

Saints and sinners: Practicing what one preaches

He's kind of the Edgar Guest of the pulpit, mixing whimsy with homespun wisdom.

Now nearing 80, Rev. Robert B. St. Clair is a retired United Methodist clergyman who carries on his ministry today by mail. His monthly newsletter, with a mailing list of about 100, is called the Fireside Chat. A widower, he lives in a cottage on the Methodist Camp Grounds in Lancaster, Ohio.

He has just completed his "Devotions Book 2," (Lancaster, 1998), a collection of his Fireside Chats through the years. Sprinkled throughout the 100 pages is St. Clair's brand of gentle humor, much of it directed at his largely elderly following.

"You know you are getting older," he says in the paperback volume, "when you get winded playing checkers ... when you sink your teeth in a thick steak and they stay there ... when you pray for a good prune-juice harvest ... when

everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work ... when you feel like the morning-after and you haven't been anywhere ... when you look forward to a dull evening."

I first heard St. Clair preach several years ago at the large open-air tabernacle on the campgrounds where the great evangelist Billy Sunday once preached.

He had had a serious heart operation a few years before, which caused him to curtail his preaching. Though he had no intention of preaching on the Sunday I visited the campgrounds, the scheduled speaker had to cancel his appearance at the last minute. It was not without some trepidation that St. Clair stepped into the vacant pulpit.

"If I should go silent in the middle of my sermon," he told the congregation, "pray for me." I think we all prayed for him at that moment.

His text was from the first chapter of the book



george plagenz

● saints & sinners

of James. That makes a good text for a hot summer Sunday since the congregation does not have to follow a complicated line of thought. Each verse has its own independent piece of advice. Miss one admonition, you can pick up on the next.

St. Clair had a lot to say about verse 19: "Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."

He said, "The Lord has given us two ears and one tongue. Therefore we should listen twice as much as we speak. ... If you give everyone a

piece of your mind, you won't have any peace of mind for yourself. ... Be careful of your tongue. It's in a wet place and it's easy to slip. ... We've all been to 'organ recitals' where the slick insist on telling us about the state of their liver, their kidneys and their heart. Nevertheless, we ought to listen to the sick. Silent company is often more healing than words of advice."

I expected to find St. Clair greeting his congregation at the tabernacle door at the end of the service, but he was nowhere to be seen. I finally found him in the dining room down the hill. He was pouring lemonade in the cafeteria serving line — not exactly where you would expect to find the minister after church.

But St. Clair isn't exactly what you would expect to find in a minister. During the school year he volunteers as a teacher's aide at a nearby elementary school and takes daily walks at the

mall, where he strikes up conversations with shoppers.

The week before, he said, "I took one young man to get a haircut and bought another a pair of tennis shoes. I needed a pair for myself and the discount store where I go had a sale — buy one pair and get another for \$1."

Are you ready for some more of St. Clair's homely philosophy? Sample these:

"Do you know that old folks are worth a fortune? They have silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs."

"I like to see a player score or make a catch, then peek briefly with his finger pointed toward God."

"Keeping a vegetable garden is worth a medicine cabinet full of pills."

"If people say unkind things about you, live so that no one will believe them."

Demand higher, but access more difficult for airport chapels after attacks

By Paul Singer

Associated Press Writer

CLEVELAND — Hans Holthausen stepped into the amber light and quiet of the chapel at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, taking a moment for peaceful reflection before flying back home to Munich, Germany.

"When I am in a busy city, with all the things going on, it is nice to find a place to calm down and gather your ideas," he said.

According to the Rev. John Jammicky, coordinator of ministry to travelers for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, airport chapels receive thousands of people each day who, like Holthausen, stop in for a visit before traveling. Their ranks have been swelling since Sept. 11, Jammicky says.

Another effect of the attacks — increased security — has made it harder for people in many cities to reach the chapel, whether it's in a public area of the airport or beyond a security checkpoint.

There are 35 airport chapels in the United States and another 100 or so scattered around the world, Jammicky said. Many began as gathering places for Roman Catholic travelers or airport workers but are now open to people of all faiths.

