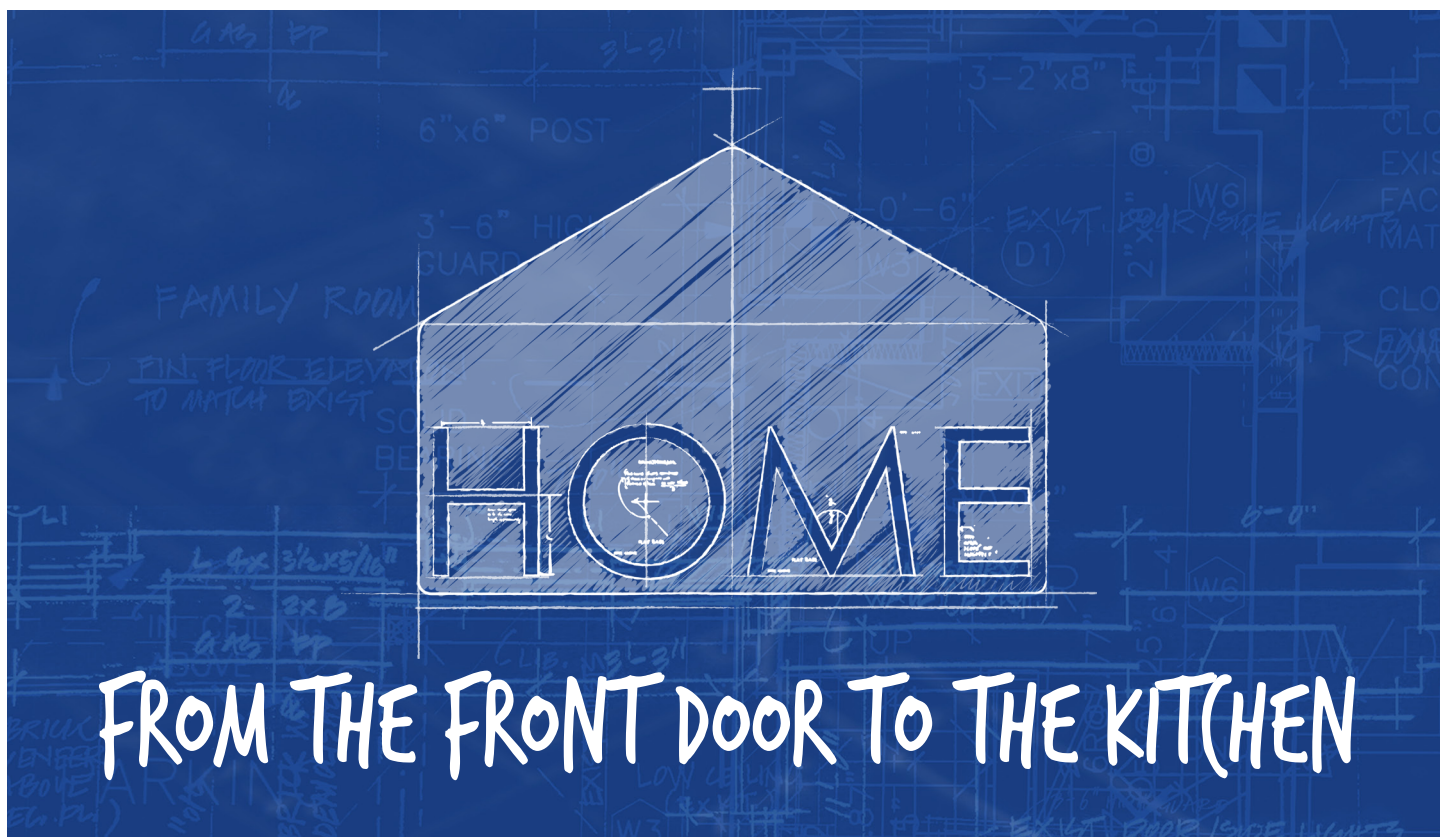


FROM THE FRONT DOOR TO THE KITCHEN

Mike Orr, The Episcopal Church in Colorado  
Mike@EpiscopalColorado.org





## AN OVERVIEW

*Home: From the Front Door to the Kitchen* is a paradigm shift, a metaphor for the invitation and connection we know in our own families. It is how we connect with each other as neighbors. It's how it can start with a conversation on a soccer field or at a neighborhood meeting and culminate in friendship—especially when invitations to dinner are extended. “Come over for dinner,” we say. From that first front-door welcome to your guest, to the deeper relationships built with those who’ve dined at your table many times, to the deeper connections as family friends become an ‘Aunt Mary’ or an ‘Uncle Bob,’ our conversations, our hospitality, and our mutual expectations change in our ever-deepening relationships over time.

