

# Norwood Christian Grapevine

*I am the vine; You are the branches... John 15:5*

## *Pastor's Promptings...*

### **IT'S TIME TO VOTE**

We are finally coming to the end of a very long election cycle. The primaries began in January 2008, but the campaigning has been going on for much longer than that. I hear comments almost daily now about how dirty this campaign has gotten. It seems like every election it gets worse and worse. But does it really?

If we are honest, we have to admit that politics has always been dirty. It just goes to show the old adage, "power corrupts." Politics is about power and as this and all other campaigns have shown, people will do and say anything to get a hold of power.

Non-Christians complain that the church is full of hypocrites. I say the church is full of people, sinners saved by grace but still flawed. I believe that politics, and especially national politics, is where the real hypocrites are found. All one has to do is look at this year's election to prove my point.

We claim that we want good, honest people in office. But what's the first thing that happens when someone good and honest attempts to run for office? The opposition and the press go looking for any piece of dirt they can find on them. And if they don't find anything they make it up. Would you be willing to undergo the scrutiny that candidates for public office must endure today? Many a good,

honest person who may have considered public office has been repelled by this invasion of privacy.



Look how Sarah Palin has been treated in this election. Here we have the first woman running for Vice President since the 1980s. You would think women's groups all over the country would be supportive of this milestone for women. But instead, enter the hypocrites.

You see, Sarah does not fit the image of the women's rights movement. Because she has been able to be successful without embracing the anti-God, anti-family, anti-men agenda pushed by women's libbers, the liberal's have unleashed an all out attack on her character and on her family. They want women's rights, they want women to succeed but only if the woman in question believes exactly the way they do. They talk about choice, but when someone succeeds by making choices that disagree with their choice, they throw a fit. That's hypocrisy.

Look at how the Palin family has been treated. Their 17-year old daughter is pregnant out of wedlock. This makes major headlines. I ask you, "Do you think the opposition would have made as big a deal about it if she had decided to kill her unborn baby through abortion?" Maybe if Sarah had killed her Down syndrome baby rather than choosing to raise him as a precious gift from God, and maybe if her daughter decided to kill her unborn baby, maybe then they would have been treated

better by the hypocrites. The women's libbers preach a woman's right to choose. Well, here are two women who made a choice to keep their babies. Instead of women's groups being supportive they are doing everything in their power to vilify these women. The hypocrites in politics do not want choice. They want there to be only one choice, and that's their way. If you choose another way, look out!

Politicians also preach that they want an open dialogue with the people. But when one of the people, a simple, hardworking plumber, asks a candidate a simple question about his plans, and the candidate answers from his heart revealing his true intentions, and that exchange is captured on video and put on the internet for all the country to see, what happens? The candidate's campaign goes into shock and awe mode.

This innocent private citizen is subjected to unprecedented abuse by the candidate's campaign and the liberal media. Their tactics include illegal use of government computers to find anything they possibly can to discredit this private American citizen. Why? Because he asked a candidate a question? What happened to an open dialogue with the people? What happened to free speech? Political hypocrisy cannot stand for it.

What we are learning from the politicians of today is you can have an open dialogue as long as you

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make the candidate look good. Provide a nice photo op and they will pat you on the head and leave you alone. You can have free speech as long as what you say agrees with the agenda of the press and the powers that be. But if you make one of these guys look bad, especially if you got the candidate to be truly honest about his intentions, look out. There will be hell to pay and no tactic is off limits.

This hypocrisy is not limited to one side or one party. Politics is full of hypocrisy, lies, half-truths, smear techniques, and on and on it goes. Candidates are like chameleons. John McCain is a moderate trying to look like a conservative. Barack Obama is a liberal trying to look like a moderate. In both cases what you see is nowhere close to what you are going to get.

Here's one final example of political hypocrisy. Politicians and the media preach that they want a full and open debate on the issues. Oh really? Then why is it that only two parties were represented at the debates? There are several viable "third party" candidates who have a lot of valid points to add to the "public" debate. Why aren't their voices being heard?

More hypocrisy. An "open" exchange really means discussion between the two major political parties. Third party candidates need not apply.

