

JOYOUS NEWS

September 2021

219 State Street - Petoskey, Michigan - 49770 - 231.347.3448

*We will glorify God by deepening the roots of our Anglican faith,
and bringing people to new life in Jesus Christ.*



Have you ever thought about thinking? As in the art of thinking. The discipline of connecting ideas in your mind to form coherent arguments and statements. I know that we all think. The real question we should ask is, do we think well? Are we good at thinking? Or, perhaps of more concern, are those around us good at thinking? Are those of the next generation prepared for critical thinking? Are our leaders critical thinkers? Do we hear rational, well-reasoned arguments in the public square or when we talk to others in private?

Knowledge isn't enough. Information in a vacuum provides nothing. We must be able to access, process, and understand the information we have. We need to be able to take in what we hear and see and dissect it in our minds to the point where we can determine the usefulness and truthfulness of the information. Truth should be the biggest concern. As Ben Shapiro is fond of saying, "Facts don't care about your feelings." More often arguments are valued for their usefulness over their truthfulness.

I believe that we have a responsibility, as citizens of society and as Christians, to learn to think well and to value truth over rhetoric. Much of what we hear passing for sound argumentation is emphatic emotional bloviation. For example, today a court in Texas banned abortions after six weeks. One person tweeted, "I am calling on Joe Biden and the UN to lead a humanitarian effort to airlift women out of Texas. The North American Taliban has seized control of Texas." What is the appeal here? It isn't to logic. There isn't even an argument being made. The appeal is solely emotional. "People who oppose abortion are the same as a terroristic state government that hangs people from helicopters and flies them around the city to execute them."

Several questions need to be asked. First, why are pro-life people the equivalent of murderous tyrants? Second, how is restricting abortion so dangerous that the UN would need to airlift people out of an area that didn't allow it after six weeks gestation? Third, does the UN really need to airlift anyone out of a state that would allow them to get in their cars and leave on their own? Fourth, and maybe really the first question of the larger debate, why is abortion good and protecting innocent life bad? There is a reason that rhetorical devices like bold emotional appeals are used, other than the basic fact that they work. The reason is because the arguments lose on their merit. There is no good argument to be made for abortion if all the salient points are brought forth: this is a human being, it is innocent, it has been endowed with unalienable rights by its creator, etc.

How do you handle losing an argument on the merits? You resort to rhetorical ploys that guilt, bully, shame, or emotionally resonate with the audience. This happens just as much in discussions about the things of God as it does anywhere else. For example, the bible is so full



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September 2021

at New Life



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Du Bois'	30	31	1 Men's Breakfast @ JW Filmore's 8:30am Men's Bible Study 11am @ The Davis'	2 Morning Prayer 8:00am Ladies Birthday Lunch Noon @ East Park	3	4
5 Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Zakos	6  Tracey will be on vacation from Sept 5 - Sept 19th	7	8 Men's Breakfast @ JW Filmore's 8:30am Men's Bible Study 11am @ The Davis'	9	10	11
12 Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Davis'	13	14 September Vestry Meeting 6:00pm	15 Men's Breakfast @ JW Filmore's 8:30am Men's Bible Study 11am @ The Davis'	16	17	18
19 Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Dielmans	20	21 	22 Men's Breakfast @ JW Filmore's 8:30am Men's Bible Study 11am @ The Davis' Men's Ministry Group @ 5:30pm Sportsmen's Club	23 Morning Prayer 8:00am	24	25
26 Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Bowmans	27	28	29 Men's Breakfast @ JW Filmore's 8:30am Men's Bible Study 11am @ The Davis'	30 Morning Prayer 8:00am	1	2

WALLY'S GALLERY –

In a men's Bible Study some weeks ago we started reading the Gospel of John. The first words are: "In the beginning was the Word..." That led us right back to the opening words of Genesis: "In the beginning God..." Verse 3 of the Gospel of John then states that "All things were made through him (Jesus) and without him was not anything made that was made." In short there was a beginning to all we know and God (Jesus) brought it all into existence.

