

The Messenger

Is published monthly by
Walhalla Presbyterian Church
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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. 144 Issue No. 8
August 2010

Vince's View



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

The sanctity of Christian marriage is revealed by God in His created order from the very beginning of everything that is (Genesis 1-3; Mark 10:7; Matthew 19:5). The current assaults by our culture against God's design for marriage call every thoughtful follower of Jesus Christ to stand up for the defense of the "faith once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3).

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

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

MARRIAGE

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. Genesis 2:23-24

This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Ephesians 5:32-33

In Scripture, the creation of man and woman, and their one-flesh union as husband and wife, is the crowning achievement of God's creation. In the transmission of life and the nurturing of children, men and women joined as spouses are given the great honor of being partners with God Himself. Marriage then, is the first institution of human society—indeed it is the institution on which all other human institutions have their foundation. In the Christian tradition we refer to marriage as "holy matrimony" to signal the fact that it is an institution ordained by God, and blessed by Christ in his participation at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. In the Bible, God Himself blesses and holds marriage in the highest esteem.

Vast human experience confirms that marriage is the original and most important institution for sustaining the health, education, and welfare of all persons in a society. Where marriage is honored, and where there is a flourishing marriage culture, everyone benefits—the spouses themselves, their children, the communities and societies in which they live. Where the marriage culture begins to erode, social pathologies of every sort quickly manifest themselves. Unfortunately, we have witnessed over the course of the past several decades a serious erosion of the marriage culture in our own country. Perhaps the most telling—and alarming—indicator is the out-of-wedlock birth rate. Less than fifty years ago, it was under 5 percent. Today it is over 40 percent. Our society—and particularly its poorest and most vulnerable sectors, where the out-of-wedlock birth rate is much higher even than the national average—is paying a huge price in delinquency, drug abuse, crime, incarceration, hopelessness, and despair. Other indicators are widespread non-marital sexual cohabitation and a devastatingly high rate of divorce.

We confess with sadness that Christians and our institutions have too often scandalously failed to uphold the institution of marriage and to model for the world the true meaning of marriage. Insofar as we have too easily embraced the culture of divorce and remained silent about social practices that undermine the dignity of marriage we repent, and call upon all Christians to do the same.

To strengthen families, we must stop glamorizing promiscuity and infidelity and restore among our people a sense of the profound beauty, mystery, and holiness of faithful marital love. We must reform ill-advised policies that contribute to the weakening of the institution of marriage, including the discredited idea of unilateral divorce. We must work in the legal, cultural, and religious domains to instill in young people a sound understanding of what marriage is, what it requires, and why it is worth the commitment and sacrifices that faithful spouses make.

The impulse to redefine marriage in order to recognize same-sex and multiple partner relationships is a symptom, rather than the cause, of the erosion of the marriage culture. It reflects a loss of understanding of the meaning of marriage as embodied in our civil and religious law and in the philosophical tradition that contributed to shaping the law. Yet it is critical that the impulse be resisted, for yielding to it would mean abandoning the possibility of restoring a sound understanding of marriage and, with it, the hope of rebuilding a healthy marriage culture. It would lock into place the false and destructive belief that marriage is all about romance and other adult satisfactions, and not, in any intrinsic way, about procreation and the unique character and value of acts and relationships whose meaning is shaped by their aptness for the generation, promotion and protection of life. In spousal communion and the rearing of children (who, as gifts of God, are the fruit of their parents' marital love), we discover the profound reasons for and benefits of the marriage covenant.

Continued...

The Messenger

August 2010 Edition

A publication of Walhalla Presbyterian Church and
West Union Chapel



Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,
and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for
us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Continued...

We acknowledge that there are those who are disposed towards homosexual and polyamorous conduct and relationships, just as there are those who are disposed towards other forms of immoral conduct. We have compassion for those so disposed; we respect them as human beings possessing profound, inherent, and equal dignity; and we pay tribute to the men and women who strive, often with little assistance, to resist the temptation to yield to desires that they, no less than we, regard as wayward. We stand with them, even when they falter. We, no less than they, are sinners who have fallen short of God's intention for our lives. We, no less than they, are in constant need of God's patience, love and forgiveness. We call on the entire Christian community to resist sexual immorality, and at the same time refrain from disdainful condemnation of those who yield to it. Our rejection of sin, though resolute, must never become the rejection of sinners. For every sinner, regardless of the sin, is loved by God, who seeks not our destruction but rather the conversion of our hearts. Jesus calls all who wander from the path of virtue to "a more excellent way." As his disciples we will reach out in love to assist all who hear the call and wish to answer it.

