

## A weekly idea, program or perspective on reaching new people in your community

Now that we have begun the season of Lent and Easter, I wanted to share with you some creative things churches around the country do to connect with new people in this Season.

- Many churches do some sort of Lenten Study in these six weeks. Relocate this activity to a local restaurant, coffee shop or bar so that more of the public can interact with you.
- As Lenten discipline ask every board, committee, study and fellowship group to have their meeting, not in the church, but out in the neighborhood so they can meet some new people.
- One church, instead of their regular Maundy Thursday service, put on a dinner at a local community center and invited and thanked people who served their community-police, fire, school teachers, etc.
- Another congregation did a one-day Vacation Bible School on Good Friday and then had the children sing a song on Easter morning, resulting in lots of guest parents and grandparents.
- Many churches solicit members to donate Easter lilies. After Easter services deliver the lilies to neighbors and wish them a Happy Easter.
- Egg Hunts: Many churches move their children's Easter Egg Hunt to a local park and find attendance often doubles and triples! One church did a "reverse Egg Hunt" and had members pick up at the church large plastic eggs, filled with candy, an Easter message and invitation to an Easter service and then delivered them to their neighborhood.

Easter, like Christmas, is a time when people are more open to joining us. What creative activity might you do to connect with your neighbors and friends?

Wishing you a creative Lenten season.