

McCabe United Methodist Church Results from brainstorming event on September 16, 2009

Our brainstorming took place around three areas—faith sharing, Bible and prayer, and small groups. These three areas came from a group discussion held back in August when we discussed the reasons why Passionate Spirituality is McCabe's minimum factor. All the ideas that were presented on September 16, are included in the lists below. However, the Church Health Team (CHT) will filter the results to make sure they are—Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and have a Time line (SMART). This will help immensely as McCabe turns these ideas into plans for the coming year. Other ideas may be referred to various committees, staff members or one of the pastors. No idea will be thrown out, but some ideas may need to wait or because they are not SMART will simply inform our actions as we implement other plans. If you have questions or comments about the process please contact one of the members of the CHT.

Sharing Faith

1. Small groups help us share our faith.
2. Practice, practice.
3. Have opportunities during worship to share our faith.
4. Share across the generation lines.
5. New members – what are their spiritual gifts?
6. Participants in conferences/workshops be given an opportunity to tell how event enriched their faith journey.
7. Share our faith with neighbors or people we encounter in our daily lives.
8. Form a committee to get training in faith sharing (like a study group)
9. Include exercises in small group sharing. An open ended sentence to share across the table with other people.
10. Retreats for faith study (walk to Emmaus).
11. At meetings a group offer a topic about something that affected your faith. Give everyone an opportunity to do the devotion and share that responsibility.
12. Share an answered prayer with people
13. Faith leaders can help challenge those who are uncertain.
14. Write your own mission statement.
15. Be an active encourager of sharing your faith, music, visits.
16. Challenge members to be willing to share their faith story or witness once a quarter.
17. Impressed with confirmation kids that did a faith story video – any member could do this.
18. When we start a Bible study an ice breaker is to start a few sessions with a question and break into groups and move into larger questions of faith.
19. Small group and committee leaders should be encouraged to ask if anyone has a faith story to share.
20. When stories are shared ask that be made public.
21. Examples – Leadership of Church needs to set examples of talking about faith. More communication needs to be happening.
22. Use the right words “Blessing” instead of “luck” – switch your mind set.

23. Bad language / Not acceptable!
24. Grab the Moment – when it happens, it is okay to break from the play – after complete acknowledge God.
25. Smile
26. Not just testimonials / actions speak louder than words.
27. Offer up option to speak in every small group.
28. Create comfortable settings.
29. Tough issues.
30. More positive Christian messages – reinstate Christian pride.
31. Live your faith / not just preach.
32. Be an uncommon Christian.
33. Random acts of kindness.
34. Take place in classes/groups that feel comfortable to each other.
35. Each on invite one.
36. Better information about activities that nourish faith.
37. Different ways of sharing faith.
38. Help people understand that faith is relationship and struggle to God and people more than belief in doctrines.
39. One on one prayer is easier to begin with.
40. A smile and actions go a long way.
41. Tell others what God has done in your life. Have a share time.

Bible and Prayer

1. Different ways to study the Bible / video series.
2. More scripture reading during service and relate scripture to the service better.
3. More out in the open calendar/ schedules.
4. Start with the youth – more scripture in class.
5. Prayer chains.
6. More self prayers – self help leads to helping others.
7. Teach people how to listen
8. Interactive Bible study program – CBT (Computer Based Training)
9. More prayer on Wednesday night.
10. Committees and groups encourage individuals to participate in prayer.
11. Special events or class teaching us how to prayer.
12. Children praying with pastors after the children's sermon.
13. Bible basics
14. Prayer basics
15. Short study on specific topics
16. Dramatic studies on Bible characters
17. Create more studies on how to pray.
18. Preaching series of sermons on Be a attitudes, Lord's Prayer.
19. Choose a Bible verse as a long term theme for the year and by end of year you would know
20. Calling team for prayer requests
21. Offer to pray out loud to others in conversation and follow thru.
22. Bible studies should be made available – offer different levels and types “Alpha study”

