

WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Another Declaration of Independence: Freedom in Christ

By Mike Pohlman

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "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 8:31-32

Like millions of Americans this week, my mind is on the Fourth of July holiday and what it represents: our freedom as a nation. This freedom is a precious thing, bought with the sweat, toil and blood of countless Americans who initially fought to *obtain* it (Revolutionary War), as well as those who have fought to *secure* it in the centuries since that fateful day in 1776.

Gratitude without measure wells up in my heart when I consider the brave men and women of the American military who, this Fourth of July, will be serving in Iraq and Afghanistan to combat the tyranny of terrorism. These soldiers stand in the train of valiant warriors who fought in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam and the first Gulf War. Each of these conflicts—while unique in themselves—shared the common goal of protecting American freedom. Today's battles are no different.

But even as I prize my freedom as an American, I am moved to consider a greater freedom—my freedom in Christ. It is the freedom that comes with being a disciple of Jesus Christ. "If you abide in my word," our Lord declares, "you are truly my

disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).

This statement was shocking to Jesus' audience. These proud men thought they already had all the freedom they needed by virtue of being "offspring of Abraham" ([John 8:33](#)). Jesus proceeds to point them beyond any national, social or religious freedom they might enjoy to the freedom that comes through His person and work: "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin ... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" ([John 8:34,36](#)). Contrary to what Jesus' listeners thought, they were in bondage to sin and subject to the tyranny of it.

Commenting on this passage of Scripture Leon Morris writes, "People do not always, or even usually, realize that they are in bondage. They tend to rest in some fancied position of privilege, national, social or religious. So these Jews, proud of their religion, did not even know their need to be free."

Even as Christians we can fall prey to the temptation to trust in other things for our freedom from the tyranny of sin: status, money, good works, associations, etc. But the true disciple finds freedom in Christ and Christ alone.

(Continued on page 4)

An Independence Day Prayer

By Margaret Cagle

Lord, on July fourth we'll celebrate
Independence Day in our nation.
You gave us the truth to set us free.
You sent Jesus to die for our salvation.

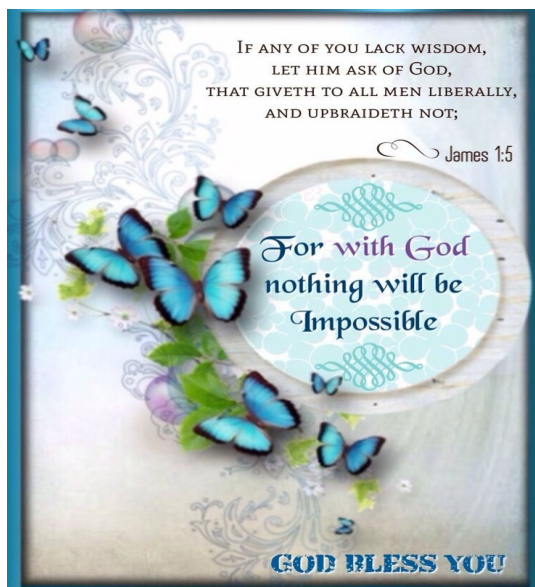
We thank you for the precious freedom
That we have in our nation today.
We know this country's not perfect,
But we honor our nation, the USA

We thank you for the Founding Fathers,
Who for freedom took a brave stand.
Many placed their very lives in peril
To start a free country in a new land.

I thank you for the brave soldiers,
Who gave their lives to keep us free.
They gave their ultimate sacrifice
For freedom for Americans like me.

As we shoot fireworks and celebrate
With patriotic concerts and parades,
We thank you for all your blessings
And your great love that never fades.

As we gather with our loved ones
For picnics and barbecues and fun,
We want to thank you for everything,
Especially for sending your only Son!



