

**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

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### GOD'S FAMILY TIMES

**BIBLE CLASSES**  
Building—9:30 am Sunday

**WORSHIP**  
Building—10:30 am Sunday

**GROWTH GROUPS**  
Grose's -- 6 p.m. Sunday  
Tonkin's -- 6 p.m. Sunday

**BIBLE CLASSES**  
Building—7 pm Wednesday

Daylight Savings Time ends next Sunday, November 5th; Turn your clocks back an hour!

**Packing College Boxes:** THIS Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup> at 11 a.m. at the building. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board for items you would like to donate to fill the boxes up.

**Ladies Class:** Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at the Building. Susan Stutzman will be leading the discussion on "Procrastination".

**Congregational Meeting:** Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**Family Covered Dish Dinner:** Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> after services.

**No dinners before classes for November and December** because of the holidays.

Support for our Betikara lamb, Toavina, for November & December is being collected. Please give your donations

**directly** to Sally Duriez

*Happy Birthday*

*Happy Anniversary*

10/29 Mary Jane George

11/18 Bob & Ronna Reininger

11/7 Shirley Stiles

11/19 Sam Kirk

## PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

### PRAYS:

family and their ministry in North Africa. Pray for peace and protection, for what God wants and for many connections with others God has called there. mercies and renewed connections as they are in the states on furlough until the

# FAMILY MATTERS

## Indiana

## Church of Christ

724.463.7240

October 29, 2017

*(I came across this article. Read and consider)*

### ***The Great Divide (in the Church) in 2016 and Why It Still Matters***

It's been eleven months since Donald Trump was elected President of the United States. And even as I reflect on the 2016 election now, I still believe it will be remembered for many reasons, including the fact that it was arguably the most divisive election in recent times. There was a record amount of proverbial mud thrown and threats made. Trump came out of nowhere to beat the seasoned former First Lady, Senator, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

To put it another way, the reality TV star beat the career politician. It was as nasty as those characterization sounds, with Trump personally berating every Republican in the race, and Clinton fighting investigations about her careless handling of classified emails.

But the most damage was probably not inflicted in the political or cultural arenas.

When we as Christians in the U.S. look back on the 2016 election, we should take note of the divide it created, or perhaps revealed, in the Church. This, I believe, is a divide that is just as strong today. We've made little to no progress over the past eleven months.

The division in the churches of America during and after the election was, in many ways, revealing and worth our notice (and conversation). Based on whom a person was supporting or opposing, relationships were ruined, ministry leaders were edged out of positions, and lines were drawn from pulpits and pews.

The problem is not that Christians had differing opinions. That's part of being human. The problem is that brothers and sisters in Christ used the opportunity to paint each other as racist, uncompassionate, communist, anti-American, and non-Christian—all based on whom they were voting for or against. It is one thing to differ and debate cultural issues, and even values, but it is another to judge a person's standing with God based on which candidate he or she supported.

But, for some, who you voted for determined what kind of person you were. And, that's not fair in an election where there are at least two very flawed candidates.

In many ways, the division basically ran along party lines. I had hoped that our political landscape would become more diverse with extra parties providing more choices and less chance of breaking into two teams, each fixated on the evil of the other.

Regrettably, it was difficult to take a position on the whole thing without having your Christianity questioned. I person pray for each president in office. As a social commentator I reflect on whoever is in the Oval Office. I am willing to call them out when I believe they are taking a position that goes against solid human values. I also praise them when they make good decisions. And I do this no matter what party they are in, or whether or not I voted for them.

Yet, I regularly see my faith questioned by people who think telling the truth is betraying their candidate (and, thus, God).

Our values as Christians come from a Holy Spirit-led understanding of scripture, not a political platform. Our leader is Christ, not an elected official. Our family is the Church, not a political party. We can easily agree with this while reading a blog, but are we living the principle out in the Church and public spaces? Is our unity found in our political ideology, or the faith that has been passed down through the centuries? Is our identity found in who we are in Christ, or is it found