

Doing Church

By Pastor Richard Boatman

Each generation has its way of “doing” church. What were pub songs converted to Christian lyrics in Martin Luther’s day have become some of the traditional hymns of today. The modern music of John and Charles Wesley’s era, done to connect theology with tunes of the time, is now, though beautiful and meaningful, far removed from the familiar rhythms of modern life.

The fastest growing wing of Christianity is the non-denominational church. T.V. pastor Joel Osteen and others like him, like it or not, are the face of Christianity for a majority of people forty and younger. As more traditional churches try to relate to this age group, while still honoring (or holding onto) the past, tension is created. Screens cover crosses; drums disrupt sanctuary décor; talkative fellowship interrupts attempts at reverence. A large segment of the population finds itself wondering, *Who Stole My Church?*

This would be a great title for a book. In fact, it already is. Addressing this problem of attempted growth versus a feeling of displacement, Gordon MacDonald has recently written a book by this very title: Who Stole My Church? I want to encourage you to participate in a November study of MacDonald’s work. You may purchase your hardback copy at Rosenkrans (939-7049) here in Eldora for \$15. We have twelve on hold and others can be obtained within about four days.

The study will be offered at two different times, both in the Wesley Chapel here at the Eldora United Methodist Church. One book study will meet Monday mornings at 10:30 on November 2, 9, 16 & 23. The other group will meet Tuesday evenings at 6:30 on November 3 & 17. The morning participants should come on the 2nd having read the introduction through chapter 2. Since the evening members meet only twice, this group should come to the first session on the 3rd having read through chapter seven or eight.

If you have time, please let the church office know which study you’ll be attending. I’ll be leading both of these, so I look forward to interacting with you around the issues of *doing church* today.