

EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT  
CHURCH(GCEPC)®,INC,  
LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL  
PROTESTANT CHURCH(LEPC)®

# The Evangelical Protestant The Magazine of the Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church

SUMMER 2013

FIRST ISSUE 1917

## BREAKING NEWS!

God foregoes  
His vacation for  
another year,  
He will be with  
us minute by  
minute as usual  
all summer!

Film at eleven, ED

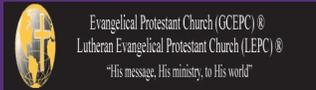
## White Dove of the Desert

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Mission San Xavier del Bac is a historic Spanish Catholic mission located about 10 miles south of downtown Tucson, Arizona, on the Tohono O'odham San Xavier Indian Reservation



Evangelical Protestant  
Church (GCEPC)® Inc.,

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*GCEPC "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2: 8*

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Editor Rev. Steve Bacon

# We Believe

**1. The Holy Scriptures**, in the original tongues, is the inspired and inerrant word of God. (Matthew 4:4, 2 Timothy 3:16,17)

**2. There is one God**, eternal and self-existent, Creator and Ruler of the universe, and manifested through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (John 1:18, Matthew 3:16-17) We are Trinitarian.

**3. Jesus Christ** is truly divine and truly human having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. (Matt.1: 18)

**4. Jesus Christ** died on the cross and shed His blood as a Sacrifice

for our sins; He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High. (1 John 2:2)

**5. Humankind** was created in the image of God, but fell into sin causing separation from God. (Gen. 3:1-24)

**6. Salvation** has been provided through Jesus Christ for all; and those who repent and believe on Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life and become the children of God. (John 1:10)

**7. Water baptism** identifies us with the death and burial of Christ and that we should arise to

walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19-20)

**8. We believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit** to glorify Christ, to convict of sin, to enable the believer to live a godly life, and to empower the Church to carry the gospel into all the world.

(Matthew 12:31, Acts 1:8.)

**9. In the personal and visible return of Jesus Christ** for His Church. (Matthew 24:30, Rev 1:7)

**10. In the bodily resurrection** of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and everlasting separation from God of all those who reject Jesus Christ. (John 1:10-13, Rev 20:11-15)

## The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

AMEN.

# Bishop's Page



“His compulsion is our liberation.” These are words from C.S. Lewis’ ‘Surprised by Joy.’

We are all in need of people in our lives who can direct us as God’s Holy Spirit influence. True Mentors are in short supply. It requires “hanging in there” for the long haul and many do not want to make that commitment. It’s too hard. It requires too much.

As a young minister, indeed as a young follower of Christ I wanted so much to have someone “older and wiser” than I to teach me, give me insight, help me detour around the pot holes that did not have to be in life. There is a saying that “The wise man learns from his experiences. The wiser man learns from the experiences of others.” King David was influenced by Samuel the Seer. Ruth was influenced by Naomi. Elisha by Elijah. Barak by Deborah. Timothy by Paul. Every disciple/Apostle by Christ. It is part of what we are to do and who we are to be. Whatsoever Jesus has taught us we are to teach

others, make disciples baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the great commission and is to be carried out not just by those with ministry calls but by everyone who names the Name of Christ as their own.



When flesh and blood mentors are few a good thing to do is to read and study the works of those who have followed

Christ Jesus and know Him well. In that there is mentoring as well. One of those mentors for me has been C.S. Lewis. A wonderful and devoted man of God with great insight and the willingness to lay his vulnerability before us that we might see the greatness of God and His mentoring of us by the Holy Spirit. I am including here an excerpt from Lewis’ ‘Surprised by Joy’ regarding the events of his conversion from atheism to Christ.

God’s peace and blessings to all of you.

*Bishop Nancy Drew*

## THE CONVERSION OF C S LEWIS

Excerpt from ‘Surprised by Joy’, C S Lewis’ autobiography

*My greatest desire for all of our ministers is that they would have a close walk with Our Lord, learning His ways, hearing His voice, knowing Him.*

Really, a young Atheist cannot guard his faith too carefully.

Dangers lie in wait for him on every side. You must not do, you must not even try to do, the will of the Father unless you are prepared to “know of the doctrine.” All my acts, desires, and thoughts were to be brought into harmony with universal Spirit. For the first time I examined myself with a seriously practical purpose. And there I found what appalled me; a zoo of lusts, a bedlam of ambitions, a nursery of fears, a harem of fondled hatreds. My name was Legion. Of course I could do nothing — I could not last out one hour — without continual conscious recourse to what I called Spirit. But the fine, philosophical distinction between this and what ordinary people call “prayer to God” breaks down as soon as you start doing it in earnest. Idealism can be talked, and even felt; it cannot be lived. It became patently absurd to go on thinking of “Spirit” as either ignorant of, or passive to, my approaches. Even if my own philosophy were true, how could the initiative lie on my side? My own analogy, as I now first perceived, suggested the opposite: if Shakespeare and Hamlet could ever meet, it must be Shakespeare’s doing. Hamlet

# Bishop's Page

(Continued from page 3)

could initiate nothing. Perhaps, even now, my Absolute Spirit still differed in some way from the God of religion. The real issue was not, or not yet, there. The real terror was that if you seriously believed in even such a "God" or "Spirit" as I admitted, a wholly new situation developed. As the dry bones shook and came together in that dreadful valley of Ezekiel's, so now a philosophical theorem, cerebrally entertained, began to stir and heave and throw off its grave cloths, and stood upright and became a living presence. I was to be allowed to play at philosophy no longer. It might, as I say, still be true that my "Spirit" differed in some way from "the God of popular religion." My Adversary waived the point. It sank into utter unimportance. He would not argue about it. He only said, "I am the Lord"; "I AM THAT I AM"; "I AM."

