

## Trash to Treasure

Pastor Andrew Straubel

It's been said, "one man's trash is another man's treasure." That became true this past fall. As I was walking my dog one night, I noticed in the dim light a little table sitting at the curb near my home. As I got closer, I noticed it had pieces of cast iron underneath. It also had six little drawers and a fold out tabletop. To my surprise I lifted it open and found a sewing machine folded up inside. I quickly went home and got my truck.

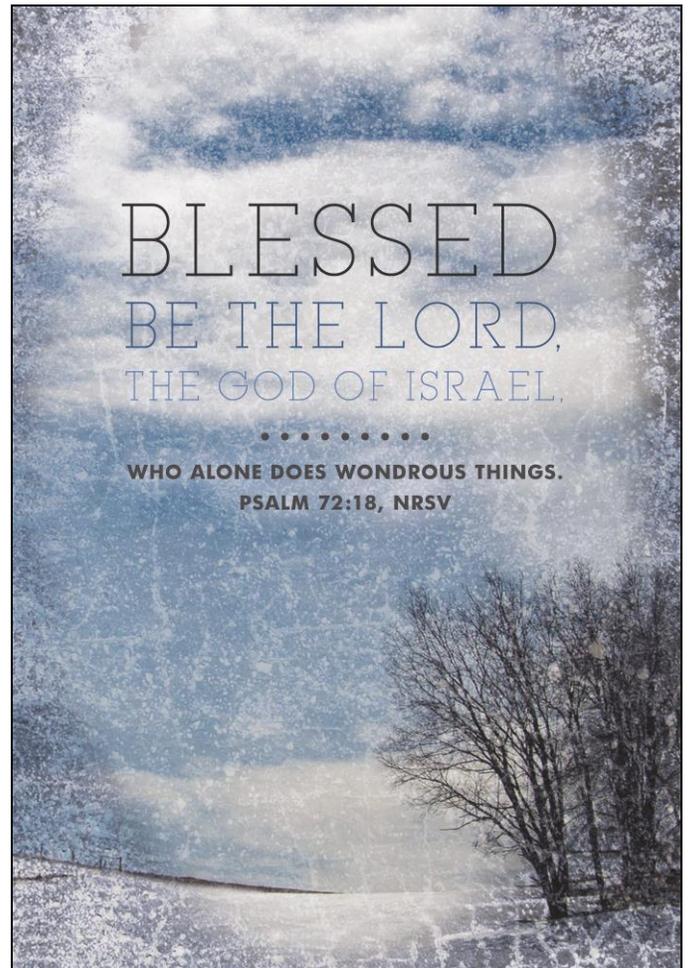
After some online research, I found out that the "table" was a 1926 Singer 66-6 Treadle Sewing Machine. The cool thing about this



sewing machine is that it is peddle driven. It works without electricity. It was old, beat up, rusty, dinged-up, and seized (didn't move). Apparently, it had quite a reputation as bullet proof and reliable machine. But this one was tossed out in the trash. I ended up putting it in

my garage where it sat for several weeks. I told my daughter, an avid seamstress, about the find, and she encouraged me to see what I could do with it. The more I thought about the Singer, the more I made observations to the Christian life.

First, it was old and worn. As a Christian for 43 years, it can seem like I am old and well worn. Some might think it time to be put to the curb. Looks can be deceiving. Ecclesiastes 12:3 talks about getting old—eyes growing dim, grinders ceasing (teeth), and the keepers of the house tremble (knees and feet). But getting old does not means losing purpose. The Singer would prove the point. Once I downloaded the Owner's Manual it revealed how to maintain the machine, oil it. So that is what I did. For the next several weeks I oiled and oiled and oiled.



