

Renewed Perspective

By Janice Straubel

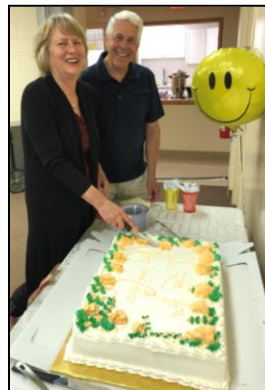
Ed Young's book *Seven Blind Mice* is short, but powerful. In this children's book, seven blind mice investigate the "strange something" in the pond. Each mouse explores one section of the something and comes back to report to the others what it is. Red mouse thinks it is a pillar. Green mouse says a snake. Yellow mouse is convinced it's a spear. Purple mouse argues, "It's a great cliff." Orange mouse retorts, "It's a fan! Blue mouse declares it a rope. These six mice all begin to argue. "A snake!" "A rope!" "A fan!" "A cliff!" Finally, the seventh mouse, a white mouse, visits the "something." She runs up one side and down the other, totally exploring this mystery. She triumphantly announces that all of them were correct in their opinion of their part but hadn't seen the whole. The six other mice then run all over the "something" just like white mouse did and "they saw too." This special something was an elephant!

Just like the mice, each of us has a unique perspective formed from our background, family situation, education, personality and so much more. We are often convinced that we are right based on our evaluation of a situation. We argue with other "mice" that they are wrong, and we are right! The white mouse is the hero in this marvelous tale because he doesn't join the argument but has the other mice experience what he experienced by running all over the "something." Once they "see" for themselves the bigger picture, they come to full agreement. "Yes! It's an elephant!"

Can you think of examples of people with different perspectives in the Bible? How about Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? They give four different views of the life of Christ based on many personal factors. How about the Pharisee and the publican? The Pharisee's perspective was one of self-righteousness – pride in how well he was obeying God. The publican couldn't even lift his eyes to heaven, but cried, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Jesus praised the attitude of the publican who saw

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Ron And Char We Will Miss you!



“Renewed Perspective,” continued...

his need for God to rescue him.

My favorite example of different perspectives is shown in Isaiah 55:9 where God says, *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* Can we trust that God knows what is going on, and He really does love us even when our lives seem messy and chaotic? God sees the total picture; we see a tiny piece. How do we even hope to gain God’s perspective?

It starts with acknowledging that God is God and we are not. It is He who created us and not we ourselves. God Himself became a human which totally allowed Him to see from our perspective. Now through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit in salvation, we become new creations. God’s perspective becomes our perspective as we spend quiet times with Him saturating ourselves in His Word and His presence. Halleluiah, it’s not our attempts at righteousness, but through His mercy that He saves us. The more we listen to God, the more we gain His perspective. I’m convinced we talk way too much and listen way too little. Instead of telling God what I want Him to do, I’m challenged lately to just sit and listen and be still before Almighty God. Then He can change me from the inside out.

I’m also challenged lately to try to comprehend others’ perspectives. Do I listen to learn or simply listen impatiently until I get to say what I want? Do I really care enough to see through the eyes of another and not just express my own opinions and arguments? Listening to each other is a huge way to show love and understand another’s point of view. This works for spouses, children, friends, neighbors and, believe it or not, church family! Windsor Chapel is blessed to have fascinating people within our fellowship. Each one has a different story and a different heartache. From the eldest among us, to the littlest in the nursery, each person is unique and precious.

What is Jesus’ perspective? What did He consider most important for us? Matthew 22:37- 39 says, *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a*

second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Love God. Love Others.

May we have the mind of Christ.

Elder’s Corner

By Pastor Andy Straubel

Leadership Challenge

Leaders are made not born, or so it has been said! This is especially true for the church. Soon after its inception in Acts 2, leaders were needed to step up (Acts 6) to meet the growing needs in the church and to assist the Apostles. People, both men and woman, committed their lives to Jesus, then grew in their faith, learned to serve one another, and then took on leadership roles in the Church. We see that pattern in Acts 6, Acts 13, Ephesians 4, 1 Timothy 3, and Titus 1. The qualifications for leadership listed in 1 Timothy 3 had little to do with a person’s ability; rather, it had to do a person’s character.

