

GRACENOTES



BEING TOGETHER IN A YEAR APART

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Grace and peace! I'm back!

First I want to say, not only how much I enjoyed putting this together in July, but my doing it really connected with many people. I have heard about what some of you did instead of Westminster. I heard some went to Montreat and from John Wurster and Jane Van Valkenberg there were a few "Westminster exiles" at the Mo Ranch conference in Texas. From new experiences we can learn new things that we can share with others.

I am wondering, how do you connect with others? Now before you think this is a commercial for a "social network site" allow me to make a couple of comments.

I joined Facebook last year. I learned about in a class that our Youth Staff person did at church. She initially intended it to be of interest for the parents of teens. There was lots of interest so she offered it again and surprise, surprise, those of us who showed up were grandparents, and other adults who did not have teens!

Just so you know, I don't post everything I do every minute of the day. I have enough friends who do that. One of my friends says, "you never post anything!". I'll make comments on things others post but that is about it. Until recently, the Ol' Dial Up connection made things a bit difficult. (I now have DSL!)

First, are you on Facebook? I am constantly surprised just who I find there. It is not just all the kids! (A revered children's choir person is on Facebook, her adult grandson helped her get going) I would be happy to "friend" you!

Second, if you are not, consider signing up.

There are some protections you can set up so you can control who sees what ¹ and how you see things. I have found there are some interesting things to connect with on Facebook.

Facebook, besides having the regular people page, also has two things called FAN PAGE S and GROUP PAGES. In all honesty, I don't see that much difference, but I am sure someone can explain this better than me. Here goes my attempt to explain.

A GROUP PAGE seems to be people who work together, went to school together, remember some place, event or thing, have a common interest or agree to eat only chocolate on the 4th Tuesday. They can be silly or serious, they can be almost anything, as long as it is a common something. Facebook regulates these and has some guidelines that prohibit certain topics. Some are closed groups and you must be invited by the group. Some are open to all and anyone can join and invite others.

For example some groups I am part of -

- Eastern Div. ACDA Conference, Philadelphia 2010
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Call to Worship
- PC (USA) Worship and the Arts
- You Know You Play Handbells If... (slightly silly, but clever)
- Douglas Would Be Lost With Out Me (a friend messed up his cell phone and formed a group of people he thought might have been in his directory)

A FAN PAGE is similar but seems to be set up for a event, person, place or thing. There are fan pages in the classic sense for singers, musicians and famous people. There usually a common interest or cause. Some can be quite active, My church's page is quite active. PCOCS has been posting questions and seeking comments on different topics. PCOCS also has a photo album of Presbyterians Singing, I sent a picture from Westminster 2007... Some send notifications about events, release of the newest comic strip or general information about the group.

Fan pages I belong to -

- Doylestown Presbyterian Church (my home church)
- Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song (PCOCS)
- More Light Presbyterians (non profit)
- Adam and Andy (online comic strip)

Both of these pages seek to engage you in something, conversation, reminiscing, all seek to make a connection between people. You can search for just about anything and there is probably a group or fan page out there.

If you are on Facebook check out some of these, particularly the Presbyterian ones. Douglas won't know who you are...but I'll be happy to be your friend, just ask!



¹ Settings on Facebook - You can set privacy settings with the "settings" button. You can control what information is shared. I have mine set it up as "only friends" You can also do the same setting for "contact information".

And now, the answer to question
you all have...

(Will there be a Westminster conference in 2010?)

YES!

Please keep Lynn Williams and the the planning committee in continued prayers as work continues on plans for 2010. As we remember those we are praying for, pray for their everyday jobs, callings and ministry in this community.

With grace and peace s you embark on the new program year,
Bob Miller
again, feel free to pass it on!