



Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

Volume 5 Number 2

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Spring 2013

Cost More, Cover Fewer

ObamaCare policies will cost more, cover far fewer than promised
By Betsy McCaughey

The central parts of ObamaCare don't roll out until 2014, but the wheels are already falling off this clunker. The latest news from four federal agencies is that 1) insurance will be a lot less affordable than Americans were led to expect, 2) fewer people than promised will get insurance and 3) millions of people who have coverage through a job now will lose it, thanks to the president's "reforms." Oh, and children are the biggest victims.

The Affordable Care Act is looking less and less affordable.

Start with the IRS's new estimate for what the cheapest family plan will cost by 2016: \$20,000 a year to cover two adults and three kids. And that will only cover 60 percent of medical bills, so add hefty out-of-pocket costs, too.

The next surprise is for parents who thought their kids would be covered by an employer. Sloppy wording in the law left that unclear until last week, when the IRS ruled that kids won't be covered.

Starting in 2014, the law will require employers with 50 or more full-time employees to offer coverage or pay a penalty. "Affordable" coverage, that is—meaning the employee can't be told to contribute more than 9.5 percent of his salary. For example, a worker earning \$40,000 a year cannot be required to pay more than \$3,800.

But the law doesn't specifically mandate family coverage—and now the administration says that won't be required.

You can see why: If the lowest-cost family plan (again, two adults and three kids) is to run a whopping \$20,000, and if the employee's contribution is limited to \$3,800, the employer's tab would be \$16,200—adding about \$7.40 an hour to the cost of that employee. Wisely, the IRS announced on January 30 that employers won't have to pay for dependents.

But the Congressional Budget Office's much-cited prediction that ObamaCare would leave only 30 million people uninsured by 2016 was based on the assumption that kids would be covered by employers. At the very least, employers insuring their workers for the first time to avoid the penalty are unlikely to do that.

So how will the kids be covered? They won't. The IRS shocked the law's advocates by announcing that the insurance exchanges won't provide subsidies for a child whose parent is covered at work.

Nor will these parents be penalized for not insuring their children—the IRS will kindly consider the kids exempt from the mandate.

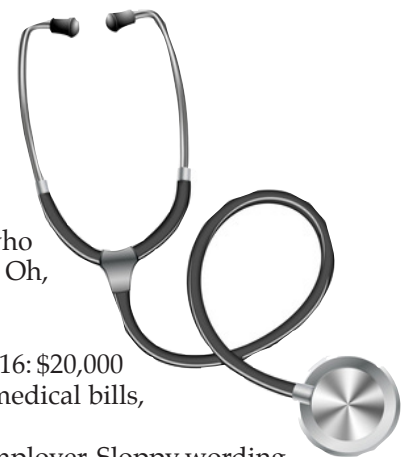
Also exempt are millions of people who'll stay uninsured because their state is wisely choosing not to loosen Medicaid eligibility.

Some background: Despite President Obama's promises to help solve the problem of the uninsured by making private health plans more affordable, the law expands coverage mainly by forcing states to loosen their Medicaid eligibility rules. But the Supreme Court ruled that the feds can't command states in this way.

At first, the CBO said that ruling would only prevent 4 million people from gaining coverage—but more states than it expected are refusing to go along; it could well be 8 million more without coverage.

Oh, and the CBO last week also doubled its previous estimate on how many people will lose the health coverage they now get through work, upping the figure to 8 million by 2016 and 12 million by 2019. Several top consulting firms put the figures even higher.

Yet the biggest setback is that most states are refusing to set up insurance exchanges. The exchanges are supposed to sell the government-mandated plans and hand out taxpayer-funded subsidies to most enrollees.



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MARCH FOR LIFE 2013

By Rev. Anthony Petracca

It was good to be back on the bus again. I had been living out west for several years, and so did not have easy access to the March for Life in our nation's capital each January.

This unfortunate, but necessary, ritual usually occurs on January 22. However, so as not to clash with the inauguration, the March was moved to Friday, January 25. Since I live in Hollidaysburg, I was placed on the bus that was leaving from St. Therese Church and stopping at St. Mary Church, where I stood shivering (of course) until a kind family invited me to join them in their heated van until the bus arrived. Once everyone was accounted for, we were moving south.

It had been so long since I marched that I was still expecting that we would be dropped off at the ellipse in front of the White House while our bus driver parked out at JFK Stadium for the duration. However, the rally to commence the day has been moved to the center of the National Mall, so we were discharged outside the National Air and Space Museum, from where I made my way down the gravelly path to where lots of people were already congregating for the noon start.

The most striking impression that I received from this throng was how young most of the participants were. Many of the faces and banners bespoke high school and college (including the pace-setters from Notre Dame). I was impressed with how many states were represented, noticing signs from not only nearby places such as PA, VA, MD, NY and OH, but from such far-flung locations as MI, MO, KS, IL, IN, OK, TN, WI, LA, CT, MA, FL, AL, IA, MN, ND and even AZ.

There was an understandable note of sadness in the air because Nellie Gray, the founder of the March for Life, was, for the first time since 1974, not with us. However, the two new leaders of the movement, who coordinated the rally, were full of infectious energy on stage. Others to appear included long-time Pro-Life Caucus leader Chris Smith, Patrick Kelly, Diane Black, our own former senator Rick Santorum with most of his family, John Boehner (via TV linkup), and even Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston, along with several Orthodox bishops, who sang a dirge for the many lost and wounded lives since 1973. One poignant moment occurred when four women stood on stage holding signs that read, "I regret my abortion." The Knights of Columbus were present, manning information booths, while various priests and religious were recognizable in the crowd.

