

MJM Summer Blue Sheet 3, July 22, 2013



BAPTISM BY IMMERSION

Morgan's Moment...

We waded into the chilly water...
at high tide
at high noon.

Holy water to him all his life...
Olympic Mountains
and the sailboat he loved.

He asked for it...
to be baptized by me
in Puget Sound.

I was Reverend grandfather...
he is my adult grandson
declaring himself Christian.

I dipped him under the water
he came up smiling
and officially baptized.

He's committed to Jesus...
part of the Christian family
now brothers and sisters.

As we waded to shore I thought...
is my grandson
now my brother?

Rituals have meanings
beyond explaining...
they are special moments.
— Art Morgan

MOMENTS OF NOTE

Many clergy on this list will know **Dr Fred Evans** who was pastor of Churches in Bremerton, Medford and Fullerton as well as Regional Minister of the Christian Churches in Montana, who died on Saturday. The family can be contacted via daughter Dr Patty Evans pastor at First Christian Church in Albany, OR.

Jean and I will be in Wallowa OR on August 3 to share in scattering ashes of **Don Whitney**.

WEDDING REHEARSAL BY THE REV DR GRANDFATHER



BRIDE LAUREN WITH DAD LYNN AND MOM KAREN

From the shores of Puget Sound over the river to Oregon and over the mountains to Bend — for the wedding of our eldest grand-daughter Lauren. She wrote in her Blog: ***"I always dreamed of my grandfather marrying me, so I was honored that he was able and willing to be our officiant."*** Well, the honor was all mine.

She's an organized young lady and planning events is part of her profession. A grand celebration for 100 of her friends and relatives (new and old) was fun to share.

In theory anyone can "do" a wedding and a large percentage of weddings are presided over by persons with on line "degrees" that designate them as "Reverends." Having that delineation allows a person to legalize a wedding and sign the county issued certificate.

Having done more than a few weddings in over 55 clergyng years my experience is that most weddings are more complex than they appear and are hard work. Even doing the certificate correctly takes some care. A wedding ceremony is essentially a drama with a variety of roles. The presiding minister is usually the director. It can be quite involved.

I do few weddings these days. Memorials and ceremonies for ashes are more common these later years.

Most request a "religious neutral" wedding. Go light on the "God-talk" is a common instruction. I follow instructions but warn them that there is something about vows of love and commitment that carry a bit of the holy and sacred whether you use the words or not. Rare is a wedding that does not have a "moment" or "moments" when that comes through. And rare is the wedding where the "blessing" in whatever form is not like a prayer for heaven's presence in the couple's marriage.

As for God, if God is love, then wherever love is, God is. "Be still and know"...if that is true, then God's Spirit is present whether we like it or not. Wedding sometimes inspire that possibility.

So within two weeks I've performed sacred rituals with commitments made by all parties. By chance one was the baptism of the brother of the bride whose wedding I also performed.

As I minister I can only do the baptismal words and actions. Whatever the baptism is to mean is not mine to give. And when I do weddings I always tell the people to remember that I only do weddings, but only the couple can do the marriage.

It is a sacred privilege to be a mediator of such experiences. It is all the more special when those involved happen to be one's grandchildren.

— Art Morgan