

welcome for church homecoming

welcome for church homecoming is a heartfelt expression that embodies the spirit of reunion, celebration, and spiritual renewal within a church community. Church homecoming events are significant occasions that bring together members, past and present, to rejoice in faith, fellowship, and shared history. Crafting a warm and inviting welcome for church homecoming not only sets the tone for the event but also fosters a sense of belonging and unity among attendees. This article explores the importance of a welcoming atmosphere, effective methods of greeting guests, and creative ideas to enhance the church homecoming experience. Additionally, it provides practical tips for organizers to ensure a memorable and spiritually enriching celebration. The following sections will guide readers through the essentials of planning and delivering an impactful welcome for church homecoming.

- Understanding the Significance of Church Homecoming
- Crafting an Effective Welcome Message
- Welcoming Guests and Visitors
- Creating a Warm and Inclusive Atmosphere
- Practical Tips for Organizing a Successful Homecoming

Understanding the Significance of Church Homecoming

Church homecoming is a cherished tradition that celebrates the enduring faith and fellowship of a congregation. It is an event that often marks an anniversary or a special milestone, inviting members to return to their spiritual home. The significance of church homecoming lies in its ability to reconnect people with their roots, reaffirm their beliefs, and strengthen the bonds within the church family. It serves as a reminder of the church's mission and legacy, encouraging both reflection and rejuvenation of faith.

Historical and Spiritual Importance

The tradition of church homecoming dates back many decades and has deep historical roots in many Christian communities. It symbolizes the return to a place of spiritual nourishment and community support. Spiritually, homecoming offers an opportunity for worship, prayer, and thanksgiving, reinforcing the congregation's shared commitment to their faith journey.

Community Engagement and Fellowship

Beyond its spiritual aspects, church homecoming is a vital social event that fosters fellowship among members. It allows for the celebration of achievements, the sharing of testimonies, and the renewal of friendships. This communal aspect is essential for promoting unity and encouraging active participation in church activities throughout the year.

Crafting an Effective Welcome Message

A well-crafted welcome message is crucial in setting a positive and inviting tone for church homecoming. It communicates warmth, gratitude, and anticipation, making attendees feel valued from the moment they arrive. The welcome message should reflect the church's identity and the significance of the homecoming event.

Elements of a Strong Welcome Message

An effective welcome message for church homecoming typically includes several key elements:

- **Warm Greeting:** Open with a heartfelt and inclusive greeting that acknowledges all attendees.
- **Purpose of the Event:** Briefly explain the significance of the homecoming celebration.
- **Gratitude:** Express thanks to those who have come, including special guests and returning members.
- **Encouragement:** Inspire attendees to participate fully and embrace the spirit of fellowship and worship.
- **Invitation:** Extend a welcoming hand to newcomers and visitors, encouraging them to feel at home.

Sample Welcome Phrases

Examples of welcoming phrases that resonate well during church homecoming include:

- "We are blessed to gather as one family in Christ to celebrate our church homecoming."
- "Welcome back to your spiritual home, where faith and fellowship unite us."
- "Thank you for joining us today as we honor our past and look forward to a future filled with hope."
- "Whether you are a longtime member or a first-time visitor, you are warmly welcomed here."

Welcoming Guests and Visitors

A key component of the church homecoming is the warm reception of guests and visitors. Making attendees feel welcomed encourages ongoing engagement and fosters a positive church image. This process involves intentional hospitality and thoughtful communication.

Greeting Teams and Hospitality Roles

Many churches establish dedicated greeting teams responsible for welcoming guests at entrances, providing information, and assisting with seating. These teams play a pivotal role in creating a welcoming environment. Hospitality roles may also include ushers, greeters, and information desk attendants who ensure guests feel comfortable and informed.

Personalized Touches to Enhance Welcome

Personalizing the welcome experience can significantly impact visitors' impressions. This can involve:

- Offering name tags to facilitate introductions.
- Providing welcome packets or brochures about the church's ministries and upcoming events.
- Inviting guests to post-service fellowship activities or refreshments.
- Assigning church members to connect with first-time visitors for follow-up and integration.

Creating a Warm and Inclusive Atmosphere

The atmosphere during a church homecoming should reflect the core values of hospitality, acceptance, and unity. Achieving this involves careful attention to the physical environment, program flow, and interpersonal interactions.

Decor and Environment

Thoughtful decor can enhance the feeling of welcome and celebration. Common elements include banners, floral arrangements, and displays highlighting church history and milestones. Comfortable seating arrangements and clear signage also contribute to a positive experience.

Inclusive Programming

Planning a program that includes diverse elements such as music, testimonies, and interactive segments helps engage attendees of all ages and backgrounds. Ensuring that the message and activities resonate with the entire congregation promotes inclusivity and shared purpose.

Encouraging Participation

Inviting attendees to participate in worship, prayer, and fellowship activities fosters a sense of belonging. Group prayers, choir performances, and communal meals are effective ways to unite the congregation and celebrate the homecoming spirit.

Practical Tips for Organizing a Successful Homecoming

Organizing a church homecoming requires detailed planning and coordination to ensure everything runs smoothly. The following tips assist church leaders and volunteers in creating a meaningful and memorable event.

Planning and Coordination

Establishing a planning committee well in advance is essential. Assigning clear roles and responsibilities helps maintain organization and accountability. Scheduling rehearsals and technical checks ensures program elements proceed without disruption.

Communication and Promotion

Effective communication is vital for encouraging attendance and participation. Utilize multiple channels such as bulletins, announcements, social media, and community outreach to promote the homecoming event. Clear messaging about the date, time, and activities helps maximize turnout.

Logistics and Amenities

Attention to logistical details enhances the comfort and convenience of attendees. Considerations include parking arrangements, accessibility, restroom facilities, and availability of refreshments. Providing clear directions and assistance reduces stress for guests and members alike.

Volunteer Engagement

Engaging volunteers in various capacities empowers the congregation and shares the workload. Volunteers can assist with greeting, ushering, setup, cleanup, and hospitality. Recognizing their efforts contributes to a positive community spirit.

Post-Event Follow-Up

Following up with attendees, especially visitors, helps sustain the connections made during homecoming. Sending thank-you notes, invitations to future events, and opportunities for involvement supports continued engagement and growth of the church community.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a church homecoming event?

A church homecoming is a special event where former members, friends, and current congregation gather to celebrate the history and fellowship of the church.

How can I welcome guests to a church homecoming?

