

Building Community in Your Church or Group

By Bill Vamos

1. Have a retreat 1 or 2 times a year for your Session, small groups, congregation, church school teacher, etc.
2. Incorporate a regular time for intercessor prayer in your worship service, and meetings. Spend time praying for each others concerns.
3. Begin small groups i.e.: Bible study groups, singles, widows or widowers, support groups for single parents, etc. Take inventory of the people who attend your church and your community to become acquainted with their needs. Perhaps you could develop a survey sheet and give to your congregation for their suggestions to what they see is needed.
4. Pray for the members of your congregation, choose four persons at the beginning of the month, put their names on a card, and pray for them day by day until the beginning of the next month. Then choose four new names. Pray for them during your quiet and prayer time each day as part of your personal prayer discipline.
5. Pray for ways in which you can serve persons in need in your church and community, i.e.: visiting nursing homes, do repair work, visit shut-ins, babysitting for a morning for a mother with small children, mow a lawn, volunteer work for a local charity, bake brownies for a new neighbor, etc.
6. Prayer flows into mutual support. We become better listeners and more sensitized to the needs of others.