



September 2009

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Democracy-Covenant-Health Care

By *Jim Gorman*

When I had just gotten out of the army in 1968, I attended a Viet Nam Veterans Against the War meeting. I was certainly against the war, but not rabid about it at that point. I just knew that by late 1968, Walter Cronkite and I agreed that the war was wrong, if not in conception, then in execution. While in the army, we all did a lot of soul searching about whether this was a just war or not. We didn't put it in quite those terms, but we had the idea.

So, I'm sitting there in this meeting after I was just out of the army and everyone is shouting. When I say shouting, I mean that I couldn't understand what anyone was saying. The meeting was in total chaos.

The guy next to me had a long beard and he was aglow. He turned to me and said with a smile the size of Texas, "This is democracy!"

I remember saying, "No it's not. It's anarchy." And I left the meeting. It was just silly.

Democracy is a holy thing. It's rooted in the Jewish and Christian idea of covenant. And it is dishonored by anarchy and noise.

Democracy certainly goes back to Plato, and the Roman Senate, and there are others who would want us to look at the Iroquois Nation and its early tribal confederacy, but the roots we most treasure and which are most self-evident for our nation's history come from Moses and the Ten Commandments or what scholars call the covenant at Mount Sinai.

God speaks and we listen. There's no yelling or cacophony. At first there is listening to the "still small voice" of the holy one (I Kings 19:10)

As the King James Version of the bible puts it,

And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:

And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire:

and after the fire a still small voice.

I think this is how democracy is meant to work. To discern the voice of God in the many voices around us is an art form born of a carefully attuned listening.

In the forums that US representatives and senators are holding around the country in this summer recess, there are folks who have decided, like my friends in the Viet Nam Veterans Against the War, that chaos is the best way to carry on the business of democracy. But I don't think so.

I hate with a perfect hatred the TV shows in which everybody talks at the same time. It's a human centered cacophony that admits very little of the holy. What is most needed in our time is the voice of the holy and that takes more listening than speaking. More silence than noise.

The issues that face us in the health care crisis are complex. This crisis is a long time in the making and it will take the better angels of our nature to confront it. Yelling and holding up signs of our president with mustaches painted on his upper lip are not going to bring us to anything like understanding.

It's going to take something like love and compassion and hope. And silence. And a reflection which befits a people who are willing to listen and pray.

Minister of Visitation

Rev. Ralph Schultz

“Reflections of a Semi-Retired Pastor”

On occasion, it can be helpful to sit back, in a rocking chair perhaps, and reflect upon 46 plus years of ministry. How is the church of the 2009's doing? What are its strengths and weaknesses? Where do we see the church going in the next decade or so?

One obvious observation would be that the church continues to be characterized by many, many people who love the church, and give so much in the way of time and resources for its well-being.

On the other hand, I see more and more people in the church only for what the church can do for them, rather than what they can do for the church. Recent books speak of this as membership versus discipleship. People are a name on a list, seeking education for their children, a place for a wedding, rather than asking the question, “What is it that I feel called by God to do in this church and community?” How might I serve in ways which help others, as well as give me a sense of doing for others?

The church relies on people who love the church, its pastor and leaders, no matter what! Is that a loaded statement? Not intended to be! Many of us were raised in homes where the church was held in highest regard! You go to church each Sunday. You respect the pastor, even though you might not agree with every sermon or each new idea the pastor proposes. And should there be a problem with the pastor, a church leader, or a member, communicate with that person directly. There seems to be more parking lot gossip or phone gossip rather than talking to the person with whom we have an issue.

Why it is that pastors and church leaders, with a vision of what God wants the church to be, must put forth so much effort to get their congregation to the point of understanding that the church is a serving, mission-minded, strong stewardship community? After all, aren't we to follow the example of Jesus? Sermons that speak of the church being involved in social justice issues (caring for the hungry, the poor, those without voice, and bringing about changes to the “systems” which cause such needs), are met with discomfort and thoughts of not wanting to hear such things in that sermon.

Regarding stewardship, it is amazing to learn what percentage of people, in many churches, simply do not pledge. “Oh, we give, but we just don't believe in pledging.” Studies have indicated that those who don't pledge give about 1/5 the amount of those who do pledge. When we join the church, our voluntary decision, isn't giving of our time and money an expected part of membership (really discipleship)? Why should it surprise us to learn that being a member of the church, like any organization worth its salt, you are expected to be an active, contributing member.

This article is coming out more negatively than I intended. Just a chance to get a few frustrations off my chest. The church, while it will continue to change, as it must, will always be that witness to God's love, alive among us. It will always be characterized by people who hold the church to a high standard of service to others, love of God and neighbor, and a willingness to struggle with questions like, “who is my neighbor,” and “who do you say that I am?” You are the Christ, who challenges each of us daily!

