
HOPE HEADLINES

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Randy's Ramblings

As some of you know, I have a personal goal of reading one book a month. (More accurately, finishing one book a month.)

The last book I finished is one I had heard about and referred to for several years before actually reading it. ***The Great Emergence*** by Phyllis Tickle (Baker, 2008).

The primary premise of the book works from the metaphor of a rummage sale. She invites us to imagine a time when we might go through the attic – or basement – of our home or the home of our parents and get rid of things we no longer need. As someone who has moved frequently, the metaphor works better when I think of moving. What do I not need to take with me when I move? All that is not needed is discarded in one form or another (either sold, given away, or put in a dumpster).

Tickle presents a theory that every 500 years or so, the church goes through the attic and purges things that are no longer serving a purpose. The Reformation was the last such “rummage sale.” Prior to that it was the Great Schism (when the Orthodox and Catholic Churches split). Prior to that was the era in which the doctrines of the Trinity was settled. 500 years before that was the time-frame of Jesus. Before that the fall of the exile; prior to that was the era of King David; before that the Exodus. It's a fairly compelling argument. She adds that with each “cleansing,” there are also economic and political shifts in the culture as well.

Her theory is that we are currently in the midst of the next great purging and that something new is emerging. What it is and what form it will take is yet to be revealed. What has been true in every previous transition has been that what was before remains, as well as whatever is new. So Orthodox and Catholic emerge 1,000 years ago; just as Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestants emerge from the Reformation era (although all are affected by the upheaval).

Since most of these historic shifts take place over the course of 100 or so years, the book is intended to give us hope when we see the enormity of the changes taking place all around us, because what we are seeing is evidence of the next major upheaval. We will not know how it looks until the dust settles, but we can be assured

that God will be at work – in the midst of the change and as we enter the new era.

It seems a fitting to read her book as we approach the 500-year anniversary of the Anabaptist movement and as we move beyond the pandemic stage of Covid 19. It's a good time to ask the hard questions that are too easily avoided. What is necessary? What does it mean to be Anabaptist today? What is essential? What no longer serves a purpose and can be discarded?

What is certain is the presence of God who was and who is and who is to come. Whatever form of church that emerges, we can be assured that the Anabaptist strand of the Christian faith will remain. And Hope Mennonite will have its role to play in this future God has in store. And so will each of us!

Thanks be to God.



Care and Nurture Summer Gatherings

As you are planning your summer schedules, add these three events that the Care and Nurture Commission is planning for fun and fellowship together as a congregation.

Sunday, **June 25** stay for inter-generational table games or just visit together. Light snacks will be provided. We will start after the church service since there is no Sunday School, lasting for about one hour.

Sunday, **July 9** following the church service we will be serving brunch. Please bring a complimentary bread item to share.

Sunday, **August 27**, 6:30 pm come for an evening of music and desserts. Watch for more information to follow as plans become firm on this event.

Please sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board in fellowship hall. Hope to see you at these events!



*Sabrina Bellar – Eastern Mennonite University, May 7, BA in Sociology.

*Emily (Ingram) Richardson – Butler Community College, May 12, AA in Business Administration

*Tatum Ernt – William Jewell, May 13, BS in Business



June Reminders

June 4

Worship-David S.
Scripture-David S.
Pianist-Laurie
Song-Lowell
Tech-Scott

June 11

Worship-David S.
Scripture-Lori M.
Pianist-Ruthie
Song-Lowell
Tech-Mike V.

June 18

Worship-Jim V
Scripture-Donna H.
Pianist-Vicki
Song-Galen
Tech-Randy P.

June 25

Worship-TBA
Scripture-Ruthie
Pianist-Amy
Song-Trae
Tech-Michelle

Greeters

June 4-Connie; Heidi J-L
June 11-Bob & Delaine
June 18-Mike & Val
June 25-Chris & Amy

Sanctuary Prep

June 4-Lori M.
June 11- Heidi
June 18-Connie
June 25-Joanna

Nursery

June 4-Shelby & Tyler
June 11- Kevin & Taylor
June 18-Clinton & Katie
June 25-Jordon & Emily

Coffee

June 4-Chris B.
June 11-Eldon & Annette
June 18-Travis & Charity
June 25-Bob & Delaine

Mowers

June 4-Randy G.
June 11-Travis
June 18-Jim B.
June 25-Grant

Memorial Garden

June 4-Connie
June 11-Karin K.
June 18-Karin K.
June 25-Ruthie



Help the bird find the way

