

For New Neighbors or New Church Attenders

- 1) Create a Welcome Basket for new neighbors, and include:

Small plant or flowers

“Your best of list...” (pizza place, grocery store, doctor, babysitter, church...)

Your name and phone number on refrigerator magnet

MPCC brochure

Invitation to dinner, play date at the park, church, join you at book club or small group....

- 2) Organize a neighborhood “meet and greet” for the newbies so they can get to know the rest of the neighborhood

For Your Neighborhood, Work or other Acquaintances

3) Gatherings – suggested activities to establish relationships:

a. Block Party in a box

b. Tea for Two

Invite someone to share tea at your house

Make sure to get out the china cups, table linens, etc

-Or- treat them to high tea held at a teahouse or hotel

c. Coffee Conversations

Invite one or two over for relaxing time of morning coffee, or

Starbucks has already created conversation-ready atmosphere

d. Dinner 4:8 (for adults)

This can be a one-time or monthly event with the same 7 people or different ones

Pick a theme ethnic food, seasonal fare or favorite dinner meal

Decorate the table, room or patio to match the theme of your dinner

Incorporate your touchstones or souvenirs in the décor that you can use as springboards to sharing your faith. Such as, a shell you picked up from the beach as a reminder that God loves you...

e. Picnic at the Park (for families with small children)

f. Neighborhood Movie Night

After viewing the movie, discuss

g. Establish a regular Friends/Neighbors Game Night, featuring either board games or sports

4) Year Around Holiday Highlights – suggested ways to open conversation doors to share your faith

a. New Years

Leave a gift bag with an inspirational calendar (perhaps with scripture) and a card with good wishes for the New Year

Add an invitation to your home or a to specific event

b. Valentines Day

Make a batch of heart-shaped cookies and leave one for each member of the family

Package with a Bible verse that tells of God's love

c. Easter

Hand deliver an invitation to Easter services at MPCC and then attend together.

After church Easter brunch at your house?

Basket of Easter eggs and jelly beans with a note

Host a community or neighborhood Easter egg hunt

d. Earth Day

Give a live plant, a 6-pack of strawberries, tomato plants, or kitchen herbs

Add a Bible verse about how God provides and cares for us with the planting instructions

Organize a neighborhood cleanup

e. May Day Flowers

May 1st leave a basket of flowers at the door with a message

f. Mothers Day

Invitation to attend MPCC for service and free mother's day family pictures

g. Fathers Day

Organize a neighborhood "car wash" where kids can wash their dad's vehicles

Invite neighbors over for a BBQ at your house

Host a neighborhood baseball, soccer or basketball game with BBQ to follow

h. July 4th – Independence Day

Outing to Tempe Town Lake or other spot to watch fireworks display

Have a yard party: bring out the lawn chairs, folding tables, cool drinks, snacks, sit back and listen for opportunities to share your faith

i. Back to School

Host a Back-to-School parent celebration brunch

Host a First Day of School after-school party for the neighborhood kids

j. Halloween

Package up goodies: and add a word of appreciation, scripture or inspirational words; gather your family; go around the neighborhood and instead of trick-or-treating, give the treats and a warm and friendly smile to the one who opens the door.

k. Thanksgiving

Send thank you cards, citing things you are thankful for about the recipient, i.e.; “thanks for being such a good neighbor to me”, or “thanks for watching my dog while I was on vacation, I so appreciate you.”

l. Christmas

Card with invitation to Christmas Eve services at MPCC

Organize a neighborhood cookie exchange

Leave a small poinsettia and a card with good wishes for the Christmas season and a reminder about the reason for the season...

Fresh baked anything is usually very much appreciated and always opens doors to conversation

For Building Relationships in your Community

5) Chocolate Blitz

Buy some good chocolate, like Ghirardelli squares

Attach a message to the back, like “something sweet to brighten your day”, or “God loves you”

Pass them out to everyone you encounter during your day, the bank teller, the clerk at the market, your newspaper deliverer, the cleaners, etc.

6) Pay Forward

Pay for the person behind you in line at Starbucks, fast food restaurant or the movies.

7) Come Forward

Give the person in back of you your place in line at the bank, fast food restaurant or grocery store, especially if the lines are long, guaranteed to open a line of conversation

8) Pray Forward

When someone is sharing with you about their bad day, stop immediately and ask if you can pray with them about it, then do it on the spot. If they say no, pray for them privately anyway

Block Party in a Box

Three Months Before:

1. If possible, form a committee with another household or two in your neighborhood
2. Pick the date of the party
3. Assign one person to handle permits, insurance and other legal requirements for your neighborhood. Check with city and public works department to get this information.
4. Assign one person to handle organizing food and refreshments
5. Assign someone to handle and organize a clean-up team

One Month Before:

1. Send out invitations
2. Apply for any necessary permits
3. Investigate noise ordinances and see whether permits are required to keep the party going after a specific time
4. Make arrangements for barricades to block off the street if necessary
5. Reserve equipment you need to rent, such as tables and chairs (or ask everyone to bring their own chairs), tents, sound systems, inflatables, etc

One Week Before:

1. Confirm that all arrangements have been made with emergency, police and fire departments if required
2. Confirm arrangements for barricades, entertainment, food, refreshments, tents, tables and any other equipment that will be rented or borrowed
3. Post announcement about the party with times of the party, and any other pertinent information in your yard, or in the location of the party so people know where to show up
4. Assign a spot to drop off or store all the items collected for the party beforehand

Two Days Before