July 2nd Communion Sunday

Greeter: Connie Frank
Invocation & Call to Worship:
Rev. Peter Grinion
Scripture Reader: Connie Frank
Offertory Prayer: Valerie Bandemer
Fellowship: Annette Enedy

July 9th

Greeter: Connie Frank
Invocation & Call to Worship:
Rev. Peter Grinion
Scripture Reader: Annette Enedy
Offertory Prayer: Laurie Wenthe
Fellowship: Steve and Laurie Wenthe

July 16th

Greeters: Connie Frank
Invocation & Call to Worship:
Rev. Peter Grinion
Scripture: Josina McCarrol
Offertory Prayer: Valerie Bandemer
Fellowship: TBD

July 23rd

Greeters: Connie Frank
Invocation & Call to Worship:
Rev. Peter Grinion
Scripture: John Miller
Offertory Prayer: Valerie Bandemer
Fellowship: TBD

July 30th

Greeters: Connie Frank
Invocation & Call to Worship:
Rev. Peter Grinion
Scripture: Steve Wenthe
Offertory Prayer: Laurie Wenthe
Fellowship: Gretchen Young



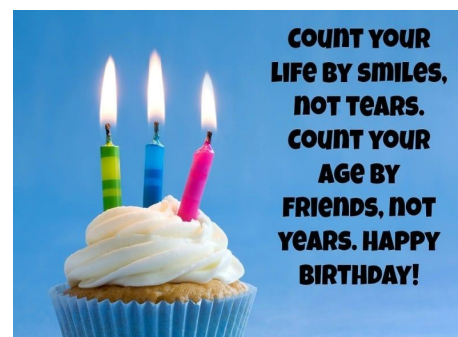
Harmonizing Hearts

By Evelyn Shoots

*Freedom is what we all cherish
For without it we would perish
Each one of us must give a voice
To what their hearts have given choice*

*If we find that we can aid
Someone who becomes afraid
We know our Father's loving arms
Creator's Book shows how our trust
Will bring forth gifts which never rust!*

*Some things may glitter more than gold
See sunshine over rainbows rolled!
How precious are our human souls
Creation Father is our King
Whom we trust for everything!*



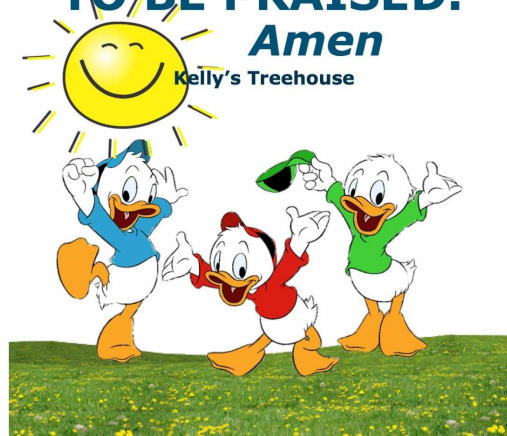
July 5 ~ Randy Heintz
July 9 ~ Chris Statts
July 14 ~ Helen Howlett
July 16 ~ Laura Stone
July 16 ~ Ayden Grinion
July 16 ~ Bryce Grinion
July 16 ~ Bruce McClarin
July 19 ~ Annette Eney
July 20 ~ Valerie Fogarassy
July 24 ~ Pastor Peter Grinion



**SOMEBODY SHOUT
GOD IS WORTHY
TO BE PRAISED.**

Amen

Kelly's Treehouse



Prayer Group
Saturdays at 9:00 AM

Choir Practice
Saturdays at 10:00 AM

Sunday Mornings
Choir Practice at 9:30 AM
Worship at 10:00 AM
Fellowship at 11:00 AM

Bible Study
Bible Study suspended for
July and August

Independence Day
July 4th

WHBC Workday
July 8 at 9 AM

Deacons Meeting
July 14 at 10:00 AM

Trustees Meeting
July 14 at 1:00 PM

LINK deadline for
August 2023 is
July 18
Sharon Scurlock

Cabinet Meeting ~ TBA

(Continued from page 1)

What am I trusting in today?

