: [www.mefc.org](http://www.mefc.org). Go to Coming Up/Events/Breast Cancer awareness, and click the button to register. For information, please call 908-874-4634.

## Identity and Humility

By Janet Berrill

Recently Pastor Andy gave a sermon on ridicule. The Jews, under the direction of Nehemiah, set out to rebuild the wall surrounding Jerusalem and people from the area, two in particular, began to ridicule them for their efforts. All of us at one time or another have faced ridicule, most of us were likely ridiculed in some way as a child and some of us have had to deal with it as adults. Whether we face it today or not, our actions are often driven by the fear of ridicule, i.e., we avoid doing things that might cause someone to ridicule us.

This was not the case for Jesus. Jesus faced cruel ridicule from the soldiers who were in charge of Him after He was arrested. They dressed Him in a robe, put a crown of thorns on His head, put a staff in His hand and knelt in front of Him and mocked Him. Then they spit on Him and took the staff from His hand and repeatedly hit Him on the head with it (Matthew 27:27-31). And while all this was being done, Jesus said nothing.

How did He stand the injustice of the ridicule He faced? He is King of kings and Lord of lords! He had every right to stand up for Himself and defend who He was. But He didn't. Hebrews says that Jesus was tempted in every way that we are and did not sin (Hebrews 4:15). So how can we respond to ridicule without sinning?

I think it all comes down to a matter of identity and humility – knowing for sure who we are and not having to prove it to others. Jesus knew for sure that He was the Father's son and that He had been given everything. John 13:3 says, "*Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that He had come from God and was returning to God.*" Jesus was sure of His identity as the son of the Father, and He knew for sure that He would be returning to the Father. His identity was not based on what others thought of Him; it was solely based on His relationship with His Father. And He did not need to prove that to anyone; He did not need anyone else's validation. There was no pride to prove who He was that drove Him to retaliate against the words being hurled at Him. His humility

enabled Him to silently take the ridicule from those who were far less than He is.

Jesus is God and we are not, but through the power of the Holy Spirit we have the ability to respond as He did. We, too, can be sure of our identity in Christ as a child of God so when someone ridicules us, we can remind ourselves of the truth of who we are. We are a son or daughter of the Most High God! That is the truth, not whatever the person ridiculing us is saying.

What about the humility part? Our natural reaction is to defend ourselves. I think one of the most valuable pieces of advice I ever got was when someone told me that how someone responds to me says nothing about me and everything about them. This has helped me be a lot more humble when someone speaks unkindly to me. Why do people ridicule others? Usually it's because they feel insecure themselves (although they would never admit that), and they make themselves feel better by putting others down. Once I understood that, I processed unkind comments differently. Rather than focusing on the words they said, I could look past the words and see their unkind comments as coming from a place of brokenness. With this view, I do not feel the need to defend myself against their words for their words are only revealing a hurt person. Interestingly enough, I have felt compassion for people who have spoken unkindly to me.

Sadly, ridicule is a part of life, but we can face ridicule without it tearing us down by remembering our true identity in Christ and remaining humble by realizing where the hurtful words are coming from.

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

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