



Hampden Heights Sentinel

Highlights:

- Thank you for making my 50th birthday special Pg 1.
- Mostly, I just love loving people because Jesus loves them. Pg 2.
- I was shocked. I had always gone to church on Sunday. Pg 3.
- God's word is NEVER negotiable. Pg 4.

Index:

Pete's Place	1
Grace's Outlet	2
Church	
Announcements	2
Meet A Member	3
The Observation Post	4
Submissions	5
Painting the Church	5
Children's Page &	
Church Info.	6

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Isaiah 5:20

Pete's Place

By Pastor Pete Maldonado

The Lord is willing to pour out all his love and joy into us daily. He allows us to sleep in His rest and when we wake up He restores us to His Love. We are living in a special time in the history of the world where God has promised that His Holy Spirit will be present with us.

I would like to thank all of my church members for the love and care they have shown me and my family. Thank you for making my 50th birthday special. The beautiful cards left a special warm feeling in my heart. May The Lord return the love and care you have graciously shown us in the two years that we have been part of your church family.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."
~Galatians 5:22, 23 KJV

As you turn your attention to Me, feel the Light of My Presence shining upon you. Open your mind and

heart to receive My heavenly smile of approval. Let My gold-tinged love wash over you and soak into the depths of your being. As you are increasingly filled with My Being, you experience joyous union with Me: I in you, and you in Me. Your joy-in-Me and My joy-in-you become intertwined and inseparable. I suffuse your soul with joy in My Presence; at My right hand there are pleasures forevermore

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. I have given them the glory that You gave me, that they may be one as We are one: I in them and You in Me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me."
—John 17:20–23

You will show me the path

of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

—Psalm 16:11 NKJV

Devotional "Jesus Calling"
By. Sarah Young

May The Lord Bless You
Always

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Grace's Outlet By Ashley Richards

This is easily my favorite time of the year. Sure, I like summer, I *love* Christmas, but from the last week of June into about July third, this is my own personal season of bliss.

I wax patriotic. I love the waving flags, the patriotic colors, the Independence Day picnics, the sight of soldiers in uniforms. My thoughts are taken up by World War II and the American Revolution and the Civil War, and everything else that has made our nation great.

But mainly, I love this time of year because I *love* that I get to be in charge of a ministry that gathers and delivers cookies to military personnel all over the county. It swells within me a sense of such national pride and such excitement to be a part of a nation that is so great.

I don't think there is anything I am more excited about or more passionate about than this ministry. I anticipate it the day after it's over. I love seeing the hundreds of cookies piled high—and all the love and kindness each cookie symbolizes. I love the excitement in my sister's face as we set out each July third, to hunt down all the military in the area we can possibly find.

I love that after all that these men and women do for me—for us—I can give them a little something in return. I love that I can offer them my prayers. I love that we as a church do not remain silent or tongue-tied when it comes to showing the military that we care.

But most of all, I love coming home with Natalie, grinning from ear to ear, as we laugh over the antics and reactions of each soldier and airman and marine and sailor we met throughout the day.

Mostly, I just love loving people, because Jesus

loves them. And I love, love, *love* that I get to share a little bit of Jesus' love with the military.

It's only hit me recently that maybe I've always held a high regard for military guys because Jesus is so like a soldier.

Sure, Jesus is a King, and a Brother, and a Son, and all these other wonderful analogies we have ascribed to Him, but He is also a soldier. Have you noticed that? He invaded enemy territory, gave up His life to rescue us, to save us, to give our freedom back to us. He defeated the enemy. He keeps guard over His kingdom.

And so I think He would get excited about being patriotic. I think He likes when we get patriotic, because He hopes that one day, we'll wake up and be just as patriotic about the Kingdom of God as we are about the United States.

Do we set aside holidays to celebrate our spiritual

freedom? Do we wave our heavenly flag? Do we cheer on our home team, like we cheer for our favorite soccer team in the World Cup? Do we wear clothes proudly displaying the colors of our heavenly kingdom? Do we cheer when God—our heavenly King—comes in sight? Do we take up our swords like the soldiers we are, and fight for the advancement of our heavenly home?

Just because we can't go visit heaven yet, or meet our King, or walk the streets of gold, doesn't mean that we shouldn't show our patriotism.

Heaven is our home. Our heavenly zeal should far surpass our zeal to be an American—or a Columbian, or a Brit, or a Frenchman, or a German, or whatever nationality we may claim. What can we do today to show our heavenly patriotism?

