

Bagworms

By Pastor Andy Straubel

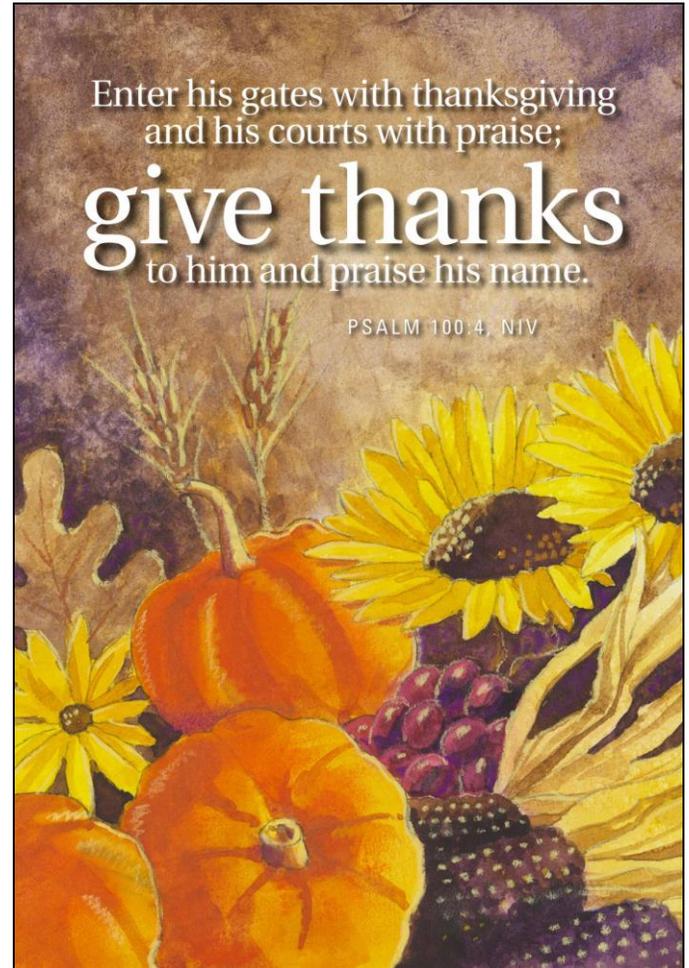
Ten years ago, I planted a row of Arborvitae on the side of our house for privacy. They were small at the time but have now grown into gentle giants twelve feet tall. But near the end of the summer, I noticed a small brown spot near the bottom and began to wonder what it was. Upon investigation I noticed that the core running up the center had also become dark brown and brittle. Something was killing my Arborvitae. So, I did what I usually do, I drove to the nearest Home Depot and started asking questions. At first the guy helping me had no



idea what I was talking about – the problem no doubt being me; but, eventually, there was a meeting of the minds, and I got home with a list of things to investigate. It turns out that I have a serious infestation of “bag worms.” Yes, bag worms!

I had no idea what they were or what they looked like, but I had them! If untreated they were going to kill everything to which they were attached. As you might imagine, I was NOT happy!

As instructed, I went to the side of my house and looked for these little “buggers.” To my complete surprise they weren’t that little at all; and they were everywhere. It turns out that bagworms can be 1.5 - 2 inches long and can destroy a full-sized shrub or tree within weeks of discovery. But they have been at work for a long time. According to Wikipedia, bag worms are little caterpillars that create a spindle shaped bag that can be seen hanging from twigs like Christmas ornaments. Often, they are mistaken as little pinecones. In winter these bags serve as cocoons for females to lay their eggs so that by late May the larvae hatch and begin their dirty work. For six weeks



they spin their silk and enlarge their bag, withdrawing into the bag when threatened.

I could say more, but you get the idea. Perhaps what hit me most was the thought that all of my shrubs were now at risk. I had already lost one shrub; would I now lose them all? So, with the help of our resident landscape architect and horticulturalist Tom Taylor, I was back at Home Depot with a prescription.

From a spiritual point of view, I couldn’t help thinking how these bag worms and their destructive nature are like the enemy Christians face every day: 1) They conceal and camouflage themselves to look like they are a genuine part of the plant, yet they are not. Satan presents himself as an angel of light

Continued on page 2...

“Bagworms,” continued...

(2 Corinthians 11:14). 2) They also do their work out of sight and behind the scenes. I couldn't see them until I knew what I was looking for. Satan does the same. He has “schemes” (Ephesians 6) and stalks his prey (1 Peter 5). And 3) these little buggers never stop, and Satan will never stop either. He hates God, wants to be worshiped, and wants to be God (Ezekiel 28, Isaiah 14). But, thankfully, God will never allow that to happen. The devil knows his time is short, and he will do anything to frustrate and delay his end (Revelations 12:12; 20:7-10).

