




Invite • Welcome • Connect

# Front Door Evangelism



Front-door evangelism is rooted in a proper understanding of *Revelation 3:20*: “Listen! I am standing at the door knocking; hear my voice and open the door!” The Living Christ knocks at the front door of our churches. Jesus takes on flesh and blood in the newcomer, the visitor and the stranger. How we welcome the least of these Jesus’ brothers and sisters is felt by Jesus Himself (*Matthew 25:40*). “The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head” (*Luke 9:58*). Front-door evangelism is about providing such a home for Jesus in how we invite, welcome and connect our newcomers and visitors.

Front-door evangelism is rooted in an understanding that God sends us newcomers and that as a community we begin bearing witness to our hope in the Gospel—or don’t—the second these newcomers set foot on our property. Front-door evangelism sees all visitors as part of the mission field. When a front-door evangelist sees a new family or a lonely student or a scared senior entering the sanctuary (or parish hall) for the first time she immediately thinks “the harvest is plentiful.” Front-door evangelists approach visitors so as to encounter them. They understand that people are broken and busy and overwhelmed and shy and that coming to church requires tremendous courage in today’s world. Congregations committed to front-door evangelism reward such courage not with a sign but with a community that speaks loudly and clearly, “The Episcopal Church wants you” (front-door evangelists find the word welcome a little too weak). The fruit of front-door evangelism is seen when individuals and congregations:

- 🌱 Believe that our lives will be enriched as more and more newcomers are grafted into our corporate, worshiping Body
- 🌱 Shed our belief that people “want to be left alone” and embrace the spirit of the Seeking Shepherd (*Luke 15*) and Persistent Widow (*Luke 18*)
- 🌱 Measure the number of visitors that God sends and the percentage incorporated into our corporate, worshiping Body as fruit-bearing, evangelized Episcopalian disciples of Jesus Christ
- 🌱 Model personal invitation
- 🌱 Organize strategic ways to invite new people to visit their church so as to welcome and connect them
- 🌱 Respond to every visitor with an intentional, prayerful and strategic follow-up plan, understanding that the Body will be healthier if the visitor is incorporated
- 🌱 Work towards increasing our ASA by the same number as our ASV (average Sunday visitors)

The Rev. Canon John W. Newton, Canon for Lifelong Formation

★ The **Episcopal Dioceses** of Texas

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