People who are naturally religious find difficulty in understanding the horror of such a revelation. Amiable agnostics will talk cheerfully about "man's search for God." To me, as I then was, they might as well have talked about the mouse's search for the cat. The best image of my predicament is the meeting of Mime and Wotan in the first act of Siegfried; hier brauch' ich nicht Sparer noch Spaher, Einsam will ich. ... (I've no use for spies and snoopers. I would be private. ...)

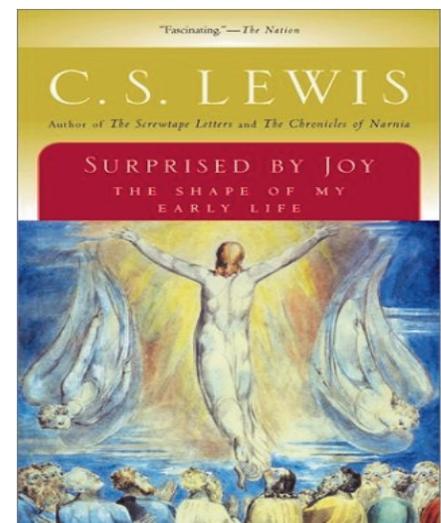
Remember, I had always wanted, above all things, not to be "interfered with." I had wanted (mad wish) "to call my soul my own." I had been far more anxious

to avoid suffering than to achieve delight. I had always aimed at limited liabilities. The supernatural itself had been to me, first, an illicit dram, and then, as by a drunkard's reaction, nauseous. Even my recent attempt to live my philosophy had secretly (I now knew) been hedged round by all sorts of reservations. I had pretty well known that my ideal virtue would never be allowed to lead me into anything intolerably painful; I would be "reasonable." But now what had been an ideal became a command; and what might not be expected of one? Doubtless, by definition, God was Reason itself. But would He also be "reasonable" in that other, more comfortable sense? Not the slightest assurance on that score was offered me. Total surrender, the absolute leap in the dark, were demanded. The reality with which no treaty can be made was upon me. The demand was not even "All or nothing." I think that stage had been passed, on the bus top when I unbuckled my armor and the snowman started to melt. Now, the demand was simply "All."

You must picture me alone in that room in Magdalen, night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England. I did not then

see what is now the most shining and obvious thing; the Divine humility which will accept a convert even on such terms. The Prodigal Son at least walked home on his own feet. But who can duly adore that Love which will open the high gates to a prodigal who is brought in kicking, struggling, resentful, and darting his eyes in every direction for a chance of escape? The words *compelle intrare*, *compel them to come in*, have been so abused by wicked men that we shudder at them; but, properly understood, they plumb the depth of the Divine mercy. The hardness of God is kinder than the softness of men, and His compulsion is our liberation.

C S LEWIS, *Surprised by Joy, The Story of His Conversion*



# Keeping Our Balance

By Bishop Dr. David A. Church

“Over the years while working with drug addicts, gang bangers, and those recently released from prison my approach to ministry has changed, or rather evolved as the Lord dealt with me in the course of my sanctification. Theological training alone does not prepare one for this field of ministry as those working as prison

chaplains will rightly attest. It was probably easier for me to accept this calling having been an addict and having been affiliated with hard core criminal types. It was only by God’s grace that I was never convicted of any felony myself. I understand the struggles people in these situations go through and have a burden for them, knowing that Christ can deliver them and desires to do so.

This type of ministry requires one to be totally committed to God *and* hearing a clear call from God. It is not a glamorous ministry, and one wanting fame, recognition and admiration from his or her peers will probably never materialize. Truthfully, most will think you’re

crazy and wasting your time. The old adage that “you can’t change the spots on a leopard” invariably arise: Addicts will always remain addicts. Alcoholics will always remain alcoholics. Criminals and violent gang members will die that way. Even the main stream “Church” has an issue in dealing with “those people.” Many churches choose to ignore their existence. Others accept them but only as second class Christians. Full acceptance of “those people” is withheld unless they change and conform to the “standards” of appearance, speech, and lifestyles demanded by the majority of the pious and self righteous membership, and enforced by self-appointed watchers. But this is precisely why so many churches are no longer the living organism they once were, but only monuments and museums of the previous generations that were Spirit led and committed to the cause of reaching the lost for Christ. No longer are they lighthouses to mark the way, or hospitals to care for those souls wounded by wrong choices and unmitigatable circumstances. It has been said that “The Army of Christ (Christians) are the only army that kills its own wounded.” So what chance does an outcast of society have?

Matthew 9:10-13 gives us a clue:

*And as Jesus reclined at table in*

*the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.**”*

If all a newly graduated seminarian desires is to take over an existing church and receive admiration and a paycheck from an existing congregation, he is not taking hold of the plow and doing the work he was supposedly called for. He is only building upon someone else’s work at best, but most likely is only being a maintenance person or custodian. He learns to speak what the congregation wants to hear and is rewarded for not rocking the boat. He is spoken well of and loved by everyone, even by those living in gross secret sin. No one gets upset with him because **he is not preaching the true Gospel which divides soul and spirit and brings conviction leading to repentance.** This is not what Christ commanded in the Great Commission.

