

WHO IS YOUR CHURCH?

As our membership has decreased throughout the years, a smaller group of people has continued to do the majority of the ministry of the church. For some our church can feel like a burden to be carried rather than a joy to be celebrated. This is a recipe for burnout and decline.

- The way we've often "done church" has reinforced the assumption that church is a place where one goes to receive religious goods.
- Can you imagine a church in which the majority, rather than a minority of the congregation takes part in the decision-making and ministries of the church?
- What if God has something else in mind?

Question for reflection:

If we are the church, called by God and sent out on a mission, what can you imagine God is calling and sending us to be and to do?

What this hypothesis causes me to pray for is:

- to help others with compassion and caring. To decide to listen and find a way to understand the needs of others.
- God to open our eyes that we see the needs of others and the wisdom, strength and awareness to help others in need... the many different needs of people.
- Find ways to worship God in everyday life and reach out and help.
Give thanks for those who reach out to us and help us when we are in need of everyday living.
- to be the body of Christ and reach out to others in compassion and love.
To be driven by God's purpose, not our own agenda.
- I feel God is calling us to give time, money, and other kinds of help to those in our community who have great needs. A listening ear can be all that is needed in some cases. Just look around and you will see the needs of the community and the people who make up our community.
- We are to be love. Turn our life over to God, helping others, showing his love.

- church unity working together on a cause.
Strength to do what I know is right and needed in my community and world.
Initiative!
- That we may each find our gifts, and use our experiences (good and bad) to live out and express God's presence and love for us.
- to be able to spread God's word with grace and friendliness.
- that each person will see their value in God's work in and outside of our walls.
I pray that no one feels they are "retired" from God's work, or that they have already done their part. We need their wisdom, their support, their mentoring!
- My hope is for all the members of this church to want to take part in the important ministries God calls us to do.
I want members to feel the joy in showing God's love to community, friends, and others in the world.
- Support those with leadership skills (God given).
- - to help the church become more familial, so we can...
 - express in deeds (and actions) what we believe.
 - listen to others and live "outside the jar."
 - adjust! Have flexibility in faith (without the old rigidity).
 - to hold Jesus' teachings and examples high, in all we do.
- The Lord gives us signs of the end times, what it will look like and what events will take place. If in fact these are the days he is referring to, we should be encouraging repentance and to seek him and tell everyone about him. About his grace, his wrath and most of all his love.
- a church community that works as a family. Everyone in a family has a role to play. I pray everyone finds their role. Within the church as an individual, and as a church in our community.
- Talk to people about how accepting our church is. Invite people to try our church not once but come several times to see how friendly we are and how much we Love the Lord.
- I pray that God unites us in our worship and ministries. We are each enabled with our own gifts and talents to minister to each other and reach out to others outside of our church family.
- Each member of this congregation is an important piece of the puzzle. It is our job to use these talents to the fullest extent. We need to use these talents in and beyond the walls of our church.

- that we all hear God's call to be good Christians not only to our family and friends but to everyone... a stranger on the street or someone in line at the grocery store, and live as church in our daily lives.