

The Messenger

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Purpose: To keep the congregation informed of church functions, program, and other news, and to inspire to fulfill its mission, through publication of a monthly bulletin.

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The Messenger

Newsletter of The Walhalla Presbyterian Church and The West Union Chapel
Volume No. 143 Issue No. 7
July 2010

Vince's View



Dear Family & Friends of Walhalla Presbyterian Church and West Union Chapel,

This month, we citizens of the United States of America celebrate the birthday of our freedom as a nation. Our national freedom is God's blessing of mercy upon us. Freedom is always costly. As we remember the sacrifices of our armed services for the last 234 years to sustain our national freedom; let us also humbly bow down before the cross of Jesus Christ. We must never forget that our deepest citizenship is in the Kingdom of God. The greatness of America will always depend upon her goodness of heart and soul. Our ultimate and everlasting freedom was won at the ultimate cost by the Everlasting Man. The basis of all temporal freedom will ever be our eternal freedom of heart, mind and soul in Christ Jesus.

The maintenance of our freedom will always demand constant vigilance against every force that would seek to enslave us, politically or spiritually.

This month, I invite you to consider what the *Manhattan Declaration* call of Christian conscience (which I highlighted in last month's *Messenger*) has to say about freedom in its section on *Religious Liberty*. To learn more, see the website at <http://manhattandeclaration.org/home.aspx>

MANHATTAN DECLARATION: A CALL OF CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE - Released November 20, 2009

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. Isaiah 61:1

Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. Matthew 22:21

The struggle for religious liberty across the centuries has been long and arduous, but it is not a novel idea or recent development. The nature of religious liberty is grounded in the character of God Himself, the God who is most fully known in the life and work of Jesus Christ. Determined to follow Jesus faithfully in life and death, the early Christians appealed to the manner in which the Incarnation had taken place: "Did God send Christ, as some suppose, as a tyrant brandishing fear and terror? Not so, but in gentleness and meekness.... for compulsion is no attribute of God" (*Epistle to Diognetus* 7.3-4). Thus the right to religious freedom has its foundation in the example of Christ Himself and in the very dignity of the human person created in the image of God—a dignity, as our founders proclaimed, inherent in every human, and knowable by all in the exercise of right reason.

Christians confess that God alone is Lord of the conscience. Immunity from religious coercion is the cornerstone of an unconstrained conscience. No one should be compelled to embrace any religion against his will, nor should persons of faith be forbidden to worship God according to the dictates of conscience or to express freely and publicly their deeply held religious convictions. What is true for individuals applies to religious communities as well.

It is ironic that those who today assert a right to kill the unborn, aged and disabled and also a right to engage in immoral sexual practices, and even a right to have relationships integrated around these practices be recognized and blessed by law—such persons claiming these "rights" are very often in the vanguard of those who would trample upon the freedom of others to express their religious and moral commitments to the sanctity of life and to the dignity of marriage as the conjugal union of husband and wife.

We see this, for example, in the effort to weaken or eliminate conscience clauses, and therefore to compel pro-life institutions (including religiously affiliated hospitals and clinics), and pro-life physicians, surgeons, nurses, and other health care professionals, to refer for abortions and, in certain cases, even to perform or participate in abortions. We see it in the use of anti-discrimination statutes to force religious institutions, businesses, and service providers of various sorts to comply with activities they judge to be deeply immoral or go out of business. After the judicial imposition of "same-sex marriage" in Massachusetts, for example, Catholic Charities chose with great reluctance to end its century-long work of helping to place orphaned children in good homes rather than comply with a legal mandate that it place children in same-sex households in violation of Catholic moral teaching. In New Jersey, after the establishment of a quasi-marital "civil unions" scheme, a Methodist institution was stripped of its tax exempt status when it declined, as a matter of religious conscience, to permit a facility it owned and operated to be used for ceremonies blessing homosexual unions. In Canada and some European nations, Christian clergy have been prosecuted for preaching Biblical norms against the practice of homosexuality. New hate-crime laws in America raise the specter of the same practice here. Cont.....

The Messenger

July 2010 Edition

A publication of Walhalla Presbyterian Church and
West Union Chapel



**"If you abide in My word,
you are truly My disciples,
and you will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free."**

John 8:31-2

Vinces View continued.....