The rally ended at 1:19 p.m., but I did not start moving until 1:55, and only got into stride around 2:10, just in time for the snow to start falling (a yell went up at that moment, since such weather is an old story for the veterans). I was bundled up pretty well with camping gear, but was still happy to be able to start moving. At least a couple of groups were praying the rosary. I noticed no counter-demonstrators, although there was one man who was trying to raise awareness about the children our drones in Afghanistan were killing.

As we passed the Newseum building, with the First Amendment carved into the tall façade, someone remarked how the right to life, guaranteed by our founding principles, was being disregarded for the most vulnerable—ironically.

Because our bus was scheduled to leave around 4:00 p.m., I was not able to finish the March all the way to the Supreme Court, but needed to bail out so that I would not be late for our pick-up at a nearby hotel, which housed a temporary group of vendors. It was there that I took a free bumper sticker from a group called Consistent Life, which sought to end all attacks on human life.

We were soon on our way back, passing through beltway gridlock to the interstate heading north, where the snow, which had been accumulating in D.C., proved not to be a hindrance at all, until we arrived, after a dinner stop, at snowy Hollidaysburg, somewhat after 9:00 p.m.

As I said good-bye to a new friend, a Protestant man who sat next to me down and back, and with whom I discussed both the Bible and travel (which came together this day), I took hope that the truth is slowly but steadily spreading, and look forward to the day when the March for Life will no longer be necessary. ♦



More than half a million people attended the 2013 March for Life in Washington, D.C. January 22 marked the 40th year since the U.S. Supreme Court's tragic abortion decisions, *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*.
—Photos by John Varljen, Jr.



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Above sign appeared on the sides of buses for Hope Pregnancy Center



Fight Against Abortion Goes to Front Line

Citizens Concerned for Human Life covers a ten-county region in central Pennsylvania. In thanksgiving for NO abortion mills in any of our ten Central PA counties, the Bedford County CCHL Chapter began an outreach support of the HOPE Pregnancy

maternity items—a Blessing Room!—supplied through donations from area churches in Philadelphia—a great enabling project!

In 2012, again with the help of churches and individuals in Bedford, Blair, Cambria and Somerset counties, we raised enough money to have bus ads on and inside 16 center-city buses for four months!

The goal is to make the HOPE Pregnancy Center known to more girls experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and at risk of having an abortion. Advertising from the 16 abortion mills surrounding the HOPE Center make abortion sound like a painless, attractive solution to having an abortion. So far from the truth!

It's all about advertising—getting the word out that the HOPE Pregnancy offers real help and guidance in unplanned pregnancies.

There is still so much to do. Wouldn't it be great if we could have bus ads year-round? How about the huge project of renovating the 2nd and 3rd floors of the HOPE Center into apartments for girls making abortion appointments because they have no place to stay? Please pray that we can find the means to continue to support the HOPE Pregnancy Center.

If your church would like to be part of a baby bottle fundraiser between Mother's Day and Father's Day, or some other fundraising venture, to help fund major projects for the HOPE Center, contact Janet Creighton, 814-623-1314.

Thank you to all who have supported this battlefield against abortion in the past. The HOPE Pregnancy Center of Philadelphia extends its thank you to all of you for your prayers and financial support.

*—Janet Creighton, Bedford County Chapter, CCHL
contact@webparish.com*

Center in downtown Philadelphia.

The ONLY Pregnancy Help Center in that area, the HOPE Center is truly on the front line in the battle against abortion. It is surrounded by 16 abortion mills within a two-mile radius!

The HOPE Center has grown from limited services when it first opened in 2008 to being able to offer free counseling, free pregnancy tests, free ultrasounds, and material help in the way of baby and maternity items and emergency monetary help.

Saving babies by helping Moms, the HOPE Center has proven to be a beacon of hope.

In 2008, the Bedford County Chapter helped the HOPE Center open their doors as donations helped pay for renovations of the front of the building.

The following year, 2009, with the help of churches and individuals in Cambria, Somerset and Blair counties, CCHL paid for a sign on their building that gave their phone number and advertised free pregnancy tests. Enough money was raised to pay for solar-sensitive lighting for the sign so the lights would automatically turn on and off.

In 2010, our donations helped pay for an ultrasound machine so that the HOPE Center could offer free ultrasounds for pregnant moms. Did you know that statistics show that 90% of expecting mothers choose life after seeing their baby through an ultrasound? We also helped out by paying some printing costs for the HOPE Center.

As CCHL baby bottle fundraisers steadily grew, 2011 brought enough money to renovate the HOPE Center's basement into a storage area for high chairs, cribs, baby clothes, diapers, all sorts of baby and



Contact Information

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President Barack Obama

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The Honorable Jerry Stern

(District 80-Allegheny Twp. (part), Antis Twp., Bellwood Bor., Blair Twp., Catharine Twp., Duncansville Bor., Frankstown Twp., Freedom Twp., Greenfield Twp., Hollidaysburg Bor., Huston Twp., Juniata Twp., Martinsburg Bor., Newry Bor., North Woodbury Twp., Roaring Spring Bor., Snyder Twp. (part), Taylor Twp., Tyrone Bor. (part), Tyrone Twp. (part), Williamsburg Bor., Woodbury Twp.)

