

MIDWEEK MISSIVE 10/11/18

As we enter one of the holiest (as well as the busiest!) seasons of the year, it seems like this would be a good time to start thinking about how we bless others with the Candleberry Chapel experience? In other words, how can we attract more people to events and worship at Candleberry Chapel?

ChurchGrowth.org recently published a nationwide survey of regular church attendees asking how they first started attending their church. Here are the answers, in broad terms:

- I first became aware of the church through advertising: 2%
- I first became aware of the church through an organized visitation. (Church members going door-to-door to introduce themselves): 6%
- The pastor of the church invited me. 6%
- ***I WAS INVITED BY A FRIEND: 86%***

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that attending church is all about connections. We first connect through acquaintances or friends. Once we are there, we connect with new friends in the congregation. And then, having become part of the community, we turn our attention to letting other friends know of how good it is to be part of the congregation. If we are honest with ourselves, we may find ourselves not always carrying out that last part. But, if churches are to grow, members and regular attendees are the greatest source of attracting new people.

We all know people who are in need of a church home. Sometimes they are actively seeking such a community, sometimes they don't even know how their life could be enriched in community with others. You know who they are: take a deep breath and make the invitation! it may be the most important invitation some folks every receive! In the next couple of months, we will have ample opportunity to invite folks who need a church home to become acquainted with the Candleberry Chapel.

- On Saturday October 27th, invite a friend who need a church home to our Harvest Fair. Besides all the wonderful booths and events, the chapel will be open and I will be available to greet people and talk to them about who we are at the Candleberry Chapel
- Invite a friend who needs a church home to any of our wonderful Advent services, our Christmas Gathering (watch for upcoming news on when this will be held), a special "Finding Peace in the Season" service designed to address those who have difficulty struggling with grief and loss during the holiday season (again, look for the date to be announced very soon), and a special Christmas Eve observance.

Not only is the upcoming holiday season a time of great celebration, it is also a time when we can introduce ourselves to those seeking a church home. By inviting them in, we are giving them an opportunity to become part of a Spirit-led, Christ-worship community. And we can make that happen...one friend at a time.

Watch for more information about upcoming events!

Be peaceful,
Rev. Brad

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"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." - Francis of Assisi