88247715

**We are a church with one mission:** to grow followers of Jesus through grateful worship, genuine community, and generous service to each other and our world. We believe by loving God and loving people we can have an impact that really matters, and would like to tell you more about that. If you are interested in being a part of what God is doing with us, or just have some questions, **fill out the contact card** or ask the person next to you. **Please feel free to call or email too if you have any questions.**

FAMILY MATTERS

 

**Church of Christ**

**Indiana**

**FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES**

**Indiana church of Christ**

**225 East Pike**

**Indiana, PA, 15701**

**E-mail:**

**indianacofc@gmail.com**

**Website:**

**indianapachurch.org**

**Evangelist**

C J Moffett

985-807-7593

**GOD’S FAMILY TIMES**

**BIBLE CLASSES**

Building—9:30am Sunday

**WORSHIP**

Building—10:30am Sunday

**GROWTH GROUPS**

Grose’s -- 6 p.m. Sunday

Irwin’s -- 6 p.m. Sunday

 **BIBLE CLASSES**

Building—7pm Wednesday

January 8, 2017

724.463.7240

**Family Covered Dish Dinner**: TODAY after services.

**Congregational Meeting**: THIS Tuesday January 10th at the building at 7 p.m. in Rooms 1 & 2 downstairs.

**Dinner before Class**: Wednesday January 25th at 6 p.m. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend and what you will bring to share.

**Family Weekend:** Saturday and Sunday Feb 4-5, 2017. Mark your calendars NOW to be a part of this weekend of edification for the church family. More details to follow. Please note that you can plan to attend even though you did not sign up with the original request!

We will be having **lunch together for Family Weekend** and sharing the responsibility of providing food items for that day. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can serve the family in this way.

**2017 sign-up sheets** for communion preparation and organizer for Wednesday night meals are posted on the bulletin board. Please consider serving in one of these two ways.

Please remember to give your Betikara donations directly to Sally Duriez if you desire to help with the monthly support of our lamb, Toavina.

Happy Birthday

1/10 Adam Chi

1/13 Jake Grose

1/24 Ron Jewart

1/28 Debbie Kirk

1/29 June Peffer

**Announcements for family news can be written on the back of an attendance card and placed in the collection basket or a hand written note can be given to Doug, Paula, or CJ.**

11 Traits of Churches That Will Impact the Future—by Carey Nieuwhof

Almost every leader I talk to acknowledges that our culture is shifting. To reach a changing culture, the church needs to change. And change rapidly.

Don’t get me wrong, we don’t need to change the message; just the method. One is sacred. The other is not. What isn’t as clear is what the future church will look like, and what kind of characteristics will mark those churches.

However, I think a few trends are becoming clear. Not all of these might be correct, but I think the following eleven traits describe the kind of churches that will have a significant impact a decade from now.

The wise leader is taking steps today to position their church to respond to these things. I know that’s what I’m trying to do at Conexus, where I have the privilege of serving.

*Here’s what I see as hallmarks of the churches that will make an impact in the next decade:*

1. The ability to say no. One of the reasons churches don’t change is because leaders are unwilling to say no to current members who prefer things the way they were. When you learn to say no to the preferences of some current members, you learn to say yes to a community that is ready to be reached.

2. Outsider focus. Churches that become passionate about people outside their walls will be far more effective than churches that are passionate about keeping the few people they have inside their walls. Better still, you will have a healthier church. We call individuals who are fixated on their wants and needs selfish and immature. Selfless and mature churches will have an impact because of their passion for people God cares about.

3. Quick decision making. If you have a decision making process that’s slow and complicated, you will not be able to keep up with the pace of change needed. Having multi-level approval processes and having to get congregational approval on matters will block innovation. I agree with Jeff Brodie, if you can’t make a decision within 24 hours, your process is too slow.

