

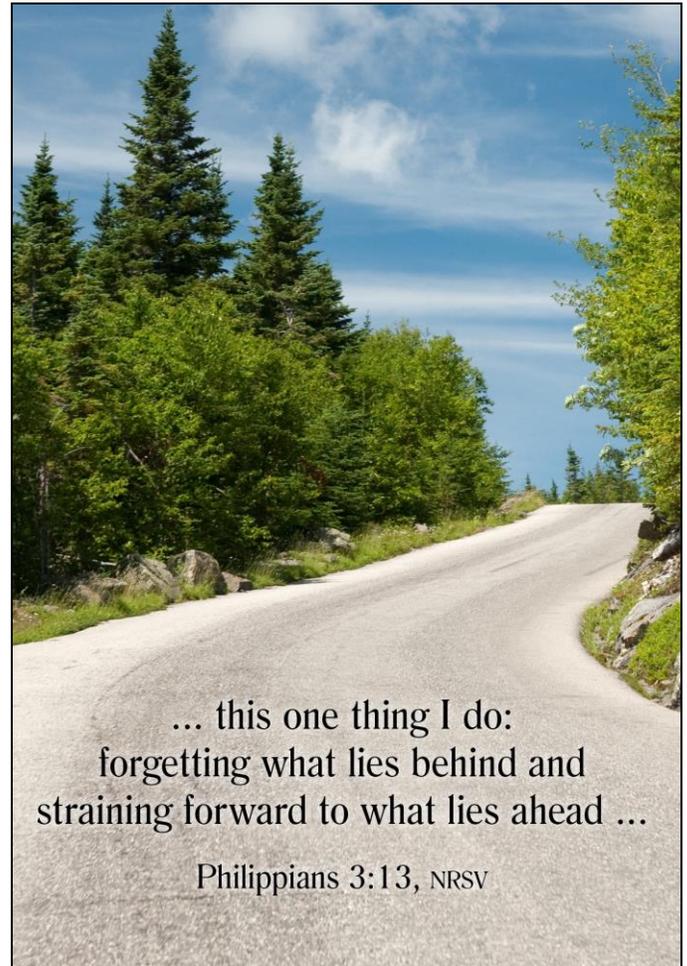
First Impressions

By Don Ober

My dear departed mother used to insist first impressions are very important, and we all listen to Mom, right? My mother took it so seriously she used to tell us as kids to make sure we had clean undies on “just in case we had to go to the hospital.” Of course, I always thought to myself as a kid, “So if I get in an accident and I’m in the hospital, your biggest concern is my underwear?”

Anyway, all joking aside, I found an exception and a lesson to this rule of first impressions. I was playing at a cocktail party at the Nassau Inn in Princeton, and a young boy came up to me while I was playing. He had an obvious serious walking handicap. He also was flailing his arms a bit. With his head shaking from some lack of motor skills and a very bad speech impediment, he asked me if he could play a duet with me. My thought was a bit conflicted. I wanted to be polite to the young boy, but I also had made an assumption that nobody would want to hear what he had to play. How was I going to navigate this issue? Then his father came up and also asked if his son could play with me. I felt trapped between the choice of patronizing this terribly compromised young boy and his father or playing the piano with him and being embarrassed by the poor music I figured we were going to make

Before I could choose a reaction, this young man sat down on my left on the piano bench. He started to play the most wonderful ragtime I have ever heard on the piano as I sat there, mesmerized by his talent! This boy, who could barely speak a coherent sentence, was flying around on the piano keys like only a seasoned pro could. It then got even more interesting. There is something in Jazz called “fours.” This musical term means that players will trade solos back and forth. Only in this case, each



... this one thing I do:
forgetting what lies behind and
straining forward to what lies ahead ...

Philippians 3:13, NRSV

soloist will solo on four bars of music and trade these “fours” back and forth. This young lad yelled out to me, “You,” expecting me to solo for four bars. Then he’d yell, “Me,” and indeed, he would solo for four bars. This went on for a bit and the two of us were having so much fun, we didn’t realize people were watching. When we got done, the place erupted with applause.

The lesson? There were really a few lessons, as I look back. First and foremost, first impressions can be terribly wrong if you do not give a person a chance. My prejudice about what I expected of this young boy almost ruined this great experience. The second lesson I gleaned from it is this: I am sure glad our God and His Son Jesus do not stop at first impressions. I am quite sure there are times in my life that, to our Heavenly Father, I look

Continued on page 2...

“First Impressions,” continued...

much more handicapped than this young man does in His eyes. It’s a matter of perspective. His handicaps are physical. Are my spiritual limitations, prejudices, and other weaknesses any less of a handicap?

The final thing I think I realized was from this young man’s perspective and that of his father. They must have known what people expected from them based on “perceived limitations,” but did that not stop them? No, because they knew he had something to share with me and nothing would stop them. We, too, have something to share with the world, no matter how limited we may believe we are in sharing it. We have the glorious message of Christ, and as we all should know, God loves delivering His message of love through flawed vessels. So, my message is this: no matter how limited you may believe your talents are, always be prepared to share your relationship to Christ with others. God does not make mistakes, and if He puts someone in your path who needs to hear the gospel, He wants you to share it because He chose you, just like that young piano player showed me his talents.

And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?” And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.”

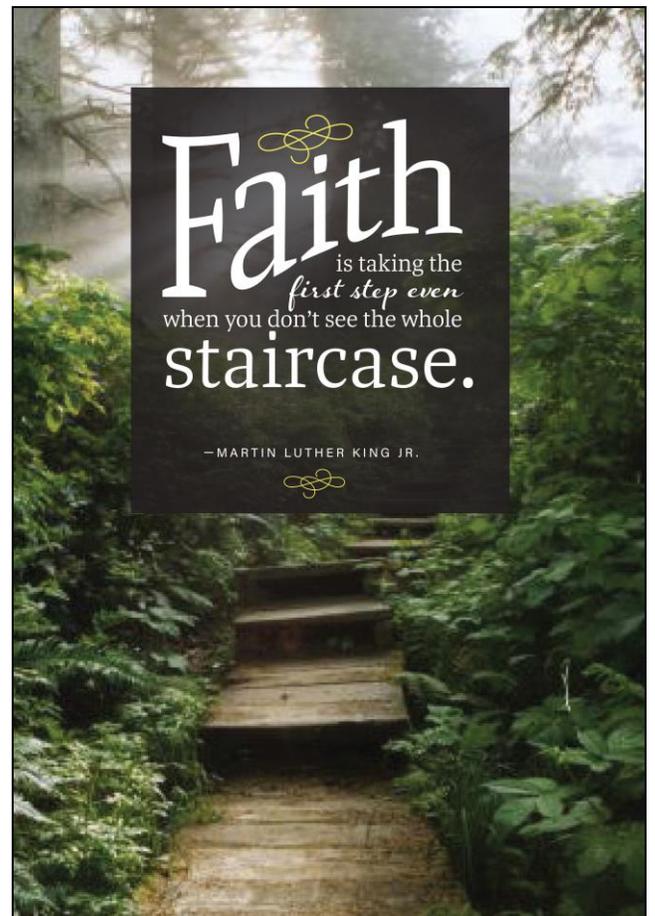
Luke 10:25-38



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.

Janet Berrill	July 15
Lise Hill	July 16
Don Ober	July 16



Elders' Corner

By Ken Bills

June 1, 2025, was an important day for Windsor Chapel. The unanimous vote to call to Pastor Jame John as Windsor Chapel's next pastor was an answer to many prayers – prayers that God would lead us forward in unity and confirm His choice for our next pastor. Praise God for His leading and faithfulness to us!

This is a time for gratitude to God, and also to thank the members of our body! Thanks, of course, to Larry, Helen, Cindy and Tom, our search committee, for hours and hours of prayer, study, meetings and discussion, and a commitment to hearing from the Lord. Thanks also to all the members of our congregation who faithfully continued to gather each week, serve one another in ways great and small, pray for one another, and support this body with their time, gifts and finances! There were numerous opportunities to become discouraged by our small attendance, budget woes, facility issues, an aging congregation, and lack of pastoral leadership, and yet somehow, by God's grace, here we are about to begin a new adventure of following the Lord together. God is good!

As we have talked with Pastor Jame, he has consistently emphasized the priority of prayer in his life, ministry and vision for Windsor Chapel's future. Please continue to be praying for Pastor Jame and his family as they finish their ministry in Philadelphia, relocate to New Jersey and prepare to start ministry at Windsor Chapel. Please also pray for Windsor Chapel, that we will be open to the Lord's Spirit and ready for all God has for us!

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Kids' 5-Day Club Starts Soon!



We're excited to announce that Windsor Chapel's 5-Day Club for children ages 5–12 is coming soon! This faith-filled week of fun and discovery will run Monday, July 14, through Friday, July 18, from 7:00 to 8:30 each evening at Windsor Chapel. Children will explore timeless biblical truths through inspiring Bible and missionary stories, and enjoy lively songs, fun games, snacks, outdoor play, and more! It's a joyful and enriching experience that helps kids grow in their faith while making lasting memories.

Parents may register their children on our website at www.windsorchapel.org. Please share this exciting news with your family, friends and neighbors, too! All children 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 for their families, too, and will bless and encourage every teen and adult who serves. 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

Let (Spiritual) Freedom Ring!

July brings our celebrations of Independence Day, a time when we focus on freedom and its importance. It is a good time to cultivate an attitude of gratitude for the freedoms that we enjoy and for those who have won us those freedoms.

As Christians, we serve a God of justice, righteousness, and mercy, a God who hates oppression. Our God is a God of intimate relationship, which is possible only to the degree that there is a "level playing field" for all parties. I am quite confident that the Lord loves freedom! But when Jesus came as God Incarnate, He came as a member of a Jewish nation that was anything but free. No longer ruled by God-appointed/God-anointed judges or kings, Israel was suffering under the heavy-handed rule of the Roman Empire. There were no "unalienable rights," no guaranteed freedoms. And the worship of the One True God was challenged by a Roman watchtower that hovered over the Temple.

Jesus did not arrive on a white horse with a flaming sword to rescue the Jews from Roman rule. He came as a powerless baby. And even when He grew up and engaged in three years of public ministry, political freedom was not high on Jesus' agenda. He enabled Peter to pay his taxes, and He even ministered to some of the Roman officials and their families! His focus was on a higher freedom, an eternal one: freedom from the penalty and power of sin.

Many of the Jews in Jesus' day were far more concerned about the external, physical lack of freedoms than their internal, spiritual freedoms. They couldn't recognize Jesus as their Messiah because He was not preaching/enabling/empowering the overthrow of their Roman rulers. Instead, He was proclaiming the Kingdom of God and the eternal freedoms our God offers. Regardless of political circumstances, bondservants of Christ are the freest people on the planet: We are free from the penalty and power of sin; and we are free from the opinions and expectations of others, and even ourselves.

To be sure, political safety and freedom is not unimportant, and some of us are called to be God's hand in fighting oppression in that arena. But may we always remember the eternal realities of spiritual freedom and live in gratitude even as we may encounter the temporal struggles associated with political freedoms.

Financial Update

(Through May 31, 2025)

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..."

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$51,155	\$60,000
Expense	\$48,982	\$60,000

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

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