



MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND

All churches have prime timers who have limitations that prohibit their attendance at most church services. Though they are not visible in the church they are still an important part of the Body of Christ. Here are a few suggestions for ministry to the homebound:

- Encourage families to *adopt* senior adults who are no longer able to attend. If these families have children, encourage the children to draw pictures or cards to send or take. Remember these *adopted* friends on holidays and birthdays.
- Place pictures of the homebound on the church bulletin board with their names and addresses. This will keep their faces before the congregation and encourage them to remember and minister to them.
- Have the pastor mention homebound persons in his or her pastoral prayer every week.
- Once a quarter place the names of homebound members on the bulletin board or as an insert in the worship bulletin as a reminder for the congregation to pray for them.
- Take cake, pie, cookies, or some other treat to the homebound on their birthdays. Ask a children's Sunday School to make birthday cards that can be mailed or delivered.
- Ask members who garden to cut flowers and deliver them to the homebound. A short visit or even just a knock on the door will brighten someone's day.
- Class members who are homebound can participate in Sunday School through a conference call class. The members who are homebound dial in, listen, and can respond to the teacher and other class members. Talk with your local telephone company about how to accomplish this. Delivering the materials to the class members at the beginning of each quarter adds a special dimension to the class.
- Schedule a weekly, monthly, quarterly, or semi-annual visit to members who are homebound. Prepare and take a simple lunch to share and eat with homebound members. Prepare enough that extra can be left for enjoying another day.
- Invite gardeners to bring their surplus tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, peppers, and other fresh produce to deliver to those who can no longer garden or grow their own vegetables.
- In addition to the weekly or by-weekly newsletter your church provides, create a one page "What's Happening" newsletter for senior adults that can be photocopied and sent to all the Prime Timers including the homebound.
- Start a homebound tape/DVD ministry. Make weekly audio tape or DVD deliveries of the worship services to those who are homebound.
- Periodically, make a special effort to bring homebound members to the church. Honor them with a luncheon or tea.

Revised 3/22/07