4. Flexibility. You don’t need to change your mission (for the most part), but you do need to change your methods. Flexible and adaptable churches that can innovate around strategy and different initiatives will have the freedom to make the changes they need to make an impact moving forward.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

* Nathan Irwin and family as they are in Lyon, France for language training, and for the direction of the Lord in their search for new teammates, a place to settle and a purpose for their mission among the Muslim world.
* Jay Stenman, Louanne Brown’s husband, who is suffering with rheumatoid arthritis in both of his knees.
* For Mary Fasanya’s asylum request to be granted and for the girls as they are in the USA without their husband and father. Also for Ezekiel as he is in Nigeria without his wife and daughters.
* For Mayleen Niehenke’s visa approval to come to the United States from the Philippines and for a sponsor so that the procedure can be quickly expedited.
* George Brown, Louanne Brown’s brother, who is at the Veterans’ Hospital in Pittsburgh being treated for depression, which he has battled with the last several years.
* MaKenzie, Ron & Sally Duriez’s 16 year old step-granddaughter has been diagnosed with mono. Pray for continued improvement
* Bill Tonkin who is at Indiana Square Personal Care Home, 1703 Warren Road. Lois says cards and visits are always welcome.
* Gary Minser for healing after successful heart bypass surgery on November 21st.
* Wayne, Abbey Chi’s uncle, who is in a Florida hospital with cardiac problems.
* Jason Canose for healing. He is in Room 319 at the Indiana Hospital and improving with daily physical therapy there.
* Louanne Brown for healing of her vision in her right eye which has been impeded by at least 50%. Swelling from the blood clot is down and her vision is improving slowly. Also for healing of her foot that was injured at work.
* Nick Ruffner, John & Gail Gromley’s step grandson, who is being treated for leukemia.
* Emma Sesock for pain relief and her doctor’s expertise in probable surgery of the. fractures in her lower back that are still very painful.
* Nancy Sinclair for relief of the pain suffered from a previously fractured back.
* Winifred Redinger, Vera Brown’s sister-in-law, who is doing much better but still in the hospital.
* Ron Duriez who has recently been diagnosed with Parkinson’s.
* Kathrine, Lin & Jo Broadway’s (former members) daughter-in-law, who has been diagnosed with cancer and anticipating surgery in February.
* Janet Anoyke’s mother in Ghana who recently suffered a stroke

**Prayer requests can be added to the family prayer book in the foyer or a hand written note can be given to Doug, Paula, or CJ.**

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5. A willingness to embrace smaller to become bigger. Mega-churches will continue to grow, but most of us won’t lead mega-churches. When small churches stop trying to be mega-churches, good things can happen. In fact, more and more larger churches will start embracing smaller venues, locations and partnerships to keep growing. A greater number of smaller venues might be a hallmark of future churches making an impact.

6. A quicker, lighter footprint. I learned this phrase from my friend Rich Birch (you should read his blog). Churches need a quicker, lighter footprint to grow. If you’re waiting for millions to build your building, you might wait forever. Get innovative and start looking at portable and non-traditional ways of growing your ministry. Quicker, lighter footprints will be necessary.

7. Valuing online relationships as real relationships. Churches that aren’t online beyond a website are going to miss the boat. Real interaction with real people online is…well…real. Sure, face to face is deeper, but people will tell you things online they can’t muster the courage to tell you face to face. Whether you get them to a ‘real’ church is increasingly debatable. I would love that. But we’ll have to see. As much as you might hate it, virtual relationships are becoming real relationships.

8. An openness to questions. Most unchurched people today come in with questions that seem weird to those of us who spent a life time in church. Don’t try to answer them right away. Churches that understand that embracing questions is as important as providing immediate answers will make an impact in the future. We’re discovering that if you embrace questions, the answers eventually find their way into people’s lives. The Holy Spirit actually does move in people’s lives.

9. A high value on experimentation. The more traditional you are, the less you will value experimentation. The more successful you are, the less you will value experimentation. If you start to raise the value of experimentation, you will accelerate change and flexibility. The churches that connect with their community will be the churches willing enough to try a variety of things, and who also have the courage to kill them as soon as they stop producing results.

10. Prioritizing a *for you* not *from you* culture. Andy Stanley (a high profile minister in Atlanta) often talks about what he wants for people, not just what he wants from them. Churches in decline often think in terms of what they can get from people – money, time, growth etc. Churches that will make an impact on the future will be passionate about what they want for people – financial balance, generosity, the joy of serving, better families, and of course, Christ at the center of everyone’s life.

11. A tailored experience, not a tailored message. You don’t have to tailor the message to unchurched people, but churches that have an impact will tailor the experience. There were presents under my tree last Christmas. But I’m not a shopping mall fan. 90% of my gift buying happened online. The content was the same – the experience changed. Churches that decide they will hold the message sacred but tailor the experience to an ever shifting culture will be more effective (here, by the way, are 15 characteristics of today’s unchurched people).

That’s what I see. What else do you see?

**Sermon for Jan. 8, 2017:**

***“The Doubt of Faith”***

*Mark 9:14-24*

 **CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER**