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the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

August, 2022

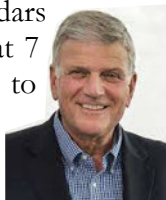
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Theme for 2022: Advancing The Kingdom ... One Soul at a Time

Franklin Graham & the God Loves You Tour

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, Sept 27 at 7 PM to join thousands to hear Franklin Graham at the Youngstown Amphitheatre.



How will your church cooperate in this outreach? Will you serve on a

prayer team? Will you serve as a counselor? Will you serve as a financial supporter?

Some opportunities to serve are listed

on page 5 of this newsletter. May all of Mahoning Valley be reached!



O.N.E. School

Pete and Pat had a son. They named him Pete, Jr. (No, they did not call him repete.) As P.J. grew, the parents relinquished the training responsibilities to the school and to the leaders of activities in the community. Pete and Pat could not figure out why their child was not becoming more like Christ.

Sadly, churches cannot figure out why new Christians are not becoming more like Christ. Could it be the church is a repeat of Pat and Pete?

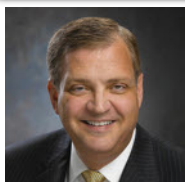
May we not follow in their footsteps.

God has commissioned all of us to Make Disciples. While this task



[see ONE, page 3](#)

Roe v Wade Overturned



(This article was written on June 24, 2022 ... the day Roe v. Wade was overturned.

This article is abbreviated. To read it in its entirety go to the last line of this article.)

This is a special edition of The Briefing given the fact that the Supreme Court of the United States this morning handed down a monumental decision in the Dobbs case from Mississippi. And indeed the court went on to reverse Roe v. Wade. This is a special analysis of news and events from a Christian worldview.

I want to start today with a word from the heart, and then we will take a closer look at the decision and the opinions handed down by the court. First of all, this word from the heart. "This is the day that the Lord is made. Let us rejoice and be glad in

[see Roe, next page](#)

Special-called Mtg

Representatives at the July 18 Meeting voted to hold a special-called Executive Board Meeting on Aug. 22 at the SVBA Office at 7 PM for the purpose of voting to allow a portion of the SVBA Commerce Avenue Complex to be rented as a daycare and to empower the Administrative Team to secure and finalize the details of all the contractual arrangements.



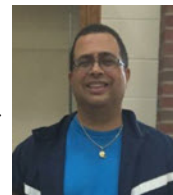
According to our bylaws only this matter will be discussed and voted on. Eligible voters will be the church representatives to the Executive Board Meetings.

Good News!

Yet another church is likely to join Steel Valley at the annual meeting. God is at work within our midst!

Missions & Ministry

We pretty much have the calendar open for the use of the block party trailer. Let's start putting it to use to the Lord's



Rafael Cruz Jr

glory. The cost is only \$100 for its use, which is a real bargain. \$25 is returned to you if the trailer is returned neat and clean. Start praying about doing outreach this year. If you need help, just ask. I'm still

[see M&M, page 4](#)

it." You know those words as Psalm 118:24, and the words are true every day. But doxology is surely right on this day, June 24th, 2022, when the Supreme Court of the United States struck down 50 years of the judicially sanctioned killing of unborn human beings in this nation.

Thanks be to God. We did see it coming. We had the leaked draft opinion by Justice Samuel Alito, and we had the strong arguments evident in the oral arguments before the court. We knew that the court now has a strong conservative majority with a core of deep and principled constitutionalism found in Justices, Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Brett Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett, and on most issues, Neil Gorsuch. There was good reason to think that Chief Justice, John Roberts, would uphold the Mississippi law restricting abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. But pro-life Americans have learned not to assume anything and to wait to see any decision in the black and white of plain text. Well, we now have the plain text. It is explosive. It is earth shaking. It reverses both *Roe v. Wade* and the *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey*. It completely removes the fiction of a woman's right to an abortion from American constitutional law.

It puts a stop to the stain of legally sanctioned abortion by federal mandate. It returns the question of abortion to the people and to their elective representatives. It is an answer to prayer. I cannot, but think of my mother who did not live to see this day. I came home from school one day in 1973, the year of *Roe v. Wade* to find horrifying pictures on the kitchen table. My mom had just returned home from a meeting of pro-life Christians. Like so many others, my mom had no idea that the Supreme Court of the United States would dare to hand down a national decree inventing a right to abortion,

but it had. Evangelical Christians were sent scrambling to build a movement from scratch. The Roman Catholic church was armed with a reputation of abortion and with legions of Catholics who could quickly be sent into the streets. Evangelical Christians quickly followed. But this was a battle that would have to be won in the courts and in the court, the same Supreme Court that had just given the nation the atrocity of *Roe*.

