

TIME TO VISIT!

In our last deacon's meeting, I shared some guidelines for making visits to folks in the hospital and in nursing homes. Our group found them very helpful and suggested we also make the guidelines available to the rest of the church, which was a great suggestion! So here they are. May they give you confidence as you carry out this most important ministry.

Hospital Visit Do's and Don'ts

Time in the hospital can be very hard for folks. Added to that, physical illness will often stimulate, or make even worse, mental or emotional struggles that have already been present in the patient's life so, in all, the main objective for a visit should be to bring emotional and spiritual

comfort. You frequently don't know what condition the patient will be in *physically*, or how they are feeling, so in consideration of that, there are several things that should, or should not be done during a hospital visit. They are listed below.

DO'S and DON'TS

1. Before you enter the room, turn your cell phone off.
2. Make sure, whether the patient is in an ICU room or not, that you follow any directions regarding wearing gloves, gowns, and masks.
3. If a nurse or doctor is in the room, wait outside or ask if you can come in.
4. Also ask them if it is a good time to visit before fully entering the room.
5. Always identify yourself to staff if they are in the room. Also identify yourself to the patient if they a don't know you or can't see you.
6. If the patient is sleeping, ask staff, if present, if you should wake him or her. If no staff are present, gently say the person's name once or twice. (If you've come from a long distance, you will

probably hope to wake them.) If they are deeply asleep and don't wake up, leave a brief note saying you were there.

7. If you were unable to visit with the patient, call back later.
8. If you are visiting someone in intensive care, make sure the staff allows it.
9. Let the patient lead the conversation. Don't ask how he or she is feeling - *ask the patient how things are going*. Whatever they tell you, listen patiently with encouragement and compassion.
10. Prior to leaving, ask the patient if you can pray for him or her, and if you haven't already gathered it from your conversation, ask him or her what they would most like for you to pray for.
11. Patients often feel out of control so give them as much control as you can.
12. As you leave, ask if there is anything you can do to help - such as tell the nurse of a need they have, or refill their cup with water / ice.

NURSING HOME VISITATION

1. COMMUNION: THEY WILL REALLY APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER FROM TIME TO TIME SO OFFER TO BRING IT. THIS TIME NEED NOT BE LONG OR FORMAL. READ THE WORDS FROM THE BIBLE (1 COR. 11: 23 - 25), PRAY, AND TAKE IT WITH THEM.
2. AUDITORY: SOME MAY HAVE HEARING ISSUES. BE AWARE AND BE READY TO SPEAK LOUDER IF NECESSARY.
3. PRAYER: ASK IF THEY WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO PRAY FOR THEM. ASK, DON'T ASSUME. AND IF THEY WOULD LIKE PRAYER, ASK THEM IF THERE IS ANYTHING OR ANYONE THEY WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE FOR YOU TO PRAY FOR OR ABOUT.
4. INFORMATION: FILL THEM IN ON CHURCH EVENTS. BRING THEM RECENT WORSHIP GUIDES AND NEWSLETTERS.
5. TOUCH: HOLD HANDS TO PRAY. TOUCH THEIR SHOULDER. IF LOGISTICALLY ABLE, GIVE THEM A HUG.

6. LEAVE A NOTE CARD: IT WILL BE SOMETHING FOR THEM TO LOOK AT AGAIN AND AGAIN AND SHOW FAMILY MEMBERS. YOU MAY ALSO BRING THEM CARDS FROM THE CHILDREN AT CHURCH.

7. LISTEN WITH PATIENCE: THOUGH YOU MAY HAVE HEARD WHAT THEY ARE TELLING YOU BEFORE, LISTEN AS THOUGH YOU ARE HEARING IT FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND DON'T CORRECT THEIR DETAILS.

8. STAY AWHILE: REMEMBER THAT YOU CAN VISIT WITH FOLKS LONGER IN NURSING HOMES THAN IN HOSPITALS.

MAY 2026 CALENDAR

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS: AA at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall

WEDNESDAYS:
Community Bible Study from 11 a.m. to noon in the pastor's office.

Choir Practice, 5:30 p.m. in the choir room

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

PICKERS & FIDDLER'S BLUEGRASS & GOSPEL MUSIC FEST

Saturday, May 9 from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Rakestraw Fellowship hall (and every 2nd Saturday of the month). Come, and invite your friends and neighbors. We'll have some coffee and breakfast treats all ready for you, and it's all free of charge!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 18, at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room, (also every 3rd Monday).

DEACON'S MEETING

Tuesday, May 19 at 7 p.m. in the conference room (and every 3rd Tuesday).

