



Newsletter

AUGUST - 2022

Greetings!

Listening?

I think every generation believes things are worse than the previous generations. It seems that way, doesn't it? One of the scriptures that I really believe is important for us to hold onto at this moment in time is from James 1. He wrote - - - 19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. - James 1:19-20

When we read verse 19, I'm guessing, there's a good chance that most of us are more apt to get this twisted up. We're far more inclined to be quick to speak and slow to listen. Even with our closest friends, most of us would rather talk first and then listen, if we're willing to listen at all. We especially do this in disagreements. We formulate our comeback while the other person is speaking and in reality, we never really hear what they say, because we're focused on ourselves.

You know that old adage, I'm sure we heard it many times as kids . . . "God gave you two ears and one mouth for a good reason: to listen twice as much as we speak." Bring back some fond memories? When we don't listen to that wisdom, things quickly go south.

Think for a minute about what is gained by taking an extra moment or two between

listening and speaking. For instance, recall conversations you've been in that have escalated into arguments. You know the moment when things become dicey, don't you? The conversation is getting heated — and it's heating up because everyone is speaking, and no one is listening.

Have you ever been in that situation and someone raises their voice and tells everyone to be quiet? Of course, it's in a nice and loud voice, because they have to shout over everyone.

We usually stop listening because we're crafting our next awesome statement. And when we stop listening, there's no way we're actually listening to the other person. We hear something, but it's not getting in. We can't honor the other person and respect them in those moments. We can't practice humility and place someone above ourselves. NOPE! It's all about us.

Unfortunately, this often happens when we discuss things we're passionate about, like sexuality, religion, spirituality, politics, justice, peace, church doctrine, climate change and gun violence.

We all have a belief! Great!! We all have a point of view. With facts from the Internet! Awesome! And when we talk about those differing perspectives, we're usually quick to speak and slow to listen, and that's when trouble starts and conversations come to a grinding halt.

We do it in oral conversations and we most especially engage in social media rants.

So much is happening in our world right now; issues stir our thinking, ignite our passions, and draw our wrath. Finding common ground is difficult. Add to that the fact that we don't always know how to talk through things about which we disagree.

When we are quick to listen, slow to speak, we become slow to become angry, even when in disagreement, because we've heard the other person's point of view. This way we also honor God because this anger in the conversation does not produce righteousness. But healthy listening gives us the opportunity to demonstrate God's grace, mercy, power and love.

So, what to do? Let me suggest three things.

First, let's take a big deep breath.

Second, let's count to ten.

Third, let's listen to each other.

I'll add a bonus step (no charge) . . . let's practice humility and respect. So, even if we don't agree with one another, we still have the opportunity to understand one another. And that's the first step!

Blessings!!

Pastor Michael

A Note from the Secretary

Hello! My 8-year anniversary as secretary at Alex FBC is 8-5-22. I have resigned from this position to pursue a career in medical coding. Last year I took a course in medical coding and passed the certification examination. I have worked for Anesthesia Services, Ltd., in Muncie for five years, and they recently offered me a full-time position as a medical coder. This is a dream come true.

When I interviewed for the church secretary position, my main goal was to be a blessing to other people. I believe I am the one who was blessed. I dearly love the people of our church. I know God has had a hand in my life, guiding me where I belong. I am so thankful for my time at Alex FBC. I am not going anywhere! I am still a member and attending Sunday mornings.

Here's to a bright future for all! See you Sunday morning! May God bless you beyond measure.

Kelli Kissick







Back-to-School Rally Follow-up

Thank you from the Back-to-School Rally Team! This was our 14th year successfully blessing our community. In fact, we are still handing out supplies! By the time you read this newsletter we will likely be at 400 + school supply bags handed out!

Check out these other praises from the BTS Rally:

- Nearly 400 meals served to families
- Extra cookies for teachers' lounges on Monday (teachers' first day).
- The Salvation Army brought 100 backpacks
- YMCA connected with a lot of families
- Madison County Mobile Unit supplied COVID vaccines and other required vaccinations
 - Our local first responders were able to interact (the fire department had a structure fire to deal with)

Thank you to the churches in our community who help support this ministry. In addition, thank you to the many local businesses that help us with discounts. A special thank you to Owens Funeral Services, for always coming through with needed supplies.

This has turned into more than a one-day event. In the last 12 months, we have been able to provide supply bags to the elementary for newly enrolled students without supplies. At Christmas, we give every PreK-2nd grade student a new box of crayons, and every 3rd -6th grade student a bundle of pencils. Several teachers have needed extra supplies throughout the year. Also, last year, the Alex Eagle Riders had a memorial ride to honor Rex Yeagy. Many of the students that loved him are in high school now, therefore we have been able to help with vocational needs, like paying to take certification exams.

As you can see, this has been and will continue to be a blessing in our community.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Dear FBC family,

Last month I wrote about a plan for outreach during the July 4th parade in Alexandria. I am happy to report that it was a success for those that participated, the local businesses, and especially for the recipients of the gift cards. In the past few months, our church has seen a resurgence of a group that existed several years ago, SALT society (Seasoned Adults Learning Together), which meets the third Tuesday of each month. The Board of Deacons has also started a marketing sub-committee that is

designed to promote our church, including such tasks as creating a logo that will give our church a more recognizable presence in the community. Last Sunday, Pastor Michael announced the overwhelming success of the Back to School Rally. All of these have one thing in common: all started with an idea from one person that was turned into a reality. But we cannot rest on our successes too long. We should always be looking for the next idea. What will it be and from whom will it come?

