

Westminster Baptist Church

The Witness

October/November 2015

Volume 42 Issue 5

BRING YOUR FAMILY BACK TO
19TH CENTURY RURAL AMERICA

Harvest Festival

HAYRIDE



October 10, 2015
9:00 am - 1:00 pm



GAMES

FREE FOOD





Thank you for the beautiful flowers, all your love and support during moms illness and passing. It's a blessing to have such a wonderful church family. *Johanna, Matthew & Jim Radcliff*

Thank you to my Christian family for your prayers, time and help in my time of need. To those who wished to remain anonymous in providing financial support, I am so thankful for your help and generosity. Please continue to pray for me, "And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up..." James 5:15 (NIV)
Shirley Lee Alford

We just wanted to say thank you for the prayers, cards and sympathy after Chris' dad passed away (July 22, 2015). It meant so much - thank you!
Pastor Chris, Angie, Nathan, & Joshua

**Annual
Business Meeting
Sunday, November 15
12:15 pm**



**Combined Worship
11:00 am**

You are invited to the wedding of....
Sarah Reeb & Jeremy Sheidy
Saturday, October 24, 2015
at 4:00 pm
McDaniel's Big Baker Memorial Chapel

TOGETHER
TOGETHER
IN PRAYER SERVICE
IN PRAYER SERVICE



**Sunday, November 1
7:00 PM
Multi-Purpose Room**



Phil's Miraculous Healing

Our lives have not been the same since Phil, at age 48, was diagnosed with Chronic Lyme Disease in the brain and body in August 2003. Striking without warning, it has affected his thyroid glands, skeletal (neck & bones), and circulatory systems, (stroke in 2003). We never know what to expect when Phil has a "normal" illness or accident.

We were to see another example of just how weird his body's reaction could be on a Wednesday afternoon in July 2013. Phil was cutting branches at his brother's home in Cartersville, Virginia. A twig snapped and nipped his calf. That evening his leg began to swell. His sister-in-law drove him to Bon Secours, St. Francis Medical Center, an hour away, in Midlothian, Va. where he was diagnosed with Severe Compartment Syndrome that ran from his hip to his ankle. The swelling impeded the blood flow to and from the affected tissues.

Dr. S., the specialist on duty, incised and drained Phil's leg that night. By Friday morning, when his packing was being changed, Phil's muscles and tendons had separated and portions of his shinbone were visible. Phil, being Phil, wanted to see it.

I was home in Maryland when the call came from Doctor S who said that Phil's prognosis was not good. He needed to stay in the hospital a week to prevent the open wound from getting infected. He would then remain in rehab for 6-9 months for further healing and learning how to walk again. It looked and felt like our lives had been changed in an instant.

My first two calls went to our children, Phil Jr. and Erin. The third call went to our church asking for prayers for Phil.

Erin and I walked into Phil's room Saturday afternoon believing that major decisions would have to be made. We were greeted by Phil walking back to his bed. It seems that Friday evening Dr. S, surprised at the lack of fluid in the removed packing, had used a few surge-strips on the 14 inch incision, without new packing, to see what would happen. When we met with him, Doctor S. was in shock. Phil's leg had minimum drainage and the incision was almost completely closed. Doctor S. asked if Phil could stand. Instead, he walked!

"Mrs. Gruentzel, in all of my years as a surgeon, I have never seen a healing as complete as your husband's. His leg should have been a gaping wound with months of pain, healing and physical therapy ahead of him. I have no medical explanation."

I told him that our church family was praying, asking God to heal Phil and God did.

Dr. S, a Hindu, replied, "I have never before witnessed a miracle. Only your God could have healed Phil so completely."

Phil was released to go home in four days instead of 6-9 months. I know that God performed this miracle. Why he chooses to heal so completely one time and not another is not for me to question. We have learned to trust Him completely. He will continue to see us through-- whatever comes next.