The Fourth of July is a wonderful time to consider our freedom—as Americans and as Christians. Our national freedom is precious, but our freedom in Christ is of infinite worth.

The great hymn writer Charles Wesley was undoubtedly moved by his freedom in Christ when in 1738 he penned this stanza:

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.*

The saving truth that Jesus speaks of in [John 8:32](#) brings ultimate freedom—freedom from sin and death and the devil; freedom from a life of futility and an eternity of wrath. It is freedom from the tyranny of hate and bitterness and cruelty. It is the freedom to love God and neighbor.

May this "Declaration of Independence" be on my lips and in my heart this Fourth of July holiday.

As you celebrate the Fourth of July, think of creative ways to make the "Declaration" of freedom in Christ to family and friends. How can this holiday be a bridge to our loved ones to share the gospel?

Mike Pohlman serves as the senior pastor at Immanuel Bible Church in Bellingham, Washington. Mike is a former church planter in the Pacific Northwest, and served for three years as the executive producer of The Albert Mohler Program, a nationally syndicated radio show dedicated to Christianity and culture. Mike is a PhD Candidate in American church history at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary writing his dissertation on radio and the American church during the period 1920 to 1950. Mike is husband to Julia and father to four wonderful children: Samuel (11), Anna (9), John (8) and Michael (3). When not pastoring, Mike loves sports, music, and hanging out with his family.

A Moment for Mission

We thank God for His awesome provision. We were able to get 7 new sewing machines for our young women's program, "We Rise" and lots of fabric for them to use to practice their new skills. We now have a total of 15 sewing machines. We have enough to open a "showroom" in the market place so that these young women can get more exposure to a customer base.


David will be going to Tanzania from July 3rd to July 27th. Does anyone have any laptops that you are willing to donate for our college kids/teachers? Please let us know.

Blessings,

David and Michelle Heed



A Church Workday is scheduled for July 8th at 9:00 am. There will be a list of items needing attention. There is a saying "Many hands make light work". You are encouraged to come for any



The LINK Deadline
Please submit your articles, news, humorous stories, activities, etc. for the August LINK by July 18th to Sharon Scurlock

Trustee's Corner

Here's where we are on Painting:

We've signed a contract with Stafford Painters for \$26,500 to paint the church exterior. They'll power-wash the loose paint first, then scrape and prime with a slow-drying oil base primer (slow-drying for maximum penetration). After it dries, they'll apply the finish coat of Sherwin-Williams Emerald paint, the same paint used on the east side of the fellowship hall, which has held up over many years; John saved us a few thousand by suggesting they omit the east side because it's still in such good condition.

Stafford has six lift vehicles, so they don't use ladders above stepladder height. Having their own lifts allows them to work and price more economically; the others would need to rent a lift to reach the bell tower and work from ladders, which is more time-consuming.

Work is scheduled to start in September, weather permitting.

Steve

A Short Story

This is a story about four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**.

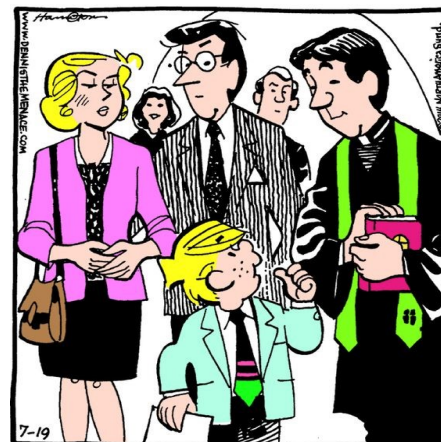
There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was asked to do it. **Everybody** was sure **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it.

It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.



Fellowship Hour

We all love to fellowship following Worship. PLEASE sign-up on the Fellowship Host list posted on the Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall across from Church Officers mailboxes.



"I LIKE CHURCH... I CAN TELL GOD THINGS I WOULDN'T DARE TELL MY PARENTS."

