



# CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



[www.onalaskachurchofgod.com](http://www.onalaskachurchofgod.com)

SEPTEMBER, 2016

**FIRST CHURCH OF GOD: 3RD. AVE. & HWY. 508 ONALASKA, WASHINGTON 98570**

## THE MIDNIGHT PHONE CALL

Late one Saturday evening, I was awakened by the ringing of my phone. In a sleepy, grumpy voice, I said, "Hello." The party on the other end of the line paused for a moment before rushing breathlessly into a lengthy speech.

"Mom, this is Susan and I'm sorry I woke you up, but I had to call because I'm going to be a little late getting home. See, Dad's car has a flat but it's not my fault. Honest! I don't know what happened. The tire just went flat while we were inside the theater. Please don't be mad, okay?"



Since I don't have any daughters, I knew the person had misdialed. "I'm sorry, dear," I replied, "but I have to tell you you've reached the wrong number. I don't have a daughter named Susan. In fact, I don't have any daughter at all."

A pause.

"Gosh, Mom," came the young woman's quavering voice, "I didn't think you'd be this mad."

## WHO SAID THAT

It was the first day of school and a new student, the son of a Japanese businessman, entered the fourth grade. The teacher greeted the class and said, "Let's begin by reviewing some

American history. Who said "Give me Liberty, or give me death?"

She saw only a sea of blank faces, except for that of Toshiba, who had his hand up. "Patrick Henry, 1775," said the boy.

"Now," said the teacher, "Who said 'Government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth?'"

Again, no response except from Toshiba: "Abraham Lincoln, 1863."

The teacher snapped at the class, "You should be ashamed. Toshiba, who is new to our country, knows more about it than you do."

As she turned to write something on the blackboard, she heard a loud whisper: "Stupid Japanese."

"Who said that?" she demanded.

Toshiba put his hand up. "Lee Iacocca, 1982," he said.

## FOOTBALL GAME PRAYER

This is a statement that was read over the PA system at the football game at Roane County High School, Kingston, Tennessee, by school Principal, Jody McLeod.

"It has always been the custom at Roane County High School football games, to say a prayer and play the National Anthem, to honor God and Country." Due to a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, I am told that saying a Prayer is a violation of Federal Case Law. As I understand the law at this time, I can use this public facility to approve of sexu-

al perversion and call it "an alternate lifestyle," and if someone is offended, that's OK. I can use it to condone sexual promiscuity, by dispensing condoms and calling it, "safe sex." If someone is offended, that's OK. I can even use this public facility to present the merits of killing an unborn baby as a "viable means of birth control." If someone is offended, no problem...

I can designate a school day as "Earth Day" and involve students in activities to worship religiously and praise the goddess "Mother Earth" and call it "ecology." I can use literature, videos and presentations in the classroom that depicts people with strong, traditional Christian convictions as "simple minded" and "ignorant" and call it "enlightenment." However, if anyone uses this facility to honor GOD and to ask HIM to bless this event with safety and good sportsmanship, then Federal Case Law is violated.

For this reason, I shall "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's," and refrain from praying at this time. "However, if you feel inspired to honor, praise and thank GOD and ask HIM, in the name of JESUS, to bless this event, please feel free to do so. As far as I know, that's not against the law---yet."

One by one, the people in the stands bowed their heads, held hands with one another and began to pray. They prayed in the stands. They prayed in the team huddles. They prayed at the concession stand and they prayed in the Announcer's Box!

## BUILDING CATHEDRALS

I'm invisible...It all began to make sense, the blank stares, the lack of response, the way one of the kids will walk into the room while I'm on the phone and ask to be taken to the store. Inside I'm thinking, 'Can't you see I'm on the phone?' Obviously not. No one can see if I'm on the phone, or cooking, or sweeping the floor, or even standing on my head in the corner, because no one can see me at all. I'm invisible.

Some days I am only a pair of hands, nothing more: Can you fix this? Can you tie this? Can you open this? Some days I'm not a pair of hands; I'm not even a human being. I'm a clock to ask, 'What time is it?' I'm a satellite guide to answer, 'What number is the Disney Channel?' I'm a car to order, 'Pick me up right around 5:30, please.'

I was certain that these were the hands that once held books and the eyes that studied history and the mind that graduated summa cum laude -- but now they had disappeared into the peanut butter, never to be seen again. She's going ... she's going ... she's gone!

One night, a group of us were having dinner, celebrating the return of a friend from England. Janice had just gotten back from a fabulous trip, and she was going on and on about the hotel she stayed in. I was sitting there, looking around at the others all put together so well. It was hard not to compare and feel sorry for myself as I looked down at my out-of-style dress; it was the only thing I could find that was clean.

My unwashed hair was pulled up in a banana clip and I was afraid I could actually smell peanut butter in it. I was feeling pretty pathetic, when Janice turned to me with a beautifully wrapped

package, and said, 'I brought you this.'

It was a book on the great cathedrals of Europe. I wasn't exactly sure why she'd given it to me until I read her inscription: 'To Charlotte, with admiration for the greatness of what you are building when no one sees.'

