

Learning About the Puritan Roots of Evangelicalism Thanks to Library Donation

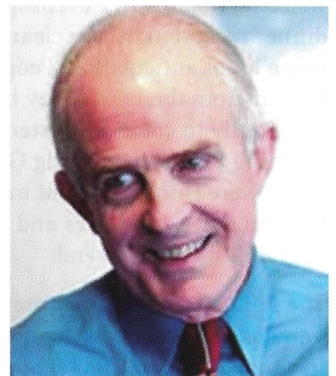
By Susanah Wilson Hanson (MAR, 2004), MLIS, Library Director and Director of the MAR Program and Doug Wicker, Member, Board of Trustees

Trinity is grateful for a recent gift of English Puritan writings from Dr. Bruce Bickel. The books will greatly strengthen the Library's Puritan holdings, and provide an invaluable resource to those who would like to learn more about the Puritan roots of evangelicalism. The books are in excellent condition, and many are books that the Library did not previously have.

The gift includes over 420 volumes, mostly Puritan reprints from Soli De Gloria publishing that Dr. Bickel founded with guidance from another friend of Trinity, the late J. I. Packer, to bring rare Puritan titles into print again. Many of these volumes Dr. Bickel came to know during time spent in Oxford while studying Puritan preaching during his Ph.D. research. Of special note is the sixty-three volume collection of Charles Spurgeon sermons from the Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit and his fourteen volume expository encyclopedia. In addition, there are works of John Owen, Edward Payson, Thomas Brooks, John Flavel, Thomas Boston, Samuel Davis, Robert Traill, and many others.

Dr. Bickel donated these books "in honor of his good friend, Doug Wicker," a member of Trinity's Board of Trustees. Dr. Bickel has been a mentor to Doug for well over thirty years. Dr. Bickel is a former U.S. Naval

Academy quarterback and Vietnam fighter pilot, was the senior pastor of churches in Kansas City, MO and Chicago, IL, served as vice president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and eventually, the managing director of PNC's Private Foundation Management Services.



Dr. Bruce Bickel

Bruce and Doug both joined PNC in 1988, met and found a mutual connection in their appreciation for the English Puritans. Forming an office Bible study, their relationship grew, and Bruce became an instrumental mentor to Doug as they studied the scriptures together. "Bruce is a spiritual father to me, he has taught me how to not just study God's word, but to apply it to my life in the power of the Holy Spirit. My times with Bruce have been precious over the years," said Doug.

The donation will be integrated into the Circulating Collection, but can be located in the online catalog under the tag, "Bruce Bickel donation." ▼