

Mountains

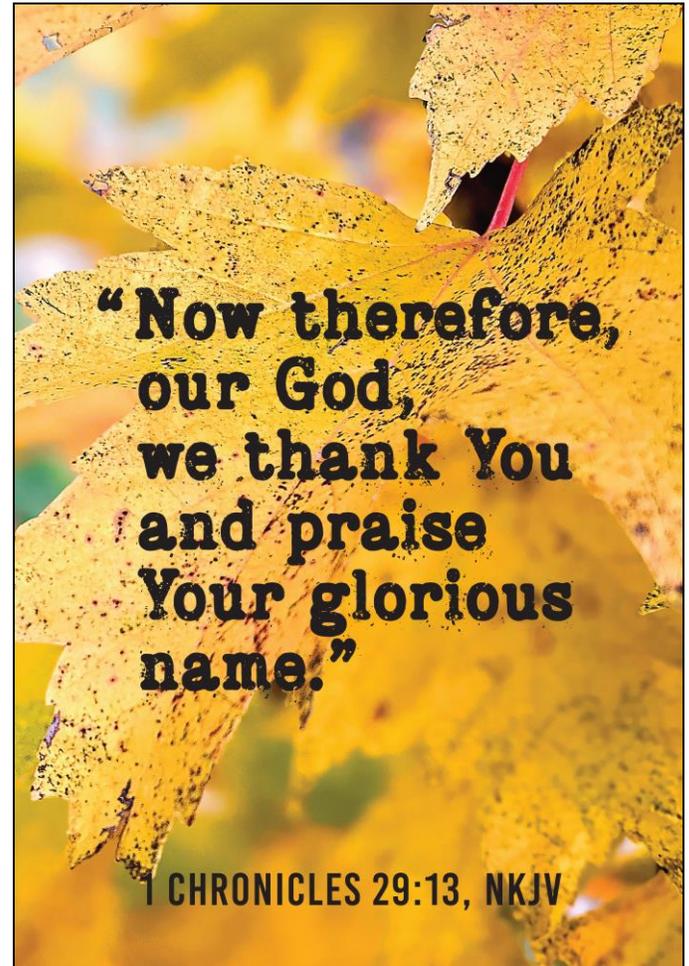
By Janice Straubel

Several months ago, I had the privilege of teaching the younger children during the worship service. I took in a container of poppy seeds and taught Matthew 17:20, 21:

Jesus said, "The simple truth is that if you had a mere kernel of faith, a poppy seed, say, you would tell this mountain, 'Move!' and it would move. There is nothing you wouldn't be able to tackle."

The contrast between one of the smallest of seeds and the immensity of a mountain is striking. We can have a tiny faith, but in a BIG GOD. Moving a mountain points out an improbable occurrence. God had already moved many "mountains" in my life: payment of financial debts, a job I love, situations with adult children. I began to list "mountains" in my daily journal: overwhelming issues and/or projects that felt way too big for me to manage. I regularly prayed for these mountains and for God to work in me and in the mountains, thanking God when the mountains moved or diminished or my heart changed about the problems. New mountains kept arising giving me the opportunity to again take the matter to the Lord and leave it in His care. The mountains often felt crushing. My mom fell back in July and decisions had to be quickly made as to her care. At work, I needed to move thousands of books from the regular library to a temporary one before the new school year started. Our daughter took a new job in Brooklyn, New York and needed to find affordable housing. So many things to worry about . . .

But writing down the issues really helped. Jesus prayed before His coming crucifixion,



"Right now I am shaken. And what am I going to say? 'Father, get me out of this'? No, this is why I came in the first place. I'll say, 'Father, put your glory on display.'"

Often I want to get out from under a difficult situation as quickly as possible and have God fix everything NOW. Moving mountains isn't about me twisting God's arm to do what I think is best, but asking God to be glorified in the difficult situation and resting in His wisdom. Just like Daniel's friends before the fiery furnace, I desire to pray "even if" prayers. Acknowledging that God can do anything, but even if He chooses to answer differently than I would like, I will still love God.

