

## For This Season

By Janice Straubel

How are you managing these strange times? Have you learned or implemented any helpful strategies during this pandemic? Does it seem like this will never end? Ecclesiastes 3:1 states, *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.* The chapter continues with contrasts: to be born/to die, to plant/to pluck up, to kill/to heal, to break down/to build up, to weep/to laugh, to mourn/to dance, to cast away stones/to gather stones together, to embrace/to refrain from embracing, to seek/to lose, to keep/to cast away, to tear/to sew, to keep silence/to speak, to love/to hate, for war/ for peace. We could continue with our own contrasts: to meet together/to be apart, to celebrate/to contemplate, to work/to rest. Life is full of ups and downs, of highs and lows. But in all of this, God has made everything beautiful in its time. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

These past six months have slowed time down and provided space to think. Two strategies have helped our family plow through each day: first of all, having an attitude of gratitude. When the world seemed to close down back in March, our adult daughter was finishing a job in Seoul, and traveling with friends in Cambodia and Laos. Covid-19 was rapidly spreading throughout this region. Thankfully, Hannah was able to get a flight home before flights were completely cancelled. We rejoiced to have her safely home and the quarantine began. It was a time to celebrate! Within a week though, Hannah was seriously sick and had flu-like symptoms. We were terrified she had Covid-19 and got her tested. Even though the test was negative, her symptoms worsened and we prayed and asked others to pray. Slowly, she recovered, and we began a new normal of living through a pandemic together.

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## Hallelujah Boogie- Country Line Dancing with a Twist!



Many thanks to Kristin Westbrook for leading a fun line dancing lesson in the church parking lot, on a beautiful early autumn evening. Two line dances were taught using contemporary Christian music. Masks and social distancing were part of the class.



## “For This Season,” continued...

Hannah and I began our journey of living one day at a time.

Our attitude of gratitude included thankfulness for technology that allowed Andy and me to keep working from home. We were thankful to have FaceTime when we couldn't have in person time with our extended family. We were thankful to have food, even when grocery stores had many empty shelves. We were thankful for saving on gas, since we stayed home most of the time. We were thankful for beautiful weather and health to take daily walks. We were thankful for phone calls and text messages even when isolated. Practicing an attitude of gratitude brings peace and contentment even when times are uncertain.

The second survival strategy was lowering our expectations. We had so many exciting plans for 2020: a new grandbaby on the West Coast, summer travels, my mother's 90th birthday celebration, weddings and family get-togethers. The pandemic changed so much, and we had to let go of our high expectations and be content with plans B, C or D. Hannah had planned on a summer job in China, and a fall job in Munich, Germany. These plans were cancelled as schools around the world closed. It was so disappointing to let go of our plans, but what was the option? Everyone was experiencing similar frustrations. We learned to not plan too far ahead and to simply live one day/week at a time, and if we had food and clothes, to be content. We learned to lower our expectations of ourselves and of others. We had to give ourselves and others permission to be sad, scared and confused. If we didn't accomplish as much as we would have non-pandemic, it was okay. Tomorrow was another day. We learned to take one day at a time, because no one knows the future.

Strange times, but some good things have developed. Face to face fellowship is greatly appreciated, no need to rush. Our schedules are less hectic with more time to be still. Hopefully we have gained wisdom and stamina. Someday this pandemic WILL end. Hopefully, we will survive with integrity and grace with thankfulness.

## Elders' Corner

By Pastor Andy Straubel

For months I have been holding on to Galatians 6:9, *“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”* The season has changed, school has started (in some form or fashion), and most of us are concerned about what the future will look like. In times like this we need to remind ourselves of things that are certain, things that do not change. For me, Jesus never changes! He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His mission hasn't changed, either. Jesus said He would build his church and the gates of Hades would not prevail against it. That is a certainty!

