

What does it mean to be a part of a Front Porch?

First and foremost, it means that you want to be a part of a community. In the past, people spent a great deal of time on a front porch visiting with neighbors, friends, and family. It was a place for relationships to develop, people to be at ease, and to share life together. At NewChurch, we want our version of Front Porches to do the same...we want to spend time together building relationships with each other. This community gathering can occur at any day and time of the week (following a semester schedule – Fall, Spring, Summer) either in homes or public spaces. It also provides opportunities within social and personal space for people to develop relationships.



Second, we want our Front Porches to live life and we want that life to be patterned after Jesus' ministry while he lived here on earth. We see this active, full life with our Front Porches participating in and meeting the needs of not only NewChurch but the greater community of Georgetown, doing things like: disciple, mentor, invite, share, love, and care. This following of Jesus' example can best be described as an apprenticeship to Jesus. We want our Front Porches to be an opportunity for you to spend time with, learn from, and be like Jesus. We think the apprenticing (disciple making) process is the best opportunity for us to be useful in our community because it allows us to replicate the ministry of Jesus on earth.

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NewChurch Georgetown - Adult Discipleship

So, Want to Be Part of a Front Porch?



Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...
Hebrews 10:25a NIV

Our Front Porches:

Key Terms and Definitions - Just so we are talking about the same things!

What we want you to experience at each Front Porch:

We want our Front Porches to accomplish four things to help you become a fully functioning follower of Jesus Christ (NewChurch's mission):

1. Build relationships: Inviting people that you know and don't know into your community with the goal of actually wanting to get to know them!
2. Equip each other: Helping each other keep Jesus at the forefront of their mind no matter what the topic, discussion, or decision - normally occurs through the teaching and practicing of spiritual disciplines.
3. Meets needs: Caring for and meeting various needs such as physical, mental, emotional, relational, and spiritual for those inside your Front Porch group and outside in the community...including the community of NewChurch, the community of Georgetown, the community of Les Abricot, Haiti, and anywhere else God leads.
4. Changes lives: We want to change our lives by becoming a fully functioning follower of Jesus Christ. We want to change the lives of others by somehow showing them a glimpse of the unabashed love that Jesus has for them, providing an opportunity for God to literally transform their life.

Front Porch: Opportunities at NewChurch to spend time visiting with neighbors, friends, and family to develop relationships and share life together as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Disciple: An apprentice of Jesus Christ who spends time with Jesus, in order to learn from Him, to be like Him.

Discipleship: The commitment to and process of becoming an apprentice (disciple) of Jesus Christ.

Community: Men and women (with their families) gathering together to practice personal / public spiritual disciplines with and for one another.

Missional: Unfortunately, Webster's states that the obsolete definition of mission is 'the act or an instance of sending.' We want to revive this definition. Missional at its base is being active, sent, into the community in order to be outward and other focused.

Missional community: A gathering of followers of Jesus Christ that desire to be sent into the community in order to be useful.

Social space: Opportunities to connect by sharing 'snapshots' of who we are. This is space that allows us to decide with whom we would like to grow a "deeper" relationship as well as provides us a place to share an authentic definition of who we are.

Personal space: A means to connect with others through sharing more in-depth information about ourselves such as experiences, feelings, and thoughts. This space includes people whom we often define as "close friends" who know more about us than an acquaintance would know, but not so much about us as to be uncomfortable

Do I have to be a member to be a part of a Front Porch?

This is an easy one...not at all. In fact, often times members and regular attenders of NewChurch will seek to invite – one of the action verbs outlined above – others to join us on the 'Front Porch' before bringing them into the Kitchen or Living Room to participate in a Quest. This Front Porch space (both social and personal) for people to develop relationships with others may in fact be the best way for unchurched or non-followers of Jesus Christ to seek out God in a safe environment (one of the Core Values of NewChurch). NewChurch also provides opportunities to connect with others through 'PlayGroups.' These meetings are heavily geared toward simple, fun activities such as going to a movie, dinner, or concert. They serve as an opportunity to concentrate on building relationships with others.

