

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

November 3, 2024

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VOTING AND TRUTH

By David A. Sargent

The top legislative body of the Presbyterian Church adopted a resolution to recognize same-sex marriage. The Presbyterian General Assembly members voted 429 to 157 to add language to their church constitution saying that marriage can be the union of two people, not just a man and a woman. The General Assembly had previously voted to allow their clergy to have same sex partners.

When I read the article describing the action of the legislative body, I was reminded of a little boy who brought his new pet hamster to show and tell time at his school. As the children crowded around admiring the tiny creature, one student asked, is it a boy or a girl? The hamster's owner replied, "I don't know. How can we tell?" There was a moment of puzzled silence, until one of the children suggested brightly, "I know, we can vote on it!"

Votes taken in a denominational assembly can no more change the truths of the Bible, than the children's votes could determine the gender of the hamster.

The TRUTH is...Sin separates us from God (Isa. 59:1-2) and condemns us (Mt. 7:13-14). And all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).

The TRUTH is...God loves us so much that He gave His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins so that we might receive forgiveness and the gift of eternal life (Jn. 3:16; Eph. 1:7).

The TRUTH is...God will forgive and give eternal life to those who place their trust and faith in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 2:38), confess Jesus before men (Rom. 10:9-10), and be baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins. The blood of Jesus will continue to cleanse those who continue to walk in the light of His word.

Truth is not determined by a vote! It is only to be acknowledged and accepted.

**Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth! Psa. 46:10**

Pray for the sick:

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Terry Hastings, Myra's sister, Connie; Norma Hudson, Ruth Banks, Michelle Tucker, Charles Fooks, Goldie Weldon, Pat Tucker, Donna Sponseller.

On-going personal Bible studies

World turmoil; people of Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Cameroon

"Celebrate Recovery"

AIM missionaries, Carolina Aguilar, Miguel Javier

Dale and Maddy

Latin American Missions

Parents to be: Josh and Alexis Donaway-Nov.

Marie Travis has finished her chemo and radiation.

Lottie Donahoe; cardiac cath. Oct. 8 was successful

Christian's friend, Elijah; stroke, doing better

Our Country and world leaders; election

Kallee Wharton; health issues

Tony (from CR) and his mother; heart

Lanny, eye surgery on Tues. Nov. 5

Eleanor; pulled muscle

Cheyenne Mathis; headaches caused by a cyst

CELEBRATE RECOVERY each Monday evening from 6-8 in the FLC.

WOMEN'S STUDIES— Ladies' Bible study at Cathy's each Fri. morning. Coffee and fellowship 10:30, study at 11:00. Ladies' Tuesday Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

KID'S GAME NIGHT Nov. 5, ages 7+. Dinner, devo, activities, games for the kids.

LOCK-IN Nov. 15, 6 pm to 10 am. Thanksgiving meal served at 7, then games, crafts, movies and more.

GOSPEL MEETING Nov. 10-13, Keller, VA Church of Christ. Theme: "Pearls of Wisdom for a Problematic World". M-W 7:00 pm.

MEN TO SERVE;

Welcome/Scripture; 11/3-Danny; 11/10-Christian Prayer; 11/3-Philip; 11/10-Lanny Table; 11/3-David; 11/10-Danny Song Leader; 11/3-Troy; 11/10-David Announcements/Closing prayer; Vinny-Nov.

Opportunities for study and worship

Sunday: (In person and virtually at: www.laurelcoc.org)

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday:

Women's Zoom Study 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Men's prayer (Shawn's) 7:15 a.m.

Bible Study at building 6:30 p.m.

Friday ladies' Paul study 10:30 a.m.

We invite you to attend any of our service times, and we look forward to welcoming you, and pray that you might find a home here with us in Laurel and with God in heaven as His child.

If you need Media help — connections, addresses, or general questions contact: Don Trader or Julio Brennick

WHO WE ARE

The body of Christ in Laurel, Delaware is a family of believers knit together in love (Colossians 2:2), striving to serve God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and carrying the gospel to the lost (Matthew 28:18). We are an autonomous body with Christ only as our head, and elders shepherding the flock of God (Acts 20:28).

We have been entrusted with the gospel (I Thessalonians 2:4) and so it is that we speak. The congregation seeks to uphold the doctrine and practice of the first century church using the only true standard, the Bible, as our guide (2 Peter 1:3). It is our prayer that all would come to a knowledge of the truth and partake in that divine fellowship in the body of Christ, being immersed for the remission of sins, and beginning life anew with Christ as Lord (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1). Our plea is that we might be one in Christ, and serve the Lord faithfully unto death to receive our crown (Revelation 2:10).