

THE CROSSLINK...

From the Pastor . . .

GETTING My Attention

We probably all know the old joke about the farmer who was told that the mule he bought would do anything he wanted if he asked nicely. When it didn't work he returned the mule to the seller. The seller picks up a 2X4 and hits the mule with it. "What's that for", the buyer asks. "Well, first you've got to get his attention". Do you have any trouble getting other's attention? My wife and I have an agreement that we need to see the eyes of the other looking into our own eyes before we are sure we have the other's attention. It's so easy to *seem* like you're listening when you're not.

How do you get your children's attention? Some have to get loud or snap fingers or turn off the TV/video game. How do they get *your* attention? Some say "mom" like a hundred times in two minutes to get your attention. Some scream or pout or cry.

Commercials try to get our attention by being bold, or cute, or funny, or awesome, or LOUD.

Do you know how to get your pastor's attention? I know I have so many dear people who begin almost every conversation with me with, "I know you are very busy", like they are bothering me or something. Makes me think their lives are very busy or they think they are not important. Anyway, you know how to get the preacher's attention? First, be there. Yeah, show up. Being happy you are there helps. Be nice- to him/her and other people he/she loves and cares for as their shepherd. Maybe the easiest way is to be doing something. You know, contribute, serve, participate, and help. I got to be with some people riding in a car for over 3 hours round trip going to the GROW event in Elgin. They had my attention. If you are busy helping build the kingdom you can be sure you'll get your pastor's attention. (Note: Whining or complaining isn't quite as successful.)

Getting God's attention probably works the same way. Show up. Be doing something. Calling His name everyday in prayer also works. Serving Him works. However, being disobedient or sinful works too- it's just that you won't like that kind of attention from Him!

My biggest problem probably isn't me getting God's attention but God getting my attention! I wonder how often God wants my attention and I'm not listening? How does God get *your* attention? I mean, what makes you finally listen to Him? Life is so busy, so full of noise and distraction and *doing*, when do we really have time to pay attention to God? I know at our Monee Church some Sunday mornings it is so frustrating just to try to get the attention of the congregation so we can start our worship service. It's so loud and busy that no one is really paying attention to the one up front trying to begin. Fellowship is part of worship, I know, but I doubt that most of the talk and activity going on among our chairs is really fellowshiping. It's catching up and relational, but not really spiritual. It can be hard to get everyone's attention to begin. Some church's now use a countdown that let's everyone know when they are going to begin. Is that how it is in our daily lives as God tries to speak and relate to us? Are we so busy and noisy that we don't really hear Him?

When tragedy strikes He has our attention. We listen and cry out and cling to Him. Until it settles, then it's back to the chaos.

Here's a challenge. Take a little time- start with 5 minutes every morning, noon, and night- to sit silently and try to listen to God. Give Him your full attention. I know He's trying to get it. And when he speaks and you hear, don't forget to act on what He says. (James 1:22)

I'm fairly certain that as you are reading this, God is trying to get your attention **right now**. How about stopping and listening. You'll be glad you did because giving God your attention will change your life forever. Starting now.

Pastor Patrick Coaklev



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Our Worship Schedule



Worship Service	10:30 am
Family Night Wednesday	6:30 pm
Sunday School ~all ages	9:30 am

'G R O W' 2 0 1 0 Challenge: Each One Bring One

NOTE:
Mark your
calendars for
February
21st! The
'Annual
Society
Meeting' will
be held
following
Morning
Worship.

NEEDED:
Small prizes
& candy!

Cheri Coakley
is currently
in the
planning and
preparing
stage for the
Annual Easter
Egg Hunt,
April 3rd.

Please
consider
helping with
this exciting
outreach event
and contact
her for more
specific
needs.

After doubling our attendance during the first 10 years Pastor Pat and Cheri have been here (from about 50 to about 100) and setting some attendance records (which we celebrated with motorcycle rides with some of our "seniors"), we have settled in the last 5 years into a comfortable level around 95-100. What can we do to bring more people to Jesus and our church? We have well attended outreach events like our Mystery Dinner, Couples Banquet, Easter Breakfast/Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Bash, Thanksgiving Potluck, Fireproof showing, Living Inside Out excitement for children and services like our Christmas Eve Service, Celebrate Recovery, Youth Ministries, and Christmas Program. These are good "excuses" to invite friends, co-workers, family, or neighbors. We have advertised by direct mail, postcards, newspaper inserts, and passed out hundreds of flyers at the Monee Fall Faire. We have good PR events like our annual garage sale, Pets On Parade, Monee Fall Faire Parade (we took 1st Place in the children's division in 2009!), and Adopt-A-Highway clean-up through Monee. We can attract some new families, but can't get any momentum. For example, over 500 the Summer Bash but we did not gain one new person as a result. Most success for new people/families comes from either folks just driving by our sign or personal invitation from our members.

