

Evangelism March 2013

As Easter approaches, our evangelistic efforts naturally increase. This is due to the fact that Easter is an exciting time on the church calendar and it is also the time of the year when the unchurched are likely to attend a worship service. We know that 70% of guests who attend worship on Easter will show up because they were invited. **Because they were invited!** Last year at community we executed a structured Easter inviting program to increase Easter attendance through a focus on inviting friends, relatives, associates and neighbors. Attendance increased.

This year our focus is the same, to be inviting and welcoming. As you each make your Easter worship plans, consider who you might invite. With only 35 % of the population attending worship on a regular basis, there are many people looking for a connection. They are waiting to be invited. There is an excitement about Easter that is welcoming. There is an exciting buzz inside of Community that we need to share outside the church. **Our** mission is to make disciples. Make that invitation to join you in worship to a friend, relative, associate or neighbor.

This year there is a focus on the next steps. If a guest shows up on Easter and is excited, what's next? Will they return the next week? It is critical that the guest be connected to the church and its members and activities quickly. If a guest is not connected within a few weeks, they will fall away. This year we have a schedule of exciting, connectional opportunities for our guests, beginning with Easter worship. The schedule is as follows:

1. Easter Worship will be held on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, with breakfast being served after the sunrise service.
2. Alpha Bible Study will be kicking off in early April. This will allow the newcomers to immediately engage and begin their faith journey. Details will be forthcoming.
3. May will bring us Change the World Sunday (May 19) and a week of mission/service opportunities. This will allow prospective members to engage in the good works of our church.
4. Vacation Bible School will be in June. This program has a rich tradition of reaching out to Gods children. Our neighborhood is home to many young families with children. This is an outstanding way to connect with the neighborhood.

The above programs/events are meant as opportunities for those who are encountering the church for the first time, or possibly for those who have been "away" for some time and are looking to return. But they are also meant for you, as an active member of Community. Attend worship. Invite others to worship. Sign up for Alpha. Invite a friend to attend Alpha with you. Join one of the mission opportunities during May. Bring the neighbors. When June arrives, spread the word in your neighborhood about VBS. Volunteer as a teacher.

As lay leaders at Community, we have a responsibility to fulfill our mission to make disciples...to invite, to welcome, to connect, to engage and to participate.

God Bless