

# As The Church Retains

Cast:

Reverend: Sam Dawkins  
Lay Leader: Wanda McQueen  
Pew Warmer ; Anita Sweet  
Pew Warmer: Diana Walker-Woods  
Seasoned Member: Barb Gorvett  
New Member: Rick Herring  
Narrator: Keith LaSalle

**( The Setting : A small UMC , where there is some good fellowship but members come and go and never seem to stay)**

Narrator: Last Week The Reverend Sam and Wanda were discussing what they can do to keep members coming back and recruiting new members. Let us watch as the discussion takes place.

Rev: Wanda , I am just at a loss why more people don't come on a Sunday morning or Wednesday evenings. Any Ideas of what we could do differently?

Wanda: Well I was visiting a friend's church a while back and what really made me smile was the welcoming committee.

Rev: Welcoming committee?

Wanda: Yes, a welcoming committee. The church had a couple of people at the door, along with the pastor, saying “hello”, shaking hands. They even had a small group in the parking lot with umbrellas, as it was misting that morning, and was walking the elderly who needed assistance.

The place was packed! I asked my friend is this a special occasion today, or is it always like this? She said It is always like this. I was like 'WOW” we need to do something here.

Rev: What are you doing after church today, as I would like to hear more and bounce Ideas around?

Wanda: I don't have any plans, so yea let's get this rolling.

Narrator: Let us move forward to this week and see what has come about from the meeting. As you notice the committee is welcoming members and guests to the church. Let us watch. ( **Barb and Rick walk in**)

Rev: Hi Barb. Nice to see you again. How have you been?  
(**Wanda hugs/shake hands with Barb**)

Barb: Fine thanks and you?

Rev: Doing well thanks.  
(**Walk in Rick and same action with Wanda**)

Rev: (**Shakes hand with Rick**) Welcome, I am Sam Dawkins the pastor here. And You Are?

Rick: I'm Rick Herring, nice to meet you and Thanks for having me.

Rev: What has brought you to our little church and visit us today?

Rick: Well I have heard so much talk around town about what great things you all are doing here with with music and community out reach. I wanted to come and check it out for myself.

(**Everyone takes their place and Sam Goes to the pulpit for his sermon**)

Sam: Sermon,sermon sermon etc.

Narrator: After the sermon, Wanda and Barb talk with Rick

Wanda: How did you like the sermon Rick?

Rick: I loved it and love how welcome I feel here, I am in between churches right and really think I have found a home.

Barb: Great! We would love to have you and your family join us. Maybe you can get involved in some of our outreach programs.

Rick: Yeah! I would love that, my job entails a lot of community outreach. I would love to help.

(**Anita and Diana look at each other quizzically**)

Narrator: 2 of our “pew warmers” now notice the “connection” of the new members and seasoned members

Anita: Have we done something wrong Diana? We have never been asked to do

anything.

Diana: I don't think we have done anything wrong but I know what you mean about not being asked?

Narrator: Wanda and Barb now walk over to the “pew warmers” and “involve” them in the conversation and try to “engage” them in an activity

Barb: We have noticed you two aren't involved in any of the activities

**(Wanda nods in agreement)**

Anita: I have never been asked to join in anything, Just thought either you didn't need anyone or I may have said something to make you think I didn't want to be involved.

Diana: I can sing, but I really don't like the old gospel songs. I am more a contemporary kind of worship girl. ( **Everyone either chuckles or LOL's**)

Wanda: Well we have been looking for choir members for our music ministry. Would you two like to join?

Diana and Anita: Yes ( **In unison and smile**)

Wanda: Great we would love to have you as we do many things with the music. Such as going to senior centers and nursing homes to sing for the elderly, and believe it or not some of them actually like the newer music too!

**(Sam walks over to the foursome)**

Rev: Diana can we hear a little sample of your singing?

Diana: Now? Here?

Anita, Sam, and Wanda: We would love it (**again in unison**)

Sam: Although the congregation does like the older hymns, the Church is getting younger and people do enjoy the new worship type of songs.

Anita: Really? We can?

Diana: (**Sings Alibaster's Box**)(**Possibly a duet with Anita**)

Sam: That was great. Why Haven't you two joined earlier? Praise the Lord and pass the copperheads! We now have a diverse crowd for the music! ( **Everyone busts out laughing**)

Diana: We have always wanted to but not being asked, we were kind of timid to ask if we could or not.

Wanda: Gosh always ask if you can help. We don't bite (**LOL**). Some of it is our fault too as we haven't been the ones to speak up either about what we need in the church.

Narrator: See this is how it works, you grab them coming into the door with a friendly atmosphere and make them feel like family. Once in “Involve” them and get them to “Engage” in an activity to keep them coming back.