

Friday digest

February 3, 2012

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New today (and yesterday) from the *Century*:

- Brad Hill on people who [hijack church meetings](#): "In many cases, shouting 'Elephant in the room!' is an attempt to avoid other, lesser, lurking creatures." (subscription required)
- Craig Barnes on the [pastor as sheepdog](#): "I am cherished, and called by the Shepherd to serve the flock. But I can save no one." (subscription required)
- Amy Frykholm on the [morning communion rush](#) at the Chicago Temple: "When John Wesley sent missionaries to America, he said simply, 'Offer them Christ.' That's what the Chicago Temple sees itself doing, no questions asked."
- Steve Thorngate on the [National Prayer Breakfast](#): "My problem isn't simply a secularist one, i.e. government officials should avoid any event with a smack of sectarianism. What I object to is the political exploitation of the importance of prayer in American life."
- Ryan Dueck on [updating his religion](#)
- "[Pietà](#)," a poem by Maria Garriott

In the news:

- [Yes, Mormons tithe, but most others don't](#)
- [Ecumenical group affirms relationship with Rome](#)
- [Mainline Protestants up for grabs heading into November](#)
- [Argentine Methodists send hopes for peace to British counterparts](#)
- [Obama says faith mandates him to care for the poor](#)