

Freedom Beyond Independence

By Pastor Jame John

"The more we are occupied with Christ, the more freedom we enjoy." - Hudson Taylor

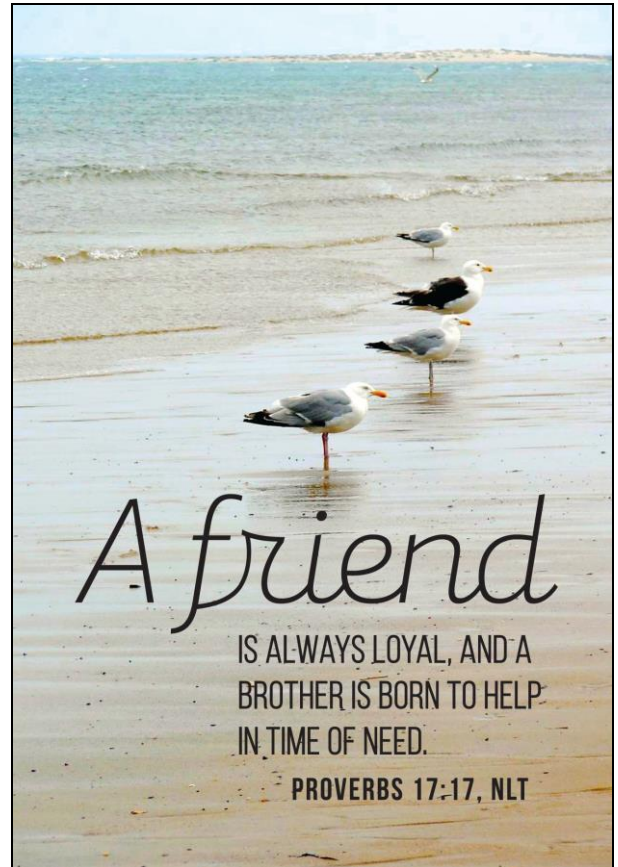
The warmth of summer is upon us, and with it comes a season of celebration. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation's Declaration of Independence, our neighborhoods are filling with the familiar sights and sounds of joy - the music of parades, the sizzle of barbecues, football and soccer, and the laughter of families gathered together. It is a time for rest, travel, and gratitude for the many blessings we enjoy.

As we participate in these celebrations, we are reminded of the value of freedom. Throughout history, many have sacrificed greatly so that others might live in liberty. We are blessed to live in a nation where we can worship freely, pursue opportunities, and build meaningful lives.

Yet the freedoms we enjoy in our nation can also remind us of an even greater freedom found in our Lord Jesus Christ. He said, *"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed"* (John 8:36). Through His death and resurrection, He has provided a freedom that no government can grant, and no circumstance can take away.

Because Christ paid the penalty for our sins, we are free to receive God's forgiveness. Because He conquered the grave, we are free to live with hope. Because He intercedes for us, we are free to approach our Heavenly Father with confidence.

This freedom changes the way we live. Instead of being controlled by fear, we can trust God with our future. Instead of striving to earn His



acceptance, we can rest in His love. Instead of living only for ourselves, we can serve others with joy and gratitude. True freedom is not simply the ability to do whatever we please. It is the privilege of becoming who God created us to be and walking in His will each day.

As our families gather to celebrate, let us thank God not only for the freedoms we enjoy, but also for the everlasting freedom we have in His Son. The blessings of earthly freedom are precious, but the freedom found in Jesus Christ is eternal.

May we continue to walk in that freedom, drawing nearer to the Lord through His Spirit, His Word, prayer, and worship. And may our lives reflect the joy, peace, and hope that are found in Christ alone. Happy Independence Day!

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free" (Galatians 5:1).

Kids' 5-Day Club Starts Soon!



Windsor Chapel's 5-Day Club for children ages 5–12 begins this month. It will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 every evening starting Monday, July 20 through Friday, July 24, in the chapel. Children will enjoy inspiring Bible and missionary stories, lively songs, exciting games, snacks, fun outdoor play, and more! It's a joyful 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. Youth ages 12 and over are also encouraged to join this rewarding ministry. 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. 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 touch and change the life of each child who attends, and pray for their families, too. Ask the Lord to bless and encourage every teen and adult who serves. For additional information or to volunteer, please email Ed MacQueen at e.macqueen1@comcast.net or call him at 609-751-6584.



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.

Pastor Jame John	July 1
Janet Berrill	July 15
Lise Hill	July 16
Don Ober	July 16

Happy Anniversary!