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Legislative Update



Protect Conscience Rights

Nobody should be forced to participate in providing abortions—the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) is asking us to urge members of the U.S. House of Representatives to add their names as co-sponsors of comprehensive new federal legislation to protect the conscience rights of pro-life Americans, including health care providers.

The legislation, the Health Care Conscience Rights Act (H.R. 940), was introduced on March 4 by Congresswoman Diane Black (R-Tn.), in collaboration with Congressman John Fleming (R-La.) and Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (R-Ne.), who were the lead authors of conscience-protection bills in the previous Congress.

H.R. 940 is an enhanced, comprehensive approach to protection of the conscience rights of pro-life Americans—rights which are under assault from the Obama Administration, from many state and local government officials, and from pro-abortion activist organizations and their attorneys.

The bill would amend the Obamacare law so that no American would be forced to sponsor or purchase health insurance that includes abortion or other procedures or drugs that violate their religious or moral convictions. It would codify and strengthen prohibitions on discrimination against pro-life health care providers (including doctors, nurses, and insurers) by any level of government—federal, state or local. In addition, the bill would give pro-life individuals and institutions the right to go to court when their conscience rights are violated, rather than depend on enforcement actions by the Obama Administration.

Contact Rep. Shuster and ask him to add his name as co-sponsor of H.R. 940 to protect conscience rights. For his contact information and details on this issue and other pending legislation, go to: <http://www.capwiz.com/nrlc/issues/bills/>

—National Right to Life Committee
March 8, 2013

Opt Out of Abortion Funding

We need to stop public funding of abortion in Pennsylvania!

Call your state Senator with this message: “I don’t want public funds to pay for abortion in Pennsylvania. Please support Senate Bill 3, which would ensure that Pennsylvania opts out of abortion funding under the health insurance exchange which will operate in Pennsylvania under the federal health care law.”

Call your state Representative with this message: “I don’t want public funds to pay for abortion in Pennsylvania. Please support House Bill 818, which would ensure that Pennsylvania opts out of abortion funding under the health insurance exchange operating in Pennsylvania under the federal health care law.”

If you don’t know who your state Senator and state Representative are, please go to <http://www.house.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyour-legislator/#address>.

The Affordable Care Act, also known as the federal health care law, contains a provision which allows states to opt out of abortion funding in the new health insurance exchanges operating in their state as a result of “health care reform.” Without this legislation, federal dollars will flow to subsidized plans that cover abortion in our state.

—Maria Vitale Gallagher, Legislative Director
Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation
717-541-0034; Gallagher@paprolife.org

March for Marriage

For information on the March for Marriage on March 26, call Dr. Matt Stachmus, 943-5757.

Regional Central Pennsylvania Pro-Life Essay Contest

In the previous Winter 2013 issue of *Blair Life News*, we reprinted the two first-place tie entries in the senior high division of the Pro-Life Essay Contest 2012. Printed below and on the following pages are the two essays that tied for second-place.

Clare Patterson of Hyndman in Bedford County was awarded a \$125 check for 2nd place as a 10th grader. She is earning her high school degree through the cyber school, Connections Academy. Clare also competed in the Regional Oratory Contest being awarded \$100 for capturing 2nd Place.

Marleena Frederick of Carrolltown in Cambria County, shares 2nd place. Marleena graduated from Bishop Carroll Catholic High School last year and is currently a freshman at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA majoring in Forensic Science.

Congratulations to all winners and thank you for your interest in the pro-life cause and all your hard work. The winners of the 2013 contest will be determined soon.

2nd-Place (Tie) 2012 Regional Senior High Essay

How Does Roe Versus Wade Affect Today's Young Woman?

By Clare Patterson



Seventy-three. Thirty-nine. Fifty-million. These are the numbers that mark the anniversary of one of the most disgusting attacks on morals, rights and human dignity. In short, these numbers define the corruption of everything that we, as Americans, hold dear and the souls of young women throughout two generations.

The most disturbing fact of the matter is that the actions of foolish and evil men and women nearly forty years ago are seeking out and destroying teenagers of our generation to this day. At fifteen, while her peers are thinking about schoolwork and dating, she could be encouraged by her elders to commit "legal murder," a heinous moral crime sold to her and those like her as "the right to choose."

Feminism has painted abortion in shades of freedom and personal ambition while, in truth, it is brutally selfish and never excusable. But why are young women—and young men—so susceptible to the ideas that have made killing pardonable in today's society? Who is telling these lies and how are they making them so believable? The media. The politicians who support bills like Obamacare. Even some parents would rather see their grandchild killed than to see their child give up the so-called freedom she would have if she kills her baby. But in reality, she gains not freedom, but is instead tied down by the guilt, depression and helplessness that abortion causes.

Perhaps the guiltiest of this ethical crime are a certain group of feminists who are either too blind or too stubborn to see the truth or who know full well what they have done. Either option is quite frightening. The "new feminism" tells a young woman that she

can do whatever she wants without any fear of the consequences. Girls can feel free, we are told, to act in ways that would have condemned them in the past, without being afraid of having to suffer the results.

It is doubtful whether the feminists who spout these "words of wisdom" would pardon the same girls in parallel situations. If, for example, a young woman killed someone, a grown-up someone, there would be few who would side with her. But when it comes to abortion, murder is not only permissible, but encouraged! Legal abortion "clinics" have cropped up over the country, allowing their disgusting services to be given to or forced upon young, innocent women throughout the nation. Of course to call them clinics is something of an anomaly; it's rather like calling them "murder hospitals."

