



CHRIST MORAVIAN CHURCH

In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Love

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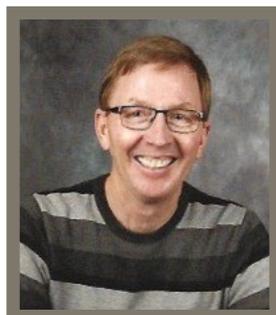
Pastor: Rev. Stephen Gohdes
Admin. Assistant: Andrea

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Vice Chair: David Bennett
Secretary: Pat Holm
Bookkeeper: Bobbie Callander
Treasurer: Roger Lohrey
Spiritual Programs: Bernard Amiot, Donna Gordon, Alan Bartlett
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Mission & Outreach: Donna Gordon, Martin Driver, Jody Gorai
Church Operations: David Bennett, Roger Lohrey, Jody Gorai
Finance: Pat Holm, Roger Lohrey

Fellowship of Elders

Bernard Amiot, Mary Anne Gates, Rev. Gohdes, Donna Gordon, Holly Heffernan, Arlene Kawchuk, Duncan McKerchar, Brian Pemberton, Gloria Taylor, Gloria Toole, Pat Wolff, Doug Zeck



Pastor's Note for Lent and Easter!

Lent is a special time of experience for the Christian faithful. It is a time we probe a bit deeper into our hearts and our understanding of God through prayer, study and devotion. In the life of the ancient church, the Lent and Easter seasons were a time of teaching, preparation, and guidance for new Christians.

The "Catechism" of the church offered each new Christian the opportunity to learn and grow in their faith in Jesus Christ. I recall the catechism experience of my youth, in which Rev. Denny Rohn guided my young and shapeless understandings of faith into the confirmation of my baptism. These classes of catechism invited my thoughtful discernment of the faith I would then profess and live.

This season of Lent will offer us an opportunity to grow and learn the essentials of faith in worship. In our Sunday morning worship services, we will use the "catechism" of the Moravian Church as the grounding to guide us in our discoveries week by week leading to the proclamation of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

May all have new discoveries of faith amidst the blessing this Lent and Easter Season.

Shalom,
Pastor Steve Gohdes

Catechism: A summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used for the instruction of Christians.



After a quick glance at the congregation, Pastor Steve knew it was time for a Pop Quiz.

THOUGHTS FOR LENT

A Lenten Prayer

Bless This Journey

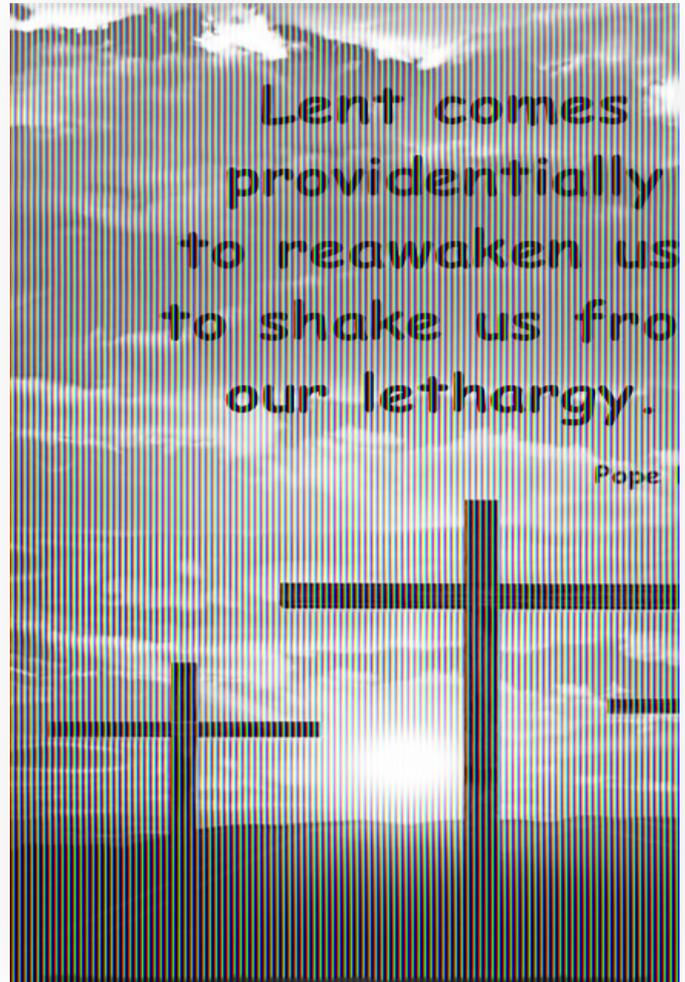
By Beth A. Richardson

We stand at the threshold and look behind us
At all that we have done,
At all that we have loved,
At all that is familiar,
And our hearts fill with grief,
With sadness, With gratitude.

We stand at the threshold and look before us
At the future we can and cannot see,
At the beginnings we can and cannot imagine,
At the possibilities we can and cannot know,
And our hearts fill with fear,
With trust, With hope,

Bless our grief and our gratitude,
Our sadness and our trust,
Our fear and our hope,

Bless this journey in Lent,
God of the past and future.
Guide our steps, Walking beside us,
Before us, and with us
As we step across the threshold. Amen



Monthly Mission Challenge: Below you will find suggested ways in which you can bring joy to someone. Feel free to think of your own ideas on how you can help in your community. Remember the main goal is to reach out to someone. By taking a small step you can feel more connected to God's world and the people in it.

March 2019

- Clear out your closet and take clothes to a local charity shop.
- Offer to babysit for a parent you know needs a night out or an afternoon to themselves.
- Make a freezer meal for someone who doesn't have family close by.

April 2019

- Pass on a favourite book with a personal note telling the receiver what you liked about the book.
- Offer a ride to someone in need and offer to stay with them during their appointment and for coffee afterwards.
- Spend time with a child. Listen to them and give your undivided attention.

SCRIPTURE & WORSHIP THEMES

Click on Passage
to Read Scripture



LENT & EASTER SEASON

Discovering the Essentials of Christian Faith

March 3

[Exodus 34:29-35](#)
[Psalm 99](#)
[2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2](#)
[Luke 9:28-36, \(37-43a\)](#)

March 10

[Deuteronomy 26:1-11](#)
[Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16](#)
[Romans 10:8b-13](#)
[Luke 4:1-13](#)

March 17

[Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18](#)
[Psalm 27](#)
[Philippians 3:17-4:1](#)
[Luke 13:31-35](#)

March 24

[Isaiah 55:1-9](#)
[Psalm 63:1-8](#)
[1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#)
[Luke 13:1-9](#)

April 7

[Isaiah 43:16-21](#)
[Psalm 126](#)
[Philippians 3:4b-14](#)
[John 12:1-8](#)

April 14

[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)
[Psalm 31:9-16](#)
[Philippians 2:5-11](#)
[Luke 22:14-23:56](#)

April 21

[*Acts 10:34-43](#)
[Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#)
[1 Corinthians 15:19-26](#)
[Luke 24:1-12](#)

April 28

[*Acts 5:27-32](#)
[Psalm 118:14-29](#)
[Revelation 1:4-8](#)
[John 20:19-31](#)

March 3

The Transfiguration of Christ,
Discovering the Essential of God's Creation
Holy Communion, Special Music: CMC Singers, Kathy Pepers

March 6



Join us around the fireside for this quiet service of ashes, 7pm

March 10

Discovering the Essential of Faith in the Wilderness
First Sunday in Lent; Accompanist: Duncan & Heidi Gohdes

March 17

Discovering the Essential of Christ's Love and Compassion
Second Sunday in Lent; Accompanist: Kathy Pepers, Harpist

March 24

Discovering the Essential of Faith Renewal and Repentance
Third Sunday in Lent; Special Music: Marty Antonini

March 31

Discovering the Essential of God's Unconditional Love
Fourth Sunday in Lent; Birthday Sunday & Noisy Offering

April 7

Discovering the Essential Healing and Hope
Fifth Sunday in Lent; Holy Communion



Holy Week

April 14

Palm Sunday, Hosanna Anthem
Discovering the Essential of Jesus' Joy

April 18

Maundy Thursday, Good Shepherd Church, 7pm
The Last Supper and the Betrayal of Jesus

