

## Sparrows

Pastor Andrew Straubel

Some weeks ago two sparrows took up residence in a large potted plant on my back deck. It was somewhat alarming; as I separated the leaves of the spider plant, I discovered a nest with four beautiful eggs laying in perfect formation. As you might imagine, the eggs became a family obsession. We soon began “checking in” on the “squatters” and considered them part of the family. I also began to read up on sparrows and discovered a number of interesting things.



According to Wikipedia, sparrows are among the smallest but most active of birds. They feed on the ground but nest in the trees. They are a social and gregarious bird and have been known to figure out how to open automatic doors like those found at the grocery store. They form flocks, enjoy bathing, and love to sing. They are also monogamous and mate for life. Sparrows can be found almost anywhere in the world and are most closely associated with human settlements. In other words, they like people (or perhaps their leftovers).

In the world, however, sparrows are not worth much, as mentioned in the Bible. In Matthew 10:29-31 it says, “*Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your father’s will.*” A similar statement is made in Luke 12:6-7, “*Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies (1/16 of a denarii or less than .25)? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.*” It is interesting that God uses a small and seemingly insignificant bird to reveal His great love and concern for His children. Luke 12:7 makes the point, “*Fear not you are of more value than many sparrows.*” In Matthew 6:26, we are charged to “*look at the*”

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## Kids 5-Day Club



## “Sparrows,” continued...

*birds of the air, they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”*

These days of uncertainty may be causing a great deal of anxiety and fear. What does the future hold? How long is this all going to last? Will I be able to pay my bills, finish school, or stay healthy? Some might be tempted to ask, “Does God even care?” The answer is, “YES!” If God concerns Himself with the tiny sparrow, how much more does He concern Himself with believers. God knows about all our needs (Matthew 6:32). If there is ever a message we need to hear, it is this: Give your worries and anxious thoughts to Jesus and rest in His faithfulness. He knows, He cares, and He will provide!

In 1905, Civilla Martin and her husband went to visit some friends, Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle. Mrs. Doolittle had been confined to a wheelchair for over twenty years. Civilla asked her friend how she could be so cheerful given her condition. “If God has his eyes on the sparrow, then I know He watches over me.” On the way home Civilla wrote a poem which latter was put to music by Charles Gabriel, a songwriter. The result is the beloved hymn, “His Eye Is on the Sparrow.” Birds don’t fret about the world, neither should we!

## Happy Birthday!

Blessings to all who celebrate a birthday this month. May you feel the love, joy and presence of the Lord as we all celebrate your special day with prayers and warmest wishes. 

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Susan Boote      | August 1  |
| Anita Gilanyi    | August 2  |
| Juanita Cherry   | August 8  |
| Barbara MacQueen | August 11 |
| Kenneth Bills    | August 13 |
| Andrew Straubel  | August 20 |
| Joseph Herrity   | August 29 |

## A Sound Investment

By George Hill

It was a Saturday morning. Church was to re-start the next morning. The sound system was turned on, and the mixing board didn’t power up. Another attempt had the same result. It became apparent that something was wrong. The twelve-year-old sound board was dead. It had been showing some signs of age, but now it had gone the way of all things of this world. It was like losing an old friend.

What is the next step? Should it be repaired or should it be replaced? It was a tough decision. Repairing it would be cheaper, and it would still be twelve-years-old. Who knew what would break next? Should we stay with the analog friend we know well or take the plunge into the digital world? Ultimately, the decision was made to replace old reliable with something new.



Windsor Chapel is now the owner of a new 32 channel Presonus Studiolive III 32S sound board. It has lots of bright lights. It is roughly half the size of its predecessor and does more than the old board and all its outboard equipment. It allows us to record each instrument to a SD card. It is even possible to control the board from an IPAD.

Right now there is a lot to learn about our new board and a lot of new tricks to learn. Eventually, it will get to be an old familiar friend just like its predecessor.

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## Worship Team News

By Don Ober



The worship team at Windsor Chapel is pleased to present our first monthly news update, which we hope will be a monthly part of the Chapel Challenge. This month we want to start out by introducing our mission goals and plans we have going forward. Obviously, our number one goal is to make a joyous noise unto the Lord, but we also desire to make the praise experience at Windsor Chapel uplifting and fulfilling to the congregation as a whole.

To assist in that goal, in the next few months, we plan on focusing each month on one specific song. Each month one or more members of the team will share what worshiping through music means to them, focusing on a song that has special significance to them. This will also allow us to give you an inside track on any new songs the team plans on adding to our repertoire.

