

A Dark Rainy Night

By Janice Straubel

A few weeks ago, our eldest son Andrew visited a place that had a lot of spiritual significance to him. His present job is stressful, and he wanted to go to the place where God had delivered him before. Strangely enough, this “spiritual place” is a turnpike exit: Fort Washington, PA to be exact. About 17 years ago, he was commuting to a photography school in that area. Sometimes he stayed late to develop pictures. One particular Monday night, that area was totally drenched by a rainstorm. His older vehicle had windshield wipers that couldn’t keep up with the amount of rain. He pulled over and felt an anxiety attack coming over him. Fortunately, he had a cell phone and called his dad who also had a cell phone. Andy was out the door ready to go rescue him. Unfortunately, all the roads near our Spring City, PA house were blocked off due to flooding. Andy couldn’t get to him!

In the meantime, I was several miles away in Glenside, PA preparing for an evening grad class. I did NOT have a cell phone at that time. Our class was cancelled because the professor was unable to get through the flooded roads. All of us were quite concerned about how we could get home as so many roads were flooded. I clearly remember walking out to our large family van, sitting in the driver’s seat and praying out loud for the Lord to direct my way home. (No Google Maps or GPS back then!) I started driving the way I usually did: north on 309 to the Fort Washington turnpike entrance. As I approached this interchange, police were directing cars AWAY from the turnpike saying it was closed due to flooding. I was near tears and explained to an officer that I didn’t know how to get home any other way, since all the other roads were flooding too. He looked at our big van and my tears and told me to go ahead.



All the toll workers had left and no tickets were being given. (No Easy Pass either back then!) I slowly inched past the toll booths when I heard a loud banging on the passenger side window. IT WAS ANDREW! He was drenched, and panicked and freezing cold, but thrilled to see me. I was totally shocked to see him in the rain, in the flooding, in the middle of a toll booth. He thanked me profusely for coming to pick him up. I was puzzled. “What do you mean coming to pick you up?” He thought Andy had gotten through to me somehow that Andrew was near the Fort Washington interchange and sent me to get him. This was a total God moment for Andrew. He had been struggling in his faith and direction in life. He saw how God miraculously connected us in the middle of a huge storm on a very dark night. It was also a

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“A Dark Rainy Night,” continued...

God moment for me as I never before had asked God to literally direct which roads I took.

We still have that van—so many amazing memories! Also, we now have cell phones, google maps, EZ Pass and windshield wipers that work! But part of me misses that total dependence on God in hard times. Technology can be wonderful, but should never replace, *“In all your ways acknowledge him, and He shall direct your paths.”* (Proverbs 3:6)



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.

Tatiana Morozova	December 4
John Ambrose	December 8
Brenna Herrity	December 9
Bryan Westbrook	December 9
Bridget Bernheisel	December 10
Steve Masticola	December 15
Kentaro Yamamoto	December 16
Ethan Ventura	December 17
Ed MacQueen	December 18
Tosin Dada	December 21
Larry Berrill, Jr.	December 24
Charles Muldrow	December 27

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Christmas Eve Service



Please join us as we joyously celebrate our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service on Friday, December 24, at 7:00 pm. We will have a Lessons and Carols service with Scripture readings and music that highlight the Christmas story. It is a wonderful way to celebrate the incarnation of our Savior!

Harris Ministry Thanksgiving

Windsor Chapel provided the money for the Harris Ministry team to organize and purchase one hundred turkeys and bags of potatoes to give families in need in Trenton. The pandemic once again made it too challenging for our congregation to bring filled grocery bags to church as has been our past practice. Hopefully next year we can resume our decades long tradition.



Financial Update

(Through October 31, 2021)

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

	Actual	Budget
Income		
Other income	\$192,969	\$183,330
(PPP loan)	\$29,458	
Total Income	\$222,427	
Expense	\$199,265	\$183,342

Windsor Chapel has sent \$24,224 to our missionary partners this year. That is 13% of your giving!

Elders' Corner

By Ed MacQueen

Greetings in the Lord; may the coming Christmas season bring you newfound joy and peace in Jesus Christ. As we gather with family and friends this season, rejoice in knowing that the whole world over fellow believers are gathering to celebrate the birth of Jesus. His name is excellent in all the earth! I pray that these weeks leading to Christmas are manageable for you. While we all have things to prepare and plans to execute, I encourage you to purposefully take time to sit at Jesus' feet and enjoy the wonder of God taking on flesh in love for you. Martin Luther famously said that it was because he had so much work to perform that he would spend the first portion of the day in prayer. It may seem counterintuitive, but sometimes it's the busiest days when it matters most to take time out to pray.

For the elders, one of the things December brings is budget preparation. We are looking forward to presenting a draft 2022 budget to the church for its consideration in January. We appreciate your prayers as we are working through development of the draft now.

As always, the elders are here to serve you. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's any way we can be of help. If you're in town for Christmas, I hope you'll join for the Christmas Eve service. I know for my family it's one of the highlights of the year. God bless you and yours this Christmas season. May the glad tidings of Christ fill your heart anew.

