

20 Ways to Improve Your Ministry

Eric O'del

1. Update your playlist

Songs written/recorded after 2000

New sing-alongs

Original compositions



2. Use a “hotsheet” bulletin insert

Helps enroll
congregants and
newcomers



Easy ways to get involved and have fun at **Amazing Grace**

- I'll bring food for Ballard Food Bank next time I'm here
- I'm interested in Sanity in Eating Classes Mondays, March 17—April 21, 6:30-9:00 pm—please send info

New Thought CSL Choir, Lake Oswego, visits March 22-23 and performs at service with Spirit of the Sound Choir

- I can help setup and/or clean for one of the meals
- I can be a greeter at Sunday service, March 23
- I'd like to join the Women's Sangha, meeting in Bothell the last Saturday of each month, 6:30-9:00 pm (March 29)
- I'm putting the Annual Meeting on my calendar: Sunday, March 30, 12:30 pm (after brunch)

I'll help get the word out about Amazing Grace

- I will “like” Amazing Grace on Facebook to help push us over 1,000 and invite friends to like us as well
- I would like to receive email versions of event flyers so I can forward them on to friends
- I can help post event flyers in my neighborhood
- I'm happy to post flyers in other parts of town

(Check any that interest you & we'll contact you with the details)

Name _____

Email _____

Best phone _____

Questions / suggestions? Write to us on the back.

Please drop this in the collection basket.

3/9

3. Change your language

“first-timer” or “newcomer”, never “visitor”

“offering”, never “collection”

“team member” is better than “volunteer”

“Prosperity Plan” is better than “budget”

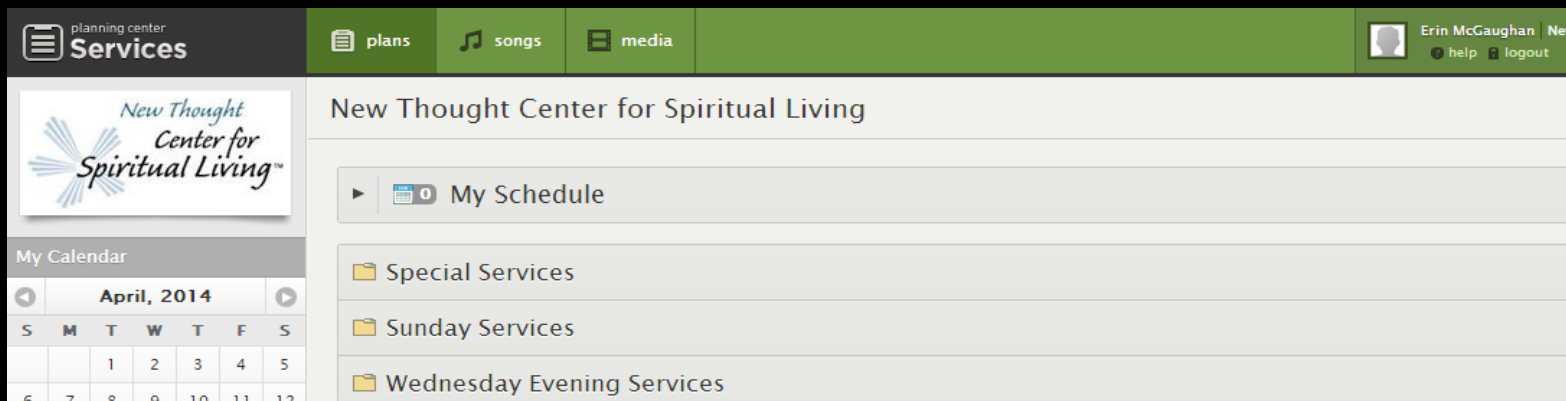
4. Ministers give at the Offering

Let people see that you are practicing
what you preach
and want them to do



5. Use PlanningCenteronline.com

Online music ministry organization service.
If you don't use it, get your Music Director
connected to a church that does



The screenshot shows the Planning Center Services web interface. The top navigation bar includes 'plans', 'songs', and 'media'. The user is logged in as Erin McGaughan. The main content area displays the organization's name, 'New Thought Center for Spiritual Living', and a list of service categories: 'My Schedule', 'Special Services', 'Sunday Services', and 'Wednesday Evening Services'. A calendar for April 2014 is visible on the left side of the interface.

My Calendar						
April, 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

6. Have a Practitioner Sunday Service

Minister in house but not on the platform

Singing, playing, announcing, praying and preaching

all done by practitioners/licensed counselors

7. Have a Congregant Sunday Service

See above

8. Do a Summer Movie Series

Each week show clips from a movie

Lesson drawn from theme in the movie

Study groups come together to watch and discuss the whole film



9. Increase your Tithing

If you're not giving 10%, get to the tithe

If you're giving 10%, give more

Rick Warren is a reverse tither

(gives 90%) of income

10. Use the Internet wisely and proactively

Print is a shrinking medium

Facebook advertising is cheap

Weekly posts and congregant interaction

have earned AGSC over 1,000 likes in one year



11. Trust Your Standards and Keep Them

Sometimes your “no” is really
“Yes” to the Vision

Core Council members as tithers

12. Have congregation share their successes

You are in the business of life improvement and enhancement

Make sure the community is hearing inspiring success stories on a regular basis

It keeps your mission front and center

It confirms that congregants' tithes are working for good

It encourages you and the congregation

13. Add spiritual practice and connection to all activities

Greeters pray in together

Music team prays in together

Make sure acknowledgement and connection
processes are part of all activities



14. Do a Thanksgiving Leftovers Potluck

People get to see the Christmas decorations first

Builds community

Take a collection for a sponsored charity or project

Show a movie singalong



15. Ask about the Aftermath

When considering a new project or proposal, ask what is the aftermath?

Does the project serve the long term or related goals?

What is the life of the project and its afterlife?

Is there a long term plan?

16. Ask: Am I Living a Balanced Life?

If not, what do I have to do
to get there now?



17. Expand your Musical Guest List

“Sing to the Lord a new song”

A balanced life includes both the familiar and the unfamiliar

When is the last time you added a new guest musician to your roster?

18. Make your Singalongs as exciting as the Features

Singalongs that people don't sing along on are a waste of time and an energy drain

Newcomers are embarrassed

Congregants tune out

Singalongs are an artform and are usually shortchanged

If you are on automatic pilot so is everyone else

19. Welcome the Experts

Rev. David Bruner's experience in San Jose

Make room in consciousness for those
who know more than you do

20. What's working for you?