You can welcome guests by warmly greeting them at the entrance, providing information about the event, and introducing them to other members to make them feel included.

What is a good welcome message for a church homecoming?

A good welcome message could be: 'Welcome home! We are so glad you could join us today to celebrate our church family and the wonderful journey we've shared together.'

Why is welcoming important during a church homecoming?

Welcoming is important because it helps attendees feel valued, fosters a sense of belonging, and encourages participation in the church community.

How can church members prepare to welcome attendees at a homecoming?

Members can prepare by being friendly, learning about the event schedule, volunteering to assist guests, and being ready to share information about the church's history and activities.

What role do hospitality teams play in church homecoming events?

Hospitality teams coordinate greetings, manage registration or check-in, provide refreshments, and ensure that all guests feel comfortable and welcomed.

Can a welcome speech enhance the church homecoming experience?

Yes, a heartfelt welcome speech can set a positive tone for the event, acknowledge the significance of the occasion, and inspire unity among attendees.

How can technology be used to welcome people during a church homecoming?

Technology can be used through digital welcome signs, live streaming for remote members, social media announcements, and interactive apps to engage and inform attendees.

Additional Resources

1. *Welcome Home: Embracing the Spirit of Church Homecoming*

This book explores the deep spiritual significance of church homecoming events. It provides practical guidance on how to create a warm and inviting atmosphere for returning members and newcomers alike. Readers will discover ways to celebrate faith, fellowship, and community through meaningful worship and activities.

2. *Gathered in Grace: A Guide to Church Homecoming Celebrations*

Gathered in Grace offers a comprehensive approach to planning and hosting memorable church homecomings. It highlights the importance of unity, gratitude, and renewal within the congregation. The book includes inspirational stories, service ideas, and tips for welcoming both longtime members and first-time visitors.

3. *Hearts United: The Joy of Church Homecoming*

Hearts United captures the joy and fellowship that church homecoming brings to a congregation. It emphasizes the value of reconnecting with one another and strengthening faith bonds. Through personal testimonies and devotional reflections, this book encourages churches to embrace homecoming as a time of spiritual renewal.

4. *Welcoming Arms: Hospitality and Homecoming in the Church*

This book delves into the biblical foundations of hospitality and its role in church homecoming events. It provides practical advice on creating a welcoming environment that reflects Christ's love. Readers will find strategies for engaging guests, fostering inclusivity, and building lasting relationships within the church family.

5. *Coming Home: Stories of Faith and Fellowship*

Coming Home is a collection of heartfelt stories from various church homecomings across different communities. These narratives highlight the transformative power of reunion and shared worship. The book inspires readers to appreciate the significance of coming together in faith and celebrating their spiritual journey.

6. *Home at Last: Celebrating Church Homecoming with Purpose*

Home at Last focuses on the intentional planning and meaningful celebration of church homecoming events. It encourages churches to reflect on their history while looking forward to future growth. The book includes worship service outlines, outreach ideas, and creative ways to honor returning members.

7. *The Welcome Table: Creating Community Through Church Homecoming*

This book emphasizes the role of communal meals and fellowship in fostering a sense of belonging during church homecoming. It offers practical tips for organizing welcome receptions, potlucks, and shared activities. The Welcome Table encourages churches to use food and fellowship as tools for spiritual connection and outreach.

8. *Homecoming Hymns: Music and Worship for Church Reunions*

Homecoming Hymns explores the power of music in enhancing the worship experience during church homecomings. It features hymn suggestions, worship service plans, and ideas for involving the congregation in joyful praise. This book helps churches create uplifting and memorable homecoming services through song.

9. *Open Doors: Inviting and Engaging Visitors at Church Homecoming*

Open Doors provides strategies for effectively welcoming visitors during homecoming celebrations. It covers greeting techniques, follow-up methods, and ways to integrate newcomers into the church community. This resource is ideal for church leaders and volunteers dedicated to extending Christ's love to all who attend.

Welcome For Church Homecoming

Welcome for Church Homecoming

Name: A Guide to Planning and Celebrating a Meaningful Church Homecoming

Outline:

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Chapter 2: Engaging Your Congregation: Communication Strategies, Volunteer Recruitment, and Fostering Excitement

Chapter 3: Homecoming Activities & Events: Ideas for Worship Services, Fellowship Gatherings, and Special Programs

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Conclusion: The Lasting Impact of a Successful Homecoming

A Guide to Planning and Celebrating a Meaningful Church Homecoming

Introduction: The Importance of Church Homecomings

A church homecoming is more than just a reunion; it's a powerful opportunity to strengthen bonds,

celebrate shared history, and reignite faith within the congregation. It's a time to welcome back former members, honor long-standing commitments, and reaffirm the church's role within the community. A well-planned homecoming can significantly boost morale, encourage fellowship, and inspire renewed dedication to the church's mission. This ebook serves as a comprehensive guide to help you plan and execute a memorable and impactful homecoming celebration.

Chapter 1: Planning Your Homecoming: Setting Goals, Forming Committees, Budgeting, and Logistics

The success of any homecoming hinges on meticulous planning. Begin by defining clear goals. What do you hope to achieve? Increased membership? Stronger community bonds? Renewed spiritual commitment? Once your goals are established, form committees to handle various aspects of the event. Consider committees for:

Program Planning: Responsible for the overall event schedule, including worship services, special programs, and activities.

Finance: Manages the budget, fundraising efforts, and expense tracking.

Logistics & Decorations: Handles venue setup, decorations, seating arrangements, and technical aspects.

Communications: Oversees invitations, announcements, website updates, and social media engagement.

Hospitality: Arranges meals, refreshments, and ensures a welcoming atmosphere for all guests.

Create a detailed budget, factoring in costs for venue rental (if applicable), decorations, food, entertainment, printing, and other expenses. Secure necessary permits and licenses if needed. Develop a timeline, assigning tasks and deadlines to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Chapter 2: Engaging Your Congregation: Communication Strategies, Volunteer Recruitment, and Fostering Excitement

Effective communication is crucial for generating excitement and participation. Utilize various channels to reach your congregation:

Church Website: Create a dedicated homecoming page with information about the event, schedule, and registration.

Social Media: Use platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to share updates, photos, and stories related to the homecoming.

Email Newsletters: Send regular email updates to keep members informed and engaged.

Announcements: Make regular announcements during church services and other gatherings.

Printed Materials: Design attractive flyers and posters to announce the event in the community.

