

NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

STICKY NOTE EXERCISE

On February 24th all friends and members of McCabe were invited to a “sticky note exercise.” Nearly 100 people participated. Each person could submit up to three sticky notes. Participants were asked, “Why is passionate Spirituality McCabe’s minimum factor?” The responses revealed four major categories that pertained to Passionate Spirituality. In a couple of cases smaller categories were grouped together because of the similarities between them. The major groupings are:

- Outreach, Missions & Faith Sharing
- Bible Study & Prayer
- Small Groups
- Hospitality

The responses were typed, printed and grouped together. They are posted below. No response was thrown out. However, the top four categories, that address the issue of Passionate Spirituality—now become the focus for our planning.

During the spring and summer months our committees, work areas, pastors and the Natural Church Development Team will develop plans to respond to these four areas. We will be seeking participation from the congregation as a part of the planning process as well. Some plans will be implemented immediately. Most of the plans will be in place for a fall 2008 “kick off.”

As we move through this process we will say more and keep everyone posted. Thank you for a great event on Sunday, the 24th of February. Thank you also, for your commitment to McCabe and your faith in Jesus Christ. For more information about Natural Church Development visit McCabe's web sight: www.mccabeumc.com and follow the link labeled NCD.

Bible Study

- Congregation needs to be challenged to think theologically and biblically about daily life, social, political, economic issues.
- Daily Bible study is sometimes a struggle for me and carries over to my church life.
- I never read the Bible.
- Lack of Bible study and reading for youth within the structure of our church. Confirmation a weak link?
- Lack of willingness to use materials other than UMC- there are a lot of inspirational studies that are very passionate.
- Many are lacking the Biblical foundations that inspire faith in action.
- More Bible study would start a Fire and spread to the body of the church.
- Need more Bible studies.
- Need to evaluate our program/
- Need to learn more about the time of the Bible to help us interpret the Bible (today’s sermon is an example)
- Not enough Bible study as sermons God of old test. vs. God of new test.
- Sunday School classes are too rote, fill in the blank method.

- We don't have enough Sunday School Classes.
- What does McCabe do to encourage Bible study on a regular basis? Prayer partners, small groups or adult paired with a child.

Communication

- Communicate all the church programs We need to know what is going on.
- Describe offerings.
- Don't talk about our faith in daily life. Afraid of being seen as extreme. Want to be accepted by group.
- Have a hard time communicating similar interests like gardening.
- Information problem. Need to be able to pick what we want to do. Match skills/passion etc.
- Non-members need to be on mailing lists.
- Provide info about groups. To new people.
- Reduce the clutter of outside programs and announcements as teen challenge. Emphasize say, the 6 annual offerings.

Contented

- Having joy in our lives. Be thankful. Share blessings.
- I believe in the fellowship of the church.
- I'm happy.
- We are content as newer members.
- We are happy with the way McCabe is being run.
- We are satisfied with the way it is.

Culture

- Culture is not to be emotional.
- Diverse background of members.

- Ethnic based reservation. German Norwegian.
- Heritage. How we are raised.
- Modern culture hinders open spirituality.
- Reserved background (we're certainly reserved in our personalities.)
- Sometimes we're more inhibited and don't let people see our spiritual sides and our practice of spiritual disciplines.
- Stoic background-breakdown walls of heritage.
- We consider it work.

Facilities

- Bad acoustics in sanctuary. May inhibit spiritual growth.
- Continue issuing copies of the Sunday services. So helpful for hearing impaired and meditation later. Enjoy Upper room
- Need more handicapped parking on West side.
- Parking
- Parking

Faith Sharing

- Aren't encouraged to relate faith stories and experiences.
- Church doesn't recognize committees and their accomplishments.
- Don't want to offend. Literal vs. liberal.
- Don't witness because we feel we aren't prepared or fear rejection.
- Don't witness to each other, it's like we don't share out of our culture teaching about boasting and that we should not do.
- Perhaps our belief in the leadership of God or God moving among us is weak.

Generational

- Do the youth feel they are welcome part of the worship on a regular basis.?
- Need more inter-generational groups.
- Need more older mixing with younger.
- No youth in this exercise.

Hospitality

- Church is not our central social life.
- Cliques, closed circles.
- Connect with others with the same interests.
- Developing deeper friendships praying for people and their families, including new people and ideas all the time.
- Extend a friendly greeting each Sunday to someone new. Make people feel included. Ask someone from McCabe out to lunch.
- Finding others with common interests.
- Lack of accountability and encouragement.
- Members who have belonged to McCabe for years have their own circles and don't welcome others.
- Name tags for all. Wonderful way to get acquainted.
- Need passion for helping church members.
- Need to be more welcoming.
- Need to connect with families outside the church to be close.
- Pastors need to talk to everyone not just their favorites.
- People don't know each other. Lack of interest in new people.
- Remedy the problem of closed circles to new people.
- There is disconnect with the community.
- Too many cliques.

