

SPIRIT BREEZE

WIND OF THE SPIRIT MINISTRIES Newsletter

APRIL 2013

WHO WILL SPEAK FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH?

I like to write words of hope and encouragement for those who are related in any way with Wind of the Spirit Ministries. I believe we have a God of Hope, a Lord who is our Reason for Hope and a Holy Spirit who enables us to live in hope.

At the same time, I believe that we need to have a wake-up call once in awhile to remind us of who we are and whose we are. Are we in the world, but not of it, as God's Word declares? Or, are we in the world and living a lifestyle that is so blended with it that no one can tell any difference?

When I read the following article, it witnessed to my spirit the necessity of the church being the church and not a reflection of the cultural oddities all around it. I do not know Mr. Rooney, Jr., but I think his words are very apropos for our day. I quote:

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"The reason why the early Christian Church was able to survive and even thrive under the most adverse circumstances in the early centuries of its infancy is because it stood with a united front for something. It stood for Christ. That means it stood for calling the world into accountability before God via the message of repentance for sin, forgiveness of sin, and atonement through the sacrifice of Jesus. When Peter was told it would be dangerous to continue standing for Christ he replied, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). Later in Acts 17 a friend of the Apostle Paul was literally dragged from his home accused of harboring "these that have turned the world upside down" (v.6).

The persecuted Church was the united Church. The united Church was the influential Church. It was the prayer and hope of Jesus come to

fruition. He had prayed that His followers "may be one" and be "made perfect in one" (John 17:21; 23). It was a unity upheld by faithfulness. However, standing shoulder to shoulder for Jesus Christ did not mean there were not differences of opinion amongst the believers. There was sniping and bickering about some people receiving preferential treatment. There was serious disagreement about whether or not to require non-Jews to embrace and practice the laws of Moses when they became Christians. Paul and Mark had a falling out. Some in the early Church never could put Paul's past of persecution behind them and never accepted him as authoritative. But what the early Christians stood for far overshadowed their differences of opinions and they changed the known world.

Now, here we are today and the persecuted Church that changed the world by standing together in unity for the Gospel of Jesus Christ has become a religious social club that feels affirmation has replaced transformation as its chief obligation to culture and society. No longer does the Church stand united for the holiness of God in stark contrast to the lusts and whims of culture. Now it sits there, watching. Unable to agree on the most fundamental elements of Christianity religious pluralism has found a home within.

Now the Church does not bicker about who is getting preferential treatment but whether it should even believe "no one comes to the Father but by me" (John 14:6) is a valid statement. Nor can the Church put forth a single voice on something as essential as life. And where is the Christian solidarity

Wind of the Spirit Ministries

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where it concerns sexuality? Is the Bible vague and hazy concerning the mind of Christ about these issues that are fundamental to civilization? No, it is crystal clear. But what do we have now? A church making national news because it refuses to marry anyone until it can legally marry homosexuals.

The Church has apparently ceded its moral authority to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court decided over forty years ago that the privacy afforded to one human being supersedes the right of another human being to live. Though there have been voices championing everyone's right to life there has not been a unified voice from the Church about it from day one. The culture in the late sixties and early seventies demanded free sex without responsibility. The Church remained (on the whole) relatively quiet and the Court gave the culture what it demanded. It is about to do the same thing concerning homosexual marriage. There is no unanimity in the Church concerning the issue of sexuality. The culture is demanding gay marriage, and the Court, once again, will soon speak with the weight of authority.

Whatever happened to the New Testament ideal of the Church? It was to be "the light of the world," "the salt of the earth," and "a city that is set on a hill." The Church was to speak with moral authority derived from the Word of God. The Church was to exalt holiness and condemn sinfulness. It was to be one voice extolling Jesus Christ and calling sinners to repentance. When it was faithful to that calling, powerful empires could not quell its influence. Now it waits for a human court to decide a culture's morality, again. Where is Christian unity? Where is the Church's unequivocal voice?" End of quote. Good questions, I say!

In light of the turmoil that is taking place in the United Methodist Church and specifically in our own Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, it is well for all of us, clergy and laity

alike, to remember and take to heart what is involved in the covenant relationship between bishop, pastors and local churches. We are in a covenant relationship wherein all of us—and each of us, are to be held accountable to the whole body. I ask, "Do we even care?"

When the candidates for ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church are preparing for ordination, the bishop asks these questions:

1. Have you faith in Christ?
2. Are you going on to perfection?
3. Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?
4. Are you earnestly striving after perfection in love?
5. Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and God's work?
6. Do you know the General Rules of our Church?
7. Will you keep the General Rules of our Church?
8. Have you studied the doctrines of the United Methodist Church?
9. After full examination do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?
10. Have you studied our form of church discipline and polity?
11. Do you approve our Church government and polity?
12. Will you support and maintain them?
13. Will you exercise the ministry of compassion?
14. Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?
15. Will you visit from house to house?
16. Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?
17. Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?
18. Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?
19. Will you observe the following directions?
 - A. Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary.
 - B. Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience' sake.

