



PRESBYTERIAN MEN OF THE CHURCH
FIRST, PROVIDENCE AND LOWCOUNTRY CHURCHES

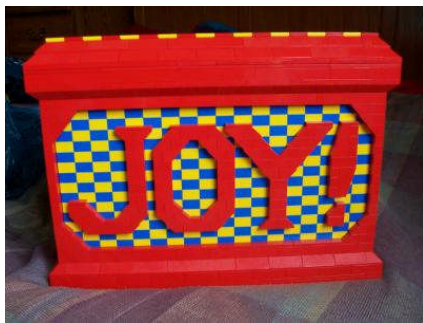
IRON WILL

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

July, 2008 Issue

Editor: Jaime Palatucci

Men of the Church (MOC) - What's in a name? I was pondering over the acronym MOC, when I decided to see who else was using it. I went to my trusty computer and "Googled" MOC. Lo and behold, I found that there was a group called "My Own Creation". Now, that caught my attention! I asked myself, is anything really my own creation, or are my creative ideas really inspired by God? An interesting thought to contemplate. Looking deeper into "My Own Creation", I found that this was a group that created art from Lego's. I knew there had to be a tie-in somewhere. Sure enough, someone from "My Own Creation" was inspired to express their creativity by building a box made of nothing but Lego's and "Causing God Joy!" For those of you that are not Providence members, "Causing God Joy" is their church motto.



YOUR MOC COUNCIL AT WORK

The Men of the Church are very active, participating in monthly breakfasts, the Heritage breakfast and sponsoring the Ethics Symposium. Quite a full plate (pun intended). Behind the scenes, the MOC Council meets the 1st Monday of each month to plan, review, and strategize regarding all these activities. A subset of the council, the Board, is your elected officers. The Board is elected to serve a one-year

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term, beginning on June 1st. The first meeting was held on Monday, June 2nd. Led by President, Mike Brock, the council meeting convened with the new leadership team and council members in attendance. Serving for the 2008-2009 year are 1st VP, Walt Schymik, 2nd VP, Jaime Palatucci, Treasurer, Dennis Buckley, Assistant Treasurer, Dextor Jones, Recorder, Fred Hoaglin, and Newsletter Editor, Jaime Palatucci. At large members are Will Marvel, Stu Rodman, Roger Smith and Bob Wallhaus.



There are a great many things happening, and more are on the horizon.

We are planning some new and exciting programming. We will also be improving our communications. But, most importantly, we will be doing as Jesus instructed - **Matthew 28:19 TNIV** - **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.** With membership totaling approximately 1,200 men, we can expect for 2008-2009 that one man will sharpen another, that an army dedicated to doing God's bidding will muster, and that non-believers will be led out of the darkness and into the light.



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If you are interested in participating in these council meetings, please let Mike know.

RECAP - JUNE 12TH BREAKFAST

The Men of the Church gathered over breakfast on the morning of June 12th. After breakfast, Mike Brock welcomed everyone. With respect for Flag Day (June 14th), Mike opened the program by inviting everyone to join in pledging our allegiance to the flag. Immediately thereafter, Hugh Bell took the stage and loosened up the crowd with a couple of jokes. He then shared a scripture verse (Romans 8:28) and offered up a heartfelt prayer. With Joe Liedtke on the piano, Hugh led us in singing the Hymn - "I Have

a Song That Jesus Gave Me".



Our guest speaker, Rob Gillinder was next to the tee box. With a well honed swing, he told us about an effective evangelistic ministry effort called "In His Grip". This is a nationwide ministry founded by golfer Scott Lehmann. The thrust is to come along side non-

believers in a non-threatening fashion. Through a golf outing, Christian men can introduce other men to God and the Bible. Currently, there are 25 events that take place in 13 states.

