



**FAMILY
COUNCIL**

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promoting, protecting, and strengthening
traditional family values. ”**

**OCTOBER 2018
UPDATE LETTER**

DEAR FRIENDS,

In June of 1995 my oldest son and I sat at a small table in a Little Rock restaurant, eating our meal ahead of a special event I had organized that evening. Across the table from us sat a friend of mine who ran a small, conservative organization in Texas. In a little while, he would deliver the keynote speech at one of the largest events Family Council had ever hosted in central Arkansas.

My friend's name is David Barton, and the organization he represents is WallBuilders. I had invited David to Little Rock to share about America's godly heritage. We wrapped up our meal and headed to the venue where the event would take place. I remember rehearsing everything with him ahead of time—when we would get started, what I would say to introduce him, how to operate the slide projector he needed for his presentation, and so on. In those days it was hard to find very many elected officials who would attend an event like the one we had put together, but I remember then—Lt. Governor Mike Huckabee as well as a few legislators were gracious enough to join us that evening.

More than 700 people came out to hear David Barton talk about America's godly heritage. David shared account after account of Founding Father's praying for God's divine wisdom during the Revolutionary War; George Washington asking for God's blessing at Valley Forge; and American citizens throwing themselves on the mercy and favor of God in the early days of our country. One point he made is that most of these stories are well recorded in books and documents from the time period, and they can be found in libraries if a person is willing to take a little time to look for them, but for whatever reason they just don't get much attention from historians.

One thing that did get a lot of attention was David Barton's message. Liberal columnist John Brummett wrote two separate pieces about his presentation in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. Friends told me on more than one occasion they loved hearing Mr. Barton speak and they hoped I would invite him back to Arkansas. David did return to Little Rock sometime later to give a follow-up presentation for an event we hosted. Later on I asked him if he would like to be a featured speaker at one of our home school events. I decided to call him a few months before the event to give him plenty of time to get it on his calendar. "Jerry," he told me over the phone, "you won't believe this, but my speaking schedule has started filling up literally years in advance. I'm already booked on that date."

Twenty-three years have come and gone since that night in Little Rock. David Barton has continued to be a highly sought-after speaker, and so has Mike Huckabee. And to this day, John Brummett continues to write columns every now and then about both men. I guess some things just don't change. One thing I hope never changes is Family Council's commitment to promoting, protecting, and strengthening traditional family values and to educating citizens about the things that really matter.

And now let me tell you a little more about how we have been carrying out that mission in the past few weeks, and how you can partner with us in that mission over the coming months.

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Family Council
President Jerry Cox

MY THOUGHTS: YOUR PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED!

In August I sent a series of emails asking all our friends to pray for us and our work. Over the past year or more Family Council has faced a strong spiritual attack. We have a good team and God has called us to an important mission, but people displaying ungodly attitudes have resisted our good work in different ways. I asked our friends to pray that August would be a breakthrough month for us. Hundreds of people and churches contacted us offering prayers and words of encouragement. It's so good to have such great friends! I believe those prayers were heard and answered. September has been a good month for us. Our finances were extremely tight in August, but they have improved thanks to our generous supporters. We have received phone calls from state officials interested in helping us pass good legislation in 2019. And we have been effective when it comes to educating citizens and getting the word out about

important issues. I believe these things are a result of prayers offered up on our behalf. I hope you will continue to pray for us. We have a lot to do, and there's no way we can accomplish it relying on our own strength. We need God's blessing and assistance. Please remember me and my staff—David Cox, Deborah Beurman, Doris Cox, Luke McCoy, Ken Yang, Lisa Crook, Charisse Dean, and Stephanie Willard—whenever you pray.



Here's Your Free Voter's Guide!

Enclosed is your free copy of the 2018 Arkansas Voter's Guide. It isn't enough for Arkansans to vote. Citizens need to vote wisely. That's what the Arkansas Voter's Guide does. We survey the candidates on a variety of issues, and we publish their responses in print and online so that Arkansans can know where they stand. We also analyze and summarize the ballot measures voters will see when they head

to the polls on Election Day. Because our guide doesn't favor one candidate over another, churches are free to distribute the Arkansas Voter's Guide. If you would like to request additional, free copies of the guide for your family or church, call our office at (501) 375-7000. You can also find the guide online at ArkansasVotersGuide.com.

Little Rock Library Cancels "Drag Queen Story Time" Event

No, that's not some weird typo. In late August we learned the Fletcher Library in Little Rock had posted a 90-minute "Drag Queen Story Time" session on the Central Arkansas Library System calendar for October. The event sponsored by an unknown group or individual advertised "sass, class, stories, and songs."

