

Puckety Presbyterian Church

1009 Puckety Church Road
Lower Burrell, PA 15068

(Return Service Requested)

Last Day For:

Post Scripts Information:

Third Friday of the month.

Bulletin Information:

The Tuesday before the Sunday the
article is to be announced

REMINDER:

Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Children's' Church 10:00 a.m.



Puckety Church

Post-Scripts
a monthly publication

*Following Jesus...
Making Disciples...
Loving One Another
as He Loves Us*



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Following Jesus... Making Disciples... Loving One Another as He Loves Us

October 2018

Post-Scripts
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Pastor's Paragraphs

The Red River, which divides Texas and Oklahoma, is said to be 1 mile wide and 1 inch deep. Does that describe the faith of most Americans? Several years ago a Gallup poll showed that 96% of Americans believed in God. However, one might wonder if their faith is at the center of their lives, or is it only a surface level faith?

Psychologists use two terms to describe the depth of a person's faith – extrinsic or intrinsic faith. Webster's Dictionary defines extrinsic as "not really belonging to the thing with which it is connected." It is acting and being that is not integrated into one's everyday life. It is faith that makes no difference in how a person lives, faith that is convenient or cultural, faith that is only expressed during a crisis. Intrinsic is defined as "belonging to the real nature of a thing, not dependent on external circumstances." This is faith that is at the center of life. It shapes all of a person's actions, influences all his or her actions, attitudes, feelings and thoughts. It is faith that is lived out in daily life. Gallup described nine themes that are common in those with an intrinsic faith. 1) They are much more likely to have a daily time of private prayer. 2) They sense God's presence in their lives. 3) Their religious experiences are the source of strength, personal growth, and the healing of inner conflicts. 4) They tend to have a greater sense of inner peace and feel more joyful and happy, and they are less likely to feel depressed. 5) They are more humble. 6) They are more likely to be involved in compassionate helping acts. 7) They are less racially

prejudiced. 8) They are more able to forgive people. 9) They are more open to church involvement in the world.

Intrinsic spiritual faith comes from repetition of certain spiritual experiences. Here are six activities that will help faith to be intrinsic:

1) Regular attendance at worship and listening to preaching:

- Is your attitude about worship, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" (Psalm 122:1)? Or, are you like the man who attends worship regularly. "I haven't missed an Easter Sunday in the 29 years."

2) Prayer:

- Does your prayer time consist in saying "Bless you," when someone sneezes. Or, do you spend intentional time praying for others, thanking God for your blessings and being aware of God's gracious presence?

3) Fellowship with Christians:

- Fellowship is far more than talking about the Steelers before (or after) worship, or coming to a lunch at church when it's convenient. Are you involved in a small group in which you can share your doubts and struggles, your joys and hopes? Do your friends know they can call you anytime and you will listen and love them?

4) Service:

- Those who go on a mission trip usually come back with their faith renewed and a desire to grow spiritually. How might you serve others? Would you be willing to participate in (or even organize) a mission trip? Or, maybe God is calling you to organize and serve in some sort of local mission – there are countless opportunities.

5) Financial Stewardship:

- “The stewardship question is not really how much will we give. The stewardship question is how we spend what we have been given” (Ann Weems). As one bumper sticker reads: “If you love Jesus, tithe. Anyone can honk.” What does the amount you give to Puckety show about your faith?

6) Bible Study:

- Are you reading your Bible on a regular basis and participating in Sunday school, a small group or other opportunities to learn and grow? Or, is your Bible a wonderful decoration that gathers dust on the shelf and has no impact on your life?

The Tanzanian rock hyrax is about the size of a rabbit, yet comes from the same mammalian ancestor as the elephant! Why did one branch of the family tree stay midgets and the other became one of the largest land animals? Probably for the same reason that some people who believe in God become strong in their faith, with an intrinsic faith, and others remain pygmies, with an extrinsic faith. What steps do you need to take for your faith to become intrinsic?

In Christ, *Doug*



Coffee Time: Thursday, October 25th @ 10:00 AM.

You are invited to join Pastor Doug for a monthly Coffee Time – an opportunity to share a cup of coffee (or whatever your favorite drink might be) with no agenda other than enjoying the company of those who gather. Come join us – in the Conference Room.