April 19

Good Friday Service, 10:30 am
Discovering the Essential of Christ's Gift Given from the Cross
Holy Communion, Special Music: Bob Tedrick

April 21

Discovering the Essential of Christ's Resurrection
Sunrise Service, 8:30 am; Easter Breakfast, 9 - 10 am
Easter Worship Celebration, 10:30 am; Bring your Easter flowers

April 28

50th Anniversary Celebration Service with Special Music
Luncheon to follow

NEWS & EVENTS

Upcoming Events

Sundays

Bible Study, 9am
 Worship Service: 10:30 am
 Communion: 1st Sunday
 Noisy Offering : Last Sunday

March 2019

- 2** Men's Breakfast, 8:30am
- 3** Open Door Meeting, 11:45am
- 6** Women's Fellowship, 1:15pm
- 6** Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm
- 7** Outreach Meeting, 10:30am
- 7** Long Range Task Force, 7pm
- 8 - 10** Youth Retreat, VanEs
- 10** Time Change
- 11** Spiritual Companions 1 - 2pm
- 12** Grief Support Group, 10am
- 13** Southwood Chapel, 9:30am
- 14** Canasta, 1pm
- 14** Youth Group, 7pm
- 20** Lenten Bible Study, 12 noon
- 27** Board Meeting, 6:45pm
- 27** Knitting/Crafts, 10:30-2:30pm
- 28** Canasta, 1pm
- 29** Ladies's Tea, 1:15pm
- 29** Mission Fundraiser, 7pm



*Laugh and giggle and tap your toes
 with an evening of great entertainment.*

Graham Clark is a son of Christ Moravian Church and a well-known Canadian comedian whose work can be seen on the CBC productions of "This Hour Has 22 Minutes" and "The Debaters". Marty Antonini is a popular local musician, vocalist and actor who performs regularly at different venues around Calgary.

*Enter to win Silent Auction items.
 All proceeds go to support the ongoing and
 emerging mission work of Christ Moravian Church.*

Tickets \$25

Call 403-271-2700 or order online through Eventbrite,
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mirth-music-for-mission-tickets-56673364559>



**Plus 55 Planning Meeting
 April 26 at 10:30am**

*Do you want to participate in fun fellowship
 activities?*

Do you have ideas for activities?

Come join the Plus 55 planning team on April 26 at 10:30am. You don't need to be plus 55 to participate. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Doug or Berla Zeck.

NEWS & EVENTS

Upcoming Events

Sundays

Bible Study, 9am
 Worship Service: 10:30 am
 Communion: 1st Sunday
 Noisy Offering : Last Sunday

April 2019

- 3** Women's Fellowship, 1:15pm
- 3** Lenten Bible Study, 12 noon
- 4** Youth Group, 6 pm
- 7** Open Door Meeting, 11:45am
- 9** Elders Meeting, 1:30pm
- 10** Southwood Chapel, 9:30am
- 11** Canasta, 1pm
- 14** Palm Sunday Service 10:30am
- 18** Maundy Thursday Service,
7pm at Good Shepherd
- 19** Good Friday Service 10:30am
- 20** Men's Breakfast, 8:30am
- 21** Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service, 8:30am
Easter Breakfast, 9 - 10am
Easter Service, 10:30
- 24** Knitting/Crafts, 10:30-2:30pm
- 25** Canasta, 1 pm
- 26** Plus 55 Planing, 10:30am
- 26** Ladies's Tea, 1:15pm
- 27** 50th Anniversary, 2 - 7pm
at McDougall United
- 28** Anniversary Service and
Luncheon, 10:30am - 1:30pm

Holy Week Services



Maundy Thursday Service:
7pm at Good Shepherd

Good Friday Service: 10:30 am at Christ Church

Easter Sunday Services:

- ◆ Sunrise Service, 8:30 am
- ◆ Easter Breakfast, 9:00 am
- ◆ Easter Service, 10:30 am

Back by popular demand, Good Shepherd will be presenting a special **Maundy Thursday service on April 18 at 7pm**. This service will be a dramatization of the main events in Jesus' life prior to Good Friday and including the Last Supper and the Betrayal of Jesus. The roles of Christ and his 12 disciples have been filled by men from the two Moravian churches. Free tickets for this service will be available at CMC or contact Doug Hill.

