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Spring 2003 ACTION Newsletter

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2003 Banquet Review

by Patsy Kloppenburg

LCA's fourteenth annual banquet was held February 28 at the Willow Valley Palm Court with Rev. Rob Schenck from Faith and Action, Washington, D.C. as the guest speaker. County Commissioner Pete Shaub served as emcee and Thomas Cozzoli was the evening's soloist. A private reception with Rob Schenck was held prior to the dinner.

Rob Schenck Runs on Commitment

Speaking to an audience of 250 guests, Schenck pointed out that this administration is like the difference between day and night. We went through a painful eight years he declared. I can tell you the man now in charge loves God. God is answering our prayers. He thanked us for electing men of God like Joe Pitts.

Schenck said he feels like he is breathing fresh air when he comes back to Lancaster. He appreciated the warm reception, not the least of which was his name Schenck! He commented that his name comes from Hungarian Jewish heritage. Schenck alluded to the beautiful rendition of "My Grandfather's Immigrant Eyes" song by Tom Cozzoli and how his grandparents passed through in 1881 before the opening of Ellis Island, felling the last Russian hurrah. He remembers just how much his grandfather loved America, and so he looks at this nation not only through his eyes but through those of an eastern European Jewish immigrant and now through a Christian's as well. Together they give him a view of this nation that perhaps many others do not enjoy. Most Jews know that had it not been for the Christians they would not have survived.

Schenck indicated there has been an absolute transformation in the Executive Branch of our government. Those eight years were indeed painful for those who stand for the traditions that we embrace. We need to pray and remind ourselves that we do not want to return to those days.

Schenck told us that he visited with president Bush a few months back and he tells us that behind the scenes there is a man who passionately loves God and he is here for such a time as this. 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is in pretty good shape!

Additionally, you have people like Attorney General John Ashcroft. One of Schenck's first experiences as a newly arrived missionary in D.C. was a visit with then Senator Ashcroft coming in for his first term and he tells how they sat in his small apartment above a garage and played gospel hymns and they fell on their faces and prayed for this nation. No wonder there is not a room large enough now at the Dept. of Justice to contain the Bible study that meets there every week.

Many of the leaders in Congress today identify themselves as evangelical Christians so all we need to do is encourage them and bolster them to bring their convictions to bear on their decisions. Some boldly proclaim their witness for Christ. Tom Delay is a guy who is as at home preaching as he is arguing from the house floor...so Congress is in quite good shape. But there is one branch left and it needs a great deal of attention! There is a distinct language and culture in Washington and it is even more pronounced in our federal judiciary. This is why Faith and Action focuses its attention these days on the federal judiciary judges and justices, including the nine who make so many of the paramount moral decisions in the life of our nation. This ministry is located just across the street from the Supreme Court.

One of Faith and Action's programs is the "10 Commandment Project" where they present beautiful stone artwork tablets



The Rev. Rob Schenck speaks at the 14th annual ACTION banquet.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Edmund Burke

Lancaster County ACTION Quarterly Breakfast Meeting



Saturday, April 12, 2003

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Leola Family Restaurant, 2491 New Holland Pike (Route 23, Leola)

Speaker: Michael Geer, President, PA Family Institute

“Gambling With Our Future”

Please reserve your seat at the quarterly breakfast by calling the ACTION office (717-653-6605) by Wednesday, April 9, 2003. The cost is \$7.00 per person for those pre-registered.

Non-registered persons will be charged \$9.00 at the door.

2003 Banquet *continued from page 1*

to our elected and appointed officials. They are asked to display and obey them! At least 400 of the tablets are now on display in public offices. The Word of God has the power to change hearts and minds.

The ministry has aggressively taken on the federal judiciary and Schenck challenges us to pray. He believes we are going to see some changes. We ask all ACTION members and friends to join us in our efforts. The arm of the Lord is not so short that it cannot save even inside the judicial room!

Outstanding Citizen Award

Paul and Sylvia Hollinger were presented the 2003 Outstanding Citizen Award by Patsy Kloppenburg. Sylvia was praised for her work as an outstanding spokeswoman for the unborn and the production of “Heartbeat” which keeps listeners updated on the battle for the unborn. Paul was cited for his work with the National Religious Broadcasters from which he has received many awards. He was also credited for his service to the board of the NRB. While accepting the ACTION award Paul and Sylvia thanked God for this and all their blessings.

