



“Yucca Breeze” JULY 2020

T H E U N I T E D C H U R C H E S O F H O T S P R I N G S

P A S T O R ’ S P U L P I T :

With the great chaos engulfing our nation right now, it is easy to forget that we have seen this all before. Most folks reading this paper can still remember the turbulence of the 60’s—when everyone thought that, for sure, the nation was going under. It didn’t then, and even now, it probably won’t. God has always had His Hand on our great country. And, as both a privileged patriarch and a passionate patriot, I hold with a great deal of assurance the belief that this tumultuous time will eventually pass. Have you ever considered what really allows a nation such as ours the freedom for people to wreak havoc, and yet still come out on the other side a (more or less) united country? I have. Like I said earlier, I believe God has had, and still has, good plans for our great nation. It was, after all, founded on Judeo-Christian principles. The following article is good food for thought as we celebrate our nation’s 244th birthday on July 4th.

Matthew Spalding, Ph.D. (Director of the B. Kenneth Simon Center for American Studies at The Heritage Foundation) considers the question:

Why is America Exceptional?

In 1776, when America announced its independence as a nation, it was composed of thirteen colonies surrounded by hostile powers.

Today, the United States is a country of fifty states covering a vast continent. Its military forces are the most powerful in the world. Its economy produces almost a quarter of the world's wealth. The American people are among the most hard-working, church-going, affluent, and generous in the world.

Is America Exceptional?

Every nation derives meaning and purpose from some unifying quality—an ethnic character, a common religion, a shared history. The United States is different. America was founded at a particular time, by a particular people, on the basis of particular principles about man, liberty, and constitutional government.

The American Revolution drew on old ideas. The United States is the product of Western civilization, shaped by Judeo-Christian culture and the political liberties inherited from Great Britain. Yet the founding of the United States was also revolutionary. Not in the sense of replacing one set of rulers with another, or overthrowing the institutions of society, but in placing political authority in the hands of the people.

As the English writer G. K. Chesterton famously observed, "America is the only nation in the world that is founded on a creed." That creed is set forth most clearly in the Declaration of Independence, by which the American colonies announced their separation from Great Britain. The Declaration is a timeless statement of inherent rights, the proper purposes of government, and the limits on political authority.

The American Founders appealed to self-evident truths, stemming from "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God," to justify their liberty. This is a universal and permanent standard. These truths are not unique to America but apply to all men and women everywhere. They are as true today as they were in 1776.

Working from the principle of equality, the American Founders asserted that men could govern themselves according to common beliefs and the rule of law. Throughout history, political power was—and still is—often held by the strongest. But if all are equal and have the same rights, then no one is fit by nature to rule or to be ruled.

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As Thomas Jefferson put it, "[The mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few booted and spurred, ready to ride them legitimately, by the grace of God." The only source of the legitimate powers of government is the consent of the governed. This is the cornerstone principle of American government, society, and independence.

America's principles establish religious liberty as a fundamental right. It is in our nature to pursue our convictions of faith. Government must not establish an official religion, just as it must guarantee the free exercise of religion. Indeed, popular government requires a flourishing of religious faith. If a free people are to govern themselves politically, they must first govern themselves morally.

These principles also mean that everyone has the right to the fruits of their own labor. This fundamental right to acquire, possess, and sell property is the backbone of opportunity and the most practical means to pursue human happiness. This right, along with the free enterprise system that stems from it, is the source of prosperity and the foundation of economic liberty.

Because people have rights, government has only the powers that the sovereign people have delegated to it. These powers are specified by a fundamental law called a constitution. Under the rule of law, all are protected by generally agreed-upon laws that apply, equally, to everyone.

The United States Constitution defines the institutions of American government: three distinct branches of government that make the law, enforce the law, and judge the law in particular cases. This framework gives the American government the powers it needs to secure our fundamental rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The ultimate purpose of securing these rights and of limiting government is to protect human freedom. That freedom allows the institutions of civil society—family, school, church, and private associations—to thrive, forming the habits and virtues required for liberty.

The same principles that define America also shape its understanding of the world. The Declaration of Independence proclaimed that the thirteen colonies were a separate and sovereign nation, like any other nation. But America is not simply another nation.

The United States is a nation founded on *universal* principles. It appeals to a higher standard that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. All nations are answerable to this principle, and it is this principle that makes the United States a truly legitimate nation.

Liberty does not belong only to the United States. The Declaration of Independence holds that all men everywhere are endowed with a right to liberty. That liberty is a permanent aspect of human nature everywhere is central to understanding America's first principles.

Nevertheless, the primary responsibility of the United States is to defend the freedom and well-being of the American people. To do this, the United States must apply America's universal principles to the challenges this nation faces in the world.

This is not easy. America has not always been successful. But because of the principles to which it is dedicated, the United States always strives to uphold its highest ideals. More than any other nation, it has a special responsibility to defend the cause of liberty at home and abroad.

