Moorings

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To Be A Relevant Church

By Carl Peters
Senior Pastor

How can we reach the world for Christ in an era that is increasingly secular and hostile to Christ and His Church? Some call for the church to be more tolerant, accepting, and inclusive. By adapting to the everchanging moral climate, the hope is, we will remain relevant and appeal to the world.

Several decades ago, churches began to pursue this kind of relevance. Sanctuaries became sound stages. Music for worship became concert-like. Pulpits and Communion Tables were removed in favor of pyrotechnics and video screens. Preaching shifted from the Gospel to practical life principles, therapy, and inspiration. Calls for repentance were replaced with encouragement to reach our potential and become our best selves.

What has been the result of these adaptations? A recent study revealed that, for the first time, fewer than half of Americans belong to a church. In our quest for relevance, very quickly, we are becoming irrelevant.

What is the counter to this decline of the church and our relevance deficit? Simone Weil said, "To be always relevant, you have to say things which are eternal." If she is right, the very things deemed irrelevant by the voices crying out for Christianity to be more culturally sensitive, are the eternal and unchanging truths we should be trumpeting. The Apostle Paul said, "Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? …We preach Christ crucified!"

At Anchor, we will not allow a corrupt culture to dictate our morals, our message or our worship. Instead, our relevance will come from the character of God, and His Word, which is eternal, unchanging, and therefore always relevant. Frankly, it is what the world is dying to hear! Dr. Robert Webber said, "May the church not be formed by the world in which it lives, but by the narrative to which it belongs, the story of God. For it is only through God's story proclaimed, enacted and embodied by God's people that the world will learn its own destiny." Like never before, the world needs the Church to be relevant. But, if we desire to reach the lost in this secular society, we dare not dumb down. Instead, unapologetically, let's preach Christ and Him crucified!

Youth and Children Ministry

By Daulton Peters
Youth Ministry

Hello everyone! I am so glad that we are coming out of the winter! Easter is here and summer is around the corner! There are a few events that I want to draw attention to this month that will be a lot of fun for our youth and children here at Anchor! The first event is a cut and paste craft and painting event for the girls of the youth group! That will be April 18th at 5:30. The next event is a dinner with the guys of the youth group to eat wings and watch some of the NCAA tournament! I am so looking forward to ramping up in person events as we get closer to the summer! I am also excited for Easter Sunday! We are going to have an Easter egg hunt as well as a presentation of resurrection eggs to the kids during Sunday school. I am hoping for a good turn out and a lot of fun! I will be coming out with a schedule for children's ministry events in the next few weeks as well. I am so excited and optimistic about taking over the children's ministry responsibilities here at Anchor! I want us to grow and become a wonderful place for young families to come worship. Please pray for our youth and children's ministry as we get going with in person meetings and future plans and activities. Thank you for your love and support through these difficult times!

Church Family Information—April

Birthdays:

1 Patrick Hostetter
3 JoAnne Sexton
Sam Still
5 Joey Bennett
Joan Switzer
Sandra Williams
8 Phil Jackson
9 Shirley McClure
10 Monica Leach
Jim Neal
11 Lexie Caldwell
Scott Durbin
Vickie Whitlow
14 Sue Hager
Jack Hiatt
15 Amy Jorgensen
Pamlia Lyons
16 Dee Dee Jackson
17 Marsha Cox
Marilyn Melton
18 Jasmine Lawson
21 Vicki Carter
22 Faith Alexakos
25 Sandra Valtas
26 Claudia Soper
28 Esteva Cassem
Diane Hancock
30 Lydia Bishop

Anniversaries:

2 Dick & Carolyn Edwards
9 Jim & Helen Atherton
10 Charlie & Linda Ledford
17 Scott & Shirley Durbin
19 David & Fern Powers

Please contact the church office if your Birthday or Anniversary has been missed. We would like to acknowledge all of our members' special occasions!

by Paul Jorgensen

Gospel to Every Home Event

The Gospel To Every Home Event has arrived! Over one year of planning has taken place. Our church has fasted and prayed on the third Thursday of every month for over a year. We have engaged in forty days of prayer and held training events at the church. Prayer teams are engaged and volunteers have prepared gift packages. Many volunteers have claimed streets and have been praying over these streets. Now, in the month of April, we are beginning our efforts to take the Gospel to Every Home in our area!

During the course of this effort, we will meet people whom we are able to encourage in their faithfulness to the Lord. We will meet people who are in need of prayer. We will meet some people who are opposed to the Gospel. But, we will surely find a precious some in whose lives the Holy Spirit has been working to prepare them to receive the Gospel and make a profession of faith in Christ. Through all of this effort, we will be glorifying Christ by proclaiming His message of hope and restoration to a lost and hurting world. And, we know, that if Christ be lifted up, He will draw all people to Himself As guests begin to filter into the church, the Christ-centered hospitality of every member will be a welcoming and comforting support to these who are seeking a more meaningful life.