Recovery ministry requires a real faith that the Lord can and will transform lives when sin-

(Continued on page 6)

*Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

# Keeping Our Balance

by Bishop Dr. David A. Church

(Continued from page 5)

ners of any type cry out upon the Name of the Lord. An addict knows how lost and hopeless they are before they even hear the Gospel. Hardcore gang members cry themselves to sleep when alone in their prison cells realizing how their life is being wasted for pride in a neighborhood's reputation. Many know of no other way of life as their families belonged to the same gang for several generations. Many Hispanics in the "varrios" (barrios) of Los Angeles live out their lives and die within a two mile radius of their homes (not counting incarceration). Survival is tenuous due to extremely low income and unique social pressures, so crime and drug addiction is frequently a means to escape the hopelessness and despair felt by many. The nominal Roman Catholicism many profess is useless as *it has no power to break the chains these people are bound by and certainly no power to restore*. The Virgin Mary doesn't hear their cries or prayers offered to her. Prayers to the Saints also fall upon deaf ears, as these are but forbidden idols that have crept into the Church and venerated by those not having the Spirit of Christ indwelling them. Before criticizing too quickly though remember that the Israelites made and worshipped the Golden Calf immediately after witnessing first hand the power of God delivering them from Egypt. We also walked in darkness and were under the same condemnation. We have an inclination to consider our sin as different or not as bad, but God judges all alike as worthy of death and Hell. But God in His mercy delivered us from the Kingdom of Darkness into His Kingdom of Light because someone took the time to explain the *real Gospel* to us, and also taught us how to live the life we have been called to.

Hearing the Gospel and receiving Christ is only the beginning of the Christian life, and unless one continues in the Word under Biblical teaching growth rarely occurs. Growth results by the application of Biblical Truth to our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Our part is to prepare our hearts to receive the Word and to study it. We also must learn how to pray and to worship and praise the Lord for "true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth" according to Jesus in John 4:24.

I look at our walk (and teach) that our growth and sanctification depends on three legs, like a milking stool or a camera tripod (I only use this as an illustration of some Biblical principles). If one leg is shorter than the other two our balance deteriorates and we begin to slip off. If one leg is non-existent a stool is not supportive at all. Engineering and physics shows us that we need at least three legs for support without some form of anchoring- it's gravity itself that holds three legs steady and supportive of our weight.

Similarly, we need a minimum of three legs or supports to keep our Christian life growing up straight and strong in the Lord. The three legs I can see are:

1) **Regular reading and study of the Bible.** If we don't know the will of God how can we pray for it? How can we know what is right or wrong? How can we fully understand who God is and what Christ has done for us if we don't read His revelation? There is so much false teaching and beliefs around today be-



(Continued on page 7)

# Keeping Our Balance

*(Continued from page 6)*

cause most Christians are biblically illiterate. This is also why so many are spiritually immature. 2) **Regularly seeking the face of God in prayer.** If we don't speak to our spouse the relationship never grows and probably degenerates completely. We never learn about the other person. Relationship with God also requires communication. Speaking to God in prayer is necessary as it during prayer that we make confession, make supplication, and most importantly speak to our Heavenly Father in a loving relationship. If we don't pray will Jesus say to us "I never knew you?" Possibly. Do you want to take the chance? I don't. If one is born from above they should desire to speak to their Father in Heaven. Jesus told us "When you pray say this..." not "if you pray" when teaching His disciples how to pray. Considering how much Jesus depended on prayer how much more is our need.



3) **Worshipping and praising God for who He is and what He has done.** Worship shows the worth we individually place upon God. We praise Him for His love and for the Cross. A worshipful life is a life of constant thankfulness and awareness of His presence, of our being open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our life as He leads us in our ministries.

Obviously there is much, much more to all three than can be written here, Study the Psalms—much is learned about God and His worship in the Psalms and contains some of the greatest examples in the Bible of how to go before the throne in Heaven. I regularly teach that these things are essential to grow in Christ and to stay free from the chains that previously kept us bound in darkness and enslaved by the Devil. I consider them especially essential for those escaping from addiction and gang life. They need and receive much more mercy and forgiveness than most people claiming the Name of Christ and must be taught to make reading the Word, prayer, and worship God the most important activity in their life. Being consistent in these things keeps one in the fight against the powers of darkness seeking to destroy our faith and life itself. And as ministers of the Gospel we so much more need to practice these disciplines in order to stand firm against the fiery darts launched by Satan. We must truly believe that God is in control regardless of what our senses tell us so we can in turn teach others to walk this way. As our personal faith grows we are further equipped to carry out the commission given us to make disciples and to teach them all that Christ commanded.

Yours in Christ

*Bishop Dr. David Church*

# “To Your Faith Add”

By Bishop Jessica Johnston, Spirit Soul and Body Ministries



*My prayer and blessing for you is that you will discover and uncover the mysteries of God in His ways and His word. I pray for you a revelation of His grace in your life and that all lessons imparted to you through your mess will become revelatory teaching for the flock of God.*

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” In the beginning we are given faith as little children. We trust wholeheartedly in a Big God who comes to the rescue when we call, who meets our every need, who excites us with signs and wonders along the way. But, as we grow our faith is tested. Our trust in our God is purified. Our faith is matured. God begins to speak things that seem impossible

but with God we know all things are possible. Walking in faith now requires a transformation within. To make our call and election secure it requires something more.



