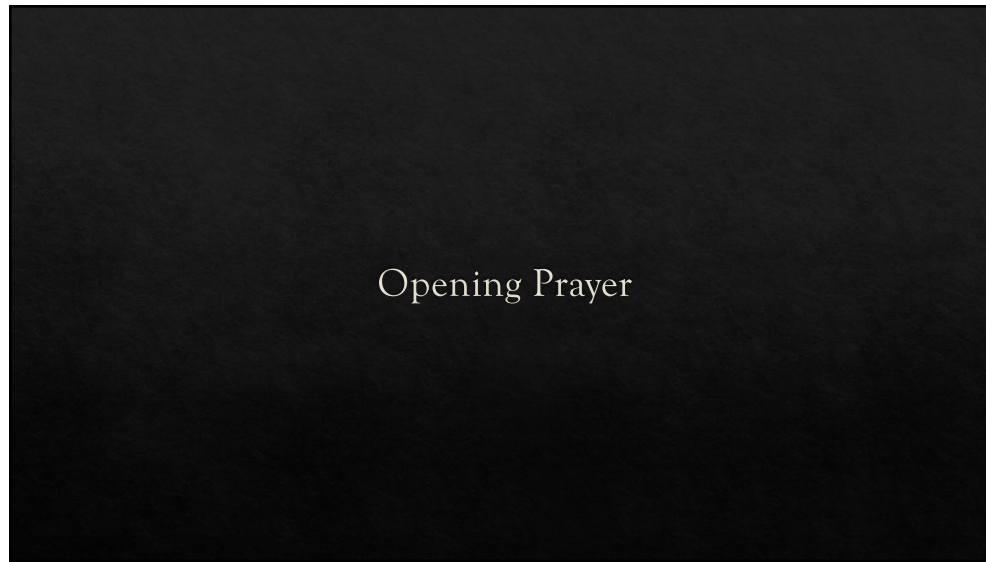


1



2

Devotion

Matt. 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is *no longer good for anything*, but is *thrown out and trampled under foot*.

Matt. 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. NRSV

3

Devotion Continued

- ◆ Disciples are called to make a difference
- ◆ What difference are we called to make?

4

My Hopes

We pray

We meet

We discern a mission/vision in a form of a compelling story

We discern next steps (worship, missions, outreach, discipleship) that are low stakes (unless we discern a BHAG)



5

My Hopes Continued

We discern a discipleship process

We discern a leadership training process

We thrive in God's purpose for us



6

Session One



- What does a thriving/healthy church look like
- How do we get there
 - Mission
 - Vision
- Mission and vision as a story
- Pathway for discernment
 - Prayer
 - Questions

7

Session Two

- Mission and Vision
 - Values
- Defining Goals
- Church Structure
- Church Schedule
- Discipleship Pathway



8

Session Three

- Church Life Cycles
- SWOT Analysis



9

Session Four

Demographics



10

Session Five

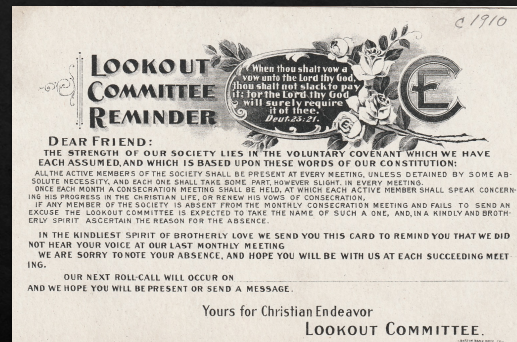
Reaching the next generation



11

Session Six

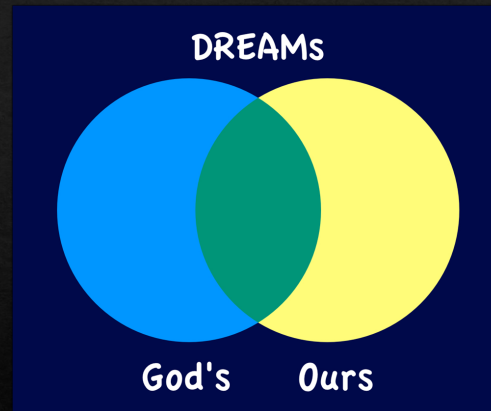
Our Story



12

Session Seven

If we could do anything



13

Opening Thought

"You don't know what
you don't know."



14

Who to meet with?

15

Who I met with

- ◆ Councilwomen Jennifer Miller
- ◆ Councilman Scott Sites (via telephone call)
- ◆ Lori Miller (wearing her educator's hat)

16

My questions

- ◆ What makes Middletown Special?
- ◆ What are the greatest challenges that Middletown is facing?
- ◆ What does Middletown need most?
- ◆ What does Middletown need most from the religious communities in the borough?

17

What makes Middletown special?

- ◆ Community supports students/schools when there is a need
- ◆ The oldest borough in county
- ◆ Hub of all forms of transportation
- ◆ Located near major roads
- ◆ Our children/youth

18

What are the greatest challenges facing Middletown

- ◆ Parents supporting schools/children in community
- ◆ Communications
- ◆ Lack of newspaper
- ◆ Helping 0-5 year olds and their parents get the children ready for school
- ◆ Being kind

19

What are the greatest challenges facing Middletown (continued)

- ◆ Loneliness
- ◆ People living paycheck to paycheck
- ◆ 60% of people living in borough live in rentals
- ◆ Water lease
- ◆ Lonely children

20

What does Middletown need most?

- ◆ A better way of communicating information in the community
- ◆ Pre-K educational support
- ◆ Better accessibility to good childcare
- ◆ Classes/educational opportunities related to personal finances
- ◆ Teach respect

21

What does Middletown need most? (continued)

- ◆ Being kind
- ◆ Community events
- ◆ People to get along
- ◆ People interested in what is going on (especially in boards and commissions in the borough)

22

What does Middletown need most from the religious communities in the borough?

- ◆ Prayers
- ◆ Meet needs in the community
- ◆ Meet *material* needs in community
- ◆ Help people really struggling
- ◆ Food pantry/Care-a-van

23

What does Middletown need most from the religious communities in the borough? (continued)

- ◆ Support *service* in the community (example-counseling)
- ◆ Support the local schools
- ◆ Collaboration with the business community to meet community needs
- ◆ Reaching out to youth/children

24

Other comments

◆ People don't want churches to survive

25

What is going through your mind?

26

Are we willing to meet again?

27

Homework

Bring a mission/vision statement (or more than one) in
the form of a compelling story

28

Closing Thought

- ◆ 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
- ◆ Being Saved
- ◆ Good News that the world needs

29

Closing Prayer

30