Ken's recent letter to the church was a great summary of our attempts to come back together. The goal of leadership has been to create as many options as possible given the legal mandate and people's level of comfort. So far we have three options regarding worship: 1) **In Person** with precautions: masks, distancing, etc., and limiting the service to one hour; 2) **In Your Car**, a relatively new option. One can drive to church, tune in to 88.9 FM and hear the entire service live; and 3) **At Home**, watch the service live at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings. This live streaming option has been a long time coming and we are happy to offer it. Thanks go to the media team for persevering in this effort: Bob, George, Larry, Janet, Ken, and the worship team.

When you see one of our posts on FaceBook, YouTube, or Instagram, please remember to hit the “like” or “share” buttons. I continue to be amazed by who is tuning in—old friends in ministry, members who had moved away, millennials who are anxious, and one service member in Europe who was lonely and despondent. Also, our 11<sup>th</sup> Hour continues with our study in Luke, via Zoom. If interested, send your email address to [cynthialbills@gmail.com](mailto:cynthialbills@gmail.com).

Please continue to pray for the elders as we pray for you and may the grace of our Lord Jesus be with us all.

## Worship Team News

By Don Ober



This month's song feature is "Your Love Oh Lord" by the band Third Day, and Allan Ventura has agreed to share with us why this song holds such significance for him. Allan Ventura, in case you have not spoken to him or know him, is the Worship Team's drummer.

Alan told me he has wanted to play drums since he first saw a drum kit up close as a fifth grader in the Philippines. He is a self-taught drummer, but you would never know that by listening to him. He has been playing since 2003, and Windsor Chapel is his third Praise and Worship Team. He and his wife Rose have three wonderful children, two of whom play with the Worship Team at times. Here is his own story what "Your Love Oh Lord" means to him.

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### ***And I Will Lift My Voice to Worship You, My King***

By Allan Ventura

There's a short list of songs I enjoy that when I hear them on the radio, or on my playlist set to random, make me stop what I'm doing or thinking at the moment and just listen and meditate. I love to sing along if no one's around. One of them is "Your Love Oh Lord" by Third Day.

I was captivated by the rhythm, the arrangement, and the truth in the lyrics. Personally, it's in this order that I determine if I really like a song or just move on to the next. This song is based on Psalm 36, verses 5 and 6.

***"Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.  
Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;  
your judgments are like the great deep;  
man and beast you save, O Lord."***

The song starts out with the verse, with the instruments sounding soft, and the percussion providing a simple rhythm that continues into the chorus. The verse speaks to me the truth about God's love, faithfulness, righteousness, and justice. The chorus urges me in how I should respond to that: **to lift my voice and worship.**

The song consists of just a verse, and a chorus, and yet the dynamics throughout, make it sound like there's more to it than that. However, folks listening to the song are so caught up in the moment they may not realize that this is the case.

The song then continues with the verse and chorus played a second time but with all the instruments in and the bass taking over the rhythm from the percussion. To me, this repeat of the verse and chorus with amplification provides emphasis to the truth that the verse conveys and how the Spirit moves the listener to respond. It reminded me that scripturally, anything repeated, as in the angels declaring "Holy, holy, holy," and Jesus starting a statement with "Truly, truly," magnifies the very truth about a subject.

There's an instrumental interlude in the middle of the song that almost sounds old time Gospel-like. This to me is the part of the song that I personally consider a time to meditate about what the song is saying. Not just the words in the verse and chorus, but any related scripture that immediately comes to mind. This is my favorite part of the song because it builds to a crescendo towards playing the chorus twice—again, with emphasis. As I play the drums with gusto, it's no wonder I easily get caught up and lose myself in the moment. This is why I like how the song ends with the instruments pulled back as if to pay attention to what's next.

The song ends with the verse, just like how it started, as if to remind me what the artist was singing about: **the truth about God's love, faithfulness, righteousness, and justice.**

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### ***Hymn Sing Sunday***

Don't forget, the Worship Team is still taking requests for hymns you may want to sing and hear  
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## “Worship Team News,” continued...

for our upcoming Hymn Sing Sunday. If you have a request you may send them to me, Don Ober, at ACDXL440@gmail.com or send them to Ken Bills at Ktbills@verizon.net.

We are trying to plan ahead to do as many of your requests as we can. We may only use a verse and a chorus to some songs in order to do more songs (but shorter versions) and get as many in as we can in our allotted time.