In 2 Peter 1:3,4, Peter reminds us that Christ’s divine power has been bestowed upon us for life and godliness through the knowledge of the Holy One who called us and bestowed upon us His precious promises we partake in His divine nature. For these reasons, we are to make every effort to add to our faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

Recently I went through a three month experience of purchasing a new home. This experience started with a word from God that he had given me this house. I chose to receive this word by faith and believe it. The hope was there but the evidence not yet seen. For weeks I endured exhausting negotiations with the home owner, the mortgage company, the insurance company, the inspector, the appraiser and the lawyer. I believed but also increased my knowledge, had to practice self-control and most of all persevere to see the evidence of things not seen. Even hours before closing on the

## “To Your Faith Add”

home I heard “no” to the deal. But faith, but knowledge in the One True God, but godliness and perseverance. Without all of these virtues I would have given up long ago. I received the home and dedicated it to the Lord immediately. Even in the experience these virtues were being nurtured and matured for a greater test and manifestation of faith in His promises to come.

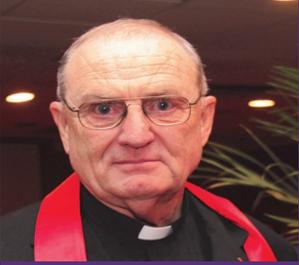
So what is the reward of faith added to? Peter concludes his remarks about adding to your faith with these words: 2 Peter 1:8-9 “For if these things are yours and abound, you will be **neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.” In vs. 10 he says we must now be more diligent for our calling and election to be made secure, for when you do these things you would never, ever, stumble.



No barrenness? fruit of the knowledge of Christ? secure in our calling? Who could turn this down? Make your call secure and add to your faith.



# All Glory Laud and Honor



Rev. Dr. Thomas Peavy

**E**rin Nicole Peavy was married to Tyler Lambert Scroggs June 15, 2013 at First Presbyterian Church, Milledgeville, GA with The Reverend Taylor Brown officiating. The bride is the daughter of The Reverend Doctor Thomas Peavy and Rita Long Peavy of Columbus, GA and the groom is the son of Edwin Darryl Scroggs and Marla Lambert Scroggs of Loganville, GA.



WEDDING KISS PHOTOGRAPHY

Erin is employed in the Jones County, GA school system and will begin work as an adjunct faculty member at Georgia College and State University in the Fall. She completed the Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education at Auburn University and the Master of Education Degree in Education Technology with emphasis in Instruction Design at Georgia College and State University. Tyler completed the Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education at Georgia College and State University and a program in CISCO Systems management at Gwinnett Technical College. He will begin employment at Georgia College and State University in the Fall. The couple will reside in Milledgeville GA. All praises be to Him who has blessed this marriage of His children and servants.

*[22] Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. [23] The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." [24] For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*

*Genesis 2:22-24*

Rev. Dr. Thomas Peavy (Proud Father)



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# Anxiety Relief

Bishop Fred Macharia

As you travel life's journey, you can take the road and receive anxiety relief.

There are many issues in our lives that cause us anxiety; issues such as our financial security, our relationships, and our future. We can become anxious about the unknown, anxious about the potential of what might happen, and anxious about what happened in the past and how that impacts our present. It's one thing to be uneasy about a situation but, if you do not address that feeling, it can grow into doubt and fear and rob you of the joy of life.

The problem with anxiety is that life presents situations that you cannot manipulate or fix. You cannot control every situation or every person in your life. You cannot twist every situation for your desired outcome. And you have to admit that there are times that you cannot control even your own emotions and feelings. When you are faced with issues that cause anxiety, you can try to follow your feelings and your own personal standards. But who is to say that your feelings are true or that your standards will bring the results that you want?

Life would be so much easier if we had someone to journey with us and to show us how to overcome our anxieties with perfect peace.

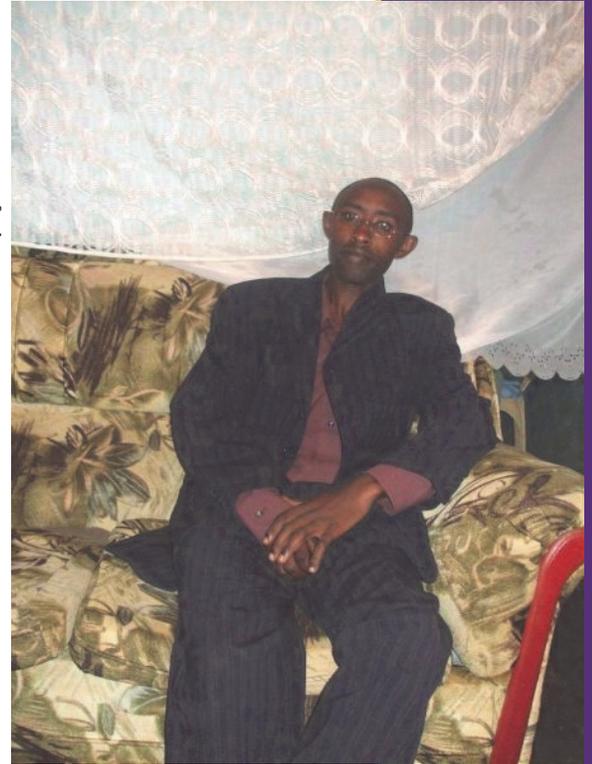
I am here to tell you that person does exist! His name is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ came to earth over two thousand years ago to show us the love of God the Father. He did not come to set up just another religion. He came to pay the penalty for our disobedience to God and to give us a new life. The Bible quotes Jesus as saying, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you ... Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

See, Jesus is the only person in the history of the world who is qualified to make that statement. He knew what it was like to be in situations that were out of His control. He had close personal friends who thought that he was crazy, who walked out on Him, and who betrayed Him. If anyone in the world had reason ... good reason to feel anxious, it was Jesus. But, He overcame anxiety and the feelings of not being in control by giving His Will over to God.

