

A red ceramic mug filled with coffee is the central focus. Above it, a light brown tag with a hole at the top is tied with a red string. The tag has the text "Coffee, Conversation, and Christ" written in a cursive font. The background is a light green floral pattern with pink roses. In the corners, there are clusters of red cherries with green leaves. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border with a red and white polka-dot pattern on the sides and a green floral pattern at the top and bottom.

Coffee,
Conversation,
and
Christ

THE **NEIGHBORHOOD**
Café
BY AMY LIVELY

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Introduction

“I have been praying for my neighborhood for quite some time now and am just not quite sure how and where to begin to get involved with my neighbors.”

Susan at www.TheNeighborhoodCafe.net

Women like Susan from across the country have shared the same concern with me: “I want to share Christ with my neighbors, but I don’t know how.” They understand God’s command to love thy neighbor, but they don’t know where to begin. Neither did I.

I had lived on Rosewood Drive for over seven years, yet many of the women who lived nearby were complete strangers to me. I didn’t know their joys or pains, had no one to call to borrow a cup of sugar, and had never told them about Jesus. Jesus was trapped in my house, hidden in my heart.

To reach out to the women living around me, I started The Rosewood Café. No, it’s not a restaurant— it’s a neighborhood Bible study over coffee at my kitchen table. Knocking on my neighbors doors made my knees knock! But I did it, and lived to tell the tale. Based on my own experience of overcoming my fears and excuses to invite my neighbors to Bible study, I created **The Neighborhood Café** to teach other women how to open their hearts and homes for “Coffee, Conversation & Christ.”

The Neighborhood Café equips women to minister right in their own backyard—as if Martha Stewart and Billy Graham teamed up to write *Loving Your Neighbor for Dummies!*

“I’d rather God send me to Africa than send me across the street.”

Lori at www.TheNeighborhoodCafe.net

We have globalized “neighbor” to include every foreign nation, while conveniently ignoring the woman next door. Few Christians still press for a definition of “neighbor” like the lawyer who questioned Jesus; however, the “everyone is my neighbor” mentality can strangle our special obligation toward the people God purposely placed around “the exact places where we should live” (Acts 17:26).

The Neighborhood Café explains how I overcame my fears and excuses about sharing my faith with my neighbors and helped other women do the same. I’ve spotlighted every God-given success and candidly shared my many failures so that readers will be able to fulfill their calling for neighborhood ministry using tools, tips and resources they can adapt to their unique gifting, personality and community.

Why Is There A Need For The Neighborhood Café?

The Neighborhood Café provides effective and practical solutions to some of the most important cultural dilemmas in the Christian community today:

1. What does it mean to be “missional”?
2. How can we move from “Churchianity” toward “Christianity”?
3. How do we authentically participate in the Kingdom?
4. How do we form meaningful relationships with believers and unbelievers alike?
5. How do we reach the lost?

FIRST, what does it mean to be “missional”?

The Neighborhood Café is an instruction manual for missional living on the modern day road to Emmaus, the road between our formal places of worship and the place where we really need Jesus—right in our own homes. This is where the serenity of the sanctuary collides with the screaming baby and ringing doorbell. **The Neighborhood Café** reminds women that real faith happens at home.

“Missional” and its cousins “emerging,” “organic,” and “home church” are buzzwords in the modern church, but I didn’t set out to follow a trend. Being missional at **The Neighborhood Café** means seeking God’s heart for the people He has carefully placed around you. God Himself is missional, His footsteps always lead to the homes of the broken.

The Neighborhood Café doesn’t insist that hosting coffee in your home is the only way to connect with your neighbors. A Neighborhood Café may not be your cup of tea, but loving our neighbor is a command we can’t ignore. Women also learn ways to use their one-of-a kind personality, distinct passions, and God-given gifts to connect with neighbors. The purpose is to **love** your neighbors. The thing is, it’s hard to really love people you don’t know.

“I love how like-minded women with the same hopes and dreams for our families gather to learn how to be godly wives and moms and connect face-to-face! Our last meeting before summer break was a prayer party, where we all shared what we wanted others to pray for us over the summer. I’ve kept that list in my Bible and constantly come across it and pray over it. The Rosewood Cafe is my favorite place to learn who God wants me to be, encourages me to live a life pleasing to God and gives me new godly girlfriends I can call at any time.”

