

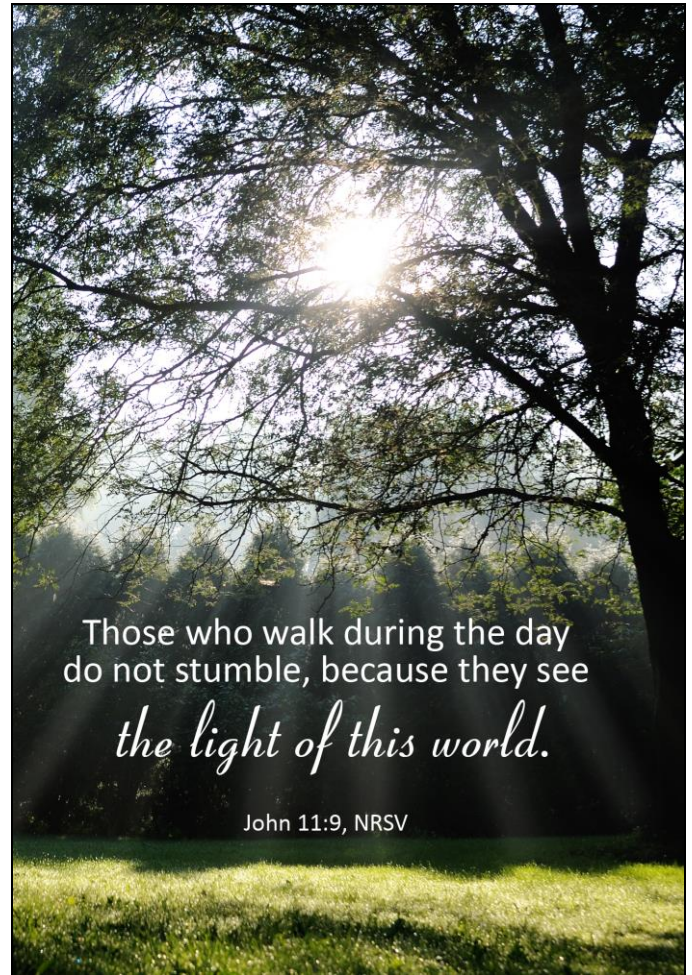
In His Steps

By Pastor Andrew Straubel

On a recent trip to the beach, I made my way down to the water and took in the smell of the salt air, kicked a few waves, and attempted to make my way back up to our chairs. Unfortunately, I found myself struggling to get up the large sand shelf created by the recent storm. The sand was super soft and would give way with each step—not easy with a bum left knee. About fifty feet away I saw a spot where someone else had started to make the same ascent, so I made my way toward the footprints. Putting my feet into those footsteps and getting up to safety caused me to think about the book, *In His Steps*, by Charles M. Sheldon. It also got me thinking about following Jesus...in His steps.

“Come, follow me.” Those were the words used by Jesus when He called His first disciples (Matthew 4:18-20; Luke 18:22) and became the refrain to all who would call Him Lord. To follow Jesus in His steps implies walking (Matthew 16:24; Mark 2:15, 5:24, 10:52). Walking is the most common metaphor used in the New Testament for living the Christian life. (Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 2:21)

To walk; (Greek-peripateo) is to behave in a certain manner and to live in a certain way. Ephesians provides a marvelous description of what it means to walk. *“And you he made alive who were dead in your trespassing and sin, in which you once walked, among whom you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience, among who we all once walked...”* In other words, the old walk or manner of life was lived according to the flesh and is a life apart from God. In Ephesians 2:1-10 we are told to leave this old walk, *“This I say therefore and testify that you should no longer*



walk as the rest of the Gentiles...but walk worthy of our calling (4:1). That walk is a walk in love (Ephesians 5:1-4), a walk in light (Ephesians 5:8-11), a walk in wisdom (Ephesians 5:15-17), and a walk guided by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-21).