FISH / RHAFT, Inc.

Serving Residents in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District

Major Needs:

Instant Mashed Potatoes
Instant Minute Rice
Crackers
Hamburger Helper
Hot Chocolate Packages
Jellos & Puddings
Peanut Butter
Canned Chicken, Tuna, Beef
Macaroni & Cheese Dinner
Baby Food/Formula
Beef Stew
Canned Hash
Chili
Cereals - Hot and Cold

Packaged Foods:

Sugar
Jelly
Ketchup/Mustard
Noodles
Cake/Muffin Mixes
Canned Fruits, Vegetables, Soups
Fruit Juices

Personal Care Products:

Soap
Toilet Paper/Tissue
Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
Deodorant
Shampoo
Diapers

Please leave your food items on the island in the kitchen, Steve and Laurie Wenthe will collect and deliver them.

They are doing a monthly drop off, usually at the end of each month.

Donations need to go to the Food Cupboard on Mondays between 9 & 12:00 noon.

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 237

Matt. 4:23-5.8

R O O P S P R E A C H I N G I
G C R N I E L U F I C R E M E
N A D R O J L C R O W D S P J
I N H E R I T P D O U T J E M
R T M M O D G N I K J E S O O
E H E A L E D E R C R U U P S
F G E T B O E E R U S R D L E
F S K E D L G L S U N I S E S
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C I E G S O E S I R R H A H E
Y F H L P S D T S H E A R T H

Beatitudes

BLESSED EARTH
BROUGHT FILLED
CROWDS GOD
DISCIPLES HEART
DISEASES JESUS
GALILEE JORDAN
HEALED JUDEA
HEAVEN MEEK
HUNGER MERCY
INHERIT MOURN
KINGDOM PAIN
MERCIFUL POOR
PREACHING PEOPLE
SEIZURES PURE
SICKNESS REGION
SPREAD SPIRIT
SUFFERING SYRIA
TEACHING SEVERE
JERUSALEM

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a
Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com> COPYRIGHT 2015 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Thoughts by Vance Havner

*They can't take away our wealth,
because it's stored up in Heaven.*

*They can't take away our
freedom, because we're free in
Christ.*

*They can't take away our
happiness, because our joy is
within us.*

*They can't defeat us, because
we're more than conquerors.*

*They can't silence us, because
the Word of God cannot be
chained.*

*They can't kill us, because we
have eternal life.*

OOOOPS!!!!

The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the book-

ing desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, making lewd gestures to the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the "What Would Jesus Do?" bumper sticker, the "Choose Life" license place holder, the "Follow Me to Sunday-School" bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally. . . . I assumed you had stolen the car."

Ask yourself. . . .

Am I just a Sunday morning Christian?

Do I set a good Christian example everyday?

Think about it. . . .

Church Mice

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***Grace and peace to you from God and Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ...***

(Galatians 1:3-5).

We travel whenever we please, yet there will always be something appealing about traveling in the summer time. Part of this is to travel to spend time with adult children, siblings, and friends. Summer maximizes our vacation experiences, because of the following two reasons: 1) Traveling in the summer is the comfortable weather and it allows for just about any vacation without weather related interruptions; and 2) Summer provides the most opportunities for family vacation, including visits to National Parks, State Parks, the relaxation of water parks and the beach, and exploring new places or attending retreats.

This summer, I encourage everyone to take their vacation before September and dedicate the rest of the year to a multiplicity of ministries at our church. Beginning in September we will have the church painted by professional painters, while some of us will do carpentry-rebuilding the porches, and others will be doing landscaping and gardening. This kind of work will enhance the overall aesthetic of our church and offer a more welcoming and inviting atmosphere for members, visitors, and surrounding neighbors.