"For nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37 (NIV) Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours. Mark 11: 24 (NIV)

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

Sue Gruentzel



A Life That Matters

Three years ago, I attended a Christian conference where Ron Hutchcraft, a recognized authority on contemporary evangelism and author of *A Life That Matters*, was speaking. In an early session, Hutchcraft recounted that terrible night when the Titanic sank in the North Atlantic and 1,500 people lost their lives. The imagery is still vivid in my mind. Funeral ships arriving three days later found 328 life-jacketed men, women, and children floating frozen to death in the icy waters. The real tragedy is that many lifeboats had rowed away half empty despite the cries of hundreds dying in the water. Only one life boat finally turned back to rescue six passengers.

The analogy is all too clear. Think about those in your own life who, by God's grace, are safely in your Jesus lifeboat – family members, church friends, co-workers. Now think about those who are spiritually dying and slipping away all around you. Are you rowing away from them in the hope that someone else will eventually come along to save them, or are you rowing back to rescue them?

About our often self-focused Christianity, Hutchcraft observes, **“We expect programs that meet our needs, a place where we feel comfortable, church the way we like it. All too often, our notebooks are full of sermon notes, our schedules are full of Christian meetings, our heads are full of Christian beliefs – and our lifeboat is full of empty places where dying people desperately need to be! It’s all part of the disease of ME.”**

It's not that we're not trying to model a good Christian life, but often that isn't enough. People need to know how to come to know Jesus. Paul tells us that we are Christ's ambassadors. Are we thinking that we'd rather not have that appointment? Too late! We've already been given that assignment by the highest Authority in the universe to represent Christ here on earth and deliver His message of hope to a lost world. If you are like me, I admit that at times I find this to be intimidating. We are fearful that we might mess up or worry what the person may think of us. But we have great company; even the apostle Paul was afraid in similar situations!

“And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God... I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.” (1 Corinthians 2: 1, 3-5)

It is our responsibility to share the good news about Jesus. It is up to God to do the rest. We cannot persuade someone to choose Christ; the Holy Spirit will convict. That is why it's so important to first pray for God to open the door for a natural opportunity to talk about our relationship with Jesus. Then pray for God to open a lost one's heart to receive the message. And finally, pray for God to give us the courage to open our mouths and give us the words to speak His truths. For many lost people, this will not happen in a church, but in the middle of their world by followers of Christ like us.

Dear Heavenly Father, forgive us for being so busy that we forget the most important assignment we have in this life. Break our hearts for the lost and spiritually dying people around us, for the eternal consequences of remaining silent are too great.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Cindy Bryson



October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 am Women of Grace Bible Study (108) Noon Silver Sages' Luncheon (Bullocks) 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	2 10:00am Women of Grace Prayer Ministry 7:00pm Married Couple's Bible Study	3 8:00am Carroll County Men's Prayer Breakfast
4 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir; MMBA Meeting	5 7:00pm Praise Team	6 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting; Women of Grace Bible Study (Rictor)	7 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	8 9:30 am Women of Grace Bible Study (108) 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	9	10  9:00 am Harvest Festival
11 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	12  7:00pm Praise Team	13 8:30 am Silver Sages' Breakfast 7:00 pm Women of Grace Bible Study (Rictor)	14 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	15 9:30 am Women of Grace Bible Study (108) 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	16 10:00am Women of Grace Prayer Ministry 7:00pm Married Couple's Bible Study	17 9:00am New Member's Class 1:00pm Young Adult Men's Fellowship
18 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	19 7:00pm Praise Team	20 10:00am Women on Mission (207) 7:00pm Women of Grace Bible Study ; Administrative Team Meeting	21 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	22 9:30 am Women of Grace Bible Study (108) 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	23 7:00pm Married Couple's Bible Study	24
25 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	26 7:00pm Praise Team	27 10:00am GROW 7:00pm Women of Grace Bible Study	28 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	29 9:30 am Women of Grace Bible Study (108) 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	30 6:30pm Young Married Couple's Life Group	31 



UPWARD

Registration is available online at <https://ssl.demosphere.com/73848>. Walk-in registration is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 21, at 6:00 pm.**

Cost is \$67 per child; after November 1, the cost will be \$77. Deadline for registration is November 8. For more information or to volunteer, contact Crystal Moore at 443-547-4411 or cmupwards678@gmail.com.