Donna, guest at The Rosewood Café

A neighborhood – on the road between church and home – is a convenient, comfortable and non-threatening place to invite women into relationship, take them by the hand, and walk with them to the throne of grace where they can meet their Savior. Jesus sent his disciples to **practice hospitality** so that they could learn about the people in the neighborhood—and then minister to them *out of that relationship* (Luke 10:8–9).

“The grace, love and support shown by the women at the Café have been a true lifeline during my journey of fighting brain cancer. In between meetings I receive emails, phone calls, a cup of coffee, a shopping date - all lubricated by the oil of the Holy Spirit.

“The Café has also heightened my awareness about my neighborhood. I'm not in a position to start a Café, but I realize I can say a friendly hello, take a plate of cookies, and even look up a phone number so I can call a neighbor. I didn't even know my neighbor's last name, even though we'd said hello almost every day, and when her husband passed away I knew I wanted to be able to give a quick call to check in with her.

“Just because I can't do something big doesn't mean I can't do anything.”

Pat, guest at The Rosewood Café

SECOND, how can we move from “Churchianity” toward “Christianity”?

A Neighborhood Café Bible study builds unity between the churches in the community as women from different congregations form friendships that cross denominational lines. My Café welcomes women from Baptist, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist, Catholic, Nazarene, Church of Christ and Church of God churches as well as non-denominational congregations.

The Neighborhood Café gently transitions your church from a Sunday School model to Monday ministry. Church-based Bible studies become intimate gatherings when they are moved to the neighborhood mission field. And at existing groups that already meet in homes, the front door is thrown open to the next door neighbor who always wondered if you were blocking the door of the kingdom of heaven as you blocked her driveway each week.

“The Café provided me with a chance to spend time with women from so many different church backgrounds and become tolerable of the differences. We just focus on Jesus Christ our Savior, the common denominator. I was raised to believe it was all about the church (our particular building, the heritage, the priest), the people who attended, what you wore, where you sat, who you knew, the committees you served on that made it so great.

“The Café showed me that the fluff means nothing, but Christ in me means everything. And Christ in the new lady across the room... and that other girl who brought fruit for us one morning, and the one who wasn’t too shy to share her heart with us.”

Jennifer, guest at The Rosewood Cafe

THIRD, how do we authentically participate in the Kingdom?

Women are frustrated with being invited in and never being sent out. They want to make a difference and aren’t afraid of a challenge. Sherry Surrat, Director for Women’s Initiatives and the RadicalFuture Innovation Labs at Leadership Network, shared that women—especially young women in their 20’s—find the most satisfaction in active participation, volunteering and serving their communities.

Making disciples and practicing evangelism are commands—not options. Offering hospitality is also a command, albeit one we do begrudgingly. That’s why Paul told us to “practice hospitality” (Romans 12:13), but Peter added to do it “without grumbling” (1 Peter 4:9). **The Neighborhood Café** teaches and equips women to be active and involved in practical ministry.

FOURTH, how do we form meaningful relationships with believers and unbelievers alike?

Women are starving for personal attention and meaningful relationships. Women spend an average of seven hours each month following their Facebook friends, using social networks to mimic the face-to-face and heart-to-heart conversations of yesterday’s coffee klatsch. Today, we tweet instead of talk. Our electronic disconnect allows us to be “friends” without being

friendly. **The Neighborhood Café** helps women move from virtual friendships to real relationships.

“I love passing someone from our group in public and knowing we both share a love for our Lord and we have spent time together studying His Word. It puts a smile on my face every time!”

Carey, guest at The Rosewood Cafe

FIFTH, how do we reach the lost?

Inside every home are women who are hurting and hungering for the Lord. We are surrounded by young singles and new moms, women raising teenagers while caring for elderly parents, empty nesters and widows. They are churched and unchurched, sick and well, happy and sad. Some are executives, others are homemakers. No detailed demographic studies are needed for your own neighborhood: their common denominator is they live near a woman with a passion for loving them like Jesus, and their common need is to know Christ. **The Neighborhood Café** provides a time, a place and a reason for our outreach.

“The Cafe has reawakened in me an interest in every aspect of the Bible: spiritual, historical, archeological, biographical. I simply want to know more, and each new path branches out into additional unexplored territory.”