We further acknowledge that there are sincere people who disagree with us, and with the teaching of the Bible and Christian tradition, on questions of sexual morality and the nature of marriage. Some who enter into same-sex and polyamorous relationships no doubt regard their unions as truly marital. They fail to understand, however, that marriage is made possible by the sexual complementarity of man and woman, and that the comprehensive, multi-level sharing of life that marriage includes bodily unity of the sort that unites husband and wife biologically as a reproductive unit. This is because the body is no mere extrinsic instrument of the human person, but truly part of the personal reality of the human being. Human beings are not merely centers of consciousness or emotion, or minds, or spirits, inhabiting non-personal bodies. The human person is a dynamic unity of body, mind, and spirit. Marriage is what one man and one woman establish when, forsaking all others and pledging lifelong commitment, they found a sharing of life at every level of being—the biological, the emotional, the dispositional, the rational, the spiritual—on a commitment that is sealed, completed and actualized by loving sexual intercourse in which the spouses become one flesh, not in some merely metaphorical sense, but by fulfilling together the behavioral conditions of procreation. That is why in the Christian tradition, and historically in Western law, consummated marriages are not dissoluble or annulable on the ground of infertility, even though the nature of the marital relationship is shaped and structured by its intrinsic orientation to the great good of procreation.

We understand that many of our fellow citizens, including some Christians, believe that the historic definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman is a denial of equality or civil rights. They wonder what to say in reply to the argument that asserts that no harm would be done to them or to anyone if the law of the community were to confer upon two men or two women who are living together in a sexual partnership the status of being "married." It would not, after all, affect their own marriages, would it? On inspection, however, the argument that laws governing one kind of marriage will not affect another cannot stand. Were it to prove anything, it would prove far too much: the assumption that the legal status of one set of marriage relationships affects no other would not only argue for same sex partnerships; it could be asserted with equal validity for polyamorous partnerships, polygamous households, even adult brothers, sisters, or brothers and sisters living in incestuous relationships. Should these, as a matter of equality or civil rights, be recognized as lawful marriages, and would they have no effects on other relationships? No. The truth is that marriage is not something abstract or neutral that the law may legitimately define and re-define to please those who are powerful and influential.

No one has a civil right to have a non-marital relationship treated as a marriage. Marriage is an objective reality—a covenantal union of husband and wife—that it is the duty of the law to recognize and support for the sake of justice and the common good. If it fails to do so, genuine social harms follow. First, the religious liberty of those for whom this is a matter of conscience is jeopardized. Second, the rights of parents are abused as family life and sex education programs in schools are used to teach children that an enlightened understanding recognizes as "marriages" sexual partnerships that many parents believe are intrinsically non-marital and immoral. Third, the common good of civil society is damaged when the law itself, in its critical pedagogical function, becomes a tool for eroding a sound understanding of marriage on which the flourishing of the marriage culture in any society vitally depends. Sadly, we are today far from having a thriving marriage culture. But if we are to begin the critically important process of reforming our laws and mores to rebuild such a culture, the last thing we can afford to do is to re-define marriage in such a way as to embody in our laws a false proclamation about what marriage is.

And so it is out of love (not "animus") and prudent concern for the common good (not "prejudice"), that we pledge to labor ceaselessly to preserve the legal definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman and to rebuild the marriage culture. How could we, as Christians, do otherwise? The Bible teaches us that marriage is a central part of God's creation covenant. Indeed, the union of husband and wife mirrors the bond between Christ and his church. And so just as Christ was willing, out of love, to give Himself up for the church in a complete sacrifice, we are willing, lovingly, to make whatever sacrifices are required of us for the sake of the inestimable treasure that is marriage.

With gratitude for God's gift of marriage,



Rev. Vincent S. Alig



Color it Awesome!

By Donna Riggs

The wonder of the human brain and all the rest of our cellular makeup is always cause for awe. How we heal. The mystery of pain. The complexities of love. The weakness and strength of muscles, bone and the nervous system. Quite a miraculous experience to be a human.

Add to that, the fact that we believe we have spiritual receptors also. We can think; therefore we comprehend and understand that God is more than we can ever, any of us, know. One of the contemporary praise songs gives forte' volume to the words, "Our God is an awesome God!"

In these paragraphs, let us consider one concept of our exceptional existence; pertaining to those of us who have been blessed with a visual life. We can think in color! Because we know primary colors, have seen shades of these colors and black and white—we have the ability to remember, design and plan in color. It's much more exciting than without color! Such is our perception of our everyday life, all in living color. Close your eyes now and think of anything you wish and your thoughts will be colorful. It's wonderful and such a minor gift from our creator God. Minor, in view of all else we are.

We were made in the image of God. Yet we cannot use the gift of color-thinking to visualize Him. Something stops us from being able to succeed. Perhaps, He is saving this for eternal life? I believe I read somewhere that we shall see Him, face to face. Yes, I read that. (1 John 3:1-3)

Certainly something to look forward to. Meanwhile, close your eyes and "think" about the most beautiful stained-glass church window you have ever seen. It is awesome, isn't it?



