**SERVING HOME COMMUNION**

Tips and Suggestions

Thank you for participating in Guilford Park’s ministry to serve communion to our members who are unable to attend church. This is one of the most important ministries of the church, and it would not happen without the help of many, many volunteers. With your visit, you are bringing the body of Christ and being the body of Christ to the person you are with. You might be one of the few connections a communion recipient has with the church.

Before You Go

* Pick up your communion kit. At the 9 a.m. service they are located on the Lord’s Table at the front of the church. At the 11 a.m. service, they are located in the back of the church.
* Call your recipient and set up a time to come by. If the recipient is in assisted living, he or she may not have access to a phone. Feel free to drop on by. Check the white board for the most recent address for folks.
* Pick up a bulletin from church. Remember, there is no liturgy in the 9 a.m. bulletin, but it can be found in the 11 a.m. bulletin. It’s helpful to have one for each of you.
* Check your communion kit. Does it have everything you want in there?
* Mark your Bible with the scripture you plan on reading. The gospel text from Sunday is a good place to start. You can always use Matthew 26:26-28 or Mark 14:22-24.

Your Visit

* When you arrive, go ahead and set out the bread and pour the juice. It’s a good visual reminder during your time. We get the visual when we’re in church, and it’s nice to offer this symbol in this setting as well.
* An easy place to start is by going through the announcements in the bulletin and what’s happening in the church. Find out who your recipient is connected to, and offer any information you might have. Many people like to know prayer concerns as well.
* When you feel it’s time, transition into the “service” part of your visit. A great way to do this is by offering a prayer, and/or say a few sentences of scripture (see liturgy page).
* Follow the liturgy from the service on Sunday or use the suggested liturgy provided to the extent that you feel comfortable. Your comfort level is what’s most important—if you aren’t comfortable, your recipient won’t be either.
* Be sure to read some scripture, and offer a prayer before serving the elements.
* When you serve, look at your recipient in the eye, and touch their hands. You are offering the body of Christ in the form of bread, but also in the form of your presence.
* After you partake of the elements, invite your recipient to say the Lord’s Prayer with you as a way to close your time.

After Your Visit

* Throw out any unused bread, and clean and dry the grape juice container. Please leave the lid off when you put it back in the case.
* Fill out the card included and put it in the Congregational Care (Donna Barrier) box. Return your box to the top of the office mailboxes.

Other Notes

* If you are unable to visit the month you are given, please find a substitute for yourself. If you are unable to find one from the list provided (those with stars by their names are happy to sub), contact Betty Peraldo (336-668-2534), or Jo Owens (336-601-3696).
* Take a buddy with you. The person you take along does not need to be an elder, just someone you feel comfortable with.