Christ Church will host a moving **Good Friday service on April 19 at 10:30am** to recognize the pain and sacrifice of the crucifixion. The joy of the resurrection will be celebrated on **Easter Sunday, April 20**, with a Sunrise Service, Easter Breakfast and Easter Service.



Noontime Lenten Soup and Study

Enjoy a "warm" bowl of soup, and some "hot" Bible study discussions focused on two significant Lenten scripture texts. Come at 12 noon with a hunger for soup and for learning about the Gospel. Look for the signup sheet.

Wednesday, March 20: *The Prodigal* - A rich and multilayered parable showing God's love and forgiveness in unique and compelling ways.

Wednesday, April 3, 12: *The Triumphal Entry* - One of the few incidents in the life of Jesus that appear in all four Gospel accounts. Putting the four accounts together, helps make it clear why the triumphal entry is such a significant event in the life of Jesus.

BOARD BUSINESS



The **Long Range Planning Committee** would like to thank all who attended the January open door session to discuss the future of our church. 45 people participated in the group discussion and provided positive and insightful feedback.

In addition, the committee received 60 responses to the questionnaire that was issued last month. Thank you for taking the time to reflect on your experience at Christ Moravian Church and the life of our congregation. The comments and feedback we received are very helpful and will guide us in our efforts to make CMC an even better place to serve God and each other. Once results have been analyzed, the committee will share them with the Board and the congregation to set a course for the future of Christ Moravian.

The last two pages of this newsletter contain an article entitled, *Defining Church Vitality*. This article provides insights on what scripture tells us about the universal purpose and mission for churches, and describes key factors that influence the health and vitality of a church and its congregation. We encourage you to read this interesting article.



**Come
Celebrate!**

**Saturday, April 27
2 pm - 6 pm**

Join us for a fun afternoon of sharing fond memories of the life and ministry at Christ Church. Enjoy music, entertainment and speakers followed by a catered dinner. Because of space limitations at CMC, this event will be held at McDougall United Church.

Tickets: \$25 Children under 16, \$10

Tickets will be sold at the church, or contact the church office if you are from out of town, 403-271-2700 or moravian@nucleus.com. Deadline to purchase tickets will be April 13.

**Sunday, April 28
10:30 am - 1:00pm**

A special **50th Anniversary Worship Service** will take place on Sunday, April 28 at 10:30am and will be followed by a luncheon provided by Women's Fellowship.

Please remember to submit your faith stories to Pat Wolff for publication in the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Book.

BOARD BITS

- The Executive Board would like to thank all who participated in Open Door Meetings for the Garage Sale, Long Range Planning and Emergency Procedures.
- The next Open Door will be on March 3rd where we will discuss the role of Greeters and Coffee Hosts.
- Thank you to all who attended Church Council on February 10 where we were pleased to present a 2018 budget surplus. Moving forward 25% of budget surpluses will be donated to mission. The Board also received the authorization to proceed with plans to update of the CMC Audio Visual system.
- Watch for information about a 50th Anniversary Legacy Fundraiser to purchase the new AV equipment.
- Room dividers in the basement are scheduled to be replaced the week of March 25-29.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

DID YOU KNOW THESE FACTS ABOUT FOOD INSECURITY?

- 1 in 8 households in Canada is food insecure, amounting to over 4 million Canadians living in homes that struggle to put food on the table.
- 1 in 6 Canadian children under the age of 18 are affected by household food insecurity.
- One third of households led by a lone female parent are food insecure.
- Renters make up two-thirds of the food-insecure households in Canada.
- Low-waged jobs and precarious work means people in the workforce often don't have enough income to be food-secure. Emergency expenses such as a dental bill can mean less food for a family.
- Members of food insecure households experience nutrient deficiencies and are more vulnerable to physical and mental health problems such as disease, chronic conditions, anxiety and depression.
- Experiences of hunger in childhood leads to hyperactivity and inattention and increases the risk of developing asthma and depression.
- Families are only eligible for three food hampers in a 12-month period from the Calgary Food Bank through self-referral. Up to four more hampers may be accessed provided families receive a referral from a partner agency.

