

## **Ideas For Church Growth**

The following are ideas generated by a Committee on Church Growth during a brainstorming session on February 23, 2004. Perhaps one or two will work for your church!

Leave the lights on every night to increase visibility

Fix up the garden out front - put lights on the trees.

Make the church the center of the community for our neighborhood

Be on the local garden walk – partner with school

Have community garden for kids, folks who rent who want to have a garden

Add an Easter sunrise service

Create an after-school care program, day care

Classes in church for stay at home moms

Use the "Catechesis of the Good Shepherd" curriculum

Hold First aid classes

Babysitting classes - Mom's day out

Have a fresh, welcoming ,well-equipped and staffed nursery

Use our parking lot – street hockey league or basketball league

Kitchen – cooking classes and donate food to a homeless shelter

Host a homeless shelter in the parish hall

Partner with Richmond city jails

Add praise and worship singing to worship - one service with alternative music

Hold an Outdoor concert

Bring your dog to church Saturday evening

Send info to new homebuyers – hand written letters

Help with the local fun run

Have a table at the community yard sale, give away coffee, soda and church info

Put events into community newsletters

Metro Business news free calendar

Find out how to get free press

Girl Scouts, boy scouts using our space – Saturday car washes

"Gotta Go; Go with God" - Outreach to people traveling to NASCAR

Arts Festival

Hire a bluegrass band for bluegrass festival, pig pickin

Halloween event

Concerts at church - organ recitals, choir concerts

Blessing the animals – October – get press for this event

Pamphlets and pizza day - deliver pamphlets, eat pizza

Have a removable sign to advertise special events cheaply

Portable sign on special events

Two part sermon – specialty sermons to real world

Contact book clubs - have sermons related to popular books

Hold speaker series on issues of concern to the community

Lenten series pamphlets – email to everyone in church and ask them to forward to 2 friends.

Bring a friend to church on Palm Sunday

Hold High Church services

Covered dish picnic in the park

Community Plant exchange - host it at our church

Get involved with the election – become a polling place

A.A. or N. A. meetings

Give a flower to visitors

New sign in book to accommodate email addresses

Singles night

Healing service – first Saturday

Add a daily Eucharist to intensify church involvement