Mary Ann, guest at The Rosewood Cafe

Taking Jesus Home From Church

How many women who attend your church live within walking distance, say, within one mile? How about five miles? Ten or 20 miles?

The answer is that 15% of the women who attend your church can easily walk to church, according to survey respondents at ThinkChristian.com. Another 20 percent live 1-4 miles from church, while 29 percent live 5-10 miles from church. The majority of women live more than 11 miles from their "local" place of worship.

Now, how many of the women at your church live within walking distance of their **home?**

All of them! No matter where they go to church or what their address, they live exactly 0.0 miles from home, which God determined is the "the exact place where they should live" (Acts 17:26). During the week we're scattered from our churches while we're gathered at our homes.

We leave church on Sunday afternoon, or Bible study on Thursday morning, on a spiritual high—

Girl time! God time!

The unity!

The fellowship!

Meeting new people!

Worship! Learning! Prayer!

The Neighborhood Café helps the women in your church bottle up this excitement, take it home and share it with their neighbors. You can equip them to lead and love these women at their own Neighborhood Café, which will be renamed for the community where they live. You can provide practical tools, prayerful encouragement and powerful inspiration as you teach them how to choose a teaching and adapt their Café to meet their neighbor's unique needs.

Take home the joy. Get the fellowship to go. Brew a fresh pot of inspiration in your living room with your neighbors, who represent churches from all over your city. Women worshipping, praying, learning, praising together at one table, will transform your streets into a sweet sanctuary.

But how can Women's Ministry leaders teach women to take Jesus home from church on Sunday and introduce Him to their neighbors?

How Does It Work?

First, church leaders must fully embrace, understand and encourage a passion for reaching the lost right in their homes and unifying churches in the community. We must expand the definition of “kingdom” beyond our church walls, loosen our grasp on ministry and allow it to move into living rooms and front porches on every street. We must measure the success of our ministry by the health of our community, and foster unity among our churches instead of further competition.

Then, the role of the church is the same as it has been since Paul sent a letter to Ephesus: “to prepare God’s people for works of service” (Ephesians 4:12). **The Neighborhood Café** comes alongside Women’s Ministry leaders to equip women in the church to expand the Gospel into their communities. As a ready-made program, **The Neighborhood Café** simplifies the identification and training of women called to open their homes, then provides a means for ongoing follow-up and support.

Step 1: Teaching

Begin by exhorting the women in your congregation to share their faith. Show them what the Bible says about evangelism, illustrate the need in our communities, and explain the importance of having spiritual conversations. Pray together for opportunities to reach the lost. Seek Christ’s heart for the homes that surround yours.

The Neighborhood Café provides four lessons that demonstrate how Jesus approached His neighbors and taught His disciples to do the same. These 30-45 minute lessons can be used in a small group or Sunday School setting or adapted for a luncheon or retreat; they are appropriate and adaptable for all women, whether or not they host a Neighborhood Café Bible study in the future:

Session 1: Where?

Introductions to the needs of women who live in every neighborhood. Recalls the history of the first Neighborhood Café. Explains reasons why the home is an ideal setting for ministry that complements the church, it doesn’t compete with it.

Session 2: How?

Using the Road to Emmaus, illustrates how Jesus walked with His neighbors and how you can do the same. Jesus didn’t preach a three-point sermon or point an accusing finger. He just came alongside and walked with them on the street to their home. Provides suggestions ranging from small gestures to community gatherings to get to know your neighbors.

Session 3: Why?

Explains why women are starving for personal attention, meaningful relationships and purposeful lives. Compares the partial Gospel most Americans know by heart to the complete story found in relationship with Christ. Vividly illustrates how reaching out your hand in hospitality can touch the heart of your neighbors.

Session 4: Why Not?

Examines in detail my excuses, fears and rationalizations why I delayed and disobeyed the leading to reach out to my neighbors. These issues are common to all women. Explores ways readers can engage their neighbors even if a Neighborhood Café isn't their cup of tea.

At the conclusion of Session 4, women are asked to apply to host a Neighborhood Café. As their Women's Ministry leader, you will help them discern if this is an appropriate calling that matches their gifts and spiritual maturity.

