

**Come and See
2/5/2017**

**“Bring Your Neighbor Day” February 26th.
Figure out what you would like to bring
to support a theme of “Summer Cookout in February.”**

**If we can have “Christmas in July,”
we can certainly also have a summer cookout in February!**

**“Bring your neighbor day”- interesting concept.
NOT “drag your neighbor,” or “manipulate your neighbor,”
or even just “invite your neighbor day.”**

“Bring Your Neighbor Day”

What thoughts are imbedded in that little phrase?

#1. That you know your neighbors. Do you?

I don't, not all of them.

**Lots of them, yes,
because we walk the dogs and meet people
who know us by the names of our dogs,
and them by the name of THEIR dogs,
and occasionally, even their own names.**

**And we have block parties
and Halloween parties in our neighborhood,
and an email group where we all complain about
people not picking up their dog's poop,
or who knows a good plumber or yard person.**

But I could do more to know my neighbors, ya know?
I try to engage them in conversation,
sometimes successfully, sometimes not,
Without being TOO weird or socially inappropriate,

Am I only getting to know them
so I can invite them to Bring Your Neighbor Day,
or have I shown them that I care about them
all the time?
...I think they know the difference.

But we have to start somewhere.
So people, if you don't know your neighbor,
meet your neighbor.

And the best way, is to BE a neighbor.
I have loaned out my chop saw, my saw horses...

Nancy will occasionally just keep riding
her awesome zero-turn mower into the neighbor's yard
and help them finish cutting their grass.

One neighbor, Sally, brings Juno into our yard
to play with Lucy and Skye, primarily,
but also to talk politics, catch up on
new construction in the neighborhood, whatever.

Dave and Cath always kibbitz as they walk by
walking THEIR dogs-
(they got a new one by the way, haven't met it yet.)

They invite Nancy and I to go dancing...
not happening... they have never seen me dance...

This summer, Barb and Susan
the ladies who own a house together on the corner
bought some chickens,
so we all watched together,
along with Susan and her husband Neil,
who live across the street from Barb and Susan,
as the chicken house was set in place on their property.

But there are other neighbors we don't know, really, at all.

They might really enjoy a Summer Cookout
in February/Bring Your Neighbor Day,
but they won't know to come,
because I don't know them yet.

#1. You need to know your neighbor,
to bring your neighbor.

#2. The phrase "Bring Your Neighbor Day"
Also implies that you have something
you want to share with your neighbors.

Bring them to WHAT?

Why in the world would I want to do THAT?

Why would they want to come?

Because they sense the excitement
that I feel in offering them something that I think
will be good for them, that hopefully they will enjoy.

David and Cath invite us to the local Methodist church
every time the Methodist church
has their country breakfast on a Saturday morning.
Do they worship there?

No, but they like the country breakfast,
they know it's good,
and they want to share it with Nancy and me.

Nancy and Cath both do agility training with their dogs,
but Nancy is the one that got Cath into it.
She has the jumps all set up in our front yard,
Cath walks by with Sassie, sees the jumps,
brings Sassie into the yard...
First thing you know you see jumps in Cath's back yard...

#1. Know your neighbors, by meeting your neighbors.

**#2. Have something you want,
genuinely want, to bring your neighbors to.**

**#3. The Phrase "Bring your neighbor day"
implies that you TALK to your neighbors
about the something you want to share with them.**

- a. Go for a walk. Most of us need the exercise anyway.
- b. Walk at a time when neighbors are likely
to be out walking, too.
- c. Be friendly while you are walking.
 - Greet your neighbors.
 - Introduce yourself if you don't already know them.

- Catch up on the news from your neighbors,
which means you may have to slow down
and take longer on your walk,
(P.S. Your TV show will wait for you.)
- Ask about their kids, grandkids, home remodeling,
- Listen and remember what they share with you.
- And then share about yourself, what you are up to.
If church is important, it will come up.
If Jesus is important, HE will come up, too.

You're not preaching; you're just sharing.

**#3. You talk to your neighbors
about stuff you are excited about,
stuff you want to share with them.
So that THEY become motivated
to want to check out what you've shared about.**

**#4. The phrase "Bring Your Neighbor Day, in this context,
is not just about someone coming to Church
for an event, or a meal.
Ultimately it is about introducing them to Jesus.**

**I bet you had no idea that all that was imbedded or implied
in the phrase "Bring Your Neighbor Day," but it is!**

And you know what? It's even Biblical.

John 1:35-46

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?”

³⁹ “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶ “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

Jesus to Andrew and John, and Philip to Nathanael-

“Come and see.”

1. Check it out for yourself.
2. Come dancing with us.

3. I think you would enjoy agility training with your dog...
Why don't you come and see?

4. We're having Summer Cookout in February, and VBS,
and Fall Festival, and a Financial Peace workshop,
and small groups, and Parents' Night Out,
so you can "come and see"
the Body of Christ reflect the person of Christ
through the love of Christ that we have for you,
and for each other.

So when is it happening? February 26th.

WHAT is happening?

We, just for fun,
are having a "Summer Cookout in February,"
and we want to invite our neighbors
to come and share in it with us.

So who are you going to bring
to "Bring your Neighbor Day?"

#1. Meet your neighbor, if you don't already know them.

#2. We **HAVE** something exciting to bring them to.

#3. Talk to your neighbor, just in the process of sharing.

(Or, if you absolutely must, just this once,
we'll let you call or email to invite them...
but just this once.)

#4. Realize that by taking small steps like this,
we invite people to "Come and see" Jesus,
to check HIM out for themselves.