

Outside The Pulpit..

by Patrick F. Hunt, DD

A Devout Life

The Monthly



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*Of Heritage
Congregational
Church
Berea, Ohio*

*May
2010*

What is involved in living a devout life? Somehow, even using the word “devout” smacks of an old fashioned idea that is to be relegated to the bookshelf. However, allow me to resurrect the idea of being devout and highlight it by using a very old book written by William Law, A.M. in 1729. William was born in Northamptonshire, England in 1686 and died in 1761. The book is entitled, **“A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life.”** He writes in the first chapter:

As sure, therefore, as there is any wisdom in praying for the Spirit of God, so sure is it, that we are to make that Spirit the rule of all our actions; as sure as it is our duty to look wholly unto God in our prayers, so sure is it that it is our duty to live wholly unto God in our lives. But we can no more be said to live unto God, unless we live unto Him in all the ordinary actions of our life, unless He be the rule and measure of all our ways, than we can be said to pray unto God, unless our prayers look wholly unto Him. So that unreasonable and absurd ways of life, whether in labor or diversion, whether they consume our time, or our money, are like unreasonable and absurd prayers, and are as truly an offense unto God.

It is my sincerest belief that each of us consider seriously the words of Rev. Law and make appropriate application in our lives. A devout life is one where there is no separation between that which is considered to be sacred and that which is secular. Our sacred activities should seamlessly impact our secular activities so that there is no division. We can readily accept that prayer, worship, and church attendance are spiritual activities. We can accept that the Spirit of God is active in those activities and we expect His presence in our services. However, can we accept that He is present also in our homes, workplaces, schools, recreation, etc.? Is He less impactful in the rest of our lives than He is during worship and prayer? If it is true that He does not impact our lives in that way then we have made the decision to accept the idea of God in our heads but we have not made Him Lord of our lives.

The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 12: 1,2 that it is reasonable to live in a way that completely honors God through devotional and sacrificial living. “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Allow me to close with the words of William Law. “He, therefore, is the devout man, who lives no longer to his own will, or the way and spirit of the world, but to the sole will of God, who considers God in everything, who serves God in everything, who makes all the parts of his common life parts of piety, by doing everything in the Name of God, and under such rules as are conformable to His glory.”

He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. Luke 8:8.

Heritage News...

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday, May 1st

At 9:00 a.m.

Women's Bible Study

Saturday, May 1st

At 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

There will no Bible Study in May due to the Mother/Daughter Banquet and the Community Meal at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The final Bible Study before summer break will be Wednesday, April 28th.

Berea Care Nursing Home Service

Sunday, May 2nd at 3:00 p.m.

This is a wonderful time to fellowship with the residents of the home. See Nataline Revelt if you would like to help out with the service.



Mayflower Guild Mother/Daughter Banquet

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

7:30 p.m. - Program by "Marlynda"

See Joann Veroche for your tickets

Adults: \$8.00 Donation

Children - 12 and under: \$5.00 Donation

A special thank you to the Mayflower Guild, Helen Combs and Bryan Veroche for preparing the meal and for the men for serving and clean-up after the meal.

Mother



A Mother's love is sure to find

A way to comfort, ease your mind

*She knows just how, to build you up
When you're so down, and can't look up*

*You love the way, she makes you feel
Like you're so special, her ideal*

*Her thought must start, with God above
To bring such caring, with such love*

*And as it flows, like gentle rain
It surely helps, when troubles pain*

*The love from mine, is oh so clear
I only wish, she was still here*

*Her warming glow, is missed each day
Even though, I seldom say*

*But she did leave, her gift behind
To help me through, when I may pine*

*And that's the feel, known deep inside
Her faith and love, I still confide*

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OACCC Annual Spring Meeting

Saturday, May 15, 2010

First Congregational Church

Akron, OH

9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Speaker: Rev. Sharon Dobbins Alberson

Sharon was born in Akron OH and now resides in Cuyahoga Falls with her husband and teenage daughter, Heather. She is a graduate of Kent University School of Music, was a Blossom Music School Scholar with the Cleveland Orchestra and is a graduate of The University Akron School of Law. She is also a graduate of Harvard Divinity School and Oxford University and is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and a member of the Ohio Bar.

Before accepting the call to ordained ministry, Sharon was a university professor in Connecticut. She was Visiting Professor of Ethics of Wesleyan University for two years, and taught Applied Ethics for eleven years at Southern Connecticut State University, where she received the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award in 2000. In preparation for ordination, Sharon served as Chaplain Intern at Bridgeport City Hospital. She served as Associate Minister for four years at Southport Congregational Church.

*Throughout her professional life, Sharon has regularly been called upon in areas where medical, legal and faith issues intersect. These experiences inform her calling as a composer and producer of faith-based musicals, the most recent being, "**The Chaplain and The Peace Table.**"*

Currently, Sharon is part-time Minister of Music at Trinity United Church of Christ, "on-call" Chaplain at Children's Hospital and Director of Faith Musicals. In March of this year, her musical, "The Chaplain" was performed to benefit the ministry of Faith in Action—Interfaith Caregivers.

