



COURIER

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Volume I Issue II

September 2014

Parson's Perspective

Special Points

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This month's thoughts are from *Christianity After Religion* by Diana Butler Bass.

For several centuries Western people have generally assumed that religious commitment begins when one assents to a body of organized doctrines. This holds true if you are considering changing churches or are having a faith crisis. If you are no longer comfortable being a Catholic, you look about to find a church that teaches divorce is acceptable. If you no longer want to be a fundamentalist, you find a church that teaches that the Bible is not literally true. You find out what a group teaches, and you wrestle with its ideas. Joining depends on whether or not you agree with its creed or statement of faith or doctrine. If you find its ideas about God sensible or truthful, then you reshape your life accordingly by learning new prayers, serving the poor, giving up smoking or drinking, and trying to be a better person. Finally, you become a member and join the church.

There is, however, something odd about this pattern. Other than joining a political party, it is hard to think of any other sort of community that people join by agreeing to a set of principles. Imagine a joining a knitting group. Does anyone go to a knitting group and ask if the knitters believe in knitting or what they hold to be true about knitting? Do people ask for a knitting doctrinal statement? Indeed, if you start knitting by reading a book about knitting or a history of knitting or a theory of knitting, you will very likely never knit.

If you want to knit, you find someone who knits to teach you. Go to the local yarn shop and find out when there is a knitting class. Sit in a circle where others will talk to you, show you how to hold the needles, guide your hands, and share their patterns with you. The first step in becoming a knitter is forming a relationship with knitters. The next step is to learn by doing and practice. After you knit for a while, after you have made scarves and hats and mittens, then you start forming ideas about knitting. You might come to think that the experience of knitting makes you a better person, more spiritual, or able to concentrate, gives you a sense of service to others, allows you to demonstrate love and care. You think about what you are doing, how you might do it better. You develop your own way of knitting, your own theory of the craft. You might invent a dazzling new pattern, a new way to make a stitch; you might write a knitting book or become a knitting teacher. In knitting, the process is exactly the reverse of that in church: belonging to a knitting group leads to behaving as a knitter, which leads to believing things about knitting.

Relationship leads to craft, which leads to experiential belief. That is the path to becoming and being someone different. The path of transformation.

It is also the path found in the New Testament; the Way of Jesus that leads to God. Long ago, before the last half millennium, Christians understood that faith was a matter of community first, practices second, and belief as a result of the first two. Our immediate ancestors reversed the order. Now it is up to us to restore the original order. [pp. 202-203.]

THIS MONTH IN THE CHURCH

Wednesday, September 3 - 10:30 a.m.

Circles will meet at the church separately to take Offerings and get new program books. There will be a study lesson led by Pastor Rick followed by a Potluck salad lunch. Dessert provided.

6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal begins with a Potluck Dinner followed by rehearsal

Sunday, September 7 - 9:30 a.m. a nine week Class begins-"An Odd Couple, Jonah and Ruth"

10:45 a.m. Fall and Winter Worship Time Begins

Tuesday, September 9 - 7:00 p.m.
"Homosexuality in the Presbyterian Church"
Patty and Earl Todt will be leading the discussion

Wednesday, September 10 - 7:00 p.m.
Choir

Thursday, September 11 - 1:20 p.m.
Stewardship Committee Mtg.

4:00 p.m. Worship Committee Mtg.

