

Some Thoughts on Evangelicals

I read a long research article the other day about the state of Christianity in America. It was the title of the article that caught my attention causing me to want to read it. The title was **Pew: Evangelicals Stay Strong as Christianity Crumbles in America.** Reading about the Pew Research Center is an interesting read in and of itself. This is what is said about the Pew Research Center:

The Pew Research Center is a [nonpartisan](#) American [think tank](#) based in [Washington, D.C.](#), that provides information on [social issues](#), [public opinion](#), and [demographic](#) trends shaping the United States and the world. It conducts [public opinion polling](#), [demographic](#) research, media [content analysis](#), and other empirical social science research. It does not take explicit policy positions. It is a [subsidiary](#) of [The Pew Charitable Trusts](#).

It was the word “Crumbles” that caught my attention. For half of my life, I have read and heard the experts warn of the possibility of Christianity in America going the way of Christianity in Europe. The last 10 years in America have seen the rapid development of the loss of traditional Christianity as we have all experienced it. I would be willing to say some like the change, some don’t, and some have scarcely noticed. Perhaps it has a lot to do with one’s age as those who are younger have less experience to make any comparisons. Instead all they have are the ranting of their parents or grandparents which does influence but perhaps not positively!

The article itself suggests that Evangelicals now make up the majority of all Christians in America. Also when Evangelicals are taken as a single entity and compared to all those who self identify as Christians, they are growing or remaining consistently stable as all others are shrinking or have ceased to grow. The PCUSA for example, stopped growing in the 1960’s. With the expansion of the overall population, the lack of growth is even more pronounced.

Pew also has determined that the term “Evangelical” is not a negative term but well thought of. Roughly 1/3 of all those still affiliated with the mainline denominations also self identify as being Evangelical. Families are also split in their beliefs. In Presbyterian churches it was found that there is roughly a 50/50 split of those who want to be identified as Evangelical and those who don’t.

Here is another discovery that makes sense. Evangelicals are much more concerned with seeing others converted than all other groups. It is the Evangelicals who are adding new members rather than simply growing their numbers by “switching” churches or denominations. When it comes to retaining children, we lose 50% of our kids while Evangelicals lose 30%.

Evangelicals are also increasingly diverse. More than 30% are non-white. Another interesting finding is that Evangelicals are much more likely to marry other Evangelicals than not.

What does all this mean? First off, as a Congregation that has joined the Fellowship Community (of Presbyterians) we have aligned ourselves with Evangelical Christianity. The great theologian Karl Barth was an Evangelical and defined it simply as “Bible believing.” Secondly, the Session is attempting to get

serious about learning what it will mean to share the gospel with others and to be taught the how's and the why's of conversion. Finally, we should be reminded that the Bible clearly says that as history moves forward, Christianity will continue to shrink while at the same time that it will never disappear because it is God's project not ours.

As long as I am your pastor, I remain committed to preach and teach God's word to you faithfully and to love without judgment or bias all who come through our doors. Also I remain committed to add as many new to our numbers as God will allow.

With hearts aflame,

H. Dick Reynolds

Worship Assistants

USHERS:

7- Lynn, Brenda, Sierra & Ashley Gant
 14- Lynn, Brenda, Sierra & Ashley Gant
 21- Delbert Schrag & Dale Ladd
 28- Delbert Schrag & Dale Ladd
 Usher Supervisor: Fred Bohnenblust
 Offering Depositor: Mark Heidebrecht
 Deacon On Duty: Carolyn Childres

CHANCEL FLOWERS & FELLOWSHIP HOST

Please consider signing the form in the Fellowship Hallway, for flowers or fellowship Sunday mornings.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Gannon, Dobson, Warren, Childres

Women's Evening & Morning Circle

Morning Circle meets every 3rd Thursday at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Evening Circle meets every 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm in Adult Sunday School room. Any questions contact Crystal Warren.