As George Washington put it in his First Inaugural Address: "The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered as *deeply*, perhaps as *finally*, staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people." America's role in the world is to preserve and to spread, by example and by action, the "sacred fire of liberty."

America is an exceptional nation, but not because of what it has achieved or accomplished. America is exceptional because, unlike any other nation, it is dedicated to the principles of human liberty, grounded on the truths that all men are created equal and endowed with equal rights. These permanent truths are "applicable to all men and all times," as Abraham Lincoln once said.

Being an American is more than a matter of where you or your parents came from. It is a belief that all men are created free and equal.

*Harry S. Truman,
October 26, 1948*

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*Our founding documents proclaim to the world that freedom is not the sole prerogative of a chosen few. It is the universal right of all God's children.
Ronald Reagan — July 15, 1991*

America's principles have created a prosperous and just nation unlike any other nation in history. They explain why Americans strongly defend their country, look fondly to their nation's origins, vigilantly assert their political rights and civic responsibilities, and remain convinced of the special meaning of their country and its role of the world. It is *because* of its principles, not despite them, that America has achieved greatness.

To this day, so many years after the American Revolution, these principles—proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence and promulgated by the United States Constitution—still define America as a nation and a people. Which is why friends of freedom the world over look to the United States not only as an ally against tyrants and despots but also as a powerful beacon to all those who strive to be free.

Blessings, *Pastor David*

The Music Box

July 2020 ~ from Lynn Mason, Music Ministry Leader

“Through 100 Years — Words from Singers of The United Churches Choir”

“The Superintendent of Schools, Harry Woodward, had such a great voice and was such a nice man. He was very busy with school, civic and church activities. When he sang with the Choir, he sat in the back row and when the anthem was completed, he would promptly fall asleep! He just couldn’t help it—the week caught up with him.” ~ *Donna Jenniges*

“I loved singing with the children. They learned quickly and were very respectful.” ~ *Patricia Strauser*

“Several years ago, we sang “Bow Down Low” a capella, from the loft. And we did it great! We were worried. But we did it.” ~ *Curt Nettinga, Huron, SD*

“Being a part of the Choir is a blessing for me. The unexpected humor and caring for one another is a part of the pleasure during the weekly rehearsals. I am always pleased when the oboe/violin or cello join us! They are so expressive and nourishing!! Thank you, Lynn!! ~ *Carol Nelson*

“I conducted the United Churches Choir in 1976 and Mary Sewright was my accompanist. During this time, I was teaching Band at Hot Springs School District. My buddies were Bill Coffield and George Waxler. I later bought a jewelry store in town and now I’m a retired Lutheran minister. My wife and I are hoping to move Hot Springs from Idaho soon.” ~ *Dan Preauner* (phone conversation)

“Choir Rehearsal--Each time in rehearsing an anthem, you would feel a deeper meaning of the words and music.” ~ *Carolyn Ferrill*

“What wonderful times I have experienced being with The United Churches Choir. The members have been an extended family. Congratulations on your anniversary of 100 years TUC!” ~ *Lynn Mason*



An Article from a 1952 Hot Springs Star

“F.O. Butler and his son Julius, bought three more lots adjoining the Methodist Church site and presented them to the United Churches and building soon began. There will be parking space for 200 cars conveniently close to the new church, now under construction on Garden Street. The street is only four blocks long, so the church will be in sight of the bus depot, and the main highway goes within a block of it. The exterior of the new building will be of native sandstone and about half of this material was salvaged from the old airport which had to be abandoned to make way for Angostura Dam.”

THIS AND THAT . . .

Vacation Time!!!! Peg Sperlich will be out of the office from July 12th to July 25th. During this time the office will be open for normal hours, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Bernice Cook will be covering for Peg. Have a great vacation, Peg! You will be missed!

July Mission Giving: "Lifesong for Orphans" has been chosen as the recipients of our July loose change offering. "Lifesong . . . supports children through global orphan care ministries, Christian adoptive families, and foster care initiatives."

Loose Change Offering: The loose change offering collected for the month of May was \$309, which was designated for the Ministerial Association. The July loose change offering will be taken on July 12th. We will continue to take this offering on the 2nd Sunday of each month for the time being.

Food Pantry: Our local Food Pantry served 319 patrons in the month of May.

Our Heartfelt Condolences: To the family and friends of Bill "Buzz" Waxler who went home to be with the Lord on June 25th.

Congratulations: To *Summer Humbracht*, who received her Masters Degree in Organizational Management from Chadron State College on May 9th!

Stained Glass Window Project: Funds received to date = \$22,720. Only \$5,083 to go! Praise the Lord!

Remember! Respect your elders. They graduated from school without the Internet.

Puzzle of the Month: What is the longest word in the English Language? (*Find the answer somewhere in the Breeze.*)

July Birthdays:

8 Chris Kutz
9 Pat Cerney
13 Joyce Harper
17 Lois Emery
18 Kallen Kutz
24 Anna Swift
26 Molly Cape
29 Markus White Face



July Anniversaries:

23 Owen & Jean Meadows



CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE!!

