

Happy New Year – One Day at a Time

By Janice Straubel

Life can feel overwhelming. Responsibilities, strong emotions and ruminating thoughts can cause anxiety and depression. Winter has always been a struggle for me. Shorter days, less sunshine and less outside time. One of my winter coping skills is doing jigsaw puzzles. For some reason, this rather “boring” activity brings me peace and a sense of accomplishment. I have even learned some powerful lessons from this sedentary activity.

1. One piece at a time: Most of my puzzles have at least 500 pieces. There is no way to rush the process of fitting together all these pieces. I am happily forced to focus on one piece at a time.

2. Slow down and enjoy the process: Even though the ultimate goal is the completion of the puzzle, the pleasure is found in the process. Each little connection of pieces brings delight. There is no hurry to finish. No need to be the fastest or best. Just be in the moment.

3. Sometimes the pieces don't fit: Occasionally, no two pieces match. I try different tactics – other areas of the puzzle, finding a specific color or shape, and still NOTHING. That's when it's time to walk away from the puzzle and do something else (laundry, walk the dog, make dinner etc.). When I return to the puzzle later, I have a different perspective and usually can fit several pieces together.

Continued on page 2...

Christmas Celebration





“Happy New Year...” continued...

The Bible is full of examples of doing life “one day (or one piece) at a time.” God Himself took six days to create the world when He could have easily done it in one. And after six days of creating, He rested. I love God’s example of working one day at a time and then resting. When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God provided manna each morning. His people learned to live one day at a time depending on His provision. Lamentations 3:22, 23 say that God’s mercies are new every morning, Great is His faithfulness. Psalm 118:24 tells us that, *“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.”* Psalm 90:12 asks God, *“teach us to number our days that we may acquire a heart of wisdom.”* Matthew 6:34 says, *“Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”*

My hope and prayer for this coming year 2020 is to savor each day as God’s gift. Some days will be difficult and overwhelming, but God is our Rock and Defense. He knows our frame and our weaknesses. He knows we get weary and stressed and overwhelmed. He loves us enough to break time into doable pieces with sleep in between. He doesn’t expect us to be the fastest, or loudest, or most successful. He desires us to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with Him— one day at a time.

Financial Update

(Through November 2019)

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

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$248,181	\$261,250
Expense	\$254,486	\$261,250

Windsor Chapel has sent \$36,012 to our missionary partners this year. That’s 15% of your giving!

Elder’s Corner

By Pastor Andy Straubel

The Journey into 2020

Christianity was first called "the Way." It is not surprising, then, that the Bible instructs believers to "walk" a certain way. Even today we hear others ask us about "our journey." Walking the journey means to live as disciples of Jesus, following Him on "the Way" that leads to abundant and eternal life. As Christians we are told to walk in love. Walk in wisdom. Walk in the light. Walk in the Spirit. Walk in the law of the Lord. Walk in the way of the Lord. Walk in the fear of the Lord. Walk in the peace of the Lord. Walk honestly, forthrightly, courageously, worthily and humbly.

The Apostle Peter challenges believers to walk “in His steps” (1 Peter 2:21). The Apostle Paul said to the Colossian believers, *“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving”* (Colossians 2:6, 7). To me that implies a number of things.

First, walking implies effort. The Christian life is not static. Second, it implies progress. That means putting one foot in front of the other. While we can walk in place, most walking involves moving forward, making steady progress, as we go from one destination to another. Spiritual maturity only happens as we keep growing. To stand still is to become lethargic and sluggish in the Christian life.

The great privilege of the Christian life is to be able to walk together with others. As we enter 2020, let us journey together with purpose. Let us make it our aim to be rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith and abound in it with thanksgiving.

Restoring the Hearts Ministries

You're invited to join members of our chapel family and participate with Restoring the Hearts Ministries on Saturday, January 11, from 8:45 am - noon.