At the national level, the vision for "In His Grip" is "To reach every golfer in every Nation with the message of living In His Grip". Their mission is "to equip and empower Christian golfers to reach their community for Christ". Their core values are:

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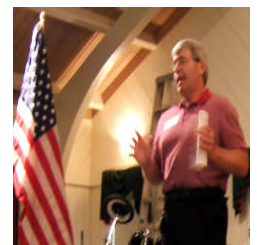
- o Find innovative ways to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- o Inspire a team to strive for excellence.
- o Listen and serve our ministry partners.
- o Promote unity across cultural and denominational barriers.
- o Encourage and empower a unified team to fulfill the mission.
- o Proper & sound stewardship of all resources.

Rob is the local champion for this outreach ministry. Through "IN HIS GRIP", Rob has been trained to take it to the course. On Saturday, September 20th at 2pm, the LowCountry Community Church will host the In His Grip Invitational at the Hampton Hall Club in Bluffton, SC. For more information, please contact: Rob Gillinder - Phone: 843-757-5430

FLAG DAY - JUNE 14TH

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

The original Pledge of Allegiance - "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands- one nation indivisible-with liberty and justice for all."



On September 8, 1892, the Boston based "The Youth's Companion" magazine published a few words for students to repeat on Columbus Day that year. Written by Francis Bellamy, the circulation manager and native of Rome, New York, and reprinted on thousands of leaflets, it was sent out to public schools across the country. On October 12, 1892, the quadricentennial of Columbus' arrival, more than 12 million



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children recited the Pledge of Allegiance, thus beginning a required school-day ritual.

At the first National Flag Conference in Washington D.C., on June 14, 1923, a change was made. For clarity, the words "the Flag of the United States" replaced "my flag". In the following years various other changes were suggested but were never formally adopted. It was not until 1942 that Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance. One year later, in June 1943, the Supreme Court ruled that school children could not be forced to recite it. In fact, today only half of our fifty states have laws that encourage the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the classroom!

In June of 1954 an amendment was made to add the words "under God". Then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower said "*In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war.*"

Commentary on the Pledge of Allegiance by Red Skelton

As a schoolboy, one of Red Skelton's teachers explained the words and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to his class. Skelton later wrote down, and eventually recorded, his recollection of this lecture. It is followed by his observation.

I - - Me; an individual; a committee of one.

Pledge - - Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance - - My love and my devotion.

To the Flag - - Our standard; Old Glory ; a symbol of Freedom; wherever she waves there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts, Freedom is everybody's job.

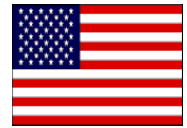
United - - That means that we have all come together.

States - - Individual communities that have united into forty-eight great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose. All divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that is love for country.

And to the Republic - - Republic--a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands

One Nation - --meaning, so blessed by God.



Indivisible - - Incapable of being divided.

With Liberty - - Which is Freedom; the right of power to live one's own life, without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation.

And Justice - - The principle, or qualities, of dealing fairly with others.

For All - - For All--which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: Under God. *Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer and that would be eliminated from schools,too?*

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning. The wife said, "You should do it, because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee." The husband said, "You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee."

Wife replies, "No, you should do it, and besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee." Husband replies, "I can't believe that, show me."

So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says:

"HEBREWS"

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HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

CALVIN: COMMENTARIES

THE LIBRARY OF CHRISTIAN CLASSICS
Volume XXIII

Newly translated and edited by
JOSEPH HAROUTUNIAN, Ph.D., D.D.
Cyrus H. McCormick Professor of Systematic Theology,
McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois

Rejoice, thou barren who didst not bear, rejoice and be glad, thou who hadst no children! For the sons of the widowed are more than the sons of the wife, saith the Lord. 363 Enlarge the space of your tents and extend your tent cords. Isa. 54:1-2. (Calvin's wording.)

After speaking of the death of Christ, the prophet rightly turns to the church to give us a better understanding of what Christ's death has done and accomplished for us. There would be no such understanding if Christ's death were considered by itself. Therefore we must turn to his body which is the church. Christ suffered for the church – not for himself.

So Isaiah, after speaking of the death, resurrection, and triumph of Christ, rightly comes down to the church which is never to be separated from its Head. In this way, each one of the faithful may learn from his own experience that Christ did not suffer in vain.