ACTION ENDORSES SHAUB AND SHELLENBERGER FOR COMMISSIONERS

At the 14th annual banquet, LCA announced its endorsement for Commissioner Pete Shaub and Dick Shellenberger. A short time after the banquet there was some controversy regarding meetings between Shaub and other candidates.

Shaub has stated that he asked the other candidates to consider being a part of his team. We don't see anything wrong with that. We agree with the Lancaster New Era editorial (Feb. 13) that, just as President Bush built a strong governing team by including some of his opponents on his team, Commissioner Shaub likewise began to think about building a strong governing team with his primary opponents when he was leading in straw polls.

Secondly, we believe that Shaub has done his best to control spending. When he first ran for commissioner, he opposed the \$20 million juvenile detention facility as too large. He was right. That facility now sits there only half full and is a monument to wasteful spending.

Similarly, several months ago, Shaub saved Lancaster County taxpayers \$50 million by opposing Commissioners Thibault and Ford on a poorly structured county bond issue.

We also support Shaub because he, like President Bush, endorses the use of faith-based organizations to help solve some social problems. He supported Teen Challenge, a faith-based group, for example, to help people with drug and alcohol problems.

Finally, since Shaub is the only incumbent, he is obviously the only candidate that could provide continuity in the commissioner's office. Since Lancaster County has an annual budget of \$258 million, it is in our interest to have some continuity in that office.

For the second position, LCA has endorsed Dick Shellenberger, a Christian businessman who owns The Eatery on Route 72. Over the last few years, our debt in Lancaster County has increased from \$40 to \$170 million! Recently, when the poorly structured bond became an issue, Dick Shellenberger and Commissioner Shaub were the only candidates to speak out publicly against this waste of taxpayer money. We believe it is imperative that our next commissioners are committed to bring the level of county spending under control. Dick has also indicated that if elected, he would like to head up the social services department. Spending for social services makes up more than half of our budget. In the past administration, this area was overseen by democrat Ron Ford. As head of this department, we would expect that Dick Shellenberger would be able to find additional savings.

Although there are other good people running for County Commissioner in this election, we believe that Shaub and Shellenberger would make an excellent team.

A Simple Explanation to Tax Cuts...

How taxes work: A VERY simple way to understand the tax laws.

Let's put tax cuts in terms everyone can understand. Suppose that every day, ten men go out to dinner. The bill for all ten comes to \$100. If they paid their bill the way we pay our taxes, it would go something like this.

The first four men - the poorest - would pay nothing; the fifth would pay \$1, the sixth would pay \$3, the seventh \$7, the eight \$12, the ninth \$18, and the tenth man - the richest - would pay \$59.

That's what they decided to do. The ten men ate dinner in the restaurant every day and seemed quite happy with the arrangement - until one day, the owner threw them a curve (in tax language - a tax cut).

"Since you are all such good customers," he said, "I'm going to reduce the cost of your daily meal by \$20." So now dinner for the ten only cost \$80.00.

The group still wanted to pay their bill the way we pay our taxes. SO the first four men were unaffected. They would still eat for free. But what about the other six - the paying customers? How could they divvy up their \$20 windfall so that everyone would get his "fair share?"

The six men realized that \$20 divided by six is \$3.33. But if they subtracted that from everybody's share, then the fifth man and sixth man would end up being PAID to eat their meal. SO the restaurant owner suggested that it would be fair to reduce each man's bill by roughly the same amount, and he proceeded to work out the amounts each should pay.

And so the fifth man paid nothing, the sixth pitched in \$2, the seventh paid \$5, the eight paid \$9, the ninth paid

\$12, leaving the tenth man with a bill of \$52 instead of his earlier \$59. Each of the six was better off than before. And the first four continued to eat for free.

But once outside the restaurant, the men began to compare their savings. "I only got a dollar out of the \$20." declared the sixth man, but he, pointing to the tenth. "But he got \$7!" "Yeah, that's right," exclaimed the fifth man, "I only saved a dollar too, It's unfair that he got seen times more than me!"

"That's true!" shouted the seventh man, "Why should he get \$7 back when I got only \$2? The wealthy get all the breaks!" "Wait a minute," bellowed the first four men in unison, "We didn't get anything at all. The system exploits the poor!"

