

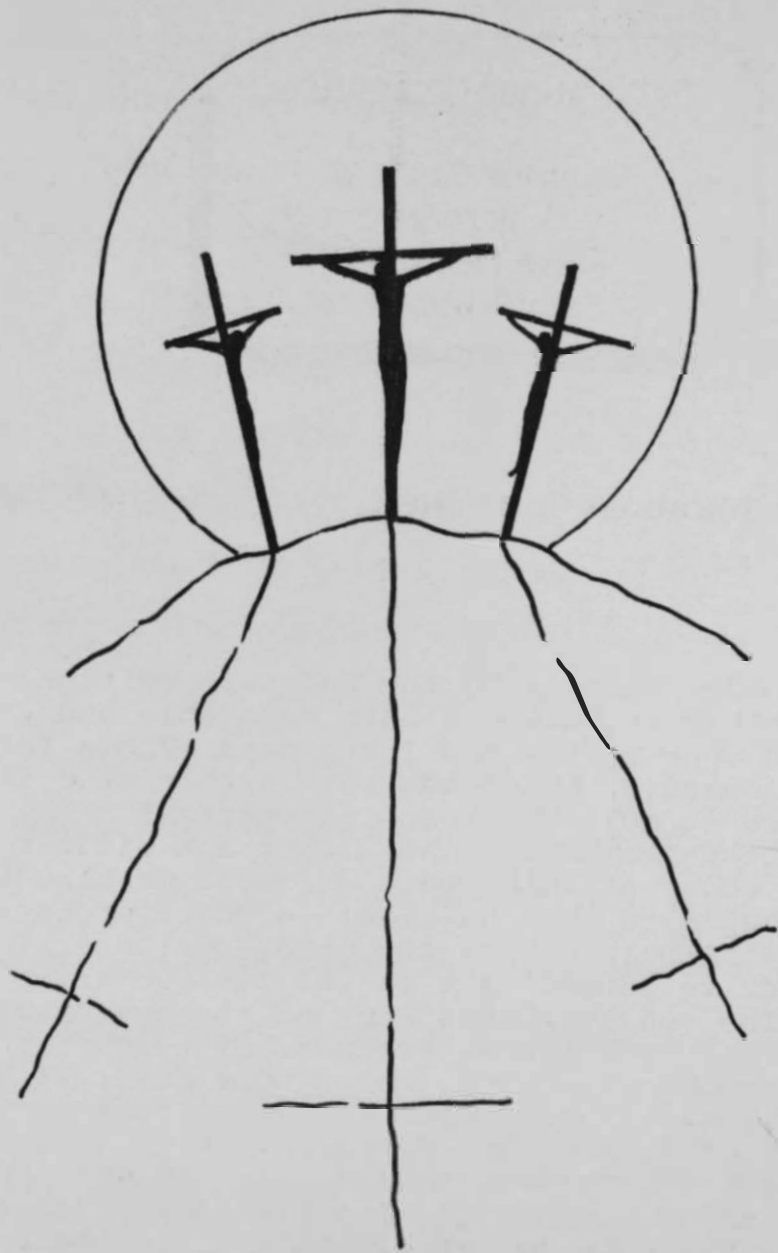


# Table

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**Table Talk** , 61 NW Confederate Avenue, Gettysburg, PA 17325

Publications Committee

Jeannine Sanford  
Mark Bernecker  
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Sara Peterson

Greetings from the Publications Committee,

Hello everybody! Welcome to the February edition of Table Talk! We trust that your holidays were memorable and you enjoyed the time off with your family and loved ones. Table Talk was not published in January. All hands were either studying Greek or deeply immersed in multi-cultural adventures!

The publications committee wants to thank middler Lois Eriksson for the cover of this month's issue. We also thank those who contributed to this edition, in whatever capacity.

Table Talk is looking for a few good...writers. The editors welcome the "creative juices" out there! You can write just about anything! The possibilities are endless: multi-cultural experiences, holiday highlights, semester highlights, Lenten devotions or experiences, poetry, short stories, features!! We do ask that you attach your name to submitted material. So start thinking about "stuff" for March! Place items in the Table Talk mailbox or give articles to any editor. Thanks!

The Lenten season is upon us. Don't forget to take time out for personal devotions to reflect on what it means for us as Christians. It is easy to get caught up in the responsibilities of everyday life, class and social commitments, and neglect our personal prayer time. Not just at Lent, but shouldn't we be praying, reading and studying the Word of God all of the time?

PROSE FROM THE PRES

My old friend Will Rogers used to say, "Well, I see the old clock on the wall is telling us that time is catching up with us swiftly and we are drawing to a close another session together." I would say something very similar...we are closing in fast on the end of another school year and before long the snow will be history, there will be fresh grass, buds on the trees and blooms on the ground, spring will burst upon us and all of us will be caught up in the pace of finalizing CPE and intern sites, travel and living arrangements, excitement about the news of possible calls, or even arranging for summer school classes so we can meet our personal academic schedules. But before we pull a Bill Clinton and try to "force winter into spring", let us enjoy the rest of this beautiful season. (I'm sitting in Baughman Hall this lovely Tuesday morning looking out my window at our third successful snowfall, and it is beautiful even though it does tend to make walking a less than artful endeavor!) So let's take time to be thankful for God's goodness and kindness, for our creation, preservation, and for the many blessings of this life such as the opportunity to study here. May it be not only with our lips but also with our lives that we give ourselves to God's service and to the service and care of our neighbors. If there be anything that separates us as a community let's work toward unity. We are a family here at LTS,G, and when one hurts we all hurt. May God bless each of you as you continue your study and service.

