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Greater Cincinnati

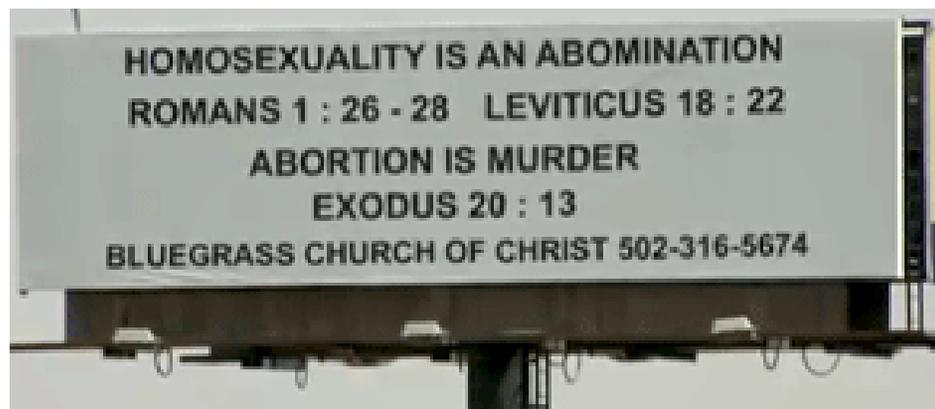
GLBT_Q News

Serving the Cincinnati LGBT Community since 1996

Old Testament church strikes again

The Kentucky Equality Federation has been informed by concerned citizens in Lexington that the Bluegrass Church of Christ has reinstalled their billboard, which compares homosexuality to abortion, then condemns both.

“The billboard in question was the center of a nationwide firestorm, which unfairly turned Lexington and Kentucky into a brief national laughing-stock,” said Kentucky Equality Federation President Joshua Koch. “While Kentucky



Equality Federation supports the church’s right to free speech, this speech is embarrassing Lexington and the community, as well as needlessly trying to drive a wedge between well-meaning people.

According to a recent article in Lexington’s

Herald-Leader newspaper, the amount spent on the initial sign, rental, and the replacement is about \$9,100.00 so far,” Koch continued. “Jesus once said, ‘And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the

name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”

“I can’t help but wonder how many cups of water, shelters for the needy, or food for the hungry could have been obtained for \$9100. It’s sad that driving people

away from God is more important to this church. Apparently, the Bluegrass Church of Christ and Christ Himself have very different priorities.

We must stand firmly for the right of each individual to pursue their happiness, their life and their liberty, not just because our republic is based on that principle, but because that is the principle on which God, the Bible and Christianity is established.”

Minister Edith Maker, Ph.D. Kentucky Equality Federation’s

Religious Communities Outreach Director also commented on the issue.

“In a world of so many uncertainties, it is both relieving and refreshing to know that the God of the Bible is redeeming and restoring,” Minister Baker said. “He is a God of Love, who revealed himself clearly through Jesus when He admonished each of us to love one another. While God and the Bible have been used to condemn the science of planet rotation (*Galileo 1500s*), mental

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(through the 1950s), and forbidding marriage between blacks and whites (as late as 1967), we have come to realize these are misinterpretations and misrepresentations of God and the Bible.

Unfortunately, these misrepresentations of God and the Bible have been forged as a mechanism for control. Today, many are repeating these same false ideologies in their opposition to same-sex relationships. Just as

blacks have been liberated to worship God as well as the mentally ill, left-handed people and women, homosexuals must also be liberated by the church to pursue their relationship and completeness in Christ.”

Jordan Palmer, founder and previous president of Kentucky Equality Federation who is still recovering, also commented for the first time since he stepped down for health reasons.

“I am outraged by

selfish churches who, in the name of the Creator spread hatred,” Palmer said. “I did a radio show about this years ago.

“I remind the Bluegrass Church of Christ that The Old Covenant also states that you may sell your daughter into slavery (Exodus 21:7), and it is a sin to have sexual relations with your wife during her monthly menstrual cycle.

Everyone is also morally obligated according to Exodus to

kill their neighbors for working on the Sabbath (Exodus 35:2), and I may not approach the alter of God without perfect vision (Leviticus 21:20), it is a sin for men to trim the hair around their temples and their beard (Leviticus 19:27), and football must be outlawed since toughing the skin of a dead pig makes you unclean. Also, it is a sin for anyone to plant different seeds in the same garden or to wear garments made of two separate materials (Leviticus 19:19).

“I am sick of organized religion taking curtain passages and trying to divide a loving community. Forget the Church, get to know God yourself and Jesus in the New Covenant when he died for our sins.

Fortunately, we do not follow the passages

I have just outlined (and we urge you not to) because Jesus taught us differently. I apologize if I offend anyone for my religious beliefs, but I am sick of people using the Creator to advance their own selfish agendas. It is also not my intention to offend the Jewish community in any capacity.”