Jesus prayed to God the Father, "not my will be done but your will." What Jesus did was to humble Himself and He was obedient to God's standards, and God's will. And that is the key! The road to peace was not found by seeking control but by giving up control to God and following God's direction.

As you travel life's journey, you can take the road from anxiety to peace. Pray this prayer...  
 "Dear Jesus, I need help with anxiety please replace it with your perfect peace. Please forgive me of my sins and bring meaning and fulfillment into my life. I surrender my heart to you and ask that you take control of my life now. Thank you."

Bishop Fred Macharia  
 Nairobi Kenya  
 Concordia Theologica Kenya



## *Thinking.....*

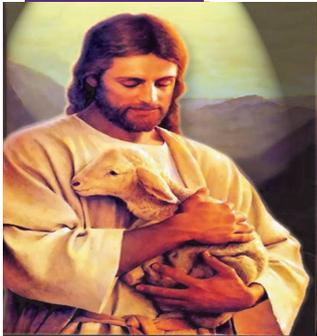
A Lesson Regarding God and the Word of God By Bishop Nancy Drew

If we want to know God's will for our life we must use the Word of God for our map in the journey. Along the way we will make many wonderful discoveries but discoveries are only found by those who look and who seek. Great treasure can lay hidden just beneath the surface being passed by year after year until the one comes who takes the time, opportunity and discernment to uncover it and find it's true value. This is the way it is with the Word of God.

God has revealed His will for all of mankind and for life in the Scriptures that He gave to obedient and dedicated servants of old who were inspired by the Holy Spirit and wrote what He gave them to write. I know of no other writing that has power like the Word of God. There are those who read it and say I don't understand this and throw it aside but there are others who cling to it because as Jesus said, "man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God." In it is life! These who cling will discover God. Our bodies are fed with bread but our spirits and souls with the Word of God and that Word of God can then effect the physical realm as well. It is life changing this Word of God.

If we want to know God we must know His Word. If we want to know God's will He will reveal it to us through His Word. We can never say we do not know God's will because it is already there for us in writing. I knew a very prophetic person once who left her Godly husband to be with another man saying that God had told her to do so. I did not even have to pray to discern the truth in this. I knew she was out of God's will and that He had not given this direction to her because it was contrary to what He has already revealed to us. But, there is also the personal specific word of God to us that we must seek out and He is ready by Holy Spirit to give us that direction as well.

Those who know Him hear His voice. When we follow the Godly principles found in the Scriptures, we will be able to travel the vast regions of life and sort through the options presented to us along the way. We will learn His voice as we come to know Him, spend time with Him and learn His word. Whatever we do in life must line up with God's Word. He will not call us to do something that is contrary to it. There is the Holy Spirit who is our companion and teacher and He leads us through this discovering. Jesus has provided all for us. It is Holy Spirit that enlightens and illumines the Word of God to us. That is the difference between those who toss the scriptures aside and those who cling to it. One has the Holy Spirit the other does not. Ask for the Holy Spirit to come and He will.



*Thinking  
about.....*

# Blankets for Veterans!

Chaplain Deborah Mejchar



*Chaplain  
Mejchar  
ministers at  
the  
Fox Lake  
Correctional  
Institution,  
Fox Lake,  
WI.*

Pictured with Vicki Ponedel of the Wisconsin Veterans Home are FLCI Program Supervisor Bruce Siedschlag and FLCI /Rev .Chaplain Deb Mejchar LEPC , displaying one of the blankets that was donated

In commemoration of Memorial Day, Fox Lake Correctional Institution inmates donated \$1,000 and 20 blankets to the Wisconsin Veterans Home in King. The money will help defray costs associated with the Veterans Home Honor Guard and for coupons veterans need to purchase personal hygiene products.

Money was collected during inmate fundraisers coordinated by staff through the institution's Chapel Diversity Enhancement Program. led by Linda Kuehn , Education and Rev. Chaplain Mejchar The donated blankets were made by inmates in the Chapels' Restorative Justice Program Social Worker Andrea Peterson and Rev /Chaplain Mejchar facilitators

FLCI staff members toured the home and met many of the veterans that live there.

Chaplain Deborah Mejchar  
W 10237 Lake Emily Rd  
Fox Lake Correctional Institution  
920-928-3151 ext. 6232

## NAE National Association of Evangelicals

# More Political Engagement Among Evangelicals

Evangelical engagement in U.S. politics has ebbed and flowed through the years, especially rising to prominence in the 1970s and 1980s with the growing concern about protecting human life and strengthening families. Since then, the evangelical agenda has broadened and evangelical engagement in social justice issues has blossomed. But with disillusionment in the political process on the increase, what will become of evangelical engagement in the future?

While many acknowledged current frustrations, most evangelical leaders expect the level of political engagement among evangelicals to increase, according to the May Evangelical Leaders Survey. The poll asked, "What do you expect the level of political engagement among evangelicals will be in the next 10 years?" While 18 percent said political engagement among evangelicals will go down and 25 percent said it will stay the same, 57 percent believe that evangelicals will be more engaged in politics in 10 years than they are today.