Like and follow us on Facebook for updates and info on activities and events as well as announcements!



In October

7 Chari Burtner
14 Michelle Gordon
21 Mick Dober
28 Beth Dober

Your Session:

Debra Artman
Sophia Earhart
Rebecca Fisher
Jolene Kostelansky
Charlene McKay
Jennifer McKay
Doug Marshall
Mike Tatem
Matt Wehrle
Chuck West

Corporate Officers:

President: Sophia Earhart
Vice-Pres.: Matt Wehrle
Secretary: Debra Artman
Treasurer: Donna Bracken

PRAYER REQUESTS!

If you are not on our prayer chain, please consider signing up for it. It only takes a minute to lift someone who may need your prayers! Call or email the office. We have an email prayer chain as well as a phone call prayer chain.

Your Deacons:

Sandy Ankney
Beth Dober
Mick Dober
Margie Hazlett
Brenda McAllister
John McAllister
Maria Schafer
Rodney Schafer
Kim Tatem
Peg Uhing
Jean Welte

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor:
Doug Marshall

Administrative Secretary:
Kelly Kapelewski

Treasurer:
Donna Bracken

Choir Director:
Lorraine Menk

Organist/Pianist:
Sue Close

Custodian:
Dean Kunkle

Housekeeper:
Irene Nelson

Assistant Treasurer:
Sophia Earhart

Financial Secretary:
Judy West

GREETERS **SCHEDULE**

7 Charlene McKay and
Matt Wehrle
14 Rebecca Fisher and
Deb Artman
21 Sophia Earhart and
Jolene Kostelansky
28 Chuck West and
Mike Tatem

POWER OF PRAYER

To the family of God here at Puckety: We want to remind you that there are people here at Puckety who are available to pray for you after the worship service and we invite you to take advantage of these opportunities for prayer. We are asking that all who desire prayer to come and be seated in the first or second pew, up by the communion table. This will help us be aware of your desire for prayer. "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:16b)

Counters Schedule

7 Janet Karan and
Deb Artman
14 Chuck and Judy West
21 Jolene Kostelansky
and Sophia Earhart
28 Helen Crissman and
Marilyn Crumley

Sunday October 28th is the next Ladies Lunch! If you've never come before, this is the month to join us...great time for fellowship! We will be going to Villa Ballanca.

Please be sure to check the bulletin board outside the church office any time you are visiting the church. It is full of useful information and announcements from throughout the community!



Do you know how to recognize the warning signs of a stroke? If you or someone you know is experiencing any of the below symptoms, call 911 right away. It is important to seek medical treatment immediately.

- Sudden Numbness
- Difficulty Speaking
- Severe Dizziness
- Loss of Coordination
- Sudden Loss of Vision
- Sudden Intense Headache
- Brief Loss of Consciousness

Protect your health by participating in the Life Line Screening health screenings that will be at Puckety Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, October 2, 2018. Through ultrasound we evaluate the carotid arteries for the buildup of fatty plaque, which is the leading cause of stroke.

Register today for the Stroke, Vascular & Heart Rhythm package, which includes four screenings: carotid artery, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and atrial fibrillation. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$25 discount you must call 1-877-380-1743 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle** You can also **text the word circle to 797979.**

****KELLY HAS 1 FREE SCREENING LEFT AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE IT. ****



The Upkeep Committee is looking for a step ladder 12, 14 or 16 feet standing height for use in changing the burned out aisle lights in the sanctuary. If you are a Puckety person or know of someone willing to loan us such a ladder, we can pick it up and return it. Thank you from Upkeep.



