

God is love and love lives here!



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Sunday, May 26, 2024

7 Ways For Churches To Break Through The 200 Attendees Barrier

Written by Vanderbloemen | 5/27/15 8:48 PM

Here at Vanderbloemen, we’ve had the privilege of working with churches of all sizes, from 45 members to 30,000 members. We’re passionate about the church and helping church leaders build their teams, no matter the size.

The churches we all hear the most about in the media are usually megachurches, however most churches in America are, in reality, under 200 attendees in size. There’s absolutely nothing wrong with small churches – each and every church is working to further the Kingdom – but we’ve talked with a lot of church leaders, and almost every single one of them wants growth for their church.

It’s not a lack of vision or facilities that keeps churches from growing. Ultimately, God is in control of all church growth as we are faithful to spread His hope, but here are 7 things you can try, prayerfully and strategically, to help your church break through the 200 attendees mark.

1. Increase your volunteer base by 25%.

As your volunteer base grows, your ministries become more effective. Children’s Ministries, especially, are growth engines for the church. If you have a highly effective Children’s Pastor and resource them well, you’ll be amazed by how your Children’s Ministry attracts and retains families in your church.

Related: *The Secret Sauce To An Effective #KidMin Volunteer Strategy*

2. Don’t ask for volunteers from the pulpit/stage.

The key to recruiting volunteers is to do it personally. Find the people in the lobby that others are naturally drawn to – that is who you want in your volunteer ministry. These connectors will also naturally draw others in to what they are doing. If you don’t already have this role on your church staff, consider hiring a new team member to take responsibility for connections and volunteers.

Related: *3 Ways To Turn Your Attendees Into Volunteers*

3. Simplify your ministry.

Some churches make the mistake of adding more and more programs in order to have a broader reach. This can be seductive but is often not productive. Instead of spreading your staff thin with many different new ideas that may not be scalable, stick to doing the basics – worship, teaching, and community – excellently.

Related: *3 Steps To Take Your Church To The Next Level*

4. Re-think your sermon approach.

If you are preaching more than 25-30 minutes every sermon, you may want to get some objective feedback from others as to if your teaching seems to be running beyond people’s attention span. This is not to underplay the vital importance of sound, Biblical teaching, but remember that the Sermon on the Mount was only about 8 to 10 minutes long. Generally speaking, most people have difficulty focusing beyond 25 minutes. Keep your teaching as engaging as you can, and, if possible, see if you can shave a little time off your sermons.

Related: *3 Tips To Help You Preach Better Sermons*

5. Be nice to strangers.

Treat your visitors like royalty. I once heard that 90% of churches think that they are welcoming to outsiders, but after sending in “undercover” visitors, only 7% of churches were actually welcoming to visitors. People typically require 4 positive personal interactions to find a place inviting. Make sure you have a staff member delegated to train volunteers in welcoming visitors. Cultivate a church culture of being welcoming.

Related: *How To Keep Your Church Attendance Alive This Summer*

6. Think of creative ways to reach out.

Think beyond the standard outreach ideas and events. Don’t put flyers on doors, but have a block party, provide food at a nearby place where the needy are, host a concert. People love to connect (and they love free food). Provide opportunities for that, and let the community know you exist in creative and engaging ways.

Related: *Seasonal Church Outreach Ideas*

7. Don’t pressure people to commit.

Whether you like it or not, if you want to attract people – this is especially true of millennials – don’t pressure people into “doing” or committing. Instead, simply focus on building relationships and being a welcoming, safe place where people can be themselves and learn about Jesus.

Related: *4 Signs Your Volunteers Are Getting Burned Out (And How To Fix It)*

Keep The Faith,
Pastor Tommy

Scripture and Sermon:

Romans 16:1-16
“Church Growth 102”

Flowers on the Altar Given to the Glory of God

- In honor of Sierra Leary, 2024 High School Graduate with Honors by her parents, Kenny & Kelli Leary
- In memory of Bob Parker by Maggie Vest



- 05-27-24 Office Closed- Memorial Day
- 06/04-06/24 CMC General Conference, Laurel, MS
- 06-10-24 Finance Meeting 6p

Community Missions

- Beginning June 1, 2024, the Food Pantry will be open on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 10a-1p. Recipients may receive food once a month.
- The Food Pantry is open every Wednesday, 10a-1p, through the month of May, come on out and volunteer! You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- The Open Door Mission Closet (Clothes Closet) is now open every Wednesday from 9am until 12 noon. We would love for you to stop in for a brief visit when possible and/or become a volunteer. We work on a rotating basis so you would not be obligated to work every week. Please see Brenda if you are interested. Tuesdays will become our new Sorting/Processing day and volunteers are also needed on that day.
- May 29 volunteers- Barbara Hilliard, Jennie Walston

Yard Sale

The Clothes Closet and Food Pantry are hosting a community yard sale on June 7th and 8th, 8a-1p in the Fellowship Hall. Our church family is invited to participate by bringing items to sell and/or working the sale. Set-up day is Thursday, June 6th, 830a-1230p, or contact Brenda for other arrangements. Donors may bring small items already priced and ready to sell (no furniture or clothing). All proceeds benefit our community missions.