This month, please allow us to explain how songs are chosen. While it may seem that we just pick any song that is a current hit on the contemporary praise and worship radio stations, that is anything but the truth. Many decisions go into the songs we choose to introduce. A new song has to be able to be sung by people with a wide array of musical ability, but it's lyrics also have to meet our standards of theology, while allowing some poetic license. Hopefully, you will find that every song we introduce to the congregation exults the Lord and leads us all into a deeper worship. We carefully scrutinize the lyrics for proper teachings before ever bringing it before the congregation. It can actually be quite

difficult when we find a song that speaks powerfully of the Christian walk but is lyrically questionable, or too personal to be used for "corporate worship."

Sometimes such decisions can be agonizing. We judge each and every song on its merits alone for that song and try not to allow or disallow any song simply because of who the artist or writer is. At times, this has led to some very thought-provoking theological discussions between team members and, I believe, we have all grown spiritually from these discussions. *Iron sharpens iron* (Proverbs 27:17).

In short, if the lyrics glorify God, are deemed theologically correct, and meet the musical needs, then and only then, can we get to the next step and that is, "Can the band pull it off?" I may be biased here, but I can say for myself, I have such faith in these fine dedicated musicians that I truly believe we can do anything we set our mind to with God's help. If you have songs to suggest, these guidelines may assist you in recommending songs to the team.

Inside News: During the Covid-19 stay at home period, the worship team created weekly music videos. There was still one song in process when our church began meeting Sunday mornings again. This is an original song the team recorded remotely called, "Called to the Cross." Once that last song is completed, we hope that the entire collection of videos can be made in its entirety in some mode at a later date.

Thank you so much for allowing us to use our love for music to help all of you worship our Lord more fully. Your support is a blessing to the entire team.

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***Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Psalm 95:1***

## Elders' Corner

By Ed MacQueen

August 1 marks the two-thirds point through summer (measured from Memorial Day to Labor Day). While probably the most unusual summer any of us has experienced, I hope you are finding ways to enjoy it. Having canceled our summer trip to the south, my family recently returned from an abbreviated vacation, a short camping trip in West Virginia. It was the first time we left the area in seven months! Praise God we had a blast and returned safely.

As I write, the church's 5-Day Club has just concluded. This year we had no choice but to hold it online. The sessions were live, though, and engaging and full of the Gospel as ever. Attendance wasn't what it has been in past years, but I think we would have faced that whether online or in-person. It's a drawback of outreach in the middle of a pandemic, but I thank God that Child Evangelism Fellowship was willing and able to put on the sessions nonetheless. Thank you for your prayers for the event.

With regards to physical health, this past month has been tough on multiple members of our body. Please stay strong in prayer to lift up their needs, asking for wisdom and insight for their doctors, and healing to their bodies. Remember that our God cares for each of us and hears our prayers.

As we enter the final third of summer, many of us have children or grandchildren preparing for the next school year. Families are faced with decisions whether to send their children or keep them home, and whatever path is chosen school will look different from before. Please ask God to guide these decisions in the next few weeks, bringing about what is best for the parents, children and grandchildren in our church.

In the midst of all of this, I encourage you to remember to look toward heaven, where Christ reigns at the right hand of the Father. Don't neglect to *set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.* (Colossians 3:2-4 and 2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

## Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in and among us*

By Cindy Bills



### Image Bearers of God

In the beginning, God created mankind—man and woman—in His image, with a significant purpose. This, in God's own words, was very good. A foundational truth of humanity is that humans are created for eternal glory and eternally glorious purposes. But all too soon, the glory is masked in sin. We read in Genesis that Satan, in the form of a serpent, initiates a conversation with the woman. The end result is that Eve is pulled into what I call The Garden Game. She makes a choice to do life herself, grasping the fruit that would make her like God and independent of Him.

As the man joins the woman, Adam and Eve experience fear and shame instead of the power and freedom they undoubtedly expect. And so it becomes more and more difficult to

**Continued on page 5...**

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

feel significant, created for glory. What follows in the stories of Genesis is what I call the Compare and Compete Game: Since it can be pretty difficult to feel good about ourselves as our sinful selves, we settle for comparing ourselves favorably to others. It begins when Adam blames Eve—and God Himself, who gave her to him—for his fatal choice in the Garden of Eden. The Compare and Compete Game continues with the stories of Cain and Able, Sarah and Hagar, Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, Leah and Rachel, Joseph and his brothers, and so on....And God’s glory continues to fade.