We will meet at 30 Iowana Avenue, in Ewing, and drive to Trenton to offer food, hot drinks, sleeping bags, clothing, the Gospel, and prayer. Contact Steven Bassett at 609-346-1127 for further information.

WinterBlast Weekend

All Jr. and Sr. High students are invited to sign-up for the WinterBlast weekend retreat at Camp Orchard Hill for inspiring worship, games, sports, and fellowship. It will be held January 17 – 19. The cost is \$155.

A sign-up sheet is on the table in the chapel foyer, and registration forms are on the youth bulletin board in the hallway. Invite your friends. Please let Pastor Andy know immediately if you're interested.

Perisseia

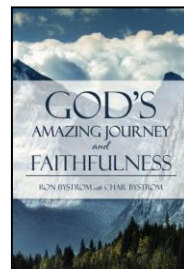
All women are welcome to join us as Perisseia begins an eight-week series on Thursday, January 23, 7:00-8:30, in the Chapel House. We will be looking at the biblical concept of redemption and discussing how we can encourage our hearts and minds to embrace this aspect of God's character and apply it to our lives. No commitment or preparation is necessary. For more information, please contact Cindy Bills (cynthialbills@gmail.com; 609-275-8557).

"God's Amazing Journey and Faithfulness"



Ron and Char Bystrom

"God's Amazing Journey and Faithfulness" is the title of the book we have just completed! Nearly ten years ago, as I (Ron) was having my daily time with the Lord, I read Psalm 145:4 which says, *"One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts."* I was struck almost immediately by the thought that I needed to declare to our grandkids all the mighty, funny, unexpected, and amazing ways that God has led us. Interestingly, one of Char's life verses is from Psalm 71:18: *"And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all who are to come."* Due to our busy ministry responsibilities and schedule, it has taken this long to complete. But now it is done. YAY GOD!!! The book consists of forty chapters of stories of our amazing journey, with a final chapter of thoughts from the heart.



We hope you will be intrigued, shocked, laugh, be anxious and say, "NO Way!" as you read the imaginative circumstances that came our way as we walked with our Lord. If you get a copy, we pray you will be encouraged to continue to follow Jesus with boldness and embrace a life filled with the expectation of God's faithfulness! Please pray God will use it in not only the lives our grandkids, but in the lives of many others, for His purposes.

The book is available at Xulon Press, and for pre-order at Barnes and Noble, soon at Amazon. Copies are available now directly from the Bystroms for a 10% discount plus shipping. See Xulon Press for pricing. Contact charbystrom@gmail.com with request.

Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

Time and the New Year

January 2020! A new year. Again. A new year inevitably raises the question of what we will do with this new year that the Lord has given us. The tradition of New Year's Resolutions reflects this attitude for Christians and non-Christians alike. Truly, time is a gift.

As usual, though, I am reluctant to embrace the New Year's Resolution routine, and to be honest, I am not fond of To-Do lists of any kind. That said, time remains a gift, and the question of what we do with the time the Lord has given us remains.

I would suggest that a wonderful way to begin this new year is to focus on the One who is the Beginning and the End. Our eternal Lord, who reigns over all and is not bound by time, has given us days, seasons, and years in a rhythm that sustains us, refreshes us, and propels us forward. Our God is the God of new as well as old. He is also the Lord of *renewal*. As we come out of the busy and tiring holiday season and waken to chilly mornings, usually cloudy skies, and a new year, we need the renewal in this new year that only the Lord can give.

Please consider with me the following passages:

Lamentations 3:22-23—*The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.*

Psalms 51:10—*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

Isaiah 40:31—*Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings*

like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

Isaiah 43:19—*Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.*

Colossians 3:5-11—*Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.*

Psalms 33:3—*Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.*

Jeremiah 31:31—*Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah."*

Isaiah 65:17—*For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things will not be remembered or come to mind.*

Ezekiel 11:19—*And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh.*

Luke 22:20—*And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."*

Continued on page 5...



“Further Up and Further In,” continued...

