

Church Welcoming Program Selected Bibliography

Am, Win. *The Church Growth Ratio Book: How to Have a Revitalized, Healthy, Growing, Loving Church*. Monrovia, CA: Church Growth, 1990.

Am, Win, Carroll Nyquist, and Charles Am. *Who Cares about Love? How to Bring Together the Great Commission and the Great Commandment*. Pasadena, CA: Church Growth, 1986.

Barna, George. *User Friendly Churches*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1991. Based on careful research. an excellent look at changing the climate in the church.

Benson, Peter. *The Troubled Journey*. Minneapolis: Search Institute. 1990. 1993. Results of a massive and also comprehensive study of youth in the United States.

Filled with useful information on understanding youth culture and identifying areas where the church should consider new programming. Search's resources are all excellent for people working with youth. Write for a catalog: Search Institute. Thresher Square West. Suite 210, 700 South Third Street. Minneapolis, MN 55415.

Bernhard, Fred and Stephen Clapp. *Widening the Welcome of Your Church; Biblical Hospitality and the Vital Congregation*. Fort Wayne: Lifequest, 2004.

Bontrager, Ed. *Building a Multicultural Congregation*. Fort Wayne: LifeQuest and New Life Ministries. 2003. A book with practical strategies for "widening the welcome of your church" to other cultures. This book talks about ways to develop inclusive worship. find the right leadership, share facilities with ethnic congregations. and begin a church of another ethnic group. This comes in a convenient notebook form with permission to photocopy.

Clapp, Steve, *One Hundred Ways to Reach Young Singles, Couples, and Families*. Fort Wayne: Lifequest, 2004. Practical ideas that have been tested in churches around the country. This is an excellent starting place if your church needs to expand its outreach to young adults.

Clapp, Steve and Fred Bernhard. *Hospitality: Life in a Time of Fear*. Fort Wayne: LifeQuest. This book deals directly with the tough questions raised by September II, 2001, and reveals that the answer to fear is not turning inward but turning outward. Learning to recognize the presence of Christ in others can have a liberating impact on all that we do and can enable us to move past the fears that threaten to immobilize us. This is an excellent guide to the development of hospitality as a part of the spiritual life and shows how hospitality relates to our faith, our homes, our places of work, and even our driving. Includes discussion questions for classes and small groups.

Clapp, Steve and Fred Bernhard. *Worship and Hospitality*. Fort Wayne: LifeQuest. Looks at worship through the lens of hospitality. This book is an effort to move beyond the tension among traditional, contemporary, and blended worship to create worship which speaks to the

deepest needs of people and builds up the church as the body of Christ. A guide for individual or groups study is included.

Clapp, Steve. *Overcoming Barriers to Church Growth*. Elgin: The Andrew Center, 1994. If you can't get people in your church interested in evangelism, get this book! It includes a very helpful section on low self esteem in individuals, congregations, and denominations as a sometimes overlooked barrier to church growth. A new edition will come in 2005 or 2006.

Comiskey, James A. *The Ministry of Hospitality*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2004.

Delatte, Paul. *Commentary on the Rule of St. Benedict*. London: Burns and Oates, 1921. A classic work for those interested in this order and the practice of hospitality.

Gainsbrugh, Jonathan. *Winning the Backdoor War: Growing Your Church by Closing Its Seven Backdoors*. Elk Grove, CA: 1993.

Gallup, George and D. Michael Lindsay. *The Gallup Guide: Reality Check for 21st Century Churches*. Princeton: Gallup Organization, 2002.

Gibson, Robert B. *A Companion Guide To Radical Hospitality*. Maine: Paraclete Press, 2005.

Halverson, Delia Touchton. *The Gift of Hospitality: In Church, in the Home, in All of Life*. Atlanta: Chalice Press, 1999.

Harre, Alan F. *Close the Backdoor: Ways to Create a Caring Congregational Fellowship*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia, 1984.

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Homan Daniel O. S. B. and Lonni Collins Pratt. *Radical Hospitality: Benedict's Way Of Love*. Maine: Paraclete Press, 2005.

How to Assimilate Newcomers into Your Church audio program. Monrovia, CA: Church Growth, Inc.

Jarvis, Thea. *Everyday Hospitality: Simple Steps to Cultivating a Welcoming Heart*. Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, 2007.

Keifert, Patrick R. *Welcoming the Stranger: A Public Theology of Worship and Evangelism*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992. This is an excellent overview of hospitality with special attention given to issues related to worship

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Logan, Robert E., and Larry Short. *Mobilizing for Compassion*. Grand Rapids: Revell, 1994.

Mann, Alice B. *Incorporation of New Members in the Episcopal Church: A Manual for Clergy and Lay Leaders*. Philadelphia: Ascension Press, 1983.

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McIntosh, Gary L. *Beyond the First Visit; The Complete Guide to Connecting Guests to Your Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

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Oswald, Roy M. *Making Your Church More Inviting: A Step by Step Guide for In-Church Training*. Washington, DC: The Alban Institute, 1992.

Oswald, Roy M., and Speed B. Leas. *The Inviting Church: A Study of New Member Assimilation*. Washington, DC: The Alban Institute, 1987.

Pohl, Christine D. *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality As a Christian Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 1999.

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Schroeder, Annette. *Welcome to Our Church; A Handbook for Greeters and Ushers*. St. Louis: Concordia, 1997.

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. *Simply Strategic Volunteers: Empowering People for Ministry*. Loveland CO: Group, 2005.

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