Activist Jordan Palmer remains on the board of directors.

Jeff Johnson, Kentucky Equality Federation’s Central Kentucky Regional Director also commented on the issue, “While I would strongly defend the right of this church to purchase billboard space to promote their beliefs, I do believe it is important that we stand publicly against the message delivered.

“I see this billboard as an attempt to incite hatred

and legitimize discrimination by using an umbrella of ‘selective morality.’ The primary message delivered by the Bluegrass Church of Christ is one of judgment and it is in direct contradiction of Christ’s words.

“This is no more than a publicity stunt devised to shame a segment of the community into silence and offer a war cry to another segment with a political agenda to promote. In the grand scheme of things, I believe though unpleasant and offensive, it also serves as a reminder to the entire community that discrimination exists, even in Lexington and the fight for basic Civil Rights is ongoing.”

Special Message from the president

“This press release is especially noteworthy because it is a collaborative effort between the Office of the President, the Central Kentucky Regional Director, and the Religious Communities Outreach Director. Additionally, it is also the first official comment made by our founder and past president, Jordan Palmer, who is still recovering. That the issue has inspired him to speak

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“Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease, only love can do that.” Martin Luther King

“Always be yourself,” from Billy Elliot

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Paul Delph

This publication is dedicated to those who have or have died from AIDS or Hate Crimes

It is our goal to record the positive contributions GLBT people make to their community and the local community at large. While AIDS and Hate CRIMES are certainly not positive things, we seek to draw the positive from the negative. We hold up Paul Delph and Matthew Shepard and their families as models of how human beings should or could react to each other and how families should support loved ones whose lives are not in the box right wing religious zealots want them in. Delph, a multi-talented Cincinnati, died of AIDS in 1996. His mother shut down her business to care for him. Shepard died in 1998, victim of a hate Crime and his mother worked for years to get passed a national Hate Crimes Bill, which is now law.



Matthew Shepard

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publicly on the matter illustrates its gravity,” even in Lexington and the fight for basic Civil Rights is ongoing.”

Art Opening

Visit the The Crazy Fox Saloon Saturday beginning at 7 p.m. for their latest Art Opening featuring the works of Shawn Charton. The artist will be on hand to answer questions and discuss his pieces, and there will be light snacks to nibble on. These fine works are available for purchase, a Great Way to fill your walls with Beauty!

Shooters is 25

On July 7, 1987 Howard Sharon bought WG Magic (*Where Gays Meet and Gather in Cincinnati*) and it later become Shooters .

Join them for a Catered Affair celebrating 25 year. The party begins at 8 p.m. There will be a live show.

You gotta tell Facebook friends

Facebook users are a diverse lot. Members post everything from a picture and caption of what they ate for lunch (“OMG! So interesting!”) to breaking news that they just bought a puppy.

Posts, or status updates, range from the embarrassing to heart-felt and regardless of how any of us feels about it, Facebook and its army of loyal “friends” are here to stay ... and post and upload and share every moment of their lives.

One of the most interesting things that Facebook has visibly changed about society is the way people go about declaring and showing their love and affection. Remember when flowers and a card reading, “I Love You” expressed your emotions? Today, your relationship is not com-

plete until you post that you are “in a relationship with XX.” Likewise, your breakup is not complete until you tell the world you “went from being in a rela-

tionship to single.” Both must be posted on Facebook, of course (*in many cases, the second notice following the first in a matter of days; or hours*).

Two personalities come out in same week

This week has become a big one for the Gay, Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender community.

First, CNN talk show host Anderson Cooper came out in an email to writer Andrew Sullivan, which was very nonchalant and now R&B singer Frank Ocean has come out as well. Ocean belongs to the hip hop collective Odd Future and has written some songs for singer Justin Bieber, John Legend and Beyoncé.



Cooper



Ocean



Harriet Courter

I attend The Gathering to fellowship with and learn from the Gatherers.

Our commitment to social justice inspires me!

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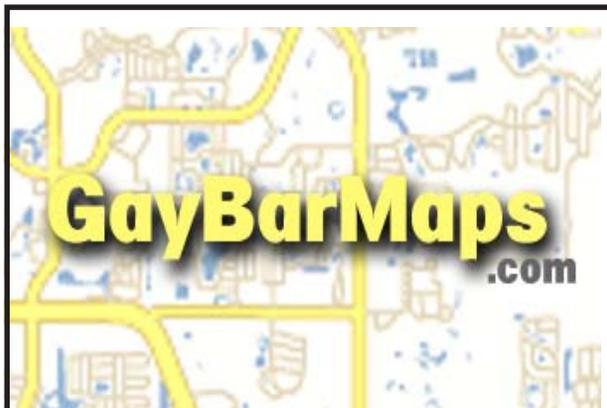
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<http://www.cincyglbt.com/volunteers>



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