The nine men surrounded the tenth and beat him up. The next night he didn't show up for dinner, so the nine sat down and ate without him. But when it came time to pay the bill, they discovered, a little late what was very important. They were FIFTY-TWO DOLLARS short of paying the bill!

And that, boys and girls, journalists and college instructors, is how the tax system works. The people who pay the highest taxes get the most benefit from a tax reduction. Tax them too much, attack them for being wealthy, and they just may not show up at the table anymore.

Where would that leave the rest? Unfortunately, most taxing authorities anywhere cannot seem to grasp this rather straightforward logic!"

clip and send

I would like to begin/renew (\$20.00 per household) my membership in Lancaster County ACTION.
(Please make check payable to **Lancaster County ACTION.**)

I'd like to volunteer for the following ACTION Committee(s):

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Contact/Prayer | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly Breakfast |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> School District Coordinator |
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Please clip and return to Lancaster County ACTION, 849 Valley Road, Landisville, PA 17601. Thank you!

Walking in Faith by Condoleezza Rice

Trained as a girl to be a concert pianist and a competitive ice skater, U.S. national Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, 47, is undergirded by her Christian beliefs. During an August 4, 2002 Sunday school class at National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., she explained what inspires her. Here are excerpts that were published in the 8/27/02 edition of *The Washington Times*.

I was a preacher's kid, so Sundays were church, no doubt about that. The church was the center of our lives. In segregated black Birmingham of the late 1950s and early 1960s, the church was not just a place of worship. It was the place where families gathered; it was the social center of the community too.

Although I never doubted the existence of God, I think like all people I've had some ups and downs in my faith. When I first moved to California in 1981 to join the faculty at Stanford, there were a lot of years when I was not attending church regularly. I was traveling a lot. I was a specialist in international politics, so I was always traveling abroad. I was always in another time zone.

One Sunday I was in the Lucky's Supermarket not very far from my house - I will never forget - among the spices and an African-American man walked up to me and said he was buying some things for his church picnic. And he said, "Do you play the piano by any chance?"

I said, "Yes." They said they were looking for someone to play the piano at church. It was a little African-American church right in the center of Palo Alto. A Baptist church. So I started playing for that church. That got me regularly back into churchgoing. I don't play gospel very well - I play Brahms - and you know how black ministers will start a song and the musicians will pick it up? I had no idea what I was doing and so I called my mother, who had played for Baptist churches.

"Mother," I said, "they just start. How am I supposed to do this?" She said, "Honey, play in C and they'll come back to you." And that's true. If you play in C, people will come back. I tell that story because I thought to myself, "My goodness, God has a long reach." I mean, in the Lucky's Supermarket on a Sunday morning.

I played for about six months for them and then I decided to go and find the Presbyterian Church again. I'm a devoted Presbyterian, I really like the governance structure of the church. I care about the Presbyterian Church. On a Sunday morning, I went to Menlo Park Presbyterian Church (in Palo Alto). The minister that Sunday morning gave a sermon I will never quite forget. It was about the Prodigal Son from the point of view of the elder son.

It set the elder son up not as somebody who had done all the right things, but as somebody who had become so self-satisfied; a parable about self-satisfaction, and content and complacency in faith [and] that people who didn't somehow expect themselves to need to be born again can be complacent. I started to think of myself as that elder son who had never doubted the existence of God but wasn't really walking in faith in an active way anymore.

I started to become more active with the church, to go to Bible Study and to have a more active prayer life. It was a very important turning point in my life.

My father was an enormous influence in my spiritual life. He was a theologian, a doctor of divinity. He was someone who let you argue about things. He didn't say, "Just accept it." And when I had questions, which we all do, he encouraged that. He went to great lengths to explain about the man we've come to know as Doubting Thomas; he thought what was a little story from Christ about the fact it was OK to question. And that Christ knew that Thomas needed to feel his wounds, feel the wounds in His side and feel the wounds in His hands. That is what Thomas needed - he needed that physical contact. And then of course Christ said when you can accept Him on faith, it will be even better.

I [liked] that because my father didn't brush aside my questions about faith. He allowed me as someone who lives in my mind to also live in my faith.

In this job, when we faced a horrible crisis like September 11, you go back in your mind and think, "Is there anything I could have done? Might I have seen this coming? Was there some way?" When you go through something like that, you have to turn to faith because you can rationalize it, you can make an intellectual answer about it but you can't fully accept it until you can feel it here (taps chest). That time wasn't a failure, but it was a period of crisis when faith was really important for me.

