

LIFE OF THE CHURCH TALK  
Congregational Life Committee  
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Good Morning!

Do you remember the person you talked with briefly that Sunday at the door of the church, and you thought to yourself, "I'd like to get to know him/her better"? And little by little, you learn more and more interesting things about this person, 'til now you count him/her among your best friends. Or maybe someone new sat next to you in church, and after introductions, you learned they came from the same little town that your husband's Grandmother's family came from! Instant friendship!

These are just two ways that lasting friendships are formed. One by learning more about someone, and another by discovering things you have in common or common interests. Our House Church is a little like both these examples. By meeting in small groups of 12 to 15 members in a group, participants have the opportunity to get to know each other through fellowship discussions on many topics.

So why House Church? I think Bill Klein best answers this question through his "Purpose of House Church" explanation published in the House Church guidelines. I quote, "The purpose of the House Church program (is) to 'build up the body' - to build a sense of community, of belonging, among our adult members. House Church is not primarily a "learning time" nor a Bible Study time. Yet we want there to be some meaningful content to House Church. We want what we do at House Church to help people interact and begin to know one another. The warmth and joy of being together is to be promoted at all times." Close quote.

What do we do at House Church? Well, first, (and some would say most important) is we eat. Each member brings a previously determined dish, and the group enjoys a delicious sit-down or buffet style supper in one of the members' home. Lots of good conversation and fellowship take place during this meal. Then the leader of the house church starts the discussion through the thought provoking questions and comments provided by Bill. The 'housekeeping' assignments come at the end of each monthly meeting, and this is when the next months food assignments and meeting place are decided.

Each year has a theme which we try to zero in on. Last year the theme was Journeys. I'm sure Bill had in mind all kinds of journeys, including faith journeys. But, I remember one particularly funny journey one of the members in our house church told about. It involved a vacation to Costa Rica, I believe, with the family, and five very large dogs in five larger crates! What did we learn from this "journey"? Never give up, never lose faith, and "love thy pets as thyself"!

House Church is a fun, sometimes somber, uplifting experience. Come join us!  
And make a new friend .. Or several.