Pastor Pat would like to issue this challenge: *if you love the Lord and want to see more hearts won to Jesus and love the church and want to see us grow, make it a goal to bring at least one new family/person to church with you in 2010.* Invite that brother that you used to bug all the time. Use one of our events as an excuse to invite that neighbor. Praise up our worship service or small group opportunities (we have 6!) or youth program so that your friend just has to come to see what's going on. If you don't know anyone else to invite, get to know someone for just this purpose. You'd be surprised at how open folks are if you just ask. Ask the video store clerk or Starbucks waiter or the guy who delivers your water.

And if you think you can't- or don't want to- would you take a moment of reflection to consider "why"? How can you be a part of something God is blessing and know God's heart is to see as many as possible come into a relationship with Him, but you are unwilling to participate? You don't have to be an evangelist or missionary, just a friend who invites another friend to somewhere important to you.

Special note: one of our focus groups will be helping marriages to be better. Pastor Pat and Cheri will be starting a small group on better marriages in late February on Sunday nights. This won't be targeting troubled marriages, but improving marriages. This would be a great excuse to bring along that friend as an introduction to our church.

'LAUGHING AND LOVING IN YOUR MARRIAGE'

Join us February 27th from 7-9pm at MFMC for an evening of fellowship, coffee, & best of all desserts! All this plus a preview of the upcoming marriage bible study about improving your marriage with humor for only \$10. per couple. Please see additional advertisements and sign-up @ the church.

LET'S SAY

**"HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY",
TO MR. FRED J. TETREAULT
ON FEBRUARY 19TH!**

TREASURER'S REPORT

B E L I E F

We now offer the option of online giving www.moneefmc.org for your convenience.

The budget for the month of February is \$12,255.15.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
 Matt 6: 19 & 21.

If you have questions about the budget you may contact Treasurer Don Schirmer or Pastor Pat.

In this last month in the youth ministry we have been focusing on the question: "what do you believe and why do you believe it?" Some of the topics that we have been discussing is the following: "evolution vs. creation", "God; who is he and why do you worship him", and "The Word of God." We have been challenged to really look inside our heart and really see if we believe because that is what others believe or if that is truly what we believe. Through these discussions we are trying to strengthen the foundation of our beliefs. One of the highlights of the month is when we went to the nursing home in Manteno to help reach out to the elderly there and show them love. We all had many great conversations with them and lost to all of them in a very competitive game of bingo. We will continue to reach out to our new friends at the nursing home.

This coming month we are focusing on reaching out as we have many different events going on where we can reach out and bring our friends to. On Jan. 31st, we are having a movie night where we are going to watch together the movie Night of the Museum 2. Then on Feb. 7th we are having a big super bowl party in the youth room. On Feb. 19-21st we are going to Snowfest at Sky Lodge, and then to cap it all off we are having a Rock-in on Feb. 28th where we will have a Rock Band, Guitar Hero, and DDR competition. Pray that we will reach out to our friends and get them to come to these special events.



BIRTHDAYS!

- James Krantz 2-13
- Fred Tetreault Sr. 2-19
- Michael lapa 2-21
- Greg krantz 2-23
- Kristine Juarez 2-23
- Zachary clark 2-27

Happy anniversary!

- Conrad & Lynn Lapa 2-14
- Pastor Pat & Cheri Coakley 2-17

***If someone has been left off this list or you notice a mistake please contact me ASAP ☺

One of the biggest things of the year that we are going to do is coming up. On March 19-20 we are going to go to Dare2Share at the Sears Centre. At D2S we are going to be with 8,000 other youth as we learn hands on tools how we can reach out to our friends and get motivated to tell our story with them. I encourage every youth to make sure you go to this event and for the parents and church to pray that their kids lives will be changed forever. If you are a or parent, please don't miss this opportunity. No excuses to miss how God will possibly change and impact your life. For more info, contact Paul and go to www.dare2share.org.

Pastor Paul Alf



THIS 'EVERY SUNDAY ~ALL AGES' PROGRAM IS RUNNING SUNDAYS @ 9:30am.

THIS MONTH'S THEME IS FOUND IN Luke!
 &

IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY THE CHILDREN'S CHURCH CLASS WILL ALSO REINFORCE THOSE VERBS BY LEARNING FROM THE BOOK OF Luke.

EACH WEEK OFFERING A UNIQUE VERB: 'Jesus is God's Son', 'Live God's Way', 'Jesus Teaches Us How to Be Friends', & 'God Can Help You Live What You Believe'.

PLEASE LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO REINFORCE THIS LEARNING ABOUT GOD'S VERB, IT IS A TREASURE.



