

The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

May 2023

RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTOR



PARISH READING

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
CHANGES TIME
JESUS CHANGES LIFE**

EXTRACTED FROM THE CLUTTER OF THE RECTOR'S DESK

Seven Trends in Worship Service Times

If your church has one service at 11:00 am on Sunday mornings, it is likely in the minority. In a recent reader survey we conducted with 1,649 responses, slightly over half of the congregations had only one worship service on Sunday morning, and the times of that single service varied.

The "sacred hour" of 11:00 am is no longer the worship time for a majority of churches.

Though we don't have definitive information on the origin of the 11:00 am worship time, it appears to be related to an agrarian society. We started our services late in the morning so the farmers could milk the cows and do necessary farm chores.

So what are the trends in worship service times? Our information is based upon the survey we noted above as well as anecdotal data derived from our interaction with thousands of churches.

Churches with multiple Sunday morning services will soon be in the majority. This trend, once more common with larger churches, is now taking hold in congregations of all sizes.

The 11:00 am worship service is no longer the designated time for a majority of churches. The so-called sacred hour of worship is not sacred in most churches. This change started slowly, but it is pervasive now.

Earlier Sunday morning services are gaining in popularity. Worship services with start times from 7:00 am to 8:30 am are growing in many churches. This trend seems to be related to the growth of empty-nest boomers.

The growth in the number of non-Sunday primary services is steady but slow. There has not been a huge upsurge in the number of primary services on a day other than Sunday. The steady growth, however, is an indication that this approach will soon be common in many churches.

The number of churches with concurrent worship service times is small, but will continue to increase. Concurrent services require either a video feed or different preaching/teaching pastors. As the trend in multi-site churches continues to grow, so will these service times.

The most popular worship times start between 9:30 am to 10:30 am. This mid-morning worship time attracts attendees in churches with both single and multiple worship services. As I noted in number three above, I anticipate a shift in popularity to even earlier services. Worship wars over service times will continue to wane. Though the worship wars have largely been about music style, there have been many wars over worship times as well. We will see fewer of these battles as more churches adopt varieties of worship times.

Thom S. Rainer, Founder & CEO "Church Answers"
<https://churchanswers.com/blog/seven-trends-in-worship-service-times/>

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2 NRSV)

Is there a "right time" for a worship service? Does it matter whether we worship at 8:30 am or 10:30 am or 7 pm? Does it matter if we worship on Sunday, or can we worship on Saturday or Wednesday?

These are all questions that we are asking right now as we explore sharing my time between All Saints and Saint Mary's. But are they the right questions? I don't think so. All of these questions boil down to two key points. Does this worship time unduly interrupt the rest of my Sunday? If we worship on a different day, is it really church?

Here is the question I would like us to be asking. What things in my life are unduly interrupting my life in Christ? Or ... How is my life preventing me from properly worshiping God?

If we truly believe that God as known through Jesus Christ is at the center of our daily life, these are the questions that matter. If spending this small part of our week is annoying us because the time is inconvenient, what does that say about our commitment to God and God's church?

I know that change is uncomfortable and it would be nice if things could just stay "the way they have always been," but unfortunately the world doesn't work that way. Change is an inevitable part of life and no solution will be able to please everyone. In fact, most good solutions don't fully please anyone.

Rev Warren Huestis

VESTRY

John Joy, Sr Warden
 Charles Everhart, Jr Warden
 Richard Davis
 Judy Franklin
 open
 Andrea Harner
 Judy Sauer
 Barb Zumwalde
 Newsletter editor—John Glaze

Samaritan Outreach Services (SOS)

is in need of paper goods! When you shop, please remember YOUR NEIGHBORS and pick up some extra items. There is a box in Lacy Hall to place them. If you have questions, see Rich Davis!
THANK YOU!

Von Gerichten Art Glass Company

In 1886 Theodore Von Gerichten, who had been born in 1863 in the town of Offenbach, Germany, immigrated to the United States. He became an agent for the Continental Insurance Company settling in Cullman, Alabama. The following year, 1887, his brother Ludwig Von Gerichten immigrated from Germany and shortly thereafter went to Cincinnati, Ohio where he worked as an apprentice at the Riordan Stained Glass Studio. In 1891 Ludwig left Cincinnati, moved to Cullman, and started his own stained glass company, naming it Birmingham Art Glass Company. Needing a bookkeeper he convinced his brother Theodore to join him in the business.

