

Something new and Something old.

Something new:

With the coming of fall, I am excited about the possibility of newness. School starts and people return to church after being refreshed from summer vacations. Fall is a time of optimism and new beginnings.

My optimism and hope were challenged the other day. I was in a Zoom meeting with John Fong, a church growth consultant for the Presbytery. And he asked if our church was growing. I responded that we had been blessed by several new people in the last year and were slowly growing. I think most of this growth comes from our belief that all are welcome, just as our banner says:

Love your Neighbor
Who doesn't
look like you,
think like you,
love like you,
speak like you,
pray like you,
vote like you.
Love your Neighbor.
No Exceptions.

We love our neighbors, and our God as Jesus commanded.

He said he wasn't aware that we were growing and would make a note to move us into the growing category. But then he asked if your church wanted to grow, and he meant to take on specific activities that would lead to bringing in new people. Most of what he suggested did not fit our laid-back, introverted personality. (Maybe my introverted, laid-back personality is the real problem.)

But more is needed to answer the question: Do we want to grow by trying new things? I told him that when I returned from my end-of-summer retreat and vacation, I would raise this with our session, the Membership, Evangelism, and Fellowship

Committee (MEF), and others who were interested. And I would try to arrange a time to meet with him.

Something Old:

It has been suggested that we restart our monthly newsletter. It vanished with COVID-19, and we substituted periodic updates on activities and happenings. I don't think restarting the newsletter should replace periodic updates by email, text, and social media, but they can reinforce each other.

But for this to work, people must promptly submit items for the newsletter. The due date is the latest time to submit items, not the time to start preparing one. If you head a committee or activity, please submit your information to the office before the due date. Only with your timely input can the newsletter begin again and be a successful communication tool.

We will start our full newsletter in October with items due to Andrea by September 23rd.