

# church homecoming welcome

**church homecoming welcome** is a cherished tradition that brings together congregations, past and present members, and the wider community to celebrate faith, fellowship, and shared history. This comprehensive guide explores the significance of church homecoming welcomes, the best practices for planning and hosting a memorable event, and creative ideas to make attendees feel valued and engaged. Whether you are organizing your first church homecoming or looking to refresh your approach, this article covers everything from crafting a heartfelt welcome message to setting the tone for a spiritually uplifting and inclusive gathering. Discover essential tips for engaging newcomers, honoring legacy members, and fostering connections that last long after the celebration ends. Continue reading to learn more about the core elements, planning strategies, and inspiring ideas that make church homecoming welcomes meaningful and impactful for all.

- Understanding Church Homecoming Welcome
- Importance of a Warm Welcome
- Planning a Memorable Church Homecoming Welcome
- Creative Ideas for Church Homecoming Welcome
- Crafting the Perfect Church Homecoming Welcome Message
- Engaging Members and Visitors
- Frequently Asked Questions about Church Homecoming Welcome

## Understanding Church Homecoming Welcome

Church homecoming welcome is a long-standing tradition in many congregations, designed to reconnect members, honor the church's heritage, and celebrate shared values. This event often serves as an annual reunion where current members, former attendees, and guests gather to reflect on their spiritual journey and community impact. The church homecoming welcome sets the tone for the celebration, expressing gratitude, hospitality, and a sense of belonging to everyone present. By prioritizing inclusivity and warmth, churches not only honor their legacy but also inspire future growth and unity.

## The History and Significance of Homecoming

Homecoming in the church context has roots in rural communities where

families would return to their hometown church for a special service. Over time, this tradition has evolved to become a powerful event that bridges generations and backgrounds, reinforcing the church's role as a spiritual home. A well-executed church homecoming welcome acknowledges the past, embraces the present, and looks forward to the future, making it a cornerstone of community life.

## **Who Benefits from a Church Homecoming Welcome?**

A thoughtful church homecoming welcome benefits new visitors, long-standing members, and returning guests alike. For newcomers, it provides an entry point into the church family. For legacy members, it's an opportunity to reconnect and celebrate shared memories. The event also strengthens relationships and encourages ongoing participation, making the church a vibrant and welcoming place for all.

## **Importance of a Warm Welcome**

The way attendees are welcomed at a church homecoming event can profoundly impact their experience. A warm, genuine church homecoming welcome sets the atmosphere for meaningful fellowship and spiritual renewal. It communicates the church's values of love, acceptance, and hospitality, ensuring every individual feels seen and appreciated.

## **Elements of an Effective Welcome**

- **Personal Greeting:** Offer a heartfelt, personal greeting to each attendee.
- **Inclusive Language:** Use words and phrases that make everyone feel included.
- **Recognition:** Acknowledge both new faces and returning members in your welcome.
- **Hospitality:** Provide clear directions, comfortable seating, and refreshments.
- **Spiritual Connection:** Incorporate prayer or scripture to set a positive tone.

## Why First Impressions Matter

First impressions during a church homecoming welcome can determine whether individuals feel comfortable engaging in the event and future church activities. A sincere welcome encourages guests to participate, builds trust, and fosters lasting relationships within the congregation.

## Planning a Memorable Church Homecoming Welcome

Effective planning is essential for a successful church homecoming welcome. From logistics to messaging, every detail matters in creating a welcoming atmosphere that honors tradition and invites new connections. Churches should consider the event's theme, schedule, activities, and communication strategy to ensure all attendees have a positive experience.

## Steps for Organizing a Church Homecoming Welcome

1. Form a Planning Committee: Assemble a team of dedicated volunteers to oversee preparations.
2. Set the Date and Theme: Choose a date that accommodates most members and establish a meaningful theme.
3. Send Invitations: Reach out to current and former members, as well as the local community.
4. Prepare Welcome Materials: Create welcome packets, signage, and programs that reflect the church's mission.
5. Coordinate Hospitality: Arrange for greeters, seating, and refreshments to make guests comfortable.
6. Schedule Activities: Plan worship, music, testimonials, and fellowship opportunities.
7. Train Volunteers: Ensure all helpers are prepared to provide a friendly and supportive environment.

## Ensuring Accessibility and Comfort

Accessibility is a key consideration when planning a church homecoming welcome. Churches should address mobility needs, provide clear directions, and ensure facilities are comfortable for all ages. By anticipating the needs of diverse attendees, the church demonstrates genuine care and inclusiveness.

# Creative Ideas for Church Homecoming Welcome

Adding creative touches to your church homecoming welcome can make the event memorable and enjoyable for everyone. Personalization, interactive elements, and thematic decorations are effective ways to enhance the celebration and create lasting memories.

## Decor and Ambiance

Decorate the church with banners, flowers, and photos that celebrate the congregation's history and achievements. The ambiance should reflect the church's spirit and the homecoming theme, making attendees feel both nostalgic and inspired.

