

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
Irwin's -- 6 p.m. Sunday

BIBLE CLASSES
Building—7 pm Wednesday

Dinner before Class: THIS 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. Many committed in November to be a part of this weekend of edification for the church family. (See bulletin board) Please add your name to the original sign-up sheet if you plan to attend and did not sign up in November.

Stan Helton will be leading lessons on "Learning to Live in Exile" Saturday at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. with lunch at 12:30. He will also be leading Bible class and delivering the sermon on Sunday morning.

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. **March and April** and other months are still available!!

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.

FAMILY MATTERS

Indiana

Church of Christ

724.463.7240

January 22, 2017

The Impending Death (and Rebirth) of Cool Church

(Part two of another insightful article BY Corey Nieuwhof)

Irrelevance Isn't the Answer Either

So should you run from all things cool, trendy or hip? No. Relevance is better than irrelevance. The answer to the challenge of keeping up with relevance is not to return to irrelevance. Relevant church has many critics, but to not bridge the cultural gap is even more ludicrous (in my view) than trying to bridge it and maybe failing. To agree to be irrelevant, ineffective and bad at what you do is a terrible option.

So what do we do as we head into the future?

5 Keys to Rebirth

The church can take many forms. But for all those leaders who, like me, believe in gathering people together for the sake of a larger mission, what does the future look like? I think you stay relevant (and maybe even a bit cool), but you go beyond that. Dig deeper.

Here are 5 keys I see to a future of greater impact. In many ways, they are the new cool. Authenticity is the new cool. The mission is the new cool. Hope is the new cool. Community is the new cool. And so is experimentation.

1. Authenticity

Sometimes under cool is inauthenticity. Dump that. Authentic resonates. People are looking for what's real, what's true and what's authentic.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

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 is doing better and should be released by the end of January.
- Bill Tonkin who is at Indiana Square Personal Care Home, 1703 Warren Road. Lois says cards and visits are always welcome.
- Wayne, Abbey Chi's uncle, who is in a Florida hospital with cardiac problems.
- Jason Canose for healing. Thanksgivings that he is now at home recuperating.
- Louanne Brown for healing of her vision in her right eye which has been impeded by at least 50%. Also for peace and acceptance that there has been no improvement in the past months.
- Nick Ruffner, John & Gail Gromley's step grandson, who had another round of chemo in his treatment for leukemia.
- Emma Sesock's back pain has improved with physical therapy. Praise God!
- 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 and is now at home with the assistance of a personal care giver.
- 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.
- The family of Greg Douglass, friend of Trina Flamm, for comfort on his passing this week.
- Hailynn Magas, who is in Pittsburgh Children's Hospital until at least Tuesday. She has been diagnosed with Type1 Diabetes.

Prayer requests can be added to the family prayer

2. Prioritize the Mission

The church has always been about something bigger than itself. At the center of our mission is Christ. A church that is focused on a larger mission will never become self-obsessed. Cool can carry with it a sense of narcissism. You lose your narcissism when you lose yourself in a bigger mission. And that, by the way, is something Millennials are longing to give their lives to--a church that is focused on a mission larger than itself will never become self-obsessed.

3. Deal Hope

We leaders are dealers in hope. And Christianity provides more hope than anything. I'm 100% behind making messages practical, applicable and helpful. I think the Gospel is that. But it is also much more than that. If all we have is this life, we're to be pitied more than anyone (pretty sure the Bible says something about that). In an age where all most people see is that which is imminent, people need to be ushered into the presence of Someone who is transcendent. Christianity at its best has always been about both imminence and transcendence.

4. Elevate Community

I'm all for lights, sound, relevance and even video walls if they help the mission. But as my friend Reggie Joiner says, the church will never be able to out-Disney Disney. And that's true, we will never have the budget or resources to entertain or engage the best. But even if we did...what would be the point? While we can't out-Disney Disney, no one should be able to out-community the local church.

God is in the people business. He loves us. And the goal is to connect people with Christ and with each other. As your church grows bigger, it also needs to grow smaller by connecting people relationally. I know we've said this for years, but it's never been more urgent.

5. Experiment

Experimenting is the key to innovation, and as we've seen, in an age of imitation in the church, innovation has been sidelined.

Bring that back.

Do what you do now, but start experimenting on the side to see what's really going to make the biggest impact in the future. The truth is I don't think anyone knows what that is right now. But that shouldn't stop us from trying.