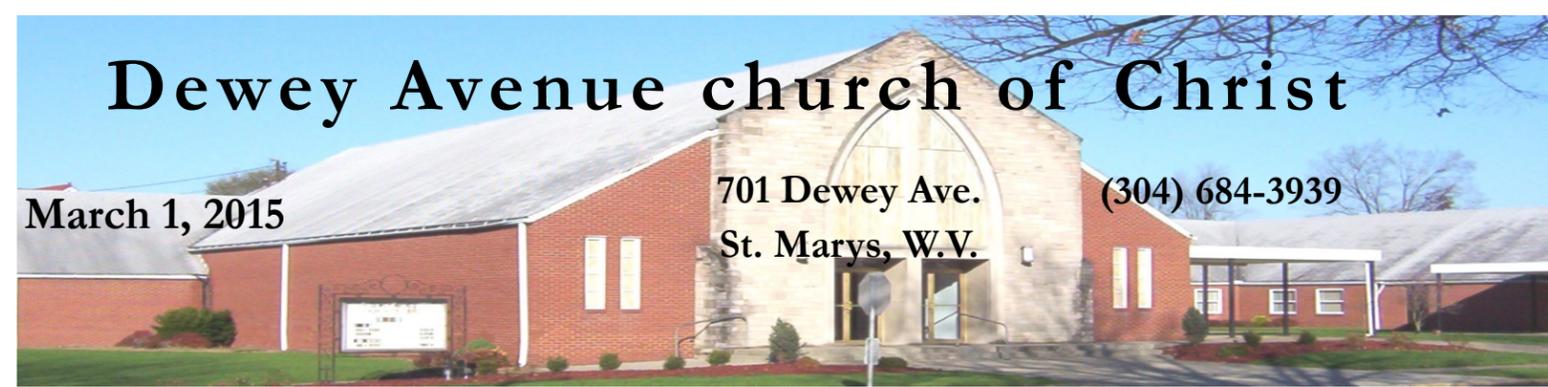


Morning Sermon:

By What Authority?

Evening Sermon:

Devotional



March 1, 2015

Dewey Ave.
Church of Christ
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St. Marys W.V. 26710

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Why are Millennials leaving the church?

If you were born in the 1980- 90's, you're probably considered to be a part of the millennial generation. In 2012, a study quoted in the Washington Post conducted jointly by the Public Religion Research Institute and Georgetown University notes that "Only one-quarter (25 percent) of Millennials say they attend religious services at least once a week...Notably, despite the fact that nearly half (48 percent) of younger Millennials report that they are living at home with their parents, Millennials who live at home are not more likely to attend religious services than Millennials overall."

A few years back on CNN's religious blog, Rachel Evans wrote an article entitled "Why millennials are leaving the church." I found this article to be helpful in good ways and bad.

ADVICE TO CONSIDER: Some of the things she mentions that I think we should consider is the problem of neglecting some of God's commands while mishandling others. She writes, "young adults perceive evangelical Christianity to be too political," while "unconcerned with social justice..." She further noted, "We want to be challenged to live lives of holiness, not only when it comes to sex, but also when it comes to living simply, caring for the poor and oppressed, pursuing reconciliation, engaging in creation care and becoming peace-makers." Jesus noted a similar problem with the Pharisees. They were concerned about tithing even the smallest herbs in the garden yet neglected "weightier matters" of "justice and mercy and faithfulness" (Matthew 23:23).

The younger generation also wants to be a part of something comfortable, welcoming and an environment they can be "safe asking tough questions and wrestling with doubt." Such an environment we find James 5:16; Acts 2:42-46; Acts 4:32-36.

More than anything she notes that the younger generation wants to be a part of something that is real, genuine and authentic, as opposed to hypocritical, lukewarm and insincere. "What millennials really want from the church is not a change in style but a change in substance...We're not leaving the church because we don't find the cool factor there; we're leaving the church because we don't find Jesus there."

ADVICE TO REJECT: In several instances, it appears she suggests adapting to the times and accepting things that are not Biblical. For instance, she calls for a truce between science and faith. As long as modern day science (which does not necessarily make it true science) conflicts with God's Word, I'm not sure how there can be a truce. Just because a person may suffer ridicule from his/her professors and peers does not mean that compromise is the answer.

In addition, she says that the homosexual community should feel truly welcome in our



NEWS AND NOTES:

Prayer Meeting: 6:00pm in the fellowship room.

