

ETHICS AND THE INTERNET

Ad Hoc Relational Observations from the Bridge
(Generation X)

20-Minute Plan

- ▣ Ethics from point of view (POV) of a Midwestern Traveler
- ▣ Focal Points of Ethical Discussion
- ▣ A little humor for the road
- ▣ Underlying Issues and Guidelines for Churches

Multi-World(s) Ethics

- ▣ Ethics from point of view of a Midwestern traveler
- ▣ 'Worlds' in Global and Local Perspective
 - Traditional
 - Modern
 - Postmodern
- ▣ Inevitable shifting, when one listens, practices hospitality in radical trust of God

Internet (whatever you think of it)

- ▣ Connectionalism (PCUSA on steroids)
- ▣ Relational opportunities & difficulties
- ▣ The new frontier(s)...
 - Life?
 - Love?
 - Labor or Livelihood?
 - Loss?
 - Laughter (connection and resistance)?

Shifting From...To...Back Again

- | | |
|---|---|
| ▣ Content-orientation | ▣ Learning new ways of thinking (process) |
| ▣ Search for absolutes | ▣ Struggle with ambivalence, pragmatics (in face of violence) |
| ▣ Abstractions | ▣ Actual life stories, narratives |
| ▣ General rules or universals | ▣ Situated, grounded, local responses |
| ▣ Principles articulated by authorities | ▣ Struggle with self, 'other', within complex compassion |

Life Amidst Change

- ▣ Life: What constitutes 'life well-lived'?
- ▣ Labor: What constitutes 'good work'?
- ▣ Love: What constitutes 'love well-lived'?
- ▣ Loss/Lament: How may we face loss/death?
- ▣ Laughter/Celebration: Do we remember? And is laughter a form of faithful resistance or faithful change?

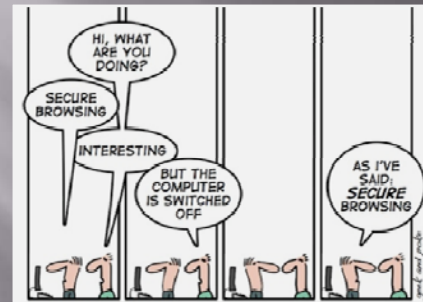
A LITTLE HUMOR FOR THE JOURNEY

Underlying Issues

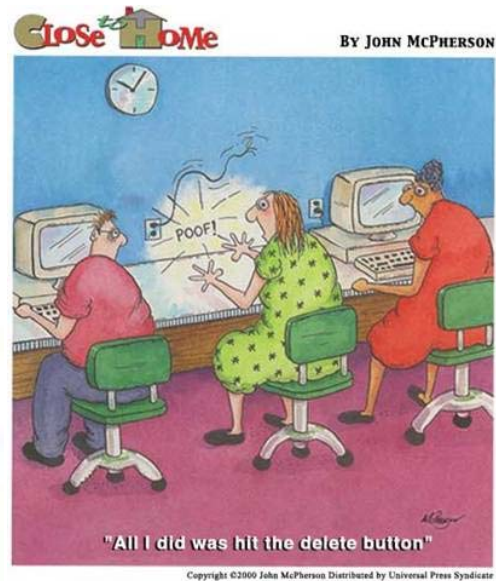
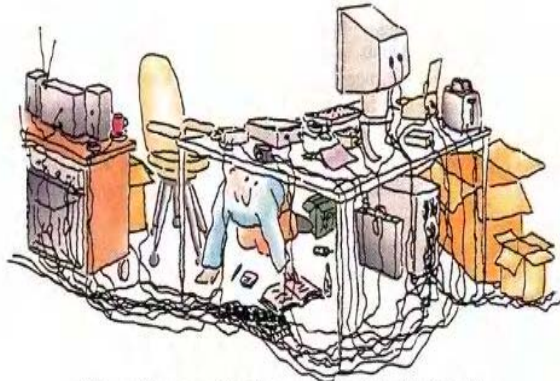
- ▣ Pastoral isolation and unmet (un-meetable) congregational hungers
- ▣ Compassionate advocacy, intergenerational development
 - Adults learning to text
 - Youth teaching adults, learning to write letters
- ▣ Wisdom gleaned: the 'good life' can be lived
 - Within constant-tech connection (Trinitarian relational) AND
 - Within contemplative practice that self-selects OUT (Incarnational logic)

Safe-Surfing (practical)

- ▣ Savvy Guidance for Church Sessions:
 - All computers on church grounds should be password protected; NO public access terminals
 - Filtering software should be installed on each
 - All staff use of church computers should be for ministry/professional use ONLY
 - All computers on church grounds may be inspected at any time, without cause
- ▣ Personnel Committee should offer written policy for congregational/staff awareness

