

The Communiqué

In libris

The Lighthouse Church
of the Christian &
Missionary Alliance
1248 Rt. 9 South,
CMCH, NJ 08210
609-465-6690

The Communiqué is the monthly newspaper
of the Caring Communities of
The Lighthouse Church.

EXCLUSIVE NEWS TODAY

New Year Brings New Look

Inside

A Pastor tells all he knows about small groups and in doing so he defines what a Caring Community is. See page 2

Want Ads

All the new groups we want/need to start at TLC. Page 2.
A list of ideas for potential new groups on page 2.

Caring Communities offer:

1. Relational Building Opportunities – “Reaching In”
2. Spiritual Growth Opportunities – “Reaching Up”
3. Service Opportunities – “Reaching Out”

Pastor Rudy’s vision is that our Caring Communities “will become a place where people can be known- So they can be loved- So they can be moved- Closer to the Lord and each other

The Bible calls us to experience life together; it’s called fellowship. Real fellowship is more than attending church services together. Fellowship is unselfish loving, honest sharing, sympathetic comforting; kind listening; practical serving; generous giving. It helps a Christian with the 58 different *one-anothers* that are commanded in New Testament.

At The Lighthouse Church, we strongly urge you to get into a Caring Community (that’s what we call our small groups). We offer several affinity groups – women’s, men’s, couples’, singles’. There are also support groups – Compassionate Friends, Celebrate Recovery.

If you can’t find one that suits you, consider starting one of your own. You’ll need a vision bathed in prayer. You’ll need some training (offered by our Caring Ministries Pastor – Charlie Harrah). You’ll need a place to hold it and some folk’s to attend it(we’ll help make that happen too).

A Jig-Saw Puzzle?

Why a jig-saw puzzle piece to connote Caring Communities? To convey the idea that we are a part of a larger picture and that we are stronger when we interlock, relate, and connect. Get Connected! Get into a Caring Community



Have you ever seen Pastor Charlie in his clerical collar? He has to wear it on special occasions at the seminary he teaches at. It is a symbol of servanthood. It is supposed to resemble a slaves collar or even a dog collar. It signifies that he is Jesus’ servant. By the way; **whose servant are you?**

The Communiqué is written and published by the staff and Caring Community leaders of The Lighthouse Church. Any opinions expressed herein are subject to change upon a whim, when any pressure is applied or with bribes in mind.

Pastor Tells All He Knows About Small Groups

The Lighthouse Church is launching a concerted effort to develop our small group ministry. Our small groups are called Caring Communities. It's an appropriate title: Caring, because Christians are to serve and care and love and also receive the same; Communities, because Christianity is best when it's lived out in front of others.

We've got a definition of a Caring Community that will allow a common understanding of our expectation. A **Caring Community** is:

"an intentional face-to-face gathering of 3-12 people on a regular time schedule with a common purpose of discovering and growing in the possibilities of the abundant life in Jesus."

Consider each element in the definition:

'Intentional' – Group members choose to be involved. It refers to a covenant or an agreement, which the group establishes to identify the expectations, responsibilities and accountability of the members.

'Face-to-face' – Caring Communities requires honesty, trust, and growth which can only be accomplished in interpersonal relations. 90% of communication is non-verbal. We need to be with other Christians in order to mature.

'3-12 people' – Two people are a pair while more than 12 means a loss of intimacy.

'Regular time' – This permits loyalty, group connections and allows people to plan their schedules with their Caring Community in mind.

'Common purpose' – People follow clear, understandable ideas and directions.

'Discovering and growing' Non-Christians can connect to a small group and discover what following Jesus is all about. It is also a place for Christians to grow, deepen and enjoy their faith.

'Abundant life in Christ' – Caring Communities can make Christianity come to life through prayer, Bible study, discussions, fellowship, and ministry service.

If you're wanting to plug into a Caring Community the best place to start is [The Lighthouse Church Caring Community Directory](#), located on the table in the narthex or visit www.tlccma.org.

The Want Ads

NEEDED – Caring Community Leaders. There will be short training sessions offered in the spring. More information will be coming.

Wanted – Need an idea for a small group you'd like to lead? Here are some groups we could start at TLC: An Artist's Guild; a small group to help widows and orphans; a media group; a group for Coast Guards and their families, a

small group for the underemployed and the unemployed; a group to help in death and dying issues; infertility support; a group to assist folks in financial matters; a small group to visit the sick; a group to support blended families; parents with special needs children support; cancer survivors; Alzheimer's support; divorce care; families with incarcerated loved ones;

Spatula support group (for parents with homosexual children). Just about any idea, affinity, or concept can be used to rally people, provide an opportunity to exercise spiritual gifts and promote christian love and unity at The Lighthouse Church.

Wanted – any ideas, articles, cartoons, contributions of any kind to be published in the next issue of *The Communiqué*.

Intentional or Accidental?



Did the newly wedded Prince and Princess of England intentionally copy the Disney Cinderella cartoon? Royal insiders are mum.