EDITOR’S NOTES

Leonard W. Pine

First of all, I’d like to thank those of our readers who took the time to write and let us know how the Journal has encouraged and challenged them. The last issue, and the one before you, address matters that are highly controversial in the Church, and our goal as always is to promote biblically sound thinking and conversation on this subject of worship so that we can better work for the purity and peace of the Church. It is our prayer that the articles you find here will stir up your thinking in the area of worship.

Our society is so individualistic that personal preference has been elevated to an idolatrous level, even in the Church. While there is certainly a place for the ministry of the Spirit in unique ways among individual believers, the Church needs to take seriously the truth that the Spirit never works in a way that contradicts revealed truth in the Scriptures. The Church ought to do what God commands and demonstrates regardless of personal preferences. We must be humble enough to recognize that our preferences are just as corrupt as we are!

Relevance and the pragmatic argument that a worship style “works” are no biblical arguments, either. As Bob Jones, Sr. used to say, “It’s never right to do wrong in order to get a chance to do right.” This biblical principle (cf. 1 Samuel 15) applies with searing accuracy to the worship style debate.

We are very pleased to welcome three new contributors to the WRS Journal in this issue. Our keynote is by Dr. Alan C. Clifford, who pastors Norwich Reformed Church in England. His commitment to preserving the biblical heritage of our fathers is evident, even in the brief excerpt we have published here. Though I’ve only met him in cyberspace, Alan has been a good friend. Be sure to visit the NRC website: Dr. Clifford’s writings, sermons, and hymns will be a blessing to you.

I am also delighted to have Dr. Eifion Evans as a contributor. Dr. Evans has been a tremendous blessing to me and to my family over the past couple of years. His article on corporate prayer will encourage you greatly in an area of Christian experience that is all too often misunderstood and sadly neglected. Dr. Evans is a retired Presbyterian minister, having held pastorates in Wales and Northern Ireland. He has authored books on revival, including *The Welsh Revival of 1904,* and *Fire in the Thatch;* and biographies of Daniel Rowland and Howel Harris.

Mr. Dennis Piwowarczyk is a senior student at WRS this year; he holds the office of deacon at the Armor BPC in Orchard Park, New York, and is pursuing a call to the ministry. His compassionate and practical mindset will refresh and challenge you.

Elder Brad Gsell is not a new contributor, and it is good to see his work in our pages again. Brad is well known in our Synod for his expertise in the areas of music and worship; he is
also known around the world for his brief but excellent exposé of the ministry of Billy Graham, published by Fundamental Presbyterian Publications.

Once again, I would like to thank you for taking the time to peruse these pages. Let us know how the Lord uses them in your life and ministry! And please pray for the ongoing work of Western Reformed Seminary.