II Corinthians 5:17—*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

II Corinthians 3:4-5—*Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

Colossians 3:10—*and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.*

Hebrews 9:15—*For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.*

Romans 6:40—*Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

II Peter 3:13—*But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.*

Revelation 21:1—*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.*

Revelation 21:5—*And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”*

First and foremost, our Lord is the Lord of all, and it is He who makes all things new. As we walk (or run) into this new year, may we remember that it is the Lord who bestows upon us His mercies day by day. It is He who cleanses, refreshes, and renews

our hearts, transforming our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh as we turn away from our sin. All praise to our God! Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ initiated His new covenant with us by the shedding of His blood, so that in Him we are new, renewed, conformed to Him, and equipped to be His servants. And as we walk in newness of life in Christ, may we walk in faith and in the confidence that the Lord is making us new even as He will make all things new.

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

2019 Congregational Meetings

Budget Information Meeting

Please attend the Budget Information Meeting on Sunday, January 12, during the 11th Hour to hear about the Chapel’s finances and the proposed budget for 2019. This will be the time to ask questions in preparation for the vote on the budget at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting

Join us on Sunday, January 26, during the eleventh hour, to hear and celebrate in retrospect the events and activities of 2018, and to vote on the 2019 budget and leaders. Since a quorum of 50% of members is required, please plan to attend.

“There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.”

— C.S. Lewis

Jesus Reveals God

By Janet Berrill

I volunteer to teach at a Japanese ESL (English as a Second Language) class that meets at Windsor Chapel on Friday mornings. Pastor Nobu, the pastor of the Japanese church that meets at Windsor Chapel, has coordinated this class for over 25 years, although they have not always met at Windsor Chapel. This is my third year working with the wives of Japanese businessmen who come to the United States with their families for a two to three year assignment. Fortunately, speaking Japanese is not a requirement to teach for I do not speak, nor can I understand, any Japanese at all.

One of the drawbacks of working with these women is that I get to know them, and they become friends and then they have to leave. They are all here because their husbands are on temporary assignments, so the time eventually comes when they either go back to Japan or are sent to another country. There is a consistent rotation of people leaving and new ones coming.

In December we said good-bye to a woman in my class who was moving to London in early January. At our annual Christmas luncheon, she was given an opportunity to say a few words. I must point out that I am the only one there who does not know Japanese. The other ESL teachers are Americans who speak at least some Japanese. So when the women are not in class, everyone speaks Japanese unless I am part of the conversation. At the luncheon when the woman leaving said a few words, she did so in Japanese. At one point when she was talking, she said my name and looked directly at me. She spoke for a minute or two looking at me. I knew she was talking about me, but I had absolutely no idea what she was saying. One of the other teachers

came up beside me and told me she was talking about how she appreciated me being her teacher.

I wish she had spoken in English for I wanted to know what she said; on my own I was unable to understand. I needed someone to translate what she said in order to receive her message. Just like there is a divide between people who speak Japanese and those who speak English, there is an even greater divide between God and humans. God is so much bigger, greater, and at an entirely different level than we are. Yet He wants us to know Him. How does such a boundless God communicate who He is to the people He created? The best way to do this was to become one of us so we could relate to Him. John 1:18 says, "*No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side (i.e. Jesus), he has made Him known.*" The NASB translates the end of the verse saying, "*He has explained Him.*"

Jesus came to live on this earth fully God and fully man so we could know what God is like. In John 14:9 Jesus says, "*Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.*" And in John 10:30 He says, "*I and the Father are one.*" Jesus is God in a form we can understand. In a sense, He is a living translation; He explains God so we can know and understand Him; He makes God known to us. Just like I needed a translator to understand what the woman was saying in Japanese, Jesus is God's translator so we can know God.

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

Susan Seiboth at

susan@quiltingsquare.com

Dorothy Soi at

dsoi@windsorchapel.org

Chapel Office (609) 799-2559

www.windsorchapel.org