If this teaching had been omitted, the faithful could not fortify their hearts with the hope of the restoration of the church. But the congratulation in these verses shows plainly that when Christ comes forth from death as conqueror, he conquers not for himself alone, but also to breathe life into his body, which is the church. . . .

Tents. The metaphor is taken from a kind of dwelling common in that region. The church is compared to tents because it has no solid structure in the world. It always appears unsettled and wandering, and is moved here and there in various migrations, as necessity requires. But I am sure the prophet was also thinking of that earlier liberation of God's people, when they were led through the desert and lived in tents forty years. In memory of that liberation, they later held yearly a solemn feast, according to God's

commandment. And as we have said, the prophets habitually refer to it.

Someone will object that the structure built by the ministers of the Word is too solid to be compared to a tent. But I answer: The likeness to a tent refers to the external appearance of the church rather than to its spiritual or essential (if I may use the word) existence. The true structure of the church is the Kingdom of God, and this is neither frail nor like a tent in any way. But in the meantime, the external church is moved here and there because it has no firm habitation in which it can abide. It is more solid and stronger than the best-fortified citadels because, relying on God's unconquerable power, it scorns all 364 peril. But it is like a tent because it is not supported by earthly resources, wealth, and power.

Next we come to the reason the prophet orders that the cords be lengthened to enlarge the tent; obviously because no ordinary sized place was sufficient to hold the people whom God was going to gather from all parts of the world into one church.



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CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

"This article first appeared in 5/15/2008 issue of Christianity Today. Used by permission of Christianity Today International, Carol Stream, IL 60188." - <http://www.ctlibrary.com/ct/2008/june/5.13.html>

Willow Creek's 'Huge Shift'

Influential megachurch moves away from seeker-sensitive services.

Matt Branaugh

After modeling a seeker-sensitive approach to church growth for three decades, Willow Creek Community Church now plans to gear its weekend services toward mature believers seeking to grow in their faith.

The change comes on the heels of an ongoing four-year research effort first made public late last summer in *Reveal: Where Are You?*, a book coauthored by executive pastor Greg Hawkins. Hawkins said during an annual student ministries conference in April that Willow Creek would also replace its midweek services with classes on theology and the Bible.

Whether more changes are in store for the suburban Chicago megachurch isn't clear. Hawkins declined CT's interview request, and senior pastor Bill Hybels was unavailable for comment.

Since 1975, Willow Creek has avoided conventional church approaches, using its Sunday services to reach the unchurched through polished music, multimedia, and sermons referencing popular culture and other familiar themes. The church's leadership believed the approach would attract people searching for answers, bring them into a relationship with Christ, and then capitalize on their contagious fervor to evangelize others.

But the analysis in *Reveal*, which surveyed congregants at Willow Creek and six other churches, suggested that evangelistic impact was greater from those who self-reported as "close to Christ" or "Christ-centered" than from new church attendees. In addition, a quarter of the "close to Christ" and "Christ-centered" crowd described themselves as spiritually "stalled" or "dissatisfied" with the role of the church in their spiritual growth. Even more alarming to Willow Creek: About a quarter of the "stalled" segment and 63 percent of the "dissatisfied" segment contemplated leaving the church.

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As Willow Creek expanded its research into churches of varying geographic locations, sizes, and ethnic and denominational backgrounds, the church said the same general pattern emerged, an indication that the problem extends beyond Willow Creek.

Dave Terpstra, teaching pastor of The Next Level Church in Denver, a Willow Creek Association member congregation that draws about 600 people on Tuesday nights, said he's unsure Willow Creek can provide greater depth to mature believers by its moves, especially since more traditional churches wrestle with the same issue.

North River Community Church in Pembroke, Massachusetts, recently completed the *Reveal* survey. Senior pastor Paul Atwater said he recalled Hybels telling pastors that Willow Creek planned "to get deeper" about 10 years ago at its annual leadership summit.

"They got more challenging" by bringing in teaching pastors like John Ortberg, Atwater said, only to see attendance drop. "I think they've paid the price before in different ways to address their early, surface-level depth, and maybe this is another step in that trend."