Congratulations to Nancy and Charlie Muldrow, long-time members of Windsor Chapel, who celebrated their sixty-eighth Wedding Anniversary on June 14th.

Elders' Corner

By Tom Taylor

A Favorite Book of the Bible: Psalms

I would like to encourage us this month with one of my favorite books of the Bible: Psalms. I know it may sound a little strange to have a favorite book. After all, every book of the Bible is given to us by God, revealing His character, His ways, and His plans. Yet somehow, for me, the Psalms speak especially clearly. They call me to want God more, to love Him more, to talk with Him more, and to see Him more.

I have heard Psalms described as the prayer book, the songbook, and the poetry book of the Bible, and I think it is all of these.

The Psalms reveal so much of God's character: His goodness, His faithfulness, His splendor and majesty, His wonderful works, and His desire for His people. They show us who He is. They also reveal our great need to look to Him and to call upon Him in both good times and difficult times. The Psalms teach us to praise Him, bless Him, thank Him, and know Him. They also teach us to cry out to Him for mercy, protection, deliverance, provision, wisdom, and discernment.

At times, the psalmists wonder where God is and what He is doing. Many of the psalms are laments. We live in a broken world, scarred by sin and evil, and there is often reason to grieve and express sorrow. How many times do we see David crying out to God about his enemies and questioning why the wicked seem to prosper?

You do not have to go very far in Psalms to hear the writers expressing their sorrow to God. They speak honestly about their struggles. They question why they are so downcast, and then they remind themselves that their help is found in God, not in their

circumstances. He is our Shepherd. Our times are in His hands. It is always good to give thanks to the Lord and to declare among our families, friends, and neighbors how great God is, how worthy He is of praise and honor, and how right it is to worship Him alone.

I hope this encourages you to spend time in the Psalms—prayers, songs, and poetry that help us know Him better, enjoy Him more, and love Him more deeply.

I cannot resist leaving you with one of my favorites: Psalm 145. I encourage you to take a few moments this week to read and meditate on this beautiful psalm of praise.

Financial Update

(Through May 31, 2026)

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$53,663	\$73,750
Expense	\$90,853	\$73,750

*"And my God will supply all your needs
according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus"*
Philippians 4:19



Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

The Pursuit

As we enter July, the United States is preparing to mark its 250th anniversary as an independent republic. Despite the divisions among us, we have much to celebrate. May we come to Him in deep thanksgiving for the blessings He has bestowed upon us....

As we celebrate America's birthday, I think it presents us with a reminder that it is important to go beyond giving thanks to the Lord for His blessings. It is also crucial to remember that heaven is eternal, and the United States is not. We do not want to be so distracted with temporal reality that we lose focus on the eternal.

The Declaration of Independence and our Constitution are excellent political documents. But they are not the Bible! A particularly good example of the difference is found in the beginning of the second paragraph of the Declaration: *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.* The pursuit of happiness may be a fundamental political freedom, but it is not the Lord's goal for us.

In my New American Standard Bible, "happiness" appears a handful of times. Joy, on the other hand, is repeated often in both the Old and New Testaments. While happiness can be promoted by a positive attitude, it is to a significant degree dependent on our circumstances. The Lord wants us to know His joy that is independent of circumstances. As Jesus was speaking with His disciples in the Upper Room just before His crucifixion, He warned them that their circumstances in the world would include hatred, stumbling blocks, and tribulation. But He also explained that *these things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

How do we find and experience joy even in the midst of challenging and difficult circumstances? In His Upper Room Discourse, Jesus also instructed His disciples to abide in Him as the true vine, that we would bear fruit in Him. He also promised the indwelling Holy Spirit. And then the Apostle Paul, in his epistle to the Galatians, taught that joy is a fruit of that indwelling Holy Spirit. And so we know that as we abide in Christ, He enables us to bear the fruit of joy by the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit despite challenging and troubling circumstances. And this joy, independent of circumstances, represents a tremendous witness to an unbelieving, hurting world.

Happiness is nice! I love being comfortable and having an easy time of things. But I do not want to pursue happiness as a counterfeit of joy. And sometimes I need encouragement to resist the temptation to serve myself to generate the comfortable circumstances that promise happiness. May we, like the disciples who sat and listened to our Lord's final words, have our hearts and minds fixed on our Lord, that we would abide in Him and bear His fruit of joy as a blessing for all concerned.

It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are halfhearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

C.S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory

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

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

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