September 5 will be upon us before we know it! These are the committee and their duties in order for this to be a spectacular event!

- ◆ **Invitations and reservations:** Margaret Bershon, Richard Bershon, Carla Johnson, Jan Speirs, Sarah Bourne, Nevetta Sieg, Jean Meadows, Joann Walker. The invitations have been mailed and returns are coming in. There are cards at church for the local members to fill out and place in the reservation box. Keep a tally of guests attending.
- ◆ **Decoration: tables for dinner and cake:** Carla Richmond, Bernice Cook, Sally Park-Hageman, Sharon Kalvels, Marce Largent. This committee needs to meet and decide on a theme for the tables and a design for the cakes which will be made by April Olstad.
- ◆ **Set-up, clean up:** Jean Brooks, Mark Tupper, Lisa Welch, Sandra Nichols, Ryan Nichols, Tom Hofer, Judy Hofer, Mike Ortner, Owen Meadows, Larry Bourne. On Friday, September 4, tables and chairs will need to be carried upstairs and set up in the Fellowship Hall. Several round tables will be set in the Fireside room for reception and artifact displays. After the banquet, tables and chairs to be returned.
- ◆ **Reception, refreshments, clean up:** Barb Berry, Edie Hooper, Elaine Nichols, Nancy Cape, Dean Cape, Gene Nachtigall, Jean Nachtigall, Sandy Swenson, Shirley Leigh, Jeanne Wyatt. This committee will prepare and serve coffee, punch and water for the banquet, cut and serve the cake, welcome and help with seating of guests and clean up after the banquet.
- ◆ **Program committee:** Lynn Mason, Pastor David Cook, Garry Strauser: Decide on an emcee and plan a 20-30 minute program for the banquet.

All this is assuming that life will be back to "normal" in light of Covid. So obviously anything can change. Hopefully this will be a guide to plan as much as we can. We plan to have a basket available for donations rather than charging a set amount. We have been budgeted some money, most of which will be for the banquet. Money is available for table decorations. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact me, Gerald Collogan or Carol Nelson.

Thank you! *Jeanne Wyatt*

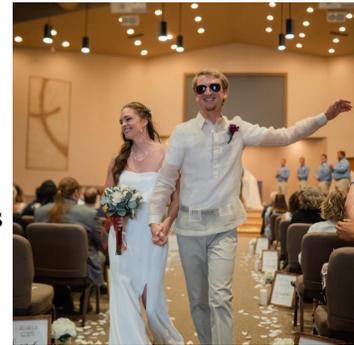
A Note from the Spicers

We did it! We enjoyed a beautiful and fun wedding for Ashley, a tribute to God's grace, goodness and faithfulness in our lives. God blessed us, allowing us to come back to the US to enjoy this special event in Ashley's life as she married Patrick Lewis. Though some things were a bit different than we wanted, Ashley was able to continue with her plans for her wedding. We missed having our son, Ben and his family join us, but we are rejoicing in adding Patrick Lewis to our family. It is a blessing to see this young couple honor God with their lives.

We have enjoyed spending time with our kids, parents and even our siblings. This is something we don't take for granted living overseas. We treasure each moment with them that God allows. We are looking forward to more times. Walter was able to go down to Florida to spend some more time with his mom while I stayed in Kansas to visit my parents.

We were sad that Ben and Jessica could not join us for the wedding, but we are praising God for His work on their behalf. The airlines they had booked their tickets with changed their booking to fly out of Brazil with no extra charge, since it is not possible for them to fly out of Columbia for the foreseeable future! They also had a donor give towards their connecting flight in Brazil. We may still miss seeing them, but thankful that they will be in the US for the birth of their third child, and our fourth grandchild.

Walter is now officially deputy head of school (assistant to the head of school) for Faith Academy. A lot of his work can be done online, including meetings with the administrative team. This, of course, means some late nights with the difference in time zones. Please continue to pray for the administrators as they plan for the start of the next school year during these ever changing times. Also, continue to pray that foreigners will be allowed back in the Philippines in time for the start of school and that as a school we can meet face to face again which is a universal issue that all countries are grappling with.



News on Dr. William:

To Friends:

Dr. William has been "stuck" here as he can't get back to Haiti because of Corona. He finally got the ok to go home the end of July! Good news though — he was given, by a group in Kansas — an x-ray machine, ultra sound, and boat!!! They have arranged for all this to be shipped from Florida. He will take a U-Haul to Florida and can pack everything to take.

Here are some items you may want to donate: *school supplies; any computer, phone, tablet or printer, or anything electronic; tools; toys; good clothes; shoes; hats & caps.*

You may leave these things at: 1343 Sherman Street (Annie's home), and in the first door of the long building (or call 890-0108 or 745-5919). He will be coming to church with us at the end of July before he leaves for Haiti.

Thank you!

Annie Zwetzig

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