JOIN US...in a unique and SIMPLE missions project!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, partners with churches worldwide to reach boys and girls in desperate situations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **YOU** can be involved and make a difference. It's as SIMPLE as 1-2-3!

1. PACK A SHOEBOX -Stop by the display table in the upstairs lobby to pick up a brochure with details. **Follow the guidelines** to pack your box. **Return your filled shoebox**, wrapped **OR** decorated, **to the display table no later than Sunday November 8**. Let's exceed our church-wide goal of 200 boxes!

2. MAKE A DONATION -Remember to include a check for \$7 (shipping) in the detachable donation envelope. If you make your donation online, you can follow your box around the world! If you wish to only make a donation, please make your check payable to Samaritan's Purse.

3. PRAY-Packed inside each shoebox is a booklet, *The Greatest Journey*. Children who receive a shoebox have an opportunity to participate in a 12 lesson discipleship program, led by trained local teachers. Pray that God will touch the heart of every child who receives a shoe box gift and that He will bring many children and families to faith in Christ.

This year, our **Awana's** have planned a Shoebox Packing Party on **Wednesday, November 4**. They are collecting supplies to fill the shoeboxes, including: crayons, colored pencils, markers, small hand held toys (cars, trucks, small balls, legos), small teddy bears, small dolls, combs, hair ribbons, headbands, mild bar soap, toothbrush, toothpaste. Please consider supporting the Awana project by donating supplies requested. Place your donations in the large box labeled "**AWANA'S**" at the Operation Christmas Child display table (upstairs lobby).

You can also join us for a larger scale shoebox packing party with the Taylor Foundation on any of the following Saturdays in October: 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24. Morning groups: 8:00 am-noon; afternoon groups: 1:00-5:00 pm, at Spring Meadow Station, 15513 Hanover pike, Upperco, Md 21155.

Decide to participate in **Operation Christmas Child** with your children, your Sunday School or Awana class, neighbors, or friends from work or school. Pack your shoebox with love, send it with prayer, and



FILL 
SHOEBOX

share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a hurting child. That's the power of a **SIMPLE GIFT!**

Theological and Doctrinal Survey (Part 3): Pastoral Authority

One particular item on the theological and doctrinal survey stood out from all the rest because of the wide range of opinions expressed. It was the statement, “The pastor’s sermons are authoritative in my life.”

Although 54% at WBC recognize the pastor’s sermons as authoritative in their lives, 41% do not. Taken at face value, it suggests that a lot of folks do not consider the pastor’s sermons authoritative – that the sermons do not affect how we live.

Since the first century, pastors have been given authority or responsibilities for several functions, including protector and preserver of the gospel, which includes teaching and preaching. It is one of a pastor’s highest callings.

Scripture tells us that:

He [the overseer, bishop, pastor] must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.
(Titus 1:9)

¹⁷ Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. (Hebrews 13:17)

John MacArthur, noted pastor, teacher, and author, says, “Preaching the Bible establishes the authority of God over the mind and the soul. When a pastor faithfully preaches the Word of God, his people understand who has sovereignty over their souls—that it is God alone who reigns over their thoughts and their actions.” (Adapted from *The Master’s Plan for the Church*, by John MacArthur, 2008)

Theologian John Piper concurs: “The Bible is the ultimate authority and infallible, not the pastor and not the elders. And it doesn’t mean that you believe everything he says without examining it. Piper goes on to explain that while the Bible advises Christians to submit to the authority of their spiritual leaders and encourages respect for the office of the pastor (see Hebrews 13:17), it does not mean Christians should blindly accept everything church leaders tell them as the infallible word.

Questioning authority is different from rejecting it. It is good to be like the Bereans, who “received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true” (Acts 17:11). Then the Holy Spirit leads and convicts us, and reinforces biblical truths.

