

October Epistle 2011



Christianity on the Move™

So raise your glass if you are wrong
In all the right ways
All my underdogs, we will never, never be
Anything but loud and nitty gritty, dirty little freaks
Won't you come on and come o,
and Raise your glass
Just come on and come and
Raise your glass

-PINK

Upcoming Events:

*Oct. 1st Highlands cup 5k *Oct. 11th & 24th Ultimate Frisbee *Third Tues. Church Oct.
18th Bonfire Louisville Presbyterian Seminary *Oct 29th Big Hit 1/2 Marathon *Oct.
22nd Scarecrow Building competition Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and fall party
~Event info on Web: www.sweatysheep.com or "like" 'sweaty sheep' on facebook!!!

Raise a Glass ...Cheers to Jesus

The first Sunday in October is known as "World Communion Sunday" on the Liturgical Calendar. Communion is an interesting event. We practice it once a month in most churches, some more, some less. It can easily be an awkward time for visitors as they ask, "do we participate or sit still and draw attention to ourselves?" If one doesn't really understand communion, and many do not, it can be pretty bizarre. "I am drinking the blood of Christ? This is weird," we think to ourselves as youth in the church or early on in our Christian relationships. Communion often is silent, meditative, reflective... it always seems so serious. That's important, communion is an important sacrament and a time to honor Christian tradition and the life of Christ.

However, what would it look like if we raised a glass to the man who turned water to wine, the man who healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, communed with the sinners; what would it look like if we raised our glass to the man who loved us so much he gave his life for ours... and raised it with energy.

Earlier this month, well driving home from a Presbytery meeting with a friend, this song by Pink came up. I must give credit to my driving partner here, as he made the statement, "wouldn't it be awesome to play this during communion?" Given that I live for stirring up the mundane, the idea sounded great, and the theology even greater. Would Jesus really want a silent and somber toast? Why would the man who ate and drank with the sinners want an exclusive table celebration? Why would Jesus want anything short of a party? And why, may I ask, do we do raise our glass with such infrequency? In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he quotes Christ's blessing of the bread and wine; and that is where we usually stop. Paul didn't stop there though stating, "whether you eat or drink, or WHATEVER you do, do all to the glory of God." Communion is not limited to a building and certainly not once a month. It is not a particular loaf of bread and welches grape juice. Portion wise, it is certainly not a wafer and thimble of juice, this is to honor the one who commanded abundant life (John 10:10.)

We have all been to weddings and if you are anything like me, the best part of the

wedding is the toast. It is usually done by the best friend, it is personal, it is often funny and sometimes slightly obscene. It is Fun, a blessing, but a FUN one. Right here, right now, raise a glass to the life of the party. Honor the one who gave us the opportunity to smile by smiling. Do it whenever you eat or drink, whenever you walk or talk, whenever you sleep or wake. Allow your toast to our saviour to be more than a motion, make it passionate. Christ wants to be toasted at your home, your favorite pub, with gatorade at sporting events, orange juice at breakfast, wine or grape juice Sunday morning and a beer during the football game Sunday afternoon. We are all "wrong." We are not perfect. We all fall short. That is not a reason to abstain from a lifetime communion with Christ, that is a reason to raise your glass and raise it high. We were the underdogs, but through that that first toast, ironically deemed the last supper, we can share in the triumph of this life. Share that triumph with Christ, as Cynthia Weil states, that is "an incredible High." You are triumphantly blessed, you were bought at a cost, you are something special. Be proud of that, and raise your glass high above a smile stretched wide. Godspeed

1 Cor. 10:31- 11:1 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Contact at runningmango@msn.com; Check out the website www.sweatysheep.com; or friend "Sweaty sheep" on facebook!