In recent decades a growing body of case law has paralleled the decline in respect for religious values in the media, the academy and political leadership, resulting in restrictions on the free exercise of religion. We view this as an ominous development, not only because of its threat to the individual liberty guaranteed to every person, regardless of his or her faith, but because the trend also threatens the common welfare and the culture of freedom on which our system of republican government is founded. Restrictions on the freedom of conscience or the ability to hire people of one's own faith or conscientious moral convictions for religious institutions, for example, undermines the viability of the intermediate structures of society, the essential buffer against the overweening authority of the state, resulting in the soft despotism Tocqueville so prophetically warned of. 1 Disintegration of civil society is a prelude to tyranny.

As Christians, we take seriously the Biblical admonition to respect and obey those in authority. We believe in law and in the rule of law. We recognize the duty to comply with laws whether we happen to like them or not, unless the laws are gravely unjust or require those subject to them to do something unjust or otherwise immoral. The biblical purpose of law is to preserve order and serve justice and the common good; yet laws that are unjust—and especially laws that purport to compel citizens to do what is unjust—undermine the common good, rather than serve it.

Going back to the earliest days of the church, Christians have refused to compromise their proclamation of the gospel. In Acts 4, Peter and John were ordered to stop preaching. Their answer was, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." Through the centuries, Christianity has taught that civil disobedience is not only permitted, but sometimes required. There is no more eloquent defense of the rights and duties of religious conscience than the one offered by Martin Luther King, Jr., in his Letter from a Birmingham Jail. Writing from an explicitly Christian perspective, and citing Christian writers such as Augustine and Aquinas, King taught that just laws elevate and ennoble human beings because they are rooted in the moral law whose ultimate source is God Himself. Unjust laws degrade human beings. Inasmuch as they can claim no authority beyond sheer human will, they lack any power to bind in conscience. King's willingness to go to jail, rather than comply with legal injustice, was exemplary and inspiring.

Because we honor justice and the common good, we will not comply with any edict that purports to compel our institutions to participate in abortions, embryo-destructive research, assisted suicide and euthanasia, or any other anti-life act; nor will we bend to any rule purporting to force us to bless immoral sexual partnerships, treat them as marriages or the equivalent, or refrain from proclaiming the truth, as we know it, about morality and immorality and marriage and the family. We will fully and ungrudgingly render to Caesar what is Caesar's. But under no circumstances will we render to Caesar what is God's.

"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

Free with you in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Vincent S. Alig

Walhalla Presbyterian Church Rosters July 2010

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 4th | Communion Sunday Prep – D. Wright & P. Hadley Lay Reader– John Palmer Head Usher— Sam Rochester Counters— John Palmer & Harry Silsby |
| 11th | Flowers in the Church— available Lay Reader— Harry Silsby Head Usher— John Lay Counters— John Palmer & Harry Silsby |
| 18th | Flowers in the Church— The Neville Family Lay Reader— Rosemary Bailes Head Usher— Lamar Bailes Counters – John Palmer & Harry Silsby |
| 25th | Flowers in the Church— Sandra Broyles Lay Reader— Alton Barnett Head Usher— Art Shick Counters— John Palmer & Harry Silsby |

SUMMER PICNIC

The church picnic will be Saturday, August 21 at the Biggerstaff picnic shelter beginning at 11am. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Bring a dish to share and games to play if you wish. Come by car or come by boat, bring your family and friends. Everyone is welcome for this day of fellowship.

Vacation Bible School News

Vacation Bible School is coming... If you are making plans for Vacation Bible School, you may pick up your registration form in the vestibule. The theme this year is "ReNew: The Green VBS". VBS starts Monday, July 19th. More information to come in upcoming bulletins. For additional information, see Becky Drew.

A new beginning this Fall

A new Sunday School class will be starting in September. It will be co-lead by Ruthie Alig and Stephanie Wright. Look for more details in August.



Condolences are extended to the family of Reba Cobb, who entered into God's nearer presence in eternity on June 10, 2010

Presbyterians in the Kitchen

Blueberry Cheesecake Bars

Rosemary Bailes

Note: With summer's blueberries ripening, this is a good time to try a new recipe with one of God's good gifts of nature.