To **walk in love** is to love as Jesus loved, to desire what Jesus desired, to love the things Jesus loved. (See John 13:35.) To **walk in the light** is to walk in the light of God’s words, *“for we were once darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light”* (Ephesians 5:8). To **walk in wisdom** is to understand the conditions of the day in which you live and make wise use of your time and understand the will of God for that time. The Apostle Paul said, *“see that you walk*
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“In His Steps,” continued...

circumspectly not as fools but as wise (Ephesians 5:15). To walk circumspectly is to walk carefully with eyes wide open.

Finally, to walk in the steps of Jesus is to **walk continually guided by the Holy Spirit**. We are told, “*And do not be drunk with wine but be filled with the Holy Spirit*” (Ephesians 5:18-21). Literally it says, “*be filled with the Holy Spirit.*” Paul goes on to describe that filling as singing, giving thanks, and submitting to one another in the fear of God (verse 21). Wow!

Imagine what your life would be like to continually walk in His steps. Perhaps the way up the beach would be a little easier.

“Whoever says he abides in him [Jesus] ought to walk in the same way in which he walked” (1 John 2:6).



In the spirit of being good neighbors, Windsor Chapel was happy to accommodate a last-minute request from the Dutch Neck PTA to hold the third-grade graduation on our grounds. There were over one hundred-twenty third graders and more than two hundred parents enjoying the ceremony.



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.

Graeme Cull	July 10
Janet Berrill	July 15
Lise Hill	July 16
Don Ober	July 16
Stephen Berrill	July 19

“A man watches his pear tree day after day, impatient for the ripening of the fruit. Let him attempt to force the process, and he may spoil both fruit and tree. But let him patiently wait, and the ripe pear at length falls into his lap.”

Abraham Lincoln

Financial Update

(Through May 31, 2023)

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

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$70,007	\$91,250
Expense	\$88,588	\$91,297

Windsor Chapel has sent \$9,267 to our missionary partners this year. That is 13% of your giving!

Elders' Corner

By Ed MacQueen

Greetings in the Lord. I pray the summer has begun well for you! In just about two weeks our 5-Day Club kids program begins. At times like these, I like to recall Psalm 127, which says *"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it."* With any event or outreach we run the risk of forgetting that without God's Spirit, our labor would be in vain. Please join the elders in prayer that God would use our church's humble efforts to plant and water seeds of the Gospel in children's hearts. We have five nights to share the Good News, good news which to those who are being saved, scripture says is the very power of God. I am excited. I hope you are, too.

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to bring snacks during the 5-Day Club. If you would like to but haven't spoken to Pastor Andy or me yet, please let us know as soon as possible. Currently we have twenty-two children registered, so planning snacks for approximately twenty-five to thirty children per night sounds right.

May God bless you as summer gets underway. I pray you have opportunity to take a break, enjoy a slower pace, and spend time with Jesus. In John chapter 15 Jesus said, *"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."* We are living in a world which desperately needs the fruit of Christians. Desire to abide in Christ, and He will use the fruit of our lives according to His perfect plan.



Kids' 5-Day Club Begins July 17!



The 5-Day Club for children ages 5 – 12 is starting soon! This wonderful week of fun will be held from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at Windsor Chapel starting on Monday, July 17, and will continue through Friday, July 21. The children will learn timeless truths of the Bible through exciting and engaging ways, including lively songs, games, Bible and missionary stories, snacks, outdoor play and more!

Registration is off to a great start! If you haven't registered your children yet, please do so now. Share this exciting news with your family, friends and neighbors, too! They may register their children for free on our website at www.windsorchapel.org. All are welcome!

There are many enjoyable and easy ways to partner in this important outreach, including helping to register children, warmly greeting the parents as they arrive and decorating our chapel in preparation for this fun event. Help is especially needed in providing snacks for the children. You may volunteer to provide the snacks for just one night or for several nights if you wish. Youth ages 12 and over are also encouraged to get involved. Since many parents stay at the church during the event, the 5-Day Club presents a perfect opportunity to welcome new people to Windsor Chapel.

Please pray that the 5-Day Club will be life-changing for each child who attends and their families, and will bless and encourage every teen and adult who helps. To volunteer or learn more, please contact Ed MacQueen by email at e.macqueen1@comcast.net or by phone at 609-751-6584.

Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

Called To Freedom

July is the time when we in the United States celebrate the freedoms associated with our democracy. Even as the political and ideological divisions in our country have received a good bit of attention and created significant distraction in our life as a nation, we have much to be grateful for.

We could say the same for the church. There are divisions over theology, faith and practice, and even politics. But again, we still have much to be grateful for. I hear quite often that “these days” are so much worse than those past. In truth, though, controversy and division in the church are anything but new. The writings of the Apostle Paul confirm the wisdom of King Solomon: There is nothing new under the sun. Believers singly and corporately have survived and even thrived in times of challenging disagreements.

It seems to me that the concept of freedom can help us to walk faithfully before the Lord even in these uneasy times. Please consider with me how Paul viewed Christian freedom in a time when slavery was widely if not universally accepted and oppression and a lack of freedom was the rule rather than the exception.

For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to

one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law (Galatians 5:16-23).

We are unequivocally called to put aside the desires of the flesh and seek the work of the Holy Spirit as we work out our faith in this hurting and unbelieving world. For most of us, the more obvious desires of the flesh are reasonably easy to avoid. We do not commit adultery, cheat on our taxes, become addicted to illegal substances, throw parties characterized by ungodly behavior. But the pleasures of the flesh share a common denominator: they please our flesh because they enable us to feel good about ourselves as quickly and easily as possible, with little or no sacrifice and usually at the expense of others. The pleasures of the flesh can represent temptation that is both subtle and counterintuitive. If we want to use our freedom in ways that reflect and glorify Christ, I am convinced that *how* and *why* we do something is at least as important as *what* we do.

Please consider Jesus’ repeated warnings to and about the Pharisees whose status in the community became their idol and whose self-righteousness was about pleasing the flesh. They were so focused on following the Law—for their own advantage—that they were

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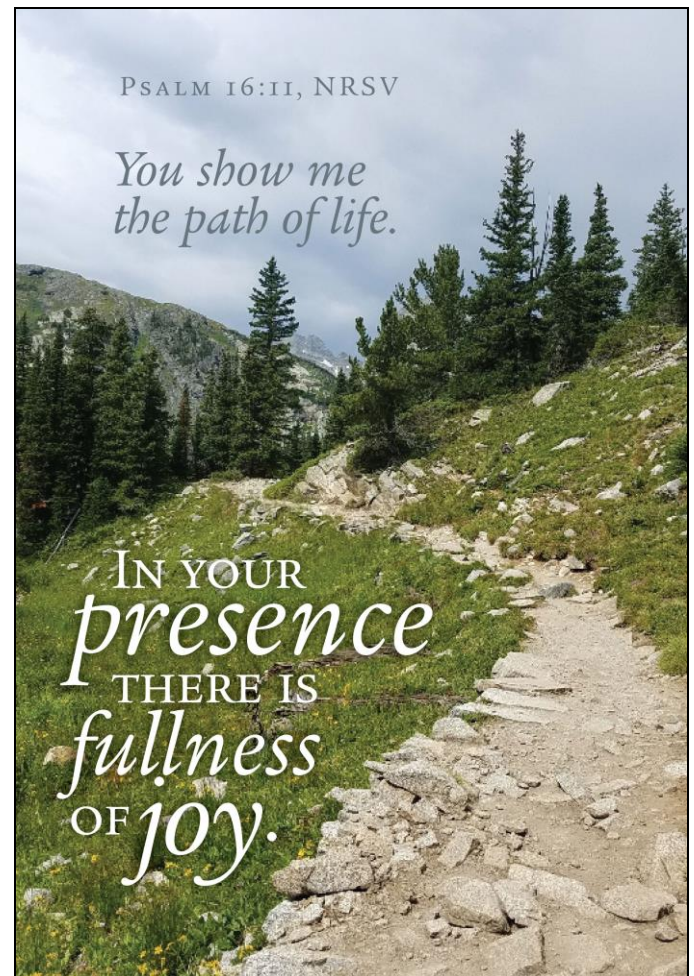
“Called To Freedom,” continued...

unable to love and serve the weak; worse still, they were unable to see God Incarnate when He was standing in front of them.