## Interactive Welcome Activities

- **Memory Wall:** Invite guests to post stories or photos celebrating their connection to the church.
- **Welcome Table:** Set up a station for newcomers to receive information and small gifts.
- **Icebreaker Games:** Organize group activities to help attendees mingle and connect.
- **Testimonial Sharing:** Encourage members to share experiences or blessings during the service.

## Special Recognition

Consider recognizing milestone members, volunteers, or church leaders during the welcome. Acknowledging their contributions fosters a sense of pride and motivates others to stay engaged with church life.

## Crafting the Perfect Church Homecoming Welcome Message

The welcome message is a pivotal element of the church homecoming experience. An effective message conveys warmth, gratitude, and spiritual encouragement, setting the tone for the event. It should be authentic, inclusive, and tailored to the church's mission and values.

## Key Components of a Welcome Message

- **Greeting:** Begin with a friendly and heartfelt greeting to all attendees.
- **Recognition:** Thank returning members, new guests, and volunteers for their presence.
- **Purpose:** Explain the significance of homecoming and what it means for the congregation.
- **Encouragement:** Share an uplifting scripture or prayer to inspire unity and fellowship.
- **Invitation:** Encourage everyone to participate in activities and continue their faith journey together.

## Sample Church Homecoming Welcome Message

"Welcome home! Today, we gather as one family to celebrate our church's legacy, rejoice in the present, and look forward to a future filled with faith and fellowship. Whether you are a longtime member or visiting for the first time, we are grateful for your presence and invite you to join in worship, reflection, and community. May this homecoming renew your spirit and strengthen the bonds that unite us."

## Engaging Members and Visitors

Active engagement is essential to a successful church homecoming welcome. Churches should create opportunities for attendees to interact, share their stories, and build new relationships. Sustained engagement ensures the church remains a welcoming and supportive spiritual home for all.

## Strategies for Ongoing Engagement

- **Follow-Up:** Reach out to attendees after the event to express gratitude and invite them back.
- **Small Groups:** Encourage participation in Bible studies, support groups, or volunteer activities.
- **Personal Connections:** Assign mentors or buddies to help newcomers feel at home.
- **Feedback:** Solicit input from guests and members to improve future

events.

## **Fostering a Culture of Welcome**

Building a welcoming culture goes beyond the homecoming event. Churches should promote hospitality, inclusivity, and spiritual growth throughout the year. By consistently embracing newcomers and honoring all members, the church affirms its role as a true spiritual home.

## **Frequently Asked Questions about Church Homecoming Welcome**

### **Q: What is a church homecoming welcome?**

A: A church homecoming welcome is a special greeting and hospitality extended during a homecoming event, where current and former members, guests, and the community gather to celebrate the church's history, fellowship, and faith.

### **Q: Why is a church homecoming welcome important?**

A: A warm church homecoming welcome sets a positive tone for the event, makes attendees feel valued, and encourages lasting connections within the congregation.

### **Q: How can churches make their homecoming welcome more inclusive?**

A: Churches can use inclusive language, recognize all attendees, provide accessible facilities, and offer activities that engage diverse age groups and backgrounds.

### **Q: What activities can enhance a church homecoming welcome?**

A: Popular activities include memory walls, welcome tables, icebreaker games, testimonial sharing, and special recognition ceremonies for milestone members.

**Q: How do you craft an effective church homecoming welcome message?**

A: An effective welcome message should be heartfelt, inclusive, and aligned with the church's mission. It should thank attendees, explain the significance of homecoming, and encourage participation.

**Q: What follow-up strategies help maintain engagement after homecoming?**

A: Churches can send thank-you notes, invite guests to future services, encourage small group participation, and seek feedback to improve future events.

**Q: Who should be involved in planning a church homecoming welcome?**

A: A planning committee of church leaders, volunteers, and members should collaborate to organize logistics, hospitality, and program elements for the event.

**Q: How often should churches host homecoming events?**

A: Most churches host homecoming events annually, but the frequency can vary based on tradition, congregation size, and community preferences.

**Q: What role does decor play in a church homecoming welcome?**

A: Thoughtful decor sets the ambiance, celebrates the church's history, and creates a welcoming atmosphere that enhances the overall experience for attendees.

**Q: How can church homecoming welcome support outreach and growth?**

A: By making all guests feel valued, churches can attract new members, strengthen community relationships, and foster a reputation for hospitality and spiritual support.

# **Church Homecoming Welcome**

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## **Church Homecoming Welcome: Creating a Warm and Welcoming Atmosphere**

Introduction:

Are you planning a church homecoming? Want to ensure every returning member and visitor feels genuinely welcomed and appreciated? This comprehensive guide offers practical advice and creative ideas to make your church homecoming a truly memorable and spiritually enriching experience. We'll cover everything from planning and preparation to the actual welcome itself, focusing on crafting a warm and inclusive atmosphere that strengthens your church community. Get ready to create a homecoming celebration that fosters connection, rekindles faith, and leaves a lasting positive impression.

### **H2: Planning Your Church Homecoming Welcome: Laying the Foundation**

Before the big day arrives, meticulous planning is crucial. This section outlines key aspects of preparation to ensure a smooth and successful event.