A few weeks ago, Pastor Andy preached a sermon from James and highlighted the conflicts that arise when believers compare and compete with one another. We grumble and complain, quarrel and covet as we pursue significance apart from God. And the phenomenon of feeling good about ourselves by comparing ourselves to others is front and center as our world deals with inequality and injustice at the hands of racial, gender, and socio-economic differences.

It is becoming more and more evident to me that I am highly skilled at playing the Compare and Compete game in particularly quiet and subtle ways. While I may not often quarrel and covet, I am very sorry to admit that it is all too easy for me to look at others from a critical perspective. This is not my intention or desire! I am committed to honoring and encouraging others as image-bearers of our Creator. But if I am not vigilant, it can be terrifyingly easy for my sin nature to poke and prod me, to twist and tweak my perspective so that the first thing I notice about someone is something that is on the negative side of the ledger.

As I have brought this before the Lord in confession and repentance, I have been met with an invitation to take responsibility for the way I view and subsequently interact with others. I am consciously and actively directing my eyes and heart toward the God qualities manifested in each person I encounter. I am learning, by persistent practice, to be quicker to notice good qualities and less quick to notice the not-so-good qualities. This is not to deny sin, and it does not preclude the setting of

appropriate boundaries on my part. But it is an exercise in honoring my Creator as I honor His creatures. It also honors the Lord’s desire for me, to find my identity, value, and significance in Him and not in my relative place among my peers, my reputation, or what others think of me.

Our Christian faith is founded on the truth that Jesus Christ died for our sins, to save us from the penalty and power of sin. And yet we continue to struggle with our sin nature as we wait for Christ’s coming and initiation of His eternal kingdom. As the body of Christ, we can learn from Christ as we study the Gospels. The Gospels are replete with accounts of Jesus looking beyond sin and the accoutrements of sin in order to touch hearts and lives with His truth and grace. It is not that sin did not and does not matter. To be sure, sin matters enough that Jesus died on the cross to earn our salvation from the its penalty and power. But Jesus has demonstrated for us in the Gospel accounts that the most effective way to confront sin is by relationship, and relationship is rarely built on a foundation of comparison or nurtured by a spirit of condemnation. As we affirm others as image-bearers of the God of the universe, we bring God into the sin picture as well, and this in turn brings confession and repentance out of the realm of our performance and into the realm of His truth and grace. He invites us to join Him in this exercise. It blesses others as we become more able to genuinely bless and encourage. And it blesses us as we partake in the nature of Christ, become more like Him, and are better able to participate in His kingdom’s work.

*Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557 or [cynthialbills@gmail.com](mailto:cynthialbills@gmail.com) to continue the dialogue...*

### Financial Update

(through June 30, 2020)

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

|                | Actual    | Budget    |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Income</b>  | \$109,127 | \$145,000 |
| <b>Expense</b> | \$130,885 | \$144,968 |

Windsor Chapel has sent \$19,643 to our missionary partners this year. That’s 18% of your giving!

## Restoring Hearts Ministries Update

By Steven Bassett

Take a look at the newest member of the RHM family, the ORV#2. This is RHM's second large outreach vehicle. She's a 30-foot beauty and a sweet addition to the growing fleet of outreach tools the Lord has blessed RHM with.



Additionally, RHM is now doing multiple daily outreaches within Trenton and Levittown, Pennsylvania. RHM is now doing emergency CODE-RED water outreach throughout Trenton. Several more days of ninety-degree-plus weather are on the horizon. RHM will be going out every day to distribute water bottles to the homeless, to the addicted, to the women trapped in prostitution and, if God leads, to the gangs.



Furthermore, RHM has been blessed with an amazing opportunity and any support would be great. Within the last few months, RHM has been directly ministering to the gang members in the city. They have gained serious ground with their outreaches into the surrounding neighborhoods and directly at some gang houses! This brought on an agreement to host a neighborhood barbecue directly in front of a major gang house on July 6.



RHM wishes to thank everyone from Windsor Chapel who reached out to support the neighborhood barbecue with burgers, hotdogs, buns, water, soda, and food handling gloves. Additionally, a big thank you for the two hundred surgical masks and bottled water from Windsor Chapel members to help support RHM's ongoing outreach efforts.

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

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