

The Mission Team and Equipping the Saints have invited **The Rev. Ray Jones** from the General Assembly Presbyterian Mission Agency's office of Evangelism to Foothills Presbytery. He has accepted our invitation and is preaching at Presbytery and presenting two workshops with a focus on church Evangelism in a time of great cultural shift within our religious landscape.



Rev. Jones will present the work and research behind the recently introduced Engage project/study.

Engage is about effective evangelism that is part of a disciple making church culture that emphasizes both the importance of social justice and faith sharing. It begins with the Jesus question, “who do you say that I am?”

The workshops will explore this question by moving through three main components:

- **Engage the Gospel**
- **Discipleship**
- **Your Community**

<http://www.pcusa.org/engage/welcome/>

WORKSHOP I

Overview of Workshop

Authentic and Engaging Evangelism:

(Workshop following the 98th Stated Meeting at St. Giles)

TUESDAY AFTERNOON FEB 16, 2016 1.30pm

This workshop is designed to help people live into the fullest expression of the gospel. We will begin with our own faith stories and explore what it means to join God in what God is already doing in our communities. During our time together, we will explore how disciple making leads to authentic faith sharing and serving. We will encounter how our own stories of transformation and God's story of being on a loving redemptive mission give us our identity as a “sent” people.

Our gathering will include conversations around how we can be more intentional nurturing relationships with people in our spheres of influence. The exciting thing about evangelism is that we are simply called to live the life of Jesus and bear witness to what has changed our lives. When it comes to God's mission, we are the equipment. The last part of our time together will be spent looking at ways in which a church can consider using the new evangelism curriculum: “Engage: The Gospel, Discipleship, and Mission.”

WORKSHOP II

Overview of Workshop: **A Church Shift: Moving from Church Growth to Bearing Fruit**

(The gathering with small churches/all churches interested)

TUESDAY NIGHT FEB 16, 2016

6:15 pm at St. Giles Presbyterian Church

A light supper will be provided.

Church growth is a good thing, but it should never be the end result of our ministry. Far too many churches have the burden placed on them that a healthy church is a large church. In Western culture “large” is often seen as better than “small.” Therefore, the key to success for a church is to figure out how to become larger. We have put too much pressure on the local church, through the church growth model, to become something that many churches will never become. Some of our churches are not in contexts in which numerical growth is possible.

But every church can bear fruit. What if we start with Jesus' words in John 15:5? Jesus says, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” In this gathering, we will examine what it means to abide in Christ. What are the practices that help us abide (remain connected to the vine)? What does it mean to bear fruit? What will our churches and communities look like when people are going deeper in their faith and there is more love, peace, and joy to go around?

As we bear fruit, we share the faith with people without hope, we do justice, we practice hospitality, and we are agents of healing. In other words, we are the body of Christ. If the context permits, there will be numerical growth. But no matter the numbers, there will always be spiritual, emotional, and personal growth. When lives change communities change.