

HE HANDED ON THE TRUTH -- NOW, IT IS OUR TURN

"Ignatius [c. 35-c. 107, Bishop of Antioch] was one against many, as St. Peter had been before him; and was put to death as the Apostle had been; but he handed on the Truth, in his day. At length we have received it. Weak though we be, and solitary, God forbid we should not in our turn hand it on; glorifying Him by our lives, and in all our words and works witnessing Christ's passion, death and resurrection!" —John Henry Newman (1801-1890, a Cardinal of Rome) in Parochial and Plain Sermons (from For All the Saints: A Prayer Book For and By the Church [American Lutheran Publicity Bureau, 1996], Volume IV, p. 812)

WILLIAM J. ABRAHAM (1947-2021): HE HANDED ON THE TRUTH

Dr. William J. Abraham—better known by his friends, and by his enemies, as "Billy"—died on October 7, 2021.

"Let us now sing the praises of famous men...."
(Ecclesiasticus 44: 1 [NEB])—including this famous, faithful man.

After serving as the Albert Cook Outler Professor of Theology and Wesley Studies at Perkins School of Theology (SMU) for years, after launching the Wesley House of Studies at the George W. Truett Theological Seminary (Baylor), after recently completing his four-volume work on Divine Agency and Divine Action (I: Exploring and Evaluating the Debate [2017], II: Soundings in the Christian Tradition [2017], III: Systematic Theology [2018], and IV: A Theological and Philosophical Agenda [2021]), after proposing and defending the Church's faith for fifty years, after being a faithful husband and father, just after paying a visit to a person in an assisted-living facility—Billy Abraham breathed his last. (On October 6, at a UMAction Steering Committee meeting, I offered a devotional word and quoted Billy. The next day he died in the Lord.)

Billy Abraham was not a shy, retiring, anti-social academic. He was gregarious in friendship and forthright in (theological and philosophical) argument. After hearing Abraham lecture, preach, or converse, one walked away either with a clarified mind or with a stormy heart.

Dr. Abraham delivered the 2007 Lifewatch Sermon, which he titled "Striving for Holiness and Peace in a World of Abortions." His sermon text was Hebrews 12:14: "Strive for peace with all men, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord." (RSV)

Read two excerpts from his sermon, and be renewed in the truth of the Gospel of Life, as this "famous man" hands it on. First, to Dr. Abraham's introduction: "My first, serious, intellectual encounter with the issue of abortion happened thirty years ago. In 1976, I was teaching Christian ethics and the philosophy of education at Culham College just outside Oxford. I had gone over to the Student Union to get lunch and had settled down to eat. A small group of students approached me and asked me to sign a petition in favor of abortion. I recall my immediate reaction. I decided, on the spot, to challenge their petition by stating an assumption and by asking a question. I proposed that they were making an assumption: the petitioners were assuming that a baby in the womb is not that different from a toenail. The baby, they seemed to assume, is simply a body part.

I then asked my question: given that a baby in the womb is radically different from a toenail, abortion is radically different from the removal of body parts; it is the destruction of human life; so why should I sign their petition? The students were stunned. They could neither challenge my assumption nor answer my question. I recall this encounter as a moment of moral decision on my part, and I have stood by that decision for thirty years...."

Then, to Billy's conclusion: "As I have mentioned, we no longer live in the world of either Empire or Nation State. In the providence of God, we occupy a radically different time and place. The state does not kill us. It is milder and smarter in its actions. It sanctions the slaughter of the innocents and wraps its evil in a cloak of rhetorical deceit about freedom of choice. The court chaplains of this holocaust, of course, are all too ready to provide spurious justifications for such evil. We long ago saw through their deceit and complicity. In this time and place we are irrevocably committed to a life of holiness. This is not a passive holiness. It is an active holiness that seeks to bring an end to the shedding of innocent blood. Not surprisingly, this is also a holiness that provokes vicious opposition.

"In response to such opposition, we will keep our nerve, for we are also called to strive for peace. Striving for peace is a complex practice. Striving for peace calls for intentional immersion in the life of God. We begin there with a peace 'which passes all understanding' (Philippians 4:7) as we move out into the political arena. Striving for peace in that arena requires joining hands across Christian churches and across other religions in defense of the life of the unborn. Striving for peace in that arena also requires active engagement in the political order informed by the deepest intellectual resources and skills we can muster. Happily, our current political arrangements permit such striving for peace. The grace of God makes possible such striving for peace. The evil of abortion makes imperative such striving for peace."

William J. Abraham, servant of Christ and Christ's Church, is already missed by many. May he rest in God's peace and forgiveness, as the general resurrection is awaited and yearned for. (PTS)

SPEAKING FOR LIFE AT THE 2021 MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Judge Michael Cooper submitted this legislation during the 2021 Michigan Annual Conference: “that the Michigan Area Annual Conference recognize the unborn baby in the womb as fully human, from the moment of conception.” Though a committee voted to set it aside, later, the Annual Conference voted to consider it. Judge Cooper’s daughter, Rebecca Punches, presented this legislation to the Annual Conference and made the following speech.

Said Mrs. Punches: “There have been many times throughout history when a society has looked at the entirety of humanity, and singled out a certain group to be marginalized, de-humanized, and stripped of its most basic human rights. We have looked at all humans and picked an arbitrary characteristic that excluded some from even the most basic rights. The idea that we can exclude some humans from receiving human rights has led to enslavement of those with dark skin, oppression of those who are female, and systematic annihilation of those with Jewish ethnicity, to name just a few injustices.

“Every time we have looked at a group of humans and said, ‘you are not one of us,’ we later came to recognize that a great injustice had been done. But we always recognized it too late. After thousands of futures were stolen, and millions of lives were lost.

“Today, we impose the exact same injustice on our unborn brothers and sisters. We say ‘because you are younger, you have no right to live.’ We dismember, decapitate, and disembowel them in the name of individual choice and freedom from suffering...justifications that are sickeningly similar to the ones used to support the slaughter of Jews and the enslavement of Africans.

“You might be thinking, ‘this is different because a fetus isn’t a human.’ Well, if they are not human, then what are they? What species? Their parents are human, and two humans cannot produce offspring of another species. The unborn must be human.

“The unborn are undeniably human. Yes, they are less developed. They are weaker than us, and incapable of surviving without the support of their mother. But do we kill other humans because they are less developed, weak, or dependent? Absolutely not. Instead, we see those characteristics as a sign that those people are even more deserving of our protection.

“Are there difficult, or even tragic, situations that may lead a pregnant woman to seek an abortion? Absolutely. How should the Church respond to those situations? Offer the killing of an innocent human being as a viable option? No. Instead, we must recognize the humanity and value of mother and child, welcome them both into our fold, and seek to love and protect them both. And so I urge you, based on Scripture (Psalm 139:13 and Luke 1), science (embryology and human development), and reason (even pro-choice philosophers), to

You are cordially invited to attend the
2022 LIFEWATCH SERVICE OF WORSHIP

**JANUARY 21, 2022 (FRIDAY)
9:30 A.M. (ET)**

AT THE INSTITUTE ON RELIGION
AND DEMOCRACY
1023 15TH STREET, NW—SUITE 200
WASHINGTON, DC

THE REVEREND DR. TESIA L. MALLORY
will preach the sermon.
She is Dean of the Chapel at United Theological
Seminary in Dayton, OH

Organize a group from your church to attend!

recognize the humanity of the unborn.”

During its journey, the legislative language was changed: from “fully human” to “biologically human.”

In the end, the legislation was defeated: 38% of the Annual Conference voted to approve it, and 62% opposed it. Even so, Judge Cooper noted: “At no time, in committee or in plenary, did anyone raise a counter to the [scriptural and scientific argument that the unborn baby is fully human]. Instead, the arguments were all based on emotion.” Sadly, in our day, emotion appears always to win the day.

