

Ideas and Observations for the Church.

I would like to provide the following Ideas for the Church. Consider, if you will, people see a white building, but what connection is it to them? My thoughts, subject to the tenets and the practicality.

- 1.) How about a pamphlet about the Church's activities and involvement? What do we do, are involved with.
- 2.) With that in mind, on those Saturdays when the Church parking lot is used in support of games and downtown events. Have a Welcome table or two with folks from the church to answer questions. On the table have a few Bugles, Sunday's bulletins, Upper Rooms, and that pamphlet I suggested.
- 3.) Find a way to have a table in front of the Church on Sunday mornings with some Church information. Something to catch the interest of people passing by.
- 4.) Community Events:
 - A.) Downtown art shows: Do we have people in the church who do art, grow plants? How about a Church booth showing what our congregation members are doing.
 - B.) Veteran's Day, how about a Church booth at the Veteran's Day ceremony with Church veterans to talk of their experiences.
 - C.) And this one is a little out there. Consider, if you will, how big a part of Medieval times Faith was. Why not come up with something for the Hoggetowne Medieval fair? Passion Play, a booth?

I would like to suggest as well that respectfully the Church undertake some serious self-reflection. Over the last four years we have seen some serious changes. I realize that COVID was part of it. In all, how to reach out with people, how to connect.

Now an observation, if somewhat distasteful. On May 25, 2025, we were supposed to have ushers provided by the Young Adult and Family ministries. The ushers and greeters who actually met people were Marlyn and Perry Foote and myself. The Foote's had to locate people to help take the collection.

The same situation, with a variant, occurred through June. Most of the month the Foote's were ill. Mary Lou Shubert was left in the position of trying to find people to act as ushers. I filled in all month. I saw no one from College Trajectory.

I noticed in the Bulletin for June 1st there is no mention of Ushers. This leaves the Church in the position of relying on members of the congregation who are willing to step forward. This is hardly an ideal solution, particularly in this most public of interfaces. I would point out the Ushers have other duties, taking attendance, collecting the pages from the Friendship pads, assisting members of the congregation, and others.

Speaking of the collection, here is something I make a point to do when someone puts an offering in the plate. I smile and say "Thank You".

Personally, I think we need ushers and greeters to welcome people to the service. We need the public interaction with folks coming in.

June 30, 2025

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