

18 THINGS TO PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH

At our prayer workshop in the Fall, we looked at the issue of praying for our church. We started to review these and to customise for ourselves at St Thomas. I have been using these, praying for 3 topics (Monday-Saturday) and have found it helpful. There is definitely more opportunity to make them our own. I invite you to use them, modify them and send me your suggestions.

1. That we would have unity amid diversity—loving those with whom we have nothing in common but the gospel.
2. That a culture of disciplining would form in which making disciples is viewed as an ordinary part of the Christian life.
3. That faithful *seasoned Christians* would use Scripture to train members to do the work of ministry.
4. That a hunger for studying the gospel would form among members so that they can guide and guard one another in it.
5. That transparent, meaningful relationships would become normal and *we would be open to sharing faith experiences. ie Loosen up spiritually*
6. The preaching of God's Word—that it would be biblically careful and Holy Spirit imbued.
7. That elders would remain above reproach, kept from temptation, complacency, idols, and worldliness.
8. That the church's songs would teach members to biblically confess, lament, and praise.
9. That the church's prayers would be infused with biblical ambitions, honesty, and humility.
10. That adult members *would make friends youth and encourage them to take part.*
11. That the church's primary teachers & *leaders* grow in dedication to God's Word.
12. That it would grow in being distinct from the world in love and holiness, as it engages outsiders.
13. That members would share the gospel this week.
14. That members would be prepared for *opposition & apathy*, remembering to love *and to be resilient.*
15. That hopes for political change would be outstretched by the hope of heaven.
16. That giving would be faithful, as well as joyful, consistent, and sacrificial.
17. That more members would use their careers to take the *love of Christ* to places it's never been.
18. That members would be *joyful, constructive and positive* in their workplaces this week.

Can you think of something we didn't include? Then pray it and share it! This is hardly the "official list" of the 18 most important things to pray. They're simply a start.

The point is for all of us to start praying more intentionally for our church, and to encourage others to do the same. William Passmore

REPORT FROM ATTRACT OTHERS WORK GROUP

One of the focus areas from the Visioning day in 2016 was to focus on "Attracting Others" We met through May, June and then concluded in October. Below is a summary of what we did.

We reviewed "WHAT CONSTITUTES ATTRACTION?"

- Attending church regularly
- Becoming regular donors
- Volunteering with the church
- Calling St. Thomas their 'home' church

PROPOSED ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES

1) UPDATE PARISH PAMPHLET:

- The pamphlet should be located at both entrances to the Church, in the Hall and in the pews.
- The pamphlet needs to let others know what we stand for; what are our accomplishments – what message do we want to send.

2) GREETERS COURSE (coming soon)

The previous greeters course was reviewed and it is recommended that we recruit greeters and train them using the course.

A gift for Newcomers would be purchased and given to Newcomers/Visitors when they come. It would include mug, pamphlet, bulletin, welcome note from Rector.

Re-energise Nametags. Nametags should be worn by everyone in the congregation so it is easier to remember names and so new people can get to know others and the rest of us can be reminded of names.

3) USE RENTAL SIGNS TO ADVERTISE MAJOR EVENTS

The Communications group has agreed to consider using the current sign recently vacated by Merilee we go. This faces the traffic and could significantly add to our visibility. We also investigated larger temporary signs similar to that used by Greco for major events.

4) CONSIDER DOING ANOTHER ALPHA COURSE

The Community Bible Church have approached us about doing a combined course with them. This would be a great opportunity to reach out to others and bring them to faith. It would also support our visioning initiative to do more with other churches.

5) PROMOTE THE 8.30am SERVICE MORE(presented verbally at congregational meeting)

Attendance is sustaining.

No competition from other churches at 8.30am!!

Family (sport etc) and work schedules compete with church attendance

Some families prefer a quiet service

Worship first, then the rest of the day is yours!!

Is this our church's competitive advantage?

6) EXPAND COMMUNICATIONS

Further investigation is needed for our website/Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/QR codes
Continue promoting the Church in the Stittsville News.

Continue with the float in the Christmas Parade. (plan to re-start in 2018)

Consider creating invitation postcards/doorhangers to be delivered by parishioners on their streets and neighbourhoods. These would be used for Advent/Christmas or other Church seasons or events. (in progress as I write!)

7) FAMILY CAMPING TRIPS

Explore possibilities in the Spring

- 8) HOLD AN OPEN HOUSE; To hold an Open House at the church, to have more awareness about the programs St. Thomas contributes to. This should be combined as an expansion to Parish events, eg bazaar, spring sale, music concerts. Also to be considered is an informal Christmas carol sing song with goodies.(done at Bazaar)

I would like to thank the members of the Attract Others work group; Pat McNally, David Dallaway, Susan Boutilier, Tara MacDougall, David Hazen, Susan Dow.

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