How do these people force these ideas on the new generation of young women? Such a heinous assault on human life would not be possible if the leaders of it presented the truth in its entirety. If one considers the implications of different words, it is clear how easily words can be twisted. Take, for example, the phrase "termination of pregnancy." The mind does not as quickly connect the scientific-sounding words with the harsh reality. This phrase and "murder of a child" have the same dictionary meaning, but the connotation is much different. It isn't that women considering abortions don't understand the meanings of these words, but chances are that they are trying too hard to defend their actions and will grasp at anything to make their choice pardonable, at least in their own eyes. Accuse them of murder and they will rebel, though facts and logic are not on their side.

But speaking of facts, the tendency of advocates of abortion to manufacture and twist numbers and statistics is alarming. Apparently, these people have no conscience whatsoever. As if convincing teenage girls to commit murder isn't enough, they must back their encouragements with false data. These people pass abortion off as perfectly safe, despite the fact that countless studies have proved the dangers associated with the procedure and its after-effects.

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The PA Pro-Life Federation Presents:

The Central PA Region Pro-Life Town Hall Meeting at the Bedford County Chapter's 9th Annual Dinner

Friday, April 12, 2013 - 5 p.m. - REGISTER NOW!

Crossroads Bible Church, 5564 Business 220, Bedford

Silent Auction 5 to 7 p.m. - Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

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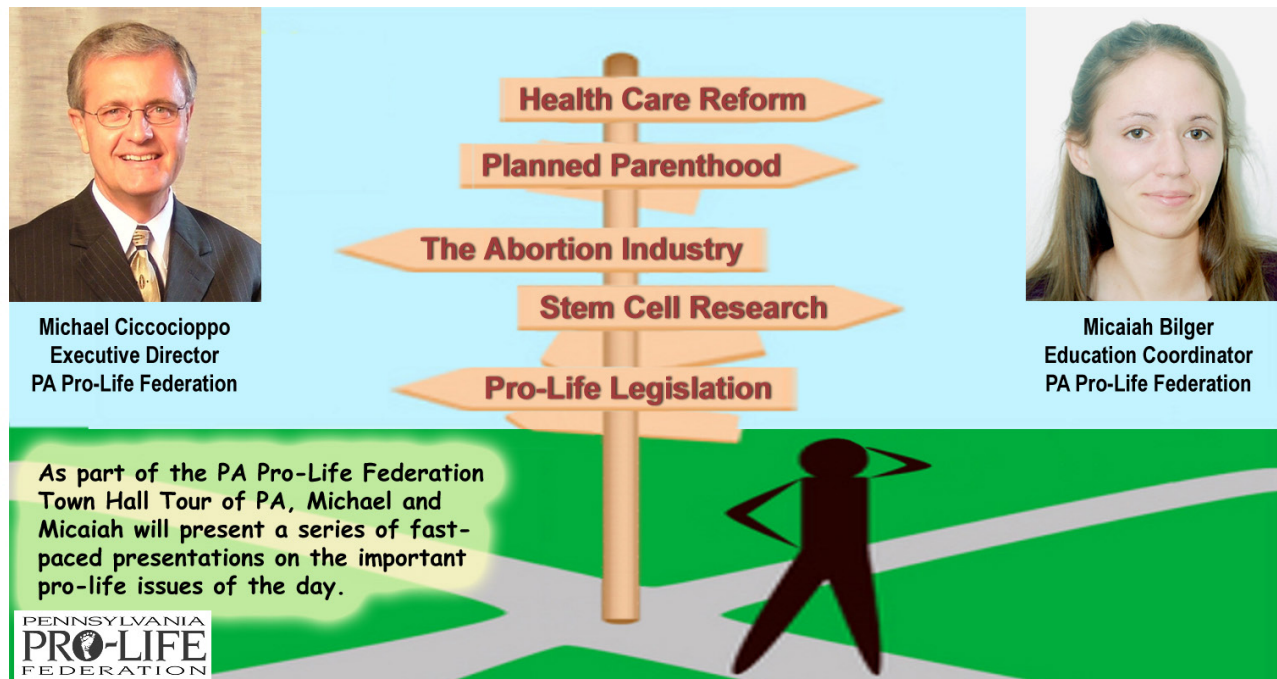
You are welcome to come hear the Oratory Contest winners present their speeches at 7 p.m. after which the Town Hall Meeting will begin.



Michael Ciccocioppo
Executive Director
PA Pro-Life Federation



Micaiah Bilger
Education Coordinator
PA Pro-Life Federation



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A life-or-death decision

By Tom Swift

The result of my breathing test at my August ALS Clinic visit was poor. It was so poor that the time has come for me to decide if I will extend my life by getting a tracheotomy or refuse the tracheotomy and die within the next year. I knew this day would come, but when it did, I felt as if I had been hit in the stomach.

A tracheotomy would be, in my case, a surgical procedure that will create an opening in my windpipe (trachea) in my neck below my Adam's apple (larynx). The surgeon will insert a tube to which a ventilator will be attached. The ventilator will take over from my weak chest muscles the work of bringing air into my lungs. For an ALS patient like me, a tracheotomy and a ventilator offer an extended life that may last for years. They also increase the chances of my reaching a locked-in state in which I cannot move a muscle.

I read an old survey that showed that well over 50 percent of ALS patients chose to die rather than get a tracheotomy and ventilator. If I make the same decision, I will get a doctor's referral to hospice care. I worked seven years as a hospice chaplain, so I know their compassionate and quality end-of-life care. I also know that dying from ALS can be comfortable and dignified. I would not have to struggle for breath. I would eventually fall asleep and not wake up.

