

How Can I Build up the Body at Grace Church? ***The Ministry of the Pew***

Every Christian is called to do the work of the ministry to help the body mature and grow in Christlikeness (see Eph. 4:11-16). There is one ministry that all of us can engage in *every* Sunday that we gather to build up the body: The ministry of the pew.

The ministry of the pew involves every member intentionally seeking to do spiritual good to one another when we gather. According to Hebrews 10:24-25, when we gather, we must *consider* how to stir one another up to love and good works and encourage one another. Below are some ways you might come prepared to do this vital work.

How can you engage in the ministry of the pew?

Before coming on Sunday (or to a Bible study/fellowship)

- Pray for the Lord to provide opportunities for you to do spiritual good to someone.
- Pray that the Lord would even direct where you sit and whom you encounter as you walk around at church.
- Pray the Lord would help you to put the interests of others above yourself.
- Pray for a few members using the church directory before you come on Sunday.

Suggested ways to engage on Sunday

- Consistently gather for worship on Sunday mornings and participate in singing and actively listening to the sermon. Arrive a bit early and stick around after service.
- Come to Sunday school and use the time between Sunday school and the service to fellowship with those older or younger than you.
- Look for visitors or members you don't know well and introduce yourself. Ask them some questions to get to know them. If they are new, introduce them to one other person.
- If you see someone you prayed for recently, tell them you prayed for them.
- Ask another member what challenges or joys they are anticipating for the week.
- Ask how you can pray for them this week (you might follow up next Sunday or with a mid-week text).
- If you know the person well, ask what the Lord is teaching him or her, or share what the Lord is teaching you.
- Ask about the person's job, family, or people they are praying for to come to know the Lord.
- Invite them to join you for lunch after church and discuss the sermon over a meal.

Not everyone has an outgoing personality. That is ok. This ministry is about encouraging one another, bearing burdens, and helping one another follow Jesus. We all have different gifts, but we can all engage in some form of ministry of the pew.