

## We all have times when

we feel a little rattled in our job, our various roles in life and even in our faith. As a parent this seems to happen more often than I care to admit. When one of my kids questions my decision or reacts in angry or frustration about something in his or her world, I wonder about how well I'm doing as a father. And I feel it at times as a pastor when someone wonders what we're doing as a church or asks why I'm not doing this or that. I feel it as a community member when I'm criticized for a decision I've made or someone is angry about how things went on something I led.

And any time we make a decision or take a role of any kind in leading or helping out, we have the chance to feel that rattle. And depending on the person, situation or my own emotional state, that rattling can linger longer or shake a little harder. One of my kids seems to have the ability to rattle me more than the others, and I don't have a definite reason why that is, but it's something I know about myself and that relationship, so I try to keep a close eye on it. But it gets especially hard when it is something as important to us as our faith. When we feel a certain level of crisis of faith, it can easily affect our whole world and every aspect of our life as we wrestle with it. And, unfortunately, there are times when people go through these rattling of faith and come out the other side without much of a faith, or a faith that's shifted away from our Creator God.

And so, how we address those rattlings are incredibly important, right? But at the same time, I am fully convinced that God often will do more than simply allow our faith to be rattled, he will be the one doing the rattling. And the reason I believe that is because it's often only in those times of rattling that we end up moving forward

in our faith. When we come to the crossroads of a dilemma or a challenge in our lives, especially one that we question our faith and maybe even God's nature and person, we find ourselves making one of two choices. We can either choose to draw closer to him, studying and reviewing what information we have, but also spending time with others who love and follow him and ask good questions about our faith OR we can choose to do it all on our own and try to figure it out by ourselves and in our own way. And, surely, there are those who do this on their own and come out still believing in God, but often their faith is not what it once was and, often, is weaker than it had been.

But, more than often, when we go about it on our own, many have their faith seem to slip away like sand between their fingers.

But when we allow those rattles, those shakings of faith especially, to draw us further into the spiritual disciplines of our faith and especially spending more time and resources in drawing near to God (and those who love him), our faith can grow more than at any other time in our lives.

Personally this was my experience through college and times of emotional trauma. As I drew nearer to God and *forced* myself to spend time with other Christians (because I often didn't feel like I wanted that), I found a deeper level of faith. I found a deeper respect for who God is, his basic nature and person but more, I could feel him working in our world much more clearly.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 7.7-8: *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."*

God promises to show up when we seek him and ask for him to be with us and reveal himself to us. And while it may not be exactly what we

expect or want, it will be what we need, especially if we're patient and consistent in our asking. I pray that in our rattlings we find ways to draw nearer to him and not necessarily do what we 'feel' but what we know is best for us. Serving Him and you, Matthew

## Adult Night Out

On **Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**, all adults are invited to join us for a night out at Lewistown's **Countryside Diner**. Please sign up at church or call the office (329-2150) if you're planning on coming and let Matthew know if you're interested in carpooling.

## Camp Fellowship

We will be co-hosting the August Camp Fellowship on **Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>** at Summum Christian Church. A signup sheet will be available at the church, or call the church office if you're interested in helping. We could also use a few individuals who will help serve out at Summum.

## Prayer List

Kirsta Anderson-colon cancer spread to liver  
Patty Danner's house fire  
Wilckly and Dee Dorce – medical concerns  
Darrin Fish – diverticulitis  
Mike Grafton – heart attack  
Eric Hamm – leukemia  
Brenda Heath – health issues  
Chris Lewis – cancer  
Rudy Lewis – dementia  
Butch Maloney – cancer  
Christine Mauseth (Marion's brother's girlfriend) - surgery, brain tumors

Debbie Opp – chemo treatment, off work  
Dennis and Cindy Ratcliffe – health issues  
Tari Stower (Sandy's daughter-in-law) - medical issues  
Marion Trone – going to foot specialist  
Becky Watson – cancer treatments started (insurance struggles)  
Situation in Israel

### Condolences

Dorothy Clevenger family

Jim Kinzer family

### Praise

Silas Thiner's baptism

Bill Palmer good medical report

Rosemary Gardner (Angela T's daughter) and

Zachary Banion engaged

## July Financials

	Weekly Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
July 7th	\$554.00	\$23,013.39	\$25,151.58
July 14th	\$1,528.00	\$24,541.39	\$26,083.12
July 21st	\$785.00	\$25,326.39	\$27,014.66
July 28th	\$800.00	\$26,126.39	\$27,946.20



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You Are Welcome At  
Our Services!

Sunday

Morning Worship.....9 a.m.

Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Family Night.....6:00 p.m.\*

\*Meets during the school year

Events:

Mon. Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> - Fri, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> –  
Grace Bible VBS

Sun. Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting  
@6pm

Tues. Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> – Adult Night Out  
@6pm

Thurs. Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> – Ladies’  
Fellowship @6pm

Mon. Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> – Camp  
Fellowship,  
Summum @6pm

Sun. Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> – Worship & Prayer  
@6pm

All events are subject to change. Please  
keep up to date by checking the bulletin,  
Facebook page or website.



Astoria Christian Church

*“You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.”*

Isaiah 26:3-4