

What's News at Cornerstone?

com-mu-ni-ty \kə-'myū-nə-tē\ *noun* **1:** a unified body of individuals;
2: society at large; **3:** joint ownership or participation.

— *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*

At Cornerstone, we place a high value on *community*. However, we don't use the word as most folks do today. As you can see in the first two entries from the dictionary quote above, "community" typically refers to those who live in the same geographic vicinity or share a common interest or skill (e.g., the *academic community*). It can even refer just to "society at large". Whether or not any of these people know or care about one another seems to have little bearing in the matter.

But the community that we strive for here is much more than this. It's along the lines of Webster's third definition, though I think even that falls a bit short. Authentic, Biblical community is about sharing lives. It's reaching out when you're hurting or in need and knowing that there is someone there to lend a helping hand. It's being able to share your deepest regrets or your wildest dreams without fear that you will be judged or ridiculed. It's working alongside people who share more than just a common interest, but also a similar vision, values, and goals. It's like a family. It's like home.

Community like this is virtually impossible to achieve on Sunday mornings where I end up doing most of the talking. It's a little difficult to know and be known by people whose only interaction is a handshake and a hasty "How ya doin'?" between the second and third praise choruses. It takes time and effort. That's why we encourage everyone to get involved in a mid-week caring group. These are much more than just Bible studies, although that's generally where they start, they are a time for significant interaction, fellowship, and prayer with a small group of people you can get to really know and trust.

Some of you are probably thinking, *I just don't have the time*. May I suggest that it's a bit like going to the dentist or the doctor for a regular check-up—you just have to make the time. If you don't, the results can be potentially disastrous. Others of you might think, *sounds a little bit scary to me*. I know how you feel. It can seem dangerous to open yourself up and let people see your rough edges, to let them know how you really think and feel, but it is **so** worth it. And I can assure you that the benefits far outweigh the risks.

Caring groups are open to anyone, anytime. There's no need to make an appointment and invitations are not required. I hope to see you at one this week.

Pastor Sean



***A new church,
An ancient message,
Contemporary relevance!***

"Mid-Course Corrections"

Acts 9:1-30

February 24, 2008