Evening Circle

No Meeting in June
 No Meeting in July
 No Meeting in August

Morning Circle

June 18th
 No Meeting in July
 No Meeting in August

Pastor Dick is in the church office Monday through Thursday.
 Cindy Miller is in on Monday and Wednesday.
 Gabby Fischer is on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

NEWS

Save the Date - June 1-5 Summer Mission trip in McPherson - 5 days of repairs to help 20 families in McPherson stay in their homes. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex for people who want to help with lunch, 9:30 A.M. at the Methodist Church. First Presbyterian will be doing Tuesday, June 2nd lunch.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session met on May 21st and discussed or approved the following:

1. Allow Boy Scout Troop 130 to meet in our building. We will have a written agreement with them.
2. The Financial Audit was made and no problems were found.
3. Our church helping in the "Keeping Them Home" mission project in McPherson, June 1-5. We will repair the outside of 2 trailer homes. Our church will provide lunch on Tuesday, June 2. Volunteers are needed.
4. The Membership MT will provide a hamburger pot luck on Pentecost, May 24.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you sent for Helen Gerard's funeral service. They were very much appreciated.

- Mark Gerard & Family.

Thank you & may God Bless you. For your support and your prayers for in the end prayers is all we have.

- Your brother in Jesus, Chuck Horn – Country Side Recovery Group

Thank you for your gift of \$500.00 in support of The International Student Scholarships. Your generous investment in the present and the future of Sterling College is an encouragement to our students, faculty, and staff. Thank you for your financial giving to Sterling College and her mission. Your prayers and support make a lasting impression on the legacy of Sterling and making her stronger for future generations.

- In Christ, Luke S. Cureton

Thank you so very much for recognizing me on Administrative Professional's Day on behalf of the church with such fun gifts. It was so nice to be remembered and thanked for the work I do for the church family here on this corner. I never have enough spatulas or notepads, so those will be put to good use, and I can't wait to taste the dip mix! Even my husband is happy that I have a new tea towel! He says now I have to throw some of mine away that have holes in them! Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve here and thanks again for remembering me with such useful gifts.

Blessings, Cindy Miller

Generous people like you enable Presbyterian World Mission to bear witness to Christ's love in every region of the world. Thank you for your recent gift of \$625.00 for Missionary Support and \$1,250.00 for Disaster Relief. Presbyterian World Mission is committed to addressing the root causes of poverty, sharing the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ, and working for reconciliation. Your gift is a testament to your commitment to international mission. Thanks again for your gift, and please pray for our mission personnel and our global partners. -Together in mission, B. Hunter Farrell, Director, World Mission Presbyterian Mission Agency

Thank you for your gift. I'm sure it will help me afford some of my needs in college.

Sincerely, Ian Ediger.

Thanks a million for the beautiful flowers and glass cup of chocolates I received. The flowers are in full bloom and are lovely! I will enjoy them for a long time. Thanks again!

Lavera Lane

The 4200 scholarship made my day. It's nice to have money for school and this will come in handy for me. Thank you for everything you have done for me!

-Kylie Wiens

DEADLINE FOR July NEWSLETTER IS

June 26th

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## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Pastor H. Dick Reynolds
- 3- Ruthanne Stucky, Allison Zerger, Madelyn Zerger
- 4- Flossie Schoming
- 7- Maxine Bohn
- 10- Betty Thomas
- 12- Lila Wiens
- 16- Denize Anderson
- 20- Sean Birzer
- 21- Gabby Fischer
- 29- Willard Childres

### ANNIVERSARY

- 6- Terri & Don Schrag
- 7- Chris & Deena Gabel, Myron & Connie Hoover, Glenn & Wanda Waggoner
- 8- Jim & Cindy Griggs
- 11- Jay & Carolyn Herren
- 13- Dale & Patti Ladd
- 14- Doug & Tammy Curtright
- 16- William & Erin Heidebrechth
- 18- Paul & Veneta Ediger
- 24- Herb & Mary Glidden
- 29- Brian & Kristin Zerger