Youth News

Sundays- 9:30a-9:45a- breakfast and socialize; 9:45-10:15a- Sunday School lesson
June 23- Swimming and lunch after church at J.O. & Lynn Miller’s pool
July 3- Youth Bowling Night
July 14-17- VBS, there will teaching and activities age appropriate for teens
July 21- Swimming and lunch after church at J.O. & Lynn Miller’s pool
August 3- Wild Adventures for the day and Skillet concert that evening

Family Promise

If you are interested in helping out with Family Promise on our next rotation, contact J.O. or Lynn, this is a very blessed ministry of our church... check out their website at <https://www.familypromisehoustonco.org/>



The Young-at-Heart will meet this Friday, May 24th. We will have hot ham sandwiches and sides to go with. Lunch is 12p-2p and Bingo is 1p-3p. Bring your friends, relatives, etc to eat and play. See you there! ~~ Gloria & Eric ~~

Women at the Well

Ladies, circle meetings are coming up... so, don’t forget to attend. If you have never been to a meeting, you are welcome to attend any of the circles. We’d be so happy to have you visit!

Men at the Well

The Men meet the second Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. All men are welcome and are encouraged to attend any meeting. The men also meet every Wednesday morning at 7:30am at Steak n Shake for Men’s Fellowship Breakfast. All men are welcome.

Men on a Mission

For our church members who may be widowed, a single mother, or an elderly couple: the Men at the Well offer a service called "Men on a Mission" to assist you with minor repairs and/or minor renovations to your home. You simply pay for the needed materials, and the Men ask that you donate a love offering (as you feel led) to our church to cover labor costs. Contact Stevie Bowen or our church office at 953-3090.



26

Mary Albert
Kenny Leary

27

Callie Isaacs

28

Chuck Summers

29

Ferrelle Bagley
Sharron Schall

Bible Reading Plan

Week of May 26th:

Sunday.....	1 Cor. 14
Monday....	1 Cor. 15
Tuesday....	1 Cor. 16
Wednesday.....	2 Cor. 1
Thursday.....	2 Cor. 2
Friday.....	2 Cor. 3
Saturday.....	2 Cor. 4



New Concerns

Family of Debbie Herrington
Family of Alex Strozier
Savannah Boggs
Terry Diesch
Gloria Nelson

Continue Prayers for:

Family of Ed Meehan
Julie Peacock
Dennis & Kathy Davis
Marshall Ferns
Family of Kay Darnertl
Mary Lee Carter
Family of Frank Milner
Luke Westefeld
Family of Sarah Mayer

Tom Gamble
Betty Bowen
Michael & Jennie Walston
Betty Byrd
Leon Hudson
Mary Prater
Jim & Mary Leary
Virginia Eadie
Bill Reedy
Our Country, Leaders, Military

Finance Report for
May 19

Operating Budget.....	\$7,612.00
Apportionments.....	103.00
Food Pantry.....	<u>250.00</u>
Total.....	\$7,965.00

Worship Attendance

142

Sunday School

50

Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday- May 26

Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Lynn Mayfield
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen
Joy Fleming, Sherrie Shell, Roy Carter
9:15a Sunday School
10:30a Worship

Greeters

10:30a Lynn Mayfield, Cynthia Boutwell

Communion Servers

Thomas & Joy Fleming
Cheri' Cox, Vicky Moore

Finance Stewards

LaWanna Porter, Kathy Rutke, Hilda Rozier

Assisting with Children

Sunday- May 26

Nursery- Kelly Evans, Laura, Cinderella
Children- Amber Gamble

Sunday- June 2

Nursery- Joy Fleming, Laura McKenzie
Children- Nancy Hudson

Monday- May 27

Memorial Day
Office Closed

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday- May 28

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'
10:00a Partners in Prayer
10:00a Yoga
6:00p Life Group III "LG3"
7:30 p Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesday- May 29

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast
9a-12p Clothes Closet
10a-1p Food Pantry
6:00p Youth
6:30p Choir Practice
7:30p Handbells
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday- May 30

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'
10:00a Yoga
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday- May 31

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday- June 1

7:30p . Narcotics Anonymous



Sunday School at 9:15a

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

Sunday School Class

Seekers
Issues & Answers
New Beginnings
Christian Fellowship
Youth

Studies

Nehemiah
Mark
Revelation
Ephesians
Born Again

Teacher

Kathy Rutke
Joy Fleming
Nancy Hudson
Don Schall
Eric & Gloria Nelson

A photograph of a small American flag on a wooden stick, placed against a large, weathered grey stone gravestone in a cemetery. Other gravestones are visible in the background.

REMEMBERING THEIR SACRIFICE

NOT ASHAMED
OF THE
Gospel
ROMANS 1:16