

“Salty Service” Offering

Bethel participates, along with all other churches of the Florida Conference, in a program called “The Methodist Way”. It requires gathering weekly 5 numbers representing “Missional Vital Signs” that reflect different areas of each church's ministry (and reporting the numbers monthly to the conference). The areas reported are: Passionate Worship, Radical Hospitality, Intentional Discipling, Salty Service and Extravagant Generosity. The numbers reported for each are: Worship Attendance, Persons Received into Membership (by Profession or Reaffirmation of Faith), Persons involved in small Discipling Groups, Persons who have been “Salty Servants” during the week and the Offering collected for Budget, Capital and Missional purposes.

Of these, the “Salty Servants” is probably the only one that may require explanation. A “Salty Servant” is anyone who has “Joined Jesus in 'Salty Service' to persons outside the congregation” for at least one hour in the previous week. Those who have, indicate that by placing one of the “Salty Service Tickets” (found in a holder on the back of the pew) in the offering plate when it is passed. That's all. The number received is the number reported to the conference.

“Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness?”
Matt 5:13

What is Salty Service?

1. It is service done for others.
2. The person or persons for whom the service is performed should receive a sense that something has been done for them. (This does not exclude the “anonymous” service that the person may not “see” being performed.)
3. The act of financial giving is *not* “salty service”. That is generosity. “Salty Service” is about giving “time”, not money.
4. “Salty Service” can be a part of our normal “duties”, work-life, or actions that may even result in a personal financial benefit. You should have a sense that the service performed is independent of and has more value in God’s sight than any financial rewards that might be received.
5. The service is *not* done as part of a “bargain with God” or to “reward our ego” or to “win points” in the eyes of God or man.
6. *The service is performed as a love offering to God.*

“Only one life, 'twill soon be past....only what's done for Christ will last.”