

Tuesday digest

December 20, 2011

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New today from the *Century*:

- Thomas Berg on [religious freedom](#): "When conflicts come up between religious beliefs and the law, religious progressives should support certain religious exemptions--even if they disagree with the beliefs in question."
- Stanley Hauerwas [reviews Karl Marlantes](#): "Karl Marlantes's new book is not fiction, but it develops the idea of his novel *Matterhorn*: that war provides a sense of transcendence that can be found nowhere else." (subscription required)
- John Buchanan on [environmental activism](#): "How is it possible to read the first chapter of the Bible and not be an environmentalist?" (subscription required)
- Max Stackhouse's seven-word gospel: "[God enters history; renewed covenants promise salvation](#)."
- David Lewicki on [pastoring during the holidays](#): "Sometimes cliches can make the reality rather than represent it, but I do think the holidays are particularly challenging for most pastors. Here's a list of five things that have been vexing for me this Christmas season."

- Henry Langknecht [blogs the nativity lectionary](#): "Several years ago I received from a parishioner a "Jesus Is the Reason for the Season" cookie tin. Every time I reached for a piece of Doris's divinity, I had to read that cheery-angry motto of Christian moralism."
- P. C. Enniss's [lectionary column](#) from the magazine for the following Sunday, January 1: "Imagine the leader of a major Christian institution declaring on CNN that from now on, before one can become a Christian, one must first become a Jew, submit to the ritual of circumcision and vow to abide by the disciplines of the Mosaic law." (subscription required)

In the news:

- [Pope certifies miracles for two U.S. saints](#)
- [Ten Commandments scroll goes on display in New York](#)
- [Episcopal clergy arrested at Occupy Wall Street protest](#)
- [Muslims push Lowe's boycott over reality series](#)
- [Anglican church's Christmas billboard vandalized in New Zealand](#)
- [U.S. jumps to top of charity index](#)
- [Lawmaker pulls bid to give rabbis control of Israeli electricity](#)
- [South Korean church leaders hope for peace following Kim's death](#)
- [Report shows Christianity shifting to Africa](#)
- [Baptists, Pentecostals seek common ground](#)