



M E A R N S  
F R E E C H U R C H

**New Initiative:**

## **“MFC-Connections”**

**I am so heartened when I hear of how we show our love and care for one another in Mearns Free Church. So often our love is seen in wonderfully informal and sometimes even spontaneous ways. However, life is constantly moving and it is hard to keep up with one another.** The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes says, there is a season and time for every matter under heaven: “a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance” (3.4). Each week somewhere in our church life someone can be laughing with joy in a season of delight while at the same time, someone is crying in a season of mourning!

However, the elders know that our congregation is just big enough that it’s possible to ‘miss’ both of these seasons in the lives of others.

We have been prayerfully developing an initiative for some time now called **“MFC-Connections”**. In a very modest way, our prayer is that MFC-Connections will help us develop better what the bible calls “fellowship” (koinonia in Greek). Sometimes the word “koinonia” is translated “to partner”. The elders want to encourage every one of us in MFC to be personally active in partnering with one another. Put a different way, Sunday by Sunday, weekday by weekday we want to encourage each of us to look out for one another.

Our hope is that the name describes the simplicity of what we are trying to achieve, consistent connection across the congregation. We want to try and remain connected to one another even as life moves constantly forward and at pace. MFC-Connections does not replace anything we currently do in our

church life. The idea is to build, even if only a little bit, on all the existing informal and spontaneous fellowship we already have.

New Testament passages like Philippians 2:3-5 and Romans 12:10, 15 remind us of the wonderful calling we have to one another as Christians in the local family of God:

Philippians 2.3-5;  
*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. ...in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mind-set as Christ Jesus..."*

Romans 12: 10, 15;  
*"Be devoted to one another in love....  
Rejoice with those who rejoice;  
mourn with those who mourn."*

## LAUNCHING MFC - CONNECTIONS

**Debbie McDougall and Sheila McLellan are helping the Kirk Session launch MFC-Connections. Please feel free to approach Sheila, Debbie or myself with any questions you have about this initiative.**



Debbie



Sheila

**Eighteen men and women have kindly agreed to help us with this initiative.**

**We have nominated all our members to these eighteen volunteers.** The eighteen have committed to keeping in touch with (one way or another) those nominated to them. Over the next few weeks, Debbie and Sheila will make contact with you by email giving you the name of the person who will "connect" with you. Our hope is that as this person commits to keep connection with you in a conscious way, so you will also reciprocate and look out for them.

**How, when and where each connection develops, will be left to you and those helping us launch MFC-Connections.** There is nothing grandiose in this plan. Nothing even really new. Our prayer is that MFC-Connections will help reduce the chance of one of us missing out on that fellowship during whatever season of life we are in. And, it gives us all a reminder to lift our heads and look out consciously for one another. I know all of us within MFC want to foster authentic caring Christ-like relationships. What an honour to bear the name of Jesus as we serve him and one another in this wonderful way.