In the days ahead I would read -- no, devour -- the book. And I would discover what would become for me, four life-changing truths, after which I could pattern my work: No one can say who built the great cathedrals --\ we have no



record of their names. These builders gave their whole lives for a work they would never see finished. They made great sacrifices and expected no credit. The passion of their building was fueled by their faith that the eyes of God saw everything.

A legendary story in the book told of a rich man who came to visit the cathedral while it was being built, and he saw a workman carving a tiny bird on the inside of a beam. He was puzzled and asked the man, 'Why are you spending so much time carving that bird into a beam that will be covered by the roof? No one will ever see it.'

And the workman replied, 'Because God sees.'

I closed the book, feeling the missing piece fall into place. It was almost as if I heard God whispering to me, 'I see you,

Charlotte. I see the sacrifices you make every day, even when no one around you does. No act of kindness you've done, no sequin you've sewn on, no cupcake you've baked, is too small for me to notice and smile over. You are building a great cathedral, but you can't see right now what it will become.'

At times, my invisibility feels like an affliction. But it is not a disease that is erasing my life. It is the cure for the disease of my own self-centeredness. It is the antidote to my strong, stubborn pride.

I keep the right perspective when I see myself as a great builder. As one of the people who show up at a job that they will never see finished, to work on something that their name will never be on. The writer of the book went so far as to say that no cathedrals could ever be built in our lifetime because there are so few people willing to sacrifice to that degree.

When I really think about it, I don't want my son to tell the friend he's bringing home from college for Thanksgiving, 'My mom gets up at 4 in the morning and bakes homemade pies, and then she hand-bastes a turkey for three hours and presses all the linens for the table.' That would mean I'd built a shrine or a monument to myself. I just

want him to want to come home. And then, if there is anything more to say to his friend, to add, "You're gonna love it there."

As mothers, we are building great cathedrals. We cannot be seen if we're doing it right. And one day, it is very possible that the world will marvel, not only at what we have built, but at the beauty that has been added to the world by the sacrifices of invisible women.

◇ *Received from Ruth Bushnell*

# ONALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

**SUNDAYS**

**MORNING WORSHIP 8:15 AM  
& 11:00 AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM**

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**MONDAY'S**

**BIBLE STUDY: REVELATION  
1:00 PM  
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

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**WEDNESDAYS**

**BIBLE STUDY:  
6:00 PM**

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**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10th**

**MEN'S BREAKFAST @ LISA'S:  
8:00 AM**

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**CHURCH COUNCIL BUDGET  
PLANNING MEETING:  
9:30 AM**

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**LADIES LUNCHEON:  
11:00 AM**

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**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th**

**SPECIAL OFFERING TO COVER THE  
COST OF PARSONAGE REPAIRS**

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**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th**

**FOOD BANK SUNDAY**

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

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**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th**

**TEA & PRAISE:  
10:00 AM**

**GUESS SPEAKER:  
LIEUTENANT KENNETH KAURASI  
SALVATION ARMY**

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**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th**

**AMERICAN LEGION  
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH:  
6:00 pm**

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**WEDNESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 21st**

**SENIORS ON THE GO:  
12:00 NOON  
KATHERINE GULMERT**

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
UPDATE**

We are still in the process of seeking an Associate Pastor to come and help us. It is our hope that this person would be able to work with us until they were able to take over when Pastor Mulkins retire. Please keep this need in

prayer.

Over the past few weeks we have been fixing up the parsonage. I have lived in the parsonage for almost twenty-five years and I really enjoyed my time of living there. But after twenty-years there was a lot of things that needed to be done.

New carpet has been installed, fresh paint has been applied to both the inside and outside. New Tile has been placed in the kitchen, laundry, and pantry. There were new kitchen cabinets beeing installed.

On Sunday, September 11th we will be taking a special offering to help cover these expenses.

I wish to thank all those who have labored so hard to help make the parsonage so nice.

*"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God"  
"The first step on the way to victory is to recognize the enemy"  
"Let the promises of Christ shine on your problems"  
Mary Warner*

## **ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING**



Our Annual Church Business Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 9, 2016 following the 11:00 am service. We will be electing new officers, Council Members, Sunday School Superintendent, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, Head Usher, PNA Representative and the Alternate PNA Representative. We will also vote on the Budget for the coming

year.

We will also be voting on an addition to our By-Laws.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, are the age of eighteen or older, and have attended the Onalaska First Church of God for the past six months, you are eligible to vote in this meeting. If you are unable to attend, please ask for an absentee ballot.

## CONVICTION AND REPENTANCE

*Kathleen A. Mulkins*

God can't be around sin so Jesus died for our sins. But it takes an individual admitting they have sinned to accept the gracious, generous free gift God has provided. Conviction is the Holy Spirit calling people to the Holy One. Guilt is condemnation. Conviction is a "get out of jail free" pass.

So why don't more people respond to conviction by admitting they have failed to trust God in some way? Part of it is the conditioning we have gone through while slaves to sin – the survival reactions of self-justification, rationalizing, justifying, denying, ignoring and even self-medicating so we don't feel the guilt. Guilt gives you no options so we have been taught all sorts of behaviors to deal with the pain and bad feelings about ourselves.