COMMUNITY MEAL

Thursday, May 21 at 5:30 p.m. in the Rakestraw Fellowship hall, (and every 3rd Thursday) Please come serve, eat, and fellowship with our friends and neighbors! Workers should arrive at 5:15 p.m. If you would like to contribute a dessert, contact Lindy Koger at 276-734-2096.

FEED AMERICA FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, May 26, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. at the Light Electric Building, 24A Governor Stanley Hwy, (and every last Tuesday of the month). There is also a worship service beforehand at 9:00 am and a lunch, free of charge, is offered at 11:30 am at the same place. All are welcome.

SPECIAL MAY EVENTS

VBS FINAL MEETING

Wednesday, APRIL 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rakestraw Fellowship Hall

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Friday, May 1, from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Rakestraw Fellowship Hall. We will give the children dinner and they'll have a combination of activities such as games, crafts and a movie. Please send the children with a blanket and pajamas. They may each invite one friend. All children must have a reservation through Donna Anthony or through the church office. ***As always, this event is free of charge.***

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, May 3 beginning at approximately 12:15 p.m. in the Rakestraw Fellowship Hall. This meeting was postponed from an April date and will include some new items for vote as well as reports on what has already occurred. It will include lunch. Please make every effort to attend.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

Thursday, May 7, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the HJDB Event Center (old Bassett HS) in Bassett, VA. The theme: "Glorify God Among the Nations." The service will feature music by Waterway Revival.

MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 10, all day! Let's celebrate the special women in our lives and bring them to church! We will recognize our mothers, and women who have been like mothers to others.

GRAD RECOGNITION

Sunday, May 17 during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We will be recognizing graduates present in worship with us, as well as reading the names of any of the beloved graduates in our lives who cannot be present (if you will give us their information). If we have any children in the Little Angels ELC who will be graduating to kindergarten in the fall, we will recognize them as well as children of our church graduating from preschool, elementary, middle or high school. For all grads we will need the following information: **Graduate's Name, School he or she is graduating from, diploma or degree(s) to be received, the graduate's relationship to those who are submitting their information. Please also let us know if the graduate will be present in our service or not. All graduate information is due by Tuesday, May 12.** Thank you!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

ALSO Sunday, May 17, following the worship service we will meet in the Rakestraw Fellowship Hall to plan our church ministries and activities for the next few months. Please bring your personal calendars. Lunch will be provided.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sunday, May 24 in the worship service.

We will remember and celebrate the day the Lord first sent His Spirit to the believers and the church was born. ***Please wear red or orange for the "tongues of fire".***

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 25: church office closed

HEADS UP FOR JUNE!

DECORATE FOR VACATION BIBLE

SCHOOL Friday, June 5 at 5:30 p.m. Our VBS theme this year is a circus one which will feature animals from Infinity Acres. The focal Bible story will be David and Goliath. Please help by loaning to us anything we might be able to use as a prop or decoration on our theme. If you do, make sure to put your name on it. **There are many ways to serve in our VBS. Please join us to set up and for VBS itself!**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: "Life's a Circus But God is the Ringmaster"

Saturday, June 6, 9:45 – 1:00 p.m. We're going to have a great time! Please invite and pre-register any children you know by calling our church office or by using the form you'll find in upcoming worship guides. We have many places where you can serve. Please let Donna Anthony know if you are interested.

JOY GROUPS

It's that time again – time to bring our food and fellowship groups together during these months when the weather is more cooperative.

Remember that groups can be potlucks in our church or in homes. They can also be picnics in parks or gatherings in restaurants, or even meals in our church fellowship hall. . .and they can be gatherings for *any* meal – breakfast,

(Joy Groups - continued)

lunch or dinner. Some groups like to go after church on Sunday. You might also celebrate any birthdays or anniversaries of those in your group. Children are certainly more than welcome in these group times.

Organization for each group has been simply to have a different volunteer from within the group to set the location and date of the next gathering. And since events sometimes get changed or postponed, it is good to put together a list of names and cell numbers of those in your group at your first gathering.

Most importantly, remember that JOY stands for “Jesus, Others and You,” so these are opportunities to share our stories with each other, especially about our faith. You might try a “question of the day” for your group such as “Who stands out as someone who taught you a lot about the Lord?”

Also, we want to remember to look around for those in church who aren't yet in a JOY group and invite them to be a part of ours. Right

now we have three groups which may will likely get “shuffled” and reorganized. They are simply known as groups 1, 2 and 3. Maybe our groups need to come up with some actual names! You should also think about non-churched family and friends you could invite to your JOY group. It's a very unthreatening way to bring together those we love who are within our church with those outside it.

So please pray for our JOY groups, especially your own, and then keep your eyes open. The Lord might bring to mind someone you haven't previously thought of that you could invite.