Bible Readings

The Bible readings are from
"Book of Common Worship"

For the week of:

October 7:

Job 1:1; 2:1-10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

October 14:

Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

October 21:

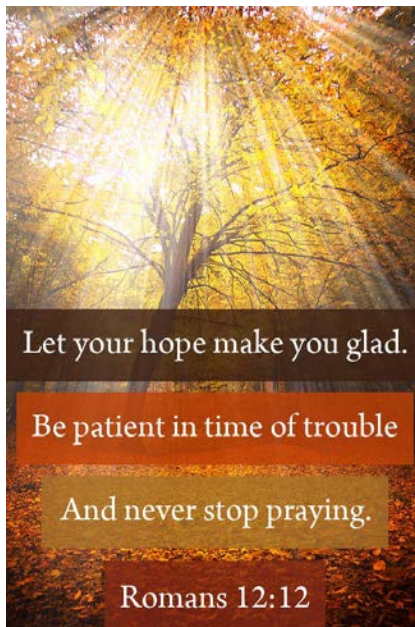
Job 38:1-7
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

October 28:

Job 42:1-6
Psalm 34:1-8
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52



(If your name does not appear or if the information is incorrect, please contact the office so that the records may be updated.)



Blessings On Your Birthday!!!

- 1 Evan Girard
- 3 Beth Hilbeck
- 4 Kenneth Blandford
Ryan Bargerstock
- 5 Nita Lundie
- 10 Rachel Aungst
Sandy Schafer
- 12 Joel McCullough
Kwade Kirchartz
- 14 Denise Johnston
Elaine Bargerstock
- 16 Doug Marshall
Christopher Hilbeck
- 17 Lilian Blandford
Bridget Brown
- 20 Melissa Brown
- 24 Doris Prinkey
- 26 Jennie Stewart



The "Our Daily Bread" devotional, large print, for the months of October, November, and December is available at all entrances to the sanctuary and on the glass display case near the conference room. Please pick one up for yourself, a friend, or relative.



Dexter Reed Logan
Baptized on
September 16, 2018



SOME OF THE MANY THANKS FROM BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOR THE BREAKFAST DELIVERIES!!!

Thank you for thinking of us and bringing us the delicious breakfast! It is shocking, because it never happens, particularly at the high school level. It was definitely a pick-me-up for the staff.
Thank you again for your kindness, Sandy Oskin