So too in our churches our dynamics change in the rooms of our common life as we welcome guests at our front doors, as we show hospitality around the family table, and as we ask those who consider themselves family members to help prepare the meal and to stay for conversation and help with the dishes afterwards.

Discover the strategies employed by healthy, growing churches to create intentional environments where relationships grow deeper with God and with one another. Explore how hospitality can move guests to engage and explore life in a church community and eventually become members of the family, themselves inviting new friends and neighbors to come for dinner and stay for the nurture and nourishment of community.

# WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

## E·VAN·GE·LISM

/ə'vanjə,lizəm/

noun

Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry: (by Tony Miano);

<https://carm.org/what-is-evangelism>

“Evangelism is the announcement, proclamation, and/or preaching of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4), the good news of and about Jesus Christ. Therefore, the gospel is a communicated message—communicated in verbal (Luke 7:22; Romans 10:14-17) and/or written (Luke 1:1-4) form.

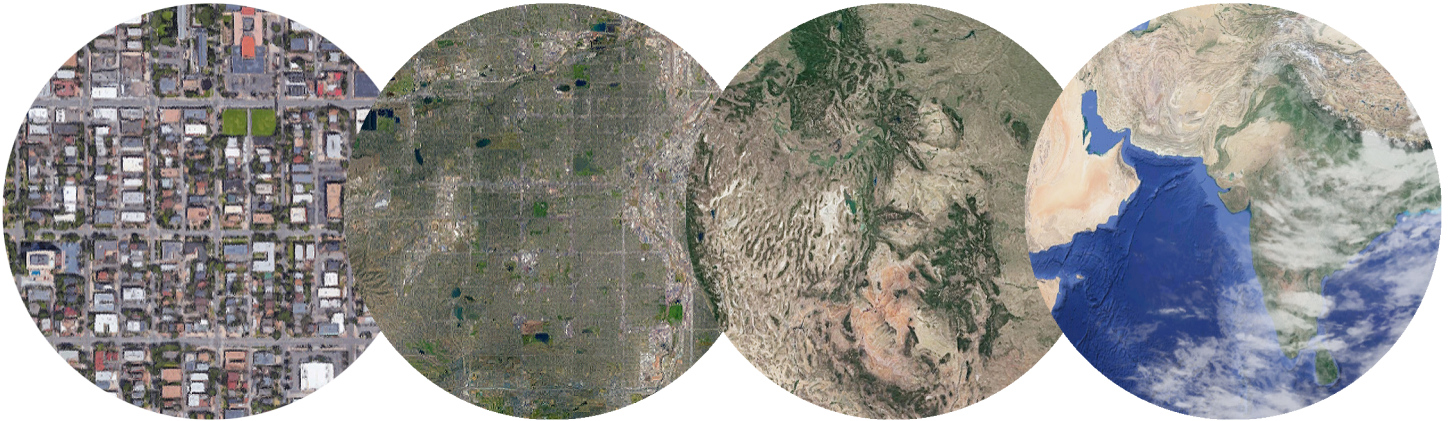
The English word “evangelism” comes from the Greek word *euaggelion*. Most literally translated in the noun form, *euaggelion* means: “gospel” or “good news.” In the verb form (*euaggelizesthai*), the meaning of the word changes slightly to “announce” or “bring good news.” The Greek word in its various forms appears fifty-five times in the New Testament. In addition to the before-mentioned translations, the Greek word is also translated as “preach.”