### **H3: Defining Your Goals and Target Audience:**

Begin by clearly defining your goals for the homecoming. Do you aim to reconnect with former members? Boost church attendance? Strengthen community bonds? Identifying your specific objectives will shape your planning process and ensure you're focusing your efforts effectively. Consider your target audience - are you primarily welcoming families, young adults, or a diverse range of ages and backgrounds? This awareness will inform your choice of activities, communication styles, and overall atmosphere.

### **H3: Creating a Detailed Timeline:**

Develop a comprehensive timeline encompassing all aspects of the homecoming, from initial planning and promotion to post-event follow-up. Allocate specific tasks to individuals or committees, ensuring clear responsibilities and deadlines. Include dates for sending invitations, finalizing the program, arranging decorations, and assigning volunteers. A detailed timeline will minimize last-minute stress and ensure every element is seamlessly executed.

### **H3: Securing Resources and Volunteers:**

A successful homecoming requires adequate resources and dedicated volunteers. Assess your



budget and identify potential funding sources if needed. Recruit volunteers to assist with various tasks such as welcoming guests, setting up decorations, serving refreshments, and managing logistics. Remember to express sincere appreciation for their time and commitment.

## H2: Crafting a Welcoming Atmosphere: Creating a Sense of Belonging

The atmosphere you create is pivotal in making attendees feel welcomed and included. Focus on creating a space that exudes warmth, hospitality, and genuine Christian love.

### H3: Warm and Inviting Decorations:

Decorate your church building to reflect the spirit of homecoming. Use welcoming banners, balloons, and flowers. Consider incorporating photos from past church events or showcasing the history of your congregation. A visually appealing environment instantly sets a positive tone.

### H3: Music and Entertainment:

Music plays a vital role in creating a welcoming atmosphere. Select uplifting and familiar hymns or contemporary Christian songs to inspire and engage your attendees. If possible, incorporate live music or performances to add an extra touch of celebration.

### H3: Engaging Activities and Fellowship Opportunities:

Plan activities that encourage interaction and fellowship. This might include icebreaker games, potluck meals, or organized group discussions. Provide opportunities for people to reconnect with old friends and make new connections. The focus should be on creating a sense of community and belonging.

## H2: The Welcome Itself: Making a Lasting Impression

The actual welcome is where your planning culminates. Make every effort to create a warm and heartfelt experience.

### H3: A Personalized Greeting:

Greet each guest personally with a warm smile and welcoming words. If possible, have a designated team of greeters to ensure no one feels overlooked. A simple "Welcome home!" can make a significant difference.

### H3: Communicating Connection:

Take the time to engage in meaningful conversations with your guests. Show genuine interest in their lives and experiences. Ask questions about their journey since they last attended. Active listening fosters connection and creates a sense of belonging.

### H3: A Powerful Message of Welcome:

Your pastor or a designated speaker should deliver a welcoming message that speaks to the heart. This message should express gratitude for their return, reinforce the importance of community, and offer a glimpse into the future of your church.

## Conclusion:

A successful church homecoming welcome is more than just an event; it's an expression of love, community, and shared faith. By carefully planning, creating a welcoming atmosphere, and offering heartfelt greetings, you can ensure that your homecoming strengthens bonds, fosters connection, and inspires renewed commitment to your church community. Remember, the goal is to make everyone feel valued, appreciated, and truly welcomed home.

## FAQs:

1. What if some returning members haven't been active for a long time? Approach them with grace and understanding. Avoid judgment and focus on welcoming them back into the fold. A simple, "We're so glad you're here" goes a long way.
2. How can we handle potential awkwardness or strained relationships among members? Promote an environment of forgiveness and reconciliation. Focus on the positive aspects of reunion and community building. If necessary, address conflicts privately and sensitively after the event.
3. What if we have limited resources? Creativity is key! Focus on personal touches rather than elaborate decorations. Organize a potluck instead of catering. The spirit of welcome is more important than the size of the budget.
4. How can we make sure the homecoming appeals to different age groups? Include a variety of activities that cater to different interests and preferences. Involve younger members in planning and execution to ensure their needs are met.
5. How can we follow up after the homecoming? Send thank-you notes, share photos from the event, and continue engaging with attendees through regular communication. This fosters ongoing connection and strengthens the sense of community.

### **church homecoming welcome: Welcome Speeches and Responses for All Occasions**

Abingdon, 1992-06 This book has been prepared as an aid to those who are asked to make welcome speeches or to respond to these speeches. Sample speeches and responses are provided for a variety of special occasions.

### **church homecoming welcome: Welcome Speeches for Today** Karen Lynn Coffee, 2010-06

Speeches and prayers for a wide variety of special occasions

### **church homecoming welcome: Early Homecoming: A Resource for Early Returned**

Missionaries, Their Church Leaders, and Family Kristen Reber, 2023-02-02 When a mission doesn't last as long as expected, it can be difficult to adjust to the change in plans. But every mission matters to our Heavenly Father. Based on personal experiences and scholarly research, this book helps loved ones, leaders, and returning missionaries navigate through the mixed emotions of an early release for any reason and press forward with faith.