Furthermore, victory was not inevitable. The invented jurisprudence of substantive due process had produced an empire of linked decisions on issues ranging from contraception to same-sex marriage. Thus, if victory insanity were to come, an army of true constitutionalists and legal scholars would have to join the army of activists, and they did. That's why it has taken a half century. Like my mother, there are millions who worked for this day, but did not live to see it. In this list must be counted many, including jurists like Justice Antonin Scalia, Christian prophets like Francis Schaeffer, preachers like D. James Kennedy, and unnamed brave activists by the thousands who stood in lines, holding signs, loving pregnant women and their babies. Laughed at and derided by the world. The argument against *Roe* and *Casey* had to be built point-by-point.

The evidence had to be assembled piece-by-piece. Hearts and minds had to be reached one at a time. In the courts and in the court of public opinion, the entire process came with fits and starts, but the movement for life pressed on. Legislators in the states pressed the case. Defined the abortion industry. Governor signed bills. Courts had great moments and missed opportunities, but the urgency of defying death and defending life went on. Today's ruling by the Supreme Court came down to this one line, "The constitution does not confer a right to abortion. *Roe* and *Casey* are overruled, and the authority to regulate abortion

is returned to the people and their elected representatives." There's much more to the majority opinion and the concurring and dissenting opinions are filled with additional issues that demand our attention. But the most important truth to recognize is that the dissenting justices who would defend *Roe* and *Casey* and abortion rights have no real constitutional argument at all.

They never did. The emperor has no cloths. Today's decision does indeed return the issue to the states and even bigger battles thus, face us. The day of battle is not over. And the cause of life is not finally won. We will have to redouble our efforts, refine our arguments, stand alongside women in crisis, honor the family and contend for life for the rest of our lives. But this day is now a milestone in history. I rejoice in this day, fighting tears as I think of my mother and so many others who knew the simple truth that God's gift of life is breathtakingly precious, and must be defended. The battle before us is now even bigger than the battle behind us. So here we go. I'll let that stand as a thematic statement. And from my heart, a devotional statement. A gratitude to God, and also gratitude to so many of God's people who have helped to make this day possible.

I want to go back to the actual text. Now, what we had just a matter of weeks ago was an unprecedented leak of a draft opinion by Justice Alito. What we knew right then is that at that point, and that's crucial at that point, there was a majority of the justices ready to overturn *Roe* and *Casey*. One of the most interesting things we wanted to see when the opinion was released today is how close the final majority opinion was to the draft that had been leaked. It was an unprecedented leak. It was an unethical leak. But it turns out it was a very accurate leak. It turns out that the majority opinion is incredibly close to the exact document that we

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Ohio NorthEast School of Theology

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may seem daunting, we cannot avoid the issue. The future of the church and the spiritual growth in other Christians depends on our focused efforts to make disciples. Not to do so is to let the world raise our spiritual children. This process requires a major effort on our part, but what is the alternative?

At the same time, this process is simpler than you think. Join us in this class to understand a simplified approach and a long-range perspective to keep the process on track.

For the sake of God's kingdom, for the sake of your church, and for the sake of new Christians enroll in the Fall Semester now.

2022 Fall Semester

God knows the only way His church can reach the world with the gospel is to make disciples, which is more than just making a convert. A true disciple of the Lord is one who makes disciples who in turn make more disciples.

Every Christian should work himself or herself out of a job, constantly training other people to do the work and training those people to train others.

Outcome of Class

Participants will learn a strong biblical basis for disciple-making,

learn the basics of disciple-making, and put together their own strategy based on a variety of models.

Testimony #1

"I have thoroughly enjoyed all the classes I have taken from One School and Dr. Randy Langham. Each one has had a different influence and area I was able to learn and grow in. However, out of all the classes I believe if you only took one, it should be Making Disciples."

Testimony #2

"One of the biggest take aways for me was it gave me a way of thinking if I were to be gone for a year and I had only one year to disciple someone what would that look like. ... That was another one that really stood out for me ... that made me like to think practical, plan, what did I want them to know. That was highly important to me."

Ideal Students

Jesus gave the Great Commission to every Christian; therefore, every Christian will benefit from this class. The more influence you have, the greater your need to participate.

Difficulty of the Classes

You get out of life what you are willing to put into it. To get the full benefit from the class you need to make this a priority for 15 weeks.

You may audit the class and simply observe from a distance, but the full benefit comes from total commitment. If you wish to forward any credits to seminary that is available.

Cost of the Classes

Enrolling into this class as a student requires enrolling at Gateway Seminary in California, one of our SBC seminaries. This plus the cost of the books is less than \$50. The course itself is \$300 and auditing is \$100.

Location

All classes are available on Zoom. For people who live in the area and are able to do so, we will meet at the associational office the first day.