Household Food Insecurity in Canada. University of Toronto: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/>

HOW CAN WE HELP?



The Acadia Network and Action Group (ANAG) is looking for churches who would be willing to join a team of healthcare and social work professionals dedicated to supporting food insecure families through the development of an **Acadia Food Pantry**. The idea for a local food pantry came from residents of Acadia Place who experience chronic food insecurity and must travel long distances, often by bus, to access other food pantries.

McDougall United Church has kindly offered a space in which to store and distribute food pantry items which will be gathered from a variety of sources. Spinz-A-Round, a food rescue program, will help provide fresh produce that might otherwise be thrown away by farmers' markets and local merchants. Other churches in Acadia and the surrounding communities are being asked to help collect donations of canned and dry goods

The Executive Board and Elders of Christ Church have agreed to support the **Acadia Food Pantry**, and ask that congregation members consider doing the following:

- ✦ *Donate canned and dry goods by dropping them off in the bin provided at the church.*
- ✦ *Make a cash donation to supplement donated items.*
- ✦ *Volunteer time to help pick up, package and/or pass out food items. (Watch for details.)*

YOUTH NEWS

Winter Youth Retreat at Van-Es

**Friday, March 8, 7 PM to
Sunday, March 10, 12 PM**

The Moravian Church is partnering with some of our Anglican friends to have a giant, winter youth retreat at Camp Van-Es! Do all of your favourite Camp things - but with snow! There will be some #CabinLife, swimming, camp-wide games, snowshoeing; and we'll learn about "contemplative spiritual practices", which are ways that we can go deeper into our spirituality, using tools around us.

This retreat is targeted for Junior and Senior High Students. Registration fees [\$100] cover all lodging, food, and supplies. Refunds payable up to seven days before the event.

If you have questions or are struggling with the cost, please contact Pastor James Lavoy at jlavoy@gmail.com or (780) 487-0211.



BOARD OF WORLD MISSION INTERNSHIP

The Board of World Mission (BWM) is seeking an intern for 10-12 weeks in the summer of 2019. The internship will be an opportunity to engage fully in the ongoing work of the Board of World Mission and will take on a key role in helping the BWM manage its Moravian Disaster Response (MDR) initiatives. The BWM values the internship as a mentoring opportunity as well as a leadership and skill development tool. It will be structured to help guide the individual in the position to feel equipped for further leadership and involvement in Moravian Mission and beyond.

This is a full time, paid internship position with allocated travel budget. The intern will be able to work remotely, but must also be available to travel as needed throughout the summer, and plan to work closely with BWM staff.

Applications will be received through Monday, March 11, 2019 with a decision made by the beginning of April. If interested, please contact the church office for more details.



THE MIGHTY MORAVIANS MARCH AGAIN!

The *Mighty Moravians from Christ Church* participated once again in the *Coldest Night of the Year* on February 23 to raise funds for StreetLight, a division of Youth Unlimited. The StreetLight program provides mobile drop-in centres and a 24/7 crisis centre aimed at reaching youth who live on the streets of Calgary. This program provides a safe

environment for these vulnerable youth to experience the transforming love of God and enter into mentoring relationships that help them make positive life changes.

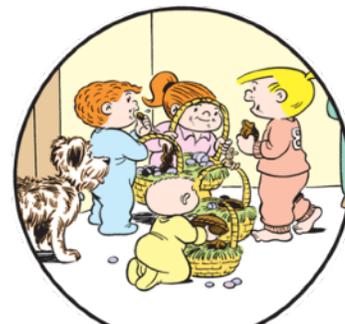
The Streetlight Program holds a special place in the hearts of the youth and their parents at Christ Church. You are encouraged to support our youth by sponsoring the Mighty Moravian team in their efforts to raise funds for the StreetLight program through the Coldest Night of the Year campaign. *Donations may be made up until the end of March.* Look for the special donation envelopes marked CNOY at church, or donate on line at: www.cnoy.org/search?q=Mighty+Moravians

What's Up Youth Group!