I greatly appreciate, and so does the president, the prayers of the American people. You feel them. You know that they are there. If you just keep doing that, it is so important to all of us.

In many ways, it's a wonderful White House to be in because there are a lot of people who are of faith, starting with the President. When you are in a community of faithful, it makes a very big difference not only in how people treat each other but in how they treat the task at hand.

Among American leadership, there are an awful lot of people who travel in faith. It's a remarkable thing and I think it probably sets us apart from most developed countries where it is not something that is appreciated quite as much in most of the world.

I've watched over the last year-and-a-half, how people want to have human dignity worldwide. You hear of Asian values or Middle Eastern values and how that means people can't really take to democracy or they'll never have democracy because they have no history of it and so forth. We forget that when people are given a choice between freedom and tyranny, they will choose freedom. I remember all the stories before the liberation of Afghanistan that they wouldn't "get it," that they were all warlords and it would just be chaos. Then we got pictures of people dancing on the streets of Kabul just because they could listen to music or send their girls to school.

Education in America

by Paul Keller

Today the education of our young people is a topic that is regularly in the news. It is an important subject and perhaps the most important when we consider the future of the state of Pennsylvania and the United States.

Many of the Founding Fathers of our nation considered it the most important ingredient for keeping our form of government intact and effective.

If you look at America's history it is not hard to find that this is true and why the education of the citizens (especially the youth) was so important to them.

The first public education laws passed in the 1600's were constructed upon Christian principles. The experiences they had left behind in Europe were still fresh in their memory. Many of the civil atrocities that occurred there were driven by the alleged banner of Christianity (e.g., the Inquisitions, the Crusades, the state established church, etc.) Our early religious immigrants were convinced that widespread illiteracy and lack of individual knowledge of the Bible (as opposed to what the civil and religious leaders claimed the Bible said), had contributed much of the public sanction of those atrocities. The American settlers were convinced that if the common people of that day could have read the Word of God for themselves that they never would have tolerated their civil government engaging in the atrocities they did. (Could this still apply today?)

In order to prevent history from repeating itself in the new world the settlers passed "The Old Deluder Satan Act." This was the first public school law in America. That law declared: "It being one chief

project of that old deluder Satan to keep men from the knowledge of the scriptures, as in former times..." This law was enacted so American students would have a sound education based on God's word. This philosophy lasted for over two hundred years. Many later university documents confirm this universal approach to Bible centered education and was embraced by America for centuries.

Foreign observers also noticed this act. Following the American revolution the rest of the civilized world were curious to know what caused America to become such a great immediate success. The most quoted of these is Alexis de Tocqueville who observed that it was the people's response to the great preachers of the time that made America great.

Another Foreign observer was Edward Kendall. In 1807, while in Connecticut, he examined education and found the state's illiteracy law of interest. The opening declaration of the law stated, "This legislature observing, that notwithstanding our former orders made for the education of children...there are still many persons unable to read the English tongue, and thereby incapable of reading the Word of God or the good laws of this State..."

Today the biggest debate over public education is how to fund it. What a shame.

Our responsibility is to protect the foundations which made America great, but we certainly cannot protect those foundations if we do not know what they are. Let's take the time to rediscover and then to recover them.

This Bible based philosophy of education is still effective. Can we make it work today?