Evangelism, the communication of the gospel message, includes a warning, an explanation, and a call. Evangelism includes warning people about sin and the consequences of sin (John 16:8; Acts 24:25; Revelation 20:11-15). It includes an explanation of God’s remedy for sin—the gospel (Acts 8:29-35; Romans 3:21-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21). And it includes the clear call to repent (to turn from sin and to turn toward God) and believe the gospel, by faith (Mark 1:15; Luke 13:1-5; Acts 17:29-31; Romans 1:17; Romans 10:9-13).

# THE NEIGHBORHOOD

## ACTS 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



JERUSALEM > JUDEA > SAMARIA > ENDS OF THE EARTH

WHAT'S OUR HESITATION?



# SHIFT HAPPENS

- Metric Shift
- Leadership Shift
- Paradigm Shift
- Focus Shift
- Resource Shift



# MEETING YOUR NEIGHBORS









# BEYOND YOUR WALLS

- Neighborhood cleanups
- Gift baskets for new neighbors
- Moving help and box exchange/storage
- Valentine's Day cards to neighborhood
- Block Party resources
- Locker storage for homeless
- Bottled water and sunblock
- Book clubs at a local coffee shop
- Sidewalk shoveling for elderly
- Free socks and underwear to homeless
- Attend neighborhood meetings





# USING YOUR WALLS

- Community farmers' market
- Pumpkin patch
- Community garden
- Labyrinth
- School functions
- AA/NA meetings
- Art shows
- Festivals
- Computer lab
- Tutoring space
- Sports camps
- Funeral ministry

# HOW DO WE MAKE IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT THEIR FAITH/THEIR CHURCH?

- Be remarkable
- Love absurdly
- Take great risks
- Do something unexpected

# BELIEFS ABOUT PRACTICAL EVANGELISM

- We live in a polarized and confrontational society.
- Non-believers have many reasons to not trust organized religion.
- All humans crave relationships.
- We are the hands and feet (and eyes, and ears, and mouths) of the body of Christ.
- God is Love.
- We can show Love through service to our community (servanthood).
- We have to earn the right to have conversations that are natural and life-giving.
- We must be intentional about learning people's stories before sharing God's story.
- Servanthood is evangelism.
- A church with a lifestyle of servanthood is a community-focused church.
- A community-focused church is an evangelism-focused church.



# COMMUNITY-FOCUSED CHURCH CHECKLIST

• My church leadership is engaged in other key civic groups.	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
• A healthy church is a church that is engaged in their own community.	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
• My church actively looks for needs in the community to serve and support.	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
• My church doesn't ask for anything in return when we engage with our community.	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
• My church is intentional about being where the people are.	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
• My church is a community of eating out, meeting in coffee houses, and partnering with local businesses.	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
• My church helps where the community says they need it.	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
• My church commits intentional resources to supporting the needs of our direct community and neighborhood.	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
• My church takes time during each worship service to pray for the community.	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
• My church is intentional about scheduling ministries, events, and activities for reaching the community.	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
• My church is intentional about connecting with our local community through social media.	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
• My church extends the love of God in creative ways to our community.	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
• My church is vital to the health and well-being of our community.	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
• My church believes that ministering and serving are normal expressions of Christian living.	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>



## DIRTY WORDS:

- Strategy
- Relevance
- Environment



# FRONT DOOR



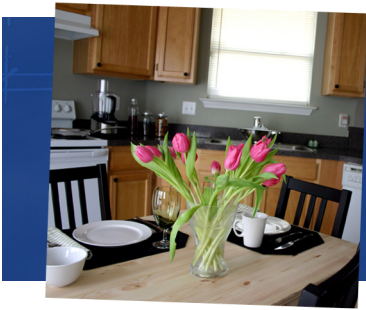


# FOYER





# FAMILY ROOM



# KITCHEN





# FROM THE FRONT DOOR TO THE KITCHEN

**FRONT DOOR:** EXPLORE/ATTENDANCE

**FOYER:** LEARN/PARTICIPATION

**FAMILY ROOM:** GROW/COMMITMENT

**KITCHEN:** SERVE/EMPOWERMENT



# MOVING FROM ONE ROOM TO ANOTHER

## AN EXERCISE

Sketch out your process by which visitors move to being fully engaged members at your church.

What are the triggers that move them from room to room?

What are the obstacles that prevent a guest or friend from moving from one room to another in your church?



# The Episcopal Church in Colorado