This decision I have faced about dying within a few months or extending my life with less quality forced me to ask important questions. What is my life worth? What is my quality of life and what will it be on a ventilator? How much am I willing to endure to live longer? How will my decision affect my children? What do I really want? If I get the tracheotomy, am I doing it out of fear of death or to extend life? What is best for me?

At least I thought these were the important questions. There is a far more important question I must ask. What does God want me to do? I am a Christian. I am a follower of Jesus. I have given my life to God. I have not understood the full ramifications of

that decision until now. My life is not my own to do with simply as I please. My life is to do with as God pleases.

This standard of behavior regarding end-of-life decisions is opposed to the spirit of our age.

Secular culture tells us, "You are the master of your fate. You are in control of your life. What matters is that you are comfortable with your decision. It belongs to you alone."

Christians have a different standard for their behavior. It is not a set of rules or a philosophy. Our standard is the life of Jesus, who did all things to please His Father. His end-of-life decision was "not my will, but Thine be done."

When I look at my decision in this way, it becomes much simpler. God is using me to help people, primarily through my writing, but in other ways, too. God is teaching and shaping me into the likeness of Jesus. As long as God can use me and shape me, I want to live. When the time comes that I can no longer serve God or become more like Jesus, it will be time to surrender my spirit to God.

My decision to extend my life may take me to a locked-in state. I may find myself, like Jesus on the cross, unable to move or breathe. Jesus suffered this death for me. I am willing to suffer this death for Him.

—*Asheville Citizen-Times*, October 7, 2012; reprinted with permission of Tom Swift.

Beloved columnist shares a few words in closing

This is my last article for the *Asheville Citizen-Times* newspaper. I developed pneumonia in early January and I did not recover fully. By the time you read this, I will be dead. I realize that is blunt but I want to be clear. Here are a few thoughts before I go.

...Several of you have written that you have clipped my articles and sent them to relatives suffering illness. This makes me happy. I am amazed that I have had so much influence and have done so much good since I have been ill.

I decided not to get a tracheotomy and ventilator because I would have had to move away. A feeding tube crisis in December convinced me I

needed to stay near friends who could help me. I had made bold statements about living as long as God could use or teach me. They were modified by my fear of dying alone.

Why didn't God heal me? I prayed fervently and frequently for my healing, as did many others, but healing did not come.

Perhaps God saved me from the Alzheimer's disease that started to take away my mother's mind when she was my age. Perhaps God taught me to find hope in hard times. Perhaps God could use me best as a man who is dying rather than living.

I am not afraid of dying and death. I am not afraid of dying because I am in hospice care. The caring and professional staff will make sure I die in comfort and dignity. I am not afraid of death because I am in the care of God who has promised my resurrection to eternal life.

I feel sad about leaving my daughters and their futures behind. They will be sad I will not be there for their weddings, children and love. I hope they will take comfort in the words of C.S. Lewis, "there are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind."

My daughters, Emma and Catherine, were tucking me in bed here at hospice and Catherine was concerned about the position of my head on the pillow. She asked, "Is your head in a good place?" As soon as she said it, we all laughed at the double meaning.

Yes, Emma and Catherine and everyone, my head is in a good place. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Tom Swift died gently and peacefully Thursday, January 24, 2013.

Asheville Citizen-Times Editor's Note: After being diagnosed with ALS in 2007, Tom Swift, then a chaplain for Care Partners Hospice and Palliative Care, began chronicling his own journey with a fatal illness. The columns that resulted have been published in the *Citizen-Times* editorial pages. Though sometimes wistful, even angry and frustrated, Tom's optimism and humor triumphed from beginning to end. This is his final column.

Accompanying this column online are a selection of Tom's columns over the years representing the path of his journey, as well as his grace and wit, along with a photo gallery. Readers wishing to comment may visit <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/tomswift>.

2nd-Place (Tie) 2012 Regional Senior High Essay

How Does Roe Versus Wade Affect Today's Young Woman?

By Clare Patterson

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A particular eminent breast cancer research foundation that we are all doubtlessly familiar with, for example, outright refuses to admit the relation between abortion and breast cancer later in life. In this age, one can't even buy basic medicine that does not have the potential risks printed on the side! But abortions are given to teens that have no idea what they are putting themselves in danger of.

Arguably, more disturbing than the possible future side effects, are the actual abortion processes. Doubtlessly, if more were known about these horrors, fewer abortions would be performed. The descriptions alone are enough to frighten anyone. Late-term abortions are performed on fully-developed fetuses. Though the child is a human being from the moment of conception, the idea of a baby who looks just like most people's idea of a baby can even stir the coldest heart. The effects of abortive drugs, too, are hideous to contemplate. One particular such drug maximizes the chance of the mother seeing her dead child. The emotional trauma is enough to destroy anyone, and teenage girls are just as susceptible as adult women to depression, if not more so. Imagine living life with such guilt.

If only they knew (they being, of course, these young women) the truth about abortion! With the obvious brainwashing going on, it's no surprise. But of course adults of authority, teachers, doctors and others, are far more concerned with encouraging the teenagers' desire for "safe sex," as it is branded. Selfish pleasure with no consequences whatsoever? It sounds incredible, and is. Abortion is ugly, there is no doubt about it. The shocking part is how few teenagers know just how ugly it is. These are the women who are convinced to kill their own children because they would rather do this than be responsible.

