

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. Bring your collected items to the building. 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 next 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 handwritten note can be given to Paula

FAMILY MATTERS

Indiana

Church of Christ

724.463.7240

July 16, 2017

Exodus: Why Americans are Leaving Religion—and Why They're Unlikely to Come Back (Part One)

Betsy Cooper, Daniel Cox, Ph.D., Rachel Lienesch, Robert P. Jones, Ph.D.,

The Rise of the Unaffiliated

America's Largest "Religious" Group

The American religious landscape has undergone substantial changes in recent years. However, one of the most consequential shifts in American religion has been the rise of religiously unaffiliated Americans. This trend emerged in the early 1990s. In 1991, only six percent of Americans identified their religious affiliation as “none,” and that number had not moved much since the early 1970s. By the end of the 1990s, 14% of the public claimed no religious affiliation. The rate of religious change accelerated further during the late 2000s and early 2010s, reaching 20% by 2012. Today, one-quarter (25%) of Americans claim no formal religious identity, making this group the single largest “religious group” in the U.S.

The Decline of Religious Affiliation Among Young Adults

Today, nearly four in ten (39%) young adults (ages 18-29) are religiously unaffiliated—three times the unaffiliated rate (13%) among seniors (ages 65 and older). While previous generations were also more likely to be religiously unaffiliated in their twenties, young adults today are nearly four times as likely as young adults a generation ago to identify as religiously unaffiliated. In 1986, for example, only 10% of young adults claimed no religious affiliation.

Among young adults, the religiously unaffiliated dwarf the percentages of other religious identifications: Catholic (15%), white evangelical Protestant (9%), white mainline Protestant (8%), black Protestant (7%), other non-white Protestants (11%), and affiliation with a non-Christian religion (7%).

The age gap has also widened over the past several decades. Ten years ago, each age cohort was only somewhat more likely to be unaffiliated than the one preceding it. Today, there are only modest differences between middle-aged Americans (age 50 – 64) and seniors, but there is a substantial gap between Americans over the age of 50 (15%) and those under the age of 50 (33%).

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Nathan Irwin and family have now moved to North Africa from Lyon, France. 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.
- 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.
- Erica, Leslie Moffett's friend's 30 year old niece and mother of two young girls, has been diagnosed with leukemia after 4 weeks of headaches.

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

Religious Switching

The growth of the unaffiliated has been fed by an exodus of those who grew up with a religious identity. Only nine percent of Americans report being raised in a non-religious household. And while younger adults are more likely to report growing up without a religious identity than seniors (13% vs. 4%, respectively), the vast majority of unaffiliated Americans formerly identified with a particular religion.

No religious group has benefitted more from religious switching than the unaffiliated. Nearly one in five (19%) Americans switched from their childhood religious identity to become unaffiliated as adults, and relatively few (3%) Americans who were raised unaffiliated are joining a religious tradition. This dynamic has resulted in a dramatic net gain—16 percentage points—for the religiously unaffiliated.

While non-white Protestants and non-Christian religious groups have remained fairly stable, white Protestants and Catholics have all experienced declines, with Catholics suffering the largest decline among major religious groups: a 10-percentage point loss overall. Nearly one-third (31%) of Americans report being raised in a Catholic household, but only about one in five (21%) Americans identify as Catholic currently. Thirteen percent of Americans report being former Catholics, and roughly 2% of Americans have left their religious tradition to join the Church. White evangelical Protestants and white mainline Protestants are also witnessing negative growth, but to a much more modest degree (-2 percentage points and -5 percentage points, respectively).

Rising Retention Rates among the Unaffiliated

Not every religious community is equally successful in keeping members in the fold, and historically, Americans who were raised unaffiliated were among the most likely to switch their religious identity in adulthood. In the 1970s, only about one-third (34%) of Americans who were raised in religiously unaffiliated households were still unaffiliated as adults. By the 1990s, slightly more than half (53%) of Americans who were unaffiliated in childhood retained their religious identity in adulthood. Today, about two-thirds (66%) of Americans who report being raised outside a formal religious tradition remain unaffiliated as adults.

One important reason why the unaffiliated are experiencing rising retention rates is because younger Americans raised in nonreligious homes are less apt to join a religious tradition or denomination than young adults in previous eras. About three-quarters (74%) of Americans under the age of 50 who were raised nonreligious have maintained their lack of religious identity in adulthood. In contrast, only about half (49%) of Americans age 50 or older who were raised unaffiliated still identify that way.

(part two will continue next week)

Series: **Family Fire**
Matthew 18 15-20