Windsor Chapel is looking for principled men and woman to serve in Jesus’ church. Leadership roles include small groups, ministry teams, teachers, deacons (servants), and elders. As I say so often, there are no superstars in God’s family, just regular people working together. It is a team effort. And, we are only as effective as we are able to communicate, get along, and work together. 2 Corinthians 8:12 speaks of a “readiness” to use one’s gift or abilities and that we are only responsible for what God has given to us.

Are you “ready?” Are you willing? The needs are great, will you “step up?”

Bystrom's Appreciation Reception



Summer Picnic



You're invited to a fun-filled summer picnic which will be held at 3:00 pm, on

July 28, at the Straubels' home, located at 691 Hughes Drive, in Hamilton. Bring a lawn chair and a bathing suit and towel if you wish to use the pool.

The Fellowship Team will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, watermelons and beverages. Please bring a side dish or salad and/or a dessert to share.



The pool will be open, and the fellowship will be great!

Summer 11th Hour Workshops

Join us this summer for Special 11th Hour studies.
They include:

July 28 – Discovery Bible Study

Discovery Bible Study, or DBS, is a study method that relies on the Bible itself, rather than the leader, to do the heavy lifting of discipleship. On the surface, DBS is simply reading a Bible passage and responding with a series of questions. Going deeper, DBS is a blueprint for house churches, teaching people to apply and share what they learn from the Bible. In this workshop, you learn the basics. A suggested outline of twenty-six of the most prominent passages will be distributed with a few Do's and Don'ts.

August 25 – Roman Catholicism

The Roman Catholic Church is the largest Christian religion in the world. This study will examine its roots and summarize its history. Attention will be given to the authority of the church, the place of tradition, prayer to the saints, purgatory, confession, and the role of Mary. We will also attempt to chart when and how distinctive practices entered the church and how those practices have redefined the church both in America and around the world.



Windsor Chapel will be hosting a Kids' 5-Day Club again in partnership with CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) on July 15 - 19, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm, for

children ages 5 - 12. The evening will include Bible stories, games, music, snacks and outdoor play. 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 on Sunday.

JAM

By Kevin Simme



On May 31 - June 2, the Windsor Chapel team of students (Ella, Marissa, Hannah, Jonathan and Nathaniel) and leaders (Yvonne Hurd and Kevin Simme) attended the 25th

annual JAM weekend. After arriving late on Friday afternoon, the team spent most of the evening training how to share their faith in simple ways.



The training continued on Saturday morning as over one hundred fifty

junior high students and counselors awaited the arrival of about two hundred elementary-age

children for an amazing day of fun activities and new relationships. As the Kids Day event was wrapping up, the JAM students sat with their



buddies to share the Good News of Jesus. It was an amazing blessing to see so many children praying with their older friends!

Financial Update

(Through April 30, 2019)

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..."

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$119,672	\$118,750
Expense	\$114,881	\$118,750

Windsor Chapel has sent \$16,369 to our missionary partners this year. That's 14% of your giving!

Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

The Law of Love, Part 1 Matthew 22:34-40:

But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." "This is the great and foremost commandment. "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Although this Gospel passage is very familiar, it has always intrigued me. The Pharisees are challenging and testing Jesus, looking to discredit Him. Jesus' answer to the lawyer's question about the Law is fully consistent with the Old Testament, but I find the irony of it to be stunning—the rule-bound Pharisees are confronted by the heart of God, who uses law not as an end or the means to self-righteousness but as the means to His ends: love and relationship.

Jesus teaches that loving the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind is the greatest commandment. Since God is a spirit, it is not always easy to know what this looks like, how to do it. I believe that there are several components to loving the Lord. King David modeled a pursuit of God that, while imperfect, nonetheless enabled him to become a man after God's own heart. It is also important to remember that love is fundamentally a God thing. God is love. Love is a fruit of His Spirit as He works in us. Our ability to love God is dependent on the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

Our ability to love God is also linked to our ability to love others, our neighbors. It is only as we pursue God and experience His life in us that we can truly love others. We often try to separate the two or emphasize one over the other. But loving God

and loving others are intimately interconnected. As we sink more deeply into the Lord's presence and allow Him to transform us, we participate in His nature and become able to love others. And as we actively engage in loving others, our primary relationship with the Lord is strengthened and stretched.

In some sense at least, loving others is more tangible than loving God. And as we seek to love others, we find that our failures in this arena expose our weaknesses and areas of brokenness in our primary relationship with the Lord. Although we may try to minimize or deny the exposure, it is God's provision to help us repent and grow toward Him. If we find that we are looking at others with disdain, use their weakness to feel better about ourselves, struggle with impatience toward them, impose our expectations on them, or forget that they are image bearers of God's eternal glory, we are in need of God's work of sanctification within us. If we excuse our lack of love by blaming the other party or our personality, nature, or circumstances, we will miss the opportunity to meet the Lord in a powerfully healing way.

But if we embrace the exposure of our lack of love as God's invitation to draw near to Him and open ourselves to the work of His Spirit, we free the Lord to do His work in us. As we come to recognize our pride and self-centeredness, we can allow our failures to love to drive us back to our Lord and Redeemer. We draw closer to our Lord, Savior, and Redeemer, and as we do so, we find that we are able to love more truly and more joyfully.

Our text makes another association with loving our neighbor: we are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. This raises all kinds of questions, challenges, and difficulties as loving ourselves becomes incorporated into loving God and others. Please stay tuned for this aspect of loving God! Meanwhile, please consider that loving God and loving others is more than an expression of Old Testament Law and Gospel history. Loving God and loving others is at the very heart of who we are and who we are becoming in Christ and an integral part of our life in Him.

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

Alive and Flexible

By Janet Berrill

Recently I was driving to pick someone up at Newark airport and ran into traffic on the exit ramp of the NJ turnpike. Traffic had come to a dead stand still. I put the car in park and waited for 10 to 15 minutes before the cars in front of me began to move and I was able to slowly creep forward toward my destination.

While I was waiting, I took the opportunity to take in my surroundings. The scenery along the turnpike is not particularly noteworthy, but I did see something that interested me. In the



distance, I saw a large dead tree. The bare branches could be seen over a clump of trees in the foreground. It was a very windy day and the

branches of the trees in the foreground swayed back and forth as the wind blew, but the branches of the dead tree behind them remained unmoved. No matter how hard the wind blew or for how long, the branches of the dead tree remained in the same position while the trees in front bent to and fro with the wind.

Many of the pharisees in Jesus' time were learned men who knew the scriptures and thought they knew it all. They had their minds made up about what the Messiah would look like. They were so sure of their beliefs that when the Messiah did show up and He did not look like what they thought He would, they rejected Him. They were like the dead tree I saw by the road, rigid and unmoving, impervious to the work of the Holy Spirit,

determined to remain firm in their belief rather than be willing to consider something different. They were dead in the sense that they were incapable of growing spiritually.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul says in chapter 2 verse 12, "*continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.*" Paul is referring to the process we call sanctification, that is the process where, after receiving Christ as our Savior, we are led by the Spirit to change our worldly ways to godly ways. No matter how long a person is a Christian, there will always be room for spiritual growth. As we read the Bible, attend church, pray, listen to other believers, etc., God teaches us and changes us. In order to do that, we need to remain flexible.

Please do not misunderstand me. Just as a tree that sways in the wind is firmly rooted in the ground, there are certain foundational beliefs that are non-negotiable and we should never compromise on these. But we should not hold on so tightly to our other beliefs that we are unwilling to change our thinking when the Holy Spirit leads us to something new and different. This is how we grow, how we become more like Jesus; He shows us new truths and we respond by incorporating them into our lives. If we remain so fixed in our thinking that we are unmovable and do not respond to the wind of the Holy Spirit, our spiritual life will be like the dead tree – it is there, but it will never grow.

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

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