

MAKING IT HAPPEN:

1. Identify the existing *PEACE* networks in your group, by having each person ask and answer:
 - ⇒ *Who are my shepherds?*
 - ⇒ *Who are my sheep?*
2. Establish new and additional *PEACE* networks as required for each member of the group.
3. Maintain a 'watching brief' to ensure that everyone in the group is being *PEACE* pastorally cared for.

RESPONSIVE PASTORAL CARE

As we practice this *PEACE* proactive pastoral care in our groups and our gatherings, we are building and strengthening our community, so that we are better able to respond appropriately to problems, issues and crises when they come along. Our responsive pastoral care works best when it is built on on-going *PEACE* proactive pastoral care.

Responsive pastoral care is about providing practical support and care for people in all manner of difficult circumstances. Much of this will happen informally within groups and gatherings and need not be formalised. In some situations we may need to formalise what is being done, in order to make best use of our resources. The Pastoral care teams associated with each of the gatherings can have a role of consultation and providing additional support, as required.

PEACE

PASTORAL CARE



Bible Studies

H O L Y T R I N I T Y A D E L A I D E

An Integrated Bible Study for Home Groups and personal Use

These Bible studies aim to help us consider what the Bible has to say about God's people and how we are to care for one another. Pastoral care is all about walking together in faith, hope and love, growing together in maturity as disciples of Jesus, all to the praise and glory of God.

Two great themes in the Bible tell us much about pastoral care in the community of God's people. The first is the theme of the *shepherd*, which runs right through the Old and the New Testaments; and the second is found in all the '*one anothering*' ideas, throughout the New Testament. These two great themes are vital to our understanding of ministry and pastoral care.

I THE SHEPHERD...

The *shepherd* theme is a very rich one all through the Bible and key to understanding pastoral care and ministry.

The shepherd in the Old Testament:

1. In these passages, who is the *shepherd* and what does he do for his people?
 - ⇒ Gen 48:15
 - ⇒ Psalm 78:52-54
 - ⇒ Isaiah 40:11
 - ⇒ Psalm 23

2. Whom did God appoint as human *shepherds* and why?
 - ⇒ Isaiah 63:11
 - ⇒ 2 Samuel 5:1-4

3. What can we learn from the Old Testament about *shepherds* and *shepherding*?

E Providing a Christian EXAMPLE for one another:

1. John 13:12-17 – how can we emulate Jesus' example in our group and community?

2. 1 Cor 10:31-11:1 – what is Paul's principle here?

3. 1 Tim 4:12; Titus 2:7-8 – how does Paul urge Timothy and Titus to overcome opposition and criticism?

4. What are the greatest challenges to your providing a Christian example to others?

ONE ANOTHERING...

The model of the *shepherd* is one foundational aspect of our understanding of pastoral ministry and the '*one anothering*' passages provide us with another essential understanding; one which incorporates us all into the ministry of pastoral care.

In the New Testament, the terms *one another* and *each other* appear about 60 times in the context of instructions about interpersonal dealings within the community. The command to love one another comes about 20 times, along with bearing with one another, being kind and compassionate to one another, living in peace and harmony with one another, encouraging one another, teaching and instructing one another. As well, we are to be humble with one another, submit to one another, bear one another's burdens, serve one another, agree in the Lord and confess our sins to one another. In the negative, we are not to judge, slander, deprive, bite and devour, provoke, lie to or grumble about one another.

Our pastoral care model at Trinity has two major components – a proactive dimension and a responsive dimension. The ideas of *shepherding* and '*one anothering*' are essential to proactive pastoral care and provide the foundation for responsive pastoral care, which arises out of specific situations and issues.

Our health as a community of God's people will be greatly strengthened by our intentional, proactive pastoral care for one another.



Being AVAILABLE and keeping in contact with one another:

1. John 13:34-35 – what are the key elements of love identified here?
2. Hebrews 10:23-25 – why is keeping in contact with one another important?
3. What does 'being available' mean in our *shepherding* context?
4. How do we make wise decisions in regard to the extent of our availability?

E**ENCOURAGING one another in Bible reading, personal prayer, loving and serving:**

1. 2 Tim 3:16 – how are we to see and use the Bible?
2. 1 Th 5:16-18 – what does Paul tell us about prayer?
3. John 13:1-17 – what is the very heart of serving?
4. Romans 12:3-8 – how are we to view ourselves in the community of God's people?
5. How do all these passages guide us in encouraging one another?

GOD'S PEOPLE AS SHEPHERDS...

1. John 21:15-17 - What are the key ideas in Peter's commissioning by Jesus?
2. Peter passes on the commission in 1 Peter 5:1-4 – what are the important factors for pastoral ministry he stresses?
3. In Acts 20:28 Paul instructs local leaders to be *shepherds* and outlines the task and its purpose in Ephesians 4:11-16:
 - ◆ What is the purpose of pastoral ministry?
 - ◆ What are the essential tasks of the pastoral *shepherd*?
 - ◆ What is the goal of pastoral ministry?

P***PRAYING with and for one another***

1. Read James 5:16-18. What does James tell us about the effectiveness of prayer?
 - ⇒Ephesians 6:18
 - ⇒Ephesians 6:19
 - ⇒Philippians 4:4-7
2. What does he tell us about our interdependence?
3. What does Paul teach us about prayer?
 - ⇒Ephesians 6:18
 - ⇒Ephesians 6:19
 - ⇒Philippians 4:4-7

4. How does Paul pray for his friends?
 - ⇒Eph 1:17-19
 - ⇒Eph 3:14-21
 - ⇒Phil 1:9-11
 - ⇒Col 1:3-5
 - ⇒Col 1:9-14
 - ⇒1 Th 1:2-3
 - ⇒2 Th 1:11-12
 - ⇒Philemon 1:4-6
5. What principles about praying for one another can we learn from Paul's example?