Additional Bible studies to consider:

- *The Hole in Our Gospel* by Richard Stearns (Thomas Nelson, 2010)
- *Just Walk Across the Room: Simple Steps Pointing People to Faith* by Bill Hybels (Zondervan, 2006)
- *Organic Church: Growing Faith Where Life Happens* by Neil Cole (John Wiley & Sons, 2005)
- *Out of the Saltshaker & into the World, Revised and Expanded* by Rebecca Manley Pippert (Inter-varsity Press, 1999)

Step 2: Discerning

You may be able to name women accustomed to hosting church-based Bible studies who want to move their ministry into the relevant, convenient and non-threatening atmosphere of their home. You can probably also think of a few women who have never led a Bible study but long for a spiritual connection in their community, who would benefit from hands-on instructions, sample scripts and ideas they can easily implement and adapt. And, you know women who need to heal and grow before they are released into ministry.

While the only requirements to host a Neighborhood Café are a front door, a table, and a heart that beats for Jesus, the Discernment phase ensures that each Hostess has the blessing of the Lord, her husband (if married) and your church. This takes place in one-on-one counseling between you and the women of your congregation. Your blessing over their ministry is essential.

The Neighborhood Café can help with this process of identifying women called to be Café hostesses. The single-session teaching is an appropriate time to assure women that the Lord's blessing isn't always accompanied by a peaceful, easy feeling; if you're not nervous, you're not human! The need for cooperation and support in her home is emphasized, and the important role the church plays in spiritual covering and accountability is explained. This lesson can be done by each woman independently at home.

Don't be surprised...

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you,
as though something strange were happening to you.

1 Peter 4:12

Don't be surprised when you witness the interesting phenomena that happens to nearly every woman who calls me to start a Neighborhood Café. I can practically guarantee she's going to get in a fight with her husband later that day, or one of her kids is going to get in trouble, or she's going to open her mail and find a big bill she cannot pay. By the next morning, her joyful anticipation has turned to trepidation and she knows she is incapable of ministering to any one at any time, ever.

She has provoked the devil, who is prowling about like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour (I Peter 5:8). Women who boldly speak their intent to share Christ in their neighborhood make an especially tasty snack for Satan. Your role as her spiritual mentor is to help her recognize a spiritual attack, resist it and stand firm in the faith.

Step 3: Equipping

A one-day retreat equips Neighborhood Café Hostesses from your church with tools they need to share the Gospel in their neighborhoods.

- **TIP:** Consider pairing one woman who is gifted at teaching with another woman who just wants to offer her home as a hostess. It's wonderful to have a partner to pray, think and work together.

The Neighborhood Café Retreat

Woman-to-woman and door-to-door, The Neighborhood Café provides teaching, hands-on tools and turnkey ideas so that women leave this retreat with everything they need in-hand to go knocking on their neighbors' doors.

Session 1: When?

Gives methods for determining the day, time and frequency of your Neighborhood Café. Shows how to study when your neighborhood is most active and available for a gathering time.

Provides pros and cons of short gatherings versus long gatherings and weekly versus monthly.

- **Resource: Planning Calendar** for selecting the dates of your Neighborhood Café in the Planning Guide, a convenient purse-sized workbook

Session 2: Who?

Explores the dynamics of small group size and how in the world you're going to fit all those people in your living room. Maximum size, absences and response rate are explained. How to determine the number of potential guests in your neighborhood.

- **Resource: Seating Calculator** in the Planning Guide with a formula for determining how many people you should invite to your Café based on your desired group size

Session 3: The Invitation

Reiterates that the sole purpose of the Neighborhood Café is to love your neighbors, not shove them into your agenda. Introduce how to host an Open House, not a Bible study, to open the door to women you may never have met before.

- **Resource: Invitations** preprinted with Neighborhood Café information where Hostesses fill in their contact information

Session 4: The Gift

Since it's easier to knock on your neighbor's door with one hand when you're holding a gift in your other hand, shows numerous examples of inexpensive and adorable ways you can adorn your Open House invitation. Uses Biblical examples to teach that gifts pacify people and open gates. Creative ways for spreading the word in your community center, supermarket and church communications.

- **Resource: Gifts** Simple and affordable craft materials such as cello bags, curling ribbon and hard candy

Session 5: Knock, Knock

Jesus told His disciples to go door-to-door in nearby towns and villages, the very thing that's being asked of a Neighborhood Café hostess. Matthew 10 is the basis for teaching gentleness, kindness, humility and sensitivity in response to typical reactions you'll received from you neighbors. Also offers tips on handling rejection and safety.

