



A Report from the Director

Next Sunday is Not a Presidential Primary

When someone tells you they hold a “Christian” position on an issue, think about it. Whom are they including? What are their criteria?

Following the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, a remarkable focus emerged among churches. We know there were instances of religious prejudice and harassment, but many churches immediately understood they had a role to play in fostering better understanding across diverse faiths. They felt called to educate themselves about faith groups beyond Christianity.

In 2000, for example, the year before the attacks, only eight percent of congregations engaged in activities with other faith traditions. By 2005, that percentage had climbed to 37.5 percent. These reports come from surveys of congregations across the country by the well-respected Faith Communities Today. This increase in inter-faith and multifaith engagement among Christians and other religious bodies reflects major leadership by clergy and laity who knew they needed to reach out to others if the nation was to move ahead after such a tragedy.

But in more recent years, things have changed, and not for the better. Between 2010 and 2015, the percentage of congregations engaged in activities with other religious groups decreased from 21 percent to 15 percent. While much time has elapsed since 9/11, the need for greater understanding across religious lines is even greater today. The U.S. population has grown increasingly diverse religiously, and tensions have grown, especially with regard to Islam and to Muslim people.

Credit: American Congregations 2015: Thriving and Surviving
 David A. Roozen, Hartford Institute for Religion Research
 Changing Political Climate

It appears that the decline is not because the need is no longer urgent. While the theological trends are somewhat more conservative, they do not explain what Director of the Faith Communities Today Project David Roozen calls “the dramatic collapse” of such multifaith engagement. He says that it “probably more strongly reflects, and in fact tracks with, public polling data on changing attitudes about broad geo-political circumstances.”

The political climate today is what makes it harder and less likely that such engagement is happening. That is extremely troubling. Experience indicates that often political views expressed in Sunday school classes and small groups are informed by our favorite political commentators; and, sadly, there are fewer references beyond the most superficial to biblical or theological considerations.

What is a Christian Position?

The very word “Christian” is often used as synonymous with a particular political stance. In recent times, it tends to be conservatives who claim the connection, but those from every political perspective have claimed it when it fit their advantage. When someone tells you they hold a “Christian” position on an issue, think about it. Whom are they including? What are their criteria?

Politicians in this presidential primary season must appeal to a passionate but narrow segment of the electorate in their parties who decide primary elections — even though they know they will have to broaden their base to win a general election.

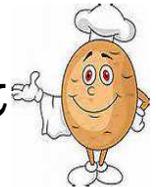
This narrow focus often leads to angry and extreme positions, calculated to stir the electorate, but also causing hostile divisions — including attitudes of divisiveness toward other faith traditions.

When you go to church on Sunday, remember it is not a presidential primary. Your church should help you see others, including those who do not believe as you do, through the eyes of the God we know in Christ. Your church should offer also a way to be in dialogue within and beyond our faith tradition — a dialogue that reflects the witness of Jesus Christ rather than the political crosscurrents of the day.
 Lovett H. Weems, Jr.

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Sunday April 10th 2016
 Immediately after church
Fellowship Hall!
‘Taco & Potato Bar!’

Sponsored by:

Fairview Woman’s Guardian Angels
 Free will offering!

On Going Events:

- 1pm each Monday: **Grown up Coloring Party**
- 2pm each Wednesday **Willing Workers knit/crochet**
- 6:30 each Wednesday: **Bible Study**
- Third Sunday each month worship: **Jimmy Riddle will sing!**
- Every Friday night: **Friday Night Friendzee@ Redkey Youth Center 6-8pm**
- 6pm third Tuesday of each month: **Fairview Woman’s Guardian Angels meeting at 6pm.**
- First Saturday of each month: **Breakfast at the Youth Center 7am-10am**

FAIRVIEW UMC INFO:

Church Phone: 765-789-8959
 Pastor Ryan: 765-369-4099
 Ryan’s Cell: 765-256-0331
 Www.umcfairview.com
 Www.facebook.com/Fairview.in



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To submit to the Newsletter:

Contact Janet Amundson @ janetra-mundson@aol.com or call: (765)744-0852 Or put your information in the box in the hallway in the Fellowship Hall Please help keep the Newsletter going by adding your submission!

To receive newsletter electronically in full color in your email, please submit your email address to Janet as well!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Jack Amundson
- 3 Adam Bost
- 10 David Harris
- 12 Karmen Ailes
- 15 Jim Wooters
- 16 Jean O'Bryant
- 19 Tim Ailes
- 24 Jimmy Riddle
- 27 Rick and Violet (A)



Council Meeting April 12th 6:30pm



Fairview Woman's Guardian Angels

April 21st 6:30pm

Fellowship Hall

All women welcome!



*Being a Christian
Doesn't mean
You won't
fall...
It means Jesus will
catch you when you
do....
-----*

Inspirations from Jeannie

Mark 3:35 "for whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

LIFE TOGETHER

The trifold emphasis of witness, mercy and life together gives form and shape to how we live and act as the church. Our witness is our bold confession of Christ.

