



**Lifewatch**

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12/01/08

## **AN URGENT NOTE from Rev. Paul T. Stallsworth**

After every election, it is vital to be reminded that Jesus Christ is Lord. Not the Republican Party. And not the Democratic Party.

That is why we “[r]ender...to God the things that are God’s.” (Matthew 22) How do we do this? First of all, by confessing that Jesus Christ is the Lord, the Son of God who has come in the flesh. That means that Jesus Christ is the Lord of all history, all humanity, each and every human person.

Your gifts to Lifewatch help support our efforts, within The United Methodist Church, to witness to Christ’s Lordship over all human lives, especially the very least of these. For Lifewatch, abortion is not a sidebar, not one issue among many issues. For Lifewatch, witnessing to the Christian truth about abortion is essential to our mission and foundational to our ministry.

Back in 1987, an explicit defense of unborn human life was rare in The United Methodist Church. Historic ministries to “unwed mothers” were obscured by political correctness. Not a single bishop publicly defended the sanctity of unborn human life. The Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights (now named the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice) was located in The United Methodist Building in Washington, DC. The Book of Discipline approved the use of abortion basically without exception. Abortion was usually a non-issue at General Conference and at Annual Conferences.

But the truth of the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all human life could not be repressed for long. Lifewatch was formed in 1987 by concerned clergy and laity who, like you, acknowledge Christ as the Lord of all human life.

Since 1987, bishops have begun defending the sanctity of human life. Seminary professors are teaching the sanctity of human life. Conference delegates are proposing this sanctity. Pastors are preaching this sanctity. Laity are ministering according to this sanctity.

Without your generous contributions and support, these advances would not have happened. Because of your generous

contributions and support, you have made Lifewatch's mission and ministry possible.

Our budget has always been minimal. In fact, it takes only 100 people giving an average of \$30/month to keep our witness going.

Our financial need is especially great this year. After our intense efforts at General Conference, the current economic downturn began. Therefore, your support is now more important than ever. This is not fundraising overstatement. It is the truth.

If you are a current donor, please consider an increase in the amount you send. If you have never supported Lifewatch, please consider a monthly commitment or a one-time gift.

The call to render to God is often a quiet call. It lacks the coercion of Caesar's law. It can be dismissed, discounted, and forgotten. But it can also be heeded, thanks to the grace of God.

Having been involved in the Lifewatch community for over 20 years, I am extraordinarily hopeful that you will support our witness--again or for the first time.

Please do help us with a monthly contribution or a generous one-time gift. And thank you for your prayerful consideration of this request.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul T. Stallsworth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

(The Rev.) Paul T. Stallsworth

Pastor, St. Peter's United Methodist Church, Morehead City, NC  
President, Lifewatch

P.S. To support Lifewatch, you can: (1) mail cash or a check, (2) use PayPal on the Lifewatch website ([www.lifewatch.org](http://www.lifewatch.org)), or (3) give a DTC donation through your stock broker. For the 2008 and 2009 tax years only, the "Tax Extenders and Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008" allows people age 70.5 and over to rollover IRA gifts of up to \$100,000 per year from individual retirement accounts (IRAs) directly to their churches or other favorite charities without including the distribution in income. Call (800)-332-8238 for more information, or visit [http://www.mumf.org/view\\_news.php?news=18](http://www.mumf.org/view_news.php?news=18) for a complete information packet. This is a fourth way for you to support Lifewatch.