- **Resource: Scripts** for what to say based on your neighbors' responses

Session 6: Countdown

Checklists of what to do in the weeks, days and hours leading up to your Open House. Includes advice on menu planning and shares favorite Café recipes along with housekeeping checklists and party planning tips. Preparation takes the stress out of setting the table!

- **Resource: Recipes and Party Planning Checklists** in the Planning Guide

Session 7: Preparing Your Home

How to lay aside all pride and false humility and let God use your house as His own. Explains minimum requirements of hosting a Neighborhood Café: a front door and a table! Also shares practical advice for making your guests comfortable in your home, like avoiding strong odors and finding a place for Fido for the day.

- **Resource: Housekeeping Checklists** in the Planning Guide

Session 8: Open House

What to expect as strangers ring *your* doorbell for a change. Suggestions on making your Open House elegant or simple, according to the hostess' tastes. Lots of casual icebreaking questions to get women talking and sharing.

- **Resource: Guest List** and instructions how to follow up with your new friends with a phone call or card

Session 9: Teaching Material

Suggestions for finding study materials that are practical, relevant and real. Highlights factors to consider when choosing a study: format, length, cost, homework, depth. Teaches how to avoid disputable differences and respect all denominations who are attending your Café, making it multi-denominational and strong in unity. Includes recommended resources and reviews.

- **Resource: Neighborhood Café Teaching Materials** are available. Church may open their own resource library or provide a list of recommendations—or prepare their own curriculum designed to meet the unique spiritual needs of their community

Session 10: Childcare

Story of how I met my best friend through a typo that said childcare was available at my Café, and how the decision to provide free on-site childcare has opened the Café to women who could not otherwise come. Explains how you can provide childcare in your home, a neighbor's home or at your church and what to plan and provide for the children.

- **Resource: Children's Checklist** of snacks, games, hand sanitizer, etc. to have on-hand

The Café Kit

The Café Kit contains these resources packaged in a keepsake box:

- Invitations
- Planning Guide
- "Thinking of You" Cards
- Cafe Covenants
- Guest Lists
- Snack Sign Up Sheets
- CD of Files & Printing Discount Card



Café Kits can be customized for each church's needs!

Additional Tools

The following resources are also available to make hosting a Neighborhood Café as easy as pie (easier, actually!):

- Customized pre-printed invitations with each Café Hostess's contact information
- Logoed products such as Neighborhood Café mugs, pens, aprons, notepads or journals. One Café even printed Neighborhood Café postage stamps!
- Gifts to attach to invitations and Open House favors
- Coffee, tea and prepackaged food products
- Hospitality kits containing coordinating paper products and a laminated refill list. (I have a basket with plates, silverware, napkins, cups, sweeteners, powdered creamers—even name tags and a marker—that I simply pull out at each Café. This makes preparation a breeze and takes the stress out of setting the table.)

Additional Services

I am also able to provide you with the following support:

- Speaking on many topics
- Mentoring staff and/or congregants
- Phone conference calls
- Online presentations
- Bulletin inserts
- Posters
- PowerPoint slides
- Newsletter articles
- Blog posts
- Web Ads
- HTML Email templates

Step 4: Helping

“...Sad. I have been struggling with what to do and how to do it and Satan has been working overtime to discourage me....guess I just need that extra push...”

Donna at www.TheNeighborhoodCafe.net

Starting a Neighborhood Café is not a lonely walk down a dark street. As each woman embarks on this exciting journey off her front porch, she'll find encouragement every step of the way. Beyond the launch of the Café, each hostess receives on-going support, prayer and spiritual accountability from you, her Women's Ministry leader, as well as me.

Help from You

The church provides a spiritual covering and accountability through regular contact with each Hostess and periodic meetings, either face-to-face, online or by phone. There are minor administrative functions involved with Hosting a Neighborhood Café such as printing teaching materials and sending cards to your guests: the church could offer use of their copier, office supplies or postage.

Help from Me

I will partner with you to provide ongoing training and support for Neighborhood Café Hostesses. Two additional sessions are taught after the Retreat but before the launch of your church's first Café; the final two sessions should be taught within a month after the last launch date.

