



SEMINAR THE ARIAN

Who? Me?

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ANSWERS LIE ONLY IN QUESTIONS

March 22, 1977

DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND THERE WILL NOT BE CHAPEL SERVICES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR!

Is that what you would like to have posted outside the chapel? It has almost gotten to that point! Today (21st) is a perfect of what I mean by "popular demand."

The Spiritual Life Committee has had a calander posted on the bulletin board outside the chapel for the entire year, yet, to get anyone to sign up to lead a twenty minute service is almost an impossible task. This morning there was no one signed up to lead the service.

The response to this lack of leadership was varied. Some people came in and joined in the silence. Even this can be a vital way to spend twenty minutes! Others, finding out that there was not a leader, walked away in disgust. Still others never came in to find out if there was to be a service.

Why are we here? Do we even need chapel? Is it more of an inconvenience and burden than it is worth?

I have a problem knowing how to answer these questions. The problem only becomes more intense when I try to apply them to our worship community.

Do we need chapel? The answer for me is yes. I would assume that for some others on this campus the answer is also 'yes'. What about the rest of the people? I have gotten the impression that for many of the people on this campus, chapel has become twenty minutes of entertainment. If the time is not planned, as was the case today, some alternative type of entertainment must be found (i.e. coffee breaks, etc.) If chapel has become a time when a few people get up and 'entertain' the rest of the community, then I am not sure that I need it.

Is it more of an inconvenience and burden than it is worth? Perhaps it is. It seems that so many of us have (or can find) a thousand other things to do with the twenty minutes set aside for chapel. BUT...when you really think about it is twenty minutes really that much time out of a busy day that you can't enter into worship? Have we become so perfect that we don't need to worship?

Is it a burden for several members of the Spiritual Life Committee? At times. When there has not been anyone to lead a service, Jim and I have felt the responsibility to do something. That will not happen any longer! We have also been responsible for getting people to sign up to lead the services. Since there has not been much volunteering this year, I have gone out of my way to ASK(?) people to do it. I admit that this may not have been the best way to get the job done, but it did assure us that we would not be in the leadership role every day. I apologize to those of you that may have been offended at the methods I used. I will not take on that responsibility again.

I end where I began --DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND THERE WILL NOT BE CHAPEL SERVICES FOR THE
REMAINDER OF THE YEAR!

(Cont't.)

If there is not anyone signed up for services in the remaining month and a half, there will not be any attempt made by either Jim or myself to fill in the time. I direct this statement to the students as well as the faculty and administration. There is no reason why anyone in the community can't lead a regular chapel service! The lack of volunteering reaches into the services usually designated for preaching as well. For the last month-plus there has not been a member of the faculty or administration that has signed up to preach on a Wednesday morning. If we must continually go outside the community for leadership, I feel that there must be something wrong somewhere. It is good to get 'fresh blood' here once in a while, but every week?!

It is time we thought about who we are here and what we need to do in order to make chapel service a viable time for those of us who want to gather for morning prayers.

PAM MOFFAT

Editor's note: The following article is in response to Pam's article. It is published at the original printing of Pam's article because of solicited responses of her own and not because of private disgression of the editor.

A GUILTY PERSON'S RESPONSE

Hoorah for Pam! The article on the Chapel has long been needed. I only hope that the readers will take the time to really examine their own position to examine themselves.

I know I am as guilty as anyone and I gave as an excuse some hypocrits who let their personal dislikes interfere with my worship. I did that myself by not attending. -- Poor excuse, I gave up on them.

The strength of our faith is our individuality that lets us be different and disagree honestly while serving our Lord. The single tie that brings us together is our service to our Lord, to do His will and not our own.

As the Lord calls me to worship I fail to heed his call if because I don't like the way another behaves I don't attend and share my own faith with those present.

Let's not let our pride get in our way of getting back to Chapel. Let us be reconciled to each other in our common faith, so that as a body we can all better serve the Lord in our individual ministries here and everywhere in newness of life. Let us not be a stiff-necked, self-righteous people before our Lord.

