



Just Suppose . . .

Bob and Della moved into a subdivision near St. Jane's Church about ten years ago. They wanted to downsize after the children left the home. They joined St. Jane's Church within the first year and have been active members of committees and attend worship services regularly. They visit out-of-town relatives a couple of times a year. Sometimes a relative will be visiting them and they attend worship all together. A tornado went through their subdivision as well as several other areas in the same county. Pastor Judy started checking on all her parishioners. She was not allowed to enter the subdivision because of the extensive damage.

She went through church records to find a phone number of a relative; no luck. She called some of their church friends; none of them had an out-of-town contact (or even an in-town contact). She called all the hospitals; no luck.

Just Suppose . . .

On a Saturday morning in June a flashflood hit the community of Littleville. There was about four feet of water in most of the downtown buildings for about three hours. The church office of Eighth UCC was flooded. Although they knew that they needed a new computer anyway, they were upset that all their church records on the computer were gone. And the files in the bottom three drawers of the file cabinets were waterlogged!

Although they held a worship service on Sunday morning in the fellowship building (not flooded), the attendance was low. Folks began to ask, "Is _____ o.k.?" and "Was _____'s house flooded?" and "Where is _____?" Together they figured out how to reach about half of the "missing persons," but they could not find contact information for several missing members.

Just Suppose . . .

Bob, Sally and their two pre-school children were making a left turn into the street near St. Daniel's Church when an oncoming speeding car hit them. They were taken to a nearby hospital by ambulance. Members of the church wanted to locate family members living 100 miles away. They wished they had phone numbers.

There are many times when it might be helpful if emergency contact information were located in the church office (and also in two or three other safe places) where it could be accessed by a very limited number of people in the event of an emergency or disaster.

Many churches have some sort of membership record system into which this information could be added.

If you do not have a system in place already, perhaps you would like to create one or adopt the form below and gather the necessary information. (It is important that the church and the families be prepared for disasters. If the local church is prepared, its members are more able to serve the community in its time of need.)

Name of church member or family _____

Address of member or family _____

Telephone numbers Home _____ **Cell** _____ **Work** _____

Email information _____

Name and contact information of family member or friend living 50 miles or more away who would likely know where family is if family had to evacuate their home.

Name and contact information of family member or friend living within the community who would likely know where family is if family had to evacuate their home.

I am willing to have this information be included in private church records. I understand that only _____, _____, and _____ will have access to this information in an emergency.

(Write names of positions of church leaders who will have access to this information, for instance pastor, church secretary, or president or moderator.)