

Church Vs the “Nones”

*“Try to excel in gifts that build up the church.”
I Corinthians 14:26*

Dear Friends,

In Sunday’s edition of the Post and Courier there was an article about the “nones” and how that segment of the country’s population is growing. Who are the nones? Those who identify as having no religious preference. “Ask Americans what their religion is, nearly 1 in 3 say this...NONE.” The PCUSA and all mainline denominations have watched our numbers decline the last thirty years. What does that mean? To me it says that if we don’t pass down the faith to the next generation, then that generation (for many of us it’s our children or grandchildren) has no faith to pass down ... and the number of folks who identify as “nones” will grow even more!

Why church? Certainly many folks commune with nature or say they are spiritual but not religious. Obviously they make a good point. Also, many folks don’t want to make a commitment.... or join anything! Here at New Wappetaw we have been studying covenants and why “promises,” especially those we believe God has made, matter. It’s true no church is perfect and yes, being a member of a church family can be challenging but what the church has to offer is COMMUNITY. For me, church is where I connect with folks who care about me and support me through the challenging times in life.

Last week a dear friend and member of my previous church called me to meet her at Roper in Mt. Pleasant. Her mother had just died unexpectedly and she was in shock. Being there to pray and to offer comfort and support is one of the joys of my calling. The church will call her, reach out to her on Facebook, they will send cards and take meals and be there for her in the weeks to come.

Now maybe the “nones” have a place like the bar “Cheers” where “they can go and everybody will know their name,” but personally, I need something more, something I can only get from a community of faith...the church!

So my calling is to grow the church and do everything I can to reduce the number of “nones” in our community. I hope it is your calling too.

Have a blessed week,
Mike

Upcoming events at New Wappetaw:

Women circle meets Tuesday, Nov 7, at the home of Sandee Moseley

Session meets Wednesday, Nov. 15, at 6:00 in the fellowship hall

Thornwell offering will be collected all Sundays in November

Town tree lighting and refreshments here Sunday, Nov. 26