Proverbs 29

includes the phrase, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." If you have an idea, a dream, or a vision, let us know. Maybe your idea, or your vision, could help our church reach the unchurched in our community and could lead someone to Jesus. Let's continue to stretch ourselves for the cause of Christ.

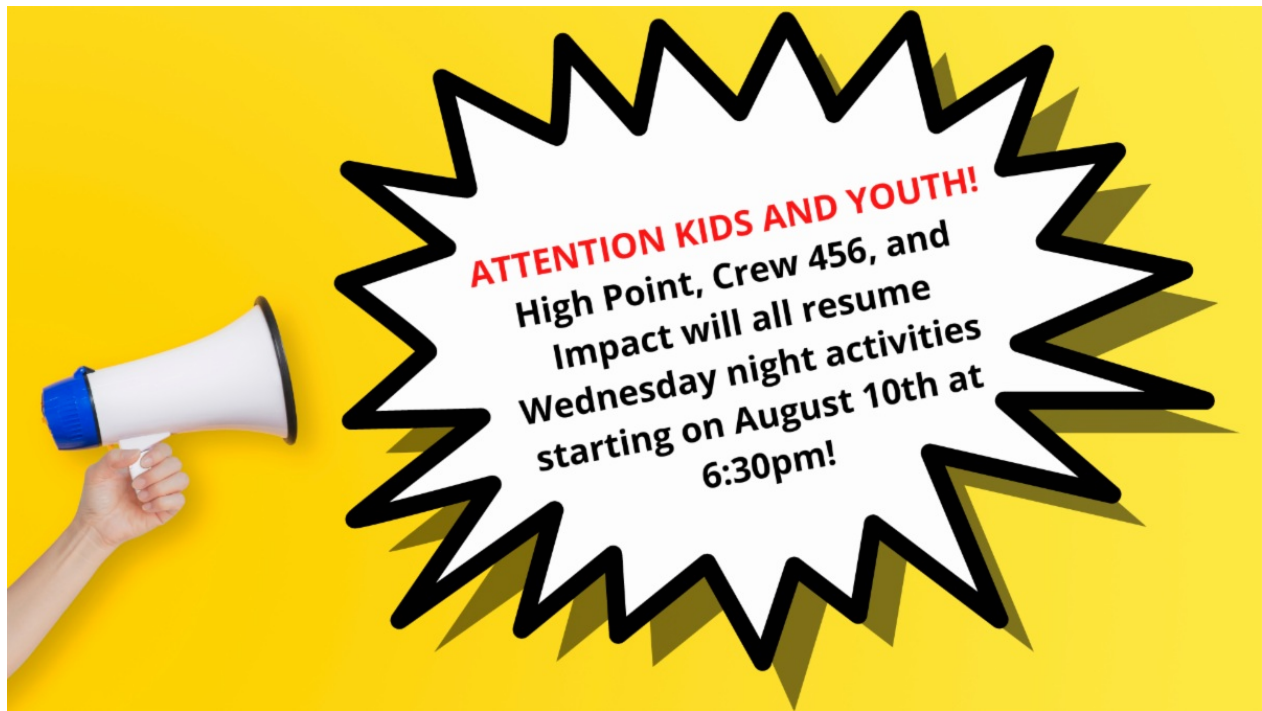
Kevin Thompson
Co-chairman - Board of Deacons.



On Monday, July 11th, there was a chemical spill at the Alexandria Care Center, forcing all residents and staff to be evacuated from the building. Due to our convenient location, kitchen amenities, and large building size, we were able to provide a comfortable space for the residents to get inside into some air conditioning to pass the time while their building was cleaned out. After a few hours, the Care Center was up and running again and the residents were able to return. We are grateful to God that we are able to provide assistance in times like this! The staff at the Alex Care Center worked very hard to keep the residents comfortable during this crazy event and should be commended for their efforts.

S.A.L.T. Society

The S.A.L.T. Society will meet on Tuesday, August 16th at 12:00pm.



Youth Sunday - August 14, 2022

Youth and adults who went on the mission trip to Kentucky this year will share about their experience during the worship service on Sunday morning. We look forward to seeing you there!



SERVICES

Sunday
10:30am: Worship Celebration

Tuesday



7:00pm: Ladies Zoom Bible Study
with Debbie Deutsch

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Daniel 6:20

"When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

"We find the expression "*the living God*" many times in the Scriptures, and yet it is the very thing we are so prone to forget. We know it is written "*the living God*," but in our daily life there is almost nothing we lose sight of as often as the fact that God is *the living God*. We forget that he is now exactly what he was three or four thousand years ago, that he has the same sovereign power, and that he extends the same gracious love toward those who love and serve him. We overlook the fact that he will do for us now what he did thousands of years ago for others, simply because he is the unchanging, *living God*. What a great reason to confide in him, and in our darkest moments to never lose sight of the fact that he is still, and ever will be, *the living God!*"

-George Mueller

"Martin Luther, deep in thought and needing to grasp hidden strength during a time of danger and fear in his life, was seen tracing on the table with his finger the words, "He lives! He lives!" This is our hope for ourselves, his truth and humankind. People come and go. Leaders, teachers and philosophers speak and work for a season and then fall silent and powerless. He abides. They die but he lives. They are lights that glow yet are ultimately extinguished. But he is the true light from which they draw their brightness, and he shines forevermore."

-Alexander Maclaraen

"One day I came to know Dr. John Douglas Adam," wrote Charles Gallaudet Trumbull. "I learned he considered his greatest spiritual asset to be his *unwavering awareness of the actual presence of Jesus*. Nothing sustained him as much, he said, as the realization that Jesus was *always* actually present with him. This realization was totally independent of his own feelings, his worthiness and his perceptions as to how Jesus would demonstrate his presence."

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