

Danville News Column  
Robert John Andrews  
Friday, September 17, 2010  
“Time to Redecorate”  
Word Count: 750

There are times, such as these sighing, tedious, and wearisome times, when all I can muster is a bunch of rambling rumbblings. So here we go.

*To the pastor down in Florida who cleverly has hijacked the news with his threat to burn the Qur'an:* Why would you want to insult my friends?

*To those who have recently suggested (however kindly and as a clumsy attempt to console) that a little 13 year old girl died because God wanted another angel in heaven:* The death of little girls never, never is the will of God.

*To all those feuding over the building of mosques:* We're all rather missing the point, for what's so sacred about any place or building? I rather appreciate how God is worshiped in spirit and in truth.

*To Sarah Palin:* If you say you are a Christian, you must be ready to pray for, to love, to respect, to die for Al Sharpton as a child of God.

*To Al Sharpton:* If you say you are a Christian, you must be ready to pray for, to love, to respect, to die for Sarah Palin as a child of God. There's the recipe for the world's hope.

*To Glenn Beck:* Preach it, brother; but I'll believe it best when you preach it without words (same goes for me).

*To celebrities in general:* Please, you're really not that interesting or important.

*To those Christians who are chortling that the renowned Pope of atheism, Christopher Hitchens, has contracted a tumor in his esophagus, trumpeting it as a fitting punishment from God:* Hey, friends, God doesn't cause cancer.

*To those organizing the effort on September 20 as 'Everybody Pray for Hitchens Day:'* I never yet have seen prayer change nature, but I've sure seen it change us.

*To Stephen Hawkins, lately suggesting how there is a sound scientific explanation for the making of our world, no gods required:* Disproving God is as useless as trying to prove God.

*To those who view the way I was trained to interpret the Bible to be false teaching:* That's cool, so now let's compare studies and scholarship because more important than how you approach scripture is where scripture takes you.

*To those church members who get miffed about whatever it is about church they get miffed:* Instead of pulpit exchanges, how about we have entire congregations swap churches for a day? A pastor buddy once had a member who abhorred his beard. He told her that if it bothered her that much he'd shave it off. He did. Next Sunday she approached him, saying, "Now, about your mustache..."

Please remember the Law of Point of View: your point of view says more about you than about the other person. What you say about others reveals everything about you.

No wonder lately I just want to hide and redecorate my house. There's little I can change out there, but I can change in here. Which we did over Labor Day weekend.

Why I choose these worse possible times to do things like this, I cannot explain. I've done this before, such as just before my ordination exams. I should have been studying but I decided instead to construct a chess table. Impulsive. Compulsive. Certainly there's a psychological syndrome describing this behavior.

Yes, there are saner times to redecorate the house. After all there was a funeral to officiate, soccer club party and book club party to coordinate, lessons for the year to formulate, sermons to create, persons in the hospital and nursing homes with whom to commiserate, a daughter's engagement to celebrate.

But there we were with paintbrush in hand to renovate.

Pile up the trash in a mound in the garage, including old air conditioners and rusty tricycles. Move the furniture. Remove all the paintings and family photographs. Spackle, sand, and prime. Paint the walls. No, the bright marigold color was too loud -- the den shone like a neon PennDot sign. Repaint the walls with sunflower yellow, very bold. Shove back the furniture. Now the stuff looks shabby. Go out and get a new lamp, new computer desk, new TV table. Hang new paintings. My sensitive side is fond of fabrics. Put the family photographs on the wall up the stairs. Find new places for the record albums, CD's, and filing cabinet.

It may have been a most inconvenient time, but it sure was satisfying taking care of what we could. It is enough just to get your own house in order.