

Complete the following information and return form to:

Rev. Judi Slater
Pittsburgh Presbytery
901 Allegheny Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Please print the following information:

Name of Church

Contact Person

Contact Email

Contact Phone

_____ (number) people will attend the information session.

_____ We are unable to attend the information session but are interested in hearing more. Please contact me.

What have participants said about the Unbinding the Gospel Project?

“I asked God to show me what God sees and have discovered that the inconveniences in my life are really blessings.”

“I actually look forward to my time with God each evening.”

“This was one of the best devotional exercises we have ever done.”



901 Allegheny Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Phone: 412-323-1400
Fax: 412-323-2256

Unbinding the gospel project

This 12-month evangelism project is based upon findings from the Lilly Endowment research done by Martha Grace Reese, MDiv, JD. The study, which included 1200 interviews, focused on highly effective examples of evangelism in mainline churches and the motivations for evangelism.

This process is about breaking the curse. It's about untying the knots that keep us from living exciting lives in the Spirit. It's about unbinding the Good News, God adores us and everyone else, that has been shown to us through Jesus Christ. This process is unabashedly about evangelism: faith sharing.

What is the process?

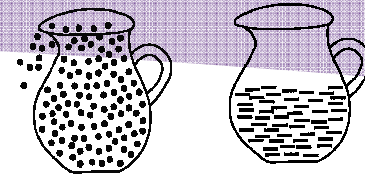
The 12-month process involves a coach with national coaching/consulting experience that will work with a group of 8-10 pastors/churches who are interested in enriching faith and faith sharing. We will begin working with pastors and key lay leaders. Nine months of study, prayer and thinking together will culminate in a six-week, all-congregational saturation experience. This six-week "E-vent" will have individual, small group and all-church aspects to help grind faith and faith-sharing deeply into the fabric of your church. We are looking for churches with creative, observant, reflective, self-starter pastors.

Churches across the theological spectrum can do exciting, effective evangelism. The crucial factors are living relationships with God, the ability to talk about our faith and church leadership that maintains a laser-like focus on evangelism.

Imagine that you are like a pitcher. You'll only share your faith when you are filled up with reasons and motivations to help other people with their spiritual lives. If you believe that Hell or Heaven is a consequence of decision to become or not become a Christian, you have to have your pitcher filled with many other reasons to get it to the top. Here's a drawing of a pitcher. It has to be overflowing before we share our faith. What is filling your pitcher? Is it overflowing?



Think about the level of your pitcher at other points in your life. Where was it when you first became a Christian? where was it when you were 17? when you had a child? when you were doing through a divorce? when you lost your job? when you attended the most wonderful church service you've ever been to? when someone you loved died? when you moved to a new town? when someone you cared about got the diagnosis?



What Motivates You to Share Your Faith?

Our "pitchers," this image of how motivated we are to share our faith, can be filled up by growing faith, by thinking about other people, by encouraging each other to learn how to talk about our faith, by talking about what we believe. But our pitchers can be drained! Just imagining these negative thoughts about sharing your faith can drain you of motivation! What's at stake in evangelism is transformed lives, yours included! You and your church can begin to work together on something that matters tremendously.

What does it cost?

Churches are asked to make a 1 year commitment of \$1,000.

The Administrative Commission on Transformation (ACT) will supplement half of the cost upon request.

For additional information, contact the Rev. Judi Slater at (412) 323-1400 x 316 or jslater@pghpresbytery.org

What is the next step?

Send a team of pastor and key leaders to an information session on this and other options for transformational ministry on Thursday, May 7, 2009
11:30 am -12:30 pm
Pittsburgh Presbytery Center
(a light lunch will be served)

