

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

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The final article pertaining to millennials that I want to highlight was found in the “Strangeness of the Month Club” column in *The Restoration Herald*. The author quotes from a couple of millennial bloggers who share their desire for the church to stop trying to make church “cool”, but who also reveal an even deeper issue that many millennials find objectionable. We begin with the “cool” factor.

“Bass reverberates through the auditorium floor as a heavily-bearded worship leader pauses to invite the congregation, bathed in the light of two giant screens, to tweet using #JesusLives. The scent of freshly-brewed coffee wafts in from the lobby, where you can order macchiatos and purchase mugs boasting a sleek church logo. The chairs are comfortable, and the music sounds like something from the top of the charts. At the end of the service, someone will win an iPad.”

After noting that this kind of church came about because church attendance plummeted among young adults, the blogger continued, “In response, many churches have sought to lure millennials back by focusing on style points: cooler bands, hipper worship, edgier programming, impressive technology.” She added, “When I left church at age 29, full of doubt and disillusionment, I wasn’t looking for a better-produced Christianity. I was looking for a more authentic Christianity.” Another blogger added, “I want a service that is not sensational, flashy, or particularly ‘relevant.’ I can be entertained anywhere. At church, I do not want to be entertained. I do not want to be the target of anyone’s marketing. I want to be asked to participate in the life an ancient-future community.”

In spite of the fact that we do brew coffee, give away mugs with our logo on them, have two “screens”, and sometimes have a heavily-bearded guitarist on the praise team, I trust we hear what’s being said about trying to be too cool. We do, however, have to draw the line on giving up the “judgmental and exclusive” attitude that many millennials find to be the primary reason they left the church. They really don’t like the fact that we label as sin behaviors and lifestyles they find acceptable.

Sorry, but there’s nothing we can do about that. God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 47

MAY 17, 2017

NUMBER 19



YOUTH GROUP FINALE
GAMES AT 5:30
DINNER AT 6:00
FOOD PROVIDED BY THE CHURCH

STATISTICS

Worship 143
Offering \$4,921.17

SERVING THIS SUNDAY – 5/21/17

Greeters Beryl & Jamella Reese
Visitors' Stand Jim & Mary Sexton
Communion Meditation Chris Luzio
Kirk Polley
Ushers Scott Bales
Paul Hunley
Chad Formea
Rich Mann
Brad Stirmell
Bob Williamson

WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers Nikki & Anna Hunley
Infants Shannon Higgins
Grace Hunley
Sunday School
Toddlers Julie Divjak
Infants Jeni Sperry

Let Us Pray For...

--The family of Deanna Langheim at her passing.
--Friend of Ann Otten who lost a child.
--Renee Bales' co-worker recovering from cancer surgery
--June Auvil who fractured her back.
--Will Sexton spending summer with Andrew at Casas por Cristo.
--Mark Fishel in Cambodia with broken collar bone from motorbike accident.



Our hearts are overflowing from the outpouring of love from our church family. Please keep us in your prayers as we look for a new church home to serve. Know that you will never be replaced, just added to. Thanks to everyone for the wonderful send off.

Our new address is: 907 Edgewood Dr., Morris, IL 60450. The phone numbers in the church directory are still good.

We will keep the light on for you.
Bill & June



I have survived another spring break season at Casas. This March I had three builds: two in Acuna and one in Juarez. All three builds were with great teams who made the craziness of the season worth it.

My first build, the week of March 6, was for Rogelio and his family, with Cross Bend Christian Church from Dallas. The house we built was a tornado relief house. Acuna experienced massive tornado damage in May of 2015 and since then Casas has partnered with the government and Bendix, a major manufacturing company in Acuna, to build relief homes for people impacted by the disaster. I loved this build because the family we built for became super involved in the building process. It was a great first week of spring break.

My second build was the week of March 13 with The Well Church from Edmond, Ok., who were able to build two houses. My site built for Pablo and his three children. Pablo's wife passed away and they were living in a small one bedroom house. I've been building with this team the last 4 years and I always love time with them because there is never a dull moment. They always like to get involved in the community and since Pablo's father is a pastor on our committee in Acuna, they hosted a dinner at his church, a couple blocks down from the house we built. It was a cool opportunity to be Jesus to the community and not just the families we built for.

My last build was in Juarez, with Fellowship of the Rockies from Colorado. This was my second year building with them and I really enjoyed it. We built for Manuel, his wife, and their 5 kids. We had a really windy week with some rains that provided unique challenges for this build. But we got it done by Thursday and provided a home for the family of 7. We were able to connect with a teenage neighbor who helped us build and at the end of the week told us it was a great week for him. He had been struggling with depression and our build got him out of the house and talking with people. It was a really cool experience.

In total, Casas built 77 houses this spring break across all of our locations. Thanks for praying, donating, and building with us. We love you. Andrew & Lacy Sexton

GALACTIC STARVEYORS

June 5-8 6:15-8:30

We are getting closer to VBS! In fact, it is less than three weeks away! Julie and Nikki will once again transform our building into a VBS setting that kids will love. They always do a fantastic job! So many others have volunteered to help and I am so appreciative of your willingness to serve. By June 5th we will have the church decorated and plenty of staff to assist with the activities. Now all we need are kids and lots of them!

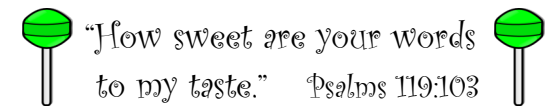
I want this to be a fun environment for our kids, but I am also praying that our VBS program will reach others as well. We have three banners that will be up this week informing the community of our VBS and there has been an article in the Clarion. However, as we all know, the best way to reach people outside of our body is to talk with them. All of us can think of one or two children entering kindergarten through 5th grade that we could invite.



The first game is this Sunday at 3:15 in Rochester on the diamonds at the Rochester City Park. After the game, come grab a burger and hot dog at the church!

I encourage you to do just that! Grab a couple extra flyers and registration forms from the table this Sunday for those you have in mind to invite. If anyone would like to cover a neighborhood with flyers, that would be great! I can print off as many as needed.

In a culture where statistics show that many children aren't even brought to church on Christmas or Easter, VBS provides a fun platform for outreach. As Paul says in Romans 10:14, "And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" This VBS program will walk kids right through the redemption story. They will hear a clear presentation of how sin separates us from our Heavenly Father, but that forgiveness and reconciliation is available through Christ and Christ alone. Let's try to have as many kids as possible hear the Gospel during our VBS!



Many of you were simply impressive with your new memory verses for May. Keep up the good work and I'll keep buying treats! See you all on Sunday!