1 pouch (1 lb 1½ oz) Betty Crocker oatmeal cookie mix
½ cup butter or margarine, softened
1 egg
3 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened
¾ cup sugar
½ cup whipping cream (can use evaporated milk or Cool Whip as substitute)
3 eggs
1 jar (10 oz.) blueberry spreadable fruit (or blueberry jam)
1 ½ cups fresh or frozen whole blueberries (if using frozen ones, thaw and drain)

1. Heat oven to 350°. Spray bottom and sides of 13" x 9" pan with cooking spray. In large bowl, mix cookie mix, butter and egg until soft dough forms. Press evenly into bottom of pan.
2. Bake 15 minutes; cool 10 minutes. Meanwhile, in another bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar with mixer on medium speed until fluffy. Add whipping cream and eggs; beat on low speed until well blended.
3. Spread spreadable fruit (or jam) over partially cooled crust. Sprinkle with blueberries. Pour cream cheese mixture evenly over blueberries, spreading to cover.
4. Bake 40 – 50 minutes, until center is set. Cool 30 minutes. Refrigerate at least 2 hours. Cut into 24 bars or squares (wetting knife blade makes cutting easier). Store covered in refrigerator.

Reminder: The Messenger needs your favorite recipe. Our readers enjoy favorites from ladies and gentlemen. Don't hoard your kitchen secrets; be a good Presbyterian and share!

...BIRTHDAY...

7/1 William Brown
7/7 Harry Silsby
7/7 Elinor Workman
7/8 Bob Bartell
7/10 Marcella Langston
7/13 John Bickford
7/13 John Morrah
7/13 Elbert Horton
7/17 Bonnie Douberly
7/18 Clarka Wickliffe
7/19 Jesse Neville
7/22 Bill Brown
7/25 Thomas Alexander
7/28 William Cash
7/28 Henry Harper
7/31 Carolyn Suggs



...ANNIVERSARY...

7/2 Jess & Marcella Langston
7/11 Jason & Susan Echols
7/18 Vince & Ruthie Alig
7/18 Jan & Peggy Hadley
7/26 Ronald & Sandra Mattox
7/30 Bill & Annie Brown



Best Summer—Read !

By: Donna Riggs

Look through your bookshelves. Wander a bookstore or thrift store. Go on Amazon.com. Find a copy of Fulton Oursler's *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, 1949. It was re-discovered by me in June and with the opening paragraph, "People in Nazareth said that Joseph was like his great ancestor, the favorite sone of Jacob. It was true that the carpenter of Nazareth, with his small golden beard, so different from his black-haired neighbors, was a dreamy, quiet-spoken man, looking more like a scholar than a craftsman," I was drawn-in. 299 pages and even though I know the climax of this story, the re-creation by Mr. Oursler's research and flair makes this an even more wonderful story. It will uplift you, warm your heart and cause you to revere God all over again! If 96 degrees is too hot for you, this summer read in AC comfort.

I have two paperback copies I will loan out. Please give me a call. 638- 7210.

Hymn of the Month

Submitted by: Doug Keel

Onward, Christian Soldiers

Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

*Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
2 Timothy 2:3*

B

Baring-Gould was one of the truly gifted preacher-literary men of the nineteenth century. In addition to being ordained to the Anglican ministry in 1864, he was a noted writer throughout his life. His publications include eighty-five books on such varied subjects as religion travel, folk-lore, mythology, history, fiction, biography, sermons and popular theology. All are notable works. It is said that the British Museum shows more titles by him than by any other writer of this time. Yet, amazingly enough, the work for which Sabine Baring-Gould is best noted and remembered today is a simple children's hymn written in 1865.

The author has left the following account regarding the writing his hymn.

It was written in a very simple fashion, without thought of publication. Whitmonday is a great day for school festivals in Yorkshire, and one Whitmonday is was arranged that our school should join forces with that of a neighboring village. I wanted the children to sing when marching from one village to the other, but couldn't think of anything quite suitable, so I sat up at night resolved to write something myself. "On-ward, Christian Soldiers" was the result. It was written in great haste.

