

Barrett's Bits

January 17, 2010

Making and keeping commitments may sound good in theory, but the doing of it is another matter. The truth of that statement is often lived out in what I might call commitment phobia. We avoid making commitments because we are reluctant to keep them.

Membership in our congregation is a commitment. It is a pledge to keep our commitment through praying for our ministries, being present as often as possible when our community gathers, giving a portion of our income for the work of the Lord in this place, serving St. Mark and our world through the spiritual gifts and talents given to us by God, and witnessing through word and action to the faith we have in Christ Jesus. Now that is a serious and often heavy commitment. It should not be entered into lightly or without prayerful consideration.

But there is a joyful side of commitment. To be committed is to enter enthusiastically into an activity that has powerful meaning. Our lives take on significance by the commitments we make. We will have a positive impact on our families, neighbors, coworkers, community, and world by devoting ourselves to the work of Christ through His church. For all its frailties and failures, for all its shortsightedness and mean-spiritedness, for all its judgmental attitudes and self-righteousness, the church is still the people of Christ called to be Christ for others until he returns. Being a part of such a congregation is a source of joy, inner peace, and avenue of service that cannot be found anywhere else.

To help in making and keeping this vital commitment, we, at St. Mark, offer a class for newcomers—especially those interested in making the membership covenant with our church. We call this four-week class, "**What? What? Who? Where?**" Each week Jason and I address a question important to our commitment: What is our mission? What do we believe? Who do we need to know to become active in St. Mark's ministries? Where do we go from here as new members? This class will be offered during the Sunday School hour (10:00-10:45 a.m.) on Sundays, February 7, 14, 21, and 28 in the Social Hall of the main campus. Those completing this class will be invited to join our church on New Members Sunday, March 7.

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To register please sign up on the sheets in the narthex of the main sanctuary or in the welcome center of the Rivers Street campus. You may also call the church office (229-5416) or email me (barrett@embarqmail.com) or Jason (broken51172003@yahoo.com).

Barrett