Recruit volunteers early and often. Assign roles based on individual skills and interests. Express appreciation for their contributions and recognize their efforts throughout the planning process and during the event. Foster a sense of shared ownership and responsibility to ensure everyone feels involved and invested.

Chapter 3: Homecoming Activities & Events: Ideas for Worship Services, Fellowship Gatherings, and Special Programs

The heart of your homecoming lies in the activities and events you plan. Consider a variety of options to cater to different age groups and interests:

Worship Services: Plan a special worship service featuring inspiring music, meaningful sermons, and opportunities for prayer and reflection.

Fellowship Gatherings: Organize potlucks, picnics, or casual gatherings to encourage interaction and fellowship among members and former members.

Special Programs: Consider talent shows, historical displays, photo exhibits, or guest speakers to add variety and interest.

Children's Activities: Provide age-appropriate activities for children to keep them engaged and entertained.

Youth Programs: Create activities that cater specifically to the youth of your church community.

Historical Presentations: Showcase the church's history through photos, documents, and testimonials. Consider creating a timeline or video montage.

Chapter 4: Honoring History and Heritage: Showcasing Church History, Recognizing Long-Time Members, and Preserving Legacy

A homecoming is a perfect opportunity to celebrate your church's rich history and heritage. Showcase significant milestones, past achievements, and the contributions of long-time members. This can be done through:

Historical Displays: Create exhibits showcasing photographs, documents, and artifacts from your church's past.

Video Presentations: Compile a video montage featuring interviews with long-time members, historical footage, and church music.

Recognition Ceremony: Honor long-time members and volunteers for their dedication and service to the church.

Church History Book/Presentation: Compile a history of your church, documenting its journey, key moments, and impact on the community.

Chapter 5: Reaching Out to Former Members: Connecting with Past Attendees, Addressing Potential Concerns, and Building Bridges

Reconnect with former members by utilizing available databases, church directories, and social media to locate their contact information. Send personalized invitations and explain why their presence is valued. Address any potential concerns they might have about returning to the church, assuring them of a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.

Chapter 6: Post-Homecoming Follow-Up: Maintaining Momentum, Evaluating Success, and Planning for the Future

After the homecoming, don't let the momentum fade. Send thank-you notes to attendees and volunteers. Gather feedback through surveys or informal conversations to evaluate the success of the event and identify areas for improvement. Use this feedback to plan future events and maintain the positive energy generated by the homecoming.

Conclusion: The Lasting Impact of a Successful Homecoming

A well-executed church homecoming can have a lasting impact on your congregation and community. It provides an opportunity to strengthen bonds, renew commitment, and celebrate shared faith. By following the steps outlined in this ebook, you can plan and execute a meaningful homecoming that will leave a lasting positive impression for years to come.

FAQs:

1. How far in advance should I start planning a church homecoming? Ideally, 6-12 months is recommended to allow ample time for planning and execution.
2. How can I increase participation in the homecoming? Effective communication, engaging activities, and creating a welcoming atmosphere are key.
3. What if I don't have a large budget? Focus on cost-effective activities, recruit volunteers, and consider fundraising options.
4. How do I handle potential conflicts or disagreements among members? Establish clear communication channels and address concerns promptly and fairly.
5. How can I make the homecoming inclusive of all ages and abilities? Plan diverse activities to cater to different age groups and abilities.
6. How can I ensure the homecoming is spiritually enriching? Focus on prayer, worship, and meaningful fellowship opportunities.
7. How do I measure the success of the homecoming? Use surveys, feedback forms, and attendance figures to gauge the event's impact.
8. How can I maintain the momentum after the homecoming? Organize follow-up events, maintain communication, and encourage ongoing engagement.
9. What if I don't have many former members to reconnect with? Focus on strengthening current community bonds and making the event a celebration of your existing members.

Related Articles:

1. Building a Strong Church Community: Explores strategies for fostering fellowship and unity within the church.
2. Effective Church Communication Strategies: Details how to communicate effectively with your congregation using various methods.
3. Planning Church Events on a Budget: Offers tips for planning church events without breaking the bank.
4. Engaging Your Church's Youth: Provides ideas for involving and connecting with young people in church activities.
5. Welcoming New Members to Your Church: Offers guidance on integrating new members into the church community.
6. Volunteering in Church: A Guide for Volunteers: Details the importance of volunteers in church ministry and provides tips on managing them effectively.
7. Church History Preservation: Tips for Documenting Your Church's Past: Guides you on how to effectively preserve your church's historical documents and records.
8. Fundraising for Church Events and Ministries: Explains various fundraising techniques to support church activities.
9. Creating a Welcoming Atmosphere in Your Church: Discusses strategies to make your church feel

inclusive and welcoming to everyone.

welcome for church homecoming: Welcome Speeches and Responses for All Occasions

Abingdon, 1992-06 This book has been prepared as an aid to those who are asked to make welcome speeches or to respond to these speeches. Sample speeches and responses are provided for a variety of special occasions.

welcome for church homecoming: Welcome to a Reformed Church Daniel R. Hyde, 2010

Daniel Hyde traces the historical roots of the Reformed churches, their key beliefs, and the ways in which those beliefs are expressed. The result is a roadmap for those newly encountering the Reformed world and a primer for those seeking to know more about their Reformed heritage.

welcome for church homecoming: Welcome Speeches for Special Days Cheryl Kirk-Duggan,

2002 This useful resource incorporates recitations, suggested scripture, prayers, poetry, speeches, and responses for celebrating a variety of special days in the African American church. Perfect as a worship planning tool for pastors and worship leaders, *Welcome Speeches for Special Days* is ideal for celebrating those special Sundays that congregations highlight throughout the year.

welcome for church homecoming: *Unto the Hills* Billy Graham, 2010-12-27

No matter your place in life, this inspiring collection of 365 devotional readings is designed to bring you daily to a special place of renewal—to help you pause and gaze unto the hills for help and inspiration. Each of the 365 daily readings in this inspiring collection was distilled from a lifetime of study and ministry. This devotional supplies daily food for thought about living fruitfully and joyfully in an often-fretful world. Every day of the year, you can join our nation's most beloved spiritual leader for a moment of quiet and reflection through: A carefully chosen passage of scripture A brief, thoughtful message from Billy Graham A heartfelt prayer composed especially for this devotional Simple, direct, encouraging yet challenging, this book will be a heartening companion for your daily walk in the valley. This collection is a gentle but constant reminder that we can find help for all our needs as long as we remember to look up . . . unto the hills, but especially unto the Lord, the One who can always help.