Formal Church Announcements

May Finances

Received	\$11,643.05
Dispersed	\$10,882.84
	\$760.21

YTD

\$51,333.88
\$68,891.68
(\$17,557.80)

Sentinel By Email

Interested in receiving the Sentinel electronically? Please submit your email address to Hampdenchurch@yahoo.com, along with your preference of PDF or Microsoft Word format.

Chess Club Anyone?

The chess club meets in the fellowship hall every Monday at 6:30 PM. If you always wanted to learn to play, or are a seasoned veteran, all are welcome. Play is very informal, and camaraderie prevails. See Bob Kondracki or Danny Miladonov for details.

Meet A Member: Nancy Stump

By Ashley Richards

God brought her to Hampden when she was looking for a church that taught the whole truth of the Bible and that had a great children's program.

Nancy Stump says that God took her on an adventure to discover Hampden. She was reading a book that taught that Sabbath was the true day to worship, not Sunday, and Nancy remembers being floored. "I was shocked. I had always gone to church on a Sunday." She says that God brought a friend to her memory—Lori Landa—who attended a church on Saturday.

Nancy and Lori had taken Bible studies together, and they had only once shared the name of their denominations, but it stuck with her. She called Lori to tell her she wanted to visit her church, but Lori was away on vacation. Nancy still decided to go, and was even more surprised—and delighted—when she heard the sermon was about keeping the Sabbath holy.

After the service, Wayne Johns approached her and asked her if she knew about the state of the dead. This was the real clincher for her, because she had believed for years (without anyone else showing her) that when you died, you didn't go straight to heaven or hell. A lot of family members of hers died when she was younger, and she had always been uncomfortable with the idea of passed-away family members watching over her from heaven. She said she hadn't read a ton of the Bible back then, but she did find verses saying that the dead know nothing, and that's what she had believed for a long time.

She discovered that Hampden had a great children's program, and that settled it. She took Bible studies for several months, and was baptized shortly thereafter.

She says her favorite part about Hampden is her brothers and sisters in Christ. She loves the diversity of the church,

and the communion. She says one of her favorite Bible texts is Romans 12:1-2: "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

Nancy is an elder of the church, and is a member of the evangelism committee. She believes strongly in being a part of the ministries and activities your children are involved with, and has assisted in Pathfinders, C.O.R.E (Christian Outreach Experience, the former youth group of our church), teaching Sabbath School, VBS, and HOPE Kids. She also enjoys giving Bible studies.

Nancy has two children—Ali, who is currently teaching English and Bible in South Korea, and AJ, who is currently attending Bloomsburg University, studying business. Both are baptized members of the church. Nancy's husband, Dean, is a Health and Physical Education teacher at the Antietam school district. He is not a member here yet (but we hope and pray he will be someday soon!).

The Observation Post By Bob Kondracki

Political Correctness

Americans for the most part are a proud people. We are proud to live in the "Land of the Free, and the Home of the Brave" We are proud to display the freedoms and values that our country stands for to the rest of the world. And every July 4th we celebrate these freedoms with Independence Day. But there are also things that are happening in this country that continue to erode the very foundation of what makes this country great.

One of them is the "Politically Correct" mentality that seems to be slowly but pervasively spreading through our country.

Unfortunately the United States that we live in today seems to be evolving into a society that often seems more concerned about being politically correct than being truthful or accurate, or even moral at times. We are becoming so petrified of offending somebody, or voicing our opposition to something, even if we feel strongly about it, that we more and more often do nothing or say nothing. And how often have we now adopted the attitude that it just isn't worth fighting over? Or maybe we have decided to just say nothing even if we know

it's wrong because we don't want to incur the criticism and wrath of those who will label us malcontents or racists or worse? A very specific example of this is the homosexual issue. It's a sad statement of a society's values when you risk more ridicule proclaiming yourself a Christian than you do "Coming Out" and proclaiming yourself a homosexual.

Sadly, the one place that should be immune to this attitude shift is one of the places that it continues to encroach upon and permeate in one form or another. I am talking about the church of course.

Politicians will always strive to tell the people what they think they want to hear, that's the essence of PC. We even see it at the top level when our president does it when he thinks it will benefit his political agenda/popularity. But do we also want to allow that kind of thinking to enter our church as well? Do we want our leaders to adopt this attitude? Do we really want to "adjust" our standards to accommodate the continually changing liberal thinking of the world and country we live in?

