

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

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Chatham, IL
Permit No. 9

Last month I wrote about discovering a literary gem on the ski slopes of Colorado, told how it had been received as miraculous by one of the first persons I gave a copy to, and said I had a couple of copies if you wanted one. The day after the article was published I received a phone call from an elderly friend who said she wanted to buy a copy. I told her I wanted to hold on to the copies I had until after Sunday so I'd have one if you asked for it. She said after what I had written everyone would want one. I told her she was more optimistic about that than I, but assured her I'd get a copy for her. When no one even mentioned the book, or the offer, I took her a copy on Monday.

I do hope the lack of response was due to the poetic nature of the book, and not my track record of recommending movies that few seem to enjoy as much as I do. The response to our Sunday night study of *Strange New World* does give me hope. I was encouraged to keep trying by your willingness to tackle a book that, while not as scholarly as the book from which it originated, is still not easy to wrap our heads around. I really think Carl Trueman understands what has happened to our culture, and his observations will enable us to more effectively address the problems that surround us. In fact, Matt and I are going to hear him speak at a Touchstone Conference in Chicago next week, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*.

It's with mild trepidation that I'm going to plunge ahead and recommend another book. Duane gave me another winner, *Living Life Backward* by David Gibson. It's the best book I've ever read that gives insight and understanding to a book few seem to comprehend or understand. And no, I'm not talking about Revelation. It's subtitled "How Ecclesiastes Teaches Us To Live in Light of the End." One copy has already gone to Wisconsin on a fishing trip. There's only one left. God Bless, Rick

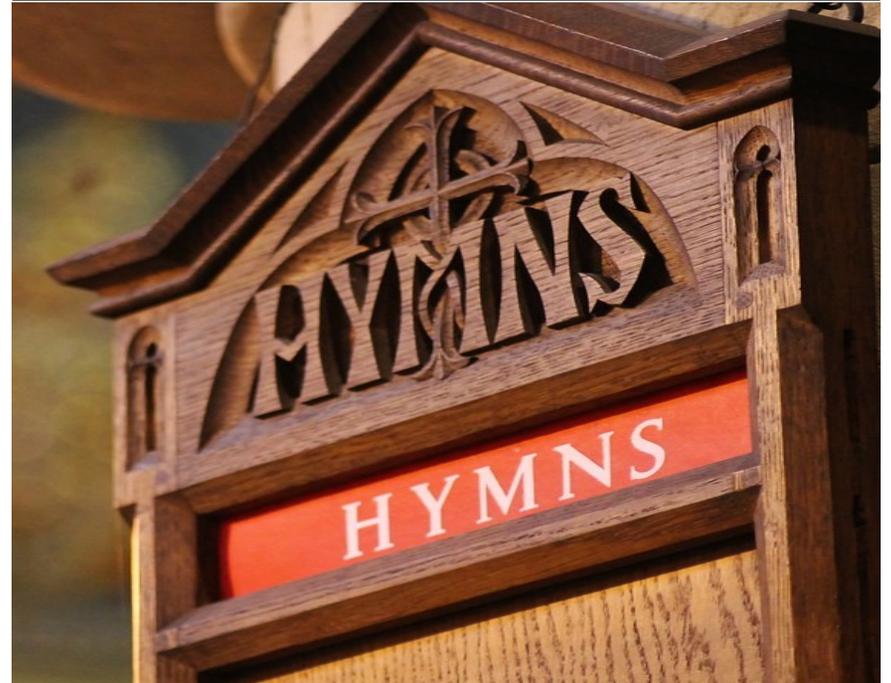


THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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AN OLD-FASHION HYMN BOARD WON'T HOLD ALL THE HYMNS WE'LL BE SINGING THIS SUNDAY! EVERYONE WHO DIDN'T GO TO TURKEY RUN WILL BE INVITED TO REQUEST THEIR FAVORITE.

STATISTICS		
	9/4	
Worship		109
Offering		\$10,586.33
	9/11	
Worship		114
Offering		\$4,798.00
	9/18	
Worship		120
Offering		\$11,116.33
	9/25	
Worship		115
Offering		\$3,015.46
	10/2	
Worship		106
Offering		\$9,455.46

LIVING LIFE BACKWARD

By David Gibson

"Left to our own devices, we tend to live life forward. One day follows another, and weeks turn into months and months into years. We do not know the future, but we plan and hope and dream of where we will be, and what we would like to be doing, and whom we might be with. We live forward.