welcome for church homecoming: *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church Year B*

Wilda C. Gafney, 2023-07-18 The next installment in the critically acclaimed lectionary series that focuses on women's stories. In this second volume of the three-volume *Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church*, widely praised womanist bible scholar and priest Wil Gafney selects scripture readings that emphasize women's stories. Focusing especially on the Gospel of Mark, Year B of A *Women's Lectionary* features Gafney's fresh, inclusive, and thought-provoking translations of every reading, alongside commentary on each reading. Designed for liturgical use or scriptural study, this resource offers a new perspective on the Bible and the liturgical year. "Gafney's paradigm-shifting scholarship will influence biblical preaching and teaching for generations to come. —National Catholic Reporter

welcome for church homecoming: *The United Church of Christ in the Shenandoah*

Valley H. B. Cavalcanti, 2010-08-20 While congregational studies have expanded our understanding of American religion, little is known about the local practices of a single denomination at its smallest jurisdiction. This book explores how national denominational commitments are affecting the practices of local United Church of Christ congregations inside a single association in the Shenandoah Valley. Nationally, the UCC defines itself as a united and uniting church in its ecumenical work; as multiracial and multicultural in its diversity; as accessible to all in welcoming those with disabilities; as open and affirming for its LGBT members; and as a just peace church in its support of social justice. So, how fully have local congregations embraced these commitments? Might congregations be more attached to their older identities, particularly in areas where the church's predecessors were strongly rooted? Or are the national church's commitments being lived out at the grassroots level? The book measures congregational life in one of the UCC's oldest and smallest associations. Books on congregational studies either focus on a case study of a particular

congregation, or large-scale surveys of U.S. congregations that explore aggregate data to explain their work. This book looks instead at a group of local congregations inside a small judicatory (the Shenandoah Association) of the United Church of Christ to explain religious life at the grassroots level.

welcome for church homecoming: Reflections on a Christian Life Gerald D Kalb, 2008-06
Jerry Kalb grew up on a farm near Bucyrus, Ohio, in rural Crawford County. Although his lack of affinity for all things agricultural led him away from the farm, his rural upbringing influenced his down-to-earth, informal approach to ministry. Part 1 of this book offers condensed nuggets of sermons preached over a two- to three-year period at the Painesville United Methodist Church, where Rev. Kalb has pastored during the past two decades. In part 2 readers will find some of his One Minute Messages broadcast daily over local radio station WKKY FM 104.7. Topics range from a personal relationship with God to family life, the fellowship of believers, and outreach in the greater community. Rev. Kalb's style is conversational and accessible, sprinkled with humor and everyday anecdotes. His positive, inspirational thoughts point to a God who is above all loving and forgiving and who welcomes all people. He has often told the congregation, If you only remember one thing I've ever said, always remember that God loves you.

welcome for church homecoming: Michigan Christian Advocate , 1919

welcome for church homecoming: A Sort of Homecoming Marcia Boniferro, Amanda Jagt, Andrew Stephens-Rennie, 2020-08-04 We live in a culture of collective fear over climate change and mass migration, and we experience increasing intense personal anxiety and despair. How might the Bible's themes of homecoming and homemaking address our physical, emotional, and spiritual displacement? This collection of essays honors the academic and community work of Brian J. Walsh upon his retirement as Campus Minister at the University of Toronto Christian Reformed Campus Ministry. The collection is a stunning mosaic at once academic and personal--representing the many elements of Brian's life as pastor, theologian, professor, farmer, mentor, and friend. In an age when home feels physically and spiritually elusive for so many, this volume reawakens our imaginations to the foundational biblical themes of homecoming and homemaking. Academic, pastoral, personal, and timely, this volume honors Brian's career and equips readers to engage the fear and anxiety of our age with the hope of the gospel.

welcome for church homecoming: Welcoming Each Wonder Tom Gordon, 2011-07-07 A second book of stories for every week of the Christian year, and a few more besides. Relates to lectionary cycle A. Tom Gordon's stories are a product of his awareness of the issues of our current age. As a consequence, what he offers are truly contemporary parables, drawing our attention to facets of our modern living and pointing us to lessons and truths that have universal relevance.

welcome for church homecoming: Homecoming John Bradshaw, 2013-04-24 In this powerful book, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of Reclaiming Virtue shows how we can learn to nurture our inner child and offer ourselves the good parenting we needed and longed for. Are you outwardly successful but inwardly feel like a big kid? Do you aspire to be a loving parent but too often "lose it" in hurtful ways? Do you crave intimacy but sometimes wonder if it's worth the struggle? Are you plagued by constant, vague feelings of anxiety or depression? If any of this sounds familiar, you may be experiencing the hidden but damaging effects of a painful childhood—carrying within you a “wounded inner child” who is crying out for attention and healing. John Bradshaw’s step-by-step process of exploring the unfinished business of each developmental stage helps us break away from destructive family rules and roles, freeing ourselves to live responsibly in the present. Then, says Bradshaw, the healed inner child becomes a source of vitality, inviting us to find new joy and energy in living. Homecoming includes a wealth of unique case histories and interactive techniques, including questionnaires, guided meditations, affirmations, and letter-writing to the inner child. These classic therapies, which were pioneering when introduced, continue to be validated by new discoveries in attachment research and neuroscience. No one has ever brought them to a popular audience more effectively and inspiringly than John Bradshaw.

welcome for church homecoming: Making Tracks for Jesus P. A. Cooks, 2008-02-19

Making Tracks for Jesus is a completely, integrated, inspirational-centered approach to releasing the God given potential trapped within you. If you have been frustrated by your dreams, ideas and visions, this book will activate your hidden treasures and ignite the wheels of your spiritual productivity. It will release a path to personal fulfillment, purpose and efficiency. This book imposes an array of thoughts that inspires one to be close to family and loved ones. It is a compilation of short stories and poems about life's tribulation. Furthermore, this book contains salutations, addresses for special occasions, annual days, spirited welcomes and responses with general presentations and introductions. A 'must have' for ministers, leaders, church workers, libraries, speakers, and followers of Christ. This author has written this book from his past experiences and involvements with a consortium of churches from Louisiana to California. These inspirational works can be useful to those who never tire in kingdom building to bring forward God's work.

