

From the Laptop of Rev. Kharma ...

Sharing Our Caring

Thanks to *Facebook*, I've given more "Happy Birthday!" wishes this year than ever before. Why? Because *Facebook* has a handy little feature that alerts me every day if one of my "friends" is having a birthday. It's a very simple thing, really, but it gives me an opportunity I probably would not have otherwise had or taken advantage of to share a kindness with a person who has been a gift in my life. Without this reminder and the two entire minutes it takes to be mindful of someone I care about and sincerely wish them well, I would doubtlessly have rushed through the things on my to-do list oblivious to the fact that they were celebrating the gift of their life for another year.

The reason I mention this is that we are hoping to revolutionize our approach to congregational care here at MCC NOVA in ways that incorporate the wisdom of this helpful tool. We believe that the members and friends of our community genuinely care for one another. We want to be supportive of one another. We want others to know that they matter to us and that we value their presence and their gifts. We want to be able to extend encouragement to one another in times of difficulty, sympathy in times of loss, etc. We want to be present for those who are lonely and extend a helping hand to someone in need. Simple things, right? Except that much of the time, we're too busy rushing through our lives and worrying about our own concerns to take the time or make the effort. But what if MCC NOVA (like Facebook) made it easier for you to make a small effort to care for someone else in ways that make a big difference to them? I'm almost certain God would have no problem with us using innovative tools to help us follow the commands to "love one another" and "love our neighbors."

You'll be reading in this newsletter about some changes in our Congregational Care Team as it shifts from being a group of active care-givers to a group of people who help us plan strategically to equip and empower our entire community to care for one another. We are going to do our best to think creatively and use all the tools at our disposal to help all of us extend compassion to those among us in need. I'd like to ask you to take a few minutes of your time to take the Congregational Care Survey that is linked in this email. Please let us know about the small and large ways you might be willing to help us become the caring and compassionate community we long to be.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kharma". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing 'K' and a cursive 'h'.

Rev. Kharma