So now, after 18 months or so of hypocrisy it is time for us to vote. Somehow, we have to cut through all the dirt, the hype, the lies and, yes, the hypocrisy, and make a choice that will affect us all for the next four to eight years and beyond. What advice do I have for

you in making this crucial decision?

Some would say, "Vote your values." That sounds like good advice. But when you consider that your values have been polluted by the hype, media bias, lies and mudslinging, not to mention the influences of the government schools, and all areas of the media, I have some better advice. Don't vote your values; vote God's values.

After all, God's Word tells us, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes." (Proverbs 21:1) "And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings." (Daniel 2:21) "For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, 'For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.'" (Romans 9:17)

God's values are a much better standard to vote by than our values. Am I afraid of or concerned about the outcome of this election? No. Because I know Who has the real power. And He is no hypocrite.

Serving Christ and His family,

*Pastor Ken*



**NEW MEMBER!**

Janine Spor

Welcome to the family, Janine!

## CHANGE, CHANGE, CHANGE

By Davis Watson

Change, change, change; have we heard enough about change? It does not matter who we elect this November 4<sup>th</sup>. No one will actually be able to bring about lasting change. The change our politicians talk about is making someone else change, not you.

Making too little money? "Vote for me and I will make the other guy change by forcing him to give you some money via the government." You don't care about those in need? "Fine, vote for me and I'll change the government to take care of the needy." Are you uncomfortable? Do you have a problem? Are you mistreated? "Vote for me and I will make sure the government will solve all your problems and heal all your discomforts."

Has the government ever solved your problems? Can you think of any time the government eased your discomfort? The government cannot solve your problems; it cannot ease your pain. However, government does cause problems and it does provide much pain to many people. The function of government is not to solve an individual's problems and discomforts. Government is not your 'mother' who 'kisses' your hurts to make you 'feel' better. Government's sole function is to provide security for the general welfare of society. It stands ready to protect you from the evil bullies of this world.

For the past 80 years, government has become our 'mother' ready and willing to solve all our problems by 'kissing' us with promises. From the time of the

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Great Depression where people's greed led them to gamble on the stock market to the greedy housing boom of the 2000s, we sought governmental 'kisses' to solve our problems. But, it was government's desire to 'help' its 'children' which led us to our current economic crisis. Our government encouraged and sometimes forced banks to loan money to those individuals who did not have the means to repay the debt. The borrower was greedy because he wanted something he couldn't pay for. The lender was greedy because they were making loans and fees without any personal consequences and selling them to investors who wanted to make more money on their investments. All along many of our elected officials were encouraging these loan 'schemes' to stay in power.

Once getting ourselves in this mess, who do we look towards to get us out? You guessed it! The government! We look to the government as our 'savior'.

The government is not our 'savior'. But, our Savior can be found on our governmental loan documents, coins and currency. Next time you get a little change in your pocket or if you are fortunate enough to have some paper bills, look them over.

The answer is right there printed in capital letters on each bill or coin, "IN GOD WE TRUST." At one time, our money was backed by gold and silver but now our government no longer trusts in gold or silver. If you take your paper money to a Federal Reserve Bank and ask to exchange it for gold or silver they will tell you, "No, IN GOD WE TRUST."

Is it ironic our government who solely trusts in God to support our money tells us, "You can't pray to God, read His Word or teach about His creative power in our governmental schools"?

Many of you have placed your trust in your money, your job, your health and/or your country. All of these are destined to fail, but God will never fail you.

Looking for change? Don't reach in your pocket or to the government for change. The only real change you can trust in is found in the God of the Bible.

Norwood Christian Church is your change agent. Start to change your life this week by attending church.

*Please pray for this country and vote your God-directed ballot this Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.*