welcome for church homecoming: A Real Southern Cook Dora Charles, 2015-09-08 "A beautiful read, a vital illustration of Southern foodways, and an important addition to the canon of great American cookbooks."—Matt Lee and Ted Lee, authors of *The Lee Bros. Charleston Kitchen* Hundreds of thousands of people have made a trip to dine on the exceptional food cooked by Dora Charles at Savannah's most famous restaurant. Now, the woman who was barraged by editors and agents to tell her story invites us into her home to taste the food she loves best. These are the intensely satisfying dishes at the heart of Dora's beloved Savannah: Shrimp and Rice; Simple Smoky Okra; Buttermilk Cornbread from her grandmother; and of course, a truly incomparable Fried Chicken. Each dish has a "secret ingredient" for a burst of flavor: mayonnaise in the biscuits; Savannah Seasoning in her Gone to Glory Potato Salad; sugar-glazed bacon in her deviled eggs. All the cornerstones of the Southern table are here, from Out-of-This-World Smothered Catfish to desserts like a jaw-dropping Very Red Velvet Cake. With moving dignity, Dora describes her motherless upbringing in Savannah, the hard life of her family, whose memories stretched back to slave times, learning to cook at age six, and the years she worked at the restaurant. "Talking About" boxes impart Dora's cooking wisdom, and evocative photos of Savannah and the Low Country set the scene. "Dora Charles's take on classic Southern recipes is approachable and creative, and her moment in the spotlight is long overdue."—Eater "Even just reading the names of recipes in Savannah chef Dora Charles' debut cookbook is making us wild with hunger—Buttermilk cornbread? Fried chicken? Very red velvet cake? We're not sure we can wait . . ."—People

welcome for church homecoming: ...As He Was Known Aletha V. Smithson, 2007-04 In today's competitive book market, publishing your book is just the beginning. As a newly published author, it's time to tell the world about your book, share your creation, and drive sales. If that prospect scares you, don't let it! You don't have to be a marketing expert to create, manage, and execute an effective marketing campaign. *Your Voice in Demand: The AuthorHouse Guide to Marketing and Promoting Your Book* provides the background and advice you'll need to effectively support your marketing and sales goals. With this handy reference from the marketing and promotions team at AuthorHouse, you'll learn how to: Create a marketing and promotion plan Use the web as a marketing and sales tool Employ public relations to generate interest Set up book signings and author tours Take advantage of conferences and shows Apply direct marketing techniques Leverage advertising as a tool Establish a retail sales program Become a guerilla marketer.

welcome for church homecoming: Sapelo Island's Hog Hammock Michele Nicole Johnson, 2009 Hog Hammock, located on Georgia's Sapelo Island, is only accessible by ferry or private boat. It is one of the last island-based Gullah-Geechee communities in America--a living connection to West African languages, folkways, and spiritual traditions. With its dirt roads and tin-roofed houses, Hog Hammock is the site of a social hall, two historic Baptist churches, and a former schoolhouse, all built by descendants of slaves. The nearby Behavior Cemetery has burial sites that date back 200 years. Much has been written about the people of Hog Hammock and Sapelo Island, mostly documenting their lives as slaves and then as landowning free people working for millionaires who

reshaped Sapelo Island into their own personal retreats. But there is another part of the island's story, one filled with entrepreneurs, skilled craftsmen, and community leaders, that is told here in *Images of America: Sapelo Island's Hog Hammock*.

welcome for church homecoming: *The Letter to the Philippians* G. Walter Hansen, 2009-10-05 In this commentary G. Walter Hansen offers rich exposition of the text of Philippians as well as wisdom and maturity in its application. In so doing he emphasizes partnership--the social and corporate dimensions of community--in the progress of the gospel. After a select bibliography, Hansen's introduction sets forth the historical setting of the church in Philippi, the nature and occasion of the letter, and a preview of two key themes--the gospel of Christ and the community in Christ. The commentary itself discusses Philippians in light of these themes, considering Paul's greetings, reports of gospel ministry, imperatives for citizens worthy of the gospel, recommendations of two Christ-like servants, and disclosures of his personal experience. Hansen's treatment as a whole is distinctive for the way it draws out and highlights the themes of partnership, citizenship, and friendship in Paul's Philippian letter. With themes and emotions so varied, the letter to the Philippians needs a commentator with a sure grasp and a warm heart. . . . Hansen writes with admirable clarity and simplicity, even when he is unpacking notoriously complex matters. -- D. A. Carson (from the preface)

welcome for church homecoming: *The One Purpose of God* Jan Bonda, 1998 This is a print on demand book and is therefore non- returnable. Throughout the centuries the church has taught that the vast majority of humankind will suffer eternal punishment. But is this teaching truly biblical? In this provocative book Jan Bonda scrutinizes church tradition and Scripture -- especially Paul's letter to the Romans -- and concludes that neither Paul nor the prophets to whom he appeals show any trace of supporting the doctrine of eternal damnation. On the contrary, they tell us that God wants to save all people and that he will not rest until that goal has been achieved.

welcome for church homecoming: *The Living Church* , 1980-07

welcome for church homecoming: *Open Doors and Closed Windows of the First Baptist Church of Reidsville, North Carolina* , 1948

welcome for church homecoming: *The Sunday Service of the Methodists in North America* John Wesley, 1787-01-31 A careful student of church liturgies, John Wesley created this book for use in the Methodist churches of North America in order that the young movement would have access to reliable liturgy. This book is, in its own sense, a masterpiece of solid doctrine, Wesleyan inspiration, and liturgical practice. The Sunday Service of Methodists in North America has been available as a reprint of the original book for many years. However, this edition does what others have not done until now: Rather than photocopying the pages of the original book, we have painstakingly typed each word and character to match the original text, and formatted the book for contemporary usage (included an updated and easily readable font), while maintaining Wesley's own language, spelling, and grammar.

welcome for church homecoming: *We Have Been Believers* James H. Evans, 1992 In this, the first full-scale black systematic theology in twenty years, James Evans emerges as a major and distinctive voice in American theology. Seeking to overcome the chasm between church practice and theological reflection, Evans situates theology squarely in the nexus of faith with freedom. There, with a sure touch, he uplifts revelatory aspects of black religious experience that reanimate classical areas of theology, and he creates a theology with a heart, a soul and a voice that speaks directly to our condition.

