

Christian Coalition of Pinellas County Newsletter

Co-Chairman Vance Lackore, (727) 776-7194 Vlackore@tampabay.rr.com
Co-Chairman Ron Scheffler, (727) 595-6971 Rmscheffler@cfaith.com
Rick Klenk, Webber: rek03@ccpcfl.org

This is your invitation to our Next meeting: Saturday, January 5, 2008 A.C., Panera Bread, Bardmoor Shopping Center, corner of Bryan Dairy and Starkey Road (Keene Road to North County people, or Park Street in St Pete).

Meetings begin at 10:00a.m., First Saturday of each month - Link: meeting-next.htm

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Blessed CHRISTmas Greetings to you and yours

Jesus is the reason for the season.

Manna in the Morning, 12-25-07, Merry Christmas

As I have been reading and studying this past year, I realize anew how much God loves us. While his perfect justice mandated the removal of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, he still provided for the forgiveness of their sins through animal sacrifice. Yet evil continues to fascinate humanity, Cain killed Abel because he didn't want to follow God's rules of sacrifice, and the story gets worse. In the time of Noah, there was only one God-fearing family in the entire world, yet God loved mankind so much he saved Noah and his family in the Ark of Deliverance, accepted Noah's sacrifice and humanity began all over again.

By the time God had called Abraham, promising to make a unique nation of his descendants and bless the world through his family, just as he promised Adam and Eve centuries earlier; sin ran rampant throughout the world. When God decreed the destruction of the cesspool of Sodom and Gomorrah, no righteous men could be found in them and God's messengers led Lot and his family from the city of Sodom. Men could not live in a world without guidance, and since they had rejected God's guidance for so long, God used Moses to make God's commandments clear but Hebrew men and women broke the laws before the tablets could be delivered. Through the nation of Israel, God provided for a Savior to be born to redeem the world. Today, men and women reject God's commandments, willfully turn away from his loving face, human life has little value, and the perversion of natural acts that doomed Sodom is accepted in society.

When Adam and Eve were created, God wanted their eternal fellowship just as badly as he wants ours today, so he persevered through the centuries to provide the platform from which we can reach him. He does not want an automaton to repeat parrot-like phrases back to him; he wants our praise and fellowship because we want to give it to him. We are not under the requirement of law, only under the obligation of gratitude, the passionate desire to love God because of his patient love for us. When he had completed his mission to this earth, God the Son cried out in victory, "It is finished!" and God the Father whispered a phrase heard through the ages, and it reverberates today, "Merry Christmas."

It is my prayer you will have a Blessed remembrance of Jesus' birth, and will take time to give him homage and praise this Christmas Day. Manna in the Morning will again be sent on December 27th. I John 4:19, "We love Him because He first loved us."

Editor note: This excellent writing by Vance depicts our God/man relationship.

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"If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under." Ronald Reagan

Thinking Right, January 20008

Does a candidate for President of the United States' theology mean anything? Can we learn anything from his or her taking a position on Biblical matters? Are we violating any Constitutional requirements by testing a

candidate's religion? These are all valid questions in the current pre-primary season, and the questions have been raised by the candidates themselves. First, the Constitutional question: There is no mention in the Constitution of any religious or theological requirement or disqualification. The wall of separation between church and state has been erected by the left-leaning opponents of Christianity in our government and nation. Grounds for disqualification is, to them, anything that would reference the existence, let alone influence of a Supreme Being, or God on the actions of any person.

From the perspective of the evangelical Christian, the concern is the presence or absence of moral or ethical values based upon the Bible in the life of a candidate. If he or she has religious values, do they match with the Bible or are they based upon a non-Biblical theological base, such as Buddhism or Islam or non-belief? Any candidate, therefore, that shows by his lifestyle or statements a moral or ethical position that is not based on what we believe is God's Holy Word must be carefully evaluated before the Christian casts his vote. There is a real dilemma in voting 'the lesser of two evils.'

In the first documented election known, in Exodus 18:21 the Bible says, "You should select from all the people able men, God-fearing, trustworthy, and hating bribes. Place them over the people as officials of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens." In our current political system that is badly distorted if not broken, our available candidates must be above reproach, not in debt to contributors or special interest groups of any sort. Men who recognize God as the source of all wisdom and who are willing to subvert their own egos and ambitions to the good of the country and those who have elected them. Our elected officials at every level must be reminded constantly they are to be our representatives and not to disregard the wishes of those who have put them in office.