THANK
YOU FOR
THINKING OF
US! Kelly Innocent

Great way
to start a
week -
Thank you
Cathy Pichowski

Thanks bunches!
So thoughtful.
Kelly Goodano

Thank you for
thinking of us!
- Ruben Turt

THANK YOU!!
SHELLY
HARTGE-WALKER

Thank you for
thinking of us.
Brent Heinrich

So generous!
Thank you!
Jill Cowry

Thank you
for the kind gesture!
- Amanda
Jackson

Thank you
for the treats!
So thoughtful!
- Ashley Shidds

Thank you so
much! I do
Ashlee Petri-Roberts

Thank you
so much for your
thoughtfulness.
Erica Long

What a treat!
Thank you.
Angie Dostals

Thank you!
Paprika

Thank you
so much!
Monday's Good
Chris Dunge

Thank you!
Doreen

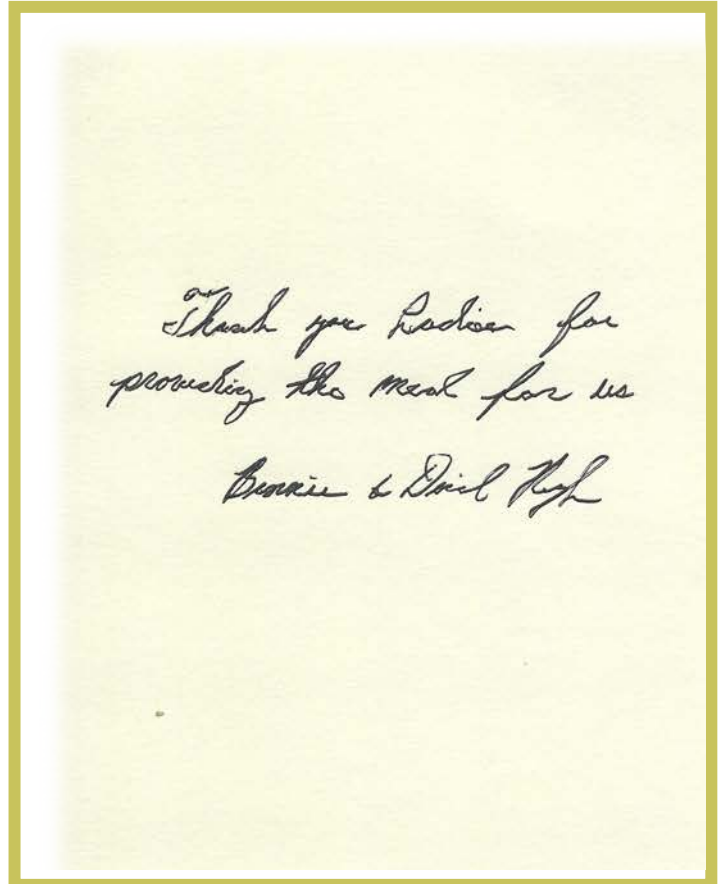
How Sweet!
Thanks Endie
Aleis

Thank you!
so much!
Kristy MacCuray

Thank you!
Melanie
Koffman

Thank you so
much - this made
my Monday morning
Kaylyn Schaefer

*Special thanks to all who volunteered
in preparing and providing the Funeral Luncheon
for **Cody Orr**.*

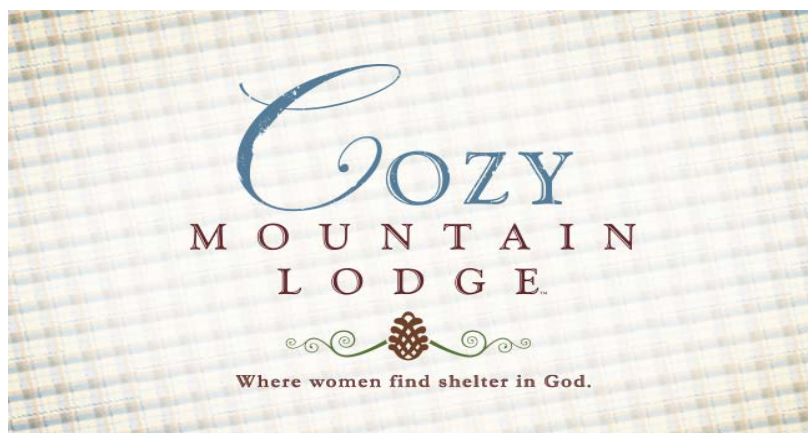


Save the Date!!!

Cozy Mountain Lodge ~ Women's Retreat ~

Friday April 5th - Saturday April 6, 2019

More info will be coming...watch Puckety's website, Facebook, the bulletin and PS!



“Our Daily Bread” for College Students



Do you have a family member or relative who is attending college this fall (2018)?

Submitting names and addresses has been extended through the month of October. When addresses are available, please give the information to any deacon or Kelly. The first mailing is for the months of Sept, Oct, and Nov. 2018.

Please consider having the devotional mailed to him or her. It is a way for our students to discipline themselves to read the Bible every day and strengthen their faith.





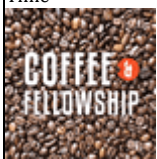

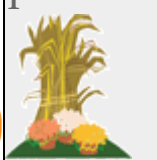


Share the love of Jesus, through the power of a simple gift, with children around the world.

We have the opportunity once again to be a blessing to a needy child by participating in the annual Operation Christmas Child ministry. You can pick up your shoebox at one of the church's main entrances October 21st and return no later than November 11th.

Instructions on what best to pack, as well as a donation envelope will be included in your box. Postage this year will remain the same as last year, at \$9.00. Contact Kim Tatem with any questions.