Our mercy is our tender care of those among us who are suffering. And our life together is living in communion with our fellow brothers and sisters in the faith.

But life together isn't always easy. Our old Adam, our spiritual nature, likes to turn in on itself to put ourselves first, to think less of others, to do what's more convenient for ourselves rather than our neighbors.

But this isn't how Christ would have us sojourn in the world together. He has placed these men and women, friends and spouses, pastors and children, co-workers and neighbors, into our lives that we might bear one another's burdens, bring one another the comfort of the Gospel and live in the resplendent joy at what Christ has done.

Christ has named each of us His sister or brother. He has placed us into families, into communities. And even as He has done so to, we rejoice in a life together with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, here is this time, and one day in eternity.



Walk a mile in his shoes before you criticize a man. Then, if he gets angry, you're a mile away and he's barefoot!

..Author unknown.



The Shepherd's Voice

A time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out-those who have done good will rise to live....

John 5:28-29 NIV

A day is coming when everyone will hear (Jesus') voice. A day is coming when all the other voices will be silenced; his voice-and his only-will be heard.

Some will hear his voice for the very first time. It's not that he never spoke, it's just that they never listened. For these, God's voice will be the voice of a stranger. They will hear it once- and never hear it again. They will spend eternity fending off the voices they followed on earth.

But others will be called from their graves by a familiar voice. For they are sheep who know their shepherd. They are servants who opened the door when Jesus knocked.

Now the door will open again. Only this time, it won't be Jesus who walks into our house; it will be we, who walk into his.

From Max Lucado's 'In the Eye of the Storm.'

I would rather try and cool down an fanatic than try and warm up a corpse.- John Wesley



Sometimes I miss the Old Testament days when we could smite them for that kind of behavior!

The past several months have been quite stressful as Jack and I made the decision that the family farm was just too much for us to handle in our 'golden years'. We opted to sell the farm to my youngest son, Jake. He grew up on the farm from the time he was two years old and it means a lot to him. It was a tuff decision to make, I had lived here for 40 plus years, and Jack and I continued on here after we were married. I dearly love every blade of grass, every weed and every inch of this property. It had always been a sanctuary for me and for anyone that needed a place to stay. When we took Mom and Aunt Betty into our home it became their sanctuary as well in their last days. When Jake needed a place to come to when he moved back home from the city, we welcomed him home. Even his friends have stayed with us as they sought a place of refuge for a short time. This farm has *always* been *God's place first* and our place second. Selling it was going to be hard, but we both know it was the right decision. Selling it to Jake, made the decision easier for us both. We all agreed spring would be the time to make it official. Jack and I have been 'house hunting' for our new home for quite some time. Each time we found something we thought we might like it seemed to sell before things could be settled for us with the sale of the farm. We just couldn't seem to find the place where we belonged. Knowing that in the spring we would need a new home, we continued to press on in our search. I have to admit, I was getting a big discouraged and grew quite weary of house hunting as I tried to find 'our place in this world'.

We had it in our mind that Albany was where we wanted to be. I was pretty determined to find a home there. Albany was where my Dad had settled when I was a teenager and I always felt when the time came to move into town, Albany was my destination of choice. Jack really didn't care as he grew up on the west coast and anything I found would be fine with him. The thought of moving back to Parke county where I was originally from and still had family, did cross my mind. But my kids and my grandchildren are here.

After months of looking and not finding what we needed, we *finally* did what we should have from the very beginning. We decided to *let go of our own will and let God find our home for us*. A little house in Farmland was brought to our attention. Now mind you, Farmland is a nice community, but it wasn't Albany. It wasn't the area of *our* first choice. But we began to see, it was the area of *God's choice* for us. The house God found for us was a little brick home in a nice community that had been completely renovated inside. The price was within our budget and with the complete renovations it will be like moving into a new home. It truly was a God find. All I had asked of God was that I could stay at my home church! And I can!

While the new home is amazing, it still isn't where I belong. I belong with God, HE has made a place just for me, and He has made a place just for you. We will dwell with Him forever!

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6 English Standard Version (ESV)

As a Christians, our place is with God. I will never feel truly 'at home' as long as I am separated physically from my Father. God found us the perfect little house here in the now, for us to live out the rest of our earthly life in. But my longing, my heart is where HE is. And He has prepared a place for me already! He has prepared a place for every Christian, everyone who believes in Him! Not just a comfortable little home to live out our mortal lives in. He has prepared for us a MANSION in HEAVEN with HIM!

"In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."
John 14: 2,3 NKJV

I can tell you that preparing a true home isn't an easy task. But the most important quality about any home is that there is love within it's walls. There has always been love on our farm, love for God, love for one another. Love for those we welcomed into our home through out the years. I am certain of one thing, our heavenly home with our heavenly Father will be a home full of love! A mansion filled with love and laughter and singing and praising to our Lord!

