

moral perspectives

Rev. Charles Erickson

We gather with our own

Walking the streets and riding public transportation in the San Francisco area is startling to one's Detroit suburb. There is an amazing mix of humanity that we rarely see at home.

Variety of life-styles is normal in America. It is a shame that we are so narrow in our view of this diversity. We miss the self-growth which comes in pondering the validity of divergent preferences regarding the good life. We will be enriched if we understand people whose tastes make no sense at first glance.

One reason we miss the chance to appreciate diversity is that minority people congregate with others and create a ghetto. There is comfort in being with people whose responses are similar to one's own. One result is that ethnic riches such as we see in Detroit's summer ethnic festivals are preserved. The negative side is that by seeing differences on a daily basis, we are not challenged to respect other peoples.

MINORITY groups also gather together in a neighborhood for safety. Hostility toward different behavior can make the majority feel oppressed and minorities then need protection. It is a sad fact we can learn from.

Oppressed peoples around the world are pressing for liberation. Becoming part of a gathering of such people treats one to the joys of their liberation will give all of us freedom. We need release from emotions leading us to reject. We can learn to love and respect others and gain more self respect in the process.

Worship is important to me and I know how to design and enact it. Worship with an oppressed group gets one to a center of reality that most of us

rarely experience. My consciousness is expanded by exposed people worshipping God with different priorities regarding the human scene.

Such worship is primitive in the sense of expressing universal truth while dispensing with all pretense. Those worshiping use direct words instead of covering up realities regarding skin color, economics, sex, war, politics, etc. It is refreshing to approach God in stark realism about forces in society which rob people of human dignity.

AN IMMEDIATE benefit of primitive devotion is the warmth of human relationships. Such worship come to an outsider feels good, for it shows a self-respecting, suffering people who, letting a stranger into their grief, The warmth of these people reveals a caring attitude which is crucial.

We all need the support of others to make it through rough times, but that support won't be there if our worship has been superficial. Oppressed people can open windows in our lives so we allow ourselves to be warmly inclusive.

Becoming inclusive is the rub of the matter. America grew up including newcomers, and when we see we are un-American. One tool in developing attitude of both raw warmth and dignity is inclusion. We are enriched by respect toward human tendencies we do not see immediately in our selves.

Liberation will come when we think of ourselves as normal Americans grow in awareness and appreciation of values prized by minority peoples. Cries for liberation by oppressed folk can spark the fire of liberation in those of us who have not realized that we too can have new and expanded free-

Bowel conversations are boring

Dear Jo:

I am a head nurse in a nursing home for older people. My problem is that almost every conversation that I have with an older patient revolves around bowel function. I find the preoccupation on this subject by the elderly a little tiresome. I speak to over 30 patients a day and they all appear to only want to discuss this subject. Help.

RN.

Many people, as they grow older, become preoccupied with bodily functions, especially elimination. I agree bowel conversations 30 times a day can be quite boring.

When you talk openly and honestly to each patient about your concern of the amount of time spent discussing this subject, they probably do not realize that this is the only subject they discuss with you. Perhaps a little humor is needed here.

Of course, the discussion of elimination is necessary and must be spoken about briefly two to three times a week. Then, the conversation must be directed by you to other aspects of his or her nursing care.

Dear Jo:

I do not have a very good attitude about aging. I turned 30 last week and felt old. The only older person I really know is my grandfather who is badly crippled with arthritis. He is very critical of me so I avoid him. I read your column and would like to know what you think of my "questionable" attitude.

Ron B.

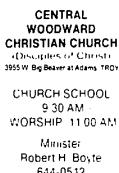
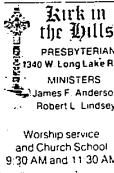
I guess I understand your "questionable" attitude because we live in a youth-oriented society that frowns upon being old. Feeling old at 30 is not uncommon. It is part of the process that so many of us go through at 30 or 40 or 80. It is more of an awareness of the passing of time that one feels as they reach the next decade of life. At this time a person has so many thoughts on life and of where one has been and where one is going. The aging process is natural and gradual. It is the expected.

I am so sorry that you have not cultivated any friendships with older people. I hope (now that you are 30) that you will foster some such friendship as I feel that age is not a barrier to making friends. You will see that there are some pretty realistic differences around us. As far as your grandfather, I can only say that with pain and stiffness of arthritis it is pretty difficult to have a good attitude on anything. Give him a chance to know you. You could start by asking him how he felt when he turned 30. Thank you for your letter, I admire your honesty.

gerontology
A. Jolayne
Farrell

That Blessings May Shine on You...Come to Church

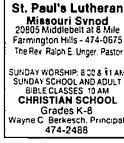
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THE COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH
500 W. Main St. • W. Bloomfield, MI 48322
9:45 a.m.: CHURCH SCHOOL • 11:00 a.m.: WORSHIP SERVICE
6:30 p.m.: EVENING SERVICE

VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT - Feb. 14, 1982
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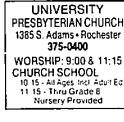
Ministers: Rev. Nicholas Titus and Rev. Edward Libby



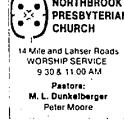
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN
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SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE CLASS 9:30
BIBLE CLASSES 10 AM
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
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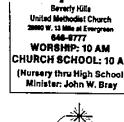
FAITH
COVENANT
CHURCH
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30
MORNING WORSHIP 10:45



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NORTHBROOK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
14 Mile and Lahser Roads
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 & 11:00 AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:15 AM
6:00 PM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM



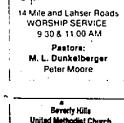
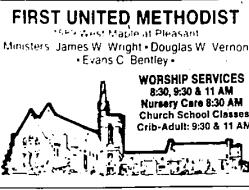
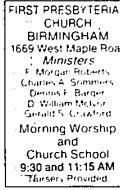
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WORSHIP SERVICE:
9:00 and 11:15
CHURCH SCHOOL:
2:00 - Pre-School
(ages 3-5)
3:00 - Kindergarten
10:15 - Adult Classes
11:15 - Children & Youth
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:
6:00 PM
Dr. Samuel Stolt



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The Rev. Charles E. Erickson
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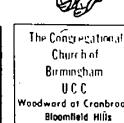
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Lutheran Church
16910 W. 13 Mile Road
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SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:15 AM
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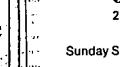


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26555 Franklin Rd. • Southfield MI
6366 & Telegraph - Just West of Holiday Inn
Sunday School - 9:45 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM
Celebration of Praise: 6:30 PM
Wednesday: Adult Prayer & Praise-Youth Service 7:30 PM
A Charismatic Church where people of many denominations worship together.
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Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church



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