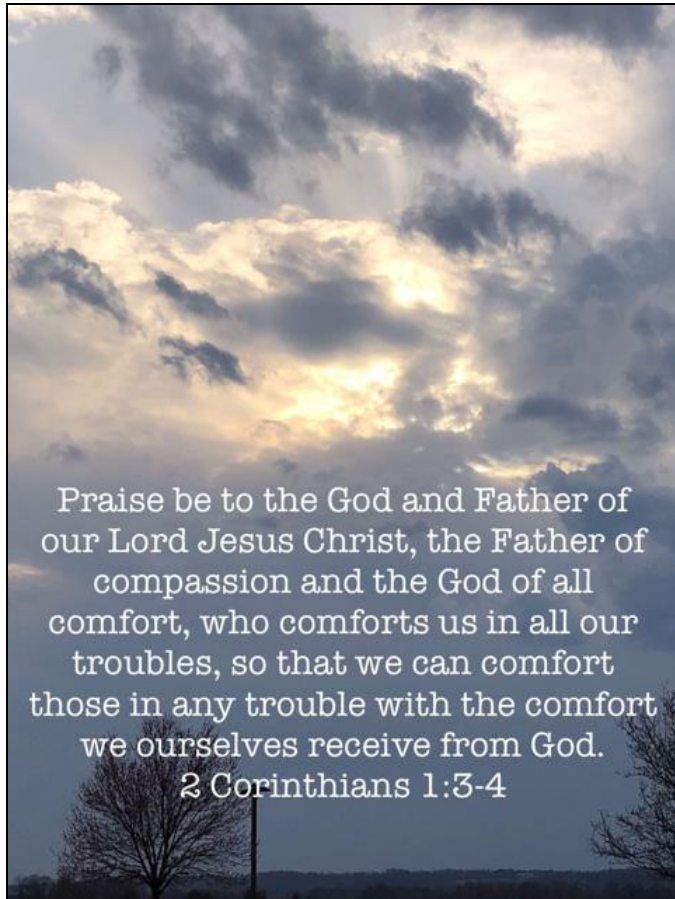


The God of All Comfort

By Jean LaRosa



Praise be to the God and Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of
compassion and the God of all
comfort, who comforts us in all our
troubles, so that we can comfort
those in any trouble with the comfort
we ourselves receive from God.
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Many years ago, I read a classic Christian book titled, "The God of All Comfort" by Hannah Whitall Smith. That name for God has stayed with me ever since. Smith wrote, *"The true ground for peace and comfort is only to be found in the sort of God we have."* In other words, our comfort depends on God's character—on the truth that He is good and trustworthy. But what does God's comfort look like? How can we experience it? And how can we, in turn, offer that same comfort to others?

In 2 Corinthians 1, the Apostle Paul calls God "the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort." Merriam-Webster defines *compassion* as "sympathetic consciousness of

others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it."

We see this clearly in Exodus 3:7, when God speaks to Moses at the burning bush:

"I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering."

God goes on to explain to Moses what He is going to do about it. He isn't merely aware of our suffering—He is concerned about it and wants to help us. 1 Peter 5:7 encourages us, *"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."* We can be comforted by remembering God's active and personal care for us.

God comforts us through His presence. Jesus himself was called *Immanuel*, meaning "God with us" (Matthew 1:23). The Psalms are filled with reminders that God is near in times of adversity.

In Psalm 23:4, David wrote:

"I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

How did these shepherds' tools comfort the former shepherd, David? The rod was used to fend off predators and protect the flock. The staff was used to guide the sheep, keeping them from danger and steering them along the right path. These symbols reminded David that God was protecting and directing him. Jesus later referred to Himself as *the Good Shepherd* (John 10:14), assuring us that He is present with us, like a shepherd with his flock, guiding and protecting us.

Continued on page 2...

"The God of All Comfort," continued...

Psalm 46:1 declares, *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."* Hebrews 13:5 reminds us that He will never leave us or forsake us. And Psalm 34:18 assures us, *"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted."*

One way I've experienced God's comfort more deeply is through Scripture memory. I use an app to store verses that remind me of God's presence and loving concern for me, including many from the Psalms. Reviewing these verses helps me remember that God is near and reminds me of His faithful love.

The Psalms were originally songs, and music can be a powerful way to experience God's comfort. When I'm feeling overwhelmed, I sometimes listen to songs like Evan Craft's *"Be Alright"* that remind me of God's love and faithfulness. Music can become a prayer when we are unable to come up with our own words.

Just as God comforts us, we are called to comfort others. We can show compassion when we go beyond empathy to meet a need on behalf of those who are hurting. We can be present with them and listen to them. We can pray with them and for them, lifting them up to the God who sees and cares.

May God's compassion and constant presence bring comfort to you today—comfort that you can share with others.

When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.
Leviticus 19:33-34



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.