March 14: Locked Church!, 7pm

April 4: Food, Fellowship and Fun with Phyllis (Kyle), 6pm at her home.

Our youth will be taking part in the **50th Anniversary** events, details to come.



**Easter tastes better than Hallowe'en
and we don't need to ring door bells!**

DEFINING CHURCH VITALITY: LET ME COUNT THE WAYS

Most pastors, laypersons, and denominational leaders develop a personal theory that says *one particular factor* is the key to congregational vitality. Each of those theories is correct and incorrect. Each “favorite factor” is important, but church vitality is a result of a long list of factors.

What Is the Church’s Macro Mission?

Looking at church vitality from the macro direction produces a list of classic, universal mission functions for churches of every size, in every generation, in every kind of community. From this perspective, all vital churches have the same mission. Theologians and church historians have summarized that macro mission with terms such as *Koinonia* (fellowship/relational/community), *Diaconia* (service), *Didache* (Bible teaching), *Kerygma* (proclamation), and *Leiturgia* (worship/communal prayer). We see this macro mission in the writings of theologians, the printed mission statements of denominations, and the preambles of local church constitutions. All of these documents are biblical, truthful statements of purpose.

Most church leaders and members feel adequately informed with the three verses in which Jesus answered the macro mission question: the Great Commandment, the Great Commission, and the Apostle Paul’s definitions of the church’s macro mission. Stated in those biblical ways, congregations accomplish that macro mission by doing three things: (a) transforming the quality of peoples’ lives by helping them strengthen their spiritual connection with God (Luke 10:27); (b) helping hurting people in the church, community, and across the world who have physical and emotional needs (Luke 10:27); and (c) encouraging more people to form a spiritual connection with God (Luke 10:29-37; Matthew 23:19-20).

What Is the Church’s Micro Mission?

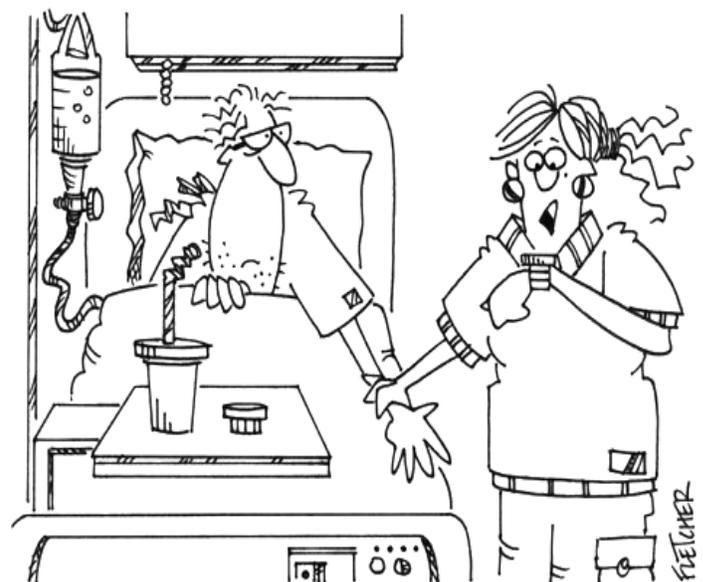
Why is the micro mission important? Books, journal articles, and blogs that answer this micro mission question tell us “how to do it” in small churches or megachurches, while other experts write about the mission

of churches located in urban or rural areas or other specific environments. Ultimately, congregations use dissimilar ways to accomplish Jesus’ mission and ministry in each community and generation.

A healthy congregational mission identity fits its size, fits its members, fits its resources, and meets the contemporary needs of people in its surrounding community. Most unhealthy congregations fall short—not by affirming something other than a biblically mandated macro mission—but by emphasizing a micro mission identity that does not fit that congregation, community, or generation.

What Is the Church’s Method Mission?