Thanks to Judge Michael Cooper and to Mrs. Rebecca Punches for witnessing for life at the 2021 Michigan Annual Conference. That was not easy. Nor victorious. But you witnessed, to the truth in love, faithfully. You stood up for Christ, for His Church, for His Church’s faith, for the Gospel. (PTS) ♥

THE LITTLE ONE AT 15 WEEKS

On December 1, 2021, the United States Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the abortion case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*. The Mississippi law under review concerns the unborn child at 15 weeks. So Dr. Katina Furth, an associate scholar at the Charlotte Lozier Institute, writes an essay entitled “15 Facts at 15 Weeks.” Here are her 15 facts about the 15-week-old unborn child.

1. All of the major organs have formed.
2. The heart pumps 26 quarts of blood per day.
3. The heart has already beat ... 15,800,000 times.
4. Each finger moves separately.
5. The fetus prefers sucking his left or right thumb.
6. The entire body responds to touch.
7. The fetus responds to taste.
8. The brain creates neurons at a rate of 250,000 per minute.

Lifewatch is published by the Taskforce of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality, a network of United Methodist clergy, laity, and churches.

It is sent, free of charge, to interested readers. Editor, Rev. Paul T. Stallworth: 2400 Foxcroft Road NW, Wilson, NC 27896 (252)640-2755.

Administrator and Publicity/Outreach Coordinator, Mrs. Cindy Evans: P.O. Box 306, Cottleville MO 63338 (636)294-2344.

Gift checks should be made payable, and mailed, to: Lifewatch, P.O. Box 306, Cottleville MO 63338.

Email: lifewatch@charter.net/Website: www.lifewatch.org Copyright ©2021 by Taskforce of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality, Inc.

9. Brain connections formed at 15 weeks' gestation last into adulthood.
10. The fetus can feel pain.
11. Females have most of the eggs that they will ever produce.
12. The fetus has practiced breathing for over six weeks.
13. Eye movements are easily seen in ultrasound recordings.
14. If a doctor takes an X-ray this week, the fetus' skeleton would be visible.
15. Surgeons have successfully performed surgery on fetuses at 15 weeks' gestation. (Thanks to Bradley Mattes for his online article "Take a Look Inside" [September 15, 2021] <https://lifeissues.org/2021/take-a-look-inside>) ♥

KARL BARTH AND THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Karl Barth (1886-1968), according to more than a few, was the greatest Protestant theologian of the 20th century. His witness to the Triune God, revealed in Jesus Christ, lingers (noticeably if not palpably) in today's strongest seminaries. If you are serious about Christian theology, you must deal with, in one way or another, Karl Barth.

Unfortunately, around ten years ago, an ugly truth about Barth emerged. Published letters indicate that, during Barth's working life, he had a mistress who took up residence in his family house. She worked as his research assistant. The letters make clear that theirs was an adulterous relationship. To his wife, friends, and colleagues, Barth defended himself and his lifestyle. He considered himself, in today's lingo, "too big to fail"—or too big to be exposed. Others must have joined him in this thought. So this revolting reality was mostly kept out of public life. Even so, imagine the undercurrent of gossip—in the neighborhood, in the university, and in the church—that surrounded this affair.

Karl Barth, the great theologian, carrying on an adulterous affair for years. What a disappointment.

Well, as a matter of fact, Karl Barth's sordid sin should not paralyzingly shock neither the Church, nor a disciple, of Jesus Christ. After all, we are all sinners saved by grace, and thereafter vulnerable to temptation, prone to sin, and blind to many of our own, actual sins.

What is most disappointing is that, as far as we know, Karl Barth's church and/or university did not firmly discipline him in love. Surely, he had made baptismal and ordination vows in the Church, or signed an honor code of some kind in the academy, that obligated him to live at least a decent (as opposed to degenerate) life. Perhaps sobered by the possibility of exposure or excommunication, Barth could have been brought to his senses, repented of his sins, and reconciled with his wife; God's grace could have abundantly flowed. Without such discipline, Barth's dishonorable living was allowed to continue on and on. In the Church and in the Christian life, when discipline is not imagined, considered, and practiced, sin rolls on, and corruption spreads.

Look at The United Methodist Church today. (PTS) ♥

Some facts at 15 weeks:

- * The heart pumps 26 quarts of blood per day.
- * The fetus can move each finger separately and prefers sucking his or her left or right thumb.
- * The entire body responds to touch.
- * Females have most of the eggs that they will ever produce.
- * Surgeons have successfully performed surgery on fetuses at 15 weeks' gestation.

See more at: <https://lifeissues.org/2021/take-a-look-inside>

BISHOPS WHO RULE RUTHLESSLY

In the early 1930s, as National Socialism was poisoning the churches' doctrine and discipline, Karl Barth (yes, God uses even broken vessels for providential purposes) stood up and said No! to those who would Nazify the Church. This decisive No! to Nazism was entitled The Barmen Declaration (1934).

The Fourth (of six) Thesis of Barmen begins with a quotation from our Lord and then goes on to apply His teaching to His Church: "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant' (Matt. 20:25, 26).

"The various offices in the Church do not establish a dominion of some over the others; on the contrary, they are for the exercise of the ministry entrusted to and enjoined upon the whole congregation.

"We reject the false doctrine, as though the Church, apart from this ministry, could and were permitted to give to itself, or allow to be given to it, special leaders vested with ruling powers."

Barmen's Fourth Thesis paints two pictures of the Church: The first is desired by Jesus Christ, and the second is not. Christ's desired Church has offices and officeholders—for example, bishops, elders, and deacons; they exist and do their work in service of the laity, the congregation. On the other hand, the so-called church opposed by Christ features "special leaders," with "authority" and "ruling powers," who "lord it over" those whom they rule.

For years and years, some bishops in The United Methodist Church have misused their God-given authority, and thereby misled their clergy and laity. These bishops have done what they wanted to do—the church's doctrine and discipline be damned. They have ruled over others with their own opinions—not with the church's rule of law or rule of faith. They have lorded it over, not served, clergy and laity of The United Methodist Church. (And of course, some clergy and laity have cheered on the tyranny of these bishops.) The most notorious of these bishops must be named.

Bishop Melvin Talbert presided at same-sex services.

Bishop Karen Oliveto, at the time in a same-sex union, participated in episcopal election and accepted her election.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson created ecclesiastical and legal chaos with Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church and Dr. Jody Ray.

Bishop Jon Schol mistreated Korean congregations and their pastors.

Bishop Grant Hagiaya riled up Korean congregations and their pastors.

These bishops were not held accountable for their anti-doctrinal, anti-disciplinary ministries.

Evidently, these bishops never learned (or forgot) how to be authentic bishops, how to be faithful servants of Christ's Church for the sake of all. Instead, they have ruthlessly ruled to impose their own personal desires and preferences—desires and preferences that happen to oppose church doctrine and discipline—on those to whom they were sent to serve. They have severely harmed The United Methodist Church and pushed her to the brink of schism. (PTS) ♥

THAT OPEN LETTER TO CATHOLIC BISHOPS

On August 9, Father Frank Pavone, the National Director of Priests for Life, released “An Open Letter to the Catholic Bishops of the United States on Abortion and the Church in the Current Political Climate.” It is a powerful piece of work that demands our attention—perhaps even extended study and consideration.

During the run-up to the 2020 election, Fr. Pavone endured some criticism for being all-in for Donald Trump for President. It might have been that Fr. Pavone uncritically backed Trump because he foresaw the ecclesiastical, moral, constitutional, and political problems a Biden Administration would bring—e.g., by pushing pro-choice and pro-abortion public policies, daring the Roman Catholic Church and its bishops to oppose those policies, presenting some of their leaders as “devout Catholics” (who, in truth, act more like liberal Protestants), limiting the Church's freedom to defend its own teachings and practices, and so on.

Well, Joe Biden won the election over Donald Trump. From Fr. Pavone's perspective, his Open Letter to Catholic Bishops became absolutely necessary seven months after the Bidens moved into the White House.

Fr. Pavone communicates with the Catholic bishops out of concern for the Catholic laity. The laity, he writes to the bishops, “look for leadership from you, as those in our nation primarily responsible for the protection and proclamation of the faith. Often, however, they are led to conclude that such leadership is absent, or at best, weak and tentative.”