## Live Streaming Our Worship Service

Windsor Chapel's worship service is now being live streamed on YouTube, which means you can enjoy watching the entire service as it happens from beginning to end. If you subscribe to Windsor Chapel's YouTube channel, you can sign up to receive an automatic notice from YouTube with a link to the service. In addition, an All Church email containing a link to Sunday's service will be sent to everyone at the end of the prior week. If you are unable to tune in at 9:30 am on Sunday morning, the same link can be used to watch it later on YouTube. Many thanks to Bob, George, Larry and Janet for the tremendous amount of work that they put into this important project.



If you have not yet subscribed to Windsor Chapel's YouTube channel, please do so. You can find it by searching on YouTube for: "Windsor Chapel NJ." In addition to giving you the opportunity to request automatic notifications of our streaming broadcasts, YouTube will provide Windsor Chapel with additional free services and benefits if enough people subscribe.

Please remember to hit the "like" or "share" buttons whenever you see one of our posts on Facebook, YouTube or Instagram. This simple act helps to promote Windsor Chapel and to expand the reach and impact of our ministry.

## Further Up and Further In *Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in and among us*



By Cindy Bills

### In Our Back Pocket

As we negotiate the transition to a new season of weather, activities, and commitments in the context of a continuing pandemic, we face multiple, often overlapping, challenges. And although we can't change our challenges, the way we respond to these challenges has a tremendous potential to change us. Indeed, the way we respond to our challenges will determine the way we experience our days.

I am an enthusiastic advocate for a redemption mindset, one that depends upon Paul's reassurance in Romans 8 that our Lord will work all things in our lives for our good. I will add a biblical postscript to this verse and remind us that the Lord's redemptive purposes work not only for our good but for His glory.

There are limitless ways the Lord can do His redemptive thing as we walk through our days. I would like to focus on one of them that applies to all of us: the way we interact with others. Social distancing and COVID restrictions do not eliminate many of our interactions, but they do generally make them more challenging. And this is exactly where Christ wants to do His work in us and through us. As we allow Christ to do His sanctifying work in us through His Holy Spirit, we partake in the nature of Christ and become His ministers in a needy world.

In his letter to the Colossians, the Apostle Paul has this to say: *Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.* (Colossians 4:6). And in his letter to Titus, Paul instructs Titus to remind his congregation to be ready for every good deed (Titus 3:1).

So how do we do this in the emotional and stressed  
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## “Further Up and Further In,” continued...

interactions that are becoming more and more common? There is the certainty of the abiding Holy Spirit. Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would give them the words to speak in the midst of persecution, and while we may not be in exactly that position, we have every reason to believe that the Holy Spirit is continually at work in us. Beyond that, as we take responsibility to be ready for every good deed and to speak with grace, I think the concept of “pocket phrases” can be extremely helpful.

Solomon, in Proverbs 15:1 exhorts us with this truth: *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.* A pocket phrase is a thoughtfully-prepared, gentle response that we can pull out of our pocket, so to speak, when we are taken by surprise or in the emotional heat of a moment. This does not mean that we follow a script or a flow chart. Nor does it mean that we suspend boundaries and enable destructive behavior. But if we have a small collection of gracious phrases at our immediate disposal, we will be able to meet the demand of the moment while allowing our mind to manage the emotion and give the Holy Spirit a chance.

Here are a few pocket phrases that I have used and recommend to others:

- I’m sorry; I did not mean to offend you.
- I am sorry you feel that way.
- Please let me think about it.
- Is there a way for us to work this out?
- I am afraid you may have misunderstood me.
- Do you mind if...?
- Is there something I can do to help?

Multiple Gospel accounts remind us that not everyone responded well to Jesus’ words, and it would be unrealistic to think that our experience will be different. We need not belabor unconstructive conversations. Sometimes, we need to simply wish the other person well and walk away, allowing the Judge to rule according to His character. When we do have a negative encounter despite our best attempts to manifest Christ, we can take

consolation that we are experiencing what our Master did and be encouraged by the truth that the way someone treats us (or the way someone speaks to us) says everything about him/her and nothing about us. Our identity and value remain firmly grounded in Christ. Regardless of the outcome of our efforts, we can praise the Lord that He is doing His work in us and giving us the incredible privilege of communicating His truth and grace.

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

## You’re Invited to a Harvest Party



Please join us on Saturday, October 24, at 7:00 pm, in the Windsor Chapel picnic grove for our annual Harvest Party. We’ll have a roaring campfire for warming ourselves from the chill of the crisp autumn evening. You may wish to bring a folding chair for sitting around the bonfire and listening to a campfire story.

Please consider inviting a friend or neighbor to share in the warmth of fellowship.

## 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. 

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Mark Warner     | October 01 |
| Elise Bruno     | October 02 |
| Marina Cull     | October 03 |
| Rose Ventura    | October 03 |
| Nancy Muldrow   | October 04 |
| Terry Brown     | October 06 |
| Robert MacQueen | October 12 |
| Fannie Harris   | October 16 |
| Donald MacQueen | October 20 |

## Reflections

By Janet Berrill

I spent my Labor Day weekend in Virginia. While there I visited Luray Caverns. I have been to these caverns before, and I looked forward to seeing them again for they truly are spectacular. In one section of the cave is a shallow pool of water, only inches deep. The water in the pool is very clear and still. When light is shined on the surface of the



water a perfect reflection of the cave formations growing down from the ceiling can be seen. The reflection of the ceiling

formations is so perfect that many people are fooled into thinking that the water is deep and cave formations are growing from the floor of the cave.

I recently read Colossians 3:10 which says that we “*have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*” Earlier in Colossians, Paul talks about putting off our sinful nature (Colossians 2:11), and in 3:10 he talks about putting on our new self. He says that as our new self grows in knowledge of God we become an image of Him. As we know God better, His truths become a part of us and we begin to more and more accurately reflect Jesus in our life. Just like in the cavern when you looked at the pool of water and saw the cave formations on the ceiling, as we grow in knowledge and faith, when people look at us they will see Jesus.

Allow me to illustrate my point with something that happened at the end of August. It was a beautiful day, and I was on my way to go hiking.

When I stopped at a red light, an elderly woman pulled up next to me and asked if I knew where the closest gas station was. I didn’t, so I suggested we pull into a nearby parking lot, and I would help her find it. It turned out that there was a gas station about half a mile away. The woman was clearly

anxious about getting to the gas station, so I told her I would drive there and she could follow me. That way she was sure to find it. This eased her mind greatly.

We made it to the gas station and the woman pulled right up to the pump. I circled around and as I was waiting for the traffic to clear so I could pull out and resume my drive to the trailhead, she came over to the car and asked if I knew how to get to Levittown, Pennsylvania. Because she had gotten off the highway looking for a gas station, she now didn’t know where she was or how to get to where she was going. To make a long story short, I drove to Levittown, Pennsylvania, with her following me until we got to her destination. Obviously she was very thankful for how I had helped her. I told her that I am a believer in Jesus and that He wants us to love each other, so my helping her was showing her Jesus’ love. I didn’t want her to see me, I wanted her to see the true God who loves her and sent someone to help her in her time of need.

I want my life to reflect Jesus. When I talk and when I act, I want other people to hear and see Jesus. I can only do this through the power of the Holy Spirit. As I grow in my knowledge of God through studying His word and through experiencing life with Him, I will become a clearer image of my Creator and Savior for others to see.

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### Financial Update

(through August 31, 2020)

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

|                | Actual    | Budget    |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Income</b>  | \$138,340 | \$193,333 |
| <b>Expense</b> | \$174,429 | \$193,291 |

Windsor Chapel has sent \$26,190 to our missionary partners this year. That’s 19% of your giving!

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

**Susan Seiboth at**

**[susan@quiltingsquare.com](mailto:susan@quiltingsquare.com)**

**Dorothy Soi at**

**[dsoi@windsorchapel.org](mailto:dsoi@windsorchapel.org)**

**Chapel Office (609) 799-2559**

**[www.windsorchapel.org](http://www.windsorchapel.org)**