

## Evangelism Connection May News

Morningside Presbyterian has been studying and using Martha Grace Reese's Unbinding the Gospel Series to stimulate our thinking about evangelism, but more to help us grow in our understanding of God's love for us and all people. We are currently involved in this process with the Session. ***I am very excited about the possibilities this process holds for us at Morningside PC, for me personally and for mainline churches in general.*** It is based on an extensively researched examination of evangelism in mainline churches throughout the US, financed by the Lilly Foundation. I will briefly list the ways this Series has impacted me and what I see as the initial response to it by our session.

- ❖ Reese's research is based research of mainline churches that are successful in their evangelism mission. These congregations place a high priority on evangelism.
- ❖ People who share their faith ***love God*** and ***believe people's lives would be better*** if they were in a relationship with God too.
- ❖ They know why they are doing evangelism.
- ❖ They learn to be ***open to the working and leading of the Holy Spirit.***
- ❖ This process involves a lot of small ***prayer groups***. As a beginning we have started a weekly prayer meeting for Session members.
- ❖ Each person who experiences this process will ***grow in their faith***, learn how to share their faith with others and experience a closer relationship with God.
- ❖ The focus of the faith sharing is on ***relationships***, with God, the congregation and others who don't yet have a relationship with God.
- ❖ If new people are brought to God it would be a by product of our faith sharing and not the sole focus.
- ❖ There are many other exciting aspects of this ***process*** (Grace Reese prefers process rather than program) all of which make evangelism not only a very doable part of our Christian walk but one that we will be energized by the Spirit to do.
- ❖ Even if the congregation doesn't gain a single soul, the life of the church will be changed; the lives of each member will be changed by the growing of their faith and their deepening relationship with God. It is really about ***spiritual formation*** which reaches out.  
~Jim McCurdy

We on the Evangelism Committee of LRP are taking this to heart. We are praying and listening for the Spirit's leading. Perhaps you would like to join us, or would like to meet with others at churches nearby.

We challenge you to listen for God as you worship today. Seek other folks to partner with in prayer. Open your eyes to the people that God has placed around you and now on your hearts.

Additionally, we would like to set aside time at the next Presbytery meeting for prayer and listening as way to turn our meetings 'inside out.' Feel free to contact us on the committee:

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