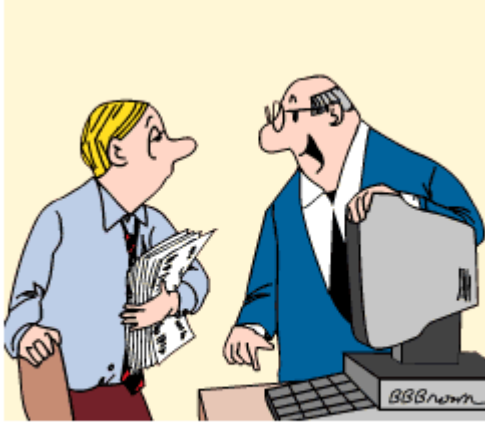


LIFE

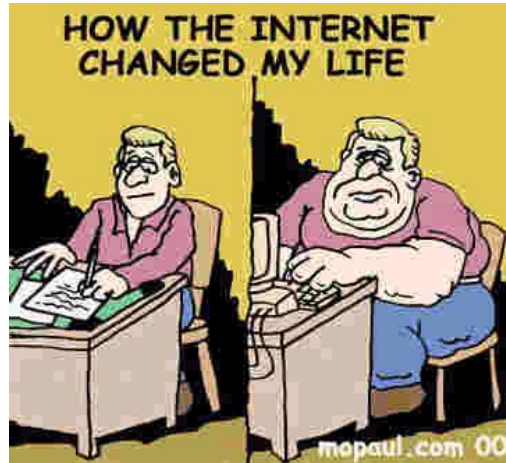


LABOR

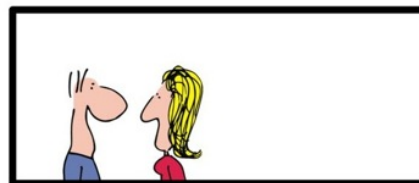
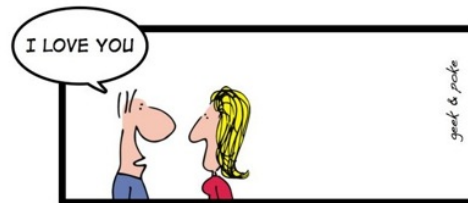




"THIS COMPUTER IS EQUIPPED WITH AN AIRBAG IN CASE YOU FALL ASLEEP!"

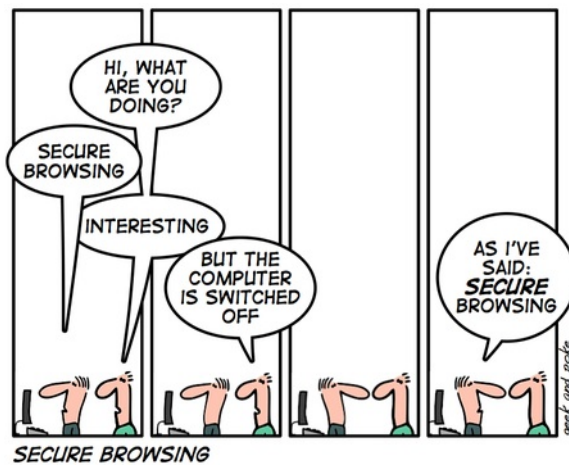
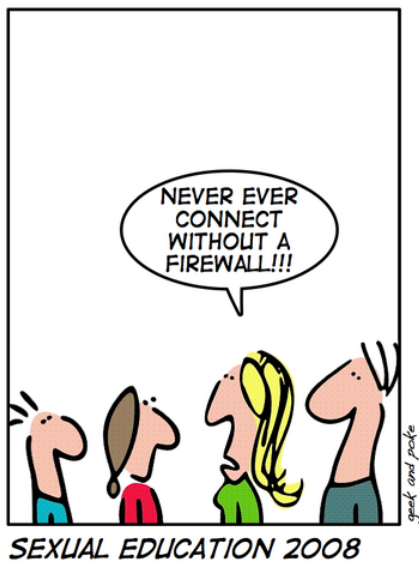
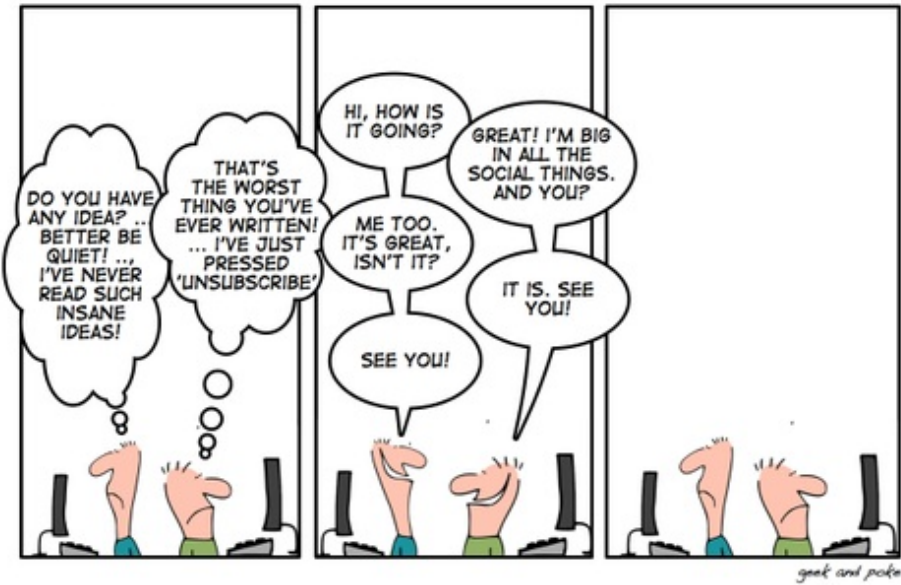


LOVE



LOVE IN (ALMOST) REAL-TIME





LOSS



LIFE BEFORE THE COMPUTER

- * Memory was something that you lost with age
- * An application was for employment
- * A program was a TV show
- * A cursor used profanity
- * A keyboard was a piano
- * A web was a spider's home
- * A virus was the flu
- * A CD was a bank account
- * A hard drive was a long trip on the road
- * A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
- * And if you had a 3 1/2 inch floppy
....you just hoped nobody found out