...Bruce...

## BOOKMARKS

A welcome change has occurred in library policy recently, and I would like to highlight this change through the topic of this month's *Bookmarks*. By law all library circulation records (that includes private and school libraries as well as public) must be kept confidential. In order to comply with this, from now on we will be effacing borrower's names from book cards when the book is returned. Meanwhile, we have already deleted all past borrowers' names from books on certain sensitive subjects.

We are aware that sometimes it is convenient to know who has read a certain book before you. Perhaps you like to contact that person for an exchange of opinions. However, the advantages of confidentiality far outweigh the advantages of open records. Have you ever decided not to check out a book because you didn't want your name on it for posterity? It happens. Or should faculty be able to check up on your reserve reading? Not kosher. The bottom line is, it is the law. And we will still be happy to recall books for you; we just won't be able to tell you who has it.

An appropriate topic for this month therefore would be one of those "sensitive" topics. Homosexuality is a major topic, as is sex in general. I have chosen to focus on sexual abuse and the church's response to such abuse.

We have a broad selection of secular works on sexual abuse and incest. Some of the most recent include *Secret Survivors* by E. Sue Blume (HQ72 U53B58 1990), which discusses the aftereffects of incest in women, and *Women's Sexuality after Childhood Incest* by Elaine Westerlund (HQ72 U53W47 1992).

*Victims No Longer* by Mike Lew (HQ72 U53L48 1990) is about an overlooked aspect: *male* victims of incest. We also have *The Courage to Heal* which has become the classic recovery work. Finally, you may check out the video *Scared Silent* (HV713 S3 1992 VR), which is a tape of the television program hosted by Oprah Winfrey. Yes, we have it all, from the scholarly to the popular!

Other works focus on a specifically Christian response to sexual abuse. *We Weep for Ourselves and Our Children* by Joanne Ross Feldmeth and Midge Wallace Finley (BV4463 .5 F44 1990) is a recovery guide from a Christian point of view. *A Christian Response to Domestic Violence* by Cathy Suttor and Howard Green (HQ809 .3 U5S878 1985) is directed to social workers and is about spouse abuse rather than specifically sexual abuse, but might still be helpful.

Devotional works for survivors are also available. *Woman, Why Do You Weep?* by Sandra Flaherty (BV4596 A25F57 1992) discusses Christian spirituality for victims of childhood abuse. *On the Path* by Nancy W. (BL624 .5 W22 1991) is a collection of personal meditations by an anonymous survivor. *A Winter's Song* by Jane A. Keene (BV4596 A25K44 1991) is a liturgy of healing for abused women.

A new book from Fortress is possibly the first work of its kind: a study of the religious aspects of childhood sexual abuse. *Christianity and Incest* by Annie Imbens and Ineke Jonker (HQ72 N4I4313 1992), originally published in Dutch, looks like an important work on the impact of traditional Christian teachings on victims of sexual abuse.

he sexual peccadilloes of clergy have of course not been neglected. The March 1991 issue of *Pastoral Psychology* was devoted to sexual problems of clergy (BV4392 P37 1991). You can also look at the video *The Delusional Nature of Sexuality in the Pastoral Relationship* by Alice Graham McNair (BV4012 .2 M25 1990z VR). *It's Never OK* (HQ72 U53I865 1990) is a "handbook for victims and victim advocates on sexual exploitation by counselors." This is not about clergy, but looks like a valuable resource. *The Congregation is also a Victim* by Nancy Myer Hopkins (BV4392 H66 1992) takes a different point of view: that of the effect of clergy sexual misbehavior on the congregation. More popular treatments of the subject can be found in *Is Nothing Sacred?* by Marie Fortune (BV4011 .5 F67 1989 - case studies of clergy sexual abuse) and *Lead Us Not Into Temptation* by Jason Berry (BX1912 B435 1992 - somewhat sensationalistic treatment of Catholic priests and altar boys).

Finally, a brand-new book called *The Abuse of Power: A Theological Problem* by James Newton Poling (HQ72 U53P65 1991) attempts to construct a theological response to sexual abuse. It could be a successful attempt to interweave theology, sociology, psychology and other disciplines ... or it may not. You decide.

For more works on this subject, look under subject headings beginning with "abuse," "adult," "sex," and "clergy--sexual behavior." Don't forget the card catalog!

#### New Arrivals

Kerry Walters, a Gettysburg College professor, has just published *The American Deists* (BL2747 .4 W33 1992), a collection of writings by well-known 18th century American

deists like Benjamin Franklin. Dr. Gritsch has an article on Thomas Müntzer in *Radical Tendencies in the Reformation* (BX4929 .5 R32 1988). Martin Marty is co-author with R. Scott Appleby of *The Glory and the Power* (BL238 M37 1992), which is based on the PBS program of the same name and examines fundamentalism around the world.