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. John 10:9

Men's Breakfast



Our Men's Breakfast in November was a great time of fellowship. John Kimmel was the chef, and his cooking was appreciated by all who attended. Charlie Muldrow came, his first time in church in one and a half years. Guests also included Tom T., Ken B., Allen B., Pastor Joshua, John K., Dan F., and Pastor Andy.

*This life therefore, is not
righteousness
but growth in righteousness,
Not health but healing,
not being but becoming,
not rest but exercise.*

*We are not yet what we shall be,
But we are growing toward it,
The process is not yet finished,
But it is going on,
this is not the end,
but it is the road.*

*All does not yet gleam in glory,
But all is being purified.*

Martin Luther



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

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Harvest Party



Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

Here Comes...the Bridegroom!

Christmas is coming! 'Tis the season for us to ponder with wonder the coming of Christ as God Incarnate in history and to consider with hope the promise of Christ's return. I would like to suggest that taking a bit of time to consider the return of Christ will enable us to make our celebration of the Incarnation more powerful and more deeply joyful.

The church is sometimes described as the bride of Christ (Revelation 19:7), and believers are now waiting for the Bridegroom. This metaphor is worth careful consideration. In today's world, weddings are a big deal, requiring months if not years of preparation and care. But that was similarly true in Bible times and in the centuries in between. The truth is that marriage is a big deal. God's intent for marriage is lifetime intimacy that mirrors the unity and intimacy enjoyed within the Trinity. And while our elaborate preparations reflect that, it is important to remember that it is the marriage relationship—not the ceremony—that is of ultimate importance. In the counseling field, it is regularly bemoaned that young couples spend much more time preparing for their wedding than they do preparing for a lifetime of living together.

Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom ²*Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.* ³*For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,* ⁴*but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps.* ⁵*Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep.* ⁶*But at midnight*

there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷*Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.* ⁸*The foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'* ⁹*But the prudent answered, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'* ¹⁰*And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.* ¹¹*Later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.'* ¹²*But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.'* ¹³*Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.*

This parable of Jesus, recorded in Matthew 25, reminds us that waiting for the bridegroom requires an active and engaged waiting. And in the end, it is about a genuine relationship with Christ, one characterized by our knowing Him and His knowing us. I would suggest that keeping our lamps lit is a metaphor for a continued pursuit of Christ, fueled by a desire to build that relationship. Preparing for Christ is far more than looking good. It is far more about building and deepening our relationship with Christ. And while developing that relationship is serious business and more challenging than "dressing up" in Christian trappings, it also means that the messiness of our lives of faith is not the measure of who we are in Christ and need not distract us from pursuing Him.

The celebration of Christmas is marked by special events, special decorations, gifts. These symbols are reminders of deeper truths. As we plan our events, dig out our decorations, and purchase our gifts, may we do so with our eyes, ears, and hearts fixed on our Lord so that this holiday may enable and empower us to keep our lamps lit.

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

Patience

By Janet Berrill

One afternoon I was holding Luke, and I needed to go upstairs and put something away. I set Luke down, but he didn't like this and began to get fussy. I explained to him that I would be right back and asked him to wait patiently. He stopped fussing and looked at me. As I walked up the stairs, I turned to him and said again that I would be right back and reminded him to wait patiently. In a minute or two I came back downstairs where Luke was waiting for me. As I picked him up again, I gave him a Gramma kiss and thanked him for waiting so patiently.

Luke was able to wait patiently, because he knew I would be right back. He trusts me. We have developed a relationship where if I ask him to wait patiently for something and he does, he gets what I said I would give him. If he starts to get fussy, I don't give him what he wants until he settles down and waits patiently, even if it is only for a moment (after all he is only one-and-a-half).

I think we can learn a lesson from Luke. Have you ever gotten fussy with God because you didn't want to wait patiently? In this day and age especially, people are very impatient. We can communicate almost instantly via text. We can order products online and have them delivered the next day. We can look up information on the web anytime we want. We are conditioned to get what we want when we want it.

But God will not be rushed. Take a look at a few examples from the Bible:

1. God's first prophecy of a Messiah took place in the Garden of Eden. After Adam and Eve sinned, God said an offspring of Eve's would crush the head of Satan (Genesis 3:15).

It was over two thousand years before that prophecy was fulfilled. Humanity had to wait.

2. When the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt, they prayed for deliverance. God had prophesied that they would be freed and leave with great possessions (Genesis 15:14). He also told them they would be strangers in a land not their own for 400 years. The Israelites had to wait

3. Jesus promised He will come back again. Humanity is waiting.

God knows us. He knows we can be impatient, but He doesn't want us to be. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit. God wants us to trust Him and be patient. He knows this isn't always easy for us, so He helps us. Colossians 1:11 says we are, "...*strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience...*" God gives us *His power* so that we can be patient! When we are impatient, it's because we are not tapping into the power that the Holy Spirit gives us to be patient.

Who is happy when they are impatient? No one! So, when you find yourself being impatient, remember the power that God gives you, and ask Him to use His mighty power to help you be patient. Not only will you feel a lot better, but you are providing an opportunity for God to be glorified. In 1 Corinthians 12:9-10, Paul says that his weaknesses are an opportunity for Christ's power to make him strong. When God's power makes someone strong, He is glorified. So, in your weakness, if you are feeling impatient, pray for patience knowing that as God makes you strong you will be bringing glory to His name.