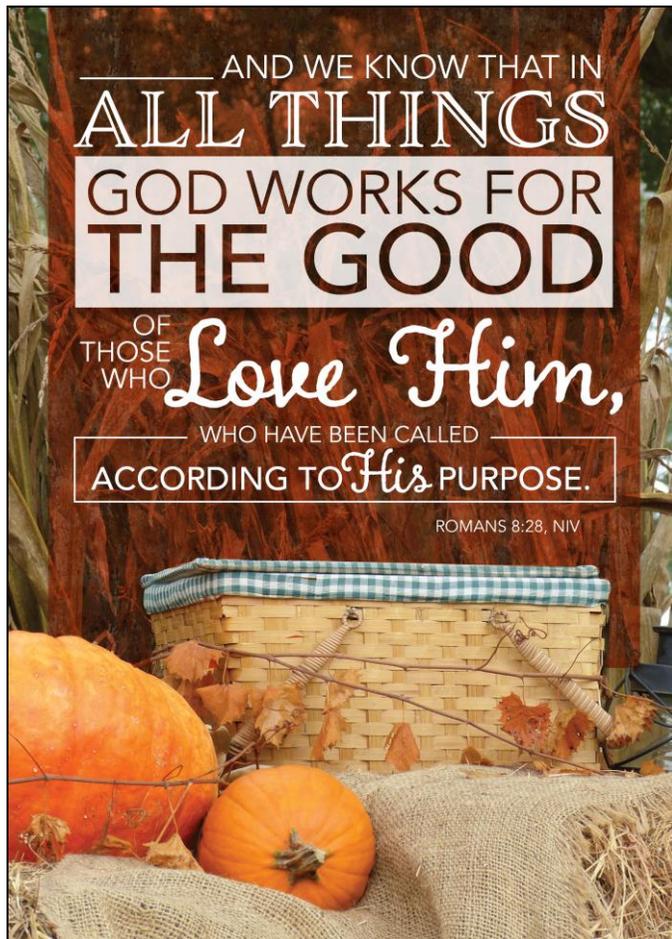
I think most, if not all, of us have some
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“Mountains,” continued...

“mountains” that overwhelm us. The problem is just way too huge and terrifying. But mountains can also point us to God.

*I look up to the mountains; does my strength
come from mountains?*

*No, my strength comes from GOD, who made
heaven, and earth
and mountains.
(Psalm 121:1,2)*



“The Lord sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves.”

Dwight L. Moody



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.

Allan Ventura	November 02
Olivia Bernheisel	November 15
Don Ritchie	November 18
Susan Seiboth	November 30



Please join us on Saturday, November 18, from 9:00 am to noon, for some healthy exercise as we spruce up our grounds in preparation for the upcoming holidays. We'll be raking the leaves and transporting them to the curb. Bring rakes, tarps, gloves, etc., if you can. Coffee and donuts will be provided! The Boy Scouts will be assisting us.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Elders' Corner

By Ed MacQueen

Greetings in the Lord. I pray that you are well and looking with anticipation to the approaching season of Thanksgiving. In my family there's always a lot of excitement leading up to the big day. What are your family's traditions? Whatever they may be, I hope they are filled with joy and peace, and even, between the baking pies and stuffing turkeys, a little rest.

This is also a time of year when Windsor Chapel comes together to support those in need through partnership with the Harris ministry in Trenton. Thanks to your generosity, the church helps provide Thanksgiving meals for dozens of families. May this Thanksgiving be both a time to praise God for His blessings to us, and to be used by God to bless others.

Finally, let me share a passage I came across this week from Ephesians 3: *that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

This passage reminds me that our thanksgiving is not only for bountiful harvest, but ultimately for the love of Christ which passes knowledge. May you be refreshed this season in the inner man, knowing how incredibly vast God's love is for His children!

Yours in Christ,
Ed

Windsor Chapel in Autumn



Share the Bounty of God's Blessings!

Help Windsor Chapel partner with the Harris Ministry in Trenton in providing 75 Thanksgiving turkeys and bags of potatoes for families in need this year.

If you wish to share in this blessing through giving this Thanksgiving, donations to help cover the cost of the turkeys and potatoes may be added to your checks or online tithes for Windsor Chapel.





I asked God to take away my habit. God said, no. It is not for me to take away but for you to give it up.

I asked God to heal my handicapped son. God said no. His spirit is whole; his body is only temporary.

I asked God to give me patience, but God said no. Patience is a by-product of tribulations. It isn't granted; it is learned.

I asked God to give me happiness, but God said no. I give you blessings; happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain, but God said no. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow, but God said no. You must grow on your own, but I will prune you and make you fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life, but God said no. I will give you life, so you may enjoy all things.

I asked God to help me love others as He has loved me. God said ah, now you have the idea.

The day is yours; don't throw it away.

Claudia Minden Weisz

"I say, if your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you ought to really re-examine your life."

Calvin, from Calvin and Hobbs

Further Up and Further In

Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in and among us



By Cindy Bills

November Traditions

November is here. Some are thrilled that we are moving into the holiday season. Others are stressed at the thought of preparing for the holidays. This is nothing new. Neither is November's annual reminder to give thanks.

