

I have this ‘quote of the day’ calendar in my office that I got for Christmas. Well, I say quotes but they’re more one-liner jokes, which suits me well and I have enjoyed most of them. Some are generic and I’ve heard them before, but most are somewhat original and I’ve been impressed by it overall for its humor (not necessarily because it has good advice or suggestions).

This week, however, one day’s joke hit me as something fairly true in life. I’m not sure the author meant for it to be inspiring or thought-provoking as much as humorous, but I immediately went a little deeper after I read it. The quote was “When everything is coming your way, you’re in the wrong lane.” Now, I’m not sure if you’ve ever gone down the wrong way on a one-way street before, but it can be rather traumatic. This last Christmas when our family was visiting the Quad Cities, I turned onto a street and noticed immediately there was no lane for me to drive in and lots of cars coming straight at me. Thankfully the cars nearest to me saw me and slowed for me to back up and get going the other way, but it was still a little startling. But even more than the emotions of panic and fear was the emotion of embarrassment. I was surprised my kids didn’t say anything and haven’t really said anything about it because they don’t usually let me forget those silly mistakes. But, honestly, I felt downright stupid for not seeing the signs and the details that showed I was going the wrong way on the street.

And in life we can experience some of those same things, right? I know I’ve heard more than once (and said it a few times myself) “It feels like everything is coming at me at once.” And, often, when something big is happening in our life, even the smaller things feel big, but I’ve found

that when I’m in a pinch or really need to get something done, that’s when other stressful things occur. It’s like on the busiest work week of the year, the furnace decides to go out. Or when I really need to finish a project is when I feel under the weather or downright sick. Or when I fall behind on getting something done, everything else seems harder and more stressful. And, sometimes anyway, it might mean we’re in the wrong lane. And that could mean lots of things. It could mean we have a bad habit (or sin) that keeps us from functioning well in our world. It could mean that we’re involved in a relationship or a situation that isn’t what God desires for us and so things in our life aren’t going smoothly. It could mean we’re involved in a job or a role that doesn’t match our natural talents or personality well. Maybe it means we haven’t accepted changes in our world that then don’t allow us to move forward in life or even stop us from living in the present. And there could be all sorts of other reasons, but I think the key for all of them is to make sure we’re going back to God and listening to his voice. We call this discernment and it’s a tool and practice that is important to develop as followers of Jesus. In fact, the author of Hebrews is a little harsh in his words about it: *“About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”* (5.11-14) Basically he’s saying, “Grow up!” And we all need to grow up in different ways, but one of the

symptoms of immaturity and especially lacking discernment is the sense of ‘everything coming your way’. And I want to encourage you, if you’re feeling overwhelmed (as I am occasionally too) and sense that nothing is going right or life is falling apart, to slow down and discern where you’re at. Take time to pray and reflect and consider what choices are being made and how life has gotten to this point. If we’re able to discern some of the causes for our situation, we can often discern and come up with some solutions, especially through prayer and Christian fellowship. And, as always, I’m available for counsel and help in any situation. Serving Him and you, Matthew

BaBy Bottle Boomerang

If you haven’t returned your baby bottle, please do so as soon as possible so we can get them (even empty ones) back to the pregnancy center.

Camp Schedule

If you’re interested in [sponsoring a camper](#) or two this summer, we had a few more additions recently so there are still opportunities to do that. There are cards in the back of the sanctuary with prices and dates of our campers, and your sponsorship will help offset the cost of the campers we have going this summer. Contact Matthew with questions.

Prayer List

Kirsta Anderson-colon cancer spread to liver
 Jerry Armbruster – serious health issues
 Roy Atwood (Angela T’s dad) – dementia
 Dorothy Cleavinger – serious health issues
 Pat Clements – procedure
 Mike Grater – cancer
 Eric Hamm – leukemia
 Jim Kinzer – cancer, heart attack, in ICU
 Chris Lewis – cancer
 Rudy Lewis – dementia
 Sabrina Magarr – fertility concerns
 Butch Maloney – cancer
 Anne Mercer – heart valve replacement
 Bill Palmer – appointments went pretty well
 Dan Palmer - health issues
 Debbie Opp – chemo treatment, off work
 Joe Stambaugh – heart work went well
 Marion Trone – (foot pain) fallen arches, neuroma
 Becky Watson – cancer treatments started (insurance struggles)
 Ellen Webb – cancer, colon surgery
 Josh Easley
 Unspoken
Condolences
 Gale Roosa family
Praise
 Lila Edwards (Letha’s sister) – biopsy benign

June Financials

	Weekly Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
June 2nd	\$743.00	\$18,174.39	\$20,493.88
June 9th	\$1,255.00	\$19,429.39	\$21,425.42
June 16th	\$322.00	\$19,751.39	\$22,356.96
June 23rd	\$924.00	\$20,675.39	\$23,288.50
June 30th	\$1,784.00	\$22,459.39	\$24,220.04

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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:

Tue. July 2nd – Camp Cooking,
LCSC @10:30am

Sun. July 14th – Board Meeting
@6pm

Mon. July 15th – Camp
Fellowship,
Versailles @6pm

Thurs. July 18th – Ladies’
Fellowship @6pm

Sun. July 28th – 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



“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

Galatians 5:13