Before the Launch:

Session 1: Your First Café

From the first cup of coffee to the last Amen, explains the order of a successful Café including greeting, food, fellowship time, teaching, talking and praying together. Emphasizes the need for commitment and confidentiality within the group. Explains how to share prayer needs and praises through your Café's private page on the website.

Session 2: Small Group Leadership

How to lead a group of women with wisdom, compassion and grace. Shares examples of steering away from awkward moments as well as breakthroughs in sharing and friendships.

Hostesses will learn when to pause, when to press through, and how to keep discussions on track. Tips for dealing with EGR (Extra Grace Required) situations and dealing with incorrect or inappropriate comments from your guests.

Within one month of the Launch

Session 3: Friendships and Follow-Through

How to stay in touch with your guests throughout the week using your website page, Facebook, Twitter, email, phone calls and good old fashioned face time. There's a certain attraction to the Gospel message, but its primary delivery system is *you*. Stay focused on people, not production or processes.

Session 4: To the Ends of the Earth

Discuss community service projects other Cafés have undertaken. Share ideas on how to serve your community by helping an individual (yard cleanup, making meals) or participating in a group (Neighborhood Watch or Red Cross) or by hosting an event like Christmas caroling or a summer BBQ. Women want to make a difference—especially women who have been made different by the love of Jesus Christ! Also includes tips on Café growth through division (forming smaller groups) and multiplication (adding more groups).

Technical Help

Each Neighborhood Café will be given its own page at the main website where Hostesses can connect with their neighbors. The page will be named after the neighborhood, subdivision or locality. Example: www.TheNeighborhoodCafe.net/Chesapeake.

Updating the Café's web page is as simple as sending an email! This is an easy and effective way to let others know what God is doing in your neighborhood and instantly communicate to your Café members what's happening in the group. Prayer requests can be shared in a password-protected post that only your guests can view.



Actual Café Web Page



Actual Café Email

When the Hostess provides the email addresses of her Café guests, new information is emailed to this secure and private address list.

Hostesses from around the country will be connected to share successes as well as needs for support. A series of emails automatically delivered to Hostesses at set intervals before, during and after her Café opens will also be developed.

Neighborhood Café Timeline

Publicize Evangelism Teaching Series 2-4 weeks

- Neighborhood Café Resources: Bulletin inserts, emails, PowerPoint slides, announcement scripts, posters, postcards, web ads, etc.

Step 1: Teaching 1-4 weeks

- 4 Neighborhood Café teaching sessions on evangelism are appropriate for all women in your congregation, regardless of their decision to host a Neighborhood Café
- Teaching settings: Bible study, Sunday School, newsletter (print or electronic), retreat (.5 -2 days)

Step 2: Discerning 2 weeks

- Meet individually or in small groups with interested Hostesses
- Includes 1 at-home Bible study for the women

Step 3: Training 1 day

- 1-day intensive retreat for qualified Hostesses
- Hostesses will leave with everything they need to invite their neighbors in-hand. They will pass out their invitations over the next two weeks.

Invite Neighbors 2 weeks

- Lead 2 teaching sessions during this time: *Your First Café* and *Small Group Leadership*
- Ideally, these are conducted in a group setting so that Hostesses can learn from the questions of others and form a supportive group

Step 4: Helping 1 month

- Launch all of your Neighborhood Café Open Houses and Bible studies over the course of one month
- During the launch month, conduct final 2 teaching sessions: *Friendship & Follow-Through* and *To the Ends of the Earth*.
- Ideally, these are conducted in a group setting so that Hostesses can learn from the questions of others and provide support and encouragement to each other
- Plan individual or church-wide service projects
- Maintain regular communication with Café Hostesses

Final Café Celebration 1 day

- When all or most Cafés have concluded their Bible studies, plan a final celebration event for all Neighborhood Café Hostesses and their guests, a city-wide gathering with dozens of different churches worshipping and fellowshiping in unity
- Begin the reenrollment process to continue existing Neighborhood Cafés or launch new ones

Cost

Cost to Hostesses

There is no charge to the Hostess to start a Neighborhood Café. The following tools are available as free downloads at www.theneighborhoodcafe.net:

- Planning Calendar
- Seating Calculator
- Invitations

The following resources are provided at no charge to each Café Hostess:

- Personal encouragement, prayer and support
- Web page
- Email template

Each Hostess has complete liberty to make her Café as simple or elegant as she desires; she can use paper plates or fine china, she can serve handmade pastries or store-bought cookies. The cost for preparing and opening her home should be minimal.

