



FAITH

Pastor's Pulpit



Pastor Bob Singer, Cottage Grove Bible Church

Win at all cost?

Thoughts on the 2016 election season

BY DR. ROBERT A. SINGER
Cottage Grove Bible Church

Nov. 8, Election Day, is fast approaching. We will elect the leaders who will represent us for the near future. We will vote on various measures that affect our state and community. But there is a problem in the weeks leading up to the vote. The political rhetoric that has been employed to get candidates elected and the measures passed or defeated has turned ugly. People on all sides are sensing it.

We are constantly barraged by political speech on the TV, over the Internet, while listening to the radio and in print. Mail supporting one side or another seems to arrive every day. The mud-slinging, half-truths and even outright lies are creating anger and disappointment in so many people on both sides. This election seems to be more raucous than any I remember.

I'm finding it increasingly hard to watch, listen to, or read anything more, and it's NOT because of the issues at stake! It's due to the way many of the candidates debate and the way people are presenting their side. The bottom line is to get the candidate elected and the measure defeated or passed. "Whatever it takes" seems to be the rule of the day. Unfortunately that often leaves virtue in the dust.

I've been a pastor for 34 years, 27 here in Cottage Grove. During those years I have consistently done my best to teach the Bible. It's more than law, history, poetry, prophecy, gospel and theology. It calls for a thoughtful application to our lives today. But increasingly, I find political speech standing in stark contrast to what I've been teaching.

I clearly know that those in political office represent everyone in our communities, not just church folks. Their decisions need to best serve everyone. At times decisions will be made that I have trouble with, but that is the nature of government. At the same time there

are virtues that should span all levels of our society. Let me mention a few.

KNOWLEDGE - I have an undergraduate and two seminary degrees. These have been invaluable to me in the pastorate. They provide the knowledge base I need. Likewise, the best candidates for public office need to study and be well versed on the issues.

WISDOM - Wisdom is knowing the best decision to make with the knowledge you have. Much of that wisdom can be learned through experience, and should be reflected in the candidate's track record.

CHARACTER - A person of high character should have both moral and ethical integrity. Now it's almost a certainty that our next president will be elected from one of our two major political parties. However, both candidates have big problems in this area. A question begs to be asked. Since it was we, the American people, who nominated them, who has the problem? I think the answer is all of us as a society.

HUMILITY - The Lord knows I have made my share of poor decisions. In fact, all of us have. The real question is, "What happens afterwards?" Do we respond in humility? Do we learn from our failure? Do we strengthen our resolve to pursue the right path? Think how have our candidates responded? When King David made the poorest decision of his life, he responded by writing Psalm 51, a psalm of humility and contrition. It was his response in this that demonstrated he was a great king.

TRUTH - Truth is what conforms to reality. Half-truths, deliberate misrepresentations, misdirection, and outright lies do not champion the truth. But this is exactly what we are seeing in much of political speech today.

I don't expect this article will make a whit of difference in the election, but I do hope it will give you cause to think about the virtues you value in this election.

Pastor Singer is currently the longest serving church pastor in Cottage Grove. Cottage Grove Bible Church is located at 1200 E. Quincy Ave. For more information visit www.cgbible.org or call 541-942-4771.

Upcoming special events

PRESBYTERIANS REFORMATION SUNDAY CELEBRATION – Sunday, Oct. 30 at 10 a.m.

Commemorates Martin Luther's role in the birth of Protestantism in the 16th Century and the Scottish roots of the Presbyterian Church. Features Barry Johnson on the bagpipes.

DELIGHT VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST HARVEST CELEBRATION – Monday, Oct. 31 from 6-8:30 p.m.

Fun free event for all ages features games, candy, hot dogs, cotton candy, popcorn and bounce house.

CALVARY CHAPEL FIRST FRIDAY NIGHT MONTHLY WORSHIP SERVICE – Friday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m.

Designed as a non-denominational monthly gathering of all who love Jesus and enjoy contemporary praise and worship music. A communion table is available for those who desire to participate. For more info call 541-942-6842.

ELECTION EVE COMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE – Monday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.