More babies are killed every year than any of us are aware of. Who is responsible for this mass murder? And what are these numbers? Seventy-three. Thirty-nine. Fifty-million. How do these numbers define the course that abortion has taken? Seventy-three marks the year in which *Roe versus Wade* legalized abortion. Thirty-nine is the years since then, in which murder has morphed into an easily accessible "solution" and had been presented as acceptable to thousands—no, millions, of innocent young women. Fifty million is the most horrific, the most inexcusable of them all. Fifty million is the number of abortions that have been provided since abortion was legalized. To put that in literal terms, fifty million babies have been murdered in that time.

If this number is difficult to contemplate, which it is, then it may be best to make a comparison. Over six

times as many babies have been killed in the past thirty-nine years than there are people living in New York City according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 count.

How can any American be proud of this number? How can anyone treat this as a victory? Who is blind enough not to see what is happening to young woman throughout the country? This corruption, these lies—forty years of them will be far too long! Can this legislation live to be forty? One more year and this record will be made. Fifty? If no one does anything about it. This brainwashing had been going on too long before it began.

It's time that teenagers, my peers, are shown the truth and liberated from the burden of helplessness in the face of the men and women who urge them to kill. Abortion must become a thing of shame in the eyes of every living human being and the deceptions that cause teenage girls to kill their children must end immediately.

Fifty-million is an enormous number and there are people seeking to make it even larger. Only the truth will save the young women who are daily being pressured to have an abortion. ♦

2nd-Place (Tie) 2012 Regional Senior High Essay

The Fight for Life

By Marleena Frederick



On January 22, 1973, our country took a turn for the worse. On that day, abortion became legal in the United States throughout all three trimesters, for any reason. In the case of *Roe v. Wade*, Roe argued that a woman should have a right to privacy in her life. The fetus is not recognized as a human being and, therefore, has no legal right to life. *Wade* argued for the Pro-Life voice saying that life begins at conception and the States have the duty to protect human life. Unfortunately, we all know who won this case and we continue fighting for the unborn's right to life each and every day.

On January 22, 1994, exactly twenty-one years after the *Roe v. Wade* decision, a young, scared, single mother gave birth to an eight-pound, four-ounce baby girl. Yes, this baby girl was me. My father abandoned us before I was born; my mother, a young girl, was having her first child, alone. As we all know, abortion was an option for her. It would have been easy for her to terminate her pregnancy and maybe no one would have even known she was ever pregnant. It was her "choice" to do what she wanted with her "body." My mother chose life instead. Even though she knew that she couldn't raise me, she gave me the gift of life. January 26, 1994, at just four days old, a loving couple that was going to become

my adoptive parents took me home. Thirteen months later, my adoption was finalized.

Because my mother chose life, I was allowed to grow up and participate in so many different activities.

This past January, I turned eighteen. I am currently a senior at Bishop Carroll High School. I love to dance and play soccer. This year I was elected captain of the soccer team and I was elected President of the National Honor Society at my school. I am also an active member in the Pro-Life Club at Bishop Carroll. In the fall, I will be attending Seton Hill University to pursue a career in Forensic Science.

Since my mother chose adoption, I grew up with a loving family. I live with my mom, dad and my two younger sisters, who are adopted as well. Everyday I give thanks that my mother made her decision to give birth to me. Unfortunately, not everyone gets the right to live.

In the United States alone, there have been over fifty million abortions since 1973. According to recent statistics, there are approximately 1,200,000 abortions per year. That is about 3,288 abortions per day, 137 abortions per hour, 9 abortions every four minutes, and one abortion every 26 seconds.

Those statistics are devastating. It is a terrible thing to think about the number of babies that have been killed in this country. For all we know, one of those human beings that were killed could have been a future president or found a cure for some malignant disease.

We all need to fight for the right to life. We need to speak up for the unborn babies who cannot speak for themselves. I am only eighteen years old, yet I am very active in the Pro-Life movement. Every year around January 22, my birthday, I attend the March for Life in Washington D.C. This past January was my eighteenth March for Life. I volunteer at Birthright, educate kids about the Pro-Life movement at Kids Fair in Johnstown, PA, and I have prayed outside abortion clinics multiple times. I have participated in a day of silence at school for those who have been aborted and I have hosted baby showers for crisis pregnancy centers. If we want to turn the court's decision about abortion then we need to fight for life.

The Pro-Life movement is growing each and every year. In a couple of years the next generation will be running the country. We need to get more people involved in this movement. We can already see progress in the increasing numbers of people joining the Pro-Life movement.

For example, the first March for Life took place in 1974. The number of people in attendance was around 20,000 people. The number of people in attendance at the March for Life in 2012 was approximately 500,000 people. The majority of the marchers were under the age of twenty-five.

Abortion needs to be stopped. I pray that women everywhere can find the love and support they need to make the wonderful decision to give their babies life. ♦

Nine Pro-Life Books You Should Read

By Kristi Burton Brown

For anyone out there who'd like to increase their knowledge or expand their thinking on pro-life issues, here are my reviews and reading recommendations:

The "#1 Book Out There" Award goes to ***Why Pro Life?*** by Randy Alcorn. This is an incredibly easy-to-read, yet appropriately detailed and informative book. It's even available in an audio-CD format. I highly recommend that you grab a copy. I rate this an absolutely invaluable resource!

Third Time Around by George Grant (free online copy) is a wonderful history of the pro-life movement. If you've ever been curious about the Christian church's involvement (or lack of involvement) on this issue over the centuries, if you've ever wondered about what early pro-life heroes did, if you've ever wished for a basic history of the movement...this is the book for you.