A Note:

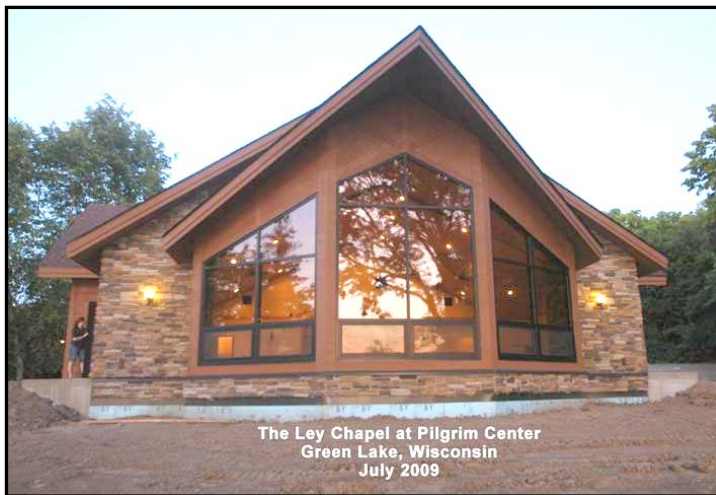
The role of the Minister of Visitation is to visit anyone in the hospital, those who are in a nursing home, and all who are homebound.

Sometimes I wonder.. is there anyone who has “fallen in the cracks” and should be visited? If you are aware of anyone whose health has changed and is no longer able to attend Sunday worship, please let me know. We would like to visit such people and add them to our list, so they continue to be an important part of our church. Please call the church office at 262-547-2424.

Special Congregational Meeting after Worship, September 13, 2009

Please plan on attending this special meeting.

On the agenda will be stained glass windows, staff wages revisited, and a discussion about changing the time of worship.



Ralph P. and Ruth Ley Chapel

on Green Lake, is almost finished and will be a wonderful addition to the ministry of United Church Camps, Inc. at Pilgrim Center.

The Ley Chapel will be dedicated at a service of worship on Sunday, September 20 at 3 pm. Please plan to join Mrs. Ruth Ley and her family, along with the Wisconsin Conference for this celebration of Dr. Ley's outdoor ministry.

Sunday School

Teri Launius

News from The R.O.C.K.

The R.O.C.K. will resume Sunday, September 13th with a study on Rebekah. If you remember your Old Testament stories, Rebekah becomes the wife of Isaac when Abraham sends one of his servants back to Haran, where his family lived prior to coming to the land of Cannon. The servant meets Rebekah at a well where she graciously offers to draw water for him and his ten camels. She invites him to come to her family's home where the servant explains the reason for his journey as asks Rebekah to return to Cannon with him immediately, which she does unconditionally. As the children study about Rebekah during our first rotation, they will learn more about how she accepted God's call unconditionally while as the same time showed strangers the gift of hospitality. Rebekah will be one of the many faithful followers of God that the children will learn and discover how they each answered God's call. Other followers that the children will learn about include Jonah, Joseph, the father of Jesus, Jesus at his Baptism,

and Peter. The theme for this year's R.O.C.K. is appropriately titled: People of God: Faithfully Answering the Call. AS the children discover how these individuals answered their call from God, they hopefully will discover that God calls each one of us in different ways.

Workshop leaders for our first rotation on Rebekah include Trish Bakalars, Kristi Davis, Toni Perez and Mary Ann Proffitt. Our shepherds for this rotation are Shelby Perez, Kim Sasse and Kate Sasse.

New this program year will be the incorporation of our studies from the R.O.C.K. into our Family Worship Services on the first Sunday of the month. Using the scripture passages that the children will be studying, children will have the opportunity to participate in the worship service through the sharing of songs, skits, to mention a few. WE will also be asking families to help usher on those Sundays as well.

RockSolid

Our Rock Solid class for three, four and five year olds will also resume on September 13th. Peggy Beaster and Anje Perez will once again lead this energetic group each week. They will begin their year with a unit on Joseph, exploring his relationship with his family and with God. The children will learn about Joseph's relationship with his father and brothers and how he was able to forgive them. They will also see how God was always with Joseph as well that God will always be with each of them, in the good and not so good times of their lives. Through storytelling and a variety of other activities these youngest members of our congregation continue in their faith journey through this wonderful story of love and forgiveness.