Cottage Grove Calvary Chapel hosts a nonpartisan, interdenominational prayer gathering to pray for ALL candidates on the Nov. 8 ballot. Calvary Chapel Pastor Jeff Smith invites those called to pray for America to attend this event. He said, "This election will be a turning point in American history that will set the course of public policy in our country for decades. We need to come together as Christians to collectively pray and seek God's grace and mercy for the many candidates running for office and the roles they will play in shaping our future." The church is located at 1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza). For more information call [541-942-6842](tel:541-942-6842) or visit www.cgcalvary.org.

MONTHLY GOSPEL SING-A-LONG – Friday, Nov. 11 from 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Hosted at the Old Time Gospel Fellowship Church, 103 S. Fifth St. The monthly event features group singing and music specials. If you have an instrument to play or you want to sing a special song, call Berneda at 541-

942-3773 or Sandra at 541-942-9129.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST MOVIE NIGHT – Saturday, Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Features a documentary entitled "The Conscientious Objector" about Desmond Doss the hero of Mel Gibson's movie Hacksaw Ridge. Popcorn provided. The church is located at 820 S. 10th St.

EVENING PRAYER JOINT SERVICE – Sunday, Nov. 20 at 4 p.m.

The community is invited to celebrate the anticipation of Thanksgiving Day with local Methodists, Presbyterians and Episcopalians in a joint service officiated by all three pastors and hosted at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1301 W. Main St.

SDA MONTHLY PRODUCE AND MORE GIVEAWAY – Monday, Nov. 21 from 1-3 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Community Services provides fresh fruits and vegetables as well as clothing and some household goods. The church is located at 820 S. 10th St. (Across from Harrison School)

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

LOCAL WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

Methodist Community Bible Study: Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. Participants select Biblical text to study 334 Washington Ave. (Use kitchen entrance from alley behind the building)

Calvary Chapel Midweek Study: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; The Gospel of Mark; 1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)

Methodist Fall Bible Study: Thursdays, 6-8 pm; "The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus" a DVD/Book study by Adam Hamilton details Jesus' life and teachings and how to apply them to daily life. 334 Washington Ave. Pastor's Study Calvary Chapel Women's Study: Thursdays, 6-8 pm; Beth Moore DVD/Book study of the Book of Esther (Village Plaza)

CHURCH-SPONSORED COMMUNITY DINNERS

Mondays – United Methodist Church at 5 p.m. (Second and third only)
Tuesdays – Trinity Lutheran Church at 5 p.m.
Wednesdays – Covered Bridge Church of The Nazarene at 6 p.m.
Thursdays – Trinity Lutheran Church at 5 p.m.

WEEKLY FAITH-BASED YOUTH PROGRAMS

AWANA CLUB MEETINGS - Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
AWANA is a weekly Christian education program for ages three through

high school. Hosted by the Cottage Grove Bible Church, the group meets weekly during the school year. The cost includes the purchase of handbooks and uniforms and dues are 75 cents per week. Children enjoy memorizing Scripture verses, games, Bible lessons and dressing up for special theme nights. More information can be found on the church website: www.cgbible.org or call 541-942-4771.

CAMPUS LIFE CLUB – Mondays and Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

This Lane County Youth for Christ non-denominational youth outreach program meets during the school year. Campus Life's weekly club meetings blend food, music, games and a short Bible-based "talk" that ends with a prayer. Middle School students meet on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Riverside Community Church, 1255 S. River Rd. High School students meet on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the game room above Domino's Pizza (next to the post office). More information available on Facebook at Cottage Grove Campus Life or by calling Director Tim Sinclair at 541-285-4812.

MOTHERS OF PRE-SCHOOLERS [MOPS] – Mondays from 6-8 p.m.

An outreach ministry designed to support mothers and help them be the best moms they can be. MOPS is for mothers with children from birth to kindergarten. MomsNext is for mothers with school age children. Both

groups meet at Calvary Chapel in the Village Shopping Center, 1447 Hwy 99. For more information visit www.cottagegrovemops.org or call 541-942-6842.