Two years later, in November 1893 the Von Gerichten Brothers moved their company to Columbus, Ohio, changing the name to Capital City Art Glass Company. The 1895-96 Columbus City Directory lists the first Columbus address for the company as 428 S High St and both Von Gerichten brothers were listed with home addresses on Kossuth Street in German Village.

The name Capital City Art Glass Company did not last long. By 1898 the Von Gerichten brothers had once again changed their company's name, this time giving it their own name: The Von Gerichten Art Glass Company.

In 1914 the Von Gerichten brothers opened a studio in Munich, Germany. Theodore spent most of his time in the Columbus studio and Ludwig spent much of his time in the Munich studio.

During the time that the Von Gerichten were in the art glass business they created approximately 1,800 windows for approximately 850 churches in the USA. Most of those windows were created in the Columbus studio. However, thinking that German workmanship was superior to American workmanship, some churches in the United States specifically requested that their windows be created at the Munich studio to the United States. In addition to having to pay extra for shipping costs there were other neg-

MORE PARISH READING

realise it. When I was a new Christian in the 1970s, almost every church that believed the Bible – and even some that didn't – had a Sunday evening service.

In the past thirty to forty years, however, a great change seems to have swept over the western evangelical world. Many churches have abandoned evening worship; and those which still have it seem to have resigned themselves to the view that different demographics in their church family will attend at different time slots – and thus their congregation becomes virtually two, or even three separate congregations meeting at different times in different “styles”. The amazing thing to me is that so few Christians seem to realise what a radical departure this is from many centuries of church history. One Christian even once told me that our (conservative) church was a radical innovator having such high (and unrealistic) expectations of church attendance as twice per Sunday. I had to prove to him by reference to the Scriptures and with evidence from church history that we are in fact only continuing what ordinary Christians have always done.

I guess, like most Anglicans, I only had to look inside my Prayer Book in my teenage years to realise that evening services were a time-honoured pattern of church life – there was an order of service for it, just like there was for morning worship, weddings, funerals and other special occasions. Hymn writers even wrote hymns especially for evening worship. Take this one by John Ellerton, which focuses our minds on the continuity of Christians' praises when, around the world, believers meet morning and evening:

*The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
 The darkness falls at Thy behest;
 To Thee our morning hymns ascended,
 Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.
 We thank Thee that Thy church unsleeping,
 While earth rolls onward into light,
 Through all the world her watch is keeping,
 And rests not now by day or night.*

When I was converted, it didn't surprise me that committed Christians generally attended evening services as well as morning ones. (Admittedly, in some churches the “youth” tended to regard the evening service as their opportunity to do their own thing; and increasingly, older people stayed away.)

Likewise during the early '80s, when I was a student in the U.S., the Presbyterian churches I was part of all held evening services; but because of their clear convictions about what constituted reformed worship, they didn't distinguish between morning and evening in the pattern of their liturgy. It seems that since then, the pressure to drop evening services has affected many churches.

During the month of June my husband Paul and I were travelling in the U.S. visiting friends, and we were glad of the opportunity to attend their churches with them. But we found that only one of the four we visited had a whole-church-family evening service, and that was poorly attended. It seemed that considerable effort was being made to “informalise” that one, too, probably to try and encourage more than the faithful few to be there. It was a sad and somewhat sobering experience to realise that Christians are fast giving up half of their opportunities to gather, worship and learn from the preaching of the Word.

But this trend is not universal, and there are churches and individuals who uphold the blessings of Sunday evening services.

This article will be continued next month when you'll learn more about observances of Evening Services.

THE EVENING SERVICE

It's amazing how quickly things change, and how little people seem to

Death of Wm O Collins

ative aspects for churches making this request. One church in Kingston, New York ordered windows from the Munich studio in 1914 but because of World War I and the British blockade, which continued until 1921, they did not receive their windows until late 1921. A church in Shillington, Pennsylvania ordered windows from the Munich studio in 1928 and they barely arrived in time for dedication services.

In actuality there was very little difference in the quality of workmanship in the windows done by the Columbus studio and windows done by the Munich studio. Although each studio had its specialty -- the Columbus studio was noted for beautiful painted garments and Munich studio was noted for texture of skin and color - both studios employed German Craftsmen.

