

Why Religion is Still Important

Part I: Putting a Human Face on Homosexuality

Detroit PFLAG has a panel of four: two parents, a gay man and a lesbian woman, who have done 50 presentations before church groups, predominately Catholic. They tell their stories to promote empathy and become more welcoming faith communities for gays and lesbians and their families. They do NOT debate related religious issues.

Obtain more information from Linda Karle-Nelson at lindakarle@earthlink.net.

Part II: 10 Things Your Minister Wants to Tell You (But Can't Because He needs The Job).

This is the title of a book by Rev. Oliver (Buzz) Thomas, ordained by both the Northern and Southern Baptists, and also a civil rights lawyer.

One of their daughter's friends lived with them during his Senior year in high school after his parents kicked him out of the house.

His main argument was that religious arguments must be countered by religious arguments – not by an appeal to science or logic. You need to be able to quote from scripture or appeal to Jesus.

Bumper sticker: Talk to me about Leviticus as soon as you sacrifice a goat.

He wrote an op-ed article in USA Today: "When religion loses its credibility". This is an excellent article and it comes up immediately if you Google the title.

The book was published in 2007 by St. Martins's Press, www.stmartins.com. Autographed personalized copies were given by the Press to all attendees at the workshop.

Dick Patterson