Sunday, September 14 - 9:30 a.m.
Adult Class-"An Odd Couple, Jonah and Ruth"

10:45 a.m. Worship

Monday, September 15 - 7:00 p.m.
Session Meeting

Tuesday, September 16 - 3:30 p.m.
Presbytery Meeting at Grove City

Wednesday, September 17 - 1:45 p.m.
P.W.C.T. meeting at the home of Audrey Tysen,
357 Wendy Lane

7:00 p.m. Choir

Thursday, September 18 - 10:30 a.m.
Communion at Bristol Health Care

Friday, September 18—Tuesday, September 23 Pastor Hays will be away attending the Montreat Conference

Sunday, September 21 - 9:30 a.m.
Adult Class "An Odd Couple Jonah and Ruth"
10:45 Worship—Pastor Bob will preach
"Live Worthy of the Gospel"
1:00 p.m. CROP WALK-Grace United Methodist Church

Monday, September 22 - 4:00 p.m.
New Beginnings Cluster Meeting

Wednesday, September 24 - 7:00 p.m.
Choir

Sunday, September 28 - 9:30 a.m.
Adult Class "An Odd Couple, Jonah and Ruth"

10:45 a.m. Worship PEACEMAKING Offering

Our sincere Sympathy goes to Elaine and Otto Zingg and their family on the death of their son, Kyle.

Please Note-
The Fall and Winter Worship Time begins Sunday, September 7 at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2014</h1>					BACK TO SCHOOL 	
	1 Labor Day Church Closed	2	3 8:00 a.m. Sl. Tuggers 10:30 a.m. Circle Mtgs. 6 p.m. Choir Begins (Potluck)	4	5	6
7 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Fall & Winter Worship time begins	8	9 7:00 p.m. Homo- sexuality follow-up	10 8:00 a.m. Sl. Tuggers Choir 7:00 p.m.	11 4:00 p.m. Worship Com. Mtg.	12	13
14 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship	15 7:00 p.m. Session Mtg.	16 3:30 p.m. Presbytery Mtg. Grove City	17 8:00 a.m. Sl. Tuggers 1:45 p.m. P.W.C.T. 7 p.m. Choir	18 10:30 a.m. Communion Bristol Health Care	19 Pastor Hays away Sept. 19-23 Montreat Conf.	20
21 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 A.M. Worship 1:00 p.m. CROP WALK	22 4:00 p.m. New Cluster Beginnings Mtg.	23 FALL	24 8:00 a.m. Sl. Tuggers 7:00 p.m. Choir	25	26	27
28 9:30 p.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship Peacemaking Offering	29	30				

"A comedy! A romance! An Odd Couple, Jonah and Ruth". Carol J. Miller has authored a study bringing these unlikely two together to foster discussion and learning about living in a fractured world. In Jonah issues of isolation and the exclusion of "the other" will be prominent themes. In Ruth we learn what life would look like if God's people treated each other with his loving-kindness.

This nine-week study will begin Sunday, Sept. 7, at 9:30. ~~Wednesday~~

Beyond the nine weeks, for three Sundays in Nov., tentative plans are to have speakers on immigration issues, on the progress and goals of the Hope Clinic, and on health care issues in the local community. In the advent season we will have a four-week study written by Donald McKim to focus our attention on that season, entitled "Illuminating Advent."

Suggestions as to future adult class studies are welcome and may be made to Bruce Henderson, Paula Hays, or Calvin Tysen.

NEW BIBLE STUDY STARTS AT THE PIKE COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

Anyone is welcome whether you usually go to the Center or not. It is non-denominational and will be led by different persons. Irene Noble will begin the study September 5 at 9:00 am. Go in the main entrance and then to the 3rd door on left.

(The Center is at the top of the hill on Clough St. right beside the Christian School.)

SEPTEMBER 3 at 10:30 at the church

**Circles meet separately to take offerings and get new program books.

**Then all will convene for a study of Lesson One in *RECONCILING PAUL: A*

STUDY OF 2 CORINTHIANS led by Pastor Rick.