A Perfect Persecution by James R. Lucas. This book is a heart-stopping thriller of a novel. It takes the reader into a not-so-difficult-to-imagine world where the pro-choice position has taken over the U.S.A. The really cool thing about this novel is that it is believable. It's not a sci-fi, pie-in-the-sky, fake-world book. It's the real thing. Don't pick up this book unless you want to be more motivated than ever to stand up for innocent life.

Make Me Your Choice by Cheryl Chew is written by a mother who had two abortions. She shares—through multiple personal accounts—the impact of abortion on women's mental, physical and emotional health. She believes abortion also negatively affect women's relationships, their life purpose and the world as a whole. And she certainly speaks from experience. This book is an insightful view from a woman on a woman's issue.

Gianna by Jessica Shaver and ***True to Life*** by Janet Folger are two books about two wonderful women. One miraculously survived an abortion attempt because she was "too far along" to die; one survived a car bombing attempt; both are pro-life activists. If you'd like to get into the mind of pro-lifers, these books are the way to do it.

Does the Birth Control Pill Cause Abortions? by Randy Alcorn (downloadable for free). Ah yes, the question that never goes away. What's a pro-lifer to do about birth control? What's the pro-life position on birth control? Get your questions answered with this simple and informative book.

Why Can't We Love Them Both by Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Willke. This is the classic pro-life book, recognized and loved by many in the movement. This book appropriately portrays pro-lifers' concern for women and their babies. This book goes to the very heart of the movement in many ways and is a must-read.

The Miraculous World of Your Unborn Baby by Nikki Bradford is designed to be read by pregnant women, as it advises them of the changes going on in their body and their baby's body during the pregnancy. However, this book is a great science resource as well, and it definitely gives a "window to the womb." Truly, it's a miraculous world in there!

Kristi Burton Brown is a pro-life activist in her home state of Colorado, a pro-bono attorney for Life Legal Defense Fund, and a stay-at-home mom.

—LifeNews.com, February 24, 2012

“BOWLING FOR LIFE”



Sponsored By

**Citizens Concerned for Human Life
Blair County Chapter**

Friday, July 19, 2013

Starting times between 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Holiday Bowl

181 Bowling Lane, Altoona

(Plank Rd. and Goods Lane; Plank Rd. exit off I-99)

BOWL 3 GAMES FREE! WIN PRIZES!!

Don't get left out of the fun! Mark your calendars now for a night out with family and friends. This will be a fun-filled evening with other pro-lifers, and you don't have to be a good bowler to win prizes!

WHO MAY ENTER? Anyone 5 years and older with a **Sponsored Pledge Sheet**. One need not be an excellent bowler to participate because sponsors may pledge per pin or game. **EXAMPLE:** \$1.50 per game pledged...bowler bowls 3 games...amount due \$4.50; **OR:** 1¢ per pin pledged...bowler scores 450 for 3 games...amount due \$4.50.

BEFORE FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2013, sign up sponsors who pledge money for you. **ON FRIDAY, JULY 19**, take your Sponsored Pledge Sheet to Holiday Bowl. Give it to the CCHL Representative who will check you in and verify your score when you have finished bowling.

GRAND PRIZES FOR MOST PLEDGE MONEY COLLECTED

1st Prize\$75

2nd Prize.....\$50

3rd Prize\$25

ADDITIONAL PRIZES FOR HIGH SCORES WITH HANDICAPS

(Prizes to be determined)

- High Game for Men 14 years and older
- High Game for Women 14 years and older
- High Game for Children 7 - 13 years old
- High Series for Men 14 years and older
- High Series for Women 14 years and older
- High Series for Children 7 -13 years

★★★ Special Pizza/Beverage Price for CCHL Bowlers ★★★

CHILDREN'S BUMPER BOWL...ELIGIBLE FOR GRAND PRIZES

Bowlers with \$50 in pledges receive gold-plated pro-life jewelry

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZES, AT LEAST \$50 MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 19, 2013

Make checks payable and mail to CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601

For sponsor pledge sheets or information, call Marge **814-696-9304** or email: cchlbowlingforlife@verizon.net

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

Since our last issue, our local pro-life group has participated in the March for Life fundraiser, the Tyrone March, the March for Life, and the Pro-Life Essay and Oratory Contests.

It was good to have Father Petracca (see article on page 2) and Pastor John Pine on our trip to Washington, D.C.

The articles by our young essay contestants, Clare Patterson and Marleena Frederick, reveal insights into the abortion tragedy that few of us older than sixty could have imagined when we were their age. Both of these young ladies, but particularly Marleena, are survivors in the real sense of the word. Thank heaven for the courage of her mother.

The pro-life speech contest was a delight to behold—ten contestants doing their best to explain why human life in all its forms is invaluable. We heard about the "Hunger Games," Sherlock Holmes, euthanasia, a doctor's recommendation to terminate treatment for a grandmother, the plight of a single mother, scriptural references in support of life and so much more.

What I really liked about the Oratory Contest was witnessing the enthusiasm of the presenters and their friendly discussions while the judges were tallying the scores. These young people enjoyed being with each other as evidenced by their conversations and the smiles on their faces. Their parents should be proud of each of them, and I acknowledge each as a "Winner."

We look forward to the Precious Life Banquet, the Bedford County Dinner / Town Hall Meeting and the Bowling for Life fundraiser! God bless you.

