



# A New Day in Your Congregation

Pruning

**William Sloane Coffin once wrote, “Most church boats don’t like to be rocked; they prefer to lie at anchor rather than go places in stormy seas. But that’s because we Christians view the Church as the object of our love instead of the subject and instrument of God’s. Faith cannot be passive; it has to go forth—to assault the conscience, excite the imagination. Faith fans the flames of creativity altogether as much as it banks the fires of sin.”**



# The Story of Mount Vernon Place

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# MEMBERSHIP :

1850	→	50	1939	→	3000	1984	→	879
1855	→	90	1955	→	4315	1985	→	841
1856	→	88	1958	→	4522	1986	→	823
1857	→	70	1960	→	4541	1987	→	868
1858	→	105	1966	→	3040	1988	→	730
1862	→	195	1976	→	1316	1989	→	667
Civil War	→	50	1978	→	1132	1990	→	629
1876	→	284	1979	→	1120	1991	→	605
1892	→	800	1980	→	958	1992	→	579
1908	→	895	1981	→	930	1993	→	553
1919	→	1355	1982	→	905	1998	→	
1921	→	2221	1983	→	885	2000	→	



# The 2005 Leadership Team

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# A Courageous Choice

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Moving Out





# Burning the Pasture

## Ree Drummond

The first pasture wasn't burned this year. You can see the fresh spring grass growing, but it's having to fight the old stuff for space. The second pasture was burned in late March and it's growing back thick and lush. We don't burn every pasture every year; it's a cycle on the ranch. So I always love these moments in May when the difference is stark and dramatic.





Which picture best captures your  
congregation?

The Power of Pruning

I am the true vine,  
and my Father is the  
vineyard keeper. He  
removes any of my  
branches that don't  
produce fruit, and he  
trims any branch that  
produces fruit so that  
it will produce even  
more fruit.

- John 15:1-2



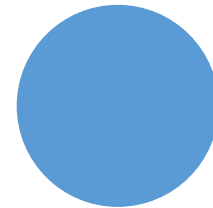
If your congregation were a petunia, how much agreement would there be in the congregation about which parts of your ministry or mission are the dying blossoms that need to be removed?



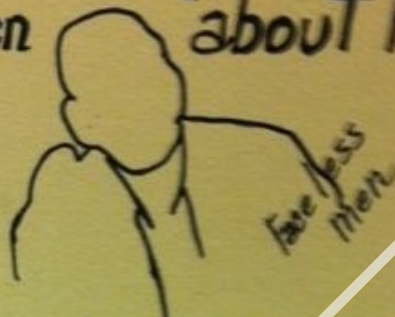
**“Unlike known or routine problem solving for which past ways of thinking, relating, and operating are sufficient for achieving good outcomes, adaptive work demands three very tough, human tasks: figuring out what to conserve from past practices, figuring out what to discard from past practices, and inventing new ways that build from the best of the past.”**

*- The Practice of Adaptive Leadership, Ronald Heifetz, Alexander Grashow, and Marty Linsky*

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# Who Cares? Let's help faceless men "about face!"



Within the last 18 months  
in our group

"MEN ON MARCH"

568 men (different  
served.

- I Transients
- II Homeless
- III Alcoholics
- IV Recently inmates of Prisons
- V Unemployed
- VI Unwanted
- VII Lonely



An Unfinished Task!



What is the best of your church's past?  
What miracles have taken place?

# Our Purposes

Prepare through awareness of community needs, and intelligent response to these needs, and an alertness in finding and training appropriate leadership -

to Prevent - delinquency and maladjustments, indifference and hopelessness, unemployment and poverty, despair and family tragedies.

Participating in the best of the Christian Church and Her love and good will on our community

Program (1) Social Group experiences for all groups  
(2) Inter-group experiences: interracial, intercultural, international, interdenominational.

## Participation:


- (1) in community organizations,
- (2) in social welfare endeavors
- (3) in the council of churches as the means of cooperative efforts

## with Positive Principles:

- (1) The worth of every man, woman and child.
- (2) God given capacity to grow, to love, to think, to choose, to work, and to pray.
- (3) Justice for all.
- (4) Freedom from all that denies an abundant life.



What do you need to discard?



“Pruning involves taking off not only dead, lifeless branches but also those stems that still have life but that may nevertheless inhibit the overall strength and production of the larger vine.”

- Emily Askew


- Where are clergy and lay leaders investing their time and attention?
- What is yielding fruit and what is draining resources, both spiritual and material?
- What two things could you stop doing today without many people noticing?



# What do you offer?

- Who would notice if your church no longer existed?
- What ministries of your church does the community count on?
- Which ones would few people miss?


## RELIGIOUS SERVICES DIRECTORY

EVENTS	ANNOUNCEMENTS	BAPTIST
	<b>CHURCH FOR SALE</b> Seats 300+ people w/reception hall / fellowship hall / gymnasium w/large daycare / child care operation in sep. bldg. w/pastor's residence on-site Call Ed Lockett or Marcus N. Daniels - 301-459-4400 E-mail - elockett@naimichael.com or mdaniels@naimichael.com	<b>MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST</b> 215 R.I. Ave., N.W., Wash., D.C. 202-332-5748 Office Hours: M-F 8:30-5 pm <b>Rev. Terry D. Streeter, Pastor</b> <b>February 25, 2018</b> <b>7:45 am</b> Alexander the Coppersmith II Timothy 4:14-15 <b>10:45 am</b> The Good Shepherd John 10:11-16 Visit our website at <a href="http://www.MPBCDC.org">www.MPBCDC.org</a>
	<b>ABSOLUTE MONISM</b>  Self-Revelation Church of Absolute Monism Golden Lotus Temple Yoga Philosophy Swami Premananda of India, Founder "THE POWER OF ONE" Church and Sunday School Services, 11 AM <a href="http://WWW.SELFREVELATIONCHURCH.ORG">WWW.SELFREVELATIONCHURCH.ORG</a> 301-229-3871, 4748 Western Ave., Bethesda, MD	<b>METAPHYSICAL</b> <b>DIVINE SCIENCE CHURCH OF THE HEALING CHRIST</b> 2025 35th St. NW, Washington, DC 20007 202/333-7630 or Dial for Meditation 202/338-1240 Sunday, Feb. 25 - 11:00 am <a href="http://divinescience.org">divinescience.org</a> <b>A THANKFUL HEART</b> <b>Rev. D. Gatewood</b> Metaphysical Book Store, Tues.-Thur., 10 am-3 pm
		<b>BAPTIST</b>

# Time to Inventory

- List everything your congregation does.
- Which things are at the heart of who you are as a congregation?
- Which are peripheral?
- Which things are making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?





“Everything you love for its own sake, outside of God alone, blinds your intellect and destroys your judgment of moral values. It vitiates your choices so that you cannot clearly distinguish good from evil and you do not truly know God’s will.”

- Thomas Merton

- How much of our church building and its contents do we love for our sake instead of for God's sake?
- How much of what we do in and for the church is for our own sake instead of for God's sake?
- What traditions do we love that have everything to do with our personal preferences or hard work and nothing to do with Jesus' efforts to change and transform the world?
- What would we do if we were working for Christ's sake alone?

- *A New Day in the City*, 13-14



# How might we evaluate ministry in our context?

- Why did this ministry start?
- Why does it continue today?
- How many people are impacted by it each week?
- How many church members are investing time and talent to see it thrive?
- Is this ministry still meeting a real need?
- Why do we invest church resources in this ministry?
- Does this ministry align with our vision and our values?



How can you  
build on the  
best of your  
church's past?

Let it Go!

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