The church’s method mission tells people how to do worship, how to do evangelism, how to do member care, etc. Research indicates that healthy congregations deliver on the macro and micro mission with the following methods.



“JUDGING BY THE NUMBER OF VISITORS WHO SAID THEY LOVED YOU... YOU EITHER ATTEND A VERY AFFECTIONATE CHURCH, OR YOU’RE A LOT SICKER THAN I THOUGHT.”

- **Worship that honors God, spiritually enriches members, and retains young adult newcomers.** When a congregation loses its ability, especially with its worship music and preaching, to connect with the people in its community and generation, that failure predicts the end of all its mission accomplishments.
- **Children and youth church school classes and programs that retain parent newcomers.** If the congregation lacks Sunday school classes for children under high school age, it will probably die within a few years, unless it is located in a retirement community. Also, a strong youth ministry program is important to members of most congregations. These methods recognize the validity of the old adage “Kids go where kids are!” and they know that parents often follow.
- **Adult Sunday church school and other adult groups that give members and newcomers a sense of belonging.** Few people experience a strong sense of belonging and spiritual growth except through regular meetings with other church attendees in adult groups that focus on Bible study, prayer, service, recreation, or social interaction.
- **Adult new member involvement in groups and ministries that nourish faith development and growth in discipleship.** New members need to get into a group of some kind—choir, prayer group, Sunday school class, softball team, etc.—within the first six weeks after they join. They need to get into a ministry of some kind within six months after they join. Declining membership churches assimilate the 30 percent who are extroverted. Healthy churches figure out how to involve the other 70 percent, who wait for an invitation.
- **Concern and care for members during times of illness, loss, and other stress.** Some church leaders operate only in a “spiritual achiever” mode that recruits new members. Other leaders operate only in a “mending the broken” mode. Healthy congregations do both. They do not neglect caring about people.
- **Community service/benevolence/world missions that accomplish Jesus’ commandment to love our neighbors.** Jesus defined love of neighbor in a startling way. He said it should include people we do not know, not just people with whom we are acquainted.
- **Sharing faith, inviting others to church, and hospitality that accomplishes Jesus’ Great Commission to make disciples.** All human groups experience a natural centripetal force that pulls them toward taking care of each other instead of reaching out to others. Healthy churches counterbalance that with centrifugal force methods that reach out to not-yet-members in extroverted ways.
- **Atmosphere of faith, hope, and love that promotes the spiritual growth of members.** The absence or presence in congregational personality of the Apostle Paul’s three famous words predicts a great deal of what it can and will accomplish. A strong emphasis on the power of prayer is especially crucial. People who never talk with God do not often experience God’s presence, power, and guidance.
- **Organizational systems that motivate and involve members in our ministries.** Organizational structures that fit a congregation’s size increase its ministry effectiveness by enlarging the number of people involved in its ministries, reducing conflict, and increasing democratic decision making. Dysfunctional organizational structures often go unrecognized by church leaders because their defects have become invisible due to years of “we have always done it this way.”
- **Clergy and staff that motivate and equip members for involvement in ministries.** From the years when the Apostle Paul spun off start-up churches across the Roman Empire, clergy have played a key role in developing and sustaining the ministry of laity. Without this team effort, few congregations achieve their maximum potential in answering God’s call.
- **Financial stewardship that is part of members’ spiritual growth and adequately supports church ministries.** Financial giving is one of the prime methods by which people experience personal spiritual growth. Without encouragement from their church, the crab grass of self-centeredness crowds out the green growth of spiritual development. Eventually, low emphasis on stewardship stunts the congregation’s size.
- **Property and facilities that support present ministries and future goals.** Facilities are not everything, but inadequate parking, sanctuary seating, or classroom space short-circuits a congregation’s effectiveness.

The Bottom Line

Healthy, effective churches accurately answer the classic theological question, “What is the mission of the Church and how do we accomplish it?” They build on the biblical *macro mission*, apply it contextually with *micro mission* activities, and exhibit multiple *method mission* strengths.

On which of the above lists does your church need to focus more energy?

Herb Miller served as coeditor of *The Parish Paper* until 2012. This issue honors his substantial contribution to this ministry.