Day and Dates

Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 2-5 PM. There may be an additional class repeated at 6-9 PM. The first day of classes will be Aug 30 and the last day is scheduled to be Dec 13. The last day to register is Sept 6.

Syllabus

Contact Randy Langham for a copy of the syllabus to get an early start on purchasing material and doing assignments required for the class.

To Register

Call 330-398-2455 or the ONE School Office at 330-775-3401. The earlier you sign up the better.

Book Review

Book Review, part 1 by Bill Mazey

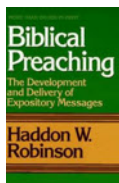
Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages

by Haddon W. Robinson.

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House Company, 1980, 230 pp. hardback

I first read this book back in the early 1980's for a homiletics course

[see Book Review, next page](#)



Pastors' Zoom Mtg

The next pastor Zoom Meeting for fellowship and prayer is Aug 25 at 7 PM. **NOTE** the day change. The Zoom meeting can be accessed here: [Zoom Mtg](#)

Erie Fellowship

Pastors in the Ashtabula County area will gather for fellowship at the First Baptist Church of Jefferson at 9 AM on September 9.

Trip to Kenya

Maasai pastors in Kenya are crying out to Steel Valley pastors to come and give them training Oct 28 to Nov 12. Churches can assist financially through "Koins 4 Kenya." Jars are available for churches to collect coins which will be retrieved no later than Oct. 1.

Contact Bro. Gary about your availability to travel or for your church's help with the jars.



M&M, from page 1

waiting on calls reserving the block party trailer for your outreach events for this summer. Let's point our neighbors to Jesus. Only Jesus can transform minds, hearts and souls. Let's take Jesus to our communities.

The Jericho Project Street Ministry has already done six outreach events this summer. We also had our box truck wrapped with our ministry logo and verse. Another ministry paid for the wrap. God is so good! We're now going to focus on getting the truck ready for the work of the ministry, such as setting up shelving and transferring all of our equipment and supplies from the trailer. The Lord is still moving powerfully. Please lift us up in your prayers.

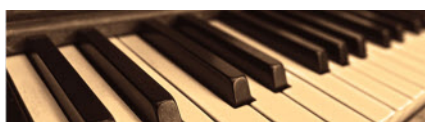
Franklin Graham will be bringing a free evangelistic event to the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre on Tuesday, September 27th at 7:00 p.m. The BGEA team is hoping that churches and believers in our area will invite not yet Christian friends, family, neighbors, etc. There is a big need for altar workers for this event. There is training provided for volunteers and it is necessary for all volunteers. There is more information on the "God Loves You Tour" in this communicator. Please keep this event in your prayer and start talking to others about it.

Our God is an awesome God! The best is yet to come! Pray for opportunities to be God's mouthpiece during 2022.

God bless you,
Rafael Cruz Jr.
Missions and Ministry Team Leader
(330) 507-0117

Association Music

The next 5th Sunday Music Fest will be October 30.



Finances

As of July 31, Steel Valley Baptist Association has the following correct financial totals regarding the calendar year 2022:

Year-to-date Budget: \$39,045.42
Year-to-date Spent: \$35,209.28
Year-to-date Income: \$30,510.20

Book Review, from previous page

at Cedarville College. It was the main textbook for the class. The book has survived, been updated and is still being used in introductory preaching classes. The ONE School of Theology can offer an Introduction to Preaching class and this book will be one of the two required texts.

Biblical Preaching contains ten chapters:

- The Case for Expository Preaching
- What's the Big Idea
- Tools of the Trade
- The Road from Text to Sermon
- The Power of Purpose
- The Shapes Sermons Take
- Making Dry Bones Live
- Start with a Bang and Quit All Over
- The Dress of Thought
- How to Preach So People Will Listen

There are three Appendixes, a Selective Bibliography of Works Cited, an Index of Persons, and an Index of Scripture.

At the end of every chapter there are Definitions of key words or terms. At the end of most chapters is a New Concepts section to help the reader remember important points.

In the first chapter Robinson makes his case for the importance of expository preaching. Here are a couple quotes for you to consider:

- "Expository preaching is the communication of a biblical concept, derived from and transmitted through a historical, grammatical, and literary study of a passage in its

Annual Meeting

Make plans to join us for the annual meeting October 15 at First Baptist Church of Garrettsville.



context, which the Holy Spirit first applies to the personality and experience of the preacher, then through him to his hearers." (p. 20)

- "But not only does the Holy Spirit apply His truth to the personality and experience of the preacher, according to our definition He applies that truth through him to his hearers. An expositor thinks in three areas. First, as an exegete he struggles with the meanings of the biblical writer. Then as a man of God he wrestles with how God wants to change him personally. Finally, as a preacher he ponders what God wants to say to his congregation. ... Application gives expository preaching purpose. As a shepherd the expositor relates to the hurts, cries, and fears of his flock." (p. 26)

Reading, studying, and applying the content of this book will help any preacher become better at one of the most important things they do. There is the added benefit of becoming a better man of God and pastor-teacher also. I think most pastors would agree we could all get a little better at what God has called us to be and do. Part two of the review will come next month.