October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Oswalt Birthday Party	1  Meals on Wheels 10:30 AM Card Ministry	2 8:30 AM Lifeline Screening 1:00 PM Bracken Small Group 6:30 PM Tatem Small Group 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	3 Meals on Wheels 6:30 PM Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	4 5:30 PM Girl Scouts Meeting 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 PM Line Dancing	6 Hickman Birthday Party???
7  9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Anthony Baby Shower	8  Meals on Wheels 6:30 PM MS Group Meeting 6:30 PM Upkeep Meeting	9 6:30 PM Session Meeting 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	10 Meals on Wheels 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	11 5:30 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 PM Line Dancing	13 9:00 AM Serene Baby Shower
14 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Wehrle Small Group	15 Meals on Wheels 6:30 PM PNC Meeting 6:30 PM Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting	16 1:00 PM Bracken Small Group 6:30 PM Tatem Small Group 7:00 PM Sewing Guild 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	17 Meals on Wheels 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	18 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	19 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 PM Line Dancing	20 1:00 PM Cornman Birthday Party
21 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Worship 	22 Meals on Wheels	23 5:00 PM Girl Scout Leader Training 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	24 Meals on Wheels 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	25 10:00 AM Coffee Time  5:30 PM Girl Scout Meeting 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 PM Line Dancing 6:00 PM Girl Scout Juliet Low Birthday Party	27 8:00 AM Vickers Birthday Party
28 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Walmsley Baby Shower 11:30 AM Wehrle Small Group	29 Meals on Wheels 4:15 PM Worship Team Meeting	30 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels Luncheon 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	31 Meals on Wheels 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 	1  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 PM Line Dancing	3



INVITING, INFORMING, AND INCLUDING NEWCOMERS

In the 1950s, a new church start pastor challenged every member to invite two newcomers each month. Members enthusiastically committed to such a plan and the pastor's wife, feeling a special call to grow the children's ministry, regularly prayed for new babies to be part of the church's growth. No one was more surprised than she was when half of the young couples in the congregation became pregnant that year! Although this was not an intentional church growth strategy, growing families primarily fueled church growth in the 50s.

Times have changed, and declining birthrates along with cultural shifts are part of shrinking church attendance numbers. These shifts involve the secularization of Sunday, longer work weeks, and two-earner households that reduce opportunities for family time. Additionally, a growing proportion of the population distrusts institutions or do not see the church as particularly relevant to their daily lives. Despite the trends toward secularization, eight out of ten adults in the U.S. believe in God.¹ Therefore, given a changing context, what methods play a role today in how people connect to God and grow in faith through a congregation? An examination of how to invite newcomers, how to inform them, and how to include them requires new reflection.

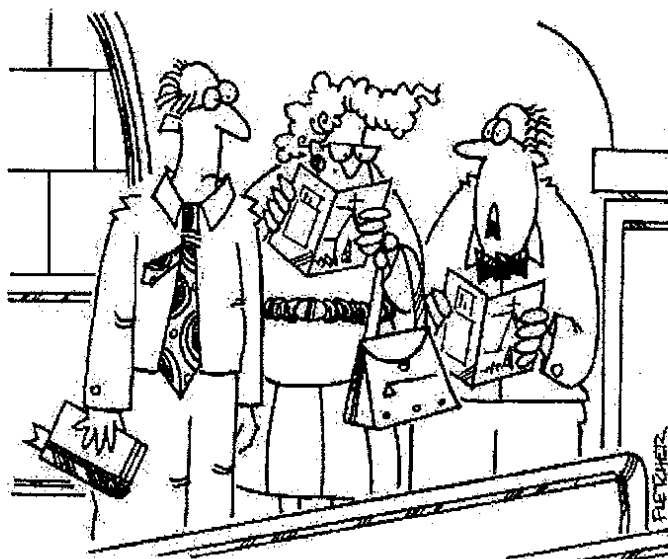
How to Invite

Not all potential new members or participants come out of the same mold. Transplants that recently moved to the area and participated in a congregation in their former location tend to use a narrow search platform because they know what type of church they would like to attend. The more challenging newcomers to reach are those friends and relatives who live near the congregation but do not currently attend anywhere. And the most difficult population to reach are seekers and those with no church background or history. Still, research clearly demonstrates that at least half to two-thirds of adults find a church through personal invitations.²

Hearing about a congregation from someone you know means the information is more likely to be trusted.