Ecclesiastes teaches us to live life backward. It encourages us to take the one thing in the future that is certain—our death—and work backward from that point into all the details and decisions and heartaches of our lives, and to think about them from the perspective of the end. It is the destination makes sense of the journey. If we know for sure where we are heading, then we can know for sure what we need to do before we get there. Ecclesiastes invites us to let the end sculpt our priorities and goals, our greatest ambitions and our strongest desires.

I want to persuade you that only if you prepare to die can you really learn how to live."

(From the preface of the latest book Rick recommends.)

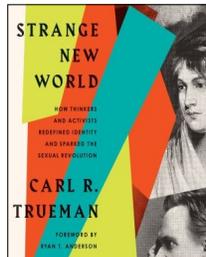


The food pantry is in need of all kinds of soups. Bring them to the church and we will get them to the pantry.



SENIOR OKTOBERFEST POTLUCK

All seniors are invited to an Oktoberfest Potluck to be held on Tuesday, October 18th at 5:30 in the fellowship hall. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board this Sunday and next.



Our Sunday evening study for adults on *Strange New World* by Carl Trueman is not easy, but we've figured out a way to dig our way through something we believe is very important. We've decided to read through a chapter together one week, and then use his study guide to discuss it the following week.

If you've been hesitant to join us, it's not too late to jump in. We'll be discussing chapter 2 this Sunday at 6:30.

A WORD FROM KENT PARIS

There are many among us in our social circles that are struggling with gender confusion. Some have believed the lie that they are gay, lesbian or transgender. It may be a loved one of yours, a close friend, a classmate or person in your work environment. Jesus calls us to love those who are struggling, those who are confused, broken or blind to this deception.

We can love people without affirming their confused identity or sexual sin, Jesus certainly did. And please hear me...we love people best by holding fast to God's truth regarding our humanity, our gender, our sexuality...by upholding what God has purposed and what He forbids.

The Apostle Paul tells us to speak the Truth in love.



Jr. High Students

This always turns out to be a fun night out! The costume party we discussed last week has been scheduled for Friday, October 28th from 6:30-9:00pm here at the church. Some of you mentioned you plan on inviting a few friends. That would be great! The more the merrier!

The plan is to begin the evening munching on a few pizzas before launching into Halloween themed games. Of course, we will have the traditional pumpkin carving contest so if you really want to win, a little practice beforehand is advised. Also, fun costumes like a superhero, historical character or a piece of fruit are preferred over zombies, witches and traditional "scary" costumes. See you then!



High School Students

Save Saturday, November 12th for our annual "Who Dunit" murder mystery. We will begin with dinner together at 6:00pm before officially breaking into character as the mystery unfolds. The setting is the 1920s, so be thinking of your outfit and take advantage of Halloween sales if needed. Also, we usually have enough characters for up to around 16 people so if you have a few friends who want to attend, that should be no problem.



K-5th Grade

As I write this, the forecast shows 10 days of continued sunshine with the high temperatures averaging in the upper sixties. Fall is here! That means it is time for our annual trip to Pumpkin Creek Farms. Let's plan on Sunday, October 16th after Sunday School as the day to head out to the farm.

The admission price this year has been set at \$6.00 per person. This will allow you to climb on haystack mountain, participate in the petting zoo, play in the corn bin, get lost in the corn maze, ride the tractor or do a variety of other activities around the farm. New this year is a Farmhouse Kitchen holding a bigger improved donut machine so that line (which is well worth it) won't be so long.

We will stop for lunch along the way and save the donuts for dessert. We usually make it back somewhere between 3:00-3:30 on that afternoon. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board if you would like to attend!



Mark your calendars and plan to attend our all church cookout on Saturday, November 5th at Mike and Kelli Donaldson's house. We will begin gathering around 4:00 that afternoon for games and fellowship before dinner. Once we get the bonfire nice and toasty, we can begin roasting hot dogs which will be provided. If everyone could bring a side dish to share that evening, that would be great.