Hostesses may opt to purchase these pre-printed materials:

Café Kits

Café Kit.....	\$34.99
Personalized Café Kit.....	\$39.99
Planning Guide	\$14.99

Cost to Churches

Churches can reduce costs by printing their own materials. The cost to launch Neighborhood Cafés on a church-wide scale varies depending on the level of services requested:

On-site consulting, speaking or retreats	Travel Expenses + Fee
Customized materials and additional resources	Flat Rate + Printing Costs
5-10 Café Kits or Planning Guides.....	5% discount
10+ Café Kits or Planning Guides	10% discount

Teaching Sessions:

Step 1: Teaching (4 sessions).....	\$10 each printed or \$100 pdf file
Step 2: Discerning (1 session)	\$10 each printed or \$25 pdf file
Step 3: Training (10 sessions)	\$25 each printed or \$200 pdf file
Step 4: Helping (4 sessions).....	\$10 each printed or \$100 pdf file

About Amy Lively

I am a wife, mother, teacher, writer, speaker and marketing consultant. I help women share "Coffee, Conversation & Christ" with their neighbors in their homes through **The Neighborhood Café**. I provide tools, tips and resources at www.TheNeighborhoodCafe.net to help women host Bible studies with neighbors God has carefully placed around their homes, the best place for forming new friendships and deepening old ones. I draw from my own success in leading a women's neighborhood Bible study and my degree in Practical Ministry.

I am a contributing writer at www.womensministry.net, a ministry of Jennifer Rothschild. The weekly "Tip of the Week" e-newsletter, distributed to more than 25,000 subscribers, has regularly featured my articles.

- "Neighborhood Café Series," *WomensMinistry.net*, January—March, 2010. A series of three articles about **The Neighborhood Café** was featured in the weekly Tip of the Week e-newsletter sent to over 25,000 subscribers. Three additional articles were posted on the website for a total of six appearances.
- "Taking It To The Streets," *WomensMinistry.net*, March 24, 2010. Women's ministry leaders are accustomed and adept at inviting women in, yet women also long to be sent out into the community where they can impact changed lives.
- "Women's Ministry: Titus 2 Style," *WomensMinistry.net*, July—September, 2010. Series of four articles delving into women's ministry qualifications, curriculum and characteristics based on Titus 2:2-8.
- "God of this City" *WomensMinistry.net*, January 19 and February 2, 2011. Seven cultural areas where women can bring Kingdom influence, with free downloads
- "Make Technology Work For You, Not Against You," *WomensMinistry.net*, scheduled for publication April 27, 2011

I write the teaching material for my own neighborhood Bible study and also speak and teach publically. Bestselling Christian author Keith Miller acknowledged my consulting assistance in the Third Revised Edition of *The Taste of New Wine*, a Christian classic included in *100 Books that Changed the Century*. Author Mark Pfeifer also acknowledged my assistance in editing the manuscript for *Change Agents*.

Educational and Professional Background

I received my Bachelor's Degree in Practical Ministry from the Southern Ohio School of Ministry in 2008. This school is accredited by the Wagner Leadership Institute founded by C. Peter Wagner, former professor of Church Growth at the Fuller Theological Seminary. I am a three-time graduate of the She Speaks Conference sponsored by Proverbs 31 Ministries and I have attended writing and communication workshops at The Wizard Academy, a faith-based business and communication school in Austin, Texas.

I have owned my own business, The Lively Pen, doing freelance writing, desktop publishing, customer service consultant, marketing and advertising since 1996. Since 2007, my husband and I have worked together at our retail and family business consulting firm, The Lively Merchant (www.thelivelymerchant.com). We provide operational and organizational consulting and marketing products and services, especially websites and online selling solutions.

The marketing services we provide are very useful to the needs of The Neighborhood Café, as we are adept and experienced at traditional and new media strategies, retail sales, ecommerce, online promotion and website design. We have launched more than 120 websites for our clients, including my own, which I designed, managed, and maintain.

