

New Summer Growth In Your Congregation

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Summer is a good time to think of new and innovative things to try. It's also a good time to tidy up. Use this checklist to explore one or two new things that might work in your congregation.

Idea	Might Work	Need to talk with others about this	A definite possibility for us
Clean out all the Sunday school cupboards so things are ready for a freshstart in the fall.			
Order curriculum for children, youth, adults.			
Serve lemonade in the church parking lot or front side walk after summer worship.			
Plant a memory garden. Add a bench. Plant a community vegetable garden for a food bank.			
Plan a Traveling Backyard Camp where teams travel to lead a group of 8 or 10 children. (It's a good way to reach out to friends in the neighbourhood.)			
Plan and host an outdoor service—in a park, in the church parking lot, in a conservation area.			
Hold Sunday school in a tent on the church lawn. The kids will love it!			
Form a summer drama troupe and prepare a play with a moral or Christian message. Take your play to the park. Ask people to bring lawn chairs			
Instead of scattering after worship, host a summer picnic or barbeque.			
Host a summer day camp. Hire high school students from your congregation as leaders. (Consider offering the day camp for a loonie or toonie a day for children who cannot afford to go away for the summer.)			
Plan and support family mission trips—work on a Habitat for Humanity site, clean up parks, paint cabins in a camp site.			
Plan a hiking or canoe trip for members of your congregation. A good guide for an outdoor activity is <i>Are We Having Fun Yet? Enjoying the Outdoors with Partners, Families, and Groups</i> . Presbyterian Church (USA) (800-524-2612 or www.pcusa.org/marketplace).			