Wednesday Night Bible Class:

...the Bible and mental health issues.

March 1st: Soup Outreach/Morning Potluck: *Today* we will have soup after services and a devotional evening service following the meal. Everyone is welcome to join us for soup. All left overs will be canned and passed out to the community!

Wheeling Nailers Trip: Anyone interested plan on meeting after morning services **March 1st.** We will discuss pricing, transportation, meals and leave time for the Wheeling Nailer hockey match on Saturday, March 28 @ 7:35pm

March 10: Ladies Quilting.

Front Article Continued:

faith communities. Anyone who comes into our assembly should experience a love and warmth from us. A major part of leading someone to Christ is through our Christ-like example (Matthew 5:13-16). However, that is not the same as accepting a sin by tolerating or redefining it (see Romans 1:26-32).

When people were following Jesus for the wrong reasons, He did not change His views/ beliefs to gain more followers (John 6:24-65). And even though "many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him" (verse 66), this was of no fault to our Lord.

Overall, one thing we can take away from this is the importance of seeking to be the church that Christ wants us to be. In so doing, God will give the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Works Cited:

- Robert P. Jones, Why Millennials leaving the church?, www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/figuring-faith/post/why-are-millennials-leaving-the-church/2012/04/26/gIQAacrPjT_blog.html
- Rachael Evan, Why millennials are leaving the church, www.religion.blogs.cnn.com/2013/07/27/why-millennials-are-leaving-the-church/

*Have updates or bulletin announcements? please contact Terri Parks 304-299-1650 or at terrinazelrod@hotmail.com

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:



Anthony Butcher had surgery last week. Continue to keep him in your prayers during his recovery. He will be in the hospital for 6 weeks.

Geraldine Stewart is showing improvement. Bob Stewart is at home. Geraldine is in room 303 at Heartland.

Barbara Eddy is back at Heartland.

Opal Locke's daughter Fay Keane fell and broke her hip.

Remember those on our prayer list:

Robert Noland, Marie Newland, Janie Judge, Kenny Lancaster, Jodi Mote, Gary Maston, Jane Becker, Dick Dutton, Ronnie Frye, & Madeline McFadden. Remember those who are shut-in, receiving cancer treatments, traveling and our military.

Schedule of Services:

Sunday:

Morning:

Bible Class: 9:30

Worship: 10:30

Evening:

Prayer Meeting: 6:00

Worship: 6:30

Wednesday:

Bible Study: 7:00

THOSE SERVING March 1st:

Morning Worship:

- Announcements:** Darren Parks
- Song Leader:** DJ Kessinger
- Ushers:** Bill Dutton, Glenn Stewart
- Communion:** Dave Lancaster, Buzz Williams, Jesse Barnhart, Stephen Hays, Clay Perkins, Ed Wilson
- Reading and Prayer:** Lew Wilson
- Closing Prayer:** Craig Dutton
- Door Greeters:** Dale Parsley Family, Wirt Cook Family

Evening Worship:

- Communion:** Brian Mercer
 - Prayer:** Kyle Lancaster
 - Closing Prayer:** Thomas Kessinger
- Wednesday:**
- Song leader:** DJ Kessinger
 - Prayer:** Gerald Burns
 - Closing Prayer:** Larry Butcher

THOSE SERVING March 8th:

- Announcements:** Buzz Williams
- Song Leader:** Darren Parks
- Ushers:** Jesse Barnhart, Connor Lancaster
- Communion:** Hal Powell, Thomas Kessinger, Bill Dutton, Ethan Davis, Cole Butcher, Richard Lee Davis
- Reading and Prayer:** Dave Parks
- Closing Prayer:** Dave Lancaster
- Door Greeters:** Elmer and Pam Burns, Bill Dutton Family

Evening Worship:

- Communion:** Glenn Stewart
 - Prayer:** Connor Lancaster
 - Closing Prayer:** Melvin Truax
- Wednesday:**

- Song leader:** Darren Parks
- Prayer:** Lew Wilson
- Closing Prayer:** Craig Dutton

Radio and TV Programs

Good News of Peace: Sundays: 8:00 AM on WRR 93.9 FM

Gospel Broadcasting Network: Dish Network Channel: 9407 (noon); Direct TV Channel: 376 (7:30 AM)

In Search of the Lord's Way: 7:30—Channel 4, Parkersburg; 7:30—Channel 15, Parkersburg; 8:00— Channel 7, Wheeling; 11:30—Channel 5, Clarksburg

