

October 2011

Pastor-Advisory Board

Rev. Bill Bates
Destiny Christian Center, Centralia

Rev. Earl Bradley
Capital Region Ministries, Olympia

Rev. Randy Burtis
Luis Palau Crusades

Rev. Mike Fogaras
Gateway Christian Center, Olympia

Dr. Stephen Hammond
Cornerstone Bible Church, Enumclaw

Rev. Ted Hanson
Abundant Life Fellowship, Bellingham

Rev. Scott Manley
Flood The Sound, Olympia

Rev. Scott Montagne
Bayside Community Church, Kingston

Rev. Jon Oletske
Stone Church, Yakima

Rev. Ken Parsley
Church on the Move, Yakima

Rev. Jim Ripley
Neighborhood Christian Cntr, Tumwater

Rev. Reuben Sapien
The Sanctuary Church, Lynnwood

Rev. Dan Secrist
Faith Assembly of Lacey

Rev. Tim Taylor
Watchman Ministries International

Rev. Dwain Wolfe
New Horizons Christian Center, Fife

Board of Directors

Paul Middleton
Chairman, Olympia

Jim Winterstein
Secretary/Treas., Olympia

Scott Blanton
Vancouver

Bob Higley
Olympia

Dorsey Holt
Shelton

Jere Irwin
Yakima

Peggy Kirk
Montesano

Dick Raport
Camano Island

Jim Robinson
Spokane

Fred Weiss
Bellevue

Rick Forcier
Executive Director

Staff

George Gauntlett
Data Administration

Beth Davis
Accounting

Julie Gallagher
Prayer Coordinator

Rusty Howell
Field Director

Steve Matthews
Field Director

A Grand Old Circular Firing Squad?

There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health.

--Proverbs 12:18

It was Otto von Bismarck that said “Laws are like sausages; it is better not to see them being made.” He also said “Politics is the art of the next best.” So it is with the presidential nominating process. Mostly grinding and not pretty to watch. Worse, the most suitable candidate may be benched after the very first state primary contest of 2012. Maybe sooner.

The first presidential hopeful to officially announce his intentions this year (April 21) was former New Mexico governor, Gary Johnson. Although he participated in an early Fox News presidential debate, he hasn’t said much since. He may be on the lam. Johnson needs to surface—and soon.

The quickest in-and-out presidential prospect was former two-term governor of Minnesota, Tim Pawlenty. He announced his candidacy on May 23 and dropped out August 14, one day after the Ames, Iowa straw poll. It appears that Pawlenty supplied local GOP voters with reasons to vote against fellow Minnesotan Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, but failed to make a case for why they should vote for him.

Pawlenty placed in question Bachmann’s fitness for the big dance. He called Bachmann’s accomplishments “nonexistent,” adding, “She speaks of leading these [conservative] efforts in Washington and Minnesota,” [but], “Leading and failing is not the objective.”

Returning the favor, Bachmann shot back, “When you were governor, you implemented cap-and-trade in our state and you praised the unconstitutional individual mandate.” “You said the era of small government is over. That sounds a lot more like Barack Obama if you ask me.” Bachmann won the Ames, Iowa presidential straw poll.

Not showing at all well in any poll is Jon Huntsman, Jr., former governor of Utah. He has distanced himself from many conservatives saying the Republican Party is becoming the “anti-science party.” Huntsman also refused to sign pledges from such groups as the pro-life Susan B. Anthony List and the National Organization for Marriage—evidence perhaps, that he is on a trip to nowhere.

Another struggling presidential contender is one of the most enduring political figures of the past three decades—best known for his game-changing “Contract with America.” Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich is exceptionally bright, articulate, and consistently scores well in televised debates. Were it not for his two former marriages along with nagging tales of social “dalliances” as recent as the late 90’s, he would be the runaway darling of most conservatives. As it is, his closet is much too full for presidential rummaging.

And, there is U.S. Rep Ron Paul, well-grounded in constitutional studies and fiscal matters, but clearly lacking common sense in other areas. His call to ignore Iran as a nuclear threat and to

legalize heroin and prostitution may win applause at a CNN debate, but it won't play in Peoria.

Speaking of Michele Bachmann, her star began to rise when Pawlenty tried to portray her as a featherweight. So when Governor Rick Perry of Texas entered the race on August 14 (as Pawlenty was heading for the exit), Bachmann decided to do for Perry what Pawlenty did for her.

"There are many important issues in the presidential campaign—including the role of government, abuse of executive power and crony capitalism," Bachmann said in a web video alluding to Rick Perry's one-time executive order requiring young girls to receive inoculations against a sexually-transmitted disease that can cause cervical cancer. "Whether it's Obamacare or Perry care, I oppose any governor or president who mandates a family's healthcare choices..."¹

Reaction to Bachmann's attack against the newest presidential entrant was swift and certain. They passed each other—Perry rocketing to the top of polls and Bachmann free-falling to the middle of the pack.

As an instant "front-runner," it was Rick Perry's moment to enhance or diminish himself before a large audience who knew very little about him. So what did he do? He attempted to tell viewers (rather inarticulately and unconvincingly) why rival Mitt Romney would make a terrible president—even calling him a hypocrite to his face. Polls suggest that Perry has been voted off the island—at least for now. However, due to his impressive war chest, Perry could reignite down the road.

Former U.S Senator Rick Santorum, is "a former," because he angered the base of his Pennsylvania party in 2004 by backing liberal Arlen Specter for reelection rather than conservative newcomer Pat Toomey. Toomey (now U.S. Senator Toomey) subsequently defeated Specter in a 2010 primary, obviously winning the general election as well. Santorum, a solid social conservative, is a good man who made a bad call.

Another good man, but not previously credentialed of as a social conservative, is candidate Mitt Romney, former governor of Massachusetts. Romney embodies all the personal and physical attributes that attract followers, plus successful executive experience in the business sector. As a debater, few are his equal. He has learned what John F. Kennedy knew in 1960, but Richard Nixon didn't. The lens of the TV camera is your best friend—or worst nightmare. Romney is ever aware that viewers look first for someone pleasant and "likeable." He certainly presents himself as friendly, confident, and in charge.

Mr. Romney also has his own house in order. A solid marriage and a quiver full of children and grandchildren attest to his lifelong priorities. If he has a glass jaw, it's his record as governor. Though a supporter of traditional marriage, Massachusetts became the first state to legalize homosexual marriage on his watch. In the past he supported Roe v. Wade, (that's changed), the assault weapons ban, and the Brady Bill. He believes, or did, in man-made global warming. Romney is also haunted by Obamacare that the current president says was modeled after RomneyCare. He polls well, but clearly has some "splainin'" to do.

And, finally, there is former Godfather's Pizza CEO, Herman Cain—a man with a very impressive biography. He is not only an accomplished business leader, but also a former chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. He appears as fit for command in the White House as any of his rivals. But we digress.

The harsh spirit surfacing in the debates, concerns more than a few of us. While a number of proverbs concerning the "lips" and "tongue" come to mind, what about Ronald Reagan's 11th commandment, or better, the *Golden Rule*?

O candidates, hear ye; Make all the sausage you want. But be wise. Wait until after you get elected.

Rick Forcier

¹ Michele Bachmann Blasts 'PerryCare' In New Web Video, ABC News, 9/16/2011