



Sunday Services at Church of the Resurrection

Living Into our Mission

To love, worship, and serve God,
to learn and proclaim
the gospel of Jesus Christ
and to set an example
in our lives as we minister
in his name



Sunday Mornings at Resurrection

We proclaim the Gospel and celebrate the Sacraments

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Acts 2:46-47

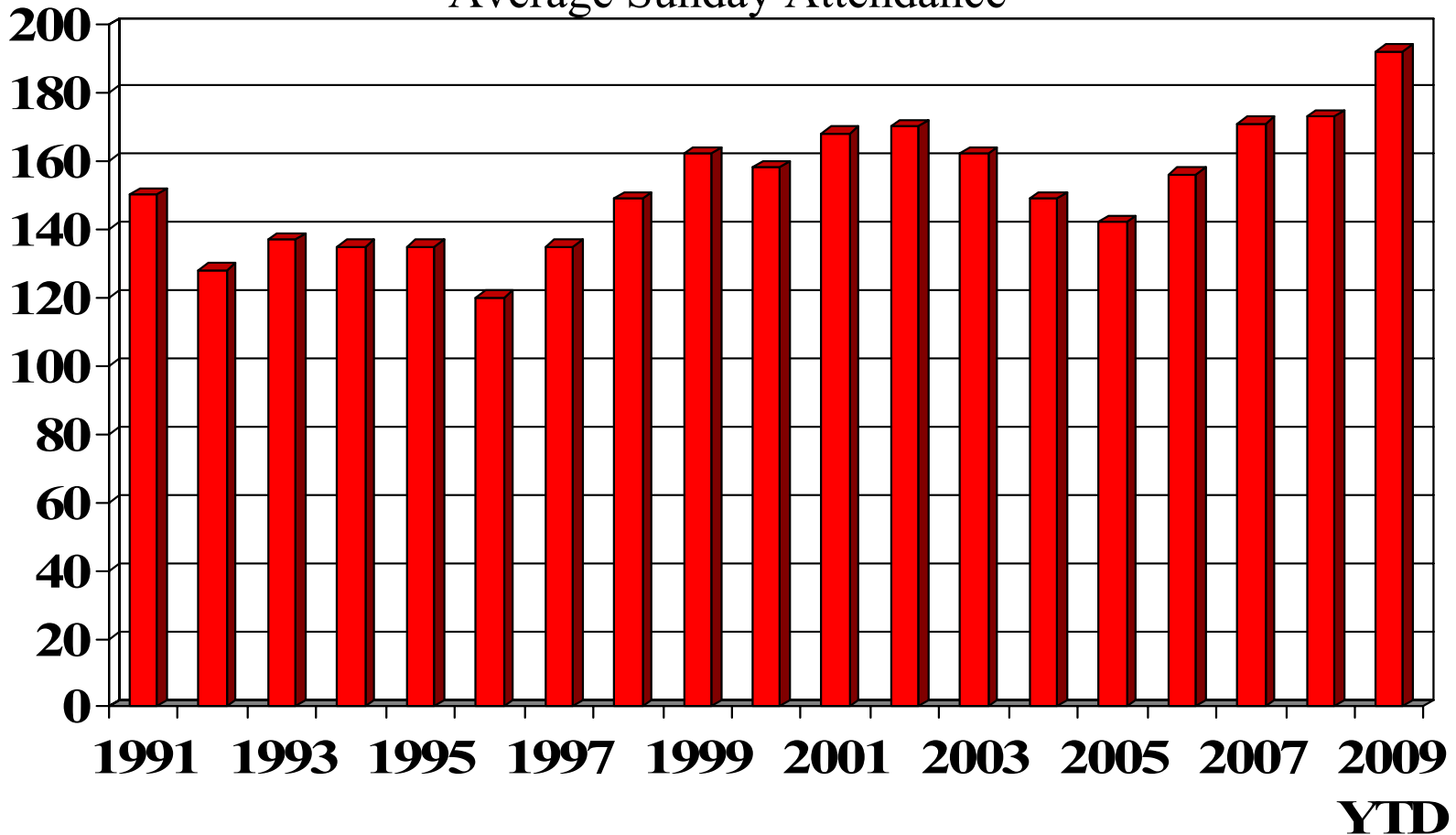
Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**The church has no more important work than the worship of God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**