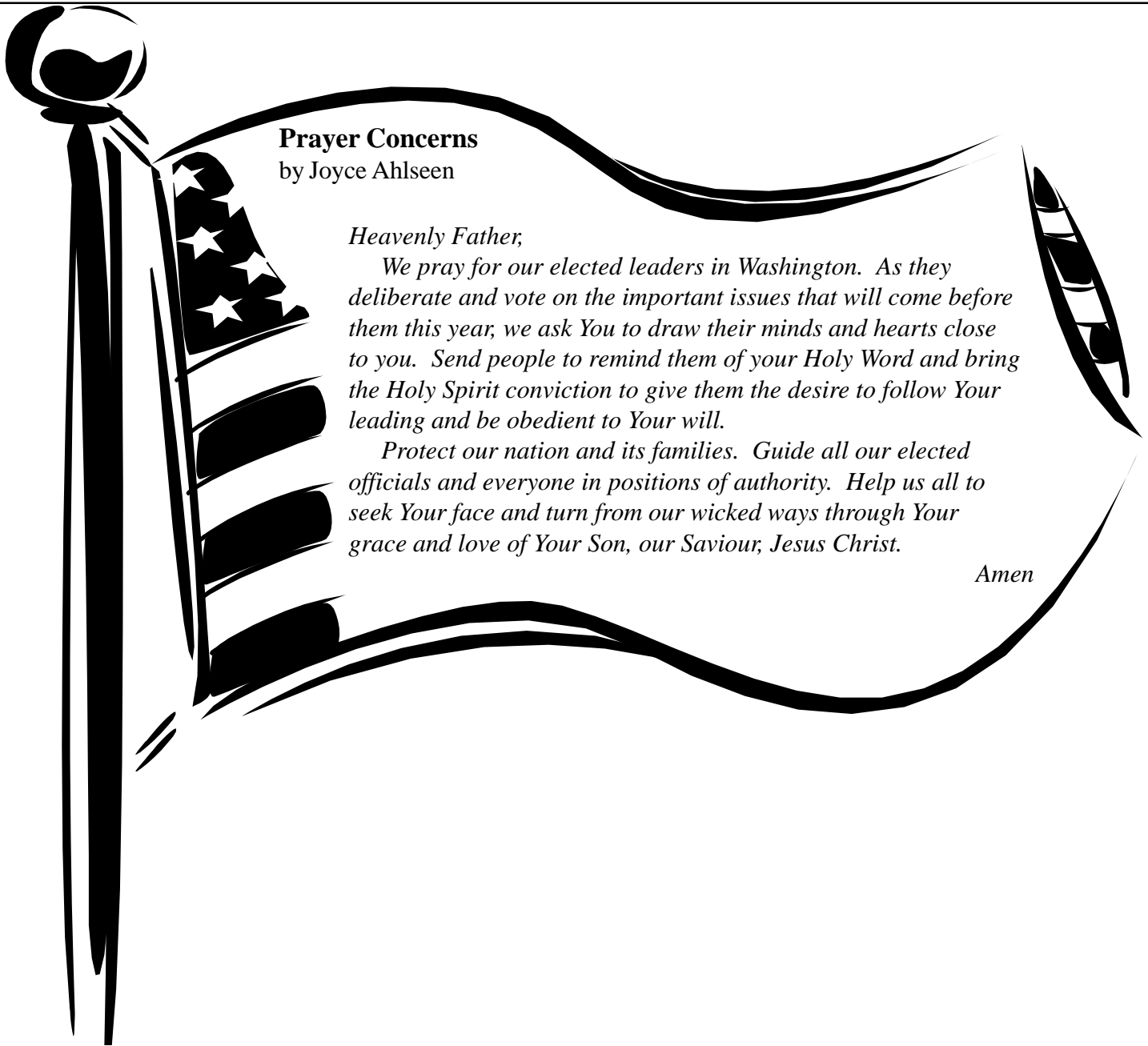


Gambling With Our Future

Governor Rendell is about to ask the PA legislature to greatly expand gambling across our state. At this time, we would be wise to consider the words of our first President George Washington:

"The last thing I shall mention, is first of importance and that is, to avoid gaming. This is a vice which is productive of every possible evil, equally injurious to the morals and health of its votaries. It is the child of avarice, the brother of inequity, and father of mischief. It has been the ruin of many worthy families, the loss of many a man's honor, and the cause of suicide. To all those who enter the list, it is equally fascinating; the successful gamester pushes his good fortune till it is overtaken by a reverse, the losing gamester, in hopes of retrieving past misfortunes, goes on from bad to worse, till grown desperate, He pushes at everything and loses all. In a word, few gain by this abominable practice (the profit, if any, being diffused) while thousands are injured"

The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799



Prayer Concerns
by Joyce Ahlseen

Heavenly Father,

We pray for our elected leaders in Washington. As they deliberate and vote on the important issues that will come before them this year, we ask You to draw their minds and hearts close to you. Send people to remind them of your Holy Word and bring the Holy Spirit conviction to give them the desire to follow Your leading and be obedient to Your will.

Protect our nation and its families. Guide all our elected officials and everyone in positions of authority. Help us all to seek Your face and turn from our wicked ways through Your grace and love of Your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen



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