When a church expressed an interest in purchasing Von Gerichten stained glass windows a company representative would travel to the church and meet with congregation representatives to discuss window patterns and scenes. Using standard patterns in coordination with unique drawings, a drawing of the proposed window would be created. Back in the Columbus Von Gerichten office, Employee Mary Ann Holtziger Mclean, using a pricing formula, would figure the cost of the window. This pricing formula took into account a number of things including the size of the window and the intricacy of the window; the more tiny pieces, the greater the price.

Once the congregation approved the price work began on the windows. Large sheets of paper were spread on work tables in the studio's second floor work area. Outlines of each piece were drawn on the paper as if it were a large puzzle board. Glass, having been previously purchased from glass manufacturing companies, was cut into pieces, placed as if they were puzzle pieces onto paper, and were then secured into place with pieces of lead called came.

Unfortunately the Von Gerichten Art Glass Studio is no longer in existence, having closed their doors in the late 1930s. Although having been long removed from the Columbus business scene, the Von Gerichten Art Glass Studio will remain in the hearts of the people everywhere as art glass in churches throughout the United States reflect the master craftsmanship that is clearly Von Gerichten. Von Gerichten were winners of four gold medals at the St. Louis Exposition in 1904 for stained glass windows. (*info from Wikipedia*)

We are not sure which of our windows are from Von Gerichten, but information from Chris Duckworth tells us that in 1917, "St. Mary's First Episcopal Church" of Hillsboro and the Reverend R. R. Philips contracted with the firm for a window, which is number 352 in their accounting ledger. We are fairly certain the window of Jesus with the Children, located in the baptistry, is from Von Gerichten. In addition, I am fairly convinced that the window in the gallery and the Faith, Hope and Charity windows are from them also.



Right:
Von Gerichten
Glass in Columbus

William Oliver Collins, one of our founders, was a widely respected man in this community. He was a lawyer, the practice of which he left to fight in the Civil War. His wife, Catherine, attended the Hillsboro Female College, following her sister here from Maryland. After Col. Collins' first wife passed, he then met and married Catherine Wever. Catherine was portrayed in last year's Ghost Walk.

When William passed, there was much attention and accolades given in his memory. Here is his obituary.

DEATH OF COL. WM. O. COLLINS. AN OLD AND RESPECTED CITIZEN.

Col. Wm. O. Collins, of this city, so well and favorably known throughout Highland and other counties, died at 12 o'clock to-day (Tuesday), of hemorrhage of the bowels after an illness of only a few weeks. Col. Collins was born in Somers, Conn. in August, 1809, came to Hillsboro in 1833, and commenced the practice of law as a partner of the late Gen. McDowell. He continued to practice until about 1860, during which time he was elected Prosecuting Attorney and State Senator from the Ross and Highland District. When the war broke out he raised a regiment here, which was known as the 11th Ohio Cavalry, of which he was elected Colonel. The regiment was sent to the Rocky Mountains, where it did good service. Col. Collins was a fine soldier and an excellent citizen. He was always active and prominent in all public enterprises, and was loved by all who knew him.

Col. Collins was a man of fine literary attainments, and a gentleman, in all that the word implies. His death will be sincerely lamented by all our citizens, who will feel that Hillsboro has sustained a great loss.

A more extended sketch of his life and valuable public services will be given in another issue. At the hour of our going to press on Tuesday evening, it had not been decided when the funeral would take place.



May
Happy Birthday!

6th - Sam Harner
31st - Rob Harner
(16yr!)

The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
234 N. High St.
Hillsboro, OH 45133

MAY & JUNE

***NEW* SERVICE TIMES**

Sunday - 11:30am

2nd & 4th Wednesdays - 12n



Lector & Intercessor Schedule

1st week Betty & Jim Heathcote

**2nd week Connie Reynolds &
Dea Flinn**

3rd week Carol & John Joy

4th week Rich Davis & Connie Reynolds

**5th week Connie Reynolds &
Dea Flinn**

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH INFORMATION

The Diocese of Southern Ohio
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
234 N. High St Hillsboro, OH 45133
937-393-2043

The Rev. Warren Huestis
Rector

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9 am
In person & Streaming on Facebook

2nd & 4th WEDNESDAYS - 12 noon
In person only

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND
Sunday after service.

*We strive to be safe and make our parishioners and
guests feel safe and welcome!*

WEB SITE:
www.smehillsboro.weebly.com