Slowly parts began to move; then, a little more. I felt like doing the happy dance! As Christians it is easy to think we are past our prime but that is not true. I might not be able to do what I used to do, but I can do something. God created us with purpose, and He saved us to meet a need in the body of Christ. (Ephesians.2:10; 1 Corinthians 12; Romans12; Ephesians 4)

Second, it needed work. Anyone looking at it could see it needed work. Some might think too much work: hinges were broken, drive belt dry rotted, etc. The Christian life always needs work. We are told to "grow in grace and knowledge" of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18) and add to our faith several character qualities all requiring a level of effort: virtue, knowledge, self-control, godliness, and love

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## “Trash to Treasure,” continued...

(2 Peter 1:3-8). We are told to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. (Philippians 2:12-13) Interestingly, the next verse (v.13) indicates how that is accomplished; it is God who is working in us to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Third, it held its value. Maybe not to the person who put it out in the trash but to someone (like me). You must be able to see it. After hours of working on that Singer, it means a lot more now than it did. It will hold more value when I put it to use or, better yet, my daughter puts it to use. “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” We teach our children to reuse and recycle. We tend to place a value on the things that matter.

Fourth, it held new life. With a little TLC that old Singer took on new life. The proof was in the first stitch after its resurrection. With every new creation comes a new appreciation for that old Singer. Isaiah 43:18 said that God was going to do a “new thing.” It was the new life talked about in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “*old things have passed away, all things are becoming new.*” In 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 it says, “*outwardly we might be wasting away but inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*” Jesus said, “*I come that you might have life and that you might have it more abundantly.*” (John 10:10)

That old Singer now sits in my living room, an ever-present reminder of the new life we have in Christ. Next time you are out for a walk, the next piece of trash might become your next treasure. My daughter comes home after Christmas; I hope she likes it.

*“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.”* (Philippians 3:8-9)

## 2023 Congregational Meetings

### Budget Information Meeting

Please attend in person, or virtually, the Budget Information Meeting on Sunday, January 15, at 11:00 am, to hear about the Chapel’s finances and the proposed budget for 2023. This will be the time to ask questions in preparation for the vote on the budget at the Annual Meeting. There will be a private live stream set up for this meeting with a chat feature that will enable people at home to submit questions to the moderator.

### Annual Meeting

Join us on Sunday, January 29, at 11:00 am, to hear and celebrate in retrospect the events and activities of 2022, and to vote on the 2023 budget and leaders. Since a quorum of 50% of members is required, please plan to attend or submit a proxy ballot by mail or drop it off in the special ballot box on the front porch of the chapel house. There will also be a private live stream of this meeting, and the method for virtual voting and links for the live stream will be emailed.

### Financial Update

(Through November 30, 2022)

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

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$173,384	\$215,916
Expense	\$214,704	\$215,916

Windsor Chapel has sent \$26,450 to our missionary partners this year. That is 15% of your giving!

## Elders' Corner

By Ken Bills

*"The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.... He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"*

During Advent, "coming" is a recurring theme. The people of Israel awaiting the coming of the Messiah. The coming of the shepherds to see the Baby. The coming of the wise men. Our own anticipation of the coming celebration of Christmas. The coming return of the Lord Jesus. That theme led me to ponder again two of the final verses of the Bible, Revelation 22:17 and 20.

As with many verses in Revelation, the meaning is not entirely clear. The Spirit is the Holy Spirit, of course, and the Bride is the church. But scholars disagree about to whom the single word "Come" is directed. There are three major alternative readings and each has an important message for us.

One possible reading is that "Come" is an exhortation to the church itself, a call to draw near, a call to worship. While it may seem odd for the church to be calling itself to "Come," this reading makes the meaning similar to Psalm 96:

*Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!*

Or, as we sing in Advent, "O come let us adore Him." We all need times for worship, for prayer, for adoration and praise, looking beyond the pressures of our lives to the One who is our life and our joy. And we need the gentle encouragement of our brothers and sisters to draw near, and they need similar encouragement from us.