Each candidate for President has stated his or her position on the truth of the Bible, their belief in its inerrancy and their following its precepts either by their stated words or their past actions. Every Christian Citizen must vote as they review these candidates in the light of Exodus 18:21. May God give us wisdom in this coming Primary Election!

I'm Vance and I?m thinking right.

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"I have wondered at times about what the ten commandments would have looked like if Moses had to run them through the U. S. Congress." Ronald Reagan

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FLORIDA ELECTION OF 2006 (ScoreCards): New members through Term Limits and RHINO's (Republican's in name only) changed our representatives from Conservative Republican to Liberal Democrat who are for increased Gambling, and increased taxes, and overturning Citizen mandated, PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW BEFORE A MINOR CAN HAVE AN ABORTION, Ethical Stem Cell Research, and other Family friendly legislation. The House passed some good things but the Senate wasn't interested because they had gambling on their mind.

Each year Christian Coalition grades all of our Congressmen giving them a grade for their VOTES. The House Members from 2000 and 2004 scored much better. Check our WEBSITE: for a description of the bills and Vote. www.ccpcf.org

Pinellas House Members and their Score:

Anderson, Tom (R)	78.6	Frishe, Jim (R)	<u>100.0</u>	Heller, Bill (D)	23.1
Hooper, Ed (R)	85.7	Kriseman, Rick (D)	15.4	Legg, John (R)	<u>100.0</u>
Long, Janet (D)	30.8	Nehr, Peter (R)	53.9	Peterman, Frank (D)	50.0
Schenck, Robert (R)	84.6				

Only Two perfect scores for Family and Christian values.

Pinellas Senators and some special ones and their Score:

Carlton, Lisa (R)	<u>100.0</u>	Fasano, Frank (R)	50.0	Gaetz, Don (R)	<u>100.0</u>
Jones, Dennis (R)	<u>25.0</u>	Justice, Charlie (D)	<u>15.4</u>	Storms, Ronda (R)	<u>100.0</u>
Webster, Daniel (R)	100.0	Wise, Stephen (R)	100.0		

Only one Senator from Pinellas/Hillsborough **Ronda Storms** voted **Family and Christian values** first.

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Thinking Right, December 2007

The Second Amendment is getting lots of attention this month. The Supreme Court has agreed to consider a case involving gun ownership for the first time since 1939 in the Case 'Parker v. District of Columbia' where the court ruled that the DC Gun ban on all handgun ownership was unconstitutional. This decision was upheld by the US Court of Appeals, and has been appealed by the defendants (DC) to the Supreme Court. The plaintiffs are residents of DC and claim their constitutional right to own a firearm and to use it in self defense has been infringed. This is an issue to have a gun in the resident's home to protect their families and property in a City where the crime rate is through the roof. A ruling on the plain wording in the Constitution is certain to curtail the likes of Marion Berry, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and other gun-grabbers. The Amendment simply reads, "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." According to the Cornell Law School website the US Code states the militia is both regulated and non-regulated. The regulated is the National Guard and other recognized Military Units and the non-regulated is all male citizens between the ages of seventeen and forty. Thus all able-bodied men are considered part of the militia in case of invasion or need to establish order in an area.

While hunting, skeet shooting and other gun sports are legitimate reasons to own both long guns and hand guns, and contribute millions to the national economy annually, they are not the most important reason for gun ownership. Our personal and family security is critically important to anyone, especially a Biblically guided head of household. This is one of our God-given rights recognized in the Declaration of Independence, where "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

As of December 1 of this year, approximately **2,200,000 violent assaults and criminal attacks have been thwarted in 2007** by individuals who legally possessed a handgun. In most instances, the gun was not fired; its appearance alone caused the attacker to run. Because the confrontation did not end in a death, the news media did not cover or mention the incident. In other incidents, the media downplayed or ignored the use of the legally possessed gun in the hands of a defender. A careful examination of recent mass shootings show the attackers chose a so-called "gun-free" zone to perpetrate the crime, proving gun restrictions do not deter crime.

