

FIVE PRACTICES OF A FRUITFUL CONGREGATION

Part I

Ideas for Radical Hospitality:

Function for families of church and possibly community would offer opportunity for fellowship & worship.

“jazz up” and keep current the website.

Mailings/advertisements for fish fry; VBS; special worship services, etc.

Improve Contemporary service

Improve Narthex and halls

Coffee house/kiosk

Reach out to A.A. and other groups meeting at church

Follow-up after Directions classes

Youth should be hostess/host

Service on the lawn

Offer free car wash, gift incentives

Offer food events and advertise them

Visitor parking spaces

Directions to nursery

“manned” information kiosk/welcome table

Equal follow-up for those who are not involved in groups i.e. choir, Bible study, Sunday school etc.

Follow-up if someone doesn't come after 2/3 weeks

Have greeter/greeters in back hall

ID badges for workers, nursery pagers

“mentors for new members”

Youth to help with ushers

Improve communications for all things offered by the church

RADICAL HOSPITALITY:

hospitality without boundaries.

Stepping out of your comfort zone.

Going outside the box.

Arising from the service.

Love for Christians

Treat people as Christ would.

Focus on purpose of making disciples of Christ.

Have a “we are the family” attitude.

Praying for visitors to come to the church.

Involves action.

Look at all activities/tasks with newcomers in mind.

See through eyes of visitors/not members.

Hospitality extends to entire church family not just visitors or members.

Look at others and not yourself.

Columns blocking walkway in Sanctuary

Blank walls around sanctuary

Outdated cabinetry outdated area of UMM/UMW Bulletin boards

Rooms have no character
Scattered Bulletin Boards
Outside entrances not marked well
Upstairs rooms not marked @ stairs
Recycle bins throughout church
Clutter
Chairs staked & narrow hallways
Narthex/foyer need to be opened up more
Sign needs to be at end of hallway toward fellowship hall to elevators/stairs
Clutter in Wesley Hall
More color & wider sidewalks
Ceilings too low in narthex area & same area also needs color
Congestion, overcrowded look with chairs lining the wall
Walls in Wesley Hall need to have "more life"
Poor lighting in foyer
Drab foyer
Bulletin boards need to be better organized – look messy now
UMM Bulletin board too busy & cluttered
Teller room has no table
Wesley Hall 1, 2, 3 not very welcoming
Too many youth pictures on boards and down hallways
Outdated church decorations
Small choir room
More welcoming landscaping
Pictures are good, but could be presented better
Sanctuary banners are nice
Wood paneling out of date
Small kitchen – old & raggedy (Wesley Hall)
Pews don't fit sanctuary – too big for design
Metal chairs are old & nasty
Worn Bible & hymnals
Wesley Hall kitchen too small
Hallway too narrow & dark
Bathroom doors are for midgets
Choir room has no sign on door to indicate what it is
Need a small map of the church
Better signage
Bland – no color in hallways, rooms, etc.
Trash left sitting around Sunday School classrooms
Pews are unkept, dirty looking, not straight
Confusing to find steps
Banner & cross, chancel area positive
Soaring ceiling in sanctuary – positive
Teacher names on Sunday School rooms is positive
Suggest having a combined services periodically so everyone can get to know each other better
Need greeters
Walls need color!
Hallway after foyer is cluttered

Need welcome center with person at it
Narthex/foyer too crowded to get to the coffee
Messy papers hanging on walls
Cluttered areas and dark entries
Signs need to be above doors – can't see where they are now
Need info about classes/groups on bulletin boards or somewhere visible in the narthex area with
out cluttering
Library should be more visible or advertised more

THINGS ST. ANDREW'S DOES:

Mugging
Recognizing Visitors
Tommy Nairns
Multiple Sunday School Classes
Support Groups
Coffee Area
Attendance pads
Bulletin boards with programs & outreach
Sporting Events i.e. Tides
Vacation Bible School

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Part II

WHAT KIND OF WORSHIP DO YOU LIKE?

Where I talk with God
Energetic Service
Diversity of music
Good Traditional Service
Traditional Service
Creative Worship
Children/Youth participation
Presence of Holy Spirit is felt
Good music
Music you know
Worship that is inclusive: in all aspects including language, music, etc.

IDEAS TO ENHANCE & BECOME MORE PASSIONATE WORSHIP:

Prayer e-mail chain
Website has prayer chain link
Website has prayer room
Prayer in the morning at the church

SHARING FAVORITE PARTS OF THE PRESENT SERVICE:

Children's message
Anthem/Special music
Message that motivates
Communion
Handbells
Greeting one another
"Quieting" Music

WHY YOU LOOK FORWARD TO COMING EACH WEEK:

See people you care about and who care for you
Strength for the week
Recharge for the week
Fellowship
Strength in numbers
Where you can "check in" with others
Sense of community, belonging
Less stressful part of each week

WHAT MAKES WORSHIP PASSIONATE?