A second interpretation is that with the word "Come," the Spirit and the Bride are inviting unbelievers to come to the Lord, an invitation for

them to join the chorus: "And let the one who hears say, "Come." This certainly reflects the Lord's heart, for He *"is patient ... not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."* (2 Peter 3:9) If we share his heart, we will see a world full of people who are struggling, lost and hurting. The prophet Isaiah gave the same invitation looking forward to the day of the coming Messiah:

*"Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price."  
(Isaiah 55:1)*

And here in Revelation 22:17, the final chapter of the final book of the Bible, the invitation is the same: *"And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price."* We have been entrusted with the privilege of extending the Lord's invitation to a hurting world: *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* (Matthew 11:28)

A final reading is that the Spirit and the Bride are calling on the Lord to return. Do you long to see truth and justice prevail, for love to finally overcome hatred for all time? To see an end to suffering, disease and death? To be fully delivered from the struggle with sin, both our own and the sins of others? The longing to see righteousness and love prevail is not merely a human desire but is inspired by the Spirit Himself who joins in the plea: *"Come."* And the Lord himself honors that desire: *"Surely I am coming soon,"* He promises to those who call Him. And while we wait for that glorious day, we can join the Apostle John, the Spirit and the Bride, saying: *"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"*

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*Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have,  
because God has said,  
"Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you."  
Hebrews 13:5*

## New Email Address?

If you have changed your email address or are not receiving the weekly Windsor Chapel emails containing the links for the live streaming of our worship service, please send your new email address to Dorothy at chapel@windsorchapel.org, and we'll update our database. This will also enable you to participate in the live streaming of the Budget and Annual Meetings and receive regular email updates from Windsor Chapel regarding winter weather closings and other important chapel news. Please also let us know if you have changed your home address or phone numbers.

## Cookie Exchange



## 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.

Nathaniel Ventura	January 1
Elena Yamamoto	January 8
Merkle Cherry	January 11
Kristin Westbrook	January 25
Timothy MacQueen	January 26

## Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in and among us*



By Cindy Bills

## A DIWG New Year

Now that we are past Christmas and the New Year is upon us, it easy to develop a dutiful “the party is over” mindset. We return to school and/or work. And, we gear up to pay for the party, so to speak: holiday bills, holiday pounds, exhaustion, and the all-too-common strained family relationships from family gatherings, all of which often generate or exacerbate fatigue, depression, and anxiety. We pay more attention to budgeting, we ponder the fastest and least painful way to lose weight and gain fitness, we set a new bed time, and we promise ourselves to change our participation in family gatherings even as we sometimes deal with guilt and shame because of our present condition.

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## “A *DIWG* New Year,” continued...

It is easy to understand why New Year’s resolutions are a common theme in January. This is the time of year when we encounter and confront the consequences and the cumulative consequences of our choices, some of them poor ones. The typical approach to a New Year’s resolution is to browse the ads and offers of a quick DIY fix on our medium of choice. We plan to get our act together as quickly as possible and then get on with life.

But the quick DIY approach can be discouragingly counterproductive. It was first introduced to humanity by no other than Eve in the Garden of Eden. She engaged in conversation with the serpent by herself, even though Adam was at her side and the LORD was certainly within calling distance. She made the fateful choice herself, largely attracted by the serpent’s lie that the forbidden fruit would make her wise like God—so that she could continue to do life herself. We can’t fix ourselves, and when we try, we become self-focused and vulnerable to the pride that was exposed and exploited in the Garden of Eden. C.S. Lewis puts it this way:

*Teachers, in fact, often appeal to a boy’s Pride, or as they call it, his self-respect, to make him behave decently: many a man has overcome cowardice, or lust, or ill-temper, by learning to think that they are beneath his dignity—that is, by Pride. The devil laughs. He is perfectly content to see you becoming chaste and brave and self-controlled provided, all the time, he is setting up in you the Dictatorship of Pride—just as he would be quite content to see your chilblains cured if he was allowed, in return, to give you cancer. For Pride is spiritual cancer: it eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense.*

Another problem with the DIM (“*DO IT MYSELF*”) approach is that it invites us to become performance oriented. We follow the way of the world and measure our value and status in society by how well we perform and how closely we conform to the expectations of our culture. This generates a competitive attitude, making it difficult if not impossible to find contentment and peace and to love as our Lord calls us to love.

