

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Sunday Worship Service 9:15 AM
Bible School 10:45 AM

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The second article on millennials that I found thought provoking is “Ten reasons millennials are backing away from God and Christianity.” It was on FoxNews.com.

The author begins by noting that millennials are the least outwardly religious American generation, where one in four are unaffiliated with any religion. He also notes that of youth raised in “Christian” homes, three-fourths will jettison that faith, at least for a time, after high school.

According to research, the ten reasons they are leaving are:

1. Millennials are eclectic on all fronts, and there is little or no “brand loyalty” in most areas of life.
2. The breakdown of the family has left them without an understanding of the heavenly Father.
3. Militant secularism has taught them that “true” truth claims are divorced from any supernatural context and impose no moral obligation on human behavior.
4. They have had almost no exposure to adults who know what they believe, why they believe it, and are committed to living it out.
5. The church is assumed to be irrelevant and there is no cultural guilt for leaving.
6. Objective moral truth and ethical norms are unknown or rejected.
7. Claiming to have answers about life is viewed as “impolite.”
8. Pop-level atheists have made atheism cool.
9. Tolerance is the new god, and it has become impossible to rationally critique any belief or behavior without a backlash of criticism.
10. The cultural trend toward rejection of God resonates strongly with the desire for autonomy felt in young adulthood.

The author concludes by saying, “Finally, is it really any wonder that kids raised in the churches of the 21st century America aren’t often stirred to lifelong commitment? Most churches are so occupied with “marketing” themselves to prospective attendees that they wouldn’t dream of risking their “brand” by speaking tough-as-nails truth.”

Let’s make certain that we never stop taking the risk.

God Bless, Rick



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*All mothers, both physical and spiritual, will be presented with a corsage this Sunday morning in our worship service.
There will be no activities at the church Sunday night.*

STATISTICS	
Worship	147
Offering	\$7,580.00
SERVING THIS SUNDAY – 5/7/17	

Greeters	Jack & Bonnie Ruebush
Visitors’ Stand	Rick & Janet Polley
Communion Meditation	Chris Luzio
	Otto Huber
Ushers.....	Scott Bales
	Paul Hunley
	Chad Formea
	Rich Mann
	Brad Stirmell
	Bob Williamson
WORSHIP NURSERY	
Toddlers	Karen Mann
	Emily Hughes
Infants	Kelly Donaldson
	Kate Sperry
Sunday School	
Toddlers	Julie Divjak
Infants	Dixie Williamson

TRACY FORMEA’S
 PRAYER BREAKFAST SPEECH
 (at least most of it)

Good morning! It’s an honor to be here with all of you today, and quite frankly a bit unnerving. I speak in front of groups often, for work and the community groups that I am involved in. To be honest, I often don’t spend a lot of time preparing for those speaking engagements at the meetings, or events that I lead. I usually have a few bullet points that I jot down to work from and then I just run with it, for better or worse. But this speaking opportunity caused me a bit of anxiousness. When Rev. Bost called me, I told him I had to think about it. Don’t misunderstand, it wasn’t that I wanted to hide my faith. Those whom I work and volunteer with often, know that I am a Christian, I don’t miss church on Sunday, unless we are out of town for soccer, and that I have taught Sunday school for years. It was more that I didn’t know if I had something worth sharing with you.


(PRAYER BREAKFAST CONTINUED)
 I have been attending this event for years. My minister, Rick Wenneborg and I, have had a running joke that it is our annual date. There have been a number of years, where our church was represented by only him and me. All joking aside, I truly do enjoy this event. I love that we start our day here, with prayer for our local churches, our schools, our community as a whole, our first responders, our government, our nation. We should all be praying for these things daily anyway. But more importantly, it is inspiring and refreshing to come together as a community to do so. I always leave feeling that there is good in our community, like-minded people who love and serve the one true God. It is uplifting to see members from other churches coming together in this way, asking God to be a part of our community, nation and world. I always leave both energized and with a sense of peace.

But back to choosing me to speak, I thought back to some of the speakers I have listened to at the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfasts throughout the years. Looking at the past speakers experiences, I did see a common thread; they are doing their best to live out the Word in the community they are placed in. I too hope that I am doing that, and no, not by selling insurance, but through my community involvement.
 I have been fortunate to be raised in a family with strong faith and a drive to give back. My husband and I are raising our family with those same principles. When we moved back to Chatham, we wanted to be involved in our community. We believe in giving back to the community that we love, where we chose to raise our family. We give back because the Bible instructs us to do so. Not to gain fame, or money, or votes in an election year. Acts 20:35 says, “In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” We serve because we can, with no expectation of return.

(PRAYER BREAKFAST CONTINUED)
 There are so many opportunities in our town to volunteer, and in doing so, show God’s love. In the world that we live in now, our country, and even our Village, there is so much divisiveness. I see volunteering as an opportunity to come together, working toward a common goal, seeing the good in people. 1 Peter 4:10 says, “As each has a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” God has given each of us gifts and instructed us to use them to honor him and bring others to know him.

There are endless ways to give back in our churches. I can also look around this room and see representatives from many community organizations, people who would be happy to welcome you in, to support their mission. Pray on all of these options, see where God leads you.
 While you volunteer, please don’t overlook the need for us to model this for our kids, and to bring them along as we give back. Our schools offer opportunities for our kids. Our churches are a great place to train up volunteers. Out in the community, maybe you have seen the Jaycees bright yellow shirts that say “event staff.” We also have shirts for our kids that say “event staff in training.” Because they are! My kids call the annual corn shucking night a family tradition! Chad and I want our kids to know volunteering is expected. It is a priority just as school and work are.
 In closing, I challenge you to find where you can make a difference in our great community. Share your time and talents with others. You never know how your work can impact someone’s life.
 I’ll leave you with this well-known verse from Matthew 5:14-16, “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”



To close out a great season of Sunday evening study and Youth Groups, we are planning a cook out on Sunday, May 21st. The entire church family is obviously welcome to return to church at 5:30 to spend some evening time together. We will plan to eat around 6:00 and are requesting that you bring a side dish to share.
 Throughout the evening, there will be games set up for everyone to enjoy. Based on your success with the games, you will have the opportunity to win tickets and try to dunk certain individuals in the dunk tank. I already have in mind a couple people who will surely find their way into the tank, but I am certainly open for suggestions!

 Our VBS is right around the corner! Since I have zero artistic skills, Julie is helping me with the signs next week. Our announcement will be in the Clarion soon and the key volunteer spots have been filled.
 Now all we need are the kids! Fifteen flyers were grabbed on Sunday morning to pass out. THANK YOU! I’ll have more printed off this Sunday along with some registration forms on the table. Also, stop by my office after church to get the VBS music we will be singing that week!