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Barbara MacQueen | August 11 |
| Kenneth Bills | August 13 |
| Tinging Sun | August 27 |

Financial Update

(Through June 30, 2025)

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

| | Actual | Budget |
|---------|----------|----------|
| Income | \$59,976 | \$72,000 |
| Expense | \$58,775 | \$72,000 |

Fellowship and Refreshments

Please join us immediately following the worship service on Sunday, August 24, for an enjoyable farewell to summer with fellowship and snacks. It will be held outside weather permitting.

If you can, bring a light snack to share for munching (muffins, veggies, cookies etc.). It will be appreciated! Watermelon, lemonade and water will be provided.



Elders' Corner

By Darrell S. Bernheisel

Over the past year, I've tried to assign a theme to each message in hopes of encouraging you—and our church—through this season of trial and transition.

- In March 2024, the theme was **trust**, drawn from David's words in *Psalms* 40:1–5: *"I waited patiently for the Lord... Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord."*
- In November 2024, we focused on **hope**, inspired by Paul's encouragement in *Romans* 5:2–4: *"We boast in the hope of the glory of God... because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."*
- In April 2025, the theme was **courage**, rooted in God's promise in *Isaiah* 43:1–5: *"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine... Because you are precious in my sight and honored, and I love you. Do not be afraid."*

I pray these messages of **trust**, **hope**, and **courage** have offered you strength and inspiration.

But that was then—during our trials. Can we finally relax? After all, we have a new pastor! Surely, all will be well.

Pastor Jame begins on August 3rd. We're excited to hear his sermons, and we may be tempted to sit back and let him take the reins to fill the pews, restore the church, and carry the weight. And while he will certainly lean on the Lord for guidance, wisdom, and strength, we must ask ourselves: What **about me**?

We know that **God equips His people and calls them to action**. I believe we all agree that God has bold plans for Windsor Chapel. And He will call and equip members of this

very body to carry them out. He may even call you by name. In *Exodus*, Moses was given a series of instructions for the people of Israel to carry out. From *Exodus* 31:2–6, we read: *"See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft. And behold, I have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. And I have given to all able men ability, that they may make all that I have commanded you."*

You may not be asked to craft golden lampstands or weave fine linen like Bezalel and Oholiab. But just as Moses wasn't expected to fulfill God's vision alone, **Pastor Jame cannot do it alone either**. God's answer to His plans is **you**: the members and attendees of Windsor Chapel.

So I ask: **Will you pray? Will you listen? Will you respond?**

Perhaps God is calling you to use skills you've developed—recently, or over a lifetime—to serve in the Children's ministry, offer counseling, plan events, or lead community outreach. Maybe it will be teaching, playing music, or helping the audio-visual team. The possibilities are endless.

If we, as a church body, listen and respond to the Lord's prompting, there is **no limit** to what His kingdom can accomplish in West Windsor.

Are you praying? Are you listening? Are you ready? Because God's answer to what He wants accomplished... is **you**!

Blessings to you and your family from the Elder Board and Pastor Jame.


5-Day Club



ISI Garage Giveaway– Share the Warmth of Our Community

You're invited to be part of a wonderful opportunity to welcome international students and their families to Princeton! The Annual ISI Garage Giveaway will be held between 8 am and noon on **Saturday, August 23**, at the Lutheran Church of the Messiah, 407 Nassau Street, in Princeton. This meaningful event supports international students and visiting scholars by providing them with essential household items — helping them settle into their new lives with comfort and care.

Donations are greatly needed! Especially helpful items include:

Adult or children's bicycles in good working condition, bike helmets and  locks, furniture, small appliances and kitchen, bath and bed needs are especially welcome.

Items needed:

Bicycles, pots, dishes, silverware, toasters, irons, fans, sheets, blankets, desks, dinette sets, lamps, chairs, couches, bookshelves, throw rugs, heaters

Not accepted:

Beds, mattresses, computers, monitors, televisions, toys, clothes, books, curtains

Drivers with pickups, trucks, trailers, SUVs and vans and helpers are also needed. The rain date is **Saturday, September 6**. For additional information, please contact Bob Louer at (973) 462-4071 or Robert.Louer@gmail.com; Carrie Louer at (407) 538-1099 or Carrie.Louer@gmail.com, Tom Taylor at (908) 406-4790 or guytmt@gmail.com or Glenn Shimomura at 908-369-4898 or gaabcshim@gmail.com.

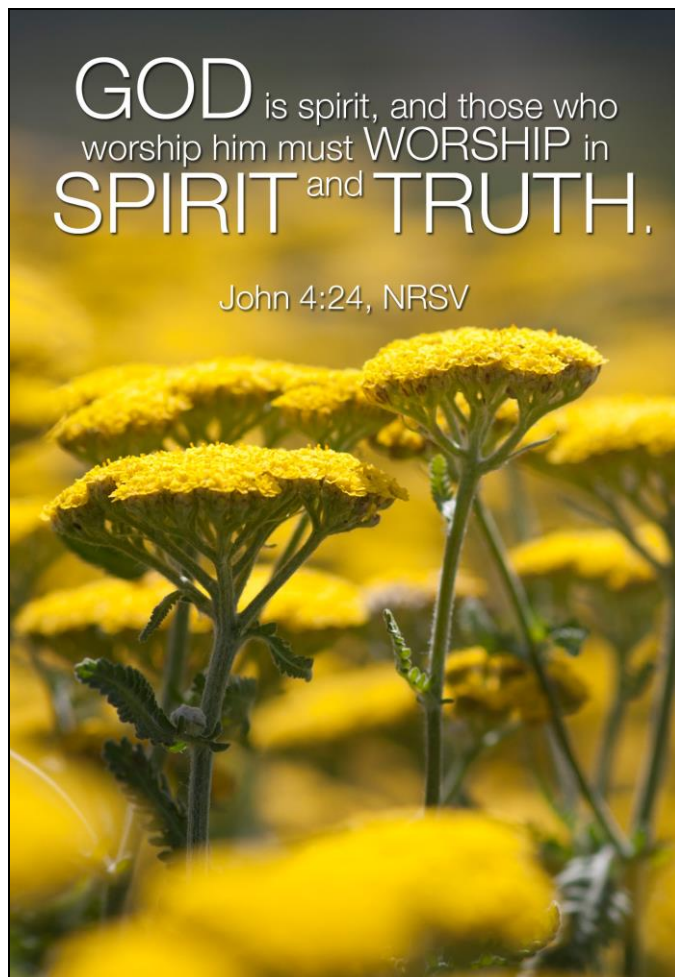
Line Dancing to Contemporary Christian Music



Kristin Westbrook and her friend Ashley Rose led a line dancing class in the sanctuary in June. The well attended session used contemporary Christian music. Admission to the class was free and optional donations were accepted to benefit Windsor Chapel ministries.

**Let them praise His name with dancing;
Let them sing praises to Him with
timbrel and lyre.**

Psalm 149:3



GOD is spirit, and those who
worship him must **WORSHIP** in
SPIRIT and **TRUTH.**

John 4:24, NRSV

**Woe to those who call evil good, and
good evil; Who substitute darkness for
light and light for darkness; Who
substitute bitter for sweet and sweet
for bitter!**

Isaiah 5:20

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

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**Contributing photographers: Jean LaRosa,
Kate Taylor & Kristin Westbrook**

Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

Gardening and the Kingdom of God

I am not a gardener. I very much appreciate the creativity and provision that the glorious plant life the Lord has given us represents. But I prefer to engage with the animal kingdom component of God's creation. But just as God intended, animal life cannot live and thrive without plant life. And so I have become a reluctant gardener in order to provide an inviting oasis for the wildlife in our neighborhood.

I am still not a gardener! My efforts are amateur at best. One of the challenges I have encountered is distinguishing weeds from plants. My expectation that it should be obvious and easy has not proven to always be the case. Some weeds are attractive!

So while I am still not a gardener, I have come to appreciate the lessons that gardening can offer. Weeds can compromise the growth of the plants I want to grow by stealing nutrients from the soil. So attractive or not, I need to learn to recognize them and remove them. The same is true of spiritual weeds, the lies that Satan would have me believe, that would erode the truths that are the foundation of my life of faith.

In II Corinthians 11:14, the Apostle Paul tells us that Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light. He has been the master of deceit from the time he arrived in the Garden of Eden to initiate the fateful conversation with Eve. We would be wise to pay attention to his strategy. The serpent does not directly contradict God's

command to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil until well into the conversation. Instead, he questions Eve in such a way as to encourage her to question her knowledge of and trust in the LORD. Then he contradicts God; he assures her that not only will she not die if she eats the fruit, she will become wise like God! And when he finally offers the fruit to Eve, she sees that it is beautiful and tasty—irresistible!

The lies Satan would throw before us are no different. Satan's lies are attractive: they tell us what we want to hear, and they appear harmless and even good. Worse yet, they make us feel good about ourselves, important and powerful. It is easy to mistake them for God's truth, and even easier to want them to be true. This is why it is so important for us to be walking in faith, pursuing an ever-growing personal relationship with our Lord and Savior. We must be fully convinced in our heart of God's sovereign righteousness and goodness and of His redemptive purposes if we are to withstand the lies that Satan would have put before us, lies that look good, offer a "quick fix," and make us feel good. We must learn to distinguish Satan's lies from God's truth and mercilessly uproot them from our minds and hearts.

Fortunately, God Almighty is on our side. The Lord who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life has died for our sins. He has blessed us with His Word and with His indwelling Holy Spirit. He has given us one another to encourage and correct us should we be tempted to stray from His truth. And best of all, He has promised to complete the work He has begun in us. May we live gratefully and joyfully in the Truth....

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