My all time Christian song has changed throughout the decades but I'm pretty sure that the one I am about to mention to you will outlast them all. It is called "Where I Belong" and it is by a contemporary Christian band called: Building 429.

This song is about not belonging in this world, but belonging with God. These lyrics are why I so love this song:

"Sometimes it feels like I'm watching from the outside; Sometimes it feels like I'm breathing, but am I alive?

I won't keep searching for answers that aren't here to find.

All I know is I'm not home yet, this is not where I belong. Take this world and give me Jesus, this is not where I belong.

So when the walls come falling down on me and I'm lost in the current of a raging sea, I have this blessed assurance holding me!

All I know is I'm not home yet, this is not where I belong. Take this world and give me Jesus, this is not where I belong.

When the earth shakes, I wanna be found in You. When the lights dim, I wanna be found in YOU!

All I know is I'm not home yet, this is not where I belong. Take this world and give me Jesus, this is not where I belong!

Are you where you truly belong? Is your heart ready to let GO and let GOD find the perfect place in this world for you? It may not be doing the things we want to do, or living in the area where we chose to live. But if it is where God wants you, it will be the perfect place if you let it. And you can rest assured that He has something better waiting for you in the hereafter... a mansion, ***prepared just for you!***

Until next month,

May God bless you! Janet

Did You Know? (In God's Garden)...

- * God's agricultural principles laid down in Leviticus are proven practice to this day. These include leaving a field fallow every seven years to aid conservation of the soil. Another principle was not to plant two different crops in one field.
- * In the early stages of growth, it is hard to distinguish wheat from a poisonous weed, the darnel grass. This explains Jesus' parable about allowing the wheat and the weed to grow together until harvest, when they are clearly distinguishable.
- * The pink blossom of the almond tree appears at the end of January, before the leaves. Its Hebrew name, *shaged*, sounds like the Hebrew word for 'be wakeful', or 'watch over.' It is as if the tree is keeping watch to announce the coming of spring. (Jeremiah 1:11-12)
- * Papyrus is a marsh plant that grows in the Huleh swamp in northern Palestine, and used to grow in the Nile delta. Not only was paper made from the papyrus, but boats also. (John 1:48)
- * The most important crop was grain, which comes first in the lists of the main crops: grain, grapes and olives. Wheat and barley were the major grain crops. Millet was also grown, but not corn or maize.
- * Wheat was grown in the better soil and made into very fine and expensive white flour: the best foods (Psalm 81:16). When thank-offerings of grain were given to God, it was wheat that had to be offered.



The telephone number of the rectory of Whitesand Parish in Kam-sack, Saskatchewan, is listed in the white pages of the telephone book as "Angelican Rectory." When the rector, Reverend Ian C. Payne, answered the phone one day, a telemarketing caller asked, "Is Mr. Angelican home, please?"

Baseball in Olden Times:

Eve stole first and Adam second,
 St Peter umpired the game.
 Goliath was struck out by David,
 And a base hit made on Able by Cain.
 Rebecca went to the well with a pitcher,
 And Ruth in the field won fame.
 The Prodigal son made a long home run,
 And brother Noah gave out checks for the rain.

-James Gillespie, Charleroi, Penn.



Boxing legend Muhammad Ali was quoted by People magazine as describing his Parkinson's disease as a "blessing." Explained Ali, then age 55: "I've always liked to chase the girls. Parkinson's changed all that. Now I might have a chance to go to heaven."



LAND DIVISIONS IN THE BIBLE

M	I	J	I	L	A	T	H	P	A	N	A	D	R	AMMON
N	I	R	U	E	B	E	N	G	I	N	S	C	A	ASHER
O	D	A	D	D	S	M	A	N	S	S	A	D	H	BASHAN
M	U	O	R	S	E	D	N	P	R	N	M	J	C	BENJAMIN
M	M	M	A	H	N	A	H	S	A	B	A	U	A	CANAAN
A	E	N	O	H	P	O	Z	A	E	A	R	D	S	DAN
G	A	L	I	L	E	E	N	E	L	O	I	A	S	DECAPOLIS
M	M	A	O	N	E	B	R	A	B	M	A	H	I	EDOM
A	D	N	I	M	A	J	N	E	B	U	E	R	M	EPHRAIM
D	E	C	A	P	O	L	I	S	A	E	L	A	E	GAD
A	I	R	Y	S	Y	R	E	H	S	A	L	O	O	GALILEE
A	R	A	I	T	S	I	L	I	H	P	H	I	N	IDUMEA
														ISRAEL
														ISSACHAR
														JUDAH
														JUDEA
														LEBANON
														MANASSEH
														MOAB
														NAPHTALI
														PEREA
														PHILISTIA
														PHOENICIA
														REUBEN
														SAMARIA
														SIMEON
														SYRIA
														ZEBULON