We are called to give thanks. It is a theme that runs from the Old Testament through the New. The Bible is God's revelation to us and for our benefit. It reveals a God who is glorious and worthy of praise, at all times, in all places, and in all circumstances. But beyond that, Scripture introduces us to a God who is as personal as He is glorious. Please consider with me just a few of the many, many examples offered in Scripture. The LORD God breathed air into Adam's lungs and shared the Garden of Eden with the man and the woman (Genesis 2); He tried to coax Cain to turn away from his murderous thoughts (Genesis 4); He allowed both Abraham and Moses to "negotiate" with Him (Genesis 18; Numbers 14); He satisfied Gideon's need for reassurance (Judges 6); He engaged in a personal conversation with a rebellious Jonah (Jonah 4). And of course, the LORD used individual, faithful men and women to accomplish His will. He worked in the lives of Eli and Samuel to lead Israel and (eventually) put David, a man after God's own heart, on the throne and establish David as the progenitor of the Messiah (I Samuel and II Samuel). He used Esther to save the Jews from a hateful Haman (Esther). He guided Elijah to reveal the power of the LORD to the people of Israel so that they would turn away from Baal (I Kings 18). And if God's personal attention, time after

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“November Traditions,” continued...

time after time, wasn't enough, the Father's only begotten Son, the second member of the eternal Trinity, Christ Jesus, became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1).

First and foremost, the Gospels reveal a Jesus who spent His days touching and being touched. Jesus opened His arms to those who had been dismissed, rejected, or neglected by their families and communities. He heals lepers (by touching them!), calls tax collectors, and welcomes children. One of my favorite “personal” Jesus stories is found in the Gospel of Mark. As Jesus is ministering to the people who have gathered to see and hear Him, a synagogue official named Jairus falls at His feet, begging for healing for his seriously ill daughter. Jesus readily agrees to come to Jairus' home, but as they head in that direction, they are interrupted by a woman who has been plagued with a hemorrhage problem for many years. The woman is healed as soon as she touches Jesus' robe. It would be easy for Jesus to leave it at that and continue on His mission to Jairus' home. But Jesus gently demands a personal conversation with the woman and takes time with her to personally reinforce her faith. I can only imagine the impatience and panic within Jairus as he waits for Jesus to finish this impromptu encounter and get to their destination. When they finally arrive and find that Jairus' daughter has died, Jesus takes care of the problem as only He can do.

And so as we (hopefully) heed the reminder to give thanks, may we turn to our Lord and Savior who is as up close and personal as we will allow Him to be. We are invited to approach the throne of grace with confidence. As we do so, the perfunctory, generic “thank you,” “praise to you,” “praise God from Whom all blessings flow” phrases don't quite do the job. It behooves us to put time, energy, and effort into pursuing our Lord and pouring out our hearts to Him. We don't need to have King

David's eloquence. We have been assured that when our words fail, the Spirit will intercede for us with groanings too deep for words (Romans 8:26).

As we pursue Jesus, we will find that He has been pursuing us! Praise the Lord! May we truly draw near to Him in faith, offering Him the deepest recesses of our hearts. And when we do, something amazing happens. Those who look forward to the holidays are able to celebrate more fully and joyfully; and those who are stressed at holiday preparation can lean on a Lord who genuinely cares about their stress and can help them see beyond it.

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

Financial Update

(Through September 30, 2023)

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

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$107,024	\$164,250
Expense	\$168,748	\$164,355

Windsor Chapel has sent \$16,118 to our missionary partners this year. That is 15% of your giving!



What Versus Why

By Janet Berrill

Imagine a mother with young children. Her husband brings home enough money for this young family to get by without too much extra. One day their four-year-old son is playing outside, and his ball rolls into the street. Without thinking, the boy runs out to get it and is hit by a car. He is rushed to the hospital. They have medical insurance, but it isn't very good. They want the best care for their son, but they know there are going to be a lot of bills to pay, bills that they don't have the money for. As the boy lies in the hospital bed and his mother sits beside him, she cries out to God, "Why God? Why did you let this happen? You could have stopped it! Why didn't you?!"

This is a natural reaction, but I want to suggest that she is not asking the right questions. When we ask "Why," we are asking God to justify Himself. We want God to explain to us why He let a certain situation happen. It's like the clay saying the Potter is accountable to the clay. Asking why is like saying "Tell me why you allowed this, God, and you better have a good reason." We want God to justify His actions, give us a reason we will consider acceptable. I suggest that this is not the question we should be asking.

Romans 8:28 says, "*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*" If we truly believe that, then we don't need to question why God allows things to happen. Without understanding why, we can trust God that He will use it for good.

Rather than "Why?", I think the question we should ask is "What?" "What do you want me to learn from this situation? What do you want me to do?" When we ask "What?" we are not

questioning God and asking Him to explain Himself, but rather we are submitting to His will and saying, "God, I trust you. I don't understand why this has happened and I am not very happy about it. But you have allowed this situation to occur, and I know you will work all things for my good. What are you trying to teach me? What do I do now?"

The difference between "Why?" and "What?" is one of submission. "Why?" is a challenge to God to explain what He did, and His reason better be a good one. "What?" submits to the will of God, acknowledging that sometimes we don't understand His ways, but we trust Him anyway.



Remember that Daylight Saving Time ends this Sunday, November 5, at 2:00 am. Computers, smart TVs and cell phones will automatically update, but be sure to set any other clocks back by one hour on Saturday night before you sleep. When you're resetting your watches and clocks (don't forget the one in your car), remember to replace the batteries in all your smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms if you haven't replaced them within the past year.

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

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