

Enjoy the ride!
around the sun.
Economic times are tough, and everything keeps getting more expensive. But God thoughtfully gives all of us a free yearly trip

God's Yearly Gift

«AddressBlock»

August

The W.C.G. Annual Prayer Retreat and Potluck Dinner will be held Tuesday, August 5th, at 6:30 at the home of Pat Dale.



Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday, Aug. 9th, at 8:30 a.m. In the conference room of Food City in Wise.

Wise First Church of God

Sunday Radio Program: WNVA 106.3 & AM 1350

Love Song ☐ Hosted by Pastor Murphy ☐
. 8:00 a.m.

Worship Schedule

Sunday:
Sunday School
. 10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship Service** 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship Service.
. 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Wise First Church of God
P.O. Box 980
702 East Main Street
Wise, VA 24293
Phone ☐ Fax: 276-328-8791
Parsonage: 276-328-5749
Pastor's Cell: 276-275-1171
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m.

August	
4	Discipleship Training
5	WCG Annual Prayer Retreat/Potluck Dinner
6	Ministry & Programming Council Meeting
9	Men's Fellowship Breakfast
11	Discipleship Training
13	Finance Council Meeting
17	Singspiration
18	Discipleship Training
20	Christian Ed. Council Meeting
24	Annual Church Picnic, No PM Service
25	Discipleship Training
26	Easter Production Committee Meeting
27	Adventure Club Begins
31	Kevin Spencer Concert, No PM Service
Sept	
1	Labor Day (ofc. Closed), No Discipleship Training
2	W.C.G. Meeting
3	Ministry & Programming Council Meeting
7	Sunday School Promotion, Grandparents Day
7	Unity Service at Norton FCOG, pm
8	Discipleship Training
10	Finance Council Meeting
13	Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Wise First Church of God

INFO



Words from the Path.

By Pastor Ben Murphy

A couple came into my office last week (Thursday, 7-10-08) and asked to be married in our church. They had driven down from Prestonsburg, KY in hopes of being married on that very day, and they had hopes as well that I would perform the ceremony. After a few brief comments and questions about each of their reasons for uniting with the other, I innocently asked if they had their marriage license with them? The look on their faces was the proverbial; "Deer in headlights" stare at one another. They apparently had no idea that a marriage license was required to be married in the state of Virginia. I informed them of the procedure which is to go to the Wise County Court House and visit with the County Clerks Office and make 'said' application. I told them that I was not sure of the waiting period that may or may not be required, but that I must see the license before I could officially perform 'said' nuptials. The lady apologized for making the blatant error, and the man mumbled something under his breath that I am not sure I

would want to repeat if I had understood what he said. He was still mumbling to himself as they departed by way of my office door and they have yet to return with 'said' license, ideas and ideals for marriage in our church edifice, nor a prospective groom looking forward to 'said' nuptials with great expectations of marital bliss for years to come.

Now I am in no way picking on or making light of the couple that visited with me for those brief moments. It was truly an honest mistake. I would gladly have performed the "brief" ceremony in my office or in the sanctuary had the proper licensing procedure been procured prior to the visit. But as I thought back to that day last week, I realized that I might have been witnessing a vanishing breed. I know that many years ago, it was a common practice for people in nearby states to come to Wise and be married. I have been told that this was common, but I can't recall now why it was common. I remember that back in the 1940's, many people in my home area of Southern Illinois and Southeast Missouri would go into the upper corner of Northeast Arkansas to be married. Apparently, no license or waiting period was required. Piggott, Arkansas

was in many ways a 'wedding factory' from what I have been told. But those days are leaving us. I say that because in those days, it happened this way.

1. A man and a woman fell in love.
2. They wanted to get married, many times over the disapproval of "mom and pop" or many times, it was not affordable for them to have an elaborate church wedding.
3. So they drove the necessary miles to the nearest state that recognized their love and there they were united in marriage. (Nothing wrong with that.)

Now the reason that I say that persons such as these or this method is a vanishing breed is because today, it seem as though whether we in the church like it or not, weddings and elaborate wedding ceremonies are rapidly leaving the existence of a man and woman in love, and being replaced by two men in love or two women in love.

"Same sex marriages" are beginning to sweep the nation. It is becoming more and more popular; in vogue; more accepted and repeated in one state after

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Guidance from Wesley

John Wesley (1703-1791) offered the following "Rules of Conduct" for Christians:

- Do all the good you can,
- By all the means you can,
- In all the ways you can,
- In all the places you can,
- At all the times you can,
- To all the people you can,
- As long as ever you can.



AUGUST 24th
following morning
worship service.

Held at CAMP BETHEL

Everyone plan to attend!

Concert by Wise Trio

Pastor Ben & Diania
Murphy and Shirley Wolfe



THANKS to Our VBS Volunteers!

NEWSLETTER

Articles or information to be published in next months newsletter are due by the third Sunday of the month. Please call or email if your address/phone number has changed, or to add/remove someone from our mailing list.

TO ALL SINGERS & MUSICIANS

If you are on the monthly music schedule to sing in either the a.m. or p.m. service and find you cannot do so, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. In addition, would you please notify the church office of such a change. Our thanks to each of you who serve.

The Ministries & Program Council

WHEN THERE IS A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

If there is a death in your immediate family, (Parent, Sibling, Spouse, Child) or in the family of a church member, please notify any member (See Below) of the benevolence committee so the church may send flowers and for food preparation when applicable.

The Benevolence Committee
Mona Orr— Chair
Phyllis Belcher
Sue Ellen Fleming
Diania Murphy
Charlotte Rice

The Memorial Rock

In a sermon, Baltimore pastor John Schmidt told of an experience from more than 30 years ago. While he was walking through the French Quarter in New Orleans, two men asked him for a handout. He offered to go buy them some food if they were hungry.

The men agreed they needed food, so the three of them walked to a grocery store. Schmidt bought bread, bologna, mustard and milk. When he gave the food to the men, one had tears in his eyes.

Reaching into a

pocket, that man brought out a pretty rock. "Look," he said, "I have nothing to give you for doing this. But I've been carrying around this beautiful rock, and I want you to have it."

From the pulpit, Schmidt then held up the rock to show the congregation. He'd kept it for three decades as a reminder of the men and their gratitude for his kindness.

"I have to be concerned about the people around me," Schmidt said. "Even if they look like they

aren't being responsible with their lives, I'm called to love them because God loves them."



Sunday School Drawing

The winner for the month of June was
Claira Bennetts .

Congratulations Claira!

Adventure Club begins

Wednesday, August 27th.

**Invite a friend to join the fun and
adventure and learn about Christ!**



WORDS cont'd from pg. 1

another. Many years ago when I first entered pastoral ministry, I purchased what is known as a Christian Ministers Manual. This little black book has my name on the cover engraved in gold. It says, "Rev. Ben Murphy" just the same as most of my leather bound Bibles. I have had it for many years. It gives guidelines for weddings, funerals, and various ordinance services held in the church. I have recorded each marriage and each funeral that I have performed in this little book.

In the wedding section, there are listed three possible wedding ceremonies. (I usually try to stick to the one called 'The Traditional Ceremony' but I even offer to the prospective bride and groom many other options.) But in the wedding section, under (a) A Brief Ceremony, (b) The Traditional Wedding Service, (c) and The Contemporary Service, I find the same wording to hold true concurrently. Each begins by the reciting of the marriage vows or in the more lengthy service, the dec-

laration of consent. Each of these charges is to a "groom" and a "bride." I suppose, if things continue as they are, I will eventually have to purchase two additional Manual's. I will keep the one that I have for "Groom and Bride"; purchase one for "groom and groom" and one for "bride and bride!" (I don't think that it will be easy for me to say, "Do you Larry take Harry?" or "Do you Mary take Sherry?") Scuttlebutt has it that in the future, if pastors such as myself, refuse to

recognize homosexual pastors in their pulpit or perform a same sex marriage that the pastor can be subject to fines, arrest or both.

Now, here's the real issue to me. Same sex marriages are going to happen. But we in the majority are losing our voice as to whether we want to recognize them or not. On May 15th, the California Supreme Court imposed, through judicial decree, the legality of same sex marriages. We say, "No big deal. That's California and all California's are nuts anyway!" But not so fast. Don't be too quick to judge all Californian's by their Supreme Court. You see, Californians had already voted down the recognition of same sex marriages in 2000. "Proposition 22" was made into law to protect the sanctity of marriage and maintain the definition of "marriage" as being between "one man and one woman!" "Proposition 22" expressly prohibited the state from recognizing same sex marriages. But again, the will of the majority was thwarted; the 'people' has been circumvented by a corrupt jurisprudence system. In other words, what the people want in this land is no longer important. This ruling, and others like it being proposed each day shows the contempt that many in our nation have for democracy. This decision by California's Supreme Court should be a 'wake up call' for the rest of the nation. The Supreme Court has essentially rendered Californians votes worthless with total disregard for the democratic system.

Where does this leave us? With state courts overpowering the ideals of the

people, where will we end up? Massachusetts has done a similar thing in its state laws. They too are recognizing same sex marriages, much to the disgruntlement of their constituency. What all of this means is that you and I will some day have no say-so at all. We will be virtually wasting our time going to the voting booth. Many feel that way now in many of our political elections. We vote, not for a candidate, but against a candidate. We cast our vote often for the lesser of two evils. What a sad state of affairs has our state of the union reached when voters want to see such beautiful things as marriage kept sacred between a man and a woman, and the courts can choose to discard the choosing of the people.

You know, I think God is very unhappy right now with this nation. It is no longer "one nation under God" but "one national disgrace trying to avoid the presence of God!"

Last evening, I watched the Larry King Show which was conducting an interview with former professional wrestler and former Minnesota Governor, Jesse Ventura. The former Governor has for weeks now been considering running for Minnesota's U.S. Senate seat. He has proposed running as an independent. His belief is that you can't trust anyone on either of the two major party tickets, for state or national elections. During this interview, Mr. Ventura made a comment about current President, George W. Bush. When pressed by Mr. King about whether or not he would place his name on the ballot for Senator by 5:00 p.m. the next day, (July 15th), Mr. Ventura replied,

"Well, you know Larry, President Bush was asked if he consulted his father (former President George H.W. Bush) before going to war in the Middle East. Mr. Bush said that he had talked with and been advised to go to war by a "higher Father" (meaning God!)" Then Mr. Ventura said, "Larry, I have never heard from God in my 57 years on earth. He has never spoken to me and I have never spoken to him. But if He speaks to me and tells me to run for the Senate between now and 5 o'clock tomorrow, I will then run! It will take an act of God!"

(Mr. Ventura, don't hold your breath.)

To Mr. Ventura I would say if I were given the opportunity to chat with him: "Mr. Ventura, maybe you have never heard from God, I can't say. But Mr. Ventura, the day will come when you will hear from God. It may be the last words you hear, but you will hear from God!"

And to the people who force-feed us every sin and degradation known to man by enacting laws against the sanctity of the laws of God and the democratic will of the people, you too shall hear from God. And He will say either; "Well done good and faithful servant," or "Depart from me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you!"

Church: we must "stay on the path!"

'Twas the Day After Bible School

'Twas the day after Bible school
and all over town,

With a sigh of relief, we all settled
down.

Out to the golf course goes Dad in
his cap,

And home in the bedroom Mom's
taking a nap.

Gone Linda, gone Brenda, gone
David and Johnny,

Gone Margie, and Mary, and
Ronnie and Donnie.

Gone stories, and puppets, and
songs in the air,

Gone paint under fingernails and
paste in the hair.

Rest sweetly, dear workers, and
wake with good cheer,

For Bible school won't come again
for a year.

As they drifted off, I heard them
exclaim:

"It was worth all the hard work
and we'd do it again!"

Congratulations to newlyweds

Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Stanley

July 19, 2008

**Kevin Spencer
in Concert
August 31st, 11 a.m.**