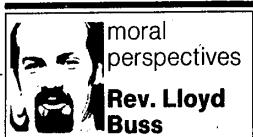


Thursday, September 17, 1981

Rev. Lloyd  
Buss

## Dialogue between faiths is crucial now

It's been happening for a long time. For a very long time. But that can't excuse it. It can only show how deeply rooted sectarian loyalty can be and how easily it can turn into intolerance.

It's not the phenomenon of religion itself that creates it, but in all recorded history, religion has been included as a distinctive feature separating one group from the other, most frequently with violent results.

The Bible speaks about the followers of Yahweh in conflict with the priests of Baal, and the followings of the way justified by the religious authorities. The passage of time has only slightly changed that.

Christianity and Judaism have experienced varying degrees of relationships: the range from good to bad; from peace to war; from Islam and Christianity as allies; to mutual animosity; to mutual conflict in the last of times and last conflict in the world of times.

Christianity and Oriental religions may not engage in open conflict, but very little has ever been proposed for the common witness of these religions, and even less has ever been composed.

For 20th century Americans, raised in the tolerance of civil religion, the events in Northern Ireland are difficult to understand. Having Roman Catholics square off against Protestants and vice versa is foreign to our experience of having prayer meetings, musical services and Seussian chaplains meeting on opposite sides without regard for denominational religious beliefs.

But that is also part of our problem.

By ignoring the differences in religious beliefs and religious bodies, we have failed to perceive the distinctive features of faith and have failed to grow in our understanding of religion so that levels which are personal to religion itself does not require this kind of personal exclusion.

By assuming that the Christian religion can only develop along the general lines created in the past, we are vulnerable to serious upheavals in days to come.

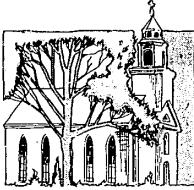
The shrinking of world events to daily news items makes us aware of religious life in other countries. The new role of Islam in public life surprises us and frightens us. Our national experience with Iran during the past few years has been made more difficult by our almost total lack of understanding of religious beliefs.

Whatever it may not know about religions, at whatever point in time we may have about them, can easily discerned in open dialogue with others. The process to a maturity that allows freedom and space can then begin.

Dialogue with others should not be legislated by governmental decree. This is an opportunity the religious community should seize in the next twelve months.

## Your Invitation to Worship

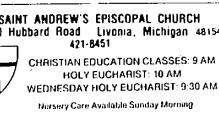
For Church Directory Information  
Please Call 644-1100 Ext. 200



### COVENANT BAPTIST

9:45 AM: CHURCH SCHOOL  
11:00 AM: FAMILY WORSHIP  
6:30 PM: EVENING SERVICE

Dr. William F. Keefer, Pastor Rev. Edward A. Lubke Assoc.  
Rev. Judson & Daniel's Minister of C.E.  
1559 W. Maple Road • W. Bloomfield MI 46033  
1 mile West of Orchard Lake Rd. 461-9191



**SAIN T ANDREW'S**  
16360 Hubbard Road 421-8451  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES: 9 AM  
HOLY EUCHARIST: 10 AM  
WEDNESDAY HOLY EUCHARIST: 9:30 AM  
Nursery Care Available Sunday Morning  
(The Rev. Kenneth G. Davis  
The Rev. Edward A. King)

### UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1385 S. Adams • Rochester 375-0460

WORSHIP SERVICES: 11:15 AM

CHURCH SCHOOL:

10:15 - 11:15 Ages 3K-Adult Ed

11:15 - Third Grade B

Nursery Provided

### NARDIN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2987 West Nardinville Road

Just West of Midland

Worship Services: 9:15 & 11 AM

"DISFAVORITISM BEGINS AT HOME"

Dr. William Hoffer

Mr. Dennis E. Parker

Mr. Robert J. Parker

Mr. Michael Powers

Mr. Michael Powers