

Cross Talk

Some assembly required

Alpena First Assembly of God

Celebrate

Pastor's Place

May
Volume 2, Issue 7

I love pastoring! I love being a pastor. I love being the pastor of First Assembly of God church in Alpena, Michigan!

Pastoring has many different elements to it. There are at least two elements that are hard to balance...at least for me. Envisioning and celebrating!

Envisioning is all about "Where is God leading us and how do we get there?" How do I communicate to First Assembly the preferred future that God has for us as a church, as well as for each one of us individually?

Here is the process that works for me...and it is a PROCESS! **(1)** Get the

vision from God. This involves prayer, Bible study, studying community demographics, assessing gifts, talents, and abilities in the church, and much more. **(2)** Develop a plan. What steps need to be taken? