

The issue of SCOTUS and writing law brings us to another important issue, the vacant seat of Justice Anthony Kennedy, a mostly conservative Supreme Court Judge. Kennedy grew up in the home of a lawyer and followed in his father's footsteps. As a lawyer, he studied and taught constitutional law and was essentially an obscure judge in the Federal Court of Appeals being nominated and confirmed to the Supreme Court in 1988. Politically, things were very different in the Reagan Administration and President Reagan was clear what his understanding of a supreme court justice should be. There are two schools of thought as to the constitution, one is the text is a living idea which should evolve and unfold with culture and the second which says the text is binding and it is the job of a judge to interpret cases by the grammar and purpose of the existing document and its original intent. The latter means the laws were written as fundamental laws under which all decisions can be made and applied. (Theologically this is like the Ten Commandments and the battle for how to interpret and understand Scripture. That's another article...)

Kennedy was actually the third nominee for the seat the other not making it through the Democratic held Senate. Election of SCOTUS judges are the most binding and crucial decisions any president will make because they are lifetime appointments. Additionally, judges can portray one ideology and unforeseeably over time change their position on issues of interpretation. Several presidents through the years have regretted certain appointments. Kennedy essentially became a "moderate of sorts" (my definition) on the court being the deciding vote in a group of nine judge which was seemingly split 4 to 4; in the majority of cases in which there would be a five-four decision, the fifth vote would have been Anthony Kennedy. Thus, some have said he was the most powerful man in Washington and often lawyers felt they were arguing their cases basically to one judge. To illustrate this, Justice Kennedy was the deciding vote no less than 20 of his 31 terms. No more important decisions have been made than his swing vote in 1992 in a case which had the potential to reverse Roe v. Wade and was elected with some hope he may be that vote. He was not and actually upheld Roe v. Wade, though with some constitutional restrictions it placed abortion access into the hands of the state legislatures. The battles have raged on since, including a ban on partial birth abortion which he upheld (that's a good thing) in 2007.

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However, his impact continues to be felt through the current tide of sexual revolution related to homosexuality. Two years before his appointment, the Supreme Court upheld the right to criminalize homosexual behavior. In 2003, Kennedy was the deciding vote which outlawed any criminalization of homosexual acts and 10 years later in 2013 he was once again the swing vote and writer of the majority opinion striking down the defense of marriage act which opened the door to the 2015 case which struck down all state laws refusing to validate and recognize same-sex marriage. Justice Kennedy is perhaps the single most important figure in the moral revolution in the United States and his seat is now vacant. This is a major political moment in the history of our country. President Trump has had the opportunity to place one justice of the US Supreme Court, replacing the late Justice Antonin Scalia with Neil Gorsuch. This did not change the ideological composition of the court, it just replaced like for like. However, replacing Anthony Kennedy will almost assuredly change the court's natural slant. President Trump made clear during his campaign he would appoint judges with strict "the text of the constitution is binding" understanding of the Constitution and now he will have the opportunity to make good on this promise. In fact, these appointments were part of the rationale why many Christians and some others voted for him in the first place. Considering there are 2 other judges in their 80's, (85 and 80, Kennedy was 82), all appointments become very crucial to the slant of the highest and most influential court in the land. This will indeed be a battle in the weeks to come as we see the nominee and go through the confirmation hearings, which are promised to happen soon with a nomination pending in the fall. Whether or not past decisions like Roe or Obergefell can or will be reversed is a topic for another discussion and will be the topic of another hearing for sure. Make no mistake about it this may be the most important decision of the next 20 years for our nation. It is our duty to pray for this appointment and to remember no court can legislate morality and especially not holiness but by protecting certain aspects of culture we may allow freedom and democracy a longer life. If we desire democracy to continue then we must utilize our freedom to set others free from the bondage of sin. God gave us the tool of freedom and He can take it away. Let us honor this gift of national freedom and freedom from sin by obeying His Word and Sharing His Word with others in a way that makes the gospel known and makes God glorious!



SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2018

*Morning Worship Service*

**Welcome & Prayer**

**So Will I**

*"If the stars were made to worship, so will I."*

**Clear the Stage**

*"Worship is more than a song."*

**Dead Man**

*"You saw this wretch and gave him life.  
Forever I'll praise you!"*

**Redeemed**

*"I am redeemed. You set me free. So I'll shake  
off these heave chains and wipe away every stain.  
Now I'm not who I used to be.  
I am redeemed."*

*Evening Worship Service*

**# 518 Shall We Gather at the River**

**Invocation & Welcome**

**# 433 Rejoice in the Lord Always**

**# 140 Down at the Cross**

**Worship Through Testimonies & Prayer**

**# 15 Come, Thou Fount**

**of Every Blessing**

**# 305 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus**

Just a few weeks ago the Supreme Court handed down a decision in favor of Jack Phillips in the Masterpiece Cakeshop decision. Though the decision was 7-2, in the extensive article covering that decision I highlighted the phrase "narrow victory" as used by the opposition. This week the warnings of what the cakebaker's ruling didn't cover comes to light when the supreme court decided not to decide about a florist in Washington State who was found guilty of violating rights of LGBT persons by refusing, based on her Christian conscience, to create floral arrangements for a same-sex wedding. The owner of Arlene's flowers has employed and served members of the LGBT community but when asked specifically to create arrangements for a long-time client and friend's same-sex wedding she politely declined and recommended another florist. Word spread and the attorney general of the state of Washington, with the ACLU close behind, filed suits against her business and her personally. After lengthy legal battles and appeals this case went to the Supreme court which decided not to decide. The Supreme court kicked the case back to Washington State to decide considering the decision recently made by SCOTUS on the Jack Phillips Masterpiece Cakeshop decision. However, the wording in that case points to the state level courts describing Jack's faith as "despicable" and likening an individual's faith to large scale abuses in the name of religion like the "holocaust and slavery". As we pointed out the shortcomings of the rulings now we see how those shortcomings will play out in the war of words and legal jargon. The 7-2 victory was not numerically narrow, but it was narrow when it came to the argument and the wording of the decision. Battles are fought over words and this will be the battle which goes back to Washington State. Were Mrs. Stutzman's rights under the first amendment violated by the courts or the actions of the attorney general. In other words, will the courts in Washington overturn their own decision or one of their peers? The application might be very narrow and while there has been a substantial victory for the first amendment and the protection of free speech and freedom of religion there are a lot of legalities yet to play out. There are still no clear legal guidelines, by any stretch of the imagination, of how this nation will protect religious freedom and freedom of speech, which by the way are inextricably linked, considering the moral and sexual revolution. The rights of all must be protected and at some point, some legal clarity must be written into law.

**HizKidz Ministry**  
 Is collecting items for Back-to-School.  
**Backpacks,**  
**Basic school supplies,**  
**Toiletry items,**  
**&**  
**Monetary donations**  
 (For individual needs)

# JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 YOUTH LED WORSHIP SERVICE JULY 8TH	9 6pm Stewardship Meeting	10	11 6:30 Business Meeting	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19		21
22	23 6pm Personnel Comm. Meeting	24	25 5PM Nominating Comm Meeting	26	27	28
29	30	31 	 ARE YOU READY TO... Love LOUD Coming August 2018	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

**YOU'RE INVITED**

**Mr. Hinton Shackelford's 91st Birthday Celebration**

Resthaven

Saturday, July 21

Drop in any time between 2:00pm - 3:00pm

*\*No gifts...just friends!\**

Contact Renee with any questions  
863-781-0878

**Happy Birthday!**

**Today**  
 Ray Durrance  
**July 10**  
 Beth Radford  
**July 13**  
 Renee McClenithan  
 Ezekiel Pollard

**Sunday Services**

- Nursery.....25
- Morning Worship.....104
- Evening Worship.....50

**Giving Record**

- Budget Needs/Week .....\$7,056.00
- Tithes & Offering .....\$7,714.65
- Difference.....658.65
- Designated..... \$.00

1999 State Road 64 East - Wauchula, Florida 33873  
 (863) 773-2101 - www.newhopewauchula.com

Rev. Christopher M. Bishop - Senior Pastor - 781-5572 (Cell)  
 Rev. Marc Pollard - Student Pastor - (318) 286-5032 (Cell)  
 Rev. David E. Radford - Minister of Music - 781-9675 (Cell)

**COUNTING COMMITTEE - JUNLY2018**  
 Jo Smith, Helga Shackelford, Sandra Moore

**WEEKLY CAMPUS ACTIVITIES**

Sundays

- 9:30 A.M. Media Center Open
- 9:45 A.M. Sunday School - Education Building
- 11:00 A.M. Morning Worship Service - Sanctuary
- Kids' Church K-5
- 6:30 P.M. Evening Worship - Sanctuary

Wednesday

- 5:00 P.M. Women's Bible Study
- 6:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Live (TUPOS)
- G.A.'s, R.A.'s, Mission Friends - Kids Bldg.
- Women's Bible Study
- Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study - Ed. Bldg.

**USHERS OF THE WEEK**  
 Winston Smith  
 Kole Robertson  
 Matt Chapman  
 Binky Graham

**DEACON OF THE WEEK**  
 July 8-14  
 Johnny Trammell 781-0444  
 July 15-21  
 Winston Smith 832-0684

**WELCOME TO NEW HOPE**



If you're visiting us for the first time, we invite you to fill out a visitor packet in the pew in front of you and drop it in the offering plate.  
*We're so glad you're here!*

**TUPOS**  
 STUDENT MINISTRIES

**UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES...**

 UPCOMING YOUTH  
 FRIDAY, JULY 20TH  
 DINNER @ 5PM

**JULY 31ST** 