Miscellaneous

- 3 Churches 3 congregations pull us together.
- Don't become passionate unless there is a need, death, hurt etc.
- Have meetings of this nature more often, to encourage dialogue and interaction of people not ordinarily at the same table.
- Leadership is benignly controlling, not giving people times and challenges to wrestle with life and faith.
- Need alternative times to get involved in a Bible study.
- Seems caring is a lot surface and not real.
- The mission statement is really off. It doesn't reflect where we are. We have no Indians. I can't relate to everybody, change or downplay.
- Too much talk about entertaining to keep people coming to church.
- What is the next step?

Missions

- It is important to question it when people always want to focus on local needs. Outreach is an important item to encourage growth.
- Need more focus on local mission within the community. To become more "passionate about carrying our faith not only in words, but in deeds.
- Need to make it a priority.
- Not enough service outreach. Service outreach needs to be closer to home so can be done more often.
- We need more group or mission activity outside of church property.
- We need to plug into at least one service activity outside the walls of the church.

Outreach

- Church not doing enough follow-up with attendance records.
- Don't do enough to inspire activity outside the church.
- Lack of focus on Christ when we do service projects.
- Lack of sharing of faith stories how God has worked in lives.
- More sharing of our faith with those who don't know Christ.
- Our pastors are too often focused on illness, and hurts so they forget the evangelistic mission.
- Share our spiritual journeys.
- Sunday to Sunday is a long week to keep spiritual.
- We may not have a good grasp of God's promises to us, thus making us less motivated to partner with God to bring those promises to pass.
- Weak because the members are not challenged to passionate spirituality.

Prayer Education

- Class on prayer.
- Lack of prayer. Personal and living it.
- More commitment to personal prayer and Bible study.
- Need day of intercessory prayer.
- Need discipline. Prayer and Bible study not expected.
- No monthly or specific days of prayer. Should be invited to pray at a certain time. Come to chapel or at home.
- People persons not given to personal prayer Haven't been taught how to pray.
- We can talk a lot but are reluctant to pray out loud. To lead in prayer So let's practice praying.

Small Groups

- Develop small groups that support each other on a daily and weekly basis. Like weight loss groups do.
- Don't know all the church members, need more groups.
- Encourage more small groups to meet.
- Include everyone in groups and be more inviting and welcoming.
- Include the "disenfranchised" in groups.
- Invite people to groups. Have pamphlet to describe existing groups.
- Might do personal Bible study better in a cell group.
- More inviting to General church and small group events.
- Need more prayer groups.
- Need more small groups to include new people.
- Need small groups, social or studies. Social covenant groups.
- Need to plan for leadership development of groups and inspiration.
- Not enough opportunities in varied setting to increase spiritual growth.
- Revive Friday Fellowship.
- Small groups are essential in a large church for communication and spiritual growth without intimidation.
- Small groups are useful to instill a sense of belonging.
- There are no short term classes in spiritual dev. With accountability.
- We are missing commitment to small prayer groups on a weekly basis.
- We don't do enough personal meditation and devotions. Discuss moral issues in groups other than church.

Time

- Find it hard for people to find time to read their Bibles.
- Have other distractions and don't see church as a priority.
- Lack of time
- Make time for each other. Set priorities, Being there for each other
- Members are too involved in church choices to engage in passionate spirituality.
- Need personal responsibility for involvement.
- No Sabbath
- Our busy lives get in the way.
- Outside influences take priority.
- People say they are too busy to volunteer at church.
- Shouldn't sign up to do too much in secular jobs.

Transportation

- Could bus service be available to pick up folks who want to go to church?
- Have sign up sheets for rides and willing drivers.
- Need buses to pick up people for services on Sun or Sat eve- especially at the Waterford. We have several people attending from there and more would be if they had a ride.
- Provide rides for shut-ins.
- Provide transportation to get those who no longer drive to church and all activities.

- There are folks at Waterford (one sings in the choir) that need rides.

Worship

- Afraid of change. Contemporary service would be good.
- Encourage participation in worship. Follow in Bibles.
- Get more involved in worship. Will increase passion.
- Lack scripture based sermons focusing on application of scripture directly to people's lives. Need simple sermons with application to faith.
- More scripture in church services, daily devotions, and in groups.
- Need altar calls 4-6 times a year.
- Not enough lay participation.
- Open aspects of worship. Be more deliberative. Don't hurry through them.
- Should have Wed. service in summer. Need more attend able times of worship.
- Use long form of communion.
- We don't feel our theology or practices are better than others or the only way.
- We don't have enough people involved enough in the service.
- We listen to new ideas but want our traditions.
- We need more evangelical music, youth as well as adult.
- Worship is not divine or creative.
- Worship services are the same. Not enough diversity.