Our committed effort to take the Gospel to 11,000 homes in our region is going to require our continued dedication to the missional cause throughout most of this year. This work will be dependent upon every member of our church banding together, each individual utilizing their spiritual giftedness and serving the Lord with gladness as we step outside of our comfort zones to fulfill this local missions work. Still, I am excited about what lies in store for our church in this upcoming year of Gospel giving and discipling.

WMU News– Missions Update

By Jane Culler, on behalf of the Women's Missionary Union

Central Kentucky is very fortunate to have many organizations to help people in need. An excellent example is the Lexington Rescue Mission. This is a Christ-Centered Ministry whose motto is "We exist to serve and glorify God." Their mission is "to rebuild lives that have been broken by poverty. Poverty steals peace. It crushes dignity. It destroys hope. So in all that we do, we invite people into the presence of Jesus Christ. He alone offers peace that passes understanding, the dignity of being a child of God, and lasting hope for eternity. He is the one who redeems that which is broken. And through Him, we see lives change."

Laura Carr is the Executive Director of the Lexington Rescue Mission. She oversees numerous services such as community meals, clothing and housing assistance, employment support, ex-offender re-entry, and spiritual care. We at Anchor are fortunate to have Ms. Carr as our speaker for the April 18 WMU Meeting. She will discuss Grace Place, which is a transitional residential program for women seeking restoration from the effects of addiction, domestic violence, or homelessness. In a beautiful, private, historic home in downtown Lexington, this program "addresses the complex issues that have led to destructive life choices, while providing the tools and support needed to live a meaningful life."

We hope you will plan to attend this informative meeting on April 18, 2021 at 2:30 in the sanctuary. Masks and social distancing will be required and a safe snack will be distributed. If you would like to donate supplies for Grace Place, Ms. Carr will collect them at the meeting. Suggestions are: hygiene products, feminine hygiene supplies, towels and washcloths, art canvases, and gardening tools and flower bulbs to beautify the outdoor spaces for the ladies. If you are unable to attend, but would like to donate some items, please give them to Ida Slusher at the church temperature station before any service. Hope to see many of you there!

The mission moves forward

Annie Armstrong Offering Collections through March—April ($2,000 goal)

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

You are invited to join us for Good Friday Service—7:00 p.m. † Easter Sunday 8:45 a.m. & 11:00

Media News

Wow! What great words to this new ensemble piece that is sweeping the world. I just saw Zoom using it to promote Zoom meetings. It was a choir singing this song on Zoom.

Thanks to Cathy Akers for leading it this last week and telling Carl about this new song for worship. Everyone in today's Christian music of all styles have their own version of this worship song. It is called *Waymaker*. The Triumpant Quartet, Hillsong Worship and so many others have their own version in their own style. I love that. I love how people don't try to cookie copy each other in the Christian worship music world but simply just make it their own. We did the same today in Sunday's service with our ensemble. I want to just share the words to this song in this Moorings and you sing it every day if you want. It's an easy song but it really helps to see the words on paper as it just makes it come alive.These words are true and good. There is nothing like telling the Lord who He is in worship. He loves hearing it. Just like we love hearing our own children give us praise (which is rare, Lol). How much do we love our children and grandchildren lifting their hands to us saying to pick them up? God loves it just the same when we lift our hands to Him in worship and say, "pick me up".

How much more does a loving God, who created us and sent His Son to die for us, long to hear us sing over and over that only HE is the WAYMAKER!

I can tell you. God loves to hear our praise to Him each and EVERYDAY through Hymns and spiritual songs his word tells us. Here is the chart (without the chords) I made to play and sing for the ensemble this last week.

Reverend Jones from Anchor Baptist came up to me after the 11 service to me and said, "man what a song and what a message". He is so right. Powerful, true song.

I will close this April Moorings with the words to this new anointed worship song.

WAYMAKER

1. You are here moving in our midst. I worship You. I worship You.
You are here working in this place. I worship You. I worship You.
You are here moving in our midst. I worship You. I worship You.
You are here working in this place. I worship You. I worship You. And You are…..

Chorus

Way maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness.
My God, that is who You are.
Way maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness.
My God, that is who You are.

2. You are here touching every heart. I worship You. I worship You.
You are here healing every heart. I worship You. I worship You.
You are here turning lives around. I worship You. I worship You.
You are here mending every heart. sI worship You. I worship You.

By Phil Jackson
Music and Media

Bridge

Even when I don't see it You're workin'. Even when I don't feel it You're workin'.
You never stop. You never stop workin'. You never stop. You never stop workin '. (repeat)
That is who you are, that is who you are, that is who you are, that is who you are.

ANCHOR BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Carl Peters—Senior Pastor
Rev. Phil Jackson—Associate Pastor for Music and Media
Rev. Paul Jorgensen—Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
Mr. Daulton Peters—Youth Ministry Director
Mrs. Cindy Hoover—Children's Ministry Director
Mrs. Claire Vance—Pianist/Accompanist
Ms. Patty Wilson—Administrative Assistant
Mr. Ken Hahn—Facilities Custodian

"Moorings" is a monthly publication for the members of Anchor Baptist Church to inform and encourage all who follow and support this ministry for Christ Jesus.

3601 Winthrop Drive
Lexington KY 40514
859-296-1214