Oh, Christian! Don't let anything attach itself to you that is not wholesome, and righteous, and good. I heard it said by an old preacher down South, “If you give Satan a ride, eventually he will want to drive the car!” Don't give that old deceiver a foothold (Ephesians 4:27), because no sin is static: it will want more and more. Rather, arm yourself with truth (Ephesians 6:13-18). Grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). Be steadfast and unmovable (1 Corinthians 15:58). Be on your guard (1 Peter 5:1-2). And, no matter what you are facing, don't give up (Galatians 6:7-9).

In the end I lost one shrub, but thankfully the rest survived. I know that bag worms are not the only enemy in my back yard, but now I am alerted to their presence. I can only hope and pray that I recognize those in my spiritual life as well.

Financial Update

(Through September 30, 2021)

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

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$174,292	\$164,497
Other income (PPP loan)	\$29,458	
Total Income	\$203,750	
Expense	\$181,975	\$165,009

Windsor Chapel has sent \$21,924 to our missionary partners this year. That is 13% of your giving!



Charlie and Nancy Muldrow at home wearing UV glasses that Charlie's research found can protect their eyes from UV rays while watching television at night. Charlie also found the glasses may help your body to produce optimum melatonin levels which can help with sleep.



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.

Allan Ventura	November 2
Lasun Dada	November 3
Lorraine Brown	November 11
Olivia Bernheisel	November 15
Don Ritchie	November 18
Toyin Dada	November 25
Susan Seiboth	November 30

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

Men's Breakfast

All men are encouraged and welcome to join us for a special Men's Breakfast Saturday, November 20, at 9:00 am, in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a wonderful speaker, good meal, interesting conversation, laughter and an opportunity for warm fellowship. Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 17, by sending an email to John Kimmel at kimmel313@yahoo.com with the subject "Men's Breakfast" and the number attending.



Remember that Daylight Savings Time ends this Sunday, November 7, at 2:00 am. Turn your clocks back by one hour, which means you gain one hour, in order to "fall back." When you're resetting your watches and clocks (don't forget the one in your car) on Saturday night, use this annual event as a reminder to replace batteries in all smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms.

Important Prayer Chain Reminder

If you would like to submit a prayer request to our faithful prayer warriors, please remember to email it to prayer@windsorchapel.org. Clicking on "Reply" to a previous prayer request may delay your prayer request, since wcprayerchain@windsorchapel.org does not send notifications to the prayer chain administrators. If you would like to join the prayer chain ministry and receive prayer requests, send an email to chapel@windsorchapel.org. We thank you for the privilege of praying for you and your loved ones.

Hallelujah Boogie Line Dancing Lesson



Elders' Corner

By Tom Taylor

Praise and thanksgiving are always right for our Father in Heaven. I have heard it said we should develop the habit of writing down God's faithfulness to us. For example, the time you first heard Him calling you, the first time His lovingkindness broke through and you surrendered, the first time you heard Him say "my love covers all your sin," and the first time you sensed His delight in you. His faithfulness today, for example: His beauty, His mercy, His patience, His forgiveness and the fact that He never changes, He is always pursuing you and calling you to pursue Him and those who are in our lives. May I encourage you to take some time to write down His faithfulness to you: past, present and future. Thanksgiving is coming. What a great way to bless the Lord and others! King David had the habit of praising God and declaring His faithfulness:

A Psalm of David

Psalm 103

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;
Who pardons all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems
your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and
compassion; Who satisfies your years with
good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.
The LORD performs righteous deeds
And judgments for all who
are oppressed. He made known His ways to
Moses,
His acts to the sons of
Israel. The LORD is compassionate and
gracious,*

*Slow to anger and abounding in
lovingkindness. He will not always strive with
us,
Nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not
dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For
as high as the heavens are above the earth,
So great is His lovingkindness toward those
who fear Him. As far as the east is from the
west,
So far has He removed our transgressions
from us. Just as a father has compassion
on his children,
So the LORD has compassion on those who
fear Him.
For He Himself knows our frame;
He is mindful that we are but dust.
As for man, his days are like grass;
As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. When
the wind has passed over it, it is no more,
And its place acknowledges it no longer. But
the lovingkindness of the LORD is from
everlasting to everlasting on those who fear
Him,
And His righteousness to children's children,
To those who keep His covenant
And remember His precepts to do them.
The LORD has established His throne in the
heavens,
And His sovereignty rules over all.
Bless the LORD, you His angels,
Mighty in strength, who perform His word,
Obeying the voice of His word! Bless the LORD,
all you His hosts,
You who serve Him, doing His will.
Bless the LORD, all you works of His,
In all places of His dominion;
Bless the LORD, O my soul!*



Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

The Sacrifice of Praise

Thanksgiving. Giving thanks. So much has been preached, written, and taught about the importance of giving thanks and why embracing the Thanksgiving holiday is so good for us. Offering praise and thanks to the Lord reinforces to us that God is God and we are not. Research shows that cultivating a grateful heart is an important component in our experience of happiness. And when we express our thanks, we become an encouragement to others. Giving thanks changes us, making us more fit for heaven.