"Many people feel the need for some strength to deal with the fears and threats," Jammicky said.

As at Hopkins, the chapel at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport is outside the security area, which the chaplain there says makes it harder for

passengers to visit.

"People have a tendency to want to get through security and at that point they have a lot of terminal time on the other side of the security gates," said Rev. Chester Cook, a Methodist minister.

Cook is talking with airport officials about the possibility of including another chapel in the expansion plans for Atlanta's international terminal. He and other airport clergy acknowledge that airport space is premium property for retail or other for-profit activity, and airports may be reluctant to give additional space to nonprofit chapels.

Even if they did, Jammicky said, few churches have the resources to staff a second location. Many airport chapels have only part-time staff or clergy of

various faiths on call.

At Hopkins, there have been requests to move the chapel — from passengers who say they're anxious to get through security, then find themselves unable to use the chapel.

Airport Commissioner Fred Szabo said Hopkins will re-evaluate what to do when the Catholic church's dollar-a-year lease expires on the space.

"It's a matter of where the real estate exists," he said. "There is more unused space pre-security than post-security."

The Rev. Michael G. Zaniolo, director of the chapels at Chicago's O'Hare and Midway airports, said the new security procedures have created problems for both passengers and airport visitors.

Zaniolo, a Catholic priest, said that

it makes the most sense for the O'Hare chapel to be available to the many passengers moving from gate to gate but "because we are on the land side (or public side) at O'Hare it is more convenient for people who don't have to go through security — people from the neighborhood and people who drop off passengers."

At Midway, the chapel is on the gate side of security.

"Because Midway is right in the middle of a neighborhood, a lot of those people use the chapel. They would love to have the chapel on the land side" because they can no longer get through security without a ticket, Zaniolo said.

The Rev. Jack Fitzgerald, who runs the chapel at the Pittsburgh International Airport, said attendance has in-

creased since Sept. 11 but the growth has been limited because his chapel also is inside the secure area.

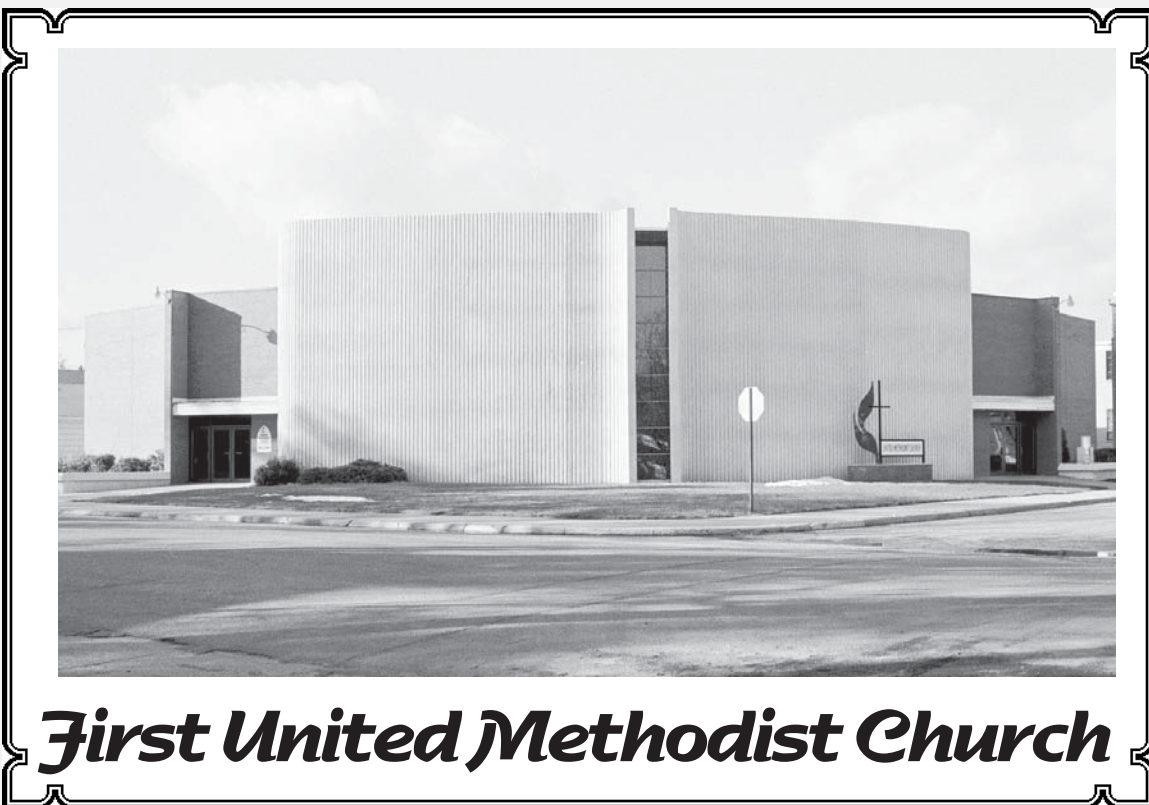
"If we had the people who were coming in to pick up and drop off passengers, attendance would be up by a factor of two or three," he said.