SUNDAY MORNING LIGHT WEEKLY RADIO PROGRAM

Each Sunday morning from 7-10 a.m. KNND 1400-AM provides three hours of inspirational programming with a Christian world-view. All genres of Christian music are interspersed with community information, local church news, and devotional readings. Host Cindy Weeldreyer invites you to tune in and become part of KNND's Sunday Morning Light family. Listener line: 541-942-5548.

WEEKLY WORSHIP DIRECTORY

The Sentinel prints a weekly worship directory to provide greater awareness of the diversity of our local faith community. If you want your specific information available to Sentinel readers each week, please call 942-3325 for more information. [If you have a listing please verify the weekly information is current.]

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER FAITH PAGE

The deadline for the next monthly Faith Page is Thursday, Nov. 17 at noon. Drop off information to the Sentinel office or email it to weeldreyer@aol.com.

Worship Directory

WORSHIP WITH US

DRAIN:
Gateway Family Fellowship
Church of the Nazarene
337 "C" St. Drain, OR
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:45am
Living Hope Free Lunch
Wed. at 12:30pm
541-836-7051 www.drainnaz.org

HOPE U.M.C.
131 W "A" St. Drain, OR
541-315-1617
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Bible Study: 10:45am
Potluck Lunch: 11:45
Worship: 12:30pm

COTTAGE GROVE:
6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
Pastor: Aaron Earlywine
Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey
Services: 9am and 10:30am
Christian Education
Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade
www.6thandgibbs.com

Calvary Baptist Church
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove
1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)
541-942-6842
Pastor: Jeff Smith
Two Services on Sun: 9am & 10:45am
Youth Group Bible Study
Child Care 10:45am Service Only
www.cgcalvary.org

Center for Spiritual Living
Cottage Grove
700 Gibbs Ave. (Community Center)
Rev. Bobby Lee
Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m.
cslcottagegrove@gmail.com

Church of Christ
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am

Cottage Grove Bible Church
1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center
33761 Row River Rd. • 541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Isaac Hovet
www.cg4.tv
Summer Schedule: Sunday Service 10am
Full Children's Ministry available

Covered Bridge Nazarene Church
152 S. M St.
541-942-4422
Pastor: Cindy Slaymaker
Sunday School: 9:30am
Worship 10:30am

Delight Valley
Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711
Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

First Presbyterian Church
3rd and Adams St • 541-942-4479
Pastor: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
www.cgpresbynews.com

Grove Community Church
77820 Mosby Creek Rd.
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
541-942-0123
Pastor: Bryan Parsons
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Nursery: Infant - Pre-K
Kid's Church: K to 5th grade

Hope Fellowship
United Pentecostal Church
100 S. Gateway Blvd. • 541-942-2061
Pastor: Dave Bragg
Worship: 11:00am Sunday
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
www.hopefellowshippupc.com
"FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"

Living Faith Assembly
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
Pastor Rulon Combs
Worship & Children's
Church 10:00 am
Youth 180 Mondays 5:30-8pm

Non-Denominational Church of Christ
1041 Pennoyer Ave * 541-767-0447
Preachers: Tony Martin & Robert Evans
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.pennoyeravecoc.com

Old Time Gospel Fellowship
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999
Pastor: Jim Edwards
Sunday Service: 10:00am
Join us in Traditional Christian Worship

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi
Catholic Churches
1025 N. 19th St.
541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712
Pastor: Roy L. Antunez, S.J.
Euch. Liturgies; Sat. 5:30pm
Sun. 10:30am
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell:
552 Holbrook Lane • 541-895-8686
Sunday: 8:30am

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
"Church with the flags."
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
All Welcome

Seventh-day Adventist Church
820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: Kevin Miller
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 am
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur
5:00pm TLC Groups
tlccg.com

United Methodist Church
334 Washington • 541-942-3033
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Worship: 10:30am
Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free)
2nd & 3rd Monday 5-6:00pm
cottagegroveumc.org

"VICTORY" Country Church
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
Message: 11:00am
"WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"

Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in the newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, please contact the Cottage Grove Sentinel at 541-942-3325.