

## CARE GROUP GUIDELINES

The purpose of Care Groups is to minister to and encourage people in a practical way through the “one anothers” of scripture. The primary focus is to be fellowship and discussion around the Word rather than a structured, lecture-style teaching; we would like everyone in the group to be involved. Each group can take on its own flavor, but should include prayer time and personal ministry. You may also include music, testimonies, and different people sharing. We really feel that having Care Groups in homes would minister life and help people feel connected.

Care Groups will meet the first Sunday of each month, beginning in October, 2009. If for some reason a conflict arises and you are unavailable to lead the group on the first Sunday, you can move it to another week, or Pastor Don, Pastor Tom, and Dan McKenrick are available to substitute for you. Also, Pastors Don & Tom will be visiting the different groups each month.

### **Here are some suggestions for your group:**

**Time** - pick a start time that works well for you and your group, and lasts no longer than 1 ½ to two hours, e.g., 6 to 8 PM.

**Food** – if you decide to have refreshments, keep it simple and delegate others to help provide snacks and drinks.

**Atmosphere** – keep it casual and create an environment where people feel welcome and loved.

**Worship** – you can use people in your group to play guitar, lead singing, or just play a CD of worship music.

**Ministry and Teaching** – don’t try to do it all yourself. Allow others to share and encourage participation, but discourage any one person from dominating the group. Each meeting should include a scripture reading and some discussion, but the responsibility for this can be shared among members of the group that are comfortable doing so.

**Build Relationships** – the emphasis should be caring for people and exhorting them in the Lord.

**Follow-up** – keep in touch with your people with phone calls, emails, etc., and be aware of any special needs they may have. Your group can provide practical help to one another as needed.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Don.