But herein lies the catch. Giving thanks can be difficult. Really difficult. A few weeks ago, Pastor Andy, preaching from I Thessalonians, commented that waiting on the Lord, waiting for Him to answer our prayers, is often challenging and frustrating. We see in this epistle an ongoing tension: Paul longingly prays for the opportunity to return to Thessalonica, to be reassured and encouraged by their faith and fellowship while at the same time offering deep heartfelt praise and thanksgiving and exhorting the Thessalonians to do the same even as both sides wait to be reunited.

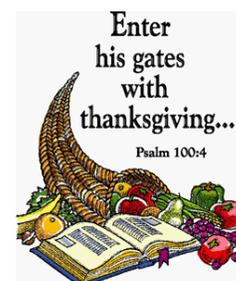
Paul makes note of struggle and suffering in his letter to the Thessalonians, both on his part and theirs. These are hard times for these young believers living in a very secular world hostile to their faith. And yet, giving thanks and praise is an unmistakable thread that runs through Paul's heart and spirit, and his words.

We are often told to count our blessings. While this can be good advice, it can also minimize the challenges of genuine thanksgiving and cultivating a heart of gratitude. And, the exhortation to count our blessings can mislead us into thinking that the giving of thanks requires us to pretend that times aren't tough when they are. Rather, the giving of thanks requires us to think beyond our tough times and beyond ourselves and to refocus on our good God. The determination to present a grateful heart before the Lord means that we claim by faith that the Lord will work good out of each and every one of our circumstances, to cling to the Truth that we are not yet able to see.

And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Romans 5:3-5)

Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. (Hebrews 13:15)

Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557 or cynthialbills@gmail.com to continue the dialogue...



Enter
his gates
with
thanksgiving...

Psalms 100:4

Trail Map

By Janet Berrill

I enjoy hiking. Several years ago, I went on a hike in Pennsylvania. I had plans to go with a friend of mine, but she cancelled on me at the last minute. I was disappointed, but because I was looking forward to the hike so much I decided to go on my own.

In those days, I had a membership with All Trails. When I wanted to go hiking some place I hadn't been before, I would log on to All Trails and search the area for a hiking trail. When I found a trail I thought looked good, I would print out the map to take with me as I hiked. That is what I had done the day I went hiking by myself.

The hiking trail I chose went up a ravine and paralleled a river. It was a steep climb but several beautiful waterfalls along the way made the climb worth it. At the top, the map showed a dirt road that I could take which would eventually lead to another hiking trail that would loop around and take me back to where I started from. I began walking down the road, and as I walked I kept an eye out for the hiking trail which would lead me back. At some point I realized I had been walking for quite a while, longer than I thought I had to get to the other hiking trail. I got out my map, but I wasn't sure where on the map I was so I couldn't figure out if I had passed the hiking trail or just not gotten to it yet. Rather than backtrack, I reasoned that if I walked through the woods in the right direction, I should be able to find the hiking trail. To make a long story short, after wandering in the woods for a long time I did eventually find the hiking trail and make it back to my car.

Sometime later, I learned that All Trails has an app for your phone. You can download the

map for the hiking trail and, as you are hiking, the map shows you where you are at all times. I wish I had known that before and had the app on my phone the day I got lost! If I had, I wouldn't have missed the entrance to the hiking trail.

Unfortunately, life does not come with an All Trails app that tells us where we are at all times so we will know how to get where we want to go. Going through life is more like having a paper map. Most of the time we have an idea of where we are and how to get to where we want to go, but life is full of twists and turns so that sometimes we can feel completely lost. But we are never lost to God. He always knows exactly where we are, and no matter where that is, He always has a way for us to get to where He wants to take us.

Are you feeling lost? Is the way to go unclear to you? If this is of your own doing because you have wandered off the path of following God, let me assure you that there is no place you have gone where God doesn't know where you are. And He will meet you exactly where you are and take you from that place to where He wants to lead you. As a past wanderer myself, when I chose to refocus my life on my relationship with God, I found that He was right there. I am so thankful for His faithfulness! With God leading the way, I don't need an All Trails app for my life.

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

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