### **church homecoming welcome: Welcome to a Reformed Church** Daniel R. Hyde, 2010

Daniel Hyde traces the historical roots of the Reformed churches, their key beliefs, and the ways in which those beliefs are expressed. The result is a roadmap for those newly encountering the Reformed world and a primer for those seeking to know more about their Reformed heritage.

### **church homecoming welcome: A Sort of Homecoming** Marcia Boniferno, Amanda Jagt,

Andrew Stephens-Rennie, 2020-08-04 We live in a culture of collective fear over climate change and mass migration, and we experience increasing intense personal anxiety and despair. How might the

Bible's themes of homecoming and homemaking address our physical, emotional, and spiritual displacement? This collection of essays honors the academic and community work of Brian J. Walsh upon his retirement as Campus Minister at the University of Toronto Christian Reformed Campus Ministry. The collection is a stunning mosaic at once academic and personal--representing the many elements of Brian's life as pastor, theologian, professor, farmer, mentor, and friend. In an age when home feels physically and spiritually elusive for so many, this volume reawakens our imaginations to the foundational biblical themes of homecoming and homemaking. Academic, pastoral, personal, and timely, this volume honors Brian's career and equips readers to engage the fear and anxiety of our age with the hope of the gospel.

**church homecoming welcome:** *Welcome Speeches for Special Days* Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, 2002 This useful resource incorporates recitations, suggested scripture, prayers, poetry, speeches, and responses for celebrating a variety of special days in the African American church. Perfect as a worship planning tool for pastors and worship leaders, *Welcome Speeches for Special Days* is ideal for celebrating those special Sundays that congregations highlight throughout the year.

**church homecoming welcome:** *"Welcome to My World"* Ruth Lashley, 2017-09-27 *Welcome to My World* The book includes trials and tribulations of my life, as well as the love of my family.

**church homecoming welcome:** *A Welcome Murder* Robin Yocum, 2017-04-04 After his unspectacular professional baseball career ends with a knee injury in Toledo, Ohio, Johnny Earl gets busted for selling cocaine. After serving seven years in prison, all he wants to do is return to his hometown of Steubenville, retrieve the drug money he stashed before he went to jail, and start a new life where no one has ever heard of Johnny Earl. However, before he can leave town with his money, Johnny is picked up for questioning in the murder of Rayce Daubner, the FBI informant who had set him up on drug charges in the first place. Then his former prison cellmate shows up--a white supremacist who wants the drug money to help fund an Aryan nation in the wilds of Idaho. Five memorable characters, each with a separate agenda, come together in this layered tale of murder, deceit, and political intrigue.

**church homecoming welcome:** *New Welcome Speeches* Herschel H. Hobbs, 1975

**church homecoming welcome:** *Unto the Hills* Billy Graham, 2010-12-27 No matter your place in life, this inspiring collection of 365 devotional readings is designed to bring you daily to a special place of renewal—to help you pause and gaze unto the hills for help and inspiration. Each of the 365 daily readings in this inspiring collection was distilled from a lifetime of study and ministry. This devotional supplies daily food for thought about living fruitfully and joyfully in an often-fretful world. Every day of the year, you can join our nation's most beloved spiritual leader for a moment of quiet and reflection through: A carefully chosen passage of scripture A brief, thoughtful message from Billy Graham A heartfelt prayer composed especially for this devotional Simple, direct, encouraging yet challenging, this book will be a heartening companion for your daily walk in the valley. This collection is a gentle but constant reminder that we can find help for all our needs as long as we remember to look up . . . unto the hills, but especially unto the Lord, the One who can always help.

**church homecoming welcome:** *God's Welcome:* Amy Oden, 2008-05-01 *God's Welcome* is a different kind of how-to book on hospitality, one that studies the stories of God's welcome and takes seriously the culture of hostility that sometimes masquerades as Christianity. Gather your small group or leadership group (discussion guide included in the book) and dig into the important work of gospel hospitality.

**church homecoming welcome:** *Word Gets Around (Welcome to Daily, Texas Book #2)* Lisa Wingate, 2009-02-01 Lauren Eldridge had avoided returning home to Daily, Texas, until her father confesses to being in over his head. Paying back an old favor, he's invested in a horse that's supposed to be the star of a new Hollywood movie. Only the horse won't behave. And Lauren is the best trainer in the state. Convinced to return, she soon finds more than she bargained for when the movie's screenwriter turns out to be leading-man handsome. This movie may be Nate Heath's last shot at turning his career around. He didn't have high hopes at first, but the town of Daily may be

just what everyone needs to find hope and healing. And maybe even a little romance.

**church homecoming welcome: A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church Year B**

Wilda C. Gafney, 2023-07-18 The next installment in the critically acclaimed lectionary series that focuses on women's stories. In this second volume of the three-volume Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, widely praised womanist bible scholar and priest Wil Gafney selects scripture readings that emphasize women's stories. Focusing especially on the Gospel of Mark, Year B of A Women's Lectionary features Gafney's fresh, inclusive, and thought-provoking translations of every reading, alongside commentary on each reading. Designed for liturgical use or scriptural study, this resource offers a new perspective on the Bible and the liturgical year. "Gafney's paradigm-shifting scholarship will influence biblical preaching and teaching for generations to come. —National Catholic Reporter

**church homecoming welcome: Welcome to the Dawning of a New Century** Tony Simmons,

2010-03-20 At the dawn of the 21st century, the residents of Century, Florida, prepare for their centennial celebration. There's a parade to plan, a murder to plot, a marriage to save and one to let go. Here, universes revolve around a small-town Lolita, a high school teacher sees possible futures, a Piggly Wiggly meat cutter tries to please his Vegan wife, and a lonely woman weaves a new cosmology in the patterns of her crochet. Secrets will out, lives will end, and nothing will be the same. -- Amazon.com.