**A potluck salad lunch will follow. Dessert provided.

All women of the church are invited whether you attend a circle or not. Come and enjoy the fellowship, the Bible study and the food. Wednesday, Sept. 3

Peacemaking Offering - September 28

We are called to be peacemakers, modeling our lives on the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. September is a season of peace: we commemorate the 9-11 tragedy, on the 21st we can observe the International Day of Peace, and September 25th begins the Global Week of Action against Gun Violence. On September 28th we will give our Peacemaking offerings. Of this offering, 25% is retained here in our church, 25% is used at the presbytery and synod level, and 50% is allocated to the Presbyterian Mission Agency's peacemaking ministries. What can we do with this offering? Some churches have supported teen moms and single parent families, or local shelters, or anger management classes, or have made donations to Living Water for the World or other far-reaching efforts. It is up to us to decide. Last year Presbyterians gave over \$1.6 million. Please consider giving generously this year to further these efforts.

Follow-up Discussion on September 9th

Last May, Earl and Patty Todt led a series of three discussions about Homosexuality, especially relating to the ministry of the church. Since then, the General Assembly has met and a few actions were taken that deal with this issue.

On Tuesday, September 9th, at 7:00 p.m. there will be a final discussion led by the Todts that will be an update about "**Homosexuality in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**." Attendance at the previous discussions last May is not necessary to benefit from this event.

Everyone is invited.

Scripture Texts for Sunday Worship, September 2014

September 7	Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-22 Pastor Rick: "Gyroscopic Grace"
September 14	Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Romans 14:1-12 ; Matthew 18:21-35 Pastor Rick: "Who Are the Week?"
September 21	Exodus 16:2-15; Philippians 1:21-30 Pastor Bob: "Live Worthy of the Gospel"
September 28	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32 Pastor Rick: "You Can't Start Unless You Quit"

"The Rising of Bread for the World" An Outcry of Citizens Against Hunger by Arthur Simon

This month I am featuring a book that was brought to me by Patty Todt on loan for people to read.

Before founding Bread for the World, Arthur Simon was installed as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan's Lower East Side. The church occupied a community of less than one square mile but contained more than one thousand residents (see page 43 in the book)

A few years later, a neighboring Roman Catholic Church brought 3 young priests who were eager to get acquainted and who brought new life in the form of lively singing.

In Chapter 8 Page 74, Launching Bread for the World - All are essential to address hunger issues: (1) Roles of private enterprise (2) Voluntary Assistance (3) Government Chapter 10 Page 91 talks about the solution to world hunger and is within our grasp because progress has already shown that we have the resources and ability to end hunger and the remaining uncertainty is the political will to do it. We want to mobilize citizens to build that political will.

Page 92 talks about "The Right to Food-Bread's Policy". As Christians we affirm the right to food: the right of every man, woman and child on earth to a nutritionally adequate diet. This right is grounded in the value God places on human life and in belief that "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."

As the annual **John Hamlin Memorial "Crop Walk"** date approaches (**September 21**), we are all thinking about how to end hunger.

"The Rising of Bread for the World" book is full of facts and information.

Please stop by the Church Office, get the book, take it home and read it. You will be enlightened.

The annual **John Hamlin Memorial CROP Walk** will be held on **Sunday, September 21, 2014**. All participants should be present at 1:00 P.M. for registration and opening ceremonies, which include numbers played by the Waverly High School Band. Whether you walk or not, please give generously in provided envelopes. One quarter of money given will help hunger causes locally; the rest benefits the great numbers of people in need throughout the world.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

September 3 - Barratt Banta

5 - Lois Hardy

6 - Tom Patterson

12 - Elaine Zingg

13 - Betsy Hall

Patty Todt

16 - Cay Roberts

Maryanna Cassady

22 - Dimitry Sergay

Anne Young

23 - Gareth Baker

Audrey Tysen

26- Sue Brodt

27 - Tracy Tysen

28- Dick Roberts

30 - William Niebling



MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 2014

Ministers for Community: Every Member

Co-Pastors: Richard Hays and Robert Getty

Secretary Barbara Patterson

Clerk of Session: Audrey Tysen

Choir Director: Karen Henderson

Organist: Patricia Penrose

Treasurer: Robert Neely

Ministers for Vision and Mission: Session

<u>Class of 2014</u>	<u>Class of 2015</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>
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Karen Henderson	Juliet Getty	David Bell
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Paula Hays	Betsy Hall	Robert Neely
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Audrey Tysen	Ann Oyer	Irene Noble
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Kay Weir	Dick Roberts	Glenn Noble
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Ministers for Member Care: Deacons