After the Bible study I looked up the secular approach to the idea of a beginning and came across an article by Stephen Hawkins - "Stephen Hawkins Explains The Origin of the Universe." Because he is a brilliant scientist and I am not brilliant at anything you may do well to Google the article to ensure that I have not mischaracterized his position.



In the first pages of the article he summarizes the various beliefs throughout history concerning the beginning of everything. Aristotle believed the universe had existed forever. He felt an eternal universe was more perfect than one that had a beginning and this belief also avoided the question of a First Cause; a Creator. Hawkins says that the German philosopher, Immanuel Kant, questioned both positions of the universe - that it was eternal and that it had a beginning. He finally settled on the idea that only time was eternal. In 1915, however, Einstein resolved the issue that both space and time had a beginning with his General Theory of Relativity.

Assumed so far was the idea that although there was a beginning to time and space, nonetheless the universe was in a steady state; it was unchanging. This changed in the 1020's with Edwin Hubble's discovery that the universe was not only expanding but was doing so at an ever increasing rate. Galaxies further away from us were traveling away faster than those closer to us. Hawkins says this was one of the most important discoveries of the 20th century. If the universe was expanding then it must be expanding away from an initial point; a point of "singularity" that must of had "infinite density."

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But there was still something these discoveries had not resolved; why is the universe like it is and how did it all begin. Was there a First Cause; a Creator who set everything in motion, or would further discoveries reveal something else?

Secularist accuse Christians of believing in God when things get difficult to explain. They say we are inserting "God in the gaps" or inserting God to explain away gaps in scientific explanation. Well, now I will take the liberty of accusing Hawkins of doing the same thing but in a different way - "Scientific theorizing in the gaps." Proposing theories is great but not when it can be neither proved or disproved and is simply used to avoid the obvious.

Here is "Scientific Theorizing gap #1" - to answer the question why the universe is as it is. Hawkins refers to another scientist named Richard Feynman. Feynman proposed that our present reality is just one of every possible paths of history. He said that eventually there would be a history of the universe in which "the moon is made of blue cheese." (Yup, thats a quote from the article.) And likewise sooner or later given enough universes eventually there would be a universe such as ours. An idea that can never be verified and, conveniently for the scientist, can never be disproved.

And here is Scientific Theorizing gap #2 - How it all began. To paraphrase Hawkins in terms I better understand, he says that asking what happened to initiate the origin of the universe is like asking what happened just before it all began. He says the question is meaningless because not only did space begin with the origin of the universe but so did time. Said in another way, there was no "before" it all began because time did not exist. So science does not have to address the question of the origin of the universe because there is nothing to address. What a copout!!!!

What is obvious is the truth - "For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened." Claiming to be wise, they became fools..."(Romans 8:21-22)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY LUNCHESES – meeting at noon on the first Thursday of the month at East Park. Bring your own lunch. Don't miss this opportunity for fellowship!! Please RSVP to Karen Dielman kdielman@charter.net

MEN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S BREAKFAST – meets each Wednesdays at 8:30am for food and fellowship at J.W. Filmore's.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Davis's Home @ 902 Howard St., Petoskey

- **MEN'S MINISTRY PROGRAM** – meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 22nd at The Harbor Springs Outdoor Club @ 6975 W. Robinson Road, Harbor Springs. We hope you will join us. Pizza dinner will be provided. Bring your own beverage. For more information please contact Howard Bates or Dan Wandrie.

