



# The Columns *Online*

## Am I an Effective Leader?

*from a Church for Starving Artists*

Maybe our favorite Pastor is a wonderful human being, a friend to all, a faithful pastoral caregiver. But what if the congregation isn't advancing toward becoming more like the Reign of God? What if the congregation is making zero difference in the community? What if nobody is growing spiritually?

Maybe it's never occurred to us that – for leaders – learning to lead is a lifelong endeavor.

- **Know who they are.** They don't chase every great idea or every shiny object because they know what they stand for and who/what they worship.
- **Are clear on the organization's mission.** If the mission is "to be a light in the city" then we aren't distracted by opportunities that shift our focus from the city. If the mission is "to transform the world for good in the name of Jesus Christ" then we won't be bogged down by conversations about whether or not to build a fountain in the courtyard. If the mission is "to address what break's Jesus heart in our neighborhood" then clearly we need to focus on what's going on in our neighborhood and spend minimal time on sanctuary paint colors.

*continued*

## Am I an Effective Leader? *continued*

- **Address conflict quickly and with love.** If we know who we are and we are clear on the mission, then it's fairly easy to stand up to factions working against that mission.
- **Are open to learning.** In any given organization there are so many people who know things that the leader doesn't know. I'm a big fan of being mentored by younger team members, new team members, even cranky team members.
- **Are willing to change their minds.** We could definitely be wrong. Show us.
- **Know it's never about the leader.** Our nation is a hot mess on Capitol Hill these days because leaders have chosen political parties over country. Imagine being a leader that is less interested in posturing/making a name for themselves than in achieving the mission.

My hope in the Church is that our mission is some version of *Making the World More On Earth As It Is In Heaven*. We have a lot of work to do. Let's focus.

The Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston serves as General Presbyterian of the Presbytery of Charlotte. She was Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.)



## Music Notes for November 19.

The music for the Sunday before Thanksgiving reflects our gratitude for God's bountiful blessings. The anthem, *For the Fruits of This Creation*, is the most popular hymn composed by Francis Jackson (1917-2022). The English composer spent virtually all of his musical life at York Minster, from a chorister at age twelve to Organist and Director of Music. In 2007, Jackson was named a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in honor of his services to music.



Jackson.

The closing hymn is *Now Thank We All Our God*, with the original German text, Nun danket alle Gott, by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649). Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) translated the words into the English version we sing today. The tune was composed by Johann Crüger (1598-1662) and has been adapted by composers ever since, from Johann Sebastian Bach to Felix Mendelssohn to Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933). His March Triomphale, based on the tune, will serve as this week's postlude.

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## WORSHIP THIS WEEK

PSALM 90: 1-12

MATTHEW 25:14-23

SERMON: FAITHFUL INVESTING.



## Footwear for the Prophetic Pastor



"Essentially a dress shoe, but you can  
run for your life in them."





# This Week in History.



Sculptor **Auguste Rodin** is born in Paris, France.  
**NOVEMBER 12, 1840**



The the first underwater tunnel built in the U.S. opens to traffic. **The Holland Tunnel** runs under the Hudson River between New York City and Jersey City, NJ.  
**NOVEMBER 13, 1927**



Scottish explorer **James Bruce** discovered the source of the Blue Nile on Lake Tana in northwest Ethiopia.  
**NOVEMBER 14, 1770**



250,000 gather in Washington, D.C., to protest the Vietnam War- the largest antiwar rally in U.S. History.

**NOVEMBER 15, 1969**



The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is founded. A special branch of the United Nations, **UNESCO** promotes peace and well-being through education, scientific collaboration and cultural understanding and exchange.

**NOVEMBER 16, 1945**



**The Suez Canal** opens after more than 10 years of construction.  
**NOVEMBER 17, 1869**

Bell systems introduces TouchTone® Service, replacing rotary dial phones with push button phones.

**NOVEMBER 18, 1963**