During the latter part of this summer, we will be employing various approaches to church growth, such as bulk mailing, friendship evangelism, and personal witnessing. With respect to evangelism, let us set apart some time on a daily basis to: 1) pray for unchurched people in our community; 2) pray for the unchurched

members of our family; 3) pray that God will use us to befriend an unchurched co-worker and/or neighbor and lead that person to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ; and 4) pray that new people/families will begin to attend our church and eventually trust Jesus as Lord of their lives. Our testimony can be a source of healing, and sharing our joy of living for God can be an inspiration to lead many to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The bottom line is that, if I can encourage you to witness to your neighbors, coworkers, as well as to others you meet, it will likely result in more visitors in church.

For those of us who are presently active, I look forward to your continued faithful church attendance, serious and sustained evangelistic efforts, sacrificial financial giving, and an overall commitment to the weekly programs of our church. Get ready for the new things that God will be doing in and with our church, which will involve all of us. I urge you to pray with me about my vision for Church growth.

A fitted song to inspire us is as follows:

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Rev. Dr. Peter E. Grinion, Pastor



AMERICA

Just Two Examples of God's Amazing Providence
in American History

The Pilgrim Story

The Pilgrims landed hundreds of miles away from their chosen destination which was the mouth of the Hudson River (now New York City). Instead they landed at Plymouth where they did not find too many hostile Indians. There is a reason for this. In 1616 a devastating plague had broken out in the area and lasted more than three years (perhaps smallpox or chicken pox or viral hepatitis). The plague wiped out up to 95% of the local Wampanoags. The Indian population went from fifteen thousand to less than a thousand. The Pilgrims settled on the abandoned site of a once bustling Indian village. There were thousands of potential sites along the Atlantic coast where they could have landed and settled, but somehow they stumbled upon the ideal location. Not only that, but God providentially provided for them the perfect helper, an Indian by the name of Squanto. He spoke English so he could communicate with the Pilgrims and also serve as their mediator with other Indians. He was the sole survivor of the band of Indians who had once called Plymouth their home. He had escaped the ravages of the local epidemic because he had been kidnapped as a twelve-year old by a marauding English sea captain and spent years in England. In the process he was also introduced to Christianity. He arrived back in his home village just six months before

the Pilgrims came and learned of the catastrophic disease that had killed his entire tribe. He taught the Pilgrims how to survive and eat off the land. In summary, the Pilgrims "found a most unusual Indian who spoke good English, knew the basics of Christianity, and saw the newcomers as replacements for his departed family, but also managed to find perhaps the only Indian on the continent who had mastered the European agricultural technique that rescued the new colony from hunger and privation"

(*The American Miracle* by Michael Medved, p. 45).

Unusual Presidential Passing

The twin heroes of independence, John Adams (2nd President) and Thomas Jefferson (3rd President), both died on the same day, and the day they died on was July 4. But it was not just any July 4, it was in 1826 exactly 50 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence as Americans were celebrating this special "jubilee" of freedom. James Monroe (5th President) also died on July 4 five years later. Thus, of the first four presidents to die, three of the four all died on July 4th. The chances of this happening would be approximately 50 million to one. ~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

Righteousness exalteth a nation:
But sin is a reproach to any people
(Proverbs 14:34)

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord;
and the people whom He hath chosen
for His own inheritance
(Psalm 33:1)



The Harvest Home Coalition has joined the Greater Rochester Interfaith Builders (GRIB) as of 2023. GRIB is made up of the six faith-based coalitions which are currently active in GRHFH. We join with Penfield, HIP (Pittsford Habitat Interfaith Partnership), Greece, Perinton and Brighton in committing to build a house every year, starting in 2023.

This year's GRIB house is located at 108 Ackerman St which runs between Webster Ave and Bay St. Groundbreaking is tentatively scheduled for early July. Similar to Women's Build, GRIB has an on-line donation page and volunteer link. Check out the Harvest Home link at <https://five.grhabitat.org/teams/19998-haravest-home-coalition>.

Excerpt from Tom Gillette's statement,

June 25, 2023

