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ROUSES POINT — Tragedy and disappointment occur in the lives of many people.Some people are able to grieve, absorb the pain, and move on with their lives. For others, it may take longer for the tragedy to subside, if it ever does.

This is why, eight months ago, the Rouses Point First Presbyterian Church began to have monthly healing services.

The services give people an opportunity to speak with other individuals who are having problems, and it gives them extra time to pray to God.

The Rev. Nancy Clancy explained how evening service began on the last Wednesday of the each month.

"Last year was a year when a lot of people in the congregation had a lot of things go wrong. We had several deaths in our families. We had a lot of people who were hurt, or ill. The lists of prayers on Sunday mornings were getting longer and longer. It seemed appropriate to have a special time to be able to hold these things in our prayers.

"It's a more informal opportunity to pray for our healing in our community and the world."

Beatrice Jefferson, who regularly attends the service, said it has helped her.

"I like it very much. I enjoy it. It has helped me a lot because I lost my son in January of this year."

Clancy said just getting together can be a tremendous comfort.

"I don't need a miracle every time we get together, although we have had a few miracles in this congregation."

Rodney Wright and his wife, Jerry, also attend the service regularly.

"We have to keep our faith," Wright said. "We lost our son five months ago to cancer, and we have to maintain our faith. The service has helped. This situation is trying our faith. When something sad like that happens, it helps to come to these services."

Clancy concluded that praying is one of the best ways to conquer problems.

"I feel that every way that we can pray is a good way. Every time we can pray by ourselves is good; with more people is better. Every time we can look at the broader places within ourselves, and in the world, I am praying that it brings hope and possibility, and we need all of the hope and possibility that we can get."