Now in case anybody is confused about the difference of "Standards" and "Traditions", let's define it right now. A

"Standard" is something that the Bible is very specific on. The Sabbath for example. There is no spin you can put on the Bible's position on the Sabbath that will hold any logic. It is very definitive, very specific. It is a standard.

Conversely, let's take a issue like our order of activities in the worship service for example. Or perhaps the preference of a vegetarian diet as opposed to a diet containing clean meats. Or any of the many other issues that the church adheres to that are founded on opinion and preference as opposed to what the Bible specifically says. There are many traditions that each church has that are not standards. And we seem to very frequently get caught up in worrying about these traditions, while completely overlooking the more important aspects of our relationship with the Lord.

Let us never forget that Christ was not concerned with being politically correct in His ministry. On the contrary, He was considered quite a radical by the religious establishment of His time. Now I will ask you, if Christ is to be our example in everything, do we disregard His attitude on compromise? And do we acquiesce to the liberal thinking that would seek to change our Biblical standards because it would just be easier for us than

stepping up to defend God's word? Again, I'm not talking about traditions here. Traditions are just that. They should be flexible and negotiable according to the needs of the church. But God's word is NEVER negotiable, and should stand with impunity in the persuasive politically correct environment we now live in.

There are issues coming that our church will face in our very near future, sooner than later I suspect. Issues that are going to challenge our loyalty to God's word to the very core. Are we ready to stand tall and fight for the freedom to preach God's truth, and even more importantly to live God's truth, or are we going to suppress our faith and rationalize our lack of commitment to the truth as we know it? Hiding our heads in the sand is not going to do it for us. Are our hearts prepared to be "Politically Incorrect" for the sake of Christ? A lot of questions, I know. But the time is becoming critical when we must be prepared to answer them, both as a church, and individually.

As Isaiah 5:20 states: "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter."

The Lord already knows what side your allegiance will fall on. Do you?

Sentinel Submissions By Bob Kondracki

Greetings church family. As most of you that read this newsletter are aware, this is now the fourth issue of the Sentinel. Ashley and I have discovered that this little endeavor of ours is more work than I believe either of us had initially anticipated. But neither of us is complaining, and we are willing to put forth the effort necessary as a ministry to our church.

Which brings me to the point of this article. As of this issue, we have received very little in the form of submissions from the members of our congregation. Our idea of this newsletter was more

of an avenue of information, and a vehicle of expression for our church and it's members. We did not envision it as primarily an editorial for Ashley and myself.

So with that in mind, we'd like to encourage our congregation to actively participate in the newsletter by submitting things that you find interesting, and that you feel may be of benefit to our church. It could be a personal story, a bit of factual information, or a reference to another story that would be of interest to our readers. As we have stated in the initial

newsletter, the editors reserve the right to decide what gets into the newsletter, but as long as it is relevant to our members, and to furthering the work of our Lord, we will certainly consider everything that is submitted.

This is your newsletter Hampden Heights. It was started as a ministry to our church. But it is also a ministry that we invite everybody to participate in. That even includes the children of our church. We have a page set up just for them as well, and I'm sure Ashley would welcome any input from our kids.

Any potential articles must be submitted by the 25th of the month for inclusion in the next issue.

We will continue to try to make this newsletter an asset to our church, and a tool that the Lord can use to His glory.

Painting the Church Submitted by Bob Kondracki



There once was a painter named Smokey MacGregor, who was very interested in making a penny wherever and whenever he could. So he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it went, he got away with this for quite some time.

One day the local church decided to do a big restoration job on the

outside of one of their largest buildings.

Smokey put in a bid, and because he was thinning his paint, he could beat out all the other bidders, and he got the job.



So after all the details were worked out, and the contract was signed, Smokey got busy setting up all the scaffolding and the planks, and buying the paint. And yes, I'm sorry to say he resorted to his old

tricks by thinning the paint down with water.

Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away and the job almost completed when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder! The sky opened up and the rain poured down and washed all the thinned paint off of the church, and knocked Smokey clear off the scaffold and placed him conspicuously on the lawn of the church cemetery with all gravestones. Surrounding him were tell-tale puddles of the

thinned and now useless paint.



Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried, "Oh God, Oh God, forgive me. What should I do"?

And just like the thunder, a mighty voice spoke out, "Repaint, Repaint, and thin no more"!

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.HampdenHeightsChurch.org

Children's Page By Ashley Richards

Connect the dots, starting with 1 and going up to 20. And when you're finished, color it in if you like!

