

Strengthening & preserving marriage, family, life & liberty

Naughty or Nice?

On the "Nice" List

- ☆ Amazon.com
- ☆ Bed Bath & Beyond
- ☆ Best Buy
- ☆ Cabela's
- ☆ Costco
- ☆ Family Dollar
- ☆ Hallmark
- ☆ Hobby Lobby
- ☆ JC Penny
- ☆ Kmart
- ☆ Kohl's
- ☆ Kroger
- ☆ Macy's
- ☆ Neiman Marcus
- ☆ Office Max
- ☆ Sears
- ☆ Target
- ☆ Toys R Us
- ☆ Wal-Mart/Sam's Club
- ☆ Visit www.afa.net

Marginalizing "Christmas"

- ☆ Bath & Body Works
- ☆ Dollar Tree
- ☆ Hy-Vee Stores
- ☆ Old Navy
- ☆ Limited Brands
- ☆ Starbucks
- ☆ Walgreens
- ☆ Whole Foods
- ☆ Visit www.afa.net

On the "Naughty" list

- ☆ Banana Republic
- ☆ Barnes & Noble
- ☆ CVS
- ☆ Gap Stores
- ☆ L.L. Bean
- ☆ Office Depot
- ☆ Radio Shack
- ☆ Staples
- ☆ Visit www.afa.net for more information.



National Marriage Week

If you have questions or need help implementing National Marriage Week activities at your church, feel free to contact Eric Skelton.

(P) 608-558-8224
eskelton@wifamilycouncil.org



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Celebrating Christmas Year-Round

Every New Year, when the decorations come down, the parties stop and the snow accumulation looks less like Christmas and more like an inconvenience, our tendency can be to move out of the generous Christmas spirit and into the dol-drum of cabin fever. It's a decidedly tragic tendency. During the month of December, Christians, as a group, are typically much better at living out their faith than they are the rest of the year. Visiting nursing homes, caring for the children of prisoners, giving gifts, feeding the poor, overlooking transgressions in order to spend holiday-time with family—now that's the Christmas spirit! In fact, it bears a great deal of resemblance to the spirit, or mind, of Christ described in Philippians 2:7-8 and the true religion of James 1:27.

The Christmas celebration doesn't have to be confined to the month of December—in fact it shouldn't be. What can you do this Christmas to prepare for a year of celebration? Here are a couple suggestions.

- ☆ Instead of visiting the nursing home once a year, put aside time to go back and visit regularly.
- ☆ Continue your ministry to fatherless and/or motherless children by setting up monthly donations to the appropriate organization, or scheduling volunteer time.
- ☆ Give the gift of time and labor throughout the year to family, friends and neighbors in need.
- ☆ Help out at a soup kitchen or local mission once a month.



The Christmas season is a good reminder that there is a distinct difference between the sphere of government and the sphere of the individual. To put it in perspective, consider the interesting paradox that while we are opposed to government forcibly redistributing our wealth, we believe that, as Christians, we have a responsibility to voluntarily help those in need, as we would minister to Jesus Christ Himself. "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in. I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you

visited me; I was in prison and you came to Me... Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." (Matt. 25: 35-36, 40)

The passage describes activities we might normally associate with government; feeding and assisting the poor, taking care of the sick and disabled, providing shelter for the homeless, and perhaps even inmate programs. But notice something very important—Jesus put the burden of responsibility for the sick, needy and imprisoned not on government but on us, on Christians.

The past few years have been a financially tight time for most of us; so perhaps we're a little more aware of the needs of those around us. Our inclination might be to reserve our hard-earned resources for ourselves but God is the One who owns the storehouses and He is capable of providing for His own!

In I Corinthians 13, Paul paints a picture of the type of sacrificial love that we are called to as children of God. As recipients of God's lavish love, we are well positioned to share His love with those in need. Let's use the resources He gave us to bless those in need year-round.

National Marriage Week, February 7-14, 2011 ~ by Eric Skelton, Director of Marriage & Family Ministry

During National Marriage Week 2011, churches across the country will participate in marriage enrichment activities in their churches and communities. National Marriage Week is a wonderful opportunity for your church to reach out to your congregation and community with marriage-strengthening activities. Here are a few activities your church can do to participate in National Marriage Week.

1. Set aside at least one Sunday on either end of National Marriage Week to talk about marriage in the church. Discuss marriage issues and the church's marriage and family ministry and resources from the pulpit, in Sunday School and small

groups and church communications. View a recent webinar, download a slide presentation and view statistics at marriagewebinar.com. Access sermon and teaching helps at marriageresourcesforclergy.com.

2. Host *The Art of Marriage* by Family Life on February 11, 2011. The Art of Marriage is Family Life's 6-session, day-and-a-half-long video event that is designed to strengthen marriages and provide help and hope for couples. Family Life took many of the key concepts they've taught for more than 30 years at Weekend to Remember® marriage getaways and adapted them for video. For under \$50/couple, you can have a marriage getaway without the con-

ference fee or hotel costs. For more information visit familylife.com and click on "The Art of Marriage" under "What's New."

3. Encourage couples to take The Couple Checkup® from Prepare/Enrich, which is designed for dating, engaged and married couples. Prepare/Enrich offers the check-up for a \$10 discount during National Marriage Week.

I encourage you to be intentional as a church and start planning for National Marriage Week now. Take advantage of these suggestions. National Marriage Week is a good time to promote the value of marriage and strengthen marriages in your congregation and community.