## SUNDAY SERVANTS

**NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Communion Preparation

**Betty Greager**

Greeters

**Betty & Howard Greager**

Communion Servers

**Ernie & Zack Calvillo**

Communion Mediation

**Davis Watson**

Nursery

**Sharon Newport**

Sound Booth

**Rhonda Oliver**

**NOVEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>**

Communion Preparation

**Ernie & Zack Calvillo**

Greeters

**Ernie & Zack Calvillo**

Communion Servers

**Howard & Betty Greager**

Communion Mediation

**Dean Boehler**

Nursery

**Chris Lawrence**

Sound Booth

**Rhonda Oliver**

**NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>**

Communion Preparation

**Davis Watson**

Greeters

**John & Rhonda Oliver**

Communion Servers

**Davis & Mary Watson**

Communion Mediation

**Ernie Calvillo**

Nursery

**Kathy Row**

Sound Booth

**Rhonda Oliver**

**NOVEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Communion Preparation

**John Oliver**

Greeters

**Davis Watson & Thomas**

Communion Servers

**Dick & Kathy Nelson**

Communion Mediation

**John Oliver**

Nursery

**Heather Lawrence**

Sound Booth

**Rhonda Oliver**

**NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>**

Communion Preparation

**Chris & Heather Lawrence**

Greeters

**Ernie & Zack Calvillo**

Communion Servers

**Betty & Howard Greager**

Communion Mediation

**Ken Lawrence**

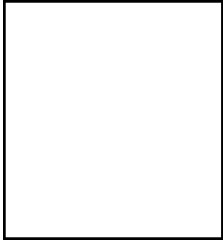
Nursery

**Mary Watson**

Sound Booth

**Rhonda Oliver**

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**9:30 AM ~ Bible Study**  
**11 AM ~ Worship Service**



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS THIS SUNDAY!**

Don't forget to set your clocks **BACK** one hour Saturday night before you go to bed.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** Once again we are participating in Operation Christmas Child, a worldwide mission program to bring joy, hope and the Good News of God's love to children in desperate situations around the world. See Ron or Cathy Carlson for more information. Boxes must be turned in by November 16<sup>th</sup>.



**THANKSGIVING DINNER** The whole community is invited to celebrate Thanksgiving at our annual Thanksgiving Dinner, Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> immediately after church. Turkey and ham will be provided by the church. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. For more info please contact Mary Watson at 327-4221.

**AMERICAN HERITAGE SERIES** Join us every Wednesday night for the American Heritage Series.

This video series from WallBuilders helps us discover the forgotten and astonishing story of our Nation's foundation. The Wednesday meetings begin with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. The study begins at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Here is the schedule of the last three lessons:

- 11/5/2008 *Faith in our early courts and Myths of the Judiciary*
- 11/12/2008 *Four Centuries of American Education*
- 11/19/2008 *Evidence of America's Spiritual Heritage*



# November 2008

“Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” Galatians 6:9



| SUN  | MON   | TUE  | WED                                | THU  | FRI  | SAT  |
|--|---|--|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
|  |   |  |                                    |  |  | <b>1</b><br>Decorate Church for Thanksgiving |
| <b>2</b><br>Bible Study<br>9:30AM<br>Worship 11AM<br><br><i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i>    | <b>3</b><br><br><i>Medie Greager</i>                    | <b>4</b><br><br><i>Election Day – Vote &amp; Pray</i> | <b>5</b><br>Dinner/Study<br>6PM    | <b>6</b><br>Praise Team<br>7:30PM  | <b>7</b>   | <b>8</b>                                     |
| <b>9</b><br>Bible Study<br>9:30AM<br>Worship 11AM  | <b>10</b><br>Elders & Board Mtg. 7PM                    | <b>11</b><br><br><i>Evelyn Barrett</i>   | <b>12</b><br>Dinner/Study<br>6PM   | <b>13</b><br>Praise Team<br>7:30PM   | <b>14</b>  | <b>15</b>                                    |
| <b>16</b><br>Bible Study<br>9:30AM<br>Worship 11AM<br><b>Thanksgiving Dinner<br/>12:30PM</b> | <b>17</b><br><br><i>Craig &amp; Medie Greager—Annv.</i> | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b><br>Dinner/Study<br>6PM   | <b>20</b><br>Praise Team<br>7:30PM   | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b>                                    |
| <b>23</b><br>Bible Study<br>9:30AM<br>Worship 11AM   | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b><br>Praise Team<br>7:30PM | <b>27</b><br><br><i>Thanksgiving Day</i> | <b>28</b><br><br><i>Ken &amp; Chris Lawrence—Annv.</i> | <b>29</b>                                    |
| <b>30</b><br>Bible Study<br>9:30AM<br>Worship 11AM   |   |  |                                    |  |  |  |