**"Evangelicals aren't going away. The issues that motivated us to engage in politics in the past will keep and inspire engagement in the future,"** said Leith Anderson, President of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE).

Marriage, sanctity of life, poverty and religious freedom top the list of issues that evangelical leaders say will elicit increased responsiveness in the political arena. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church, predicted that issues of religious freedom, in particular, will become more alarming, and she prays that evangelicals will "handle these times with grace, truth and love."

Joel Hunter, Senior Pastor of Northland Church, said, "New generations will demand practical and cultural engagement of all sorts to apply spiritual teaching. They will not be as attracted toward mere 'in house' church activities. Included in community service will be political advocacy, especially for the vulnerable."

Anderson said, "Evangelicals take the Bible seriously, and as such, they will be faithful to follow God's call to love their neighbors as themselves. Many realize that calling involves caring about what happens in the political realm."

The Evangelical Leaders Survey is a monthly poll of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Evangelicals. They include the CEOs of denominations and representatives of a broad array of evangelical organizations including missions, universities, publishers and churches.



# White Dove of the Desert

Pastor Steve Bacon

When Patti and I moved to Tucson, Arizona in 1987 we were amazed at the history of the Spanish Catholic Missionaries.

We travel the region looking at the Missions and this one was most special.

I am not enamored with a Catholic church with all of the Saints and Candles but this church was different.

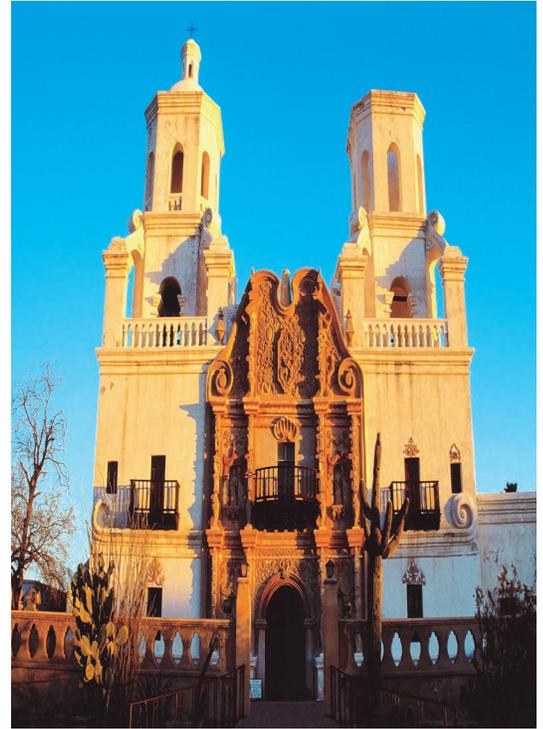
While Patti looked around I sat in a pew and felt a closeness with God that I hadn't felt in a long time.

I believe it was the first hard tug that God gave me to go into the ministry.

I know to the people of the desert this Mission was a refuge to turn to and still is to this day.

*Pastor Steve*

**Mission San Xavier del Bac  
White Dove of the Desert  
A Brief History of Mission San Xavier del Bac**



A National Historic Landmark, San Xavier Mission was founded as a Catholic mission by Father Eusebio Kino in 1692. Construction of the current church began in 1783 and was completed in 1797.

The oldest intact European structure in Arizona, the church's interior is filled with marvelous original statuary and mural paintings. It is a place where visitors can truly step back in time and enter an authentic 18th Century space.

The church retains its original purpose of ministering to the religious needs of its parishioners.

Location:

The Mission is 9 miles south of downtown Tucson, Arizona just off of Interstate 19. Take exit 92 (San Xavier Road) and follow signs to the Mission.

There is no admission charge to visit Mission San Xavier. Some 200,000 visitors come each year from all over the world to view what is widely considered to be the finest example of Spanish Colonial architecture in the United States.

The History:

The current church dates from the late 1700's, when Southern Arizona was part of New Spain. In 1783, Franciscan missionary Fr. Juan Bautista Velderrain was able to begin construction on the present structure using money borrowed from a Sonoran rancher. He hired an architect, Ignacio Gaona, and a large workforce of O'odham to create the present church.

*(Continued on page 16)*

*If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear them from heaven and forgive their sin and will heal their land.  
2 Ch 7:14*

# White Dove of the Desert

Pastor Steve Bacon

*(Continued from page 15)*

Following Mexican independence in 1821, San Xavier became part of Mexico. The last resident Franciscan of the 19th Century departed in 1837. With the Gadsden Purchase of 1854, the Mission joined the United States. In 1859 San Xavier became part of the Diocese of Santa Fe. In 1866 Tucson became an incipient diocese and regular services were held at the Mission once again. Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet opened a school at the Mission in 1872. Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity now teach at the school and reside in the convent.

The Franciscans returned to the Mission in 1913. Recently, Mission San Xavier became a separate nonprofit entity. It remains a testament to the endurance of culture throughout our history.

Timeline:

- 1692 Father Kino visits the village of W:k
- 1700 Father Kino begins foundations on a church never built
- 1711 Father Kino dies in Magdalena, Sonora, Mexico
- 1756 Father Espinosa constructs the 1st church
- 1767 Jesuits are expelled from New Spain
- 1768 Spanish Franciscans take over the Mission
- 1783 Construction begins on the present church
- 1797 The Mission church is completed
- 1821 Spanish Franciscans leave
- 1846 Cooke's Mormon battalion passes by the Mission
- 1854 Gadsden Purchase puts the Mission inside the United States
- 1859 Santa Fe diocese begins first repairs of the Mission
- 1887 Earthquake damages the Mission
- 1905 Bishop Granjon begins major repairs
- 1913 Franciscans return to the Mission
- 1939 Lightning strikes the West Tower
- 1953 Church facade is restored
- 1963 San Xavier becomes a National Historic Landmark
- 1978 Patronato San Xavier established to preserve the Mission
- 1989 Leaking walls force emergency restoration
- 1992 Conservators begin a 5-year rescue effort of the interior

Today the restoration continues when funds are available.