Why do bishops lead so fecklessly? Fr. Pavone asserts that “some bishops no longer have the confidence that they can make a difference, that the Word of God which they proclaim can change society, or that the people they serve are ready to rise to the challenge of living the faith in our world.” Nevertheless, Fr. Pavone challenges the bishops: “[T]he **faithful are indeed with you if you lead them; they will listen if you speak; they will respond heroically if you lead heroically.**” (emphasis in the original)

CATHOLIC DEMOCRATS: NAMED AND CHALLENGED

In his letter to the bishops, Fr. Pavone names and challenges President Joe Biden and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, both of whom of course are Roman Catholics. For six reasons, Fr. Pavone names and critiques Joe Biden and Nancy Pelosi.

First, they are standing up and directly opposing Church teaching. “They are...deliberately, creatively, and energetically implementing the agenda of a political party that has embraced, strongly and explicitly, positions that violate the most fundamental rights of human life and freedom,” writes Fr. Pavone. “They are not stumbling along the path of discipleship with the rest of us; they are running in the opposite direction” by trying to “[expand] abortion funding and working to eliminate even the most modest and most widely supported restrictions and limitations on abortion, without any mandate from their own base.”

Second, they are demonstrating that the days of dialog are done. Fr. Pavone explains: “Dialog has tremendous value. But it cannot stand on its own. Joe Biden has been in national political office for almost half a century. Many have dialogued with him. But his actions to advance taxpayer-funded abortion-on-demand have become worse, not better.” The same applies to Nancy Pelosi.

Third, they (Joe Biden and Nancy Pelosi), as the public faces of Catholicism in America, are distorting what a Catholic disciple of Jesus Christ in the United States looks like. According to Fr. Pavone, “it is the pro-abortion public officials [who are] trying to shape the idea of what it means to be Catholic into their own image”—not Catholic bishops who are overreaching, with heavy hands, into the Oval Office and into Congress.

Fourth, they are not “protecting victims of violence...the children in the womb.” Fr. Pavone goes on: “The goal [of the Church]...is not to secure an agreement [on abortion] but to protect the vulnerable. We do not approach the problem of violent crime by talking about the ‘serious disagreements’ we have with those who carry out criminal acts. We don't fight terrorism by addressing the ‘serious disagreements’ about which we have to dialog with the terrorists. ...Catholic teaching on abortion is not about abstract concepts but about treating the unborn as persons to be welcomed and protected.”

Fifth, they are corrupting the very idea of public service. Public service demands that the public, the people, be served—not killed. Fr. Pavone notes: St. Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941) and St. Clemens von Galen (1878-1946) “were not writing and preaching about viewpoints but about victims [of Nazi Germany]; they were not simply concerned about beliefs but about bloodshed. So it is with us. Some misguided politicians criticize the Church for focusing on issues of ‘sexual morality’ like abortion. They might better understand their own duties if they realize that abortion falls more in the category of *social justice* than sexual morality. We're talking about the most unjust form of discrimination...the killing of millions.” (emphasis in the original)

Sixth, they are representing a political party, Fr. Pavone

contends, “that has explicitly abandoned principles which are at the core of our identity as a Church and threaten its freedom as well as the foundations of civilization.” This “situation in America requires that as we ‘pass moral judgment even in matters related to politics’..., we explicitly point out what the Democrat Party and its leaders are doing and call them to change.

“This is not a political activity. After all, if tomorrow the Democrat and Republican parties swapped positions on abortion, we would have exactly the same message for the Republican Party and its leaders. Our message does not change, because it is not based on political platforms, but on the Word of God.

“Indeed the clear and explicit call to the Democrat Party and its leaders to abandon their current path is precisely a religious and pastoral activity. This is not about the Church being too political, but about our politics being too pagan. This is not about the Church being a political party; it is about the Church being the Church in the midst of the world, including the world of politics.” (underlining added for emphasis)

BISHOPS, ENCOURAGE US

Concluding, Fr. Pavone appeals to the Catholic bishops, “you have a unique leadership role which is meant to encourage and strengthen the rest of us in carrying out ours. This is an appeal, therefore, to do exactly that by clearly calling upon the Democrat Party, and specifically on its leaders by name, to once again embrace the fundamental principles of the right to life and the freedom of the Church, and in the context of the latter, to stop misrepresenting what it means to be Catholic.”

An epic conflict between the Biden Administration and the Roman Catholic bishops, over abortion and gender ideology and religious freedom, may well be brewing. Fr. Frank Pavone’s open letter, which challenges the bishops to lead the laity in the public square, might well be preparation for what is to come. (PTS) ♥

PENNSYLVANIANS AND OTHERS, PLEASE TAKE ACTION

“A recent video from the Center for Medical Progress [www.centerformedicalprogress.org] reveals damning evidence for Pitt [University of Pittsburgh], Planned Parenthood, and NIH [National Institutes for Health]:

* Abortionists at Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania provide body parts of aborted babies to the University of Pittsburgh.

* Pitt uses its access to the body parts of aborted babies to acquire major grant money from the National Institutes of Health.

* Pitt sends major kickbacks and medical resources back to Planned Parenthood.

* Funding for these atrocities is coming from the National Institutes of Health, specifically, Dr. Anthony Fauci’s NIAID [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases] office.

* Researchers from Pitt literally scalped five-month-old unborn babies and grafted them to rats in labs. Images are available....

“How are these barbarians different than the crimes against humanity committed by the Nazis during World War II?

“IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW LIVES IN PENNSYLVANIA, please contact the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Health Committee and urge it to stop these brutal atrocities being conducted at the University of Pittsburgh.

“Whether or not you reside in Pennsylvania, PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE.” (Source: Bradley Mattes, “Atrocities at University of Pittsburgh,” Aug. 12, 2021, www.lifeissues.org)

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT

• As you know, the December 1st issue of Lifewatch usually has a fundraising letter. Because this particular issue contains a Special Report, we have decided to set aside the usual fundraising letter. Instead of that letter, the following note will suffice.

Know that Lifewatch depends on your support—your prayers and your gifts. That is the truth of the matter. Without your assistance, the witness of Lifewatch would go silent. With your support, the witness of Lifewatch can continue and flourish and serve the Gospel of Life.

Please. Be generous in your praying and giving. (The easiest way to give is to send a check made payable to “Lifewatch,” to Lifewatch/P.O. Box 306/Cottleville, MO 63338.) Mrs. Cindy Evans, the Board of Advisors, and I are most grateful for you and to you. (PTS)

ORDER FORM: I wish to order: ___ copies of **THE RIGHT CHOICE: Pro-Life Sermons** (\$12.00/copy); ___ copies of **THE CHURCH AND ABORTION: In Search of New Ground for Response** (\$5.00/copy); ___ copies of **THINKING THEOLOGICALLY ABOUT ABORTION** (\$7.00/copy); ___ copies of **THE JERICHO PLAN: Breaking Down the Walls Which Prevent Post-Abortion Healing** (\$8.00/copy); ___ copies of **A LOVE FOR LIFE: Christianity’s Consistent Protection of the Unborn** (\$10.00/copy); ___ copies of **10 TIPS ON HOW NOT TO TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT SEX** (\$12.00/copy); ___ copies of **30 DAYS FOR LIFE: A Prayer Devotional** (\$2.00/copy); and ___ copies of **THEOLOGY OF THE BODY SEMINAR** (Dr. Paul J. Griffiths)(\$10.00/DVD set). Prices include shipping.

Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Please enclose your check, payable to Lifewatch, and mail to: Lifewatch/P.O. Box 306/Cottleville MO 63338.



Lifewatch
Taskforce of
United Methodists on
Abortion and Sexuality

P.O. Box 306, Cottleville MO 63338

12/01/21

- * Dr. William J. Abraham: He handed on the truth about peace and life
- * Planned Parenthood and Pitt
- * Astounding facts at 15 weeks

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lancaster PA
Permit No. 507

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

● In October, while walking toward The United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, your scribe passed by the Planned Parenthood facility on 4th Street NE. An official “Black Lives Matter” (BLM) banner was prominently displayed on the front of the building. Also, the facility advertised that it could address your: “Headaches & Migraines - Anxiety & Depression - Asma - Flu & Colds - Diabetes - High Blood Pressure - Vaccines & More!”

The BLM banner is virtue-signaling, and the medical ad is distracting. Let’s be honest: Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in the United States. It aborts unborn black lives at approximately three times the rate of unborn white lives. And yet this Planned Parenthood facility has audacity to boast that “Black Lives Matter.” Shameful.

● “A culture of death is its own kind of seamless garment. The kind of man who would light up the skyline of New York to celebrate advancing abortion’s culture of death, and who would order infected patients into nursing homes and juke the death stats to pretend it never happened, is also likely to be the sort of person who doesn’t place a high premium on the dignity of women in his office.” Mr. Ed Condon wrote this in “The Transfiguration, the Olympic Spirit, and the Shamelessness of Andrew Cuomo” at pillarcatholic.com (8.6.21). This quotation was also carried by the Weekend LOOP from CV on 8.7.21).

Also, consider this: “What the Church needs in order to respond to the needs of man in every age is holiness, not management.” So said Pope Benedict XVI, and so published the Loop (8.11.21).

LETTERS/COMMENTS TO THE EDITOR:
Rev. Paul T. Stallsworth, Lifewatch Editor
2400 Foxcroft Road NW, Wilson, NC 27896
252.640.2755 / paulstallsworth@nccumc.org

HAVE YOU MOVED?
If so, please contact Ms. Cindy Evans
to change your mailing address.
636.294.2344 / lifewatch@charter.net
Thank you!

VISIT US AT: www.lifewatch.org
and on Facebook by searching for: [lifewatch-taskforce](https://www.facebook.com/lifewatch-taskforce)

● On September 7, 2021, “Texas abortion law threatens ministry,” a United Methodist News Service (UMNS) commentary by Dr. William B. Lawrence, appeared online. On September 23, 2021, an open letter by yours truly to Dr. Lawrence (entitled “Texas abortion law will save lives”), was published as a follow-up UMNS commentary. You might want to go to your computer or phone, search for these two articles, and read them. Keyword: might.

● A self-identified “heretic” tweeted: “Jesus was Christ. Buddha was Christ. Muhammad was Christ. Christ is a word for the Universe seeing itself. You are Christ. We are the body of Christ.”

A reader replied: “If you can’t say something Nicaean, then don’t say it at all.” (“A Nicene Pun,” THEPOINT, Colson Center, August 6, 2021)

If you did not chuckle at that, call your pastor and ask for some help. If your pastor cannot provide an explanation, you can turn to #880 in The United Methodist Hymnal and think about it.

● *Magna est veritas, et prevalebit.* “Truth is most powerful, and will ultimately prevail.” ♥

Lifewatch Advisory Board

Rev. Paul R. Crikelair
Pastor, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

Mrs. Cindy Evans
Administrator/Outreach Coordinator
Cottleville, Missouri

Dr. Stanley Hauerwas
Duke University

Ms. Myrna Howard
Alva, Florida

Rev. Bill Hughes
Lexington, Kentucky

Rev. Edward H. Johnson
Pastor, Sandston, Virginia

Rev. Harold D. Lewis (ret.)
Florida Conference

Mr. John Lomperis
Chicago, Illinois

Rev. Dr. Leicester R. Longden
Assoc. Prof. of Evangelism
and Discipleship Emeritus
Michigan Conference

Mr. Donald T. Sires
Treasurer
O’Fallon, Missouri

Rev. Paul T. Stallsworth
Lifewatch President
Wilson, North Carolina

Don and Carla Thompson
Whiteville, Tennessee

Rev. Mrs. Pat B. Tony
Pastor, Manassas, Virginia

Bp. Timothy W. Whitaker (ret.)
Keller, Virginia

†

Dr. Geoffrey Wainwright
(1939-2020)

Dr. Thomas C. Oden
(1931-2016)

Dr. John E. Juergensmeyer
(1934-2014)

Bishop William R. Cannon
(1916-1997)

Dr. Albert C. Outler
(1908-1989)

Titles and affiliations are for identification purposes only.