Drag Queen Story Times are the latest tool of LGBT activists. Men dressed as women or in other outrageous and inap-

propriate costumes read stories to children at public libraries. Last summer an LGBT activist told a group of librarians at a national conference these events foster "empathy, tolerance, imagination and fun." In other words, Drag Queen Story Times have a clear agenda. So far our colleagues around the country have identified at least 40 different story times that have occurred recently or are scheduled to occur soon at libraries in America.

Family Council promptly wrote a short article about the upcoming Drag Queen Story Time event. Several individuals in the media and state government picked up the story, criticizing the event publicly, and within a few hours the library system had removed the event from its October schedule. I later received a message from an individual connected with the library system indicating that the event would not be happening. Personally, I don't think the library fully understood what it was agreeing to when it was approached about hosting this event. Drag Queen Story Times use our public libraries to foist LGBT ideology on little children, and Family Council is grateful the Central Arkansas Library System declined to go along with this radical agenda.



A drag queen reads to children at the Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library in Long Beach, CA. (Image Source: YouTube screenshot)

40 Days for Life is Happening Now!

The semi-annual 40 Days for Life prayer campaign is happening right now. This is a time when pro-life believers gather for peaceful prayer outside abortion facilities, asking God to end abortion. I have spoken with individuals organizing 40 Days for Life events in Arkansas, and they tell us they are having trouble finding volunteers who can pray outside the abortion facilities on the weekends. People in central Arkansas can learn more about 40 Days for Life by contacting Toni Blackwell at 501-650-2993 or 40DaysForLifeLittleRock@gmail.com. In Northwest Arkansas, you can learn more about 40 Days for Life by contacting Sheila Purcell at 469-231-1959 or 40DaysNWA@gmail.com.

Governor Hutchinson Opposes Casino Measure

In September the Secretary of State certified a proposed constitutional amendment legalizing four casinos in Arkansas for the November 6 General Election ballot. The proposal, Issue 4, would convert the racetracks in Hot Springs and West Memphis into full-fledged casinos, and it would let casinos open in or near Russellville and Pine Bluff. At a news conference in the Capitol, Governor Hutchinson told reporters, "I will vote 'no' on the casino amendment because I have always opposed the expansion of casino gambling in Arkansas." Family Council is grateful Governor Hutchinson has made his opposition to Issue 4 very clear.

"I will vote 'no' on the casino amendment because I have always opposed the expansion of casino gambling in Arkansas."

In August the Arkansas Department of Transportation issued a statement criticizing some of the advertisements in support of Issue 4. Proponents of the casinos have implied gambling tax revenue would help fund improvements to Arkansas' roads. However, the Highway Commission pointed out nothing in Issue 4 budgets tax money for state highways. Ultimately, state and local officials will get to spend casino tax money as they see fit, if Issue 4 passes. "The Highway Commission has no position on gambling in Arkansas," the commission's statement said. "But the citizens who will decide need to make their decision based on facts. The fact is, the proposed Constitutional amendment regarding casino gambling is not a highway funding proposal." The effort to pass Issue 4 largely has been bankrolled by the Quapaw and Cherokee tribes in Oklahoma, which together have donated more than \$2 million to the casino measure. Issue 4 isn't about helping Arkansas. It's about wealthy casino corporations expanding their businesses, writing themselves into the Arkansas Constitution, and fleecing our neighbors out of their hard-earned money.



Court Says Pro-Life Law Will Stay Blocked During Appeal

In August the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals dealt us a small setback when it declined to unblock a state pro-life law while a lawsuit over the law unfolds. The court case centers on Act 577 of 2015, a pro-life law Family Council helped pass. Act 577 requires abortion drugs to be administered according to FDA protocols, and it says abortion clinics that offer drug-induced abortions must contract with a physician who has hospital admitting privileges.

Since 2015, we've been locked in a legal tug-of-war over this law, with courts blocking, unblocking, and reblocking it. In July Attorney General Leslie Rutledge asked the 8th Circuit to let the state enforce the law for the time being while the lawsuit over it plays out, but the court declined to do that. However, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals has handed down some pro-life victories in recent months, and I believe there is a very good possibility Act 577 ultimately will survive this legal challenge. However, it may be a while before that happens. The 8th Circuit likely will uphold the law or strike it down in August or September of 2019. Assuming that decision is appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, a final ruling should be reached by the end of June in 2021.