Conviction, on the other hand, does give you a choice. You are free to agree with the Holy Spirit or not. If you agree, change for the better is possible. If you don't, you've chosen to remain with the pain of guilt.

If you chose to respond to conviction (the specifics of the situation will help you know the difference between conviction, the Holy Spirit's gentle call and Satan's general "you're guilty, you're bad"), quickly agree with God even if you're not ready to repent.

Yes, repenting is not the same as conviction. Conviction says, "This is not holy behavior (attitude, thoughts, or actions) do you agree?" Repentance is the desiring or even being willing to change. Many people think repentance means THEY have to change the behavior. Salvation is not by work on our part, neither is sanctification (becoming holy).

Paul talks about this in Galatians. Trusting God to change us is a faith work. It may or may not involve effort on our part.

When I was on a mission trip in Brazil, I became aware of a very negative attitude. I agreed that it was negative but I didn't care



if I changed it, I just didn't want to make the effort and wasn't sure I wanted to change it in the first place. But I told Jesus that He could change it if He wanted to. Within 10 min, I found myself with a completely different attitude, one of joy and compassion and desire to be with people. No effort was required by me to change, only agreeing with God that my attitude was wrong and a willingness to let Him change me.

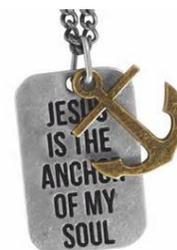
Sometimes, that willingness requires effort on our part. Last summer, when I was convicted of my need to lose weight for health reasons, I not only agreed with God of my poor eating habits and lack of exercise, after asking Him to help me, I had to do a lot of effort. I had to consciously limit what and when I ate and purposely keep up an exercise regime that was only interrupted by the cancer. (I'm nearly back to full routine; I hope to start back on the cardio walking this week or next). Effort on my part was required after I agreed (confessed) and asked God to help me do what was necessary.

Unconfessed sin can hinder God's communication with us so Satan will encourage you every way possible to be slow to agree with God. If you want to hear from God, start with asking if there is anything you need to confess. Trust the Holy Spirit to bring the specifics of the attitude, action or event to mind and be quick to agree Him. If you're not ready to repent (change), then ask him to make you willing, or willing to be willing. And enjoy the communication with your Abba Father!

## ANCHORED TO SHORE

*Mary Warner*

No matter how lost I feel as I drift  
away from shore,  
I know there is an anchor, strong  
and true,  
My heart will learn to trust Him  
more and more,  
For it is the Lord, my God who  
makes things new,  
It is He who hung each star in its  
place,  
And He who taught each wave to  
break,  
It is He who formed the black in  
space,  
And He who rippled every lake,  
He paints the colors of each sun-  
set, bold  
Across each blazing sky,  
And in His mighty hands, He holds,  
The likes of you and I,  
He is the anchor firmly tethered  
still,  
In the tempest strong and wild,  
I will rest there in His will,  
And know I am His child.



Q  
U  
I  
Z



The answer to August's quiz is Jonathan (King Saul's) and his armor barer. The story is found in the 14 chapter of 1 Samuel. Mert Horrocks and my sister Katie were able to come up with the correct answer.

Here is this month's quiz.

*He was in prison for thirty-seven years*

*I heard his cry, I saw his tears.*

*To stay where he was there was no reason*

*So I was kind to him and brought him out of prison.*

*I put new cloths on him and gave him food to eat.*

*All the other kings were seated at his feet.*

*The very day I set him free is found within the Book*

*All you have to do is just take a look*

*In the Word of God you will find The answer to this quiz of mine.*

*Now my name and his name is all I ask of thee.*

*And if you're right you'll be as happy as a bee.*

## NOT LIKE I USED TO BE

A man told his doctor that he wasn't able to do all the things around the house that he used to do. After the examination he said, "Now, Doc, I can take it. Just tell me straight out, in plain English, what is wrong with me."

"In plain English?" the doctor said, shrugging his shoulders,



"You're just lazy!"

"Okay..." said the man, rubbing his chin. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife."

## WHAT, EXACTLY, ARE THOSE CURIOUS ANIMALS CALLED CATS?

1. Cats do what they want, when they want.
2. They rarely listen to you.
3. They're totally unpredictable.
4. They whine when they are not happy.
5. When you want to play they want to be left alone.
6. When you want to be alone, they want to play.
7. They expect you to cater to their every whim.
8. They're moody.
9. They leave their hair every where.
10. They drive you nuts.



**Conclusion:** Cats are little, tiny women in cheap fur coats.

## WHITE HAIRS

One day, a little girl is sitting and watching her mother do the dishes At the kitchen sink. She suddenly notices that her mother has several Strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head.

She looks at her mother and inquisitively asks, "Why are some of your hairs white, mom?"

Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."



The little girl thought about this revelation for a while, and then said, "Momma, how come all of grandma's hairs are white?"

*Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.*

*Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.*

*If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.*

*Knowledge knows a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.*

*The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse always gets the cheese.*

*Some people hear voices. Some see invisible people. Others have no imagination whatsoever.*