

6PT518/01 PASTORAL MINISTRY (2 credits)
Fall 2010

Instructor: Rev. Bill Sutherland is pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church (ARP) in Olney, MD where he has served for 5 years. Prior to this, he served for 10 years as associate pastor of Wallace Presbyterian Church (PCA) in College Park, MD. He received his B.A. from the University of Virginia and his M.Div. from Covenant Theological Seminary. Office hours by appointment only. Email me at faith-pastor@verizon.net or phone me at 301-774-1657.

Class Meets: 6 Wednesday afternoons from noon until 4 p.m.
September 1, September 22, October 13, October 27, November 17, and December 8.

All papers must be double-spaced, 12 point/Times Roman typeset with standard margins, and numbered pages after the first page.

Required for Wednesday, September 22:

1. Read Classical Pastoral Care: Becoming a Minister (volume 1) by Thomas C. Oden, Baker, 1987 (188 pages).
2. Read Part I (pp.1-100) of The Shepherd Leader: Achieving Effective Shepherding in Your Church by Timothy Z. Witmer (Presbyterian and Reformed, 2010).
3. Write a 4-page paper highlighting what insights you gleaned about pastoral ministry from the biblical and historical studies in these two books, noting especially what you learned about the difference between inward and outward calls. To what degree do you sense an inward call to the ministry? To what degree has this call been confirmed outwardly? Some questions you may want to consider:
 - What is the leading metaphor in the Bible regarding the task of the minister? What are the limits of this metaphor?
 - What is the relation between pastoral care and apostolic ministry?
 - What is the difference between inward and outward call? How are they related?
 - What is the role of books and role models in the preparation to be a pastor?
4. Interview two pastor's wives either in person or by phone. Ask them what they think are helpful or essential elements in pastoral etiquette. Also, ask them what have been the biggest stresses of living in a pastor's family and what are some helpful practices in dealing with those stresses. What are the pressures on and expectations of a pastor's

wife? Children? Are there any lessons learned that she could share with you. Write a one or two page summary of what you learned.

Required for Wednesday, October 13:

1. Read: Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration of Vocational Holiness by Eugene Peterson: Eerdmans, 1992.

Write a two- page reflective paper, allowing one paragraph for each of the following topics: Overview (give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach); Critique (offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness); Application (offer some specific application to your own ministry- demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book); Best Quotation (Be sure to include the page number where the quotation can be found and a brief explanation of why you found it helpful).

2. Write a five page paper on how you would handle one of the following personal pastoral challenges. Use at least 4 resources, one of which may be a pastoral interview, but the paper should reflect your ideas and conclusions considered in the light of what the Bible says about these subjects:

- A. Clergy Compensation
- B. Pastoral Self-Care, Burnout, and Sabbaticals
- C. Sexual Faithfulness Among Pastors
- D. Pastoral Transparency in and out of the Pulpit
- E. Other topics: with prior permission of the professor.

Required for Wednesday, October 27

1. Read Parts II and III (pp.101-264) of The Shepherd Leader: Achieving Effective Shepherding in Your Church by Timothy Z. Witmer (Presbyterian and Reformed, 2010).

Write a reflective paper (2 pages) interacting with Witmer's book. What is the task of the shepherd? What is the role of the pastor? How is caring for souls the task of the pastor and elders? What does this look like and how does this happen in the 21st century? What did you learn from this book that you would like to apply to your ministry or the ministry of your church?

2. Ask permission and make arrangements to observe two Session meetings (or elder board or leadership team meetings). One meeting should be the governing board of your own church and the other should be of another church. Write a two page paper of your impressions of what you found helpful or unhelpful, what you learned, how the meeting met or failed to meet your expectations. To what degree was the attention of the leaders focused on shepherding the flock?

Required for Wednesday, November 17:

1. Read The Trellis and the Vine: The Ministry Mind-Shift that Changes Everything by Colin Marshall and Tony Payne, Matthias Media, 2009 (196 pages).
2. Write a two- page reflective paper, allowing one paragraph for each of the following topics: Overview (give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach); Critique (offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness); Application (offer some specific application to your own ministry- demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book); Best Quotation (Be sure to include the page number where the quotation can be found and a brief explanation of why you found it helpful).
3. Arrange to visit someone who is sick or shut-in in a hospital or nursing home. Ideally this will be done with your pastor, but could also be done with another student or by yourself. Write a two page report about what you learned from this experience: What preparations were made in advance? Did the visit go as you expected? Why or why not? Was there anything you would do differently or the next time you saw this person if you had the opportunity? What opportunities were there to bring the hope and comfort of the gospel?

Required for Wednesday, December 8:

1. Read The Peacemaker: a Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict (3rd edition) by Ken Sande. Baker, 1991, 1997, 2004. 305 pages.
2. Write a 2 page interaction about what you found helpful in this book, and how you might seek to apply it in your own life or ministry. If you found parts of it unhelpful or unrealistic, feel free to comment on this.
3. Write a 4-6 page paper which explains how you would handle a particular pastoral concern. Use at least 4 resources and list them. One of the four can be a pastoral interview, but the paper should reflect your own ideas and conclusions. This paper must also show an understanding of what the Bible has to say about this subject.

Examples: Walk through a wedding ceremony; walk through a baptism ceremony; pastoral care from death to burial in the church; Church Discipline for an Adulterous Member; Handling an Abuse Charge against a Nursery Volunteer; Premarital Counseling Plan; Other topics permitted with prior written permission of the professor.

Grading

15 % Class Attendance and Participation

40% Reading the required books carefully in their entirety and completing the required papers for them on time

15% Self-Care Paper

15% Pastoral Issue Paper

15% Pastoral assignments (interviewing pastors' wives; visiting Sessions; making a sick visit; 5 % each)

Recommended Reading:

The Call: Finding and Fulfilling The Central Purpose of Your Life by Os Guinness, Word, 1998 (247 pages).

Shepherding God's Flock: A Preacher's Handbook on Pastoral Ministry, Counseling, and Leadership by Jay E. Adams. Originally published by Presbyterian and Reformed in 1980.

Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome by Kent and Barbara Hughes, Tyndale House, 1987.

Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity by Eugene H. Peterson. Eerdmans, 1987.

From Fear to Freedom: Living as Sons and Daughters of God by Rose Marie Miller. Harold Shaw Publishers, 1994.

Reforming Pastoral Ministry: Challenges for Ministry in Postmodern Times, edited by John H. Armstrong. Crossway, 2001.

The Heart of a Servant Leader: Letters from Jack Miller by C. John Miller (edited by Barbara Miller Juliani. Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 2004.

Instruments in the Hands of the Redeemer: People in Need of Change Helping People in Need of Change by Paul David Tripp. Presbyterian and Reformed, 2002

Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition by Andrew Purves, Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

The Preacher's Portrait: Some New Testament Word Studies by John R.W. Stott, Eerdmans, 1961.