West Union Chapel

By Ed Bryant

We have had a hot month this past July. It has certainly rained a very small amount. Grass and plants are beginning to wither and die. Then we receive a good shower of rain. God has answered another prayer. I believe that we humans have made a huge mess of the great work of the Lord. He built a world so perfect and serene but man had to change this world little by little. It has become a place completely different for when first made.

We at the Chapel continue with plans of the fellowship hall. We are getting close to beginning the new building. Let's send a prayer to God to enable us to build and use this structure in a way that would please him.

We have had increases in attendance for the Bible study at 4:30 on Sunday afternoon. We thank everyone who has attended and hope many more will join. This Bible study is taught with knowledge and is an event that I do not wish to miss a single lesson. Come join in each lesson is a great time for learning. We welcome all to attend and study with us.

Our Sunday school class begins at 9:45 each Sunday morning. It ends at 10:45 to give people from other church's time to return to their church for Sunday Sermon.

Our choir practices at 7:00pm each Wednesday. The Old Joe's Breakfast is on Friday mornings at 7:50am at the Kountry Kupboard between Walhalla and West Union. We have devotional and a wonderful dutch treat breakfast. All are welcome to come and join the this.

GOD GAVE US FREE WILL

God gave us free will for things we do,
Let's do right and think actions through.

Let's be considerate of all mankind,
Be gentle to all the we meet or find.

Let's go out as disciples and fish.

Let's get a full net when we haul it in,
Bring them to church, He'll cleanse their sin.
Then we'll earn our payment when life is done,
When we meet God, the holy ghost and the son.

Hymn of the Month

Submitted by: Doug Keel

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

1561

Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.
Psalm 100:2 (NKJV)

Disagreements about church music are nothing new. When the Reformation swept across Europe in the 1500s, there was a division among Protestants concerning congregational singing. Some of the Reformers, like Martin Luther of Germany, advocated singing hymns and carols. Others, like John Calvin of Geneva, thought that only the Psalms of David should be sung.

Calvin had been born in Noyon, France, in 1509, and educated at the University of Paris. In 1533, he experienced a "sudden conversion" that changed the course of his life. Joining a group of Protestants in Paris, his brilliance and preaching skills elevated him to leadership in the French Protestant movement. That same year, anti-Reformation riots drove him from Paris and he eventually settled in Geneva, Switzerland, which became a center of Reformation life through his ministry.

In 1551, a hymnbook of Psalms was published in Geneva. In it, Psalm 134 was set to a majestic and beautiful melody composed (or adapted) by a man named Louis Bourgeois.

Ten years later another edition of the Psalter was published, and this time the same majestic, stirring tune was used the words to Psalm 100 as versified by Rev. William Kethe, who had fled his native Scotland during the persecutions of Queen Mary.

Ever since the publication of the 1561 hymnal, this tune has been called "The Old 100th," because of its association with Psalm 100. Christians today know it as the melody to which the Doxology is typically sung ("Praise God from whom all blessings flow"), but for five hundred years, it has been more closely associated with William Kethe's rendition of Psalm 100.

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell: is known as "Calvin's Reformation Hymn." If you know the melody of the Doxology, take time to sing this old hymn and make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

New Fall Sunday School Class beginning Sunday, September 19th

Ruthie Alig and Stephanie Wright will co-lead a class this fall that will run from September 19th through mid-December.

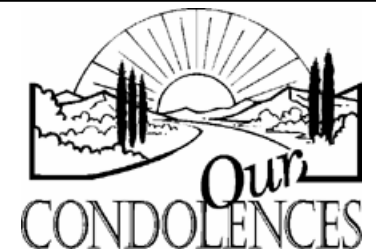
The focus of the class will be Eugene Peterson's book, Practice Resurrection: A Conversation on Growing Up in Christ. In the book Peterson "brings the voice of Scripture -- Paul's letter to the Ephesians -- and the voice of the contemporary Christian congregation together to unpack what it means to fully grow up 'to the stature of Christ'."

Each participant will read the book independently (assignments given weekly along with questions to ponder) for the next week's class discussion.

Pre-registration is required so that we can order the books in advance and have them for our first gathering on September 19th. Please call the WPC office, 864-638-3627, by Friday, September 3rd if you want to attend the class.

Walhalla Presbyterian Church Rosters August 2010

- 1st** Communion Sunday Prep – John Lay & Don Morocco
Lay Reader– Stephanie Wright
Head Usher— Don Rumer
Counters— Sam Rochester & Annette Morrah
- 8th** Flowers in the Church— Jim Suggs
Lay Reader— Daniel Wright
Head Usher— Sam Rochester
Counters— Sam Rochester & Annette Morrah
- 15th** Flowers in the Church— Available
Lay Reader— John Palmer
Head Usher— Linda Alexander
Counters – Sam Rochester & Annette Morrah
- 22nd** Flowers in the Church— Available
Lay Reader— John Lay
Head Usher— Annette Morrah
Counters— Sam Rochester & Annette Morrah
- 29th** Flowers in the Church— Available
Lay Reader— Jack Workman
Head Usher— John Harper
Counters— Sam Rochester & Annette Morrah



Our deepest sympathy to Lois Douberly in the death of her mother Marie Werner, July 28th.