November Elections, A Recap ~Musings by Julaine K. Appling, President

New State Legislature

State Senate

☆ 19 Republicans

☆ 14 Democrats

President:

Michael Ellis (R)

Majority Leader:

Scott Fitzgerald (R)

Minority Leader:

Mark Miller (D)

State Assembly

☆ 60 Republicans

☆ 38 Democrats

☆ 1 Independent

Speaker:

Jeff Fitzgerald (R)

Majority Leader:

Scott Suder (R)

Minority Leader:

Peter Barca (D)



April Elections: Quick Look

It seems way too early to be talking about elections again, but we have another one on the way. This spring we will have just one statewide race on the ballot—a seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court bench is up for election this year. Justice David Prosser is the incumbent and so far he has several challengers.

Depending on where you live, you will also be voting on a number of Appellate and Circuit Court judges, in addition to any local non-partisan races, such as county supervisor, school board, mayor, etc.

☆ Feb. 15—Spring Primary

☆ April 5—Spring General



Closer to the elections, visit WFA's election central site, yourwisconsinvote.org for more information and endorsements.



On Tuesday, November 2, Wisconsin was the only state in the Union to flip both state houses and the governor's office from Democratic to Republican. Wisconsin, typically categorized as a swing state, swung solidly Republican. The good news is that we now have a pro-life, pro-family governor and majority in both houses of the state legislature. My friends, that really is *wonderful* news!

WFA's Political Action Committee (PAC) endorsed Governor-elect Scott Walker and running-mate Rebecca Kleefisch, as well as four of the new State Senators and fifteen of the new State Representatives. It was a good election for WFA PAC, our first real foray into the realm of PACs and endorsements.

As the "new kid on the block," WFA PAC took a very straight-forward approach to endorsements this year. We endorsed candidates based on two criteria. 1) The candidate's position on the issues, character, reputation and voting record were in accord with



WFA's, and 2) The candidate had a campaign strategy and the funding mechanism to implement that strategy.

Using those two criteria, we endorsed in 41 races going into the November 2 election and in 28 of those races, our endorsed candidates won!

We're excited about the prospect of working with the incoming freshmen and incumbent legislators on the urgent issues facing our state.

Naturally, the issue on the front burner for every elected official is the looming \$2.7 billion deficit from last session's state budget and the business climate in the state. After all, "jobs and the economy" was the rally cry of the election.

We support that priority because we know the toll the bad economy has

taken on our most precious resource—our families. Family budgets, family businesses, family plans, and family dynamics have all been affected by the recession and the particularly bad business climate in Wisconsin.

But we believe that state government can do more than one thing at a time. While legislators and the governor are getting the fiscal house in order, it's time to begin addressing some of the social issues that have leaked into the state budget. Planned Parenthood, for instance, gets a \$4 million line-item in every state budget. It's more than time to defund them!

A number of policy items, passed during this last session, need to be undone. The so-called "Healthy Youth Act," which implements Planned Parenthood-style comprehensive sex education in state schools, is one of them.

It comes to this: your elected officials need to hear from you on what issues are most important to you. Accountability is key. See the article, "Grassroots Corner," below!

Grassroots Corner ~ by Amy Lewis, Director of Research, Writing & Media

Now that the election is over, it is tempting to sit back and take a *Que Sera, Sera* approach to politics, particularly if your candidates won. If you're reading this newsletter, however, chances are pretty good that you retain at least a mild interest in political and cultural issues. And that's a good thing, because sitting out this legislative session is a very dangerous choice for conservatives.

Our responsibility does not end with our vote. Christian conservatives are known as the voting bloc that votes and goes home. We go home when we win, and we go home when we lose. And what I mean by "go home" is that we check out after elections; we don't stay engaged.

Of course, that doesn't apply to all conservatives but by and large, that is the conservative voting bloc's typical modus operandi. We cannot afford to check out after this election. We need to encourage our legislators to do the right thing—to stand for marriage,

family, life and liberty.

The next two years will be full of opportunities for you to help shape culture and policy in Wisconsin. Are you in? Great! You can help Wisconsin Family Action work with both sides of the aisle in the State Legislature to strengthen and preserve marriage, family, life and liberty in Wisconsin.

1. Sign up for our email list at wifamilyaction.org or call Amy at 866-849-2536.
2. Become a WFA member. Sign up online at wifamilyaction.org or call us at 866-849-2536. WFA membership comes with no obligations—it simply allows us to communicate more candidly with you regarding critical legislation and elected officials in accordance with the law.
3. Stay informed! Stay up-to-date on current issues via our newsletters, emails and radio updates. Local and state news as well as alternative news sources are also

good options for staying informed.

4. Build a network of friends, family, church members and coworkers with whom you can coordinate to address local issues.
5. Let us know if you are willing to testify at or attend hearings at the Capitol on issues important to you.
6. If you have expertise in a particular area and you are willing to advise, analyze and/or testify in your area of expertise, call or email me at alewis@wifamilycouncil.org.
7. Come to our 2010 Day at the Capitol on March 31, 2011. Call 888-378-7395 for more information.



IGNITE an Enduring Cultural Transformation *Matching Challenge*

We have an opportunity to fan the embers that remain from the elections into a flame that burns for generations to come on behalf of the values we share. It's an exciting opportunity and we want you to be a part of it! WFA is launching its "Ignite" plan—a long-term plan to ignite an enduring cultural transformation in Wisconsin. It's designed to turn the "moment" of the 2010 elections into a "movement" that takes back lost ground in the areas of marriage, family, life and liberty. Contact us at 866-849-2536 if you would like more information about the plan.

Here's the exciting part! A few WFA donors have joined together to offer a matching challenge for the Ignite plan. The Ignite plan calls for raising \$30,000 before year-end. **To help reach that goal, these donors have offered to match every contribution WFA receives up to \$13,000.** That means every donation made to WFA before December 31st will be automatically doubled. Your \$25 contribution is actually \$50. Your \$50 contribution becomes \$100! **Will you consider sending a contribution today?** You can also make your contribution online at www.wifamilyaction.org/ignite.