Church Growth at Resurrection

Average Sunday Attendance





Church Growth at Resurrection

Date	Attendance 8:00/ 10:15/ Special/ Total	Event
January 4	35/130/ 165	
January 11	39/138/ 177	
January 18	29/115/ 144	
January 25	40/131/ 171	
February 1	42/129/ 171	
February 8	31/144/ 175	
February 15	36/148/ 184	
February 22	35/163/ 198	Baptism
March 1	35/120/ 155	Lent I
March 8	27/140/ 167	
March 15	27/137/ 164	
March 22	47/149/ 196	
March 29	43/138/ 181	
April 5	45/209/ 254	Palm Sunday
April 12	43/194/160/ 397	Easter
April 19	27/127/ 154	
April 26	35/155/ 190	
May 3	47/132/ 179	
May 10	37/162/ 199	
May 17	38/179/ 217	
May 24	35/124/ 159	
May 31	35/130/73/ 238	Pentecost, Picnic



Church Growth at Resurrection

- We are challenged to accommodate that growth and allow it to continue
- Churches that do not respond to growth usually stifle it
- The church is an organism that returns to stasis if it can



Conventional Wisdom about Church Growth

- A service in which 80% of attractive seats are taken will grow no further.

“When service attendance consistently averages 75 to 80 percent seating capacity (or parking lot capacity), (a) some members stop coming, (b) newcomers and potential members find it harder to find a niche in a crowded church, and (c) longer-term members may feel they aren’t needed.” (*Adding Worship Services: A How-to Manual*, 22-23)

- There is also the issue of emotional and spiritual space.

“Over time, a congregation will experience a plateau in membership growth. Part of the reason is related to psychological space, and part of it to how easy it is to get “in” to the congregation. New people need to make six new friends within the first six months in order to stay; if they do not have a way to meet other people, or if the congregation is too crowded, new people may not stay.” (*Adding Worship Services: A How-to Manual*, 22-23)



Conventional Wisdom about Church Growth

Where does Resurrection stand?

- Our church is 80% full at 144. The 10:15 service is at or near that point
- 10:15 2009 Average Sunday Attendance (Mean) is 152
- The design of our church may mean that our threshold is lower than 80%



The Benefits of Church Growth

In addition to the spread of the Gospel, which is God's will,

why else should the Church grow?

It is tough to be a transitional size church, with Sunday attendance between 150 and 200.

- Past 200, we can clearly be a multi-staff program church
- A larger leadership pool; less ownership, more leadership
- Fuller programmatic life; a better mission effort
- More appropriate facilities, better maintained
- The ability to grow the staff when needed
- A family-oriented service before the Sunday School hour would likely lead to better attendance in Christian Formation.
- More or different services differentiate the community.



The Path Forward

1. Do nothing. We are a faithful church with a good spirit. Our growth will plateau; decline will probably follow.
2. The \$3,000,000 solution. We can build a new church that seats 300.
3. We can shift our two services to more attractive hours at which they could both grow and alter the style.
- 4. We can add a third service.
Each option has its difficulties, but the addition of a third service seems most promising



Two Services with Music

School Year

- 9:00** HE, Music, Rite I/II seasonally alternating
- 10:15** Christian Formation
- 11:15** HE, Music, Rite I/II seasonally alternating

Summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day)

- 8:00** HE, Spoken, Rite I
- 10:00** HE, Music, Rite I/II seasonally alternating



Two Services with Music

Advantages

- Conserves energy; less multiplication of lay ministries and staff.
- Divides current congregation into two, rather than three. Both services likely to have encouraging attendance.

Disadvantages/Potential Complaints

- Loss of the current 8:00 service.
- Music imposed on those who prefer a spoken service.
- Harder to get 18 in before lunch; longer lines to launch boats at lake; tougher to beat Baptists to lunch spots.
- If relatively few current members move to 11:15, we might only increase the space problem at 9:00.



The Traditional Three Service Schedule

School year

7:45/8:00	HE, Spoken, Rite I
9:00	HE, Music, Rite II
10:15	Christian Formation
11:15	HE, Music, Rite I or II

Summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day):

8:00	HE, Spoken, Rite I
10:00	HE, Music, Rite II



The Traditional Three Service Schedule

Advantages

- Three different services in somewhat different styles, offered throughout the morning
- Many points of entry to the community
- Intimacy exchanged for capacity, easier entry

Disadvantages/Potential Complaints

- Could be tough on key players; multiplication of ministries
- A busy morning, with quick transitions, less social time
- 9:00 sometimes too early for families; 11:15 too late
- Length of services must be carefully managed.
- 11:00 service could be small and potentially discouraging.



The Path to a Decision

- We should pray.
- We should remember the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.
- We should remember our duty to those who come after us; future generations of Resurrection need us to remember the future.
- We should talk about it. Share with the Rector and the Vestry.
- The Rector has the authority but cannot decide this without the Vestry and a consensus in the congregation.
- We should understand it to be an experiment for the first 6 months. The new schedule could begin in January/February 2010?



The Path to a Decision

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful

or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.