

Thursday digest

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

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New today from the *Century*:

- Tom Long on [male church attendance](#): "Men and the church are often at odds. Sadly, many of the reasons researchers give for this are as insulting as they are misguided."
- Deb Bendis [talks to Shane Claiborne about Occupy Wall Street](#): "Occupy Wall Street may not come up with solutions, but at least it is asking the right questions in a nonviolent setting. I don't believe that love can be forced, but I believe it can be provoked."
- David Heim considers [mainline demographics](#): "Data about aging mainliners concentrate the mind. And foster desperate searches for the elusive magical formula that will reach young adults."
- Lil Copan [on artwork by Claire Rosean](#), which "packs a psychological wallop that leaves viewers confused and uneasy." (subscription required)

In the news:

- [Amid stress of protests, St. Paul's mulls closing](#)
- [Family behind 'Big Love' comes out from the shadows](#)
- [D.C. pastor to lead Democrats' faith outreach](#)
- [What would Jesus laugh at? A lot, says Colbert's 'chaplain'](#)

Links from elsewhere:

- The head of the Institute on Religion and Public Policy [is opposed](#) to the U.S. Commission on Int'l Religious Freedom.
- Cathleen Kaveny [breaks the news to her niece](#) about the men-only Catholic priesthood.
- Ezra Klein [defends](#) swearing in print.