

The February 2022 USH Members & Friends Photo Directory - How You Can Help in Less than five Minutes!

by Brian Harvey

Our church directory is a living document. The world it reflects is always changing and the challenge for all of us is to keep up with those changes. Years ago, we had printed directories which were a big deal to produce. That meant they were only produced sporadically. Today, it is a simple matter to generate a new online version every couple of months in a matter of minutes, but that “timeliness” is only meaningful if the contact information is also reviewed “every couple of months”. COVID has added some complications to the task. It is harder to know if someone is an active member or friend when at least some of us are not meeting in person. Newcomers who are attending regularly are harder to identify and might not know they are eligible to be in the directory. Lastly, with our new broadcast capabilities, moving out of the area does not necessarily remove you from being connected - or included in the directory. These are more reasons the responsibility for the accuracy for the upcoming February 2022 directory is not up to one person - it is up to each of us. Here is how you can help.

The Basic Course - steps to follow: 1) Go to the USH website - www.ushartford.org Home Page, 2) click on the Members tab, 3) click on Member Directory, 4) click on open Part II (Members & Friends), 5) enter the username and password (contact Buffie Pinney <hartforduusociety@gmail.com> or Brian Harvey harvey.b@comcast.net if you need the username or password). You are in! Start with your own individual or family entry. For each person: are the name, address and email address correct? Do you still use your home phone? Is your cell phone listed? - (this is your choice). What about spouse/partner information? (your choice). Are your non-adult children listed? (again, your choice). Do you still look anything like your photo - or is it time to be updated (your choice).

All of this information can be updated in minutes by sending an email to Buffie. Do it now. Buffie Pinney hartforduusociety@gmail.com

...and what does that “NN thing” mean? (see **Last Item** below).

Extra Credit - Browse the whole Members and Friends directory. Do you see obvious errors such as people you know have left the congregation or area. This one can be tricky because sometimes folks leave the area but still stop by on a fairly regular basis and consider themselves Friends. Likewise, there are some folks who don't regularly attend services in person but may be a part of a periphery church activity and they too still consider themselves connected. If unsure, drop Buffie an email anyway and you and we will figure it out. On the other side of the coin, do you think we are missing some active members and friends? We will check that out and confirm one way or the other.

Extra Extra Credit - Go back to the Member Directory tab and open Part I (Organizational Information). Let us know of any personnel changes that you are sure of. Because of COVID, it is sometimes hard to be sure of a person's or even a committee's status. That is why it is extra extra credit. Notice: No credit given for identifying that Dianne Daniels or Rayla Mattson has left!

3 Ways to use the Directory during COVID - 1) When you open Part II (Members and Friends) you can search on name, town, etc. by using your browser's search (or find) functions. Not sure which Tom you

met? Find every Tom or Thomas in the directory in seconds. Connect names to faces. This is a great way to expand your circle of contacts at USH. **2)** Don't feel lonely during COVID. Browse through the directory and reach out to someone you haven't talked to in a while. **3)** Can't go out to the movies with your USH friends? Set up a watch party with others and enjoy a movie or TV show together virtually. All the contact information is at your fingertips.

Last Item: USH Neighborhood Networks were created over a decade ago with one purpose being to facilitate "churchwide discussions" in member's homes. The concept was to cut down on meeting size and travel distance. You can see the diagram and explanation in the last page of the Organizational Information. The Networks have not been used for years and it is time to decide whether they still serve any purpose or is it time to retire the concept and move on. We look forward to your feedback.