Fall Happenings

By Becky Drew

"The Christian Education Team is sponsoring a Rally Day on Sunday, September 12th at 9:30. Come join us for breakfast, singing, & stories as a way to celebrate the beginning of our Fall Sunday School program. All children & adults are invited to share this fellowship by bringing grandchildren, a neighbor or a friend. We look forward to seeing you there."



...BIRTHDAY...

- 8/5 Warren Harris
- 8/7 Karel Keel
- 8/11 Germaine Shick
- 8/19 Lucile Harper
- 8/21 Marion Mitchell
- 8/22 Doris Cash
- 8/25 Vivian Owens
- 8/25 Donald Sprowls
- 8/26 Linda Combs
- 8/26 Sam Rochester
- 8/27 Ty Elder
- 8/28 Peggy Hadley
- 8/28 Martha Harper
- 8/29 Lois Douberly
- 8/30 Sally Warnes



...ANNIVERSARY...

- 8/5 William & Doris Cash
- 8/6 Robert & Luebell Smith
- 8/15 Kim & Jennifer Wong
- 8/31 John & Linda Hostetler

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

August 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 Communion WPC	2 6pm OPSF At Seneca Presbyterian	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 7pm Sign Team at WPC	10 5:30pm Admin Team at WPC	11 5pm Christian Education Team Meeting @ WPC	12	13	14
15	16 SDOC Schools startup	17 Foothills Presby- tery meeting 9:30am at Trin- ity Presbyterian Church in Travel- ers Rest	18	19	20 Messenger Deadline	21 WUC/WPC Church Picnic Biggerstaff 11:00am
22	23	24	25 Session Meeting at 6:30pm	26	27	28
29	30 6pm Steward- ship Team Meet- ing at WPC	31				
COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER...	Sept. 5 Holy Communion at WPC	Beginning Sept. 8 Family Night Dinners resume every 2nd Wed of the month	Sept. 12 Sunday School "Rally Day" breakfast at 9am WPC			

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
**TURN IN
 YOUR ARTICLES
 EARLY!**
 REMINDER:
**DEADLINE FOR
 NEWSLETTER
 ARTICLES IS
 August 20**



Many Thanks to the Lunch for Life Helpers & Servers

Vince Alig
 Rosemary Bailes
 Adam Bass
 John Bickford
 Ed Bryant
 Sue Caldwell
 Doris & Bill Cash
 Brenda DeHay
 Edna Echols
 Carolyn & Jimmy Evans
 Carol Garland
 Vonnie Geiger
 Alan, Debbie & Michael Houtzer
 Isabel Khurshudyan
 Marcella Langston
 John Lay
 Maria Macaulay
 Joe McCall
 Gene & Mary Belle Nix
 Carolyn Owens
 Donna Riggs
 Dan Rumer
 Sylvia Rumer
 Jean Schallenburg
 Art & Germaine Shick
 Harry & Carol Silsby
 Mimi Taylor
 Hilda Wilson
 Tim Wooten, Bethany & Michaela Smith
 Daniel Wright

Lunch for Life, July 17, 2010
 200 served
 154 - carry outs
 25 - eat-ins
 21 - servers
 39 - total helpers

Welcome New Member

Please welcome a new friend in Christ,
 Phillip E. Mason.
 Phillip joined Walhalla Presbyterian Church on
 July 18th and is looking forward to worshipping
 and fellowship with his newfound church family.

Presbyterians in the Kitchen

Baked Spaghetti Submitted by Carolyn Evans

2 large onions
 2 lbs ground beef
 3 cans tomato soup
 2 cans water
 1 green pepper chopped
 6 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
 1 1/2 lbs. grated cheddar cheese
 2 cans cream of mushroom soup
 2 lbs. packaged spaghetti
 Salt & Pepper to taste

Brown onions, peppers and meat in a small amount of
 cooking oil. Add tomato soup and water. Let sauce boil
 until thick. Add Worcestershire sauce. While that is sim-
 mering, cook spaghetti and drain. Pour into a well
 greased dish. Cover with cheese, then add sauce and
 mushroom soup.

Bake 45 minutes @ 300—350 degrees. Serves 24



The church picnic will be Saturday, August 21 at the
 Biggerstaff picnic shelter beginning at 11am. Hamburg-
 ers 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. Every one is wel-
 come for this day of fellowship.