

CONNECTIONS

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

NEW JOY

Characteristics:

- group of 6-10 people
- a group committed to each other
- study
- fellowship
- service
- group prayer

The topics to choose for a study are endless--basic Bible, marriage enrichment, parenting, expanding your prayer life, developing character, etc.

We believe so strongly in this small group concept that we would like to offer our help in establishing other groups. We would be available to help pick out materials, discuss group management, help with any problems that arise, and would even be willing to help facilitate the first few meetings of a new group.

I would be happy to talk to you more about this opportunity, help you organize a group, or give some study ideas. You may contact me personally, talk with anyone listed below, or sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Arlene Shodrock
569-2837
Shodrock@gmail.com

Here are some thoughts from some people currently in a group.

Our small group has given us the opportunity to build a stronger relationship with Christ and with others. It's wonderful to have the weekly fellowship, support, and accountability that a small group provides. Our prayer life has become more meaningful for each of us as we've been prayed for and we remember others in prayer. It's also deepened our understanding of the Bible as we share our thoughts each week. Finally, it's fun! We share laughter, stories, and food. Pray and search how God might be calling you to be a part of a small group at New Joy.

Dale & Roberta Ressler, 566-9659, dmressler@sbcglobal.net

Small group is what has kept my faith alive. There were times (having small children) that I'd been weak in attending Bible studies and spiritually, physically, and mentally tired. Being at the Connections small group allowed me to learn about prayer as a tool to use in my everyday life. Also, it helped me to bond with others who have similar life trials. It helped me learn from others' experiences. Finally, it showed my children the importance of Bible study and fellowship

Nancy Banerjee

Nancy & Dean Banerjee, 867-1894, ndbanerjee@comcast.net

My small group is a key component in my efforts to be a Christ follower. The group provides encouragement and uplifts in prayer one another and those whose concerns we bring. I am challenged to live my life as God wishes and to continue striving to know Him more fully and to live like that on a daily basis and not just when I feel like it. I feel like I am accepted right where I am by this group but encouraged to keep growing. Perhaps most importantly, this group reminds me how God is at work in the world and in my life when I can no longer see Him.

Arlene Shodrock, 569-2837, Shodrock@gmail.com

Being active in a small group at New Joy has strengthened my walk with the Lord. We have studied and discussed various sections of the Bible. We have prayed for each other and given thanks for our many blessings. I highly recommend forming a small group with other believers.

Damon Shodrock, 697-4305, damon@customcarpentry.biz

I have been a participant in Connections, a small group Bible Study, for about two years. Only a few people have come & left out group, so we have had the same 5 couples since our start. Sharing our experiences in life has brought us closer. I feel that God planned this. I have learned so much and have expanded in my faith journey from this time together, in a way that would not have been possible without this group. I believe there is no better way to thank God for our gifts or to increase them, than by sharing them. We all have different lives, different jobs, and different family dynamics. But in the real world that lies beyond this we are all here for one reason. This is to allow God's spirit to move through us, to do his work in the world. Our small group has helped me grow in this direction.

Jane O'Neill

Jane and Jeff O'Neill, 699-7137, indyjanie@gmail.com

Small groups are a building block in the development of one's faith. A small group provides a setting for the members to learn, to share, and to grow together. A member does not have to be an expert in the Bible but only bring an open heart to the group. It also is a wonderful way to develop meaningful relationships and as the group bonds, it becomes apparent what it means to be as a part of the body of Christ.

Larry Lauterhahn

Our small group is the oasis of my week, because no matter what is happening in my life, I always leave refreshed from the fellowship, study of God's Word, the prayers, and the inspiring faith of my friends in Christ who have become quite dear to me.

Cathy Lauterhahn

Larry and Cathy Lauterhahn, 566-0718, Lauterhahn@sbcglobal.net

Here we are. Look for us. Ask us any questions you might have about small groups. We would love to help you get your own small group started.

Back row, left to right: Damon & Arlene Shodrock, Cathy & Larry Lauterhahn, Jane and Jeff O'Neill, Roberta & Dale Ressler

Front row, left to right: Annabelle, Dean & Nancy Banerjee