As a writer, I have made my living with my pen for at least ten years, strategizing and penning radio and television advertisements, direct mail campaigns, web content, brochures, marketing messages, training documentation, user manuals, industry articles, personal blogs and business blogs. I wrote a weekly business blog called "Word of the Week" for a strategic partner, R&A Marketing, for three years (www.ramarketing.com/c/word-of-the-week). I am well accustomed to writing on demand, on deadline, to a targeted client with very specific content.

Church Membership and Involvement

My husband and I are helping plant a new church called Life Church (www.lifechurchohio.com) in our hometown of Lancaster, Ohio. I am involved with church planning, women's ministry, small group leadership, communication and a School of Ministry; I created and manage the church's website, email campaigns and Facebook page. We also attend Vineyard Columbus, an urban mega-church with 8,000 members. I am an active volunteer at Fairfield Christian Academy, a ministry of Fairfield Christian Church also in Lancaster, Ohio in marketing, communication, fundraising and finance.

In addition to serving at my own church, I have provided gratis marketing consulting, internet services and design services to the following churches and ministries:

- Pat Navin (www.patnavin.com): blog site for my dear friend as she battled brain cancer
- Keith Miller (www.keithmiller.com): eCommerce website for a Christian author
- Mark and Nicki Pfeifer Ministries (www.markandnicki.com): international evangelists
- Bookbags for the Homeless (www.bookbagsforthehomeless.com): a local ministry that supplies basic needs for thousands of needy families each year
- Fairfield Christian Church Women's Ministry

References

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Conclusion

I've watched in amazement and awe as this little project that began in my living room has spread across the world. When so many different women speak the exact same words and share the same heart to love their neighbors, I can only conclude they are hearing the same soft whisper.

The Holy Spirit is preparing the hearts of our neighbors to respond in a way we may never have seen before. Often, their first step toward our Savior is when we step off our sidewalk onto their front porches.

For those of us with the passion of Billy Graham but lacking Martha Stewart's pretty place settings, The Neighborhood Café equips women with hands-on tools and turnkey ideas to share the Good News in their neighborhoods.

About Amy Lively

Testimony: When asked about my religious background, I recently replied: "Pagan!" Because I have a degree in Practical Ministry I know a pagan is defined as someone who does not acknowledge God. But because I lived like a pagan for 20 years, I know that I hardened my heart like a stone and stopped up my ears so that I would not hear the Lord's voice. I returned to Him in 2004 and have never looked back. I'm still clumsy, I stumble often – but the Lord is the One who holds my hand. By the grace of God I am who I am, and His grace to me was not without effect. My daily prayer is, "Father, glorify Your name!" and I live each day to share the love and salvation of Jesus Christ with my family, neighborhood and church.

Short Bio: Amy Lively applies her Bachelor's Degree in Practical Ministry to lead a neighborhood Bible study, The Rosewood Café, in her home on Rosewood Drive. She teaches other women how to do the same at www.TheNeighborhoodCafe.net, which provides practical tools, prayerful encouragement and powerful inspiration to host your own Neighborhood Café Bible study with women God has carefully placed around your home, the best place for forming new friendships and deepening old ones. Amy and her husband of 21 years, David, are retail business consultants and she is also a contributing writer at www.womensministry.net. They live in Lancaster, Ohio with their teenage daughter, Emma.



Business Bio: <http://www.thelivelymerchant.com/about-us/#Amy>

Statement of Faith: I believe in our Triune God expressed as Father, Spirit, and Son. I believe in God the Father, eternal, immortal and invisible, to whom is all honor and glory forever (1 Timothy 1:17). I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, crucified, risen and coming again (1 Cor. 15:3-6). I believe in the Holy Spirit, who takes what is God's and makes it known to us (John 16:14). I love God's word, our infallible and perfect Scriptures. I believe man was created in the image of God to seek, perhaps to reach and to find Him, although He is not far from each one of us (Acts 17:27). I believe in salvation through Christ alone, our sinless Savior, and baptism as an outward sign of a born-again inward condition. I believe God designed the church to be His body to display His wisdom. I believe each one of us is called to personal ministry, no matter what our vocation, and we are gifted, equipped and prepared to do good works to glorify God's name and build up His church.

My speaking and teaching are appropriate for multi-denominational audiences. I am accustomed to teaching women who belong to Baptist, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Catholic, Nazarene, Church of Christ and Church of God churches as well as non-denominational congregations.

Ministry References:

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