

Dear Memorial Family,

As the year 2011 began, our pastor introduced us to the Year of Connection. Many of you may know that our church mission statement is “Connect, Grow, Serve”. Simple and straight-forward, yet something we have - at times - had difficulty putting into action.

The deacons of Memorial are taking the Year of Connection to heart and introducing the Deacon Family Ministry. This ministry will serve as a way of ensuring each family at Memorial stays connected. We desire to see each of you involved in the life of our congregation, but realize that there may be times you lose touch. That’s where deacons come in.

The role of deacons in the early church was to know and attend to those within the fellowship whose needs could not otherwise be met. That is also the responsibility of the deacons of Memorial. We have been ordained for that very purpose - to serve in the scriptural duties of a deacon.

We believe the integral support system within the church is the small group unit – Life Groups and Sunday School. Yet we know that sometimes there are needs and concerns which may arise that they are not aware of or best suited to address. We want to serve you, the members of Memorial, as a sort of glue – keeping you connected when you need it most.

So – how will a deacon do that? There are several ways...

- ... by making a personal visit in your home, either at your request or in response to a need
- ... by catching up with you in the halls at church, or over coffee at the welcome center
- ... by calling, emailing or texting just to say “hi” and see if you have any prayer needs

To kick-off the Deacon Family Ministry, we will be promoting sign-up opportunities in the coming weeks. Here are a few specifics:

- We wish for each family to participate, but we won’t force anyone to do so.
- We will provide you with a list of the participating deacons, and ask you to indicate your preference. While we cannot guarantee a match, we know that the existing connections are a strong starting point.
- Each family gets matched with one deacon, but each deacon will be caring for as many as six families. We have a limited number of deacons, so don’t wait to sign up.

If you have any questions about Deacon Family Ministry, please don’t hesitate to contact me. We look forward to serving Christ together with you, and to keeping you connected with Memorial!

Bryan Nethery

Deacon Chairman