Kiddie Kare

Kiddie Kare will continue this fall. Kiddie Kare is available to all our infants and toddlers through the age of three. Our Kiddie Kare Room is located in the main level across from the elevator. Staffed by volunteer members of our congregation each week, our youngest members are cared and nurtured during the worship and Sunday School hour. Parents are reminded that due to our Safe Sanctuary policy, our volunteers are not allowed to change diapers, so it is important that parents make aware of their location in the building so that our Kiddie Kare volunteers can contact if needed.

Teri's Tidbits

With the start school, also comes the return for many families a sense of regular routine. It is my hope that our families here at E and R will include Worship and Sunday School an important part of their school year

routine. I am excited about the both our Sunday School program that I believe meet the spiritual needs of our children. We have a group of dedicated individuals who have willingly given their time and gift of themselves to help our children in their faith journey. They give up their time in worship and away from their families to gather with our children each Sunday so they can have their own special place to learn and grow in God's love. I am grateful to each of them for their gift of time and faith they give each week to our children. They are a blessing to all.

Families should have received their information letter concerning the start of our Sunday School year. I remind them to be sure to complete the information form that was included, one for each child. Please be sure to note any allergies as from time to time there are food related activities a part of the weekly lesson plans. Parents are also asked to provide any other information they feel is relevant to their faith formation.

Parents are reminded that to please sign their child in and out each week. We ask that parents help us insure that every child is safely in the care of those whose love them. R.O.C.K. families will once again sign their children in at The Gathering Area. Be sure to look for their child's age level sheet on the bookcase. Following worship, parents will sign out their child with the shepherd in the workshop they have attended. Rock Solid families will continue to sign in and out of their room. Please know that workshop leaders, RockSolid teachers, and I will not allow any child to leave the second level unattended. Each and every child is important to all of us.

President's Pew

Brian Van Buren

Special thanks go out to:
All who participated on the mission trip!
All who helped organize the Olan Mills picture process.
Paula Hillmann on her time and efforts on the Personnel Committee.

Please let the office know if you are a certified 1st responder, so we can update the list.

Do we want to go back to wearing nametags? Please drop a note in the collection plate or let the office know.

We are encouraging new membership. Please say "hi" to our visitors and lead them to the attendance pad, so there can be a follow-up. Please remember to sign in yourself on the attendance form. Your attendance is recorded in

our Church Windows program and is important to us and the Wisconsin Conference.

From the last Pastoral Relations Forum, the Elders, with the assistance of Glenn Koehn and Dan DeKarske have come to a solution of "things to be considered." Announcements will be held at the beginning of the service: (1) it is a good process; (2) it humanizes the service, is part of our mission and can be duplicated on the big screens; (3) not everyone reads the bulletin and the announcing of things personalizes our church experience by bringing a face along with the announcement.

Men's Breakfast 8 a.m. Saturday, September 12, 2009 Where is News Headed in the 21st Century?

All men are welcome to our 2nd Men's Breakfast in our new building. Our guest speaker is Darryl Enriquez, former Waukesha reporter for the Journal Sentinel. He will be talking about where news is heading in the days of the Internet. Will there be newspapers that you can hold in your hand or will everything go "on-line." Darryl had been the Journal-Sentinel's reporter for Waukesha. He left the paper at the end of July and is currently working on a new website that will cover Waukesha news.

Bible Studies starting September 15th and 16th:

Our Tuesday afternoon group will get started on Tuesday September 15 at 1:30 p.m. The subject is to be announced.

The Wednesday evening group will meet starting Wednesday September 16th at 7:30 p.m. This group will be studying the book of **Genesis** using a study guide entitled "Beginnings: A Study of the Call of God". An optional resource book is available for \$20, payable at the first session.

Special Music in September

Rueck Ruecktenwald

Band of Praise will be playing September 6.
Nancy Jones will be singing a solo on Sept. 13th.
Please join in with the AM Choir on Sept. 20th.
Frieda Hart and Rueck Ruecktenwald will be playing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" on the piano and organ.

Keeping Our Ministries Strong

“Our regular offerings to support the ongoing ministries of our church need to continue being our first priority in giving. We ask everyone to keep their regular (current) giving strong.”

Budgeted Income January – July: \$158,729.00
Actual Income January – July: \$139,537.00

Church Attendance

August 2: 140
August 9: 116
August 16: 121
August 23: 127

Prayer Circle

Janett Maier

The Prayer Circle wishes you to know that if you are in need of prayers for yourself, or someone you know, you can call anyone on the Prayer Circle. You can share as much or as little information as you wish. When a Prayer Circle member receives your request, the information will be relayed to all members and a circle of prayer will begin. Call any of the following:

- Pastor Jim Gorman and church office: 262- 547-2424
- Julie Bessler: 262-547-2476
- Dawn Books: 262-594-3955
- Earl and Mary Brauch: 262-542-4529
- Ruth Ann Krause: 262-796-2878
- Linda Imig: 262-547-0886
- Janett Maier: 262-542-2266
- Shirley Maile: 262-542-6068
- Jeannine Prager: 262-542-1895
- Betty Stark: 262-542-5567
- Bobbie Werning: 262-547-8208

If you wish to be added to the Prayer Circle list, please call the church office or Janett Maier at 262-542-2266.

