

Thursday digest

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

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

- Rodney Clapp [asks where you pray](#):
"Prayer is not something we do first and foremost on our own. We pray with other Christians." (subscription required)
- Will Willimon [reviews Wes Granberg-Michaelson's memoir](#): "What do you get when you take an attractive, intelligent kid born into a loving, happy, Midwestern family and relinquish him for baptism, telling him he is now "engaged to profess Christ"? (subscription required)
- Amy Frykholm on [fracking](#): "I am struck by the idea of intentionally shaking our own foundations in the name of our intractable addiction to fossil fuels. I find myself thinking in psalmic terms, like Psalm 46: 'The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.'"
- I [highlight some troubling survey findings about racism](#): "I've certainly been turned down for many jobs over the years, some at places where I know my white face and so-Anglo-he-probably-has-a-castle name didn't help my chances. But I've never been pulled over for no reason, followed around by staff at a store or stopped on the street and asked to prove that I'm a U.S. citizen."
- Adam Copeland [questions the latest "young adults are amoral" book](#): "I refuse to blame young adults themselves

for not having been given the resources to take on moral questions — it's not their fault that faith communities, schools, and parents failed them."

- William Vance Trollinger [reviews Claude Fischer's social history of the U.S.](#): "Sociologist Claude Fischer is unhappy with historians' failure to provide a grand narrative of American history." (subscription required)
- I [question an L.A. Times story](#) about evangelical political mobilization: "Tom Hamburger and Matea Gold don't do enough to prove their now-more-than-ever hook, but it's still an important story to follow as we slog through yet another election season."
- A [poem about Jesus' death](#), by Luci Shaw

Links from elsewhere:

- Turns out pastors are [super happy](#).
- Rick Perry is [good on television](#).
- A great [Ayn Rand review](#) from the *Onion*'s funny-but-not-joking division, the *A.V. Club*.
- Elizabeth Warren's Red Sox flub points to the [disconnect](#) between political symbol and what's supposedly symbolized.