**church homecoming welcome: A Handyman for the Heart** Beth Sulmer-Sirois, Thomas-John

Veilleux, 2008-02 Although she found it in her heart to resist his temptation, a series of unexpected circumstances result in her life taking a different turn. As a budding young professional woman, she quickly finds herself managing her parents' construction company where Russell's father is also a part owner. Stephanie and Russell clash professionally and personally in their personal struggles to find their way in life and understand what God's plan is for both of them. Stephanie knows that God has a plan for her, but will she be able to follow it?

**church homecoming welcome: Welcome Home!** Victor R. Claveau, 2000-01-01 Here are the

compelling stories of eleven reverts, Catholics who fell away from the Church and eventually came back home. Some of the people are very well-known, like Fr. John Corapi, Rick Strom and Jesse Romero, and others are known only in their smaller circles. But each person's story of why he left the Catholic Church and why he returned is a unique and moving tale of God's mercy, love and grace. There is one common denominator, though, among the writers of Welcome Home! To paraphrase Archbishop Fulton Sheen, few hate the Catholic Church for what she teaches, but millions hate it for what they think she teaches. The defining moment of illuminating grace almost always came when our storytellers began to examine Catholic teaching for themselves.

**church homecoming welcome: This Life Is Joy** Roger Teel, 2014-10-02 A simple, fun

instruction manual for living a more joy-filled, authentic life! By one of the most admired spiritual teachers in the country, this book shows us how every moment, experience, and person can be an opening for our soul. Separated into three easy-to-use parts, this book will: - Tell a fable that puts our spiritual journey into context - Discuss the seven spiritual principles that are universal to the world's wisdom traditions - Show how nine specific challenges and difficulties (such as fear, illness, and change) can be transformed from stumbling blocks into stepping stones Filled with advice that can come only from a lifetime of practicing these traditions, this book will be an indispensable guide to people who want more from their lives.

**church homecoming welcome: *The Honourable Aleck*** Ian Bruce Robertson, 2013-08-27 The

Honourable Aleck is the true story of the life and times of Alexander Rocke Robertson and Margaret Bruce Eberts, Aleck's beloved wife 'Maggie'. Born and raised in Chatham, Upper Canada, 'Aleck' Robertson came to British Columbia in 1864 as a young lawyer, and became one of BC's most eminent citizens. Well-known and highly respected in BC's courtrooms, he was also Mayor of Victoria, a member of BC's first provincial Cabinet, and BC's first Canadian-born Supreme Court Judge, all before his untimely death at the age of 40. The combining of the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, and then confederation with Canada, give a dramatic backdrop to the

story. Aleck's passionate correspondence with Maggie throughout their lives, and their warm and loving family life with their many sons in early Victoria, show the human side of those turbulent times in early BC.

**church homecoming welcome: Open Doors and Closed Windows of the First Baptist Church of Reidsville, North Carolina , 1948**

**church homecoming welcome:** *The Letter to the Philippians* G. Walter Hansen, 2009-10-05 In this commentary G. Walter Hansen offers rich exposition of the text of Philippians as well as wisdom and maturity in its application. In so doing he emphasizes partnership--the social and corporate dimensions of community--in the progress of the gospel. After a select bibliography, Hansen's introduction sets forth the historical setting of the church in Philippi, the nature and occasion of the letter, and a preview of two key themes--the gospel of Christ and the community in Christ. The commentary itself discusses Philippians in light of these themes, considering Paul's greetings, reports of gospel ministry, imperatives for citizens worthy of the gospel, recommendations of two Christ-like servants, and disclosures of his personal experience. Hansen's treatment as a whole is distinctive for the way it draws out and highlights the themes of partnership, citizenship, and friendship in Paul's Philippian letter. With themes and emotions so varied, the letter to the Philippians needs a commentator with a sure grasp and a warm heart. . . . Hansen writes with admirable clarity and simplicity, even when he is unpacking notoriously complex matters. -- D. A. Carson (from the preface)