Perhaps, the wording of our survey could have been clearer. It is possible that strongly or somewhat agreeing and strongly or somewhat disagreeing with the statement, “The pastor’s sermons are authoritative in my life” could both be acceptable responses? Regardless of whether we disagree and take the position that the ultimate authority is the Word of God, or agree and take the position that the pastor’s sermons are authoritative *as long as they are true to God’s word*, we arrive at basically the same understanding.

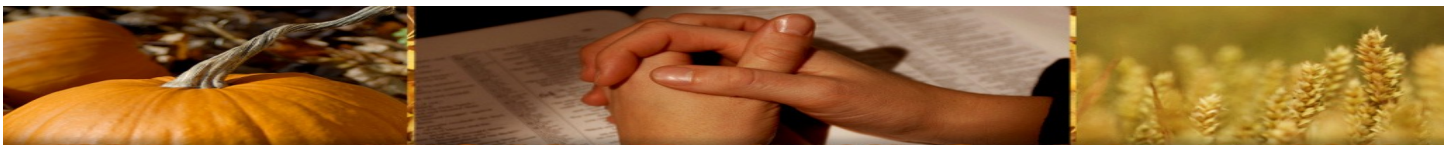
We praise God for the pastors of our church who stay true to Scripture and preach the authoritative Word of God here at WBC.

Jim Reger
Apologetics Ministry Team

NOVEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 5:30pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00pm T.I.P.S.	2 7:00pm Praise Team	3 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting; Women of Grace Bible Study (Rictor)	4 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	5 9:30 am Women of Grace Bible Study (108) Noon Silver Sages' Luncheon (Bullocks) 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	6 10:00am Women of Grace Prayer Ministry 6:30pm Young Adult Life Group		
8 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir BCM/D Meeting	9 7:00pm Praise Team BCM/D Meeting	10 8:30 am Silver Sages' Breakfast 7:00pm Women of Grace Bible Study BCM/D Meeting	11 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir	12 9:30 am Women of Grace Bible Study (108) 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	13 10:00am Shepherd's Table 6:30pm Young Married Couple's Life Group	 8:00am UPWARD Basketball Evals	
15 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	16 7:00pm Praise Team; Awana Leader Meeting	17 10:00am WOM 7:00pm Administrative Team Meeting; BIG Gospel for Little Ears	18 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	19 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	20 10:00am Women of Grace Prayer Group 6:30pm Fall Harvest Dinner & Thanksgiving Worship Youth "ALIVE" M.S. Conference, OC		
22 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	23 7:00pm Praise Team	24 10:00am GROW	25 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	 OFFICE CLOSED		28	
29 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	30 7:00pm Praise Team						



Fall Harvest Dinner & Thanksgiving Service
Friday, November 20, 6:30 pm



Ding Dong! The Witch is Dead: Celebrating the Death of Cultural Christianity

Continued from back page . . .

The veil of cultural Christianity is being ripped to shreds; and we are now being given a glimpse of how things really are and always have been in this life. Christ's church is beginning to become more distinguishable from our culture at large, we are being forced to be the city on the hill we always were. Peter describes Christians as sojourners in this land who live for a kingdom that is to come, one we wait for eagerly. The sojourner life has caused Christians throughout time to abandon the fleeting hope of this world and consecrate their whole lives as a sacrifice to bring God glory and live for eternity. Cultural Christianity made both true Christians and even more so nominal "Christians" comfortable, we forgot we are sojourners and made being a Christian merely another adjective to describe ourselves. This "God and Country Christianity" made our faith a one day affair and turned church membership into a consumerist spectator sport. Less and less does the "God and Country Christianity" bring any cultural appreciation and thus it is starting to die, especially among young adults. Slowly Judeo-Christian values are decaying in America and with it goes any idea that pledging Christianity is anything but frowned upon in the culture. People may be navigating away from Christianity as their default religion, but this only means nominal Christians who were never truly Christians in any historical or theological sense are losing false assurance of salvation, and born again Christians are realizing they better go big or go home.

