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Share the Bread

Evangelism in the Diocese of Bethlehem

In This Issue

'Tis the Season...for Church Shopping!
 Emerging Church Learning Party
 Tell Your Story of Hospitality and Welcome!

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 Peacemeal

Holy God, your Son called us to wrap the whole world in your saving embrace. By your Holy Spirit give us compassion, purpose and energy to invite into your Church those who do not yet know the transforming power of your love. We ask this through Him who has brought us from darkness to light, your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



What's New

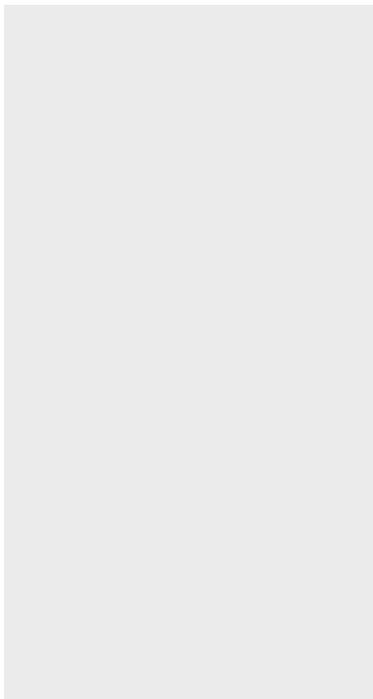


The season that many people seek a church community is the early fall, roughly between Labor Day and Columbus Day. With the return of the school year, start of fall activities and the end of summer vacations, this is the functional "new year" of our culture. Many people want to

start the year out right and attempt to start, however tentatively, a new habit of church-going. Many people will do that in the way they know how: by comparing churches to find one that seems right to them. Is your congregation ready?

Summer is the time to make your church ready for this season of welcome and it is not too late to make ready for people when they are most likely to come looking for you. Here are some things you can do to make your parish a more welcoming place.

- Train the people who welcome folks to your church. Instead of saying "welcome to my church" try "Hello, my name is...."
- Greet everyone, not just people you don't recognize. And don't just stick to people you recognize, but greet people who are new to you. Don't assume someone else will do it.
- Look around: is your worship space inviting, it is clear to someone new how to get inside, where to park, how to



find the rest rooms?

- Look at your bulletin. Imagine trying to follow it if you have never been to an Episcopal Church before.
- Is your answering machine up to date and accurate?
- Use your summer time trips to be a newcomer...go to another church while you are away and feel what it is like to be a visitor or newcomer. What worked and what didn't? apply those observations at your home church.
- Look at your public spaces: are they neat, light and inviting? Or are they cluttered and haphazard? Does your space look like you are celebrating or are mourning?
- Set aside some of your best parking spot for newcomers and visitors.
- At your coffee hour, serve good coffee and good food.
- Don't leave your greeting at the back door. Have people escort new folks to coffee hour, adult forum or Sunday school. Train them to introduce them to people and to check in with them before they leave.

[Learn more about becoming a welcoming church.](#)



A new movement called the emerging church is making a major impact on the landscape of North American Christianity and around the world. Find out about it at Emerging Church Learning Party: Resources for Outreach, Worship and Spiritual Formation in Today's Culture at St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Saturday, September 16. The event will be led by Karen Ward, abbess of [Church of the Apostles](#), Seattle, a leading edge, mainline (Episcopal/Lutheran) emerging congregation.

Sponsored by Church of the Apostles, Praxis Center in partnership with [Peacemeal](#) and the Evangelism Committee of the Diocese of Bethlehem.

[Download information and registration forms...](#)

During our Diocesan Convention, October 13 and 14, we want to give everyone who took part in our regional evangelism workshops a chance to tell their story. We want to show off all the wonderful things the parishes of this diocese are doing to "tell what they have seen and heard." Finally, please tell us with a picture and a short description about the two "evangelism projects" you are working on before next Eastertide. Let us know your project, your congregation and a little bit about the idea and how it is going. Please send us a group photo of your parish Evangelism Committee. We are also looking for photos demonstrating some form of welcome and hospitality. For example, showing someone giving a welcome hand shake or offering a cup of coffee or goodies at a coffee hour, or handing a loaf of bread to a visitor etc.

If you mail the photos, they should be 4x6 and accompanied by identification as to parish and individuals' names. You may send material to *Mrs. Virginia M. Knapp, 162 Springhouse Rd. Allentown, PA 18104, 610-530-8330, e-mail: dvknapp@peoplepc.com* . Pictures can also be e-mailed to evangelism@trinityeaston.org. (Please make copies since we cannot guarantee return of the pictures.)

We are asking that these be in our hands no later than October 6th so that we can finish our display in time for diocesan convention. Here is your chance to show-off and celebrate how you and your church have welcomed people in Jesus' name!

For more information, contact: Mrs. Virginia M. Knapp, 162 Springhouse Rd. Allentown, PA 18104, 610-530-8330, e-mail: dvknapp@peoplepc.com.

In our evangelism, we share the gift that we have been given: new life in Jesus Christ. Every baptized Christian communicates the Gospel every day. It is our choice to share the Gospel with joy, compassion, and energy. Our actions, our listening, and our community life all point to Jesus.

We do not know how God will use the message we share; but, just the same, we are called to tell what we have seen and heard. Our hope and prayer is that you will have the tools you need to help your congregation be joyful, compassionate messengers of the Gospel.

The Evangelism Committee of the Diocese of Bethlehem

email: evangelism@trinityeaston.org

web: <http://www.diobeth.org/ministries/evangelism.html>

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