Those who use the chapels, wherever they're located, appreciate them.

Ed Wilkins, who lives in Lorain just west of Cleveland, has stopped by the Hopkins chapel regularly for 20 years.

"When I am picking up a passenger, I come a little early, and in the idle time I usually stop in," Wilkins said. "Or when I depart — especially when I depart — I want to say a prayer."

Internet tonight! 899-2228



First United Methodist Church

Bible Baptist Church
Pastor: Don Crutcher
 Fifth & Broadway
 899-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
 Worship Service: 10 am
 Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Calvary Gospel Church
Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains
 Fourth & College • 899-3605
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
 Morning Service: 10:30 am
 Evening Service: 6:00 pm
Wednesday: Adult Prayer and Worship: 7:00 p.m.
 Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.
 Helping you focus upward in worship, inward in commitment and outward in evangelism

Church of Christ
 401 Caldwell
 899-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
 Worship Service: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of the Nazarene
Pastor: Matthew Delp
 Third & Caldwell
 899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
 Worship Service: 10:50 am
 Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church
Pastor: Bud Chester
 Fifth & Center • 899-3450
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
 Morning Worship: 10:30 am
 Evening Worship: 6:30 pm
Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am
Thursday: Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church
 1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Arlin Cochran • 785-332-2888
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
 Worship Service: 11 am

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Loren Strait
 Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available

First United Methodist Church
 1116 Sherman
 899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Carol Moore-Ramey
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
 Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sonrise Christian Church
 Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister: Tony Kafka
Youth Minister: Doug Bean
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
 Sunday School: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
 Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
 13th & Sherman • 899-6161
Pastor: Scott Grimshaw
Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am
 Worship Service: 10 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado United Methodist Church
Pastor: Leonard Cox
 399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
 Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church
 109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor:
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
 Morning Worship: 11 am
 Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church
 104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423
Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am
 Worship Service: 11 am
 Youth Group at Gattshall's at 5:30 pm
 Adult Bible Study 6 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 13th & Center
 899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114
Priest: Father Charles Schneider
Deacon: Gretchen Talitha
Adult Forum: Sunday : 8:30 am
 Morning Prayer: 9:30 am 1st & 5th Sundays
Holy Eucharist: 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays: 9:30
 Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-2067

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (970) 664-2470
Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church
 223 E. 10th
 899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Sunday: Worship Celebration & Kids' Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church Brewster:
Pastor:
 Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
 Sunday School: 9:45 am CST
Winona:
Minister: Rev. Bob Winters
 Worship Service: 9 am CST
 Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo
 La Luz Del Mundo
 Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
 1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Pastor: Father Daryl Olmstead
 307 W. 13th • 899-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
 Saturday: 6 pm
 Sunday: 8 am and 9:30 am
Spanish Mass: 1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Pleasant Home Church
 Serving the rural community for over 100 years
 Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70
Pastor: Jim Cross
 899-5784
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am
 Sunday School: 10 am
 Evening Service: 6 pm

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

Good Samaritan Center 208 W. 2nd	Koons Funeral Chapel North Main	Topside Office Products, Inc. 1110 Main
Goodland Daily News 1205 Main	Short & Son Trucking Hwy. 24	