welcome for church homecoming: *The Turquoise Table* Kristin Schell, 2017-06-06 Loneliness is an epidemic right now, but it doesn't have to be that way. The Turquoise Table is Kristin Schell's invitation to you to connect with your neighbors and build friendships. Featured in *Southern Living*, *Good Housekeeping*, and the *TODAY Show*, Kristin introduces a new way to look at hospitality. Desperate for a way to slow down and connect, Kristin put an ordinary picnic table in her front yard, painted it turquoise, and began inviting friends and neighbors to join her. Life changed in her community, and it can change in yours too. Alongside personal and heartwarming stories, Kristin

gives you: Stress-free ideas for kick-starting your own Turquoise Table Simple recipes to take outside and share with others Stories from people using Turquoise Tables in their neighborhoods Encouragement to overcome barriers that keep you from connecting This gorgeous book, with vibrant photography, invites you to make a difference right where you live. The beautiful design makes it ideal to give to a friend or to keep for yourself. Community and friendship are waiting just outside your front door.

welcome for church homecoming: The Life and Legacy of Rev. Dr. Ronald Winters Dr. Janice L. Winters, 2024-09-11 Dr. Janice Lewis Winters is a native of Alexandria, Virginia, where she became a baptized believer of Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior at age eight at Oakland Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, under the pastorate of the late Reverend Luther H. Mills. She graduated from Parker-Gray High School in Alexandria, Virginia, as valedictorian in June 1956. She received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education (with distinction) from Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia, in May 1960 and was selected as Miss Virginia State (1959-1960). She pursued graduate studies in speech pathology at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois (1962-1965), and special education at the University of Virginia Northern Virginia Extension (1970-1972). She completed the requirements for the master of education degree in May 1973 and the PhD in education degree in May 2000 at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. The Southern Regional Education Board selected Dr. Winters as a Dissertation Year Fellowship Recipient for 1999-2000. Dr. Winters's teaching career spans over four decades and has included teaching at the elementary school level as well as the college level. She taught regular education students in Arlington, Virginia, and students with learning disabilities in the Fairfax County Public Schools for thirty-two years. In 1994, she retired from public schoolteaching and became employed part-time as an adjunct instructor and university supervisor of student interns at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. During the fall 2000 and summer 2001 semesters, she was a guest lecturer and adjunct instructor at the George Washington University's Graduate School of Education and Human Development, Department of Teacher Preparation and Special Education in Washington, DC. From the fall of 2001 to the spring of 2004, Dr. Winters was an assistant professor at George Mason University in the Graduate School of Education in the field of special education. She retired from George Mason University in 2004 after ten years of successful teaching at the college level. Dr. Winters is active in numerous religious and community service organizations. She is a member of Resurrection Baptist Church in Reston, Virginia, where her late husband, Rev. Dr. Ronald Winters, was the organizer and pastor emeritus. She served at Resurrection Baptist Church as a deaconess and director of Christian education for twenty years. Dr. Winters has been an active member of the Northern Virginia Baptist Association since her childhood and throughout adulthood. She was elected as the first coordinator for the Young People's Department of the Northern Virginia Baptist Association and was instrumental in revising the Young People's Department bylaws in 1978. She is a UFE Member of the Women's Ministry of the Northern Virginia Baptist Association. She has served for a number of years as an instructor, assistant dean, and commission on education cochair for the Northern Virginia Baptist Association. In 2017, Dr. Winters was certified as a dean by the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. In August 2019, she was elected as the dean and chair of the Commission on Education of the Northern Virginia Baptist Association, Inc. In addition to teaching courses for the Northern Virginia Baptist Association, she has been an instructor for the Baptist General Convention of Virginia and the Progressive National Baptist Convention. Dr. Winters is the past president of the Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows Fellowship of Northern Virginia and Vicinity (served 2009-2013) and the past dean of education for the Virginia Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows (served 2012-2016). Further, she has previously served as the District 2 Missionary Chairperson for Area D of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia, Division of Women. Dr. Winters is a charter member of the Lambda Kappa Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Dulles Section of the National Council of Negro Women. She is a subscribing Silver Life Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Further, Dr. Winters served four years (1998 to 2001) as the Fairfax Representative and At-Large

Member of the Northern Virginia Community College Board and two years as the At-large Member of the Board of Directors of the George Mason University Alumni Association. In May 2008, Dr. Winters received the Making a Difference Award from Phi Delta Kappa International for organizing an Academic Support and Achievement Program (ASAP) at South Lakes High School in Reston, VA. In May 2009, Dr. Winters received the Fairfax Education Association Human and Civil Rights Award and was recognized in the Congressional Record for her work with the Academic Support and Achievement Program, whose goals included improving student achievement through tutoring, mentoring, and parental involvement. Dr. Winters was married to the late Reverend Dr. Ronald Winters for fifty-four years. They have two adult children, Ronald Winters Jr. and Christy Winters Scott, and they have four grandchildren: Sferra Raquel Winters, daughter of their son Ronald Winters Jr.; and Jerome Andrew Scott Jr.; Brianna Elizabeth Scott; and Jordan Alexander Scott (children of their daughter, Christy and her husband, Jerome Andrew Scott Sr.).

welcome for church homecoming: More African American Special Days Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, 2010-12-01 By blending the traditional elements of the worship service with African American culture, Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan once again provides a practical resource for planning more of the special Sundays that congregations celebrate throughout the year. More African American Special Days contains fifteen services for special occasions, including: Pastor's Day, Men's Day, Women's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Kwanzaa, M.L. King, Jr. Day, Watch Night, Usher's Day, Homecoming/Family Reunion, Deacon's/Steward's Day, Deaconess/Stewardess Day, Youth Rite of Passage, Board of Christian Education, and Women's Missionary Society Day.

welcome for church homecoming: Understanding the Church: God's Alternative Society Dr. Frankie O. Phillips Sr., 2013-10-22 This book was not written; it was built. I was not the architect, but a laborer under the direction of the Holy Spirit whose purpose is to honor the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not intended for casual reading, but to inspire further study of the Word. It is my hope and prayer that readers will be inspired to build upon the concept of the church as God's alternative society. It is my hope that many sermons will grow out of what the Holy Spirit has given me to put in this book. It is my hope that it will lead to study of the Word, which reveals Jesus Christ who said, I will build my church.