Why then do I celebrate the death of cultural Christianity? Two simple questions will demonstrate that you might deep down not be the biggest fan of cultural Christianity either. Have you ever tried to share the Gospel with someone knowingly living in unrepentant sin and gotten nowhere because the person walked down an isle as a child or vaguely believes in Jesus and thus believe they are just dandy? I imagine most readers have had at least a few conversations along those lines and if you haven't in America, I wonder how often you share your faith. Next, are you aware of people in your church that may indeed be Christians but rarely practice their faith during the week and may be more concerned about their hobbies or politics than the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Not only do I suspect that you would answer yes, but I suspect the number of those of whom this is true of in your life is troubling when you give it a moment's thought. Perhaps one could argue that neither of those concerns are primarily caused by cultural Christianity, but it would be hard to make an argument that the "God and Country" faith I'm referring to hasn't brought great havoc in both of these areas and more.

The death of cultural Christianity will remind the church we are called to be sojourners and salt to the world. In addition, when Christianity is no longer our fall back religion, we will be able to share the Gospel of Christ with an unfamiliar clarity. Those who need the new birth are starting to lose a false assurance that they are Christians. Through this tearing down, we can build up by grounding them in the hope of the Gospel and seeing true conversions. Parents are once again seeing the need to intentionally disciple their children because it's no longer being wrongly assumed that to be a good conservative American is to be a Christian. Church members are turning to God's Word and one another to find guidance in a world that will gradually oppose their message more and more. I am overjoyed about the impending death of idol we have understood to be cultural Christianity and when it finally does lose its grip upon us I hope you join me in singing, "Ding Dong! The witch is dead."

Pastor Tony

There's a nip in the air and our Fall ministries have begun.

The WOM women are still working on dresses and shorts for the boys and girls of Haiti. We have 62 dresses and 20 pairs of short ready to go so far this year. The women will continue to work on these items during the year so we can have more for next year. The preschoolers of **Mission Friends** have a project for this year that they need your help with. They will be collecting money for *Pure Love, Pure Water*. This project helps missionaries around the world to have pure water to drink in many areas where the water is not clean. The jar on the Welcome Center will be used for this ministry until the end of the year.

It's time to help Shepherd's Staff stock their Blessing Closet to meet the needs of people in Carroll County. The following items are needed: powdered laundry detergent, dish detergent, soap, deodorant, toilet paper, toothpaste and disposal diapers (baby & adult sizes). Place your donated items in the Mission Barrel located in the Sanctuary Lobby during the month of October.

We will be making bags for the men at the Westminster Rescue Mission and the women of New Life for Girls for Christmas. You may get a bag from me to fill or donate needed items as follows:

Rescue Mission: Large white bath towels; white wash cloths; soap; shampoo; combs; deodorant; toothbrushes; toothpaste; and white socks.

New Life for Girls: Large bath towels, wash cloths and toothpaste.

Our food pantry is in need of soups, beans, mixed vegetables, yams, gravy, tuna, mac & cheese, toilet paper, dish detergent and soap, to help fill Christmas Baskets. Place donated items in the Mission Barrel.

Mary Reeb

This years Red Cross Blood Drive
Results 19 Donors, 18 Pints of Blood
Next Year's Blood Drive Dates
March 28, and September 19

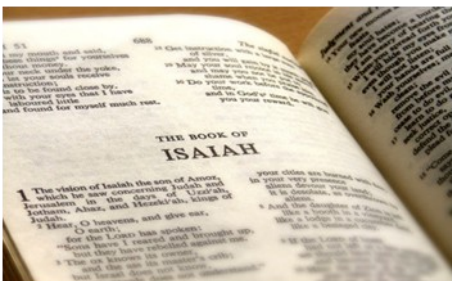
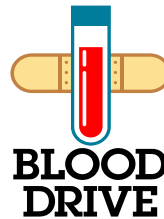


Photo: Trounce/Wikimedia Commons

Women of Grace Fall Bible Study

Our women's fall Bible study is underway:

"Be Comforted – A Study of Isaiah"

The book of Isaiah contains one of the clearest expressions of the gospel in all the Old Testament. It provides us with the most comprehensive prophetic picture of Jesus Christ and includes the full scope of His life: the announcement of His coming; His virgin birth; His proclamation of the good news; His sacrificial death; and His return to claim His own. The book stands as a testament of hope in the Lord, the One who saves His people from themselves.

