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THE PARISH PAPER

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Getting to Know Our Neighbors One-on-One Interviews

Holding conversations with neighbors can provide church leaders with vital information about the community.

A one-on-one interview takes the process a step further by structuring the conversation around a set of questions prepared in advance so that church leaders can focus on what matters most: tailoring ministry

that is most appropriate for this neighborhood, these people, and this time.

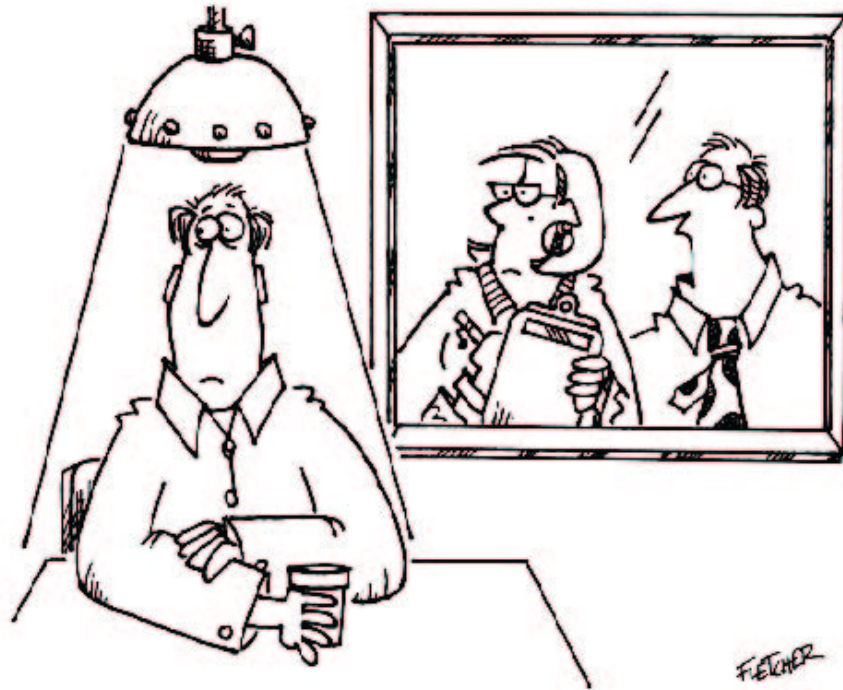
Listening: An Essential First Step

Joy Skjegstad, who consults with churches on community

ministry, finds that many churches prefer to skip the listening step and simply launch into a new project. "It is faster to plan programming without it, because listening takes time."¹ Church leaders also tell her that they find it intimidating to meet people they

do not know, especially when people in the community come from different ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic, or religious backgrounds than church members. Finally, Skjegstad suspects that some church leaders do not want new information to contradict their long-held assumptions, arguing that "community listening can be a humbling process. People in the community may tell you things you don't want to hear."²

[Read the full article here.....](#)



"I STILL THINK WE SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH AN UNSTRUCTURED INTERVIEW."

~~from the Vermont Conference Resource Center and your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) contribution to the Vermont Conference which makes this newsletter and numerous programs available to you and your church.

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