

Congregation Sabbatical Work: “Christianity After Religion”

Part of the Sabbatical Project is for the congregation to study a book together. That book is written by Diana Butler Bass and is entitled “Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening.” It is an excellent book written by an accomplished researcher. Bass holds a Ph.D. in religious studies from Duke University.

In this book Bass helps us understand the change that has happened in culture regarding people’s attitudes toward organized religion. This book will also help us recognize the power of the “spiritual but not religious” trend. But, Bass is not pessimistic about this drift away from the former way of doing life. She has a hope-filled vision for a renewed faith that stays true to the message of Jesus.

Please order the book for yourself and read it during the month of April. We have 15 copies in the office if you would like to borrow one instead.

The Sabbatical Committee hopes that through reading this book and having conversations together about how culture has changed we might discover a renewed commitment to serving our community. FLC is a wonderfully amazing place of God’s grace in action, but how do we make that known? How do we help our community discover that grace in their own lives if we do not recognize that the old way of doing things is not connecting with our neighbor?

Sister Liz Colver will lead a class on the book during the Adult Education Hour the first three Sundays in May. She is very aware of the topics covered in this book and is uniquely qualified to help us process the information in this book, she was the Northwest Washington Synod’s community engagement resource person. Colver has a passion for helping the Church discover its mission and ministry in today’s milieu.

We would also like to encourage you to take up this book in your small groups, book club or circles. Or if you would like, form a new book club!

Any questions please talk with our Sabbatical Committee team members: Kathy Konieczka, Joe Siebert, Sue Toyoda, Carsten Thode, Jackie Schnarre and Dawn Bastin