

## Pastoral Care

With a church the size of ET the care of our members cannot be served by just one individual, it takes a group effort. In fact I believe pastoral care is all about having a caring, compassionate heart and loving people. It doesn't necessarily only have to be a pastor who can provide effective pastoral care. We are blessed to have a great team of individuals who along with our staff provide outstanding pastoral care. Here are some of the teams that are filled with volunteers who work along our staff to minister to our ET family:

### Homebound Ministry:

Currently, we have over 50 households that receive a personal visit from one of our 19 Home Bound ministry teams. These visits are made to once-active ET members who now have limitations that have reduced their involvement or even stopped. Our thinking is, "if our homebound members are unable to come to ET, let's take ET to them."

With this in mind, our homebound members develop new friendships and meaningful connections. And those visits by our Homebound ministry team members lets them know that they are not forgotten.

### Care Ministry:

Our Care Ministry team, made up volunteers, provide a comforting meal for the family on the day of the funeral of a loved one. The cooking, set-up, serving and clean-up are all provided by those volunteers out of their own resources. For those grieving families having a nice meal in a quiet and relaxing atmosphere brings a measure of peace.

### Prayer Team:

The prayer team serves the pastor by praying for those coming to the alters. Team members go through training to prepare them to pray for those seeking for a need for themselves, to pray through a concern for others, for healing, deliverance, the baptism in the Holy Spirit or simply to share in giving thanks for God's blessings to them. We also have intercessors who pray during our morning services seeking God to move by His Spirit during the course of the service.

### XYZ

XYZ (Extra Years of Zest) is a Life Group for those, but not limited to, 49+. We had a great 2016 with wonderful and memorable dinners highlighting our own ET musicians on Valentine's and the Columbus High School Choir Ensemble at the

XYZ Christmas dinner. The XYZs also took day trips to a peach farm, Jimmy Carter Library, and the Tuskegee Airmen Museum. The XYZ also had a special luncheon for our homebound members and provided a musical program at Gardens of Calvary.

2016 was a great year for the XYZ and we look forward in making 2017 even better.

Pastor Bud Rupel