It is important to realize our Constitution has been under attack for over half a century, our rights have been eroded and most citizens cannot enumerate the Bill of Rights, and are willing to accept the protection of the government because they think the government has agreed to accept the responsibility for the safety of the public. In truth, legislation at all levels specifically exempt individual protection from the responsibility of government or its agents, (Police) at all levels. They are not responsible for your safety! You are! Do not let this opportunity to solidify our Constitutional Right to bear arms go by. Write your elected representatives and the Supreme Court to let your views be known. Legally owned guns are responsible for less than 1% of crime, the actual number is statistically zero.

I'm Vance and I'm thinking right!

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The BUDGET that CONGRESS is recommending has **1100 'earmarks', 800 Democrat, 300 Republican,** REPRESENTING BILLIONS of TAXPAYER DOLLARS. These are for the most part so called "PORK BARREL SPENDING". When Nancy Pelosi (Dem- CA) became Speaker of the House of Representatives and Harry Reid (Dem. Nev.) President of the Senate They announced that this would be a new era of reforms and controlled spending. We must remember that the Republicans did the same the last year in It is really getting scary because many of the Congressmen we trusted are not running for reelection. The President and Vice President will be leaving next year. What will be left to choose from will be Sens. Ted Kennedy, Harry Reid, Conyers, Byrd, Biden, Schumer, Leahy, Durbin, Obama, Clinton, Boxer, Feinstein, etc. and in the House there's Barney Frank and Charley Rangel leading the way, now that's The answer has two parts that will be dependent on Prayer and Faith, and 2 steps..

1. 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind."

2. He has given us the Holy Spirit who will lead us and teach us. The most important part is for Christians to be registered to vote, evaluate the Candidates by a non- partisan Voters Guide, and Vote your Christian Values. 2 Chronicles 7:14 "If My people, who are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, seek My face, pray and turn from their wicked ways, Then I shall hear from Heaven, I will forgive their sins, and heal their nation." It's up to us. After all "We, the people", are the governing body, the rulers, with our Vote. We hire folks by our Vote to go to Tallahassee and Washington and represent us. If we do not vote we are saying I don't care who represents me, and I don't care how much the politicians tax me, and I don't care what laws they pass to take away my freedoms. Some day you will have to report to Jesus Christ for how represented Him, as His Ambassador. (2 Corinth 5:17,18)

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December 2007 Meeting review. The speaker was: Sol Pitchon, President and CEO of Pregnancy Center of Pinellas. For He, the staff and Board of Directors, this has been a most exciting year.

The **Breath of Life Woman's Health Services, and Birth Center, 1910 East Bay Drive, Largo**, both opened, with the Birth Center already delivering babies in new, state of the art facilities and equipment. Dr. James Dobson, and his Focus on the Family helped with the purchase of Sonogram equipment.

'**M2L**', MORE2LIFE is a Pregnancy Center program, with some federal support, teaching Abstinence in Public Schools to young adults. As us older adults realize, "actions have consequences", and Abstinence is the best and only positive way to avoid the negative consequences of untimely pregnancies that radically change young lives.

The Pregnancy Center receives income from "Choose Life" license tags, Contributions, The annual Walk, Golf tournament, and some from President Bush's 'Abstinence' program.

September 12, 2007 More to Life hosted the first annual formal purity ball for young Ladies and their Dads a special "date" creating lifetime memories, at the Feather Sound Country Club. Tele. 727-216-1404, website: www.M2L.org

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U.S. Senator Charles Grassley (Rep.) Has decided that the US Senate needs to exercise control over various Christian Ministries, what they can do and say. Government needs to protect us dumb taxpayers from Christian Ministries. Those who give to these Organizations should have freedom to support these originations. This is after tax citizen money, does not belong to the government, we earned it, and should be able to use it any way we choose and it is none of their business, If we give voluntarily. Where is the First Amendment when you need it?

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Our educational thought for the month.
Received from Marilyn Peeler, co-Director of St. Pete Chapter of Christian Coalition of Pinellas. And then also from Bob Meyer.

THE ORIGINAL HOMELAND SECURITY



Ask the Indians what happens when you don't control immigration.

Immigration: To fence or not to fence, that is the question? This is a subject that needs to be discussed in the debates.

Fighting Terrorism Since 1492