LITURGICAL SEASON — by Karen Dielman ORDINARY TIME

We are now in the season of ordinary time, celebrated with the color green. It is the liturgical period that does not fall within the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter, and runs for 34 weeks. it is celebrated two times a year throughout the year. The first period runs from the feast of baptism of the Lord until the Tuesday evening before Ash Wednesday and the second from the second Sunday of Pentecost to the 26th Sunday of Pentecost. It is a time of growth and renewal in each Christians spiritual life.

of statements about God being the author of salvation, that no one comes to the Father unless the Father draws them, that Jesus will lose none of what he has been given by the Father, and on and on, that people who don't accept this point don't generally dismiss it on biblical grounds. They say things like, "Well, if God chooses his elect, then I may as well play golf every Sunday and find out later if I am elect." Instead of being a reasonable response that deals with the information on the table, it is an emotional "I'm going to take my ball and go home" statement that avoids letting the scriptures teach us.

Another example is that many are uncomfortable with the idea of a just and loving God who would sentence people to an eternal place of torment and suffering. The bible leaves us with no option but to believe this. Jesus himself spoke about hell more than any other person in the bible. We have to face it. We have to reckon with it. People who don't like the doctrine of hell say things like, "My God would never send people to a place like hell." I believe you. Your god would never do that. But you have created that god. He doesn't actually exist. If you have a problem with the doctrine of hell, you are going to need to show from the scriptures why hell should be rejected. Your own discomfort with the idea of it isn't a sufficient argument.

We can see, then, that bad arguments and poor reasoning are problems both within the Church and the wider world. Our responsibility is to be better than the accepted norm. We want to wrestle with facts, think through difficult issues, and commit ourselves to sound reasoning that helps us to apprehend truth wherever we find it.

I believe there are two things, at minimum, that we must do if we are going to learn to be good thinkers. First, we must humble and submit to the facts themselves. Let our thinking be guided by what is true. This can be a challenge in many cases. We don't always know which sources to trust for information. It can be hard work, but we can sort through the information and dig past the rhetoric to find truth. In other cases, it can be easier, like when we read the scriptures. The issue there isn't that we don't know what to trust, but that we must be willing to believe what is said whether we like it or not.


Second, we must be willing to lose an argument with facts instead of winning it with cheap gimmicks and emotionally charged rhetoric. As long as we can win a conversation, as though such a thing is really possible, by resorting to emotion and ad hominem attacks, we will rely on these cheap tricks and not develop our reliance on facts and reasoning. When we desire to master the facts and to think through the issues, we will find that we can present the most articulately stated argument for an issue and that other people may reject it. That is fine, because now they have to go about their lives wrestling with what you laid out. When we make our emotional outbursts, people can walk away unchanged.

Even if we never change anyone's mind with our sound thinking and grasp of ideas, we will have accomplished something greater. We will have grown in our reflection of the image of God. He is a God of truth, and when finding and ceasing upon truth are our goals, then we become more like him as we are growing into the full stature of Christ.

September 2021 Service Calendar

If you are unable to fulfill your service duties on the dates listed, please try to rearrange and find your own replacement.

	September 5	September 12	September 19	September 26	October 6
ALTAR GUILD	Ginny Poquette	Ginny Poquette	Ginny Poquette	Ginny Poquette	Gretchen Lucky
SOUND/ MUSIC	Ferd & Wes	Ferd & Wes	Ferd & Wes	Ferd & Wes	Ferd & Wes
USHER/ COUNTER/ GREETERS	Dan W./ Don L./ Taylor DuBois	Don L./ Randy F./ The Bowmans	Randy F./ D.W./ The Flynns	D.W./ Dan W./ Sally Stump	Dan W./ Don L./ Taylor DuBois
LECTOR	Erika Dielman	Gretchen Lucky	Dan Wandrie	Karen Dielman	Mary Jane Zako
LAY MINISTER	Karen Dielman	Howard Bates	Mickey Bridge	Mary Jane Zako	Howard Bates
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	The Zakos	The Davis'	The Dielman	The Bowmans	The Ostranders




Thursday
Morning Prayer
 8:00am
 at
 New Life



ALTAR GUILD
 Sept. Ginny Poquette
 Oct Gretchen Lucky
 Nov Liz Ostrander
 Dec..... Karen Dielman


Birthdays

Elaine Hameister	9/02
Erik Wandrie	9/03
Don Lucky	9/11
George Bowman	9/17
Fiona Bridge	9/20
Don Greenwell	9/21



September

Wedding Anniversaries

Dan & Darlene Wandrie Sept. 15th		Ferd & Karen Dielman Sept. 22nd
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May the Lord richly bless you on your special day and all year!
 Please let us know if we have missed your Birthday or Wedding Anniversary
 so that we may celebrate with you and remember you in prayer.