Commenting on this hymn some thirty years later, Baring-Gould remarked:

It was written in great haste, and I am afraid that some of the rhymes are faulty. I am certain that nothing has surprised me more than its popularity.

A great hymn text must always be wedded to a fine tune in order to have universal appeal. Baring-Gould's hymn was first sung to the slow movement of Haydn's Symphony in D, No. 15, but the union has long since been forgotten. The present tune, "St. Gertrude," written by Sir Arthur S. Sullivan, was composed six years after the writing of the text. Sullivan, born in Bolwell Terrace, Lambeth, England, on May 13, 1842, was a noted English organist and composer. This tune was written in home of a Mrs. Gertrude Clay-Ker-Seymer in Dorsetshire, England, while Sullivan was a guest there. He dedicated the music to his hostess and the tune is known as "St. Gertrude" to this day. Sullivan is also the composer of the well-known secular classic, "The Lost Chord," as well as a number of operettas such as "Pinafore," "The Mikado," etc., done in collaboration with W. S. Gilbert, the librettist. The popular works have gained international fame.

No... you are not seeing double
Enjoy two months of Session Highlights in this issue!
The Session meetings fell within a period so that we could play catch up and give you the most current information.

From Your Session

by Rosemary Bailes

At their Stated Meeting on **May 26, 2010**, the Session:

Heard a devotion by Lamar Bailes, on the theme of tithing as response to God's generosity.

Prayed for ill and bereaved members, family and friends. Added to prayer list the names of Wilburn Stephens, Ennis McCall, Joyce and Fonda Stanley, Kim Thomas, and Carolyn Good.

Approved motions for:

- purchase of digitized sound box on organ for enhancement of music for the church, with expenditure of Special Funds for Music and Handbells to help defray cost of \$2517.50.
- purchase of replacement HVAC system from O'Kelley Heating and Air, at cost of \$6576.
- sending letter to congregation members inviting bids for purchase of burial crypts donated to WPC.
- providing certificate of insurance and signed facilities use agreement with Salvation Army facility being used to serve Lunch for Life meals.

Approved by consensus:

- formation of new Grow Your Faith class on October 2, 10, 17, and 24, with Called Session Meeting on October 24 for purpose of examining and receiving new members.

Heard a report from Elder Commissioner Lamar Bailes on the April 25 session of Foothills Presbytery. He reported that a delegation from our Ghana orphanage and hospital made a presentation, and that Camp Buc has been renamed Buc Outdoor Center. He noted that no member of WPC serves currently on any Presbytery committee and encouraged Elders to consider offering to serve in this capacity.

Heard announcements that:

- the next Stated Session Meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 16, 2010.
- the next meeting of Foothills Presbytery will be held at 9 a.m. on August 17, 2010 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Travelers Rest.

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**YOUR SESSION PRAYS FOR YOU;  
PLEASE PRAY FOR YOUR SESSION**

## From Your Session

by Rosemary Bailes

At their Stated Meeting on **June 16, 2010**, the Session:

**Heard a devotion** by Deb Wickliffe, based on James 2:1, on the theme of openness to those "invisible" people living on the fringes of society.

**Prayed for ill and bereaved members, family and friends.** Added to prayer list the names of Carroll Gambrell, Lane Owen, the family of Reba Cobb, John Lockwood, and Austin Garland.

### Approved motions for:

- formation of a committee to conduct a needs assessment to determine need for resuming plans to employ a student ministry director.
- asking CE Team to reconsider decision to suspend Sunday school for children and youth during summer months.

### Heard announcements that:



- the next Stated Session Meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 28, 2010.
- the next meeting of Foothills Presbytery will be on August 17 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Travelers Rest; elder commissioner will be Lamar Bailes, accompanied by Sam Rochester.
- Camp Buc now has 64 new chairs, of which WPC purchased 28.
- WPC/WUC will host Lunch for Life on Saturday, July 17.
- Volunteers are still needed for Vacation Bible School on July 19-23, at St. John's Lutheran Church.
- the Christian Education Team is planning a lake outing and cookout for Sunday school youth on August 28 and Rally Day breakfast and program on September 12.
- the Financial Review Committee has completed its review of 2010 records and reports satisfactory findings. A letter summarizing findings will be sent to church members.
- the new HVAC system will be installed at WPC on two days at the end of June.