Nancy Rictor is teaching this 8-week study as a lecture followed by group discussion. (No video or lesson book is being used.) There is **no cost**; any necessary materials are provided. Even though the study has begun, you are still welcome to join us. Please call Nancy to let her know which session you'll be attending.

Thursday mornings: September 24 - November 12, 9:30 - 11:00 am, WBC in Room 108

Everlasting Hope

Women of Grace 
Spring WEEKEND RETREAT
April 1-3, 2016

MEN of WBC, plan now to treat your wife to WBC's **Women's Spring Retreat.... Everlasting HOPE**. Gift certificates will soon be available, so arrange for a wonderful present that will have Everlasting benefits for her, you and your family.

WOMEN of all ages...start planning now to join us for our Weekend Retreat in SPRING 2016...Initial *Signup list* and registration forms for WBC members and regular attendees can be found at the Women of Grace table.

~~~~Mark your 2016 Calendar~~~~Sign Up and Make your Deposit \$\$\$

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (ESV)

*Join us for worship with Lynne Hasenei, time with God, and relaxing with women of all ages in a beautiful setting close to home at
Middle Creek Christian Conference Center in Fairfield, PA*

Any questions???? Contact.... Barbara Willet, Retreat Coordinator. 443-375-2757

*Want to help plan and/or work behind the scenes?
Contact Barbara, to see how you can share HOPE with others.*

Middle ←
→ **School**

Youth ALIVE Conference
November 20-22, 2015
Ocean City, MD

Ding Dong! The Witch is Dead: Celebrating the Death of Cultural Christianity

The terrible news is everywhere. America is progressing away from traditional Judeo-Christian values and the downslide ever steeper. Though the idea that our country ever was a stronghold of Christian virtue is questionable, our country's default religion has been in some sense, Christianity since its founding. This Christian default religion has begun to fade progressively away and as more and more Americans identify themselves as nones and mainline Protestant denominations continue to die, we will inevitably go the way of post-Christian Europe. While unquestionably the navigation away from default Christianity will have negative connotations for our future, by and large it may actually be one of the best things that could come in America, both for Christians and for those who do not know Christ as Lord and Savior.

Despite the millennium of state churches and mass recognition of Biblical concepts, true Biblical Christianity has always been the narrow road. The message of salvation through Jesus stands against everything lost souls hold dear. Since Eden, there has never been a people primarily committed to bringing God glory. This does not mean that Christianity never meets culture or society, merely that when the two meet inevitably one will remodel the other in its own image. In a world where sin still reigns, it's usually culture that will pervert Christianity. Cultural Christianity is born out of this intersection and cultural Christianity, is less the intrusion of Christianity upon a culture and more the hollowing out of Christianity to adapt the culture. Cultural Christianity is simply no Christianity at all, and it really never has been. It may be true that most Americans of past generations identified as Christianity but only because the Gospel of America stripped Christianity of any substance. For this reason, statistics have consistently shown the vast majority of Americans claim to be Christians, but a minority of Americans affirmed such essentials as the reality of hell, salvation by faith alone, Jesus' death as a substitute for our sins, or the Lordship of Christ. This cultural Christianity was not without its consequences and the most serious consequence has been providing assurance of salvation to those who warrant no such thing. It has created supposed adherents of Christianity that are divorced from any local church, and who either do not know or even deny many of the essential beliefs of Christianity. Even today, most Americans would call themselves Christians but have no real understanding of what that means apart from a vague acknowledgement of Christ. Most Americans are no more Christian than a tofu product is our Thanksgiving turkey. *Continued inside . . .*



Saturday, October 17

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Room 107

**Westminster Baptist Church
354 Crest Lane,
Westminster, Maryland 21157
Phone: 410-848-6330
E-mail: wbaptist@comcast.net
WEB: www.westminster-baptistchurch.org**