We can give up and stay as we are. We can charge forward to fix ourselves anyway. Or, we can consider a biblical approach. We can put our need before the throne of God that is both perfect and full of grace. We can *DIWG—Do It With God*.

The *DIWG* approach means that we find our identity and value in Christ and our place among His people. We look for the Holy Spirit to do His sanctifying work in us as we walk in faith and in the fellowship of believers. We not only talk the talk of faith, but we do our best to walk the walk. As we worship and minister in the body, our weaknesses and sin patterns will be exposed. We will be invited to confess and repent, to grow in conforming to the character of Christ. And as we do that, we will find that becoming whole, as our Creator intended, involves our bodies and minds as well as our souls and spirits. If we want to become who the Lord created us to be and to fulfill His purposes for us, we need to pursue physical and mental health as well.

Research has demonstrated that a healthy lifestyle of good nutrition, exercise, and adequate sleep is essential for brain health and our ability to make wise choices. And brain health and wise choices are essential in our faith walk. And the cycle continues: Our faith walk—built on deepening and growing relationships with the Lord and His people—also supports a healthy lifestyle as it enables us to fail without shame and to grow as we both humbly and confidently abide in Christ and depend upon the work of the Holy Spirit within us.

I, for one, find that I am surprised that 2023 arrived so quickly. I don’t feel that I have managed to clean up after 2022 yet! But ready or not, 2023 is here. May we accept the Lord’s invitation to seek wholeness in Him as we in turn invite the resident Holy Spirit to make Himself at home, choosing to keep company with our spiritual brothers and sisters to prosper that work in all of us.

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

## God is Good All the Time

By Janet Berrill

Some consider me obsessive when it comes to my shopping list. I use a piece of paper from a pad that I have on my refrigerator. I will write down the items that I need and cross them off when I purchase them. I don't like to be wasteful so I will use the same piece of paper as my shopping list until there is no more room left on it. Without exaggeration, one piece of paper can last 4-6 months.

Recently, I took my shopping list with me with the intent of going to ShopRite and then to Costco. After I finished my grocery shopping at ShopRite, I stopped at REI on my way to Costco. When I got in the car after leaving REI, I realized I didn't know where my shopping list was. I searched my pockets, my purse, and the car but I could not find it. Since I was still in the same shopping center as ShopRite, I decided to go back and see if I could locate it. I looked in the cart return area, by the parking spot where I had parked, by the register where I checked out, and I even asked the checkout lady if she had found it. Unfortunately, it was nowhere to be found. This bothered me for two reasons: 1) it had my Costco list on it and 2) I had just begun using the back side so there was a lot of room still left on the paper!

As I walked back to the car, I thought about how I would feel if I had found the list. I would have been praising God and telling Him how amazing and good He is. And then it hit me—who God is doesn't change based upon whether I find my list. God is amazing and good—period. So I praised God and told Him how amazing and good He is, the same as I would have done had I found the list.

There are many verses in the Bible that speak about the goodness of God. For example, Psalm 107:1 says, *"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; His love endures forever."* As with this verse, none of the other verses on God's goodness have a qualifying statement. None of them say God is good IF something happens, or God is good WHEN something happens. God is good—period; regardless of WHAT happens.

As I grow in my faith and knowledge of God, I am more and more coming to trust in God's goodness regardless of whether I can see it or not. This knowledge has overflowed into the way I pray. For example, when I pray for my neighbors to come to know Jesus, in addition to praying for God to open their hearts and minds to His truth, I thank Him for the work He is already doing in their lives. I may not see any evidence of what God is doing, but I trust in His goodness that He is indeed working. I remind myself that the reason I am praying for them is because God has called me to (Philippians 2:13) *"for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose"*. He calls us to pray for others and to join Him in the work He is doing.

Romans 12:2 says we should be transformed by the renewing of our mind. My prayer is that God will renew my mind so that I regularly remember His goodness and thank Him for it, especially when I don't see it. God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.

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

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