23. Availability of devotional materials. E.g. put the upper room out where people will pick them up.
24. Prayer chains email and telephone.
25. Encourage and promote prayer groups and use of the chapel.
26. Books of the Bible – not just a specific study.
27. Designate Prayer Day – Come to the church just to pray. Have cards or symbols available to designate prayer needs – something to take home.
28. Verbally encourage daily bible reading.
29. Encourage sentence prayer in small groups.
30. Ask for congregation's prayer needs during worship.
31. Have a disciple Bible study class.
32. Have different style, video, etc. of Bible study.
33. Establish Facebook based Bible study (closed group) young people.
34. Doing retreats on prayer – time to pray – visits to churches or camps just for prayer.
35. Encourage Sunday school groups to visit the chapel often.
36. Will continue the walk with Jesus and encourage it as an experience.
37. Bible – reading – read it in one year.
38. Practice saying grace in classes. Saying a personal grace – it's the thing to do – offer prayer tents.
39. Always start church meetings with a prayer.
40. Prayer chapel - post list of ongoing prayer needs.
41. Prayer blanket – tie a knot and say a prayer to give to the person it's for.
42. Acronyms for pray (praise, recall, ask, yield)
43. Sunday worship bulletin Bible verse puzzler with answer in the following week.
44. Regular article in Messenger on prayer.
45. Use of videos on Bible study as small groups. "Fireproof" Movies and current media.
46. Bible study participation
47. Individuals need self discipline to read Bible daily.
48. Daily discipline of praying
49. Acknowledge need for prayer.
50. Find times for a Bible study on levels beginner and in-depth
51. Every meeting and group should open with prayer
52. Teach people to: think biblically/theologically; context of bible, church's history of interpreting the bible, that there is not just one Zion interpretation
53. Survey church members on the topics they want to learn more about; offer more studies during Sunday School for adults; teach us how to read and study the Bible in personal daily devotions.

Small Groups

1. Survey the congregation – what do they want in small groups.
2. Parenting, computer, sports related, management, finances
3. Potluck with special interests.
4. More special/specific interest groups (golf/wood working/ landscaping, etc.)
5. More focus

6. Same "life place"
7. Keep in mind – time.
8. Non – threatening – dominated by people who are "in the know"
9. Need trusting/ safe environment.
10. Need strong relational connection.
11. Service go ask in church / as well as community projects.
12. When groups get together – begin with a Psalm or Prayer don't be afraid.
13. Tie in a level of conversation in a group – allows people to know the "experience" level of the group.
14. Go anywhere, 2 or people gather.,
15. Sunday service should be a dessert, not main course.
16. Invite and encourage to come to the small groups already in process.
17. Inform new membership class of all groups in process already.
18. Testimonies about small group experiences at worship.
19. "Conversation Evening" – Church wide event – identify topics, assign a topic with topic "expert" at each table. Discuss and identify persons in congregation who have knowledge and wisdom on a topic who would be interested in leading a small group.
20. Offer leaders to lead small groups.
21. Offer more "fellowship orientation" groups – especially for new members.
22. More deliberate in encouraging in the participation that we have in small groups.
23. Provide more groups a greater variety of content.
24. Try to have groups at a different time of day and different places.
25. Persons already in small groups encouraged to lead other groups.
26. Promote the values of small groups; provide a place to meet and mentor. "apples of gold" meet once a month offer a meal – encourage age diversity and mentoring. Young mothers, brides and older women.
27. You could have bible, or topical studies.
28. you could meet quarterly at flexible periods of time such as short studies and longer studies.
29. Survey of needs for any different levels
30. Integrate groups and have groups meet together to share
31. Be creative in availability of places and times to meet (e q. Wednesday from 4 to 5 pm)
32. Each existing person in a group make a deliberate attempt to contact
33. Each group develops a plan in how to identify more participation.
34. We need to identify specific social groups that can have social events to have fun together.
35. Offer more opportunities to have support groups. Such as divorce and separated.
36. Children and youth opportunities to provide music groups and identify leaders who can lead these groups.
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