Greg Pritchard, author of *Willow Creek Seeker Services*, told CT the church "sporadically has recognized it was not teaching a robust enough biblical theology and needed to turn the ship around.

"It is a huge shift," Pritchard said of the church's planned changes to its services. "But they're still using the same marketing methodology. Willow appears to be selecting a new target audience with new felt needs, but it is still a target audience. Can they change? Yes, but it will take more than just shifting their target audience."

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

The MOC breakfast will resume on September 11, 2008 at 7:45am. Until then, there are many men's discipleship opportunities available for you to broaden and deepen your spiritual journey. See page 7 for details.

Mark your Calendar:

The Men of the Church will host the 31st Annual Symposium on **Ethical Decision Making and Moral Values**. 80 college juniors and seniors, along with 20 faculties will come to Hilton Head to participate in the program. The program takes place on November 6-8. Volunteers are needed to help make this program a success. If you can help, please contact Committee Chair, Bob Wallhaus at wallhaus@hargray.com.

SPECIAL THANKS

The MOC would like to extend a special thank you to the Hilton Head Island Computer Club. (HHICC) They have volunteered to do all the hard work necessary to distribute this newsletter electronically to 1200 e-mail addresses. We are blessed to have them. You can learn more about their organization at <http://hhicc.org/>

I would also like to thank my editor who finds all my spelling and grammatical errors.

FEEDBACK

This is your newsletter. If you would like to suggest a change, please send an email to newsletter@presbyterianmoc.org. Likewise, if you would like to be a contributor, please submit your input to newsletter@presbyterianmoc.org for consideration.

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RESOURCES

<http://www.ibs.org> International Bible Society

<http://unbound.biola.edu> The Unbound Bible

<http://www.upperroom.org> The Upper Room

<http://www.bible.com> Bible.com

<http://www.bible.org> Bible.org

<http://www.audio-bible.com> Audio-Bible

<http://bible.gospelcom.net> Bible Gateway

<http://bible.crosswalk.com> Crosswalk

<http://www.biblesearch.com> Bible search

<http://www.blueletterbible.org> Blue Letter Bible

<http://www.christnotes.org> Christ Notes

<http://www.searchgodsword.org> Search Gods Word

<http://www.e-sword.net> E-Sword

<http://www.crosswire.org> The Sword Project

<http://www.tniv.info> Today' New International Version

<http://www.christianitytoday.com> Christianity Today

<http://www.christianity.com> Christianity.Com

<http://www.beliefnet.com> Belief Network

<http://www.religionfacts.com> Just Religion Facts

<http://www.billygraham.org> Billy Graham Evangelism

<http://www.nae.net> National Association of Evangelicals

<http://www.causegodjoy.com> Providence Presbyterian

<http://www.fpchhi.org> First Presbyterian Church

<http://www.lowcountrypres.org> Low Country Presbyterian



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WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

The following list is "open" gatherings of Christian men.

- Bible Study 8:00am - Wednesday
Providence- Hilton Head
hhipal@gmail.com

- Faith Lessons - Video 6:30pm - Monday
Providence - Hilton Head
hhipal@gmail.com

- Bible Study - Acts 6:30pm - Monday
Providence - Hilton Head
hhipal@gmail.com

- Lunch & Program 12:00-4th Wednesday
First Presbyterian
Office: 681-3696

- Lunch Wednesday
Church of the Cross - Bluffton
Jason.carnes@htc.hargray.com

- Lunch Tuesday
Truffles - Bluffton
Rick Turner

- Lunch Thursday
St. Helena - Beaufort
Keith.watsonconstruction.com

- Life Lessons over Lunch 12:15 Wednesday
Christ Lutheran Church
tgaffer@roadrunner.com

Promise Keepers

August 1st & 2nd

Atlanta

PaulCifaldi@yahoo.com

tgaffer@roadrunner.com

We are trying to compile an exhaustive list of all Men's Ministries discipleship opportunities. If you participate in one or know of one, please let me know at hhipal@gmail.com.

We welcome your passion, creative ideas, and participation. We need you, but more importantly, you need God and God wants you!

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