Our Lord is the center of our community, let us worship him together that we can give and receive by giving that which we need. We are all part of LTS and we all belong together. If Chapel has become less than what it might be its because we stepped aside and let it become so. The responsibility is ours to make it what it might become in its fullest potential.

If you too have failed as I have, let us both then try to do better. Let us not judge each other but let each of us reconsider and recommit ourselves to do better in reconciliation with our Lord and each other. We may not become perfect, but we can become better. Thank our Lord for the chance to have a fresh start.

CHARLES STANFIELD

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

Would any students be interested in doing some worship services at a nursing home? If so contact Mrs. Dommel at Hamilton Arms, W. End Ave. Lancaster. The phone is 393-0419

Scott Shay

Or talk to Richard Luh in Richards 101.



Start
Smiling and
enjoy the
miracle
of now!

ANOTHER GUILTY RESPONSE TO CHAPEL

I am one of the least to respond to an article on Chapel services on this campus. I rarely attend chapel, much less participate. During almost two years on campus, I have had only one chapel outright, and helped on a few others. It is no secret that my allegiances do not lie with the Santee Chapel at 9:30 on weekdays.

My reasons for neglect of chapel are many and none of them are too good. But last year chapel was somewhat of a circus for me. It seemed like every day that whoever had done chapel was cut to shreds (which would have been alright if I meant critically but I mean blatantly.) Among these sessions over chapel, what seemed to surface most was personality conflicts and not critical conflicts on methods, content, etc. It frustrated me and I was going to be darned if I was going to get up there and have some local butchers cut me up. And I agree that most of that problem is mine and I have held grudges against some people for it. I could not imagine such a situation in a place such as this. But I soon learned, but stopped learning.

Another reason was that I have never been a member of any church where a liturgy is used (formally). And quite frankly, I still don't particularly care for them. But again that is my problem. Also, not being UCC, but a southern Presbyterian hindered me when trying to do little things. All basic reference points were totally unfamiliar to me. But...again...my problem.

What it boils down to is that I can think of no reasons for my lack of participation in more chapel services, or even attending more. Its my problem, and it has become a problem for you, My fault...my apology.

Al the Ed.

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AN INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT BY THE EDITOR WHICH IS:

not necessarily to raise trouble but to contrast some figures. The subject is the West parking lot, "lot for the students."

<u>Total number of parking spaces</u>		<u>Added spaces</u>	<u>Per cent increase</u>
Faculty, etc.	31	17	121
Visitors	9	6	200
Students			
(incl. Pine)	59	8	190/o
Students			
(excl. Pine)	27	8	420/o

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Seeing that visitors park any where they want to when they come onto campus, do away with reserved spaces for them excluding a few for the Center.

Again reserve the 14 parking spaces for faculty, but in the West lot where they presently park.

Maintain reserved a space for handicapped persons.

Free the other 16 spaces predominately unused in the West lot for conditions equal to regulations for Pine street lot, (Commuters, etc.)

These suggestions are made so that all spaces can be utilized at all times, instead of necessarily leaving the West lot approximately fifty per cent unused.

Comments welcome. Al

ANOTHER RESPONSE

Irregardless of the fact that this entire issue gives a strong resemblance to a debate on the validity of Chapel Services, I feel compelled to throw my two cents worth into the pot!

Indeed, I too am guilty of poor attendance at these services, but I wish to point out some reasons for my absences.

One, I conceive Chapel Services to be twenty minutes of meditation and personal reflection to remind me of my responsibilities as a man and Christian.

However, a good number of Chapel Services seem to be made into a stage production day after day. Some people feel that twenty minutes is time to make their debut as a preacher--namely a rather lengthy and boring sermonette--in addition to prayers covering every conceivable substance of life!

Where is the time for reflection and mediation? I feel as though I'm sitting in a lecture hall. I dare say to those whom this is poignantly directed that these Chapel Services cannot feasibly be turned into a complete worship Service in twenty minutes time--although, I must commend prior to condemning them for their efforts--even though somewhat stilted!