The Architecture:

Constructed of low-fire clay brick, stone and lime mortar, the entire structure is roofed with masonry vaults, making it unique among Spanish Colonial buildings within U. S. borders. The architect, Ignacio Gaona, is credited with building another church in Caborca, Sonora Mexico.

Little is known about the people who decorated the interior. The artwork was probably commissioned by Fr. Velderrain's successor and most likely created by artists from Queretero in New Spain (now Mexico). The sculpture was created in guild workshops and carried by donkey through the Pimeria Alta to its destination at the Mission. Craftsmen created gessoes clothing once the sculpture was in place.



*(Continued on page 17)*

# White Dove of the Desert

Pastor Steve Bacon

*(Continued from page 16)*

The church contains numerous references to the Franciscan cord both on the facade and throughout the church.

The shell, a symbol of pilgrimage after the patron saint of Spain, Santiago or James the Greater, is replicated all through the structure in window treatments, the sanctuary, the facade and other details within the interior.

The Baroque architecture style features playful dramatic elements such as theatrical curtain displays, faux doors, marbling, and overall sense of balance.

The Restoration:

An earthquake in 1887 knocked down the mortuary wall and damaged parts of the church. Extensive repairs began in 1905, under Bishop Henry Granjon. The next round of restoration followed the years after 1939 when a lightning strike hit the West Tower lantern.

A group of community leaders formed the Patronato San Xavier in 1978 to promote the conservation of Mission San Xavier. Shortly after a comprehensive study of its condition was completed, water seeped into the west wall of the church's sanctuary, forcing an emergency conservation effort by the Patronato. In a five-year program, an international team of conservators cleaned, removed over-painting, and repaired the interior painted and sculptured art of Mission San Xavier del Bac.

The Patronato continues exterior preservation work begun in 1989. Its restoration team is removing the earlier coating of cement plaster, repairing the historic brick beneath, and re-finishing the exterior surface with a traditional lime plaster. The sooner the cement can be removed, the greater the amount of original fabric can be preserved. More remains to be done if we are to guarantee this landmark for future generations. Please help us preserve this national treasure.

Send your tax-deductible donation to:

Patronato San Xavier

P.O. Box 522

Tucson, AZ 85702

520-407-6130

[www.patronatosanxavier.org](http://www.patronatosanxavier.org)    [patronatosx@earthlink.net](mailto:patronatosx@earthlink.net)



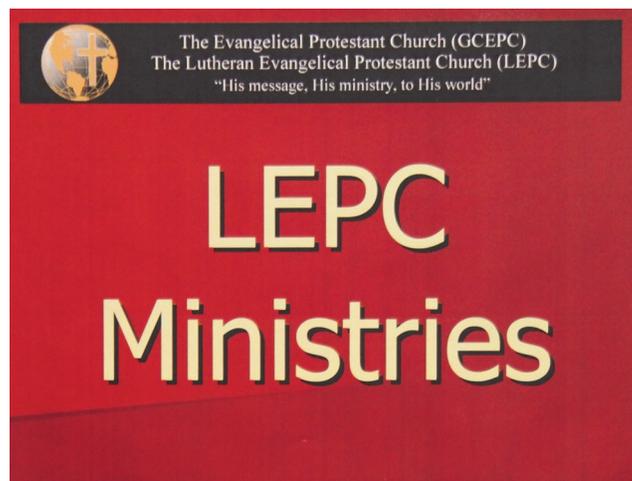
# Welcome & Congratulations!

Welcome to our EPC/LEPC faith community new ministers of Word and Sacrament:

Reverend Ed Burns, New Jersey

Reverend Nina Zick, Wisconsin

"Congratulations and Best Wishes from the EPC GCEPC/LEPC to Erin Nicole Peavy Scroggs and Tyler Lambert Scroggs on their marriage June 15, 2013. God's blessing and peace to you always. Mrs. Scroggs is the daughter of LEPC minister Rev. Dr. Thomas Peavy and Rita Long Peavy of Columbus, Georgia.



## Where is the LEPC in the US?



His Message His Ministry to His World

- Past - 7 States
- Current - 21 States

## Where is the LEPC in the World?



His Message His Ministry to His World

## “Defense of Marriage Act Unconstitutional, Court Says.”

EPC/LEPC Response by Presiding Bishop Nancy Drew

We believe that God has a plan in everything that man is involved in. We will continue to uphold the Word of God as the truth that it is. We do not perform same sex marriages or bless same sex unions. We do not ordain homosexuals. We do, however, minister to all people as the Lord leads us to do and as the individual allows us to show love and bind the broken heart. God is not a respecter of persons. He offers the same forgiveness, healing and restoration to all who come to Him in humility and in repentance of sin regardless of what that sin is. We cannot forget Apostle Paul's words, "Know you not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortionists, shall inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you: but you are washed, but you are sanctified, but you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.**" I Corin. 6:11

