

The Vine: August 2015

On The Vine:

I once attended a church where the greeter/usher said this to my wife. **Kim—"Good morning" Greeter/Usher—"What's so good about it?"** My mouth nearly dropped open in amazement of what was said and the startling realization that this was the first person we met at the door of this church. All kinds of thoughts went through my head and some of them not very nice. If I was looking for a church on that Sunday morning, I might have quickly marked this one off my list. How important is it that we address and treat visitors with respect and honor? I would say it should be at the top of our list. We are in the people busy. Thom S. Rainor offers these seven tips when seeing visitors at your church. You don't have to be an usher/greeter to do these things.

1. **"Thank you for being here."** It's just that basic. I have heard from numerous church guests who returned because they were simply told "thank you."
2. **"Let me help you with that."** If you see someone struggling with umbrellas, young children, diaper bags, purses and other items, a gesture to hold something for them is a huge positive. Of course, this comment is appropriate for member to member as well.
3. **"Please take my seat."** I actually heard that comment twice in a church where I was speaking in the Nashville area. The first comment came from a member to a young family of five who were trying to find a place to sit together.
4. **"Here is my email address. Please let me know if I can help in any way."** Of course, this comment must be used with discretion, but it can be a hugely positive message to a guest.
5. **"Can I show you where you need to go?"** Even in smaller churches, guests will not know where to find the nursery, restrooms and small group meeting areas. You can usually tell when a guest does not know where he or she is to go.
6. **"Let me introduce you to _____."** The return rate of guests is always higher if they meet other people. A church member may have the opportunity to introduce the guest to the pastor, other church staff and other members of the church.

(conclusion at the bottom of page 2)

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Kevin Coe - Pastor
Guthrie Gardner - Youth
Debbie Sims - Choir
Shannon Ellis - Office

- Ministry
- Maturity
- Magnification
- Missions

Did You Know?

111 different people have gone on an FBC sponsored mission trip in the past 16 years!

Mike Taylor is the only individual that has participated in all 16 FBC mission trips!

FBC has given over \$114,000 to supplement the cost of these trips!

We have ministered to people in Mexico, Washington DC, West Virginia, Memphis, Siloam Springs, OK and Charleston, MO.

Sunday Morning Messages**July Worship #s**

August 2: The Illusion Of Money (Ecclesiastes Series)	July 5	69
August 9: Colton Wyatt	July 12	82
August 16: TBA	July 19	Community VBS Service at Christian Church
August 25: Enjoy Your Life Now (Ecclesiastes Series)	July 26	51

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 1	John Hoult & Ray Robison	August 19	Nathan Haines
August 4	Chris Hoult	August 20	Patty Lunger
August 11	Duane Fidler	August 23	Claire Hale
August 13	Shannon Ellis	August 24	Steve Rogers & Amy Crispin
August 14	Joni Bolen	August 25	Laila Ingram
August 18	Donna Taylor	August 31	Darren Richardson

Thank You!

To everyone who helped make the Community VBS week a great success!

To those who gave to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in June!

To the Memphis Mission Team & Tiffany for her leading this trip again this year!

On The Vine Article

7. "Would you join us for lunch?" I saved this question for last for two reasons. First, the situation must obviously be appropriate before you offer the invitation. Second, I have seen this approach have the highest guest return rate of any one factor. What if your church members sought to invite different guests 6 to 12 times a year? The burden would not be great; but the impact would be huge.

I will say that I am proud of the members of this church and how they treat our visitors and that these are only suggestions to help in case you are not sure what to do when you greet new people.

Kevin

If you would like to receive your monthly newsletter through email and haven't already done so, please give your email address to Shannon Ellis.

