

**Andy Deane • 2/13/22**  
**The Church. This church.**

The local church is God's "plan A" to reach the world, heal broken families and transform neighborhoods.

**3 Definitions for "church":**

1. The church is a building (common, but wrong).
2. The universal church consists of all believers worldwide.
3. The local church is a gathering of those who believe in Jesus Christ, who are committed to meet regularly for worship, teaching, fellowship, prayer, communion, and who help make disciples of all people.

We have snapshots in the Bible of local churches stepping up to meet the needs of moment: Antioch (Acts 13), Philippi (Philippians 4), Colossae (Colossians 1), Philadelphia (Revelation 3).

Every local church needs a plan to make disciples.

Our **SPIRITUAL GROWTH PLAN** is that we want everyone to:

**#1 KNOW GOD through personal commitment & weekly worship**

- John 17:3, *this is eternal life: that they know you...*
- Hebrews 10:25, *not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...*

**#2 GROW WITH OTHERS in classes, life groups & discipleship groups**

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11, *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...*
- Proverbs 27:17, *As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*

**#3 USE YOUR GIFTS while serving regularly & giving faithfully**

- Ephesians 2:10, *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*
- Ephesians 4:11-12, *Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service...*

**#4 HELP THE HURTING by spreading hope in neighborhoods & nations**

- Acts 1:8, *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; & you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, & in all Judea & Samaria, & to the ends of the earth."*
- Matthew 9:37-38, *"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest...to send out workers into his harvest field."*

***My Commitment as your new pastor:***

- *Acts 20:28, Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.*
- *Hebrews 13:17, Have confidence in your leaders ~~and submit to their authority~~, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. ~~Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.~~*

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Next week we start a new series: **“Come & See” (A study through John 1-7)**. Invite a friend to join you at church (I mean...as we, the church, gather in this building). 😊