Secondly, and I feel most importantly, considering evidence provided this morning--namely--that unless someone is there to lead prayer, song and words of wisdom--some poor souls just can't meditate or reflect on their own! These people apparently look forward to the twenty--minutes entertainment of the self-proclaimed evangelists rather than utilizing those twenty--minutes to gain a closer insight of our Heavenly Father!

At times I find "coffee breaks" more in tune with the realization of love and understanding as encouraged by our Lord--then the often misconceived demonstration of superfluous worship expressed in the chapel!

I feel Chapel is needed--but our course must be re-directed onto the right path--or we may all be lost to the virtue of true spiritual gatherings.

Respectfully submitted

Richard Luh

STUDENTS, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION

Bored with constant study?

Need to escape from the books?

Bored with nothing to do?

Need to find something to occupy some time?

Are you just a teeny bit crazy?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, give some thought to joining a couple of others who have found the perfect answer. At eleven thirty every week day (there are certain exceptions) come along and jog around the F & M track. You can jog a little and still get to lunch at the refectory before it closes. It doesn't matter how far or how not far you want to run! No one will laugh at you (except maybe Disher but he laughs at wakes). It is a good opportunity just to get out and work off some frustrations or extra pounds. This is a free activity!

Frank Gassler has promised to join us as soon as he finds some tennis shoes. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of a pair of size tens let Frank know! We would hate to have him feeling upset because a little old pair of tennis shoes is keeping him from doing something so dear to his heart.

We usually meet in the empty space between the apartments and walk over the field. Later on we crawl back to the Seminary!

We would be glad to see anyone.

P.S. The F&M field is locked until Monday, March 28th, and Monday is a perfect day to start. See you there!

The Jogger

Allen Heckman

TO THE SEMINARIAN

After reading and hearing the response to my letter in the Seminarian two weeks ago, I felt the need to touch again on the subject of Practical Theology.

Since talking with Paul Irion I can say that I agree with him that there will always be situations cropping up in which we could not be specifically prepared for. I also agree with him that we have to maintain a balance between theory (the ability to think and reason in any given situation), and the practical. However, to claim that teaching the practical aspects of ministry is not needed because you have the theory does not make sense to me. There are certain specific difficulties that will be faced which a seminary student can be exposed to and allowed to examine and discuss or work out solutions to while in school rather than being allowed to stumble along when the confrontation occurs in the parish. Yes, theory is essential and we can't do away with it. This was never my intention. I do feel that the balance between theory and the practical is very much one sided at LTS.

I admit that my proposal for a practical course is only treating a symptom at the seminary. Jeff Diller is very much aware of this and has placed a valid question before all of us. What are the goals and purposes of LTS? The Statement of Purpose is given on the first page of the Seminary Bulletin. Two paragraphs in the statement are of special interest to me. The first paragraph is, "The primary purpose of Lancaster Theological Seminary is to participate in the mission of the Christian church in the world by preparing persons for leadership in parish churches and by fostering life long learning."

At first I had difficulty interpreting the words, "leadership in parish churches," because a leader in a parish church does not necessarily mean a minister. A leader in a parish church can be a consistoryman, choir director, Sunday school teacher, organist, committee person, or lay reader, none of which has to attend Seminary! Also the word "preparing" was problem because I didn't know what might be meant by preparing someone for leadership.

The third paragraph of the Statement answers my question: "to achieve this purpose the programs of the Seminary are designed to:...Stimulate professional development by encouraging competency in the resources and skills required for the practice of ministry." This says to me that the Seminary has taken upon itself the task of exposing me to the resources and skills necessary for my edification in becoming a parish minister. If this is the Seminary's purpose I don't feel that it is meeting its purpose in the education I am receiving.

This is not the same aim that Jeff sees for the Seminary. There are others in the Seminary community who see other aims and purposes. Until there is agreement on the aims and purposes of the Seminary there is going to continue to be disillusionment and confusion among students and faculty. We need to know what the purpose of this Seminary is so we and future students will know what to expect in choosing whether or not to come here.

ALLEN HECKMAN

Note from me:

It seems like with all the confusion with collegium handbooks, graduation requirements, and Statements of Purpose, etc. a common demand should surface....writing clear proposals....on behalf of the faculty and administration as well as required of by students.

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