

Money Talk

- Team with organizations we don't want to die.
- Bigger sign.
- Decide what we need and how to pay for it.
- Know what the data is – what it is needed for.
- Money we have is an opportunity.
- New way to talk about money in the church - talk about the opportunity in a positive way.
- Volunteering matters as much as money.
- Donations sometimes are larger than fees.
- What prevents us from raising money.
- How do we raise the big bucks.
- Engagement.
- Need straight, honest talk.
- New model - not all on families, other sources, other money to tap into
- What could we do about sharing e.g. with other congregations (in the medium term)
- Finance what we want to do next.
- What to do differently? Draw people in from different demographics.
- Tell our story, share our needs, use the data.
- We could do more if we got our kitchen fixed (spend money to make money), and offer more to the community.
- Pick 3 or 4 projects / can't do everything / getting older - focus.
- Auction - lots of "stuff".
- Can't insist programs are volunteer led - need skill sets - staffing.
- Need to tell the story; need is expressed; ask.
- Staffing 2nd full-time minister.
- Buy more gift cards - keep eating.
- Legacy giving.

What Does it Mean to Be a Christian?

- Acceptance of all (religion, culture, sex, financial status, mental health, physical health). Be open-minded and prioritize love and respect.
- Love everyone (respect).
- Affirming Christ's teaching.
- Faith and Grace.
- Challenges like...
 - Backlash
 - Ostracization
 - Stigma! Religion, sex, mental health
 - "Des-pised" - Love is not always returned (are you? what kind of love?)
 - Religious prejudice, competition.
 - Worship teachings not teachers.
 - Practice, not perfect.
 - Judgment, lacking love, respect
 - Walk the talk
 - More female ministers – males head, females heart.
- Relevant to St. Thomas
 - Classes.
 - New speakers relevant to younger people
 - Survey our youth - what is relevant?
 - Design programs, find speakers.
 - Confirm relevancy.
 - Naked faith with speakers.
 - Advertize relevant courses, classes.
 - Financial well-being, spirituality, tithing.
 - Night of music with relevant musicians.

How Do We Engage the Bible?

- How do we explain the benefits of reading it?
- Half hour Bible study before the service.
- Reduce some parts of the service (hymns, children's time, announcements) to increase teaching time.
- Online Bible study - books.
- Zoom study and in person in homes.
- Service provides more context to what is being read.
- Express interest to Congregation.
- Alpha Course.

Music

- Popular music is a draw for some.
- Uplifting and new balance.
- Meaningful lyrics.
- Naked Faith band in a service (3 times a year?)
- Variety in music (balance).
- Lively music.
- Concerts.
- Next 10 years – who will lead?
- Invite people for Naked Faith.
- Classical music concerts.
- Themes and joint participation of groups (e.g. Frozen, Greatest Showman, etc.)
- Do we need an entry level to engage people (for choir).
- Have float and sing at pride parade.
- Better presentation of music (equipment, lighting, sound, acoustics)
- Concerts to make money
- Notify that all are welcome to join group (in bulletin and spoken)
- Words for anthem on screen or maybe key themes noted by speaker in introduction.
- Variety and balance
- Actively invite people to participate no matter skill level.
- Handbells?

Support for Different Types of Family Units

- Time to talk after church (shorter services).
- Newly single parent support / divorce support.
- Neuro-diverse support (kids / teens).
- What if we / how do we offer support for those whose family members have addictions, mental health issues, include young adults?
- Support for conversations about gender.
- Trained professional support (lay leaders) (how to pay?)
- Robust / engaged Sunday school teachers.
- Marriage enrichment (date night; family matter resource)
 - Inclusive! Include those cohabitating.
- Weekly dinners (with themes / theme nights).
- CNIB dogs - interact with families.
 - Expand beyond... help for any disability.
- Loss of partner support.
- How do we attract families to all this?
- Weekly events (not just on Sundays).
- Mentor / Helping anyone find resources / info.
- Info sessions about co-parenting / resources.
- Mentor / Matching. (Yes!)
- New Mum's / parent groups.
- Family members welcome back (older kids that return)
- Partner with places like Kirby Centre.
- Create a team of people to go into the community (ies).
- Would reaching outside church, creating connections encourage people to come to the church?
- Special nights: car show?
- What if we partnered with services to come to the church? (Calgary Alliance for Common Good)
- We don't have to do all these things alone.
- Change TV to list events - simple/large.
- Get ideas from other churches (brainstorm).

How Are We Serving People in the First Third of Their Lives?

- Now... Sunday school, youth group.
- Missing young adult engagement / programming.
- Children / youth choir - now.
- Marriage prep offering.
- Discussion / Speakers on young adult topics.
 - Advertise on Instagram, Discord, TikTok, etc.
- Youth / Young Adult related service.
 - Band for music.
- Inviting to be involved - shoulder tap.
- Food included.
- Programming targeted to parents to bring in children.
- Young adult leadership (or able to engage young adults) more effective to bring in young adults.
- Testimonials from young adults who were helped by church.
- Connect with Campus Ministry.
- D&D – Youth group - advertise to community.
- Social media for Naked Faith.
- Very, very brief info – must be exciting.
 - Need the lingo to write the message.
- What can we do outside our walls to serve First Third in our community (neighbourhood).
- Online services - way to dip toe in to try it out.
- Mentor / Buddy for new young adults - like did for confirmation classes.
- Adopt a grandparent.
- Keep people involved as age - parents involved in this.

How Might We Attract Youth?

- Techniques for contacting youth
 - Where do we advertise?
- Message or method first?
- Downplay religious aspect initially
- Make sure we emphasize inclusivity and support.
- Logistics of getting kids places. Pickups? Potential Risks?
 - How could transit work? Could we support this?
 - Carpooling.
- Advertise Naked Faith - music is engaging.
 - During Sundays?
 - In one of our services (maybe tone it back on volume?)
- Consult Youth Group.
- More advertising – social media presence (TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, Community Work).
- Community programs, advertising to parents as well.
- Lots come for Halloween, advertising activities.
- Community, not a religious organization - church is so much more than just the Bible.
- Why aren't people bringing friends - encourage people to invite friends - people stop after a certain point... tired and busy.
- What events do youth like? D&D.
 - Laser Tag.
 - More often D&D.
 - Sports?
 - General play / active things.
- Moving away - leaving church. How do we prevent people leaving? Online advertising to streamed service.
- Issue of appealing to youth without losing older members.
- Don't need to be limited to Sunday morning.
- Free food.
- Involving small groups / individuals in church "chores" (once they're here)
- Mentoring – adults that aren't their parents to ask questions to.

- Support system.
- How do we market it?
- What would they ask about?
- Prepare adults, confidential to a point.
- Day-to-day stuff, talking about days.