For biblical scholars, Walter Brueggemann has published *Old Testament Theology* (BS1192 .5 B78 1992), a collection of previously published essays. Those with political interests may want to look at William Safire's *The First Dissident* (BS1415 .2 S18 1992), a political look at the book of Job.

Lent (and Fastnachts) is fast approaching. Two new books on Holy Week liturgy look intriguing: *Fire and Light in the Western Triduum* by A.J. MacGregor (BX5141 A1A6 no.71) looks at the use of light imagery in the liturgy, and *Great Week and Pascha in the Greek Orthodox Church* by Alkiviadis Calivas (BX376 .35 H64C35 1992) offers an Orthodox perspective on Holy Week liturgy. In the vertical file, a collection of Lenten sermons for 1993 can be found under "Sermons."

#### Videos

We continue to receive new videos regularly. Among the new arrivals are *Romero* (BX4705 R669R65 1989 VR) and a 1920's silent film on the life of Martin Luther (BR327 M25 1985) - great propaganda. We also have just about every "life of Jesus" film ever made, ranging from *The Greatest Story Ever Told* to *Jesus Christ Superstar* (all found under PN1997). Rumor is that Monty Python will be our next acquisition ...

T.R.

Whether you are a junior preparing for CPE, a middler preparing for internship, or a senior preparing for ministry in a parish, statistics suggest that you will soon be confronted with victims, families, and congregations which have been touched by HIV/AIDS. The Social Action Committee has scheduled a series of events this semester focusing on HIV/AIDS issues, all of which will provide opportunities to learn the facts about this disease and to address the issues it raises for those involved in ministry.

WORKSHOPS:

Wednesday, February 24: HIV/AIDS 101 -- Facts and myths about HIV/AIDS.

Wednesday, March 10: The Church and HIV/AIDS.

Wednesday, March 31: Counselling for HIV/AIDS Victims and Families.

(All workshops will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Library Lecture Room)

OTHER EVENTS:

On Friday, March 12, the Rev. Stewart Hardy, Senior Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, will preach during chapel. Pastor Hardy has ministered to HIV/AIDS victims and families.

Educational pamphlets will be available in the Coffee Shop during Coffee Hour on several occasions this spring.

If you have questions or concerns about these events, please contact Lisa Leber.



Pastor Jane wonders if she should really wait 1 year before Challenging the use of personalized coffee mugs for communion.

**MULTICULTURAL DISCUSSION  
GROUP**

Ms. Kellie Mendenhall, a Lutheran lay parishioner in Taneytown, MD, will be on our campus Thursday, March 4, 1993 for a discussion regarding ministry with Native American communities. Ms. Mendenhall, a descendent of the Mohawk tribe, has spent much of her life in ministry with Native American groups, which has provided her with much education regarding Native American populations.

Ms. Mendenhall would like to share her experiences with us, and to discuss the challenges of the Lutheran Church in ministry with Native American communities. If you are interested in ministry with Native Americans or would like to share your own multicultural experiences, please plan to attend this informal discussion group!

Date: Thursday, March 4, 1993  
Time: 6:00-8:30 p.m.  
(There will be a break from  
7:00-7:30 for refreshments)  
Place: Valentine 310

Sponsored by the Social Action  
Committee and Jennifer and George  
Bradshaw.

Reflection On A Conversation. Stephen Fiechter

I've just gained the perspective of a humanist/agnostic on what he thinks Christianity is all about.

Words cannot describe the sadness I feel.

I don't feel sad because I was unable to defend my faith adequately. I believe that adequacy is not our concern as instruments of God.

I don't feel sad because this person seems so lost and is quite obviously searching. The Gospel seeds that have been planted in his life will germinate if it is the will of God.

No, what saddens me is where this person got their impression of Christianity. What saddens me is why this person is so sour on something that for me is full of True Life. What saddens me is that as Christians, we are the ones who gave him his impression of "the Church" and therefore helped formulate his tarnished view of our great God and our redeemer, Jesus Christ.

How could we? Knowing what we know, having the gift of faith that as Lutherans we fall just short of bragging about, how could we so offend the Giver of Life? How could our words and deeds as a group create a stench so bad as to cause many to turn away in disgust?

We are indeed a sinful people. Yet the good news is that through us God still works his mighty works. Miraculously there are those who, despite the mess that we have created, still manage to hear our muffled testimonies and through the grace of God are touched somewhere, somehow.

And there's even better news! Despite our shortcomings, our sad attempts to love our neighbor and put God first, we too are a redeemed people, spotless before God as a result of the Cross and Resurrection. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I once heard the Church described as being like Noah's Ark. It stinks pretty bad inside and we'd probably all jump ship if it wasn't for the flood raging out there.

I believe that we can do better. I believe that as a community of faith we can show more solidarity and exhibit less name calling and backbiting. The excuse that we're sinners like everyone else is wearing thin when we cannot manage to respond to the love of God in a more demonstrative fashion.

With God, all things are possible.