—R. Thomas Forr, Jr., President
Blair County Chapter
Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Used Book Sale!

Please save your used books to donate to our Book Sale to be held in the Fall—details in the Summer issue of *Blair Life News* or call 696-9304.



2013 Oratory Contest Winners

continued from back page

There were two Honorable Mentions, \$50 awards, at the Varsity level: **Clare Patterson**, daughter of Martin and Mary Patterson from Hyndman, Bedford County, is a Junior, home-schooled through Connections Academy. **Erin Servey**, a Senior at State College Area High School, Centre County, is the daughter of Ken and Vivian Servey.

The top two Varsity winners are invited to speak at the Bedford County Pro-Life Dinner / Regional Town Hall Meeting on April 12. Our 1st Place winner, **Sarah Bastian**, has a prior commitment, so the speakers will be 2nd Place winner, **Teresa Sicree**, and 3rd Place winner, **Mark Hamilton**. (See page 6 for details and to make dinner reservations.)

ObamaCare


continued from front page

Here's the glitch. The law says that in states that refuse, the federal government can set up an exchange. But the law empowers only state exchanges, not federal ones, to hand out subsidies. The Obama administration says it will disregard the law and offer subsidies in all 50 states anyway, but the case will likely go to the Supreme Court.

If the courts uphold the clear language of the law, then some 8 million people in the affected states won't be eligible for subsidies to cover that \$20,000 (or more) insurance bill. That's another 8 million without coverage.

All in all, at least 40 million people could be uninsured in 2016, only 9 million fewer than before the law was passed. Expect the momentum for repealing this law to grow as its flaws, perverse incentives and faulty predictions come to light.

—The New York Post, February 10, 2013



Blair County Life News
Blair County Chapter
Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.
Spring 2013; Vol. 5, No. 2
President & Publisher: R. Thomas Forr, Jr.
Vice-President: Chet Kowalski; Secretary/Editor: Marge Bradley
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Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-denominational organization dedicated to educating and upholding the truth about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and embryonic stem cell research. CCHL is composed of chapters made up of persons of all ages, sexes, races and cultural backgrounds. CCHL, Inc. is an affiliate of the PA Pro-Life Federation and the National Right to Life Committee. Donations are not tax-deductible.
2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601; phone: 814-946-0681
email: blair@centralpaprolife.org
website: www.blaircountyprolife.com

Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. Membership Form

Blair County CCHL believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings.

_____ Annual Membership \$ 10.00 _____ Other
_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 5.00

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Blair County Chapter, CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona PA 16601**. For more information, call 814-946-0681. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.



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2013 Oratory Contest Awards \$915 in Prizes!

Citizens Concerned for Human Life (CCHL), Central Pennsylvania Region of Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, hosted their 2013 Oratory Contest, at St. Rose of Lima School, in Altoona, on March 3rd. Students delivered speeches on abortion, euthanasia or embryonic stem cell research from the pro-life point of view. Our Central PA Region stages a Varsity Contest for students in grades 11 and 12 and also provides a JV Oratory Contest for ninth and tenth graders.

Judging the Oratory Contest participants were **Nancy Head**, Professor of English and Rhetoric at Penn State Altoona Campus and Advanced Placement / AP English teacher at Great Commission High School, **Patricia Forr**, Blair County Chapter of CCHL and **Jan Creighton**, Teen Contest Coordinator, Bedford County Chapter of CCHL and CCHL webmaster. **Marita Forr** served as time-keeper.

1st Place Junior Varsity prize of \$150 went to 10th grader **Stephanie Hamilton**, daughter of Ron and Robin Hamilton from Johnstown, Cambria County. 2nd Place Junior Varsity prize of \$100 was won by 9th grader **Maria Sicree**, daughter of Andrew and Rebecca Sicree of Boalsburg, Centre County. 3rd Place Junior Varsity prize of \$75 was won by 9th grader **Jacob Brallier**, son of Chad and Sherri Brallier from Hopewell, Bedford County. All 3 of the above winners are home-schooled.



— Photos by Rebecca Sicree

Junior Varsity Winners (left to right): Honorable Mention, Kayla Valentine; Honorable Mention, Katelyn Servey; 3rd Place, Jacob Brallier; 2nd Place, Maria Sicree; 1st Place, Stephanie Hamilton.



Varsity Winners (left to right): Honorable Mention, Erin Servey; 2nd Place, Teresa Sicree; 3rd Place, Mark Hamilton; 1st Place, Sarah Bastian, Honorable Mention, Clare Patterson.

Each region of the state has the opportunity to send two students in grades 11 or 12 to the State Oratory Contest on April 21st. The winner of the state competition will be given an all expenses-paid trip to the National Right to Life Convention (Dallas, Texas, this year) for an opportunity to win the national oratory competition.

Representing our Central Pennsylvania Region in the state competition will be 1st Place Varsity winner, 11th grader **Sarah Bastian**, daughter of Timothy and Anne Bastian of State College, Centre County. Earning the top prize of \$200, Sarah compared legalized abortion to slavery. Also representing our Central Pennsylvania Region in the state competition will be 2nd Place Varsity winner, 11th grader **Teresa Sicree**, daughter of Andrew and Rebecca Sicree of Boalsburg, Centre County. Earning the second prize for \$125, Teresa urged us to change the “pregnant-raped-woman-prototype and the rape-product image of the babies that the public sees.” The 3rd Place Varsity prize of \$85 was won by 11th grader **Mark Hamilton**, son of Ron and Robin Hamilton of Johnstown, Cambria County.

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