Primary in the above scripture is the verb WERE. This indicates that a change took place because of God's work in the lives of those who heard Paul's message at that time and there will be a change for those who read and hear the Word of God taught in our present day. None of these sins were given "special" consideration. All were treated as sin. All were able to be forgiven and washed away. All of the individuals were sanctified and justified by the work of the Lord Jesus and the Spirit of our God in their lives. God has not changed. This is still His plan for man: to forgive, to wash, to cleanse, restore to His will, to sanctify and to justify. He welcomes all who will come. The Supreme Court can make rulings but it cannot wash, cleanse, sanctify and justify the sins of man. Only the blood of Christ Jesus has that power. So we shall watch as God's plan unfolds. We believe this nation of America is God planned and it exists for His glory. We call on all of God's people to pray, ask God's forgiveness for our country, our leaders, our courts, ourselves and He will hear from Heaven and heal OUR land. This is OUR land and we want it restored. Stand, therefore, and see the salvation of our God.

## Defense of Marriage Act Unconstitutional, Court Says.

Court also effectively allows same-sex marriage to resume in California. Byline Ted Olsen and Melissa Steffan posted 6/26/2013 (NAE via Christianity Today)

The Supreme Court today issued two major decisions favoring same-sex marriage. In its first move, the court [ruled](#) that the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional, saying it "violates basic due process and equal protection principles applicable to the federal government." "DOMA instructs all federal officials, and indeed all persons with whom same-sex couples interact, including their own children, that their marriage is less worthy than the marriages of others," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the court. In the second case, [Hollingsworth v. Perry](#), the court essentially allowed same-sex marriages to resume in California. The court said that supporters of the state ban on same-sex marriages, 2008's [Proposition 8](#), couldn't challenge a lower court's decision striking it down.

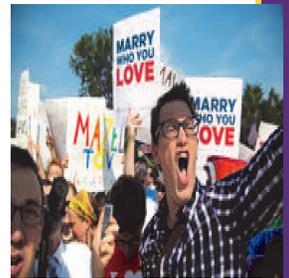
The first case, *United States v. Windsor*, challenged the federal [Defense of Marriage Act](#) (DOMA) of 1996, which defines marriage as "only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife" and says states don't have to recognize other states' same-sex marriages. In the case, the widow of a same-sex union recognized by New York sued to receive a federal tax refund on estate taxes she paid—something she would have received had she married a man.

The court's ruling will take effect immediately. It does not automatically establish a constitutional right to same-sex marriage, but rather said the federal government must recognize same-sex marriages if they are allowed by states. President Barack Obama already rescinded his support for DOMA in 2011, when he officially declared his support for same-sex marriage. Since then, however, Republicans in the House of Representatives have defended the law.

*Hollingsworth v. Perry* took on California's Proposition 8, the state's ban on same-sex marriage. Voters approved the measure in 2008, after the California Supreme Court ordered that the state begin issuing same-sex marriage licenses. Gay rights advocates challenged the ban soon after it passed, and the state of California declined to defend the measure after a district court ruled it unconstitutional. That left the proposition's sponsors to appeal the decision, something the Supreme Court today said they couldn't do.

In 2010, an appeals court deemed Proposition 8 [unconstitutional](#) not only because it burdens gay and lesbian couples right to marry, but also because it "[creates](#) an irrational classification on the basis of sexual orientation." But the Supreme Court's ruling today didn't address such questions, and focused on the ability of Prop. 8's sponsors, Protect Marriage, to defend the law in court. "We have never before upheld the standing of a private party to defend the constitutionality of a state statute when state officials have chosen not to. We decline to do so for the first time here," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote.

The votes in both cases were 5-4, though the makeup of the majority decisions differed...  
NAE via Christianity Today [www.christianitytoday.com](http://www.christianitytoday.com), 26 June 2013



# The "Back Page" Spread It!

Our neighbors are camp hosts in Oregon for the summer from May through September. I am taking care of their three horses, feeding them twice a day and putting eye drops and salve in one of their eyes twice a day.



I am amazed at how big these guy's are and how much they eat.

They also relieve themselves a lot and

this is the point of my story.

The neighbor has a little tractor and

manure spreader. Patti drives it, I fill it, and Patti spreads it.

The tractor is a Sears and my Dad always told me "Sears stands behind everything they sell except their manure spreaders, they stand beside those."

Well I stand beside it as well.

As I fill and the spreader and watch Patti spread it, I am reminded that this is what we do with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We have an unlimited supply and we spread the Gospel wherever we go.

Some of it takes hold, some of it falls on deaf ears, some lays dor-

mant before taking hold.

We continue to spread the Good News but some people see it as just so much manure.

Paul says "The message about the cross is nonsense to those who are being destroyed, but it is God's power to us who are being saved."

**1Corinthians 1:18**

We continue therefore to spread the never ending supply of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those in the darkness around us.

Unlike the guarantee from Sears, God stands behind us, promising us that nothing on this earth, above this earth or under this earth can ever take us from him.

When we spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ we are preparing the non believer for the Holy Spirit which will lead them to Christ.

Enjoy your summer, see how much you can spread!

Blessings,

*Pastor Steve*



Steve & Teddy 9/28/1951

## From the Editor

Thanks for all of your contributions. Remember, for this magazine to be a success you must be the reporters and the photographers. I will try and put it together in the best light and we will all praise God in the process.

May the blessings of Christ be with you all. ED.



Is he done yet?

Evangelical Protestant Church(GCEPC)®,Inc,

Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church(LEPC)®

