

# Jim's Tool Box

## Getting Ready for Christmas

One of the emails that I receive weekly is one from 21<sup>st</sup> Century Strategies. This is the group that is led by Dr. Bill Easum and Dr. Bill Tenney-Brittian. Along with this email and other publications, this outfit now produces another resource that I have used for a long time *Net Results*. It is still available as a digital download subscription.

The topic of "The ABCs Holiday Checklist got my attention recently in one of these emails. You can click [HERE](#) to download a copy of the checklist. In addition, you can watch Bill Tenney-Brittian and his spouse Kris discuss this checklist in a video webcast. Kim is a regional minister with the Disciples of Christ in Missouri. You can click [HERE](#) to watch the webcast.

Their point in releasing this list and the accompanying webcast is to help church leaders in preparing for welcoming guests during the Advent/Christmas season including (and especially) Christmas Eve. However, the topics covered from A to Z on this list are ones to which congregational leaders (especially those in hospitality ministries) need to be paying attention to all the time.

Those of us who attend services at a local church regularly take so much for granted about the logistics that a newcomer faces in attending a service at our church. It all begins with, "What door do I go in?" Now if you attend a church service on a regular basis, you may wonder why that is such a big deal. However, there are still times as I approach a church that I am visiting for the first time, I am not sure which door to enter. I am usually relieved when I see other folks going in a certain door. Then I know (and that is usually the only way) that I know to use that door to enter the building.

The list that Bill and Kris Tenney-Brittian provide is full of those kinds of practical things for church leaders to look for as they prepare to welcome guests during the holiday season (or at any time of the year).

Take this list to your next worship team, administrative board meeting, or other appropriate team and use it as a way to start a discussion about what your church needs to do to be better prepared for guests at Christmas or any time of the year.