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**YOUR SESSION PRAYS FOR YOU;
PLEASE PRAY FOR YOUR SESSION**

Walhalla Church Services
 9:45AM Sunday School
 11:00AM Sunday Worship

July 2010

West Union Chapel Services
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00AM Sunday Worship
 4:30 PM Sunday Bible Study

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| *Every Sunday 4:30pm Bible Study at West Union Chapel Fellowship Hall | | | *Choir Practice Wednesday nights 7:00pm at WPC & WUC  | | *Every Friday 8:00am Old Joe Men's Break- fast—Kountry Kupboard  | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 PC (USA) Gen- eral Assembly in Minneapolis July 3-10 |
| 4 Communion @ WPC Independence Day | 5 Independence Day Holiday Observed | 6 | 7 6:30pm Christian Education As- sessment Team Meeting / WPC | 8 | 9 | 10 G.A. Ends |
| 11 8:30am WUC Board Meeting 11am Communion at WUC | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 WPC does Lunch for Life 11am-1pm |
| 18 | 19 5PM Stew- ardshp Team Meeting VBS begins at St. John's 7/19- 23 5:45PM-8PM | 20 VBS 5:45pm-8pm | 21 6:00pm Worship Team Meeting / WPC VBS 5:45pm-8pm | 22 VBS 5:45pm-8pm | 23 VBS 5:45pm-8pm | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 5:15pm WPC Missions Team | 28 6:30pm WPC Session Meeting | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| COMING UP... WPC / WUC Picnic August 21 | | | | | | |

All God's People Can Pray

By Donna Riggs

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)

“if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves,
and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven,
and will forgive their sin and heal their land”

You have a story. Here's mine..... I was born in 1937 in the Northern panhandle of the state of West Virginia. From the two sides of my heritage as far back as anyone knew, I am Anglo-Saxon of English-Irish-Scots lineages. My great-grandfather, Jesse English, was said to have fought in the Spanish-American War, as a younger man. His only son, Edgar, died in WWI and his body never was recovered to this country from Europe. Yet it would be years into WWII that I learned these things. Growing-up in a small river town along the Ohio River, I had the safety and love of a large family circle, as well as a church family, from birth.

I took for granted that Hope and Sam Langham were the only black family in town. One son came to live with them in their elder years. Hope taught the lady's Sunday School Class in our Presbyterian Church and lived on the same street as my grandmother. Across the street from ym house was Mrs. Reed, an elderly woman of German descent. On a corner near my house was a grocer owned by an Assyrian family. There were several "Syrians" in the town and my neighborhood, alongside all the English, Irish, etc. We weren't a very big melting pot; but we were very diverse in economics. An average residential town back then. An hour away was a large city called Wheeling and on up the Ohio River was Pittsburgh, PA. Many citizens of different heritages, Polish, Lebanese, Italian, moved south to smaller towns, to escape crime and discrimination. I didn't know any of that, growing up. All of us children knew the same things about America. At that age we had barely begun learning much history.

After WWII was truly over, (my father returned from the Navy and my two uncles were safely home from the Army) we learned a lot more about all of it. The effects of hate, the battles, Hitler, the A-Bomb and the struggles in America's South for black equality. I didn't know for a lot more years through, about our imprisonment of Asian-Americans; or that Native Americans and Negro military units fought for their country as well.

My roots came from across the Atlantic Ocean. They were mostly farmers who came to America like everyone else—to catch hold of the dream of freedom and rights to pursue happiness. My grandfather though, worked in a new oil industry and in manufacturing. In that small melting-pot, I was surrounded by love and good neighbors. Lucky? No. Just very blessed.

You know, it is still a big country. There's room for more of God's children here, where they can thrive, love and be good citizens. Is this being naive? God has continued to bless this diverse country; even as we as a people no longer hold the Creator high in belief and faith. Isn't it sad?

I believe God is leading America through another round of tough times. (Sometimes we make our own misery). Our turning back to a Heavenly Father for help is not going to harm us. It's long overdue! We, who claim ourselves to be His children, should pray and not cease! The future historians may remark about what happened in this decade to return America to greatness. It's possible. Do you believe He is hearing us?