



The In Touch

Volume 52, Issue 12

Our Mission: To Seek, Know, Love and Serve Christ in all Persons and in all Creation

Ramblings from the Deacon....

WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH WALLS?

DEACON LEE GRIM

4 Ways to (Successfully) Talk Politics Over the Holidays

A Sojourners Commentary

By [Jim Wallis](#) 11-16-2017

A sad reality in the past year or more has been our ongoing struggle to engage in difficult conversations — with our longtime friends, with coworkers, or even with family members across the Thanksgiving and Christmas Day tables. We've always had differences around social and political issues — racial justice, immigration, religious identity, health care, guns, etc. — but those divisions are starker than ever. Our traditional and social media have become so fragmented and polarized that we find ourselves practically inhabiting a different reality than those we disagree with; we only really hear or engage with the perspectives of those with whom we already largely agree. This is not a tenable situation for our country — or for our families. If we are to maintain meaningful relationships, we need to actively engage in difficult conversations with people we disagree with and find some common ground for the common good.

I believe that there are moral issues, values choices, and faith matters that lie just beneath the political headlines. Conversations around those — leading to action — can get us further than our political debates. I also believe there are two great hungers in our world today: the hunger for spirituality and the hunger for justice, and the connection between the two is absolutely vital now.

With that in mind, I set out to have conversations with some of the most brilliant leaders I know about some of our most vexing national and global issues. Here's what some of them have taught me about how to have these difficult conversations.

1) **To find common ground, we must first see each other — and value each other on a basic human level.** "So many folks can't look at one another and see God ... so our failure to see ourselves in one another, our failure to see God in one another is why mass incarceration

exists. It is why police violence exists. It is why not all children are educated the same in this country." — **Brittany Packnett**

2) It is in our common moral values that we can find underlying areas of agreement.

"Every major religion has said you need to minister to the poor; you need to take care of the poor people; you need to take care of the widows and orphans. And that is in the Old Testament and it's in the Gospels and certainly in a motif in the Muslim religion and it is a motif in Buddhism as well. So we could go on. It's just ... it just seems to be something that human beings have been cognizant of, that you need to take care of if you are having an inclusive kind of society; you need to take care of the people on the bottom end." — **Margaret Atwood**

3) The truth matters, however inconvenient or difficult that might be. Hold fast to the truth even as you try to find common ground. "Truth and reconciliation is [a] sequential [process]. You have to tell the truth first because without the truth you don't know how to reconcile yourself to what you're trying to do." — **Bryan Stevenson**

4) Real change takes time. "It's going to be a long-term engagement. So if the Montgomery bus boycott was over 380 days, we need to get ready not just for a tweet ... We need to turn up our faith [and] turn on our courage ... and not give up the faith." — **Rev. William Barber II.**

"I am very excited about the conversations we have had so far and those to come." — **Jim Wallis**

Jim Wallis is president of Sojourners. His book, [America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America](#), is available now.



Jim Wallis

Consider this reply to Jim's article from a Sojourners reader:

"We as family, church, community members must talk. Or we will fail. Much better to listen to people and at first find out who they are and why they think this... As the saying goes, if I befriend someone with the expectation that I will change them, then that is not friendship but power. Please God may I want all to have a "peaceful" life."



12/20 ~ Nora Karlstad
12/20 ~ Byrne Johnson
12/28 ~ Sara Kennedy
12/31 ~ Ladd Corrin
12/31 ~ Flossie Knutson

12/2 ~ **Brent Schlieff** (Son of George)
12/7 ~ **Charlie Klatt** (son of Brittany & Joe,
grandson of Bill & Jeanne Corrin)
12/13 ~ **Alex Kennedy** (son of Sara & Dale,
grandson of George Schlieff)
12/15 ~ **Jim Davison** (son of Gary & Carolyn)
12/15 ~ **Bill Bertram**
12/19 ~ **Alan Wright** (son Andy & Georgeann)



12/14 ~ **Dixie Juel** (Day)
12/30 ~ **Mark Grim**



Christmas Kid's Shop

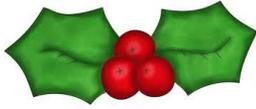
Kids - join us at Holy Trinity (820 4th St)
Saturday Dec. 2nd 9 am - 2 pm
Tuesday Dec. 5th 4 pm - 7 pm
Thursday Dec. 7th 4 pm - 7 pm
Saturday Dec. 9th 12 pm - 5 pm

Shop for gifts for your Moms and Dads! No money needed – payment will be a promise to do a good deed for someone else!

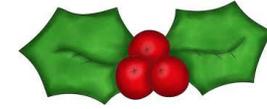
Coffee and cookies will be available for moms and dads.

December '17 Sunday Service Lay Responsibilities

Dates	Celebrants	Acolytes	Lectors & Lessons	Greeters
3 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 1st Sunday of Advent	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim	Jeanne Corrin	Jeanne Corrin Michele Dahlin	Donna Day Karen Walls
10 Morning Prayer 10:00 am 2nd Sunday of Advent	Lector: Eric Strand Deacon: Lee Grim	Lee Grim	Eric Strand Lee Grim	Georgeann & Andy Wright
17 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 3rd Sunday of Advent	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim	Lee	Mike & Tricia Brennard	Mike & Tricia Brennard
24 Advent /Songs & Readings 4th Sunday of Advent 10:00 am  Holy Eucharist 4:00 pm Christmas Eve	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim	Melanie Mattsen	Georgeann & Andy Wright Jeanne Corrin Tessa Walls	Georgeann & Andy Wright Gary & Carolyn Davison
31 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 1st Sunday after Christmas	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim	Lee	Carole Johnson Lee Grim	Flossie Knutson Carole Johnson



December 2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Altar Guild
						Georgeann & Donna
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.						Flossie
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Altar Guild
Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m.	Ruby's Pantry Reg. 4:30 Dist. 5-6:30	 9:30 am Coffee Landing Vestry 4 pm Team meeting 6pm	Advent Voice Good Samaritan Center 6:00 pm			Flossie
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.						Carolyn & Helen
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
4 th Advent Songs/ Carols 10:00 am Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist 4:00 p.m.		Newsletter Deadline (Melanie)				Carolyn & Helen
31						
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.						