Monee Free Methodist Church
25528 S. Willow Creek Lane
Monee, IL 60449

Phone: (708) 534-5683

To Know Christ, Exalt Christ,
and Share Christ

Who We Are

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our church. At Monee Free Methodist you will learn to build a relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are a Bible-believing church that seeks to know Christ and have a desire to teach others to know Him the same way.

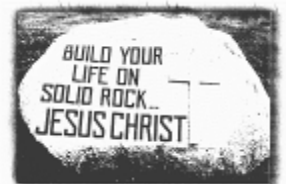
You will enjoy and feel refreshed in our casual family environment. "Come as you are" is what we say and practice. We offer Sunday School learning from God's word for all ages, a midweek family activities night, and our Christian Education/Outreach Committee plans events each month that are safe, fun, and encourage faith. To make everyone feel comfortable, our worship service is relaxed and versatile. The music is a wonderful blend of contemporary and traditional favorites.

Pastor Pat has a way of teaching the Word that is understood and enjoyed by all. His personal touch and humor will keep you involved every step of the way week after week. Most Sundays it feels as if he is speaking right to you personally.

We offer our Younger Worshipers a Children's Church Program (3 years through 2nd grade) dismissed right before the morning message. We also offer a Nursery for children 3 years and younger.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the Church Office at 708-534-5683.

We hope to see you soon!



February Happenings

Wednesday Night Bible Study – 6:30-7:30pm. Dinner available beforehand for \$2.00 ~ starts serving at 5:30.

Quiz – February 6th in New Berlin.

Children's Church – The children will be studying from the book of Luke which correlates directly with L.I.O Sunday School. Topics include 'Jesus is worthy of Glory', 'Seeking God's kingdom honors God', 'We worship God by loving others', & 'God helps us grow'.

Living Inside Out – An All Ages ~ every Sunday morning program at 9:30am. This month's theme pulled from the book of Luke will focus on learning about God's provision. God tells us the Truth about showing His love and serving Him. Please remember to bring your friends along! If you are interested in volunteering, please see Sandi Dasch. Thank you!

Communion Sunday – February 7th & 28th.

SNOWFEST – February 19th thru 21st @ Sky Lodge, Montello, WI.

Annual Society Meeting - February 28th following morning worship.

Adopt-A-Highway - (Community Outreach Opportunity) We clean-up route 50 through Monee four times a year. Plan for helping in the Spring. Watch for more info!

**See calendar for additional events, dates and times!

Small Group Opportunities

Pathos Youth Ministries – Every Sunday Night 6:30-8:30pm at the church. Includes Service Opportunities, large group activity, and small group interaction. Everyone also meeting Wednesday nights at MFMC for bible study @ 6:30-7:30pm. Be sure to check calendar for specifics!

Quizzers – Please see Jim Setty if you are interested in joining the Monee FM Quiz Team & get prepared for the next season!

Women's Bible Study – Beth Moore's 'Believing God' being lead by Jennifer Keith will be meeting 7pm the first and third Tuesdays @ MFMC.

Men's Group – Meets at PJ's Ice Cream Parlor in Manteno on Thursday's at 6:30 p.m. The 1st Thursday meets at Manteno Springs Senior Home (600 N. Birch). For more information, please contact the church 708.534.LOVE

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Women's Bible study 7pm to 9pm	3 BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM SERVING \$2 DINNER @5:30	4 MEN'S SMALL GROUP 7PM Praise YOGA 7pm	5	6 QUIZ @ NEW BERLIN
7 LIVING INSIDE OUT 9:30AM Super bowl Party! <i>Communion</i> <i>Sunday</i>	8	9	10 BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM SERVING \$2 DINNER @5:30	11 CE BOARD MEETING AT 6 MEN'S SMALL GROUP NURSING HOME VISIT 7PM Praise YOGA 7pm	12	13
14 LIVING INSIDE OUT 9:30AM Service Project TBA	15	16 Women's Bible study 7pm to 9pm	17 BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM SERVING \$2 DINNER @5:30	18 MEN'S SMALL GROUP 7PM Praise YOGA 7pm	19 SNOWFEST WEEKEND BEGINS	20
21 LIVING INSIDE OUT 9:30AM SNOWFEST ENDS	22	23	24 BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM SERVING \$2 DINNER @5:30	25 MEN'S SMALL GROUP 7PM Praise YOGA 7pm	26	27 COUPLES NIGHT @ CHURCH 'SEE BLURB ON PAGE 2'
28 LIVING INSIDE OUT 9:30AM Lifeline Youth Group 'Rock-In' 6:30-8pm <i>Communion</i> <i>Sunday</i> ANNUAL SOCIETY MEETING						

Dates are subject to change. Please contact church office at 708-534-5683 if you have any questions.