Congregation — We Need You!

To volunteer to serve, please contact the Team Leaders listed below.

Altar Guild:	Karen Dielman..... 231/347-3532
Altar Flowers:	Karen Dielman..... 231/347-3532
Music/Sound:	Ferd Dielman 231/347-3532
Ushers:	
Greeters:	Carol Bowman 231/459-4566
Lectors:	Tracey Jepsen 231/347-3448
Lay Eucharistic Ministers:	Mike Bridge..... 231/330-0689
Acolytes:	Mike Bridge..... 231/330-0689
Prayer Team:	Betty Stansbury..... 231/439-0773
Children's Sunday School:	Darlene Wandrie .. 231/347-5871
Youth Sunday School:	Don Lucky 231/622-2058
(middle & high school)	
Adult Sunday School:	Mike Bridge..... 231/330-0689
	Wally Stansbury ... 231/439-0773
Nursery:	Bonnie Bridge 231/445-1810
employee(s):	
Fellowship/Hospitality:	
Prayer Chain:	Ron Davis 517/617-5015
Women's Ministry:	
Study Leader	Bonnie Bridge..... 231/445-1810
Men's Ministry:	Mike Bridge..... 231/330-0689
Inreach:	Gretchen Lucky 231/622-2057
Outreach:	Lacy Bates231/330-0689
Evangelism:	Betty Stansbury..... 231/439-0773
Missions:	
Building and Grounds:	Don Greenwell..... 231/347-1808
Art and Architecture:	Susan Davis 231/881-3106
Church Historian:	Liz Ostrander 231/348-2802
Communications:	Bonnie Bridge..... 231/445-1810
(newspaper articles, etc.)	
Student Visitor's:	
(Recreational Liaison)	
Treasurer:	Wes Ostrander 231/330-4930
Assistant Treasurer:	Susan Davis 231/881-3106
Assistant Treasurer:	Sally Stump 231/881-2818
Stewardship:	Dan Wandrie 231/347-5871

New Life Anglican Church 2021 Vestry

Sr. WardenHoward Bates
Jr. Warden.....Dan Wandrie
TreasurerWes Ostrander
.....Susan Davis
.....Toni DuBois
.....Don Lucky

Our Joyous News Needs You!

Please consider submitting an article or item of interest for the next issue of the Joyous News.

Submission deadline
is September 28th.



SAVE YOUR

OLESON'S RECEIPTS

We appreciate grocery receipts from Oleson's Food Stores. You may leave your receipts in the coffee hour donation basket, in the Outreach shopping cart or on Tracey's desk.



Stop by read, leave comments, engage in our discussions.

Church BlogSpot is: blog.newlifeanglican.com

Visit our Church Website at: www.newlifeanglican.com



New Life

Anglican Church

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We were therefore
buried with Him
through baptism into
death in order that,
just as Christ was
raised from the dead
through the glory of
the Father, we too
may live a *new life*.

Romans 6:4



ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

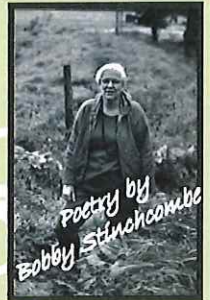
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*I woke to thunder,
then the clapping of rain
in goodness of life
restored
to the parched
and drought filled earth.
As the thunder roared,
the rain swelled
with halleluiahs.*



BES