

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 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—9:30 am Sunday

WORSHIP
Building—10:30 am Sunday

GROWTH GROUPS

Suspended for the summer
Grose's -- 6 p.m. Sunday
Irwin's -- 6 p.m. Sunday

BIBLE CLASSES
Building—7 pm Wednesday

The meal before class on the last Wednesday of the month has been discontinued for the summer months. See you in September!

The **Give Away** has been scheduled for Saturday August 5th. Begin bringing your collected items to the building beginning TODAY, July 9th. Items should be put in Room 5 downstairs (across from the kitchen) for sorting. Remember that these items are for the community, so please refrain from taking anything until after the give-away.

It is time for the **LOVE BASKET** collection: We will be collecting non-perishable food items until Sunday July 23rd. They are especially in need of canned fruits, vegetables and meats, peanut butter, and cereal. Donations can be dropped off in the church foyer. Please check expiration dates on the products you donate.

Ron Duriez is “retiring” from being the coordinator of scheduling and making sure that we have men to serve in the worship services on Sunday morning and Wednesday nights. So by the end of August we need someone to step up and serve the body in this capacity. Please see Ron for any questions and if you can serve in this way.

Thanks to Marilyn & Hailynn Magas for hosting the 4th of July picnic. The weather, food and fellowship were wonderful.

Happy Birthday

7/3 Dave Antonio
7/10 Hailynn Magas
7/15 Scott Stutzman
7/19 Doug Irwin
7/31 Vera Brown

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 Paula

FAMILY MATTERS

Indiana

Church of Christ

724.463.7240

July 9, 2017

Can Facebook replace church?

By Andrea Syverson

During a rally for Facebook users last month, Mark Zuckerberg laid out his dreams for the future of his social media behemoth. As the website reaches 2 billion users, Zuckerberg is turning his attention to the next frontier – building online communities.

In Zuckerberg's mind, the days of institutions like “churches and Little Leagues” are over. Using Facebook's new artificial intelligence software, the social media giant can organize its users into groups that will serve the same purpose.

While Zuckerberg missed some important purposes a church community serves, he was right about one thing: Christians are leaving their traditional, brick-and-mortar churches – in droves.

Studies show there are 30 million “dones” in America today. They read their Bibles, listen to Elevation Church's Steven Furtick podcasts and know every word to every Jesus culture song. They talk about Jesus – a lot, in coffeehouses or at happy hours. But you'll rarely find them in church.

As someone who has made the agonizing decision to leave a church I loved before, I understand how these people feel overlooked or ignored by Christian leaders. Instead of learning why members are leaving their churches, most congregational leaders continue with business as usual, hoping the missing members eventually come to their senses and return.

The problem is the “dones” aren't coming back, and their numbers are only increasing. (There are about 7 million “almost dones” right behind them.) And, if the church doesn't figure out how to create community they are seeking, someone or something else, like Facebook, will do it for them.

Certainly, some of us do not look for community from Facebook. We value face time with our friends. One-on-one real conversations that take time, don't involve devices or photos but actual being with one another.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Nathan Irwin and family as they prepare to move to North Africa this month. Pray for a smooth transition and entry into their ministry there.
- 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.
- Hailynn Magas for consistent blood sugar levels.
- Hanna, Emma Sesock's 14 year old great granddaughter, who has cystic fibrosis.
- Sam Kirk for healing and rehabilitation after shoulder surgery on April 24th.
- Bonnie, a friend of Dave & Sharon Mack, for healing after an accident that resulted in her left hand having to be reconstructed.
- Cliff Brown who deals with congestive heart failure.
- Fay Umbaugh who is dealing with Parkinson's disease.
- Jason Canose for continued improvement and healing from the symptoms of Guillain-Barre Syndrome. Thankful for his improvements that allow him to be back at work and to join the family here in worship.
- Harry Karlinsey, friend of Scott & Susan Stutzman, for continued healing after open heart surgery on May 12th.
- Comfort and peace for the family of Bill Tonkin.
- Don Baker's sister as she heals from a severe sinus infection
- Don Baker for healing of a torn tendon in his right hand and a broken thumb.
- Bob Houck, Doris Ruffner's son, who has been diagnosed with colon cancer.
- Susan Foster, friend of Scott Stutzman, who had open heart surgery on June 28th.
- The daughter of the CEO of Connie Wolfe's (Sharon Mack's friend) employer for healing from kidney failure.
- Nick Ruffner, John & Gail Gromley's step grandson, whose leukemia is in remission. Praise God!
- June Hemby, Susan Stutzman's & Mary Claire Hill's mother in Atlanta, Georgia, as she struggles with health problems.
- Jay Stenman, Louanne Brown's husband, who had a severe reaction to a calcium infusion for osteoporosis.
- Mary Claire Hill, Susan Stutzman's sister, who severely injured her right hand while pruning blueberry bushes on Monday July 3rd.

Prayer requests can be added to the family prayer book in the foyer or a hand written note can be given to Paula

In her book "Open House," Elizabeth Berg asks, "Why isn't there a Community Center for People Who Need a Little Something?"

"If people would only tell the truth about the way they felt, it would be busy all the time. There could be folding chairs arranged in groups, people sitting there saying, 'I don't know, I just wanted to come here for a while.'"

That's what the "dones" are looking for. They want church-that's-not-really-church. They are seeking a place where they don't have to dress up, where they can ask questions, where people know who they truly are.

They want a place to grapple with the hard stuff, out loud, with others. Face time, not necessarily Facebook. Depth of relationships, depth of study, depth of service. They don't want to "bowl alone" or stay in "the shallows." Zuckerberg is right – we are turning to bars, bookstores or Facebook to find it.

Could this be the New Reformation?

Anglican Bishop Mark Dyer explained that every 400 years, the Christian church undergoes a major transition, led by laypeople. Our 400 years are up, and the laypeople have spoken by exiting our congregations.

Some time ago, the primary focus of many leaders was to take their churches to the "next level." In their minds, to be truly successful, they needed bigger facilities, more activities and programs and more cars in the parking lot. Everything needed to be slick and produced.

Unfortunately, to reach more people, we took Christian community and turned it into a Christian country club. In this modern age, where authenticity is one of the most valued character traits, our churches just aren't working anymore. We have lost track of being pro-Jesus.

It's time for a church wide "yard sale."

Leaders must take the possessions, procedures and attitudes that no longer work, box them up and throw them out. Throw away the clutter that is holding us back: the unnecessary, the unjoyful, the unde -functioning, the no-longer-functioning at all... Toss! Toss! Toss! Get rid of the extras and put our focus back on what matters most — Jesus and relationships.

Mark Zuckerberg recognizes something that so few Christian leaders have. There is an enormous void among believers and a desperate yearning for community. Will we step up and build communities that meet their needs, or will we let Facebook fill that void for us?