Community Meal at St. Paul Lutheran

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

At 5:30 p.m.

Heritage Church is the sponsor of the community meal for May. We will need volunteers to bring desserts and to help serve at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Sign the sheet on the literature table if you can bring a dessert or help serve the meals.



The Window Through Which We Look

A young couple moves into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young woman sees her neighbor hanging the wash outside.

"That laundry is not very clean", she said, "She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap."

Her husband looked on, but remained silent...Every time her neighbor would hang her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comments.

About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a Nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband:

"Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this."

The husband said, "I got up early this morning and Cleaned our windows."

And so it is with life. What we see when watching others Depends on the purity of the window which we look.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Romans 15:4 tells us **“For whatever was written for our instruction that through perseverance and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”** As I have grown in my faith the Lord has caused the Scriptures to touch my heart in ways I never knew before. They are not just nice words on a page, but they are God’s voice speaking to my heart. This is one of the reasons why it is so important for us to get into God’s word as Paul tells us in Romans,

“They give us encouragement that we might have hope.”

I have found that God will guide me to the message He has for me in His word.



When I selected the Scripture to read at the Annual Meeting, I had no idea that it was going to touch my heart as it did. I also find that as I pay close attention to the words of our hymns they also touch my heart. At first I was embarrassed that these words moved me so much, but God has made it clear to me that **all Scripture is “God breathed” and that He will touch our hearts if we but give Him the chance.**

It is my hope that the words God speaks to us will bless you as much as they have blessed me.

In Christ’s Love,
John Haight



Deacon’s Bench...



It is good to see John pausing at the Deacon’s Bench this month. Since giving a list of authors to read over the winter, several have suggested that I share some of the books from my bookshelf. This is a new one just added.

Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came To Die

By Pastor John Piper

When this book came to my attention during Easter week my first reaction was,

“There is a space on my bookshelf for this one.”

My second, “This needs to be read and discussed.”

The message there-in, is **what Jesus’ death accomplished for the world.**

The central issue of Jesus’ death is, not the cause, but the **purposes-the meaning,** gathered primarily from New Testament Scripture.

I have satisfied my first reaction. Is there anyone willing to join me in affirming the second?

This book is available for \$8.00. Who would be interested in forming a study group to read and discuss this book among ourselves at a time and place convenient for all? If interested, please let me know.

Shirley Coy

*Heritage Congregational Church
485 West Street
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National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 6, 2010

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face
and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven
and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

2 Chronicles 7:14

Heritage Congregational Church

Patrick F. Hunt, D.D., Pastor

Sunday Worship Schedule:

10:30 a.m. - Worship

11:30 a.m. - Fellowship and Coffee Hour

Heritage Church Office: (440) 826-1641 or 826-1648 (Fax)

Secretary's Hours: 9:00 - 12:00 Noon M-F

Pastor's e-mail: pastor.heritage@att.net Secretary's email: heritage.sec44017@att.net

Call for more information about weekly Bible Studies and activities

Our Internet Website: <http://www.heritagechurchberea.org>

May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Sunday this month: 10:30 a.m. – Worship Service 11:30 a.m. – Fellowship and Coffee Hour						1 9 a.m. – Men’s Fellowship Breakfast 10:30 a.m. – Women’s Bible Study
2 Communion Sunday 3 p.m. Berea Care Nursing Home Service	3 10:15-11:35 a.m. BW Class 1:00-2:20 p.m. BW Class 7-7:30 p.m. – Board of Elections Set-up 7 p.m. – Diaconate Mtg.	4 Election Day 6 a.m. to close	5 Messenger Articles Due <u>No</u> Bible Study	6 National Day of Prayer 6:30 p.m. – Prayer Mtg. 7:30 p.m. - Choir	7	8 10 a.m. Trustee Work Party
9 Mother’s Day	10 10:15-11:35 a.m. BW Class 1:00-2:20 p.m. BW Class	11 10:00-11:35 a.m. BW Class	12 6:30 p.m. – Mayflower Guild Mother/Daughter Banquet	13 6:30 p.m. – Prayer Mtg. 7:30 p.m. - Choir	14	15 OACCC Annual Spring Mtg. at 1st Congregational Church, Akron, OH
16 11:45 Annual Spring Congregational Mtg. Heritage’s 41st Anniversary	17 10:15-11:35 a.m. BW Class 1:00-2:20 p.m. BW Class 7 p.m. – Trustee Mtg.	18 10:00-11:35 a.m. BW Class	19 <u>No</u> Bible Study	20 6:30 p.m. – Prayer Mtg. 7:30 p.m. - Choir	21	22
23	24 7:30 p.m. – Cabinet	25	26 5 p.m. – Community Meal at St. Paul Lutheran Church	27 6:30 p.m. – Prayer Mtg. 7:30 p.m. - Choir	28 Messenger Assembled	29
30 <i>*Pick up your Messenger</i>	31 Memorial Day Holiday (Church Office Closed)					