If there are any pastors interested in taking the Introduction to Preaching class through the ONE School of Theology in the spring of 2023 either for credit or audit, contact Randy Langham. Think of it as continuing pastoral education and something that could be a blessing to you and your congregation.

A Few of the Ways to be Involved in the God Loves You Tour

Pray

May we all pray for God to do a transformational work throughout NE Ohio. Pray now. Pray every day.

Join a Night of Prayer & Worship

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association will host an evening of prayer and worship. That one night will be Thursday, Aug 18, 6:30 PM, at Bridge of Hope in Boardman.

Join the Prayer Team

The prayer team prays with those who respond to the Gospel Invitation at the God Loves You Tour. Volunteers attend a free 3-hour Christian Life and Witness Course (CLWC) in preparation for serving at

the tour. At the CLWC, prayer team members learn simple, practical ways to share their faith - not only with those they pray with at the event, but also with those in everyday life.

Requirements to join the Team:

1. Attend a CLWC course.
2. Submit an application, along with your personal written testimony.
3. Complete a free background check (if 18 years old or older).

Applications for the prayer team are available only at CLWC training. Background checks will be made available to those who apply for the prayer team following CLWC attendance. Prayer team members are required to be at least 14 years of age.

CLWC Courses

at Highway Tabernacle

3000 S. Raccoon Rd, Austintown
Thursday, August 4, 6-9 PM
Saturday, August 20, 9 AM- 12 PM

at Victory Church

3899 McCartney Rd, Lowellville
Thursday, August 11, 6-9 PM

Involve Your Church

Reaching the world for Christ takes the entire church. See how many people in your church you can involve in this outreach opportunity.

Attend the September 27 Event

Youngstown Amphitheatre 7 PM.

GodLovesYouTour.com

Roe v Wade, from previous page

saw a matter of weeks ago. So, in that sense, there are few surprises. In that sense, what we feel is truly a sense of relief because the majority opinion turns out to have remained the majority opinion. We knew even back then when the leak was released, we knew that there were a couple of huge questions.

Number one, would that majority stick together? And then secondly, where would the Chief Justice go? And it turns out that our intuitions and most expectations were just about exactly right. The Chief Justice had given indications that he would support further restrictions on abortion in particular, pushing back viability and thus a state's ability to limit abortion. The Mississippi law that was at stake here did so at 15 weeks of pregnancy. But the chief justice was willing to go no further. He basically upheld the Mississippi law, but he did not go with the majority in striking down Roe v. Wade and the Planned Parenthood vs. Casey. Now, that tells us a great deal about the mind and the character of John G. Roberts, Jr. For one thing, it appears that the chief was willing to have the

issue of abortion just come back again, and again, and again, torturously before the United States Supreme Court, even as a clear majority in the court knew that Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood vs. Casey had to be struck down.

They had to be struck down if there was to be any honesty and intellectual coherence at the Supreme Court. In that sense, one of the things we learned certainly affirmed in the release of all the opinions and documents today is that the Chief Justice was unwilling to stand with the majority of conservative justices in striking down Roe v. Wade. He did support the Mississippi abortion restrictions, but what we really see here is that the center of gravity on the court has shifted away from the chief who very clearly was the center of gravity for a matter of years, and has now gone to a resurgent conservative majority on the court. That's very interesting. This decision is proof positive that that shift has happened. But looking at the decision and at the ruling, it's fundamentally clear that Justice Samuel Alito, who wrote the majority opinion, understood that he had to set the framework for the

reversal of what millions of Americans have claimed and assumed is actually a constitutional right.

And he did so with amazing clarity, simply pointing out that the constitution, the text of the Constitution, the words of the Constitution, the framers and authors of the Constitution, intended no such right. And thus, he basically stuck a dagger in the heart of liberal jurisprudence, which had argued that the Supreme Court should basically legislate the law rather than interpret the constitution and apply the law thereafter. And so, what you have here really is a reversal of a revolution. So, put this in historical context, it's not just about abortion, but praise be to God, it is about ending abortion as a national supposed right. But as we're thinking about the jurisprudence, we need to understand that what these majority justices went at was the very idea that rights can be invented by the court and declared to be on equal standing with the rights that are enumerated in the Constitution....

(To read the entire article please go to <https://albertmohler.com/2022/06/24/briefing-6-24-22-dobbs>)