**church homecoming welcome: God Has a Name** John Mark Comer, 2024-10-15 What you believe about God sets the foundation of the person you will become. In *God Has a Name*, pastor and New York Times bestselling author John Mark Comer invites you to rethink many of the prevalent myths and misconceptions about God and weigh them against what God actually tells us about himself. After all, what you believe about God will ultimately shape the type of person you become. We all live at the mercy of our ideas, and nowhere is this more true than our ideas about God. The problem is many of our ideas about God are wrong. Not all wrong, but wrong enough to form our souls in detrimental and disheartening ways. *God Has a Name* is a simple yet profound guide to understanding God in a new light--focusing on what God says about himself in the Bible. This one shift has the potential to radically alter how you relate to God, not as a doctrine, but as a relational being who responds to you in an elastic, back-and-forth way. John Mark Comer takes you line by line through Exodus 34:6-8--Yahweh's self-revelation on Mount Sinai, one of the most quoted passages in the Bible. Along the way, Comer addresses some of the most profound questions he came across as he studied these noted lines in Exodus, including: Why do we feel this gap between us and God? Could it be that a lot of what we think about God is wrong? Not all wrong, but wrong enough to mess up how we relate to him? What if our God is really a projection of our own identity, ideas, and desires? What if the real God is different, but far better than we could ever imagine? No matter where you are in your spiritual journey, *God Has a Name* invites you to step into a fresh and biblically rooted vision of who God is that has the potential to alter your life with God and shape who you become.

**church homecoming welcome: The Unstuck Church** Tony Morgan, 2017-05-16 Acclaimed church leader, blogger, founder and chief strategic officer of The Unstuck Group, Tony Morgan unpacks the lifecycle of a typical church, identifies characteristics of each phase, and provides practical next steps a church can take to move towards sustained health. Think about your church for a moment. Is it growing? Is it diminishing? Is it somewhere in between? Acclaimed church leader, blogger, and founder and chief strategic officer of The Unstuck Group, Tony Morgan has identified the seven stages of a church's lifecycle that range from the hopeful and optimistic days of launch, to the stagnating last stages of life support. Regardless of the stage in which you find your church, it carries with it the world's greatest mission—to go and make disciples of all the nations . . . With eternity at stake the Church should be doing most everything within its power to see lives changed forever. The Church should strive for the pinnacle of the lifecycle, where they are continually making new disciples and experiencing what Morgan refers to as sustained health. In

The Unstuck Church, Morgan unpacks each phase of the church lifecycle, and offers specific and strategic next steps the church leader can take to find it's way to sustained health . . . and finally become unstuck. The Unstuck Church is a call for honest an assessment of where your church sits on the lifecycle, and a challenge to move beyond it.

**church homecoming welcome: *The Living Church*** , 1980-07

**church homecoming welcome: *Strangers and Friends at the Welcome Table*** James Hudnut-Beumler, 2018-03-19 In this fresh and fascinating chronicle of Christianity in the contemporary South, historian and minister James Hudnut-Beumler draws on extensive interviews and his own personal journeys throughout the region over the past decade to present a comprehensive portrait of the South's long-dominant religion. Hudnut-Beumler traveled to both rural and urban communities, listening to the faithful talk about their lives and beliefs. What he heard pushes hard against prevailing notions of southern Christianity as an evangelical Protestant monolith so predominant as to be unremarkable. True, outside of a few spots, no non-Christian group forms more than six-tenths of one percent of a state's population in what Hudnut-Beumler calls the Now South. Drilling deeper, however, he discovers an unexpected, blossoming diversity in theology, practice, and outlook among southern Christians. He finds, alongside traditional Baptists, black and white, growing numbers of Christians exemplifying changes that no one could have predicted even just forty years ago, from congregations of LGBT-supportive evangelicals and Spanish-language church services to a Christian homeschooling movement so robust in some places that it may rival public education in terms of acceptance. He also finds sharp struggles and political divisions among those trying to reconcile such Christian values as morality and forgiveness—the aftermath of the mass shooting at Charleston's Emanuel A.M.E. Church in 2015 forming just one example. This book makes clear that understanding the twenty-first-century South means recognizing many kinds of southern Christianities.

**church homecoming welcome: *Homecoming*** John Bradshaw, 2013-04-24 In this powerful book, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Reclaiming Virtue* shows how we can learn to nurture our inner child and offer ourselves the good parenting we needed and longed for. Are you outwardly successful but inwardly feel like a big kid? Do you aspire to be a loving parent but too often “lose it” in hurtful ways? Do you crave intimacy but sometimes wonder if it’s worth the struggle? Are you plagued by constant, vague feelings of anxiety or depression? If any of this sounds familiar, you may be experiencing the hidden but damaging effects of a painful childhood—carrying within you a “wounded inner child” who is crying out for attention and healing. John Bradshaw’s step-by-step process of exploring the unfinished business of each developmental stage helps us break away from destructive family rules and roles, freeing ourselves to live responsibly in the present. Then, says Bradshaw, the healed inner child becomes a source of vitality, inviting us to find new joy and energy in living. *Homecoming* includes a wealth of unique case histories and interactive techniques, including questionnaires, guided meditations, affirmations, and letter-writing to the inner child. These classic therapies, which were pioneering when introduced, continue to be validated by new discoveries in attachment research and neuroscience. No one has ever brought them to a popular audience more effectively and inspiringly than John Bradshaw.

**church homecoming welcome: *Radical Welcome*** Stephanie Spellers, 2006-08 A theological, inspirational, and practical guide for congregations that want to move beyond diversity and inclusion to present a vision for the church of the future: one where the transforming gifts, voices, and power of marginalized cultures and groups bring new life to the mainline church.