Paul deals with this side of serving the flesh in many of his epistles. His first letter to the Corinthian church gives us two excellent examples. The Corinthians were embroiled in tensions that arose as each sought personal status in which Christian leader he was following. The leaders in question—including Paul himself—were delivering the same message and were not in competition with one another. But the Corinthians were creating competition rather than following Christ in order to feel good about themselves. The Corinthians also created competition in regard to spiritual gifts, seeking status in manifesting the flashier gifts. So even though they were seeking the work of the Holy Spirit, they were doing so for their own fleshly purposes rather than actually walking by the Spirit. The result was controversy and division rather than the love and unity that the fruits of the Spirit would produce.

There is no way around it. If we genuinely desire to proclaim Christ in what we say and do, we must humbly seek the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts as we give up seeking to make our life of faith about us, to truly walk in the Spirit. Our sin nature objects! But please consider with me the overwhelming freedom that comes with a Spirit-filled and a Spirit-led life! We do not need to fix the world, or save it. Only Christ can do that. Instead, we can enjoy the freedom that comes with being redeemed by the blood of Christ. We have nothing to earn and nothing to prove. We have no need to settle for the counterfeit pleasures of our flesh. As we walk by the Spirit, He will bear His fruit in us: we will be able to walk before the Lord in faithfulness and manifest His goodness; we will know peace and joy; we will enjoy the benefits of self-control; we will be able to love others well and serve them with

patience, gentleness and kindness. May we indeed use our freedom to participate in His redeeming work in us and through us.



For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:12-13

Faith and Trials

By Janet Berrill

Before moving to New Jersey, Larry and I lived in a condo in Connecticut. When we moved, we decided to rent the condo to tenants rather than sell it. We rented the condo for several years before the situation with our tenants took a dramatic downturn. To make a long story short, the tenants eventually moved out, but when they did they left a big mess behind which fell to me to clean up. As you can imagine, this was an opportunity for me to think many negative thoughts about my renters and my situation.

The morning of the day I went over to start cleaning the condo, I read these verses from 1 Peter: *“In this [our future in heaven] you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed”* (verses 6,7).

As I spent time cleaning the condo, I thought about the verses I had read in 1 Peter that morning. I was suffering in a trial, and yet this verse encouraged me to rejoice in the knowledge of the salvation I have received. Our salvation is forever and in comparison, the trials in which we have to suffer grief are only for a little while. Focusing on heaven, eternity with Jesus, diminished the magnitude of the unpleasant situation I was in.

Verse 7 goes on to explain why we face trials. *“These have come so that your faith ... may be proved genuine....”* I was facing a difficult situation—where was my faith? Did I trust that God is in control? Did I believe that God is sovereign and, in His sovereignty, allowed my renters to leave me in the current situation I was in? Did I believe that God will work good

in all situations? As I thought about these and other similar questions, I answered them with, “Yes! Yes, I believe God is in control; He is sovereign; He will work good in this situation.” So, as I affirmed my beliefs, my faith was shown to be genuine, not just something I claim to believe and then abandon when times get tough.

Verse 7 also adds that the proving of our faith through trials will result in *“praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”* Meditating on this phrase, I began to ask myself, “How can I glorify God through this situation?” This took the focus off me as the victim and put it on God as the victor.

As I dwelt on these thoughts, the shield of faith was *“extinguishing the flaming arrows of the evil one”* (Ephesians 6:16). Negative thoughts were driven away, anger and resentment melted away, peace washed over me, and believe it or not, there was joy! Please don't think that the whole time I was cleaning up I was whistling a happy tune—there definitely were times when I became resentful and began to feel sorry for myself, but as I turned my thoughts back to the verses I had read that morning, those thoughts were driven away and once again I felt the peace that passes understanding (see Philippians 4:6-7).

Although I would never ask for this situation to have happened, I rejoice in the lessons God has taught me through it and how He has revealed Himself to me in it. I hope they will always be a part of my life.

(This article was first printed in the August 2008 Chapel Challenge)

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

Susan Seiboth at

susan@quiltingsquare.com

Dorothy Soi at

dsoi@windsorchapel.org

Chapel Office (609) 799-2559

www.windsorchapel.org

Contributing Photographer:

Pastor Andy Straubel