welcome for church homecoming: Radical Welcome Stephanie Spellers, 2021-11-16 For the fifteenth anniversary of its publication, this revised edition features a new introduction from the author on the state of the church and its "radical welcome" today, along with new reflections on how it continues to reshape the church. This book is at once a theological, inspirational, and practical guide for congregations that want to move beyond diversity and inclusion to present a vision for the church of the future: one where the gifts, voices, and power of marginalized groups bring new life to the mainline church. Based on two years of work and over 200 interviews with people in congregations all around the United States—in urban, suburban, and rural settings—it asks the question: How do we face our fears and welcome transformation in order to become God's radically welcoming people? Each chapter introduces a particular congregation and the challenges it faced, and lays out the theological underpinnings of tackling fears head-on to embrace change as a welcome part of community life. This new edition features essays from Michael B. Curry, Mark Bozzuti-Jones, Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, and Mark Richardson.

welcome for church homecoming: *Beyond the Children's Corner* Margaret Pritchard Houston, 2020-09-30 *Beyond the Children's Corner* is a practical handbook to help churches become more welcoming to children and families in worship. It encourages PCCs and ministry teams to reflect on the spiritual needs of children, the pastoral needs of families, and how to remove barriers and manage change effectively. Based on multiple training sessions and extensive casework, informed by research by the Church of England's Life Events team and the Methodist Church, it explores: • The changing needs of modern families; • What tells you it's time for change; • 'Quick wins' to make the worship space more welcoming and spiritually imaginative; • Engaging children in spiritually nourishing worship; • Children and contemplative worship – what to do about noise; • Building and sustaining relationships with families and children. Many books on All-Age Worship

focus the service itself. Beyond the Children's Corner explores how children and adults can be truly integrated as the church community, covering parents' perspectives, the church building and the challenge of change as well as what happens in worship.

welcome for church homecoming: At the Altar: Books 11-20 Kirsten Osbourne, 2024-09-19
Wooring in Wyoming: Erin Krol contacts Matchrimony's owner, Dr. Lachele Simpson, in hopes of finding love and starting a family. She is matched with a chocolate maker and plans a honeymoon in Switzerland to tour chocolate factories. Al Frank, who values work over love, also wants children. When he meets Erin, he realizes he may have met his match. Anxious in Atlanta: Jean Winters is a hard-working stock broker, but she realizes life is passing her by. After attending her college roommate's wedding and seeing the success of Matchrimony, she decides to use their services to find a husband without the hassle of dating. Dillon Jeffries has worked hard to create his business, but is surprised when he learns he must get married within three months to receive his inheritance. Anchored in Alaska: Beverly Snow's life changed drastically after a car accident at eighteen. She cared for her quadriplegic mother for twenty years, but now she's lost and grieving after her passing. An arranged marriage to a stranger in Alaska adds to her confusion. Colin Geller is a park ranger who never wanted children, but when he meets Beverly, he feels like his dreams have come true. Sweethearts in South Dakota: Willa Griffin has always known she'd inherit her grandfather's ranch. When he dies and his will requires her to marry within a month to keep it, she hires a matchmaker. Ryder Pearce, bored with retirement, agrees to the arranged marriage. When they meet, they're unsure how they'll make it work, but their attraction is strong. Treasured in Tennessee: Emily Murphy discovers she is inheriting a nephew and can't handle him alone. She contacts Dr. Lachele from Matchrimony in hopes of finding a husband fast. Brodie Callahan, who witnessed his employer's successful match through the same service, decides to try it for himself. They move to a horse farm in Tennessee with Emily's nephew and face challenges while trying to make their marriage work. Nesting in North Carolina: Becca Jones is a shy twenty-nine year old who feels like an old maid. A friend suggests she call Dr. Lachele at Matchrimony, and she agrees in hopes of making changes in her life. Archer Hayes is tired of his mother setting him up with young debutantes and wants someone with substance who can handle his difficult family. After contacting Dr. Lachele, he meets Becca and knows the matchmaker did a great job. Always in Albuquerque: After achieving all her goals, Alexis Casey wants to settle down and start a family. She turns to her mentor, Dr. Lachele Simpson, who promises to find her a match at the altar. Dirk Blanton, a serious researcher looking for love, also seeks help from a company. Maybe in Moab: Sydney Harris is hooked on mail-order bride romances. She can't wait to read the books and watch the couples' love stories unfold. When she gets the chance to have her own modern-day version, she jumps at it. Her only request: her new husband has to come to her since she's a national park ranger who can't relocate. Jackson Pine lost his true love two years ago in a hit-and-run accident. He never expects to find love again, until he meets a quirky matchmaker who convinces him to give it a try. Charmed in Charleston: Single mom Emma calls Dr. Lachele at Matchrimony, agreeing to marry a man she's never met at the altar. Wealthy Beau needs a wife and finds Emma immediately attractive. Matched in Minnesota: After her fiancé's infidelity, Marissa seeks a drastic change and turns to Matchrimony for a sight-unseen marriage. On the other hand, Dr. Aaron Christiansen, a professor in Minnesota, uses the service to find a wife in hopes of achieving tenure without distractions.

welcome for church homecoming: **HMS Gloucester** Ken Otter, 2017-05-30 On 22 May 1941 the cruiser HMS Gloucester (The Fighting 'G') was sunk by aircraft of the Luftwaffe during the Battle of Crete. Of her crew of 807 men, only 83 survived to come home at the end of the War in 1945. It is unknown how many men went down with the ship and how many died in the sea clinging to rafts and flotsam during the many hours before the survivors were finally rescued by boats searching for German soldiers who were victims of a previous British naval attack. The fact that Allied destroyers were in the proximity and were not sent to the rescue was a result of poor naval communications and indecision by the local fleet commanders. Gloucester had been low on anti-aircraft ammunition and her crew exhausted before being dispatched from the main fleet to

search for the stricken destroyer HMS Greyhound. With only HMS Fiji as company, she came under attack from German bombers and when Gloucester's ammunition was finally exhausted she suffered several direct hits and was set ablaze from stem to stern and left out of control. This book looks at the ship's history and operational successes from her launching in 1937 to her final demise. It includes many firsthand accounts from the surviving crew and the author's painstaking research has revealed the awful truth about one of the Royal Navy's greatest disasters during World War Two.