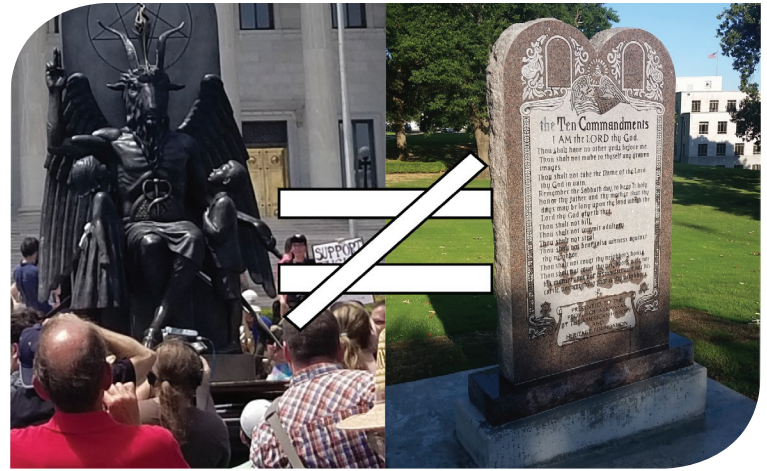
This could be one of the biggest pro-life cases of the past 30 years. Attorney General Leslie Rutledge has an opportunity to shape legal precedent on abortion for every state in the 8th Circuit and possibly every state in the U.S. through her office's work defending this law. Act 577 caused Planned Parenthood to stop doing abortions temporarily earlier this year. If this law is upheld, other states will pass similar legislation. Federal judges will have to take this case into consideration whenever examining pro-life laws in the future. Even if Act 577 is ruled unconstitutional, the court decisions in this case so far already have made it clear judges don't have the power to strike pro-life laws down at will. That alone is a victory, and I believe we will see others as well.

No Comparison between Baphomet and Ten Commandments

In August the Satanic Temple caused quite a stir when it parked a 7½-foot statue of baphomet—a satanic figure—on a flatbed trailer in front of the Capitol Building for a couple of hours as part of a publicity stunt to protest the state’s Ten Commandments monument. The Satanic Temple had threatened to place the statue on the Capitol grounds, but the threats never went anywhere, because monuments require legislative authorization.

But a few Christians have said the State ought to remove the Ten Commandments monument to ensure it’s never forced to allow a satanic statue on the Capitol lawn as well. Here’s the problem with that line of thinking: There’s no moral equivalence between the Ten Commandments and baphomet.

The monument that Arkansas’ lawmakers approved celebrates the impact and legacy of the Ten Commandments on Western Civilization, and it is identical to a monument the U.S. Supreme Court ruled constitutional in Texas a few years ago. The Ten Commandments are one of the earliest



examples of the rule of law in human history. They helped shape the idea that people could be governed by constitutions and laws. Did baphomet give us the rule of law or the idea of human equality? Absolutely not. Saying Arkansas’ monument of the Ten Commandments somehow forces the state to put a satanic statue on the Capitol lawn implies that the Ten Commandments and baphomet are somehow equal. They aren’t. One stands for righteousness, order, and the rule of law. The other stands for rebellion, chaos, and lawlessness. There simply is no comparison.

HERE ARE THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP US

We have a lot we need to accomplish. In September I began meeting with state officials to discuss legislation Family Council wants to see passed in 2019. Our office is shipping thousands of copies of the Arkansas Voter’s Guide across the state. We’re gearing up to start a new program that will help support Arkansas’ pro-life pregnancy resource centers. We’re hard at work promoting, protecting, and strengthening traditional family values in Arkansas. Your support is helping us do this.

Here are three things you can do right now to help support Family Council today:

- 1. Pray For Us:** We need your prayers. Specifically, pray that God would give us wisdom in the decisions we make, that He would guide and bless our work, and that He would provide for our needs.
- 2. Let Us Hear From You:** I can’t tell you how good it is to hear from our friends across the state. Your words of encouragement, your feedback on our work, and even your questions all mean a lot to us.
- 3. Support Our Work:** We have a lot to do, and there’s no way we can do it without financial support from families and churches all over Arkansas. There aren’t many places where you can turn a dollar into lives saved or voters reached, but Family Council gives you that ability. I never want anyone to feel pressured to give, but if you are able, I hope you will send a generous, tax-deductible donation to Family Council today.

Thank you standing with us. Please let me know if there is ever anything my staff or I can do for you.

Sincerely,

Jerry Cox, President

Thank you!!

P.S. Enclosed is your free 2018 Arkansas Voter’s Guide. If you would like to request additional, free copies of the guide for your family or church, call our office at (501) 375-7000. You can also find the guide online at ArkansasVotersGuide.com. In August the Central Arkansas Library System canceled a “Drag Queen Story Time” event geared for kids after Family Council spoke out against the event. We have a lot going on right now. Your support means so much to us. That’s why I hope you will send a generous, tax-deductible gift to Family Council today, if you’re able. Thank you for standing with us.