



Engagement at Church of the Good Shepherd

In 2019, as our parish prepared to call a new rector, we conducted several parish wide meetings in which we asked, “What would be an important accomplishment for Good Shepherd over the next few years?” *The most common answer to that question was to **grow our membership numbers**.* It’s exciting to know that, even amid the current pandemic, Church of the Good Shepherd has added several new members and families!

We have something wonderful to offer: How can we share it with others?

In an era of declining church attendance, both in the Episcopal Church and in general, how can we grow our parish and advance our mission of sharing our love and Christ’s teachings?

The answer is engagement.

Engaged Christians advance the mission of the Church. Engaged people are *passionate* people. They know what the mission is, they serve in it, and they live it. They’re passionate enough about it to invite their friends or others to share the Word. In the simplest of terms, it is old-fashioned evangelism as Christ taught it. Jesus, as an evangelist, is the best example of how we should relate to those we meet, whatever their views or their way of life. We as Christians are taught to love and serve others as we share the Word of the Lord.

The goal of the Engagement Committee

Formerly known as the Newcomer’s Committee, our new Engagement process will involve educating and empowering current members on how best to interact with and attract others in sharing all Good Shepherd has to offer. Using the principles of the **Invite, Welcome, Connect Program**, we wish to equip parishioners with the skills necessary to engage friends, visitors and strangers alike to build our membership. As we know, a growing parish offers stability in many ways. However, we do not just want to grow the numbers of people in the pews on Sunday mornings. We wish to increase our numbers of *engaged* parishioners to help fulfill all the valuable and wonderful ministries within the parish.

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Some of the activities our Engagement team will focus on are:

- Teaching parishioners how to evangelize and welcome someone to the parish
- Engaging visitors and following up with them to encourage their return
- Conducting Newcomers orientation classes
- Partnering with new members as guides on their journey of faith at Good Shepherd
- Reconnecting and engaging with absent parishioners

If you are interested in learning more or helping in our Engagement process at Church of the Good Shepherd, we invite you to join us:

- **A live discussion after the 10am service on October 17 during Lemonade on the lawn**
- **A virtual Zoom meeting and discussion on Tuesday, October 19th at 7:00pm. Zoom link available in parish newsletter emails.**
- **Contact John Beck or Martin Taylor**
- **CGS Ministry Spotlight** <http://www.cgs-raleigh.org/spotlight>