It is my conviction that we are, as Jesus said, salt and light to the world. But Jesus also said, "*If salt loses its saltiness how than can it again be made salty? It is good for nothing except to be thrown out and trampled under foot.*" [Matthew 5:13]

We clergy, including our bishop and all of us who are ordained and answered the questions at ordination, need to be held accountable to the covenant we have made. We either hold to that covenant, or adulterate it and make covenant with the world, seeking the praise of people more than the praise of God. LLE

WEB-PAGE
Wind of the Spirit Web Page address is
www.wosm-nw.org



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Wind of the Spirit Ministries

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Please return this slip with your next gift.
Checks payable to "Wind of the Spirit Ministries" are tax deductible. **THANK YOU!**

NOTICE: Be sure to register for the Healing Academy to be held at Silverdale, WA United Methodist Church on the dates of April 9-13. Call 360-692-9813 Ext.14 Some partial scholarships available.

PRAYER WEEKEND AT OLYMPIA FIRST UMC

We are excited about returning to this church for a second weekend on prayer. Pastor Joanne Coleman Campbell has a real desire that the church become a praying church. We are privileged to be asked to be a part of the preparation for that to happen.

The dates are May 10-12 and the theme is "Prayer? Who needs it?" It is the weekend when we celebrate "The Festival of the Christian Home," or Mother's Day. The emphasis is on the family being a miniature Kingdom of God on earth. There will be sessions on how families pray for one another, with accompanying practice workshops.

Come join us for a very special time with this church family.

Larry will be preaching on Sunday, May 12.

CHURCH SERVICES OF THE FUTURE?

Pastor: Praise the Lord.

Congregation: Hallelujah!

Pastor: Can we please turn our tablet PC, iPad, cell phone, Kindle Bibles to I Corinthians 13:13. And please switch on your Bluetooth to download the sermon.

Pastor: Let us pray, committing this week into God's hands. Open your Apps, BBM, Twitter and Facebook and chat with God.

Pastor: Please have your credit and debit cards ready as we shall now take tithes and offerings. You can log on to the church Wi-Fi using the password Lord909887.

Ushers circulate mobile card swipe machines among the worshippers. Those who prefer to make electronic funds transfers are directed to computers and laptops at the read of the church and those who prefer to use iPads are allowed to flip them open. Those who prefer telephone banking are allowed to take out their cell phones to transfer their contributions to the church bank account.

[The holy atmosphere is truly electric as the cell phones, iPads, PCs and laptops beep and flicker!]

Announcements:

Secretary: This week's cell meetings shall be held on the various Facebook group pages where the usual group chatting takes place. Please don't miss out. Thursday's bible teachings will be held live on Skype at 1900hrs, GMT. Please don't miss out. You can follow your Pastor on Twitter this weekend for counseling and prayers. God bless you and have a wonderful week.

In addition to my prayer and moral support of Wind of the Spirit Ministries, I wish to contribute the following:

\$ _____

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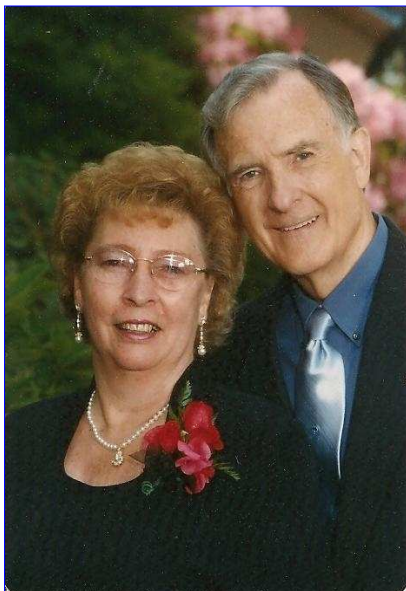


“You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” Jesus, [John 3:8]

MINISTRY CALENDAR

PLEASE POST AND PRAY FOR THESE EVENTS

OTHER MINISTRY EVENTS ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGES
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APRIL 9-13	HEALING ACADEMY, Silverdale UMC, Silverdale, WA. Tuesday evening through Saturday noon.
APRIL 20	Praise and Worship Retreat for Pastors at the Silverdale United Methodist Church. Sponsored by the Wesleyan Covenant Connection and Wind of the Spirit Ministries.
APRIL 21	Prayer Planning Committee at Olympia First UMC
MAY 10-12	Prayer Seminar Weekend at Olympia First UMC
JULY 10-14	ALDERSGATE CONFERENCE ON THE HOLY SPIRIT, Lexington, KY