

OK you can let go of your wallets, See I don't have my money tie on, I can't talk about money today!

What I want to talk about is the exciting Spiritual uplifting experience NINE of us shared a little over a week ago when we attended the Leadership Conference at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas.

Acts 2:41 & 42

"41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

The mission statement

"Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

And our Vision is:

"To be a beacon of Hope with Unconditional Love and Acceptance".

Just like in Acts, this is what we are about.

Did you ever have someone tell you about a wonderful experience they had when they went somewhere? And then, when you went, it really wasn't that great. That could have happened to me this year. I had wanted to attend the Leadership seminar with the group last year, but family matters prevented it. **BUT** if anything last year's group understated the reality. I was overwhelmed to say the least.

The Resurrection Window is designed to tell the biblical story, capturing the most important themes of scripture: creation, sin, redemption and restoration. The biblical story begins in a garden, it ends in a garden, and in between, Christianity's most important redemptive story takes place in a garden. At the center of each of these gardens is a tree. These three gardens with their trees form the unifying theme of scripture with key scenes from the Bible, the life of Christ and the Church.

In addition to the outstanding speakers we heard in the general session, our group attended breakout sessions on a variety of subjects including Strategic Planning, Men's ministries, Ministering to Baby Boomers, reigniting the Lay ministry function in the church and others.

The term I heard over and over was intentionality. Now I had heard Pastor Marvin use this term recently and it just kind of flew over my head. Now it has new meaning. Put another way, we must be deliberate in our quest to Make Disciples.

Another term I heard a lot was "radical hospitality". I remember remarking to Cheryl on our first visit here as we approached the front doors, "Well they aren't welcoming as XYZ church, there are no greeters outside." Suffice it to say, we were warmly welcomed. Yes, COR has greeters outside.

We like to think we are pretty technically literate at SLUMC, new screens, projectors and a hearing loop. Let me give you an example of how COR uses technology. How many of you have smart phones? Have you ever taken a survey and seen the results on the video screen in front of you instantly? We did.

We learned a lot from a church with a 20,000+ members and a \$25 million dollar budget. Oops, there I go talking about money.

So what does this all mean to you? You have a group of leaders who are fired up about making disciples. Things are about to change, and you are going to be a part of it. We're coming for you.