welcome for church homecoming: Creating a Prodigal-Friendly Church Jeff Lucas, 2009-05-26 Most of us have prodigals in our lives, whether a child, brother, sister, husband, wife, or friend. The ache for these dear ones is like no other. They may hurt us and disappoint us, but somehow we cannot stop loving them. And yet we cannot live their lives for them. The Prodigal-Friendly Church looks at why people leave the church, how we can retain them, how we can reach those who have already gone, and how we can help those who return feel like they belong. Jeff Lucas offers no easy recipes for success, but plenty of truth telling, hope, and encouragement. This book discusses the principles of: • Reach: How do we reach those who've already left the church? • Return: How do we help people return to the church? • Retain: How do we retain the people we've worked so hard to reach? Ultimately we are called to bring our prodigals to the cross of Christ, for there we find the mingling of our own utter helplessness and God's total power to intervene and save. When the Father's house is filled with the Father's love, there is hope that the prodigals will come home.

welcome for church homecoming: Folding Chairs on the Sand Sue Harford Ferdig Allerton, 2023-08-01 Little did Cliff Henderson know when he launched his idea to develop the 'Sand Hole,' Coachella Valley, into the upscale city of Palm Desert the revelations that lay before him. His endeavor led him to 'discover' a small group of faithful bible readers on his newly purchased land. Joining them, the group grew to become the church of General Eisenhower and his wife, Mamie. The history of the early church begins with folding chairs on the desert sand under the blue sky to a magnificent church building that seats more than a thousand people. The city of Palm Desert that Cliff developed became everything he had hoped as the 'smartest address in the desert.' Movie stars and captains of industry bought property to build their vacation and retirement homes designed by some of the finest architects of desert homes. The Palm Desert shopping district, El Paseo, favorably competed with upscale shopping districts of New York and Hollywood. Soon magnificent resorts with 18-hole golf courses went in along with golfing fundraisers that started with the words, Bob Hope Classics. With the development of Palm Desert, neighboring areas developed as well, all upscale and host to many different sports, such as tennis, swimming, golfing, bicycling, and triathlons.

welcome for church homecoming: The Christian Advocate , 1900

welcome for church homecoming: Precious Pilgrim, You've Got Mail Lucy Dunn Blount, Mary Barwick, 2014-09-15 I believe with every fiber of my being that our Lord Jesus Christ is aware and does care. Divorce, loneliness, remarriage, joy, widowhood, grief, marriage once more Lucy Dunn Blount experienced all of those within a five-year period of her life. In Precious Pilgrim, You've Got Mail, she shares with honesty and imagination the truths from God she learned through her struggles and also through everyday delights and trials. The reason for my writing is to encourage, Lucy says. She offers readers, fellow precious pilgrims, the chance to discover real faith and hope and love in her story. Take a look at many resources, letters and podcasts on Lucy's website: <http://livingtreasure.org/> Click here to see Lucy's other book: <http://bookstore.authorhouse.com/Products/SKU-000623499/I-Love-You-Greater-than-Space.aspx>

welcome for church homecoming: Feasting on the Word Worship Companion Kimberly Bracken Long, 2013-09-02 Based on the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 is an invaluable aid that provides liturgical pieces needed in preparing for worship each week. Written and compiled by a team of eleven ecumenical and seasoned liturgy writers under the creative leadership of Kimberly Bracken Long, this resource offers a multitude of poetic prayers and responsive readings for all parts of worship

and is meant to complement existing denominational resources. In addition, the weekly entries include questions for reflection and household prayers for morning and evening that are drawn from the lectionary, allowing churches to include them in their bulletin for parishioners to use throughout the week. During times of the year when two different tracks of Old Testament texts are offered by the RCL, this resource offers an entire set of materials for each track. A CD-ROM is also included with each volume that enables planners to easily cut and paste relevant readings, prayers, and questions into worship bulletins. Liturgy Writers include: Kimberly L. Clayton, Director of Contextual Education, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) David Gambrell, Associate for Worship in the Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Louisville, Kentucky; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Daniel M. Geslin, Pastor, Sixth Avenue United Church of Christ, Denver, Colorado; United Church of Christ Kimberly Bracken Long, Assistant Professor of Worship, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) L. Edward Phillips, Associate Professor of Worship and Liturgical Theology, Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, Georgia; United Methodist Church Melinda Quivik, Liturgical Scholar, Houghton, Michigan; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Carol L. Wade, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, Kentucky; Episcopal Church

welcome for church homecoming: Speaking at a Moment's Notice Edith Coleman, 2008-02 Includes practical greetings and poems to be used in speeches for special occasions.

welcome for church homecoming: *Rock Beneath the Sand* Lois E. Myers, Rebecca Sharpless, 2003 Given in memory of Jameson Garrett Brown by the Rotary Club of Aggie land with matching support from the Sara and John H. Lindsey '44 Fund.

welcome for church homecoming: Congressional Record United States. Congress, 1962

welcome for church homecoming: Father Tim's Church Survival Guide Tim Schenck, 2015 "If you have little tolerance for ecclesiastical blowhards; if you've ever fantasized about implementing a clergy rating system (CRS); if you've ever sought tips on surviving diocesan convention; if you've ever tried to weasel your way out of pledging; then this book is for you," says author Tim Schenck. "My take on church life isn't for everyone—clergy who take themselves too seriously will hate it. But know that it all comes out of a place of deep love for God and the Church. There are inevitably things that drive us nuts about such an imperfect (i.e., human) institution. Yet if we can't observe and comment on our own foibles we're left without much hope. And anyway if God doesn't have a sense of humor, I'm hosed."

welcome for church homecoming: International Journal of Religious Education, 1958

welcome for church homecoming: The Unstuck Church Tony Morgan, 2017-05-16 Acclaimed church leader, blogger, founder and chief strategic officer of The Unstuck Group, Tony Morgan unpacks the lifecycle of a typical church, identifies characteristics of each phase, and provides practical next steps a church can take to move towards sustained health. Think about your church for a moment. Is it growing? Is it diminishing? Is it somewhere in between? Acclaimed church leader, blogger, and founder and chief strategic officer of The Unstuck Group, Tony Morgan has identified the seven stages of a church's lifecycle that range from the hopeful and optimistic days of launch, to the stagnating last stages of life support. Regardless of the stage in which you find your church, it carries with it the world's greatest mission—to go and make disciples of all the nations . . . With eternity at stake the Church should be doing most everything within its power to see lives changed forever. The Church should strive for the pinnacle of the lifecycle, where they are continually making new disciples and experiencing what Morgan refers to as sustained health. In *The Unstuck Church*, Morgan unpacks each phase of the church lifecycle, and offers specific and strategic next steps the church leader can take to find it's way to sustained health . . . and finally become unstuck. *The Unstuck Church* is a call for honest an assessment of where your church sits on the lifecycle, and a challenge to move beyond it.

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