



Pastor Paul's Ponderings

Walking with the Wind

Isaiah 40:31-32

In the summer of 2003, I had the privilege to attend our denomination's biennial meeting as one of two youth representatives from the state of Ohio. While there, Rep. John Lewis, an American Baptist and a Congressman from Georgia's 5th District, was honored by the denomination with the Edwin T. Dahlberg Peace Award. After the evening's festivities I had the opportunity to meet and speak with Rep. Lewis, and to purchase his book, *Walking with the Wind*, and to have it signed.

Before becoming a member of Congress, Lewis was one of the "Big Six" leaders of the civil rights movement, a group that included Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Lewis would go on to become one of the most pivotal figures of the civil rights movement, organizing sit-ins, participating in the Freedom Rides, being part of the march from Selma to Montgomery, and being the leader of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He had the ears of presidents and the devotion of hundreds who fought for civil rights during that most tumultuous time in our nation's history.

While Rep. Lewis was one of the primary figures of the civil rights movement and is now a well known and respected United States Congressman, he did not have such an auspicious beginning in life. Growing up near Troy, Alabama, in the 1940's and 50's, Lewis was the son of a share cropper and he didn't have much. In the prologue of his book, he recounts how he used to spend his summers with his cousins at his Aunt Seneva's house. A house that he called a "shot-gun" house because you could shoot a gun through the front door and it would exit through the back without the bullet touching anything inside.

He tells a story of one such summer day when he was at his aunt's house and a storm had come up. He recalls: "I couldn't believe what I was seeing. None of us could. This storm was actually pulling the house toward the sky. With us inside it. That was when Aunt Seneva told us to clasp hands. Line up and hold hands, she said, and we did as we were told. Then she had us walk as a group toward the corner of the room that was rising. From the kitchen to the front of the house we walked, the wind screaming outside, sheets of rain beating on the tin roof. Then we walked back in the

other direction, as another end of the house began to lift.

"And so it went, back and forth, fifteen children walking with the wind, holding that trembling house down with the weight of our small bodies.

"More than half a century has passed since that day, and it has struck me more than once over those many years that our society is not unlike the children in that house, rocked again and again by the winds of one storm or another, the walls around us seeming at times as if they might fly apart.

"It seems that way now. But the people of conscience never left the house. They never ran away. They stayed, they came together and they did the best they could, clasping hands and moving toward the corner of the house that was the weakest.

"And then another corner would lift, and we would go there. And eventually, inevitably, the storm would settle, and the house would still stand.

"But we knew another storm would come, and we would have to do it all over again. And we did. And we still do, all of us. You and I. Children holding hands, walking with the wind."

May we, a people chosen of God, a royal priesthood, be people of conscience during this month when we celebrate our nation's birth, and during this year when we take on the awesome responsibility of electing our next president. Let us join hands, as children do, and walk with the wind to the weakest corner of this house that we call America. Let us recognize that when one corner is held back down, another will rise, and that once one storm has passed, another will inevitably come. And let us remember to keep Christ as our central focus, especially during times of storm, because "they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31-32 KJV)

(Excerpt from: Lewis, J. & D'Orso, M. (1999). *Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace.)

Everyone have a Safe

and

Happy 4th of July

Nathan Cooper



First Baptist Newsletter

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Board Meetings for July

Deacons Monday, 7th @ 7:00pm
Trustees Monday 14th @ 7:00pm
C.E. Board Monday 21st @ 7:00pm

Food Bank July 13th

Just a reminder to everyone that we need to fill up our shopping cart with canned and dry goods to help the needy!



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Golden Lambs Luncheon  
Tuesday, July 22nd @ 11:30

### Ladies Summer Book Bunch

Our Book Bunch meetings will be at the home of Mary Ann Lamb, 1075 Union Rd Wednesday, July 2nd at 6:30 discussing -Sacred Marriage



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Wednesday, August 13th at 6:30- discussing -A Stitch in Time I'm excited to fellowship with you and hope this will be a meaningful time to grow together in the Lord.
Mary Ann Lamb

Church Picnic

Sunday, July 6th at 5:30pm at the home of

Bob and Shelly Fondaw,
1131 Settlement Cove Dr.

Bring a dish to pass, meat to grill folding chair and table service.

Dress patriotic!!



Junior/Senior

Prom

It's back again this year. The Junior/Senior Prom! Come out and join us on Friday, July 25, from 7-9 at the Haven for a night of fun and dancing. Spend time reconnecting with old friends and making new ones as the youth and seniors of the church mix at this 50's-style prom. Come and enjoy music from your youth, mixed in with a few popular Top 40 tunes of today. This will be a fun evening that will culminate with the crowning of the Prom king and queen.

ABW

To all the women of our church, We will be the hostess for the ABWM District Meeting Saturday, July 12th here at the church. Registration 9:30-10.00am. Lunch will be served and dismissal will be 1:00pm



Secretary's Office will be closed on Friday, July 4th



WORSHIP HOURS

Worship Service~ 8:30a.m.
Sunday School~ 9:15a.m.

Worship Service~ 10:30a.m.

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Visit our web site to see all youth activities, church picnic pictures and all the great things that are happening.

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