**church homecoming welcome: *The Turquoise Table*** Kristin Schell, 2017-06-06 Loneliness is an epidemic right now, but it doesn't have to be that way. The Turquoise Table is Kristin Schell's invitation to you to connect with your neighbors and build friendships. Featured in *Southern Living*, *Good Housekeeping*, and the TODAY Show, Kristin introduces a new way to look at hospitality. Desperate for a way to slow down and connect, Kristin put an ordinary picnic table in her front yard, painted it turquoise, and began inviting friends and neighbors to join her. Life changed in her community, and it can change in yours too. Alongside personal and heartwarming stories, Kristin

gives you: Stress-free ideas for kick-starting your own Turquoise Table Simple recipes to take outside and share with others Stories from people using Turquoise Tables in their neighborhoods Encouragement to overcome barriers that keep you from connecting This gorgeous book, with vibrant photography, invites you to make a difference right where you live. The beautiful design makes it ideal to give to a friend or to keep for yourself. Community and friendship are waiting just outside your front door.

**church homecoming welcome:** The Commercial Church Mary Hinton, 2011-05-19 In this new book on the rise of commercial black 'mega churches,' Mary Hinton examines the rich legacy of the historic black church from the dual perspectives of theology and religious education. She explores the new religious models emerging from the tradition of the historic black church and questions whether they are continuing to operate and practice according to the wisdom of this unique form of American religion. Two mega church ministries, those of T. D. Jakes and Creflo Dollar, are examined in detail with regards to how they align with black church religious history. Hinton concludes by proposing that the fastest growing religious phenomenon within and outside of the black community in the United States-the mega church-should no longer be analyzed based on size alone. Instead, Hinton urges readers to consider the ecclesial structures of churches in making appropriate assessments in determining should and should not be classified as a commercial church.

**church homecoming welcome:** The United Church of Christ in the Shenandoah Valley H. B. Cavalcanti, 2010-08-20 While congregational studies have expanded our understanding of American religion, little is known about the local practices of a single denomination at its smallest jurisdiction. This book explores how national denominational commitments are affecting the practices of local United Church of Christ congregations inside a single association in the Shenandoah Valley. Nationally, the UCC defines itself as a united and uniting church in its ecumenical work; as multiracial and multicultural in its diversity; as accessible to all in welcoming those with disabilities; as open and affirming for its LGBT members; and as a just peace church in its support of social justice. So, how fully have local congregations embraced these commitments? Might congregations be more attached to their older identities, particularly in areas where the church's predecessors were strongly rooted? Or are the national church's commitments being lived out at the grassroots level? The book measures congregational life in one of the UCC's oldest and smallest associations. Books on congregational studies either focus on a case study of a particular congregation, or large-scale surveys of U.S. congregations that explore aggregate data to explain their work. This book looks instead at a group of local congregations inside a small judicatory (the Shenandoah Association) of the United Church of Christ to explain religious life at the grassroots level.

**church homecoming welcome:** *Renewing the Vision* Cynthia M. Campbell, 2000-01-01 The five themes around which Campbell organizes these essays and sermons--written by 20 Presbyterian Church (USA) scholars, pastors and church leaders--is organized Christology and preaching, the church and evangelism, missions and service, the authority and interpretation of Scripture, and ecumenism and the Reformed tradition.

**church homecoming welcome:** *...As He Was Known* Aletha V. Smithson, 2007-04 In today's competitive book market, publishing your book is just the beginning. As a newly published author, its time to tell the world about your book, share your creation, and drive sales. If that prospect scares you, don't let it! You don't have to be a marketing expert to create, manage, and execute an effective marketing campaign. Your Voice in Demand: The AuthorHouse Guide to Marketing and Promoting Your Book provides the background and advice you'll need to effectively support your marketing and sales goals. With this handy reference from the marketing and promotions team at AuthorHouse, you'll learn how to: Create a marketing and promotion plan Use the web as a marketing and sales tool Employ public relations to generate interest Set up book signings and author tours Take advantage of conferences and shows Apply direct marketing techniques Leverage advertising as a tool Establish a retail sales program Become a guerilla marketer.

**church homecoming welcome:** The One Purpose of God Jan Bonda, 1998 This is a print on

demand book and is therefore non- returnable. Throughout the centuries the church has taught that the vast majority of humankind will suffer eternal punishment. But is this teaching truly biblical? In this provocative book Jan Bonda scrutinizes church tradition and Scripture -- especially Paul's letter to the Romans -- and concludes that neither Paul nor the prophets to whom he appeals show any trace of supporting the doctrine of eternal damnation. On the contrary, they tell us that God wants to save all people and that he will not rest until that goal has been achieved.

