

MEANING OF COMMUNITY

By Janet Soo

Approximately 10 years ago I was “adopted” by some residents of a local retirement village.

I would often see a group of them having coffee at the nearby shopping centre.

Our friendship grew and I would stop for a coffee with them. They then asked if I would like to join them on Friday nights for their evening meal.

About 90 to 100 people gather in the community centre each Friday. There is a roster system for serving meals and cleaning up afterwards and years ago I volunteered as a helper and continue to do so - it's a great way to get to know people.

I was also invited to their weekly devotions service at the village. The first time I attended I was “blown away” seeing 70 people attending the service.

The idea for this service was started many years ago and the local clergy are happily rostered to give a message during the service. A team of pianists take turns accompanying our singing and once a month an organist and pianist join forces for an absolutely wonderful sound.

During the service a report is given on those who are unwell and those who may be in hospital. Two of the ladies keep in contact and visit, when possible, those who are unwell.

There is a different worship leader each week and I've recently been asked to do this.

What a privilege it is in this community-minded village.

Reflection:

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Hebrews 10:24-25

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