Youth News

Best wishes to the youth leaving for college and those leaving for their freshman year, such as; Aly Inzeo, Allison Suchecki, Katie Bessler, and Margaret Russell. If we have forgotten someone, please let the church office know.

We are recycling used cartridges for money for the youth. There is a green box on the south entrance closet shelf to put cartridges in.

Youth Meeting September 20th following coffee hour

We have been talking about a possible Mission Trip for 2010 to **Honduras**. Mario Navarro is a native of Honduras and is willing to lead our mission trip. He is fluent in Spanish and English. Mario is going to show us a DVD presentation of a youth group from Greenwich, Connecticut who made a similar trip in 2006. Parent(s) should attend as well. This will be a bigger undertaking than other such trips, since the lowest round-trip air fare at this time is \$667.00.

Rotating Coffee Hour Hosts

Worship & Arts

- September 6: Deacons
- September 13: Gathering Grounds
- September 20: Worship & Arts
- September 27: Board of Education

- October 4: Interior’s Committee
- October 11: Gathering Grounds
- October 18: Elders
- October 25: Women’s Retreat

- November 1: Worship & Arts
- November 8: Gathering Grounds
- November 15: Council Deacons
- November 22: Women’s Guild
- November 29: Trustees

- December 6: Board of Education
- December 13: Gathering Grounds
- December 20: Youth
- December 27: Women’s Retreat

Thank You’s

Alyson Inzeo sent a thank you to the Scholarship Committee for helping with funds to further her education. “I promise to make you all proud in my academic and spiritual endeavor at Lakeland College.”

Cooperating Congregations of Waukesha County (CCWC) 262-549-8726

CCWC Clothing Closet

Will be open more hours starting July 1st. There are many opportunities to help. Please contact Griselle Cruz at 262-549-8726 or griselle@ccwcweb.org

All clothing is given free to Waukesha County residents in need. Customers can also receive small household items like dishes, pots and pans, silverware, etc. Expectant mothers can receive layettes (diapers, baby wipes, hooded bath towels, etc.) to help her with the newborn baby.

Winter coats are needed at this time, along with hats, mittens, and scarves to keep our customers warm. We have had a 32% increase in customers year to date for the CCWC Clothing Shop and we are expecting the need for clothing in the winter to be greater. Please help by donating gently used or new coats, hats, mittens, and scarves, any color or size. Donations are accepted Monday thru Friday 8 am – 4 pm, 502 N East Avenue. Thank you!

Project Military Comfort

The BIG READ Waukesha and Operation Homefront-Wisconsin would like to invite our congregation to participate in Project Military Comfort, a service project that is part of our 2009 initiative. Project Military Comfort will send copies of A Farewell to Arms, this year's book, and collect and send comfort items, to our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait to let them know that they are part of our Waukesha community, no matter how far away they serve.

Items such as; toothpaste and toothbrushes, chapstick, bug spray with sunscreen, deodorant, baby wipes, beef jerky, granola bars, Pringles, and ziplock bags can be dropped off at CCWC by Oct. 2nd or for pick up call them at 262-549-8726.

If you have a friend or family member in the military who would like to receive a comfort package and/or a copy of the 2009 BIG READ Waukesha book selection, A Farewell to Arms, please contact Operation

Homefront at 1-800-658-5290. More information at be found at www.waukeshareads.org

Interfaith Senior Programs

Marie Honel, Community Outreach Coordinator

Free Caregiver Family Retreat

Anyone from Waukesha County who is providing any type of assistance to an adult 50 years or older is

considered a caregiver. Join us on September 25-26, 2009 at Camp Whitcomb-Mason for a fun filled getaway on beautiful Lake Keesus. Transportation, meals, indoor lodging, activities, respite care for your loved ones at no cost. This program is funded by United Way's Caregiver Initiative. To register, contact Tammy Hahn at 414-899-8672 or e-mail sparks@wi.rr.com.

In Loving memory

We remember with a sweet sadness the life of Inez Golemgeske.

A celebration of the life of Inez was held August 10, 2009.

Memorials Given in Loving Memory of:

Ann Baumgard

Diane Sinner
Barbara Burnell

Roger Murphy

Michael and Mary Rubringer

Inez Golemgeske

Paul and Barbara Soat
William Graham, Jr.
Isobel Wray