**church homecoming welcome: Welcome Back Mister Starnes** Tom Buford, 2021-05-18  
“You’re not uppity. You’re just different enough from most of us that we might be able to learn a thing or two from you.” Linda Cruz, the young pharmacist in Morgan Crossroads, Alabama is about to become the youngest member ever accepted into the Rosebud Circle. As their way of being helpful, some of the older members decide it is their duty as friends to assist Linda in finding a man. By an unofficial unanimous vote, the members decide the meeting is also the first ever top secret meeting, at least where their husbands are concerned. Not to be outdone, the men set out to organize their own event—a fundraiser to clean up the community park. They find themselves overwhelmed when their charitable project balloons into a massive venture that they cannot accomplish without the help of the women who they had determined to out do. Through an unforeseen series of events, the fundraiser takes a massive turn when Fred Starnes, a former part-time resident of Morgan Crossroads is asked to come back and help direct a theatrical performance in the church sanctuary. At times funny and at times heart-rending, Welcome Back Mister Starnes is a story of a community coming together for a joint cause, and in the process, showing a long misunderstood man that indeed, he too is loved. Welcome Back Mister Starnes is the second novel in the Morgan Crossroads series of clean small town and rural fiction from author Tom Buford.

**church homecoming welcome: We Have Been Believers** James H. Evans, 1992 In this, the first full-scale black systematic theology in twenty years, James Evans emerges as a major and distinctive voice in American theology. Seeking to overcome the chasm between church practice and theological reflection, Evans situates theology squarely in the nexus of faith with freedom. There, with a sure touch, he uplifts revelatory aspects of black religious experience that reanimate classical areas of theology, and he creates a theology with a heart, a soul and a voice that speaks directly to our condition.

**church homecoming welcome: Sermon Seeds - Year C** Kathryn Matthews Huey, 2012-11-01 In the United Church of Christ, we hope to not only preach God's extravagant welcome but we aim to provide help for sermon preparation for preachers of progressive churches. Sermon Seeds: Year C Inclusive Reflections for Preaching from the United Church of Christ offers the preacher tools to listen for the Stillspeaking God. Kathryn Matthews Huey offers scholarly and personal wisdom for your sermon preparation.

**church homecoming welcome: Welcome Home** Dave Browning, 2008-12 In over 20 years as a pastor, Dave has helped thousands of people on their spiritual journey. In Welcome Home Dave surveys seven different sections of the Bible in which God reaches out to welcome you home. Each chapter concludes with a prayer whereby you can receive God's love, acceptance and forgiveness. Find a quiet place. Grab your Bible. Step on the welcome mat. As the door opens, get ready to be loved. The journey is personal. The destination is profound - a personal relationship with the God who created you.

**church homecoming welcome: Creating a Prodigal-Friendly Church** Jeff Lucas, 2009-05-26 Most of us have prodigals in our lives, whether a child, brother, sister, husband, wife, or friend. The ache for these dear ones is like no other. They may hurt us and disappoint us, but somehow we cannot stop loving them. And yet we cannot live their lives for them. The Prodigal-Friendly Church looks at why people leave the church, how we can retain them, how we can reach those who have already gone, and how we can help those who return feel like they belong. Jeff Lucas offers no easy recipes for success, but plenty of truth-telling, hope, and encouragement. This book discusses the principles of: • Reach: How do we reach those who've



already left the church?• Return: How do we help people return to the church?• Retain: How do we retain the people we've worked so hard to reach? Ultimately we are called to bring our prodigals to the cross of Christ, for there we find the mingling of our own utter helplessness and God's total power to intervene and save. When the Father's house is filled with the Father's love, there is hope that the prodigals will come home.

**church homecoming welcome: Theology of the Open Table** Eojin Lee, 2016-11-23 Theology of the Open Table begins with research on the traditional eucharistic understanding in the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) through cultural and social analyses. In developing his argument, Eojin Lee has especially researched the biblical, theological, and early church sources in relation to his subject, the Eucharist and the open table. This book seeks to provide sound theological justification for the open table with an introduction of practices of the open table in the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA).

**church homecoming welcome: *The Other Side of Welcome*** Sue Ellen Johnson, 1998

**church homecoming welcome: Sacred Mission, Worldly Ambition** Adele Oltman, 2012-01-01 Using Savannah, Georgia, as a case study, *Sacred Mission, Worldly Ambition* tells the story of the rise and decline of Black Christian Nationalism. This nationalism emerged from the experiences of segregation, as an intersection between the sacred world of religion and church and the secular world of business. The premise of Black Christian Nationalism was a belief in a dual understanding of redemption, at the same time earthly and otherworldly, and the conviction that black Christians, once delivered from psychic, spiritual, and material want, would release all of America from the suffering that prevented it from achieving its noble ideals. The study's use of local sources in Savannah, especially behind-the-scenes church records, provides a rare glimpse into church life and ritual, depicting scenes never before described. Blending history, ethnography, and Geertzian dramaturgy, it traces the evolution of black southern society from a communitarian, nationalist system of hierarchy, patriarchy, and interclass fellowship to an individualistic one that accompanied the appearance of a new black civil society. Although not a study of the civil rights movement, *Sacred Mission, Worldly Ambition* advances a bold, revisionist interpretation of black religion at the eve of the movement. It shows that the institutional primacy of the churches had to give way to a more diversified secular sphere before an overtly politicized struggle for freedom could take place. The unambiguously political movement of the 1950s and 1960s that drew on black Christianity and radiated from many black churches was possible only when the churches came to exert less control over members' quotidian lives. A Sarah Mills Hodge Fund Publication.

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