

# Saints and sinners: A little politeness can go a long way

Two women are walking down the street in the tree-lined suburb when a man passes them going the other way.

"Good evening, ladies," he says, doffing his hat.

The women look at each other, startled. "Must be the minister," says one. The other nods as they continue on their way.

Saying hello to a fellow passerby when out for a stroll used to be a common occurrence. You would never think of passing somebody on the sidewalk without saying, "How d' do." (That was 1930s talk.)

If you saw other people sprinkling the lawn or sitting on the porch swing, you would exchange friendly greetings. It wasn't only the minister who said "hello".

These days, we consider ourselves lucky if the strangers don't accost us — or worse.

A woman from Joplin, Mo., who reads this column in the Joplin Globe recently asked for my thoughts on the best thing to come out of the Sept. 11 tragedy in New York — and the worst thing. She wanted to incorporate my remarks in a speech she was to give.

I replied that the best thing to come out of Sept. 11 was that it brought the country together. Strangers talked to one another.

"We needed that," I said, "following a long period when it was 'everybody for himself' in the country. Sept. 11 brought the promise of a nation pulling together — 'all for one and one for all.' The bad part was that this moment of togetherness didn't last. The candle went out too soon."

A survey taken four short months after Sept. 11 shows that a lack of respect and common courtesy is once again a serious problem in the United States — and getting worse. The num-



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ber of major crimes increased in 2001 for the first time in a decade. Murders were up.

One community in Ohio tried to restore good, old-fashioned neighborliness this past spring by holding a "Hi, Neighbor Night."

Residents on the odd-numbered side of the street were to sit out front. Those on the other side were to come over and say hello. One resident put up a makeshift drink stand on the front lawn so those who came over could share a cold drink.

Only two people showed up. The streets were

deserted.

Anybody remember Herb Shriner? People who watched his program on television 20 years ago loved him for his down-home-in-Indiana naivete. Like the time he told his audience not to sit too close to their TV screens because he had a cold.

There were lots of reasons to love Herb Shriner. But I loved him most because he was a neighborly man in a world that desperately needed neighborliness. He always said hello to people. I don't mean just to people he knew. Everybody does that. I mean to people he didn't know.

There was the time he walked up to the box-office of a Broadway theater in New York.

"Hello," said Herb in his neighborly Hoosier drawl to the man behind the ticket window.

"What?" asked the man crossly.

Herb grinned back to assure him he meant no

harm by the remark. "Hello," he said again. "It's just a little expression we use in Indiana when we meet someone."

Some people will say it's "simplistic" (that's the word we use today when we want to put down somebody else's ideas) to suggest that all the problems of the world will go away if we just start saying hello to one another.

I'm not saying our problems will go away, but they might be a little easier to live with if we were more neighborly.

Nasal decongestants don't claim to cure a cold but, the commercials say, they can make you forget you have a cold for a while. What this world may need is more people willing to be nasal decongestants and fewer laboratory geniuses (read "columnists, TV commentators and other experts") who keep telling us they have a cure for whatever it is we've got.

# Priest faces ouster in Episcopal fray with broad implications for the faith

By Bill Bergstrom

*Associated Press Writer*  
PHILADELPHIA — A faith with widening splits over women priests, homosexuality and doctrinal issues, the Episcopal Church is headed toward another big showdown as the head of a traditionalist group could be defrocked next week.

The Rev. David L. Moyer, president of the national organization Forward in Faith, hasn't ministered to parishioners in his suburban Philadelphia congregation during a six-month suspension imposed by Bishop Charles E. Bannison.

But when the suspension ends Wednesday, Moyer says he'll be back on the job. He plans to defy the bishop if he is ordered to step down.

"I think he's going to depose me,"

said Moyer, rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Rosemont. "I'm not going to regard the deposition as valid. I plan to continue on as rector here."

Moyer's case not only reflects dissension in the Episcopal Church, but in the 77 million-member worldwide Anglican Communion to which it belongs.

Last week, Forward in Faith nominated Moyer and a rector in another Pennsylvania diocese to be bishops who would serve congregations in various dioceses that oppose liberal trends in the Episcopal Church.

Forward in Faith urged the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Rev. Frank T. Griswold in New York, to have the group's nominees elected and consecrated as bishops so they can provide oversight for "congregations

which hold fast to the Church's historic ministry, and do not accept the ordination of women as priests and bishops."

If Griswold and the U.S. church refuse, Forward in Faith hopes conservative Anglican churches overseas will consecrate the bishops it is proposing. That would stir further trouble in the Anglican Communion, whose leaders are meeting in Hong Kong on Sept. 15 and already must deal with the decision of dioceses in Kansas and British Columbia to approve same-sex unions presided over by priests.

Bannison, bishop of the four-county Diocese of Pennsylvania, has opposed the idea of Forward in Faith bishops. He says "the oppression of women cannot be minimized."

Moyer has the support of "95 percent plus" of his parish of about 450 people,

said John H. Lewis Jr., a parishioner and an attorney who is representing the priest in a civil lawsuit alleging that his suspension was a breach of contract.

"It's a very loyal congregation," Lewis said. At a parish meeting on the situation, he said, "Father Moyer spoke, and I spoke. We got standing ovations."

The support hasn't diminished the stress of the priest's six-month suspension for refusing to invite Bannison to visit and preach at Good Shepherd, Moyer said.

"It's very stressful emotionally, sitting in a congregation, and not being able to visit the sick, and take them Holy Communion. I haven't been able to do what priests do for their congregations. I haven't been able to marry people, I haven't been able to bury people. I have

been unable to baptize children," Moyer said. "I collapsed in church on one day."

Lewis was there at the time. "I was sitting in the back of the church with my wife. He came back and sobbed on my shoulder," he said.

Bannison declined to comment on what his decision would be on Wednesday, the end of the six months Moyer was given in which to change his stand and end his "inhibition" as a priest. The bishop said he sympathized with Moyer's — and his congregation's — predicament.

"My heart goes out to them," Bannison said. "I am full of both a sense of grief and loss on one hand, and not least, as a pastor, my failure to reach them. I wish that I could find a way to do that that would be acceptable to Fa-

ther Moyer."

Moyer and his backers say the differences go beyond disagreements over the ordination of women or recognition of same-sex unions. To them, the issue is the treatment of those who stand by long-held beliefs and whether the church must change because popular culture is changing.

"It's more a question of whether we're in a Christian church or a social club," Lewis said.

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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  
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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.  
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**Church of Christ**  
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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  
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**First United Methodist Church**  
1116 Sherman  
899-3631  
Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez  
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**  
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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  
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Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

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Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment  
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Sunday: 10:30 am  
Spanish Mass: 1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

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Sunday School: 10 am  
Evening Service: 6 pm

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