Several methods help encourage members to invite relatives, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. First, the congregation should develop a card, postcard, brochure, or flyer that members can hand or mail to people as they invite them. The printed material should at least include the church location, worship times, and website address. Yvon Prehn, a church communication specialist, warns against getting bogged down in design details because "people are not wowed into the kingdom." Rather all material should offer useful content and be easy to read and understand.³

Special events and holidays offer another opportunity for members to invite people they know. Some congregations designate a particular Sunday as Invite-a-Friend Sunday, Open House Sunday, or Special Recognition Sunday (such as honoring teachers, first responders, or others in the community).⁴ Congregations can create



WE NEED TO UPDATE OUR
CHURCH INFORMATION BROCHURE...
"DESSERT, DISCO, AND DEUTERONOMY"
IS NO LONGER A FELLOWSHIP EVENT!

cards or flyers for these special worship events for members to distribute or mail.

Mass communications—the church website and social media channels, direct mail, yard signs, door hangers, church banners and signs, radio and print ads, and community ads (such as bulletin boards, ads in movie theaters, or sponsoring events)—are additional broad strategies for reaching people. The goal of these efforts is to show the congregation as a place that welcomes newcomers. While no one media strategy produces the desired results in today's context, some experts argue that there is a growing preference for printed materials. In fact, even though many congregations have invested in digital marketing strategies, a recent study found that direct mail outperforms all digital communications combined by 600%.⁵ Still, an up-to-date and easy to navigate church website (optimized for mobile phones) serves as a primary source of information to which print pieces can direct.

How to Inform

Successful efforts to invite newcomers do not yield new members. Sadly, at most, only three out of ten visitors return for a second visit. Too many visitors catch only a glimpse of what the congregation offers. Prehn claims that two printed pieces are important for informing newcomers: the church bulletin and connection or visitor cards.

The church bulletin. When people attend a worship service, the bulletin is the first picture they see of the congregation. This description of church life should be jargon free, friendly, and clearly written. The order of service should be easy to follow and related to congregational theology and commitments. The bulletin should provide information for linking to the church website, phone numbers, and other contact information (such as church office hours). Visitors are highly likely to take the bulletin home, so consider what information might be most useful to them.

Connection or visitor cards. Visitors typically fill these out during worship services to drop in the offering plates or return to ushers at the end of the service. Too often visitors aren't given the time during services to complete the card. Worship leaders should give some thought as to when to bring the cards to the attention of visitors (early in the service) and how visitors are welcomed because many visitors do not want to be publicly recognized. In addition to the cards, brochures or visitor packets help visitors learn more about the congregation.⁶

How to Include

Think about a movie theater website. The website makes it easy to see what is showing, at what times, ticket prices, the theatre location, and maps. Participating in a church small group or event should be as easy as going to a movie. A web-supported calendar is essential for including new people as well as current members. Do not make people go through nonessential steps to figure out what is going on and how to participate (such as "call the church office for more information").

Additionally, most newcomers want to try things out before making a big commitment. Classes or groups that require a multi-week commitment scare away new people because they are not certain they want to make such an extended commitment. A brochure that describes ideal groups and activities that new members can try could be included in the visitor packet. Church consultant Jeff Woods believes encouraging people to engage in common activities builds trust, and helping participants to reflect on those activities builds commitment to a common purpose.⁷

Three Pillars of Evangelism

Three complementary efforts serve the congregation's ministry goals: inviting, informing, and including new people. Just like a three-pillared tower, without one support, the overall purpose becomes unstable. To invite is to increase the church's visibility and relevance, to inform is to offer opportunities for connection, and to include means spiritual experiences that promote Christian maturity and growth. Which effort needs more intention and planning in your congregation?

1. "When Americans Say They Believe in God, What Do They Mean?" Pew Research Center, <http://www.pewforum.org/2018/04/25>.

2. Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce, *A Field Guide to U.S. Congregations: Who's Going Where and Why*, 2nd edition (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2010).

3. Yvon Prehn, *5 Steps of Effective Church Communications and Marketing*, 2nd edition (Ventura, CA: Effective Church Communications, 2016), 54.

4. See Church Effectiveness Nuggets, Vol. 4: "How to Increase Worship Attendance" and Vol. 8: "How to Attract First-Time Worship Visitors," <https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources>.

5. www.twosidesna.org

6. See Yvon Prehn, *Church Connection Cards*, 2nd edition (Ventura, CA: 2011).

7. C. Jeff Woods, "What Type of Follower Attends Our Church?" *The Parish Paper*, Vol. 22, No. 7: July 2014.