Power of The Holy Spirit

Innate enthusiasm / contagious from younger members

Being with other believers

Being spiritually fed

What individual puts into it

Intense desire

Hungering/thirsting for righteousness

“feed the fires”

Emotional feeling get from participation in worship – physically, mentally & spiritually

Personal connection with God and others

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Part III

Growing in faith is the “norm” for all Christian life.

Proactive

Devotions

Commitment

Study

Work

Prayer

Out of your Comfort Zone

Conscious act

Practicing in anything “more” than just worship

Passion & Love

Why is Intentional Faith Development a vital practice?

Growth

Investment in church

“Vine” and “branches” - you cannot bear fruit apart from me

More able to assist church / new believers

(equip & ministry)

It’s about networking—with Christian believers

Growth = community

How Did Jesus practice Intentional Faith Development for himself?

He would go off by himself for prayer, talk with God and await instructions

Fast

Denial

Was with people; demonstrate love and compassion

Luke 4—went to synagogue

How Did Jesus practice Intentional Faith Development with His Disciples?

Evening before Crucifixion—washed their feet, served others

Through parables & stories
Followed “Golden Rule”
Love one another
Continuity

Why is accountability necessary to grow in faith?

Disciple Bible Study
Bible Study Fellowship
Choir
Emmaus
Sunday School
Missions
Journaling
E-devotion
31 days of Praise
Celebration of Discipline
Lunch discussions
Opportunity to “give” to someone

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Part IV

Risk-Taking Mission and Service

How would you define MISSION?

Job to be done
Outside Church
Goal directed
Specific Purpose
Helping others
Making a difference in a person’s life
Purposeful action to accomplish
Measurable results

How would you define SERVICE?

One on One
See need and meet it
Sometimes spontaneous
 i.e. Good Samaritan
Helping others

What outreach ministries of St. Andrew's push people outside of their comfort zones to make a real difference in the lives of people?

Feeding the Homeless
Pastor's Discretionary Fund (PDF)
DeFeet Project
Crisis Hotline
Use of building for A.A. & Parkinson's Support Group
Mediate with families in crisis
Tidewater Pastoral Counseling
EDMARC—terminally ill children
Wesley Center
M.E. Cox Adult Daycare

What are the ministries that require "hands-on" face to face engagement with the needs of people that we might not ordinarily come to know?

SHARE program
YWOW (Young Widows or Widowers)
Angel Tree

How has a mission initiative/outreach ministry changed your life?

Made me be involved
Opened eyes to see things otherwise wouldn't
Attitude of gratitude
Deepened personal faith
Built relationships
Taking more risks

List outreach projects of St. Andrew's

Mini-missions moments
Mission highlights in Newsletter, bulletin, bulletin boards
Boxes for Military at Christmas
Thanksgiving, Christmas baskets
Jail/Prison donations
Directions classes
Vacation Bible School

Berta—have a team or teams of 4-5 people to assist parishioners with simple chores, i.e. cutting grass, taking to Doctor appointments, sitting with elderly, etc. Also, need to help with natural disasters—have a team set up or contact person (Berta is willing) to work with other churches to form groups to help in various areas of the country where disasters occurred.

Emmanuel Episcopal is trying to get a team together to help in Iowa. It would be a 9 day car trip—travel on weekends and work 5 days during July 12—August sometime. So far they have 8 different people going.

Part V Extravagant Generosity

Address Challenge of Growing in Giving to Long Term Members as well as Adults New to the Faith:

Sermon messages

Pledge cards “pony express” - memory boost?

System that is easily understood

Older members talk about what it means to give. Stewardship—What it means to “me”.

Invite Young Adults into leadership and planning

Integrate older ideas with younger people.

Integrate new ideas.

Consider patterns of earning, spending & giving between generations:

Debit cards

Credit card machine in church

Direct deposit/on-line giving

Job longevity

Acknowledge God’s generous ways to us.

Learn, Adapt, improve method of communication & teaching about giving:

ATM / Credit Card

Encourage & teach members to consider legacies, bequests, endowment giving & estate planning:

Stock

Endowments

Bequests for special missions

Take seriously the stewardship of resources entrusted to them:

Financial

Environment

Pastor tithes:

Proportional giving with goal of tithing regardless of income is expectation for those who serve on Finance Committee & key leadership roles:

How do you feel about how STAUMC teaches about money?

We don’t

Stewardship Sunday

What values & themes guide STAUMC’s efforts to encourage giving?

Mission orientation

Celebrate God’s giving

Give back

Support the church—if we didn’t, it wouldn’t be here.

How do you feel about how faithful STAUMC is with its money?

Trust people in charge

Budget shows where money goes

Newsletter or bulletin board with stories of where money is going

What is the most "FUN" you have had giving money?

Dunking Pastors

"the eruption"

Rewarding

Children's service/youth Sunday

Seeing the benefit