Don Kerry	Kitty Neely
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Ministers Serving In Other Places

Pike County Outreach Council of Churches

Pike County Welfare House

Mark, Jenny, Keila Rosa & Anika Estela Hare – Papay, Haiti

Dendamrongsaat Church – Chiangrai, Thailand

Ministers Serving from Home

At Bristol Health Care

444 Cherry St., Waverly OH 45690

Ted Bates (to be transferred to Bristol soon)

Jeanne Barron-105

Maryanna Cassady-14

Patricia Dixon-28

Anna Dodge-111

Ed Dodge-103

Tom Frank-308

Virginia Hartwell-102

Dorothy Headley-5-A

Agnes Nash-2

Ben Lane-118

Jay Yetter-1

The Gardens

Betty and David Jenkins-202

At Home

Gerald Barnes, Virginia Dixon, Oscar Marsh, Marlene and John Voorhes

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

September 7 - Rosann Severding

14 - Betsy Hall

21 -

28 - Juliet Getty

SEPTEMBER GREETERS:

September 7 - Evelyn and Gareth Baker

14 - Barbara and Jay Early

21 - Patty and Earl Todt

28 - Betty and Ivan Sumey

SEPTEMBER USHERS:

September 7 - Bob Neely, Kitty Neely, David Bell

14 - Lois Hardy, Marian Odell, Ann Oyer,

Wanda Stratton

21 - Bud Hobday, Ivan Sumey, Dimitry

Sergay, Earl Todt

28 - Ralph Strickland, Dimitry Sergay

SEPTEMBER FLOWERS:

September 7 -

14 - Virginia Dixon

21 - Elinor Hodder

28 -

SEPTEMBER COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

September 7 - Cay and Dick Roberts

14 - Irene and Glenn Noble

21 -

28 -

SEPTEMBER COUNTERS:

Sept. 7 - Mike Milam, Bob Neely

14 - Ted Bates, Kay Weir

21 - Betsy Hall, Nancy Seward

28 - David Bell, Anne Young



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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Amen Corner

11 Differences between a College Football Fan and a Church Member, by Thom S. Rainer (Hyperbolic, tongue-in-cheek, but serious)

- ⇒ A college football fan loves to win. The typical church member never wins someone to Christ.
- ⇒ A college football fan gets excited if a game goes into overtime. A church member gets mad if the pastor preaches one minute past the allocated time.
- ⇒ A college football fan is loyal to his or her team no matter what. A church member stops attending if things are not going well.
- ⇒ A college football fan is easily recognized by his or her sportswear, bumper stickers, and team flags. Many church members cannot even be recognized as Christians by people with whom they associate.
- ⇒ A college football fan pays huge dollars for tickets, travel, and refreshments for games. A church member may or may not give to his or her church.
- ⇒ A college football fan reads about his or her football team every day. A church member rarely reads the Bible once in the course of a week.
- ⇒ A college football fan attends the game no matter how bad the weather is. A church member stays home if there is a 20 percent chance of rain.
- ⇒ A college football fan invites others to watch the game every week. A church member rarely invites someone to church.
- ⇒ A college football fan is known for his or her passion for the football team. A church member is rarely known for his or her passion for the gospel.
- ⇒ A college football fan will adjust gladly to changes in kickoff time. A church member gets mad if his or her service time is changed by just a few minutes.
- ⇒ A college football fan is loyal even if he or she never gets to meet the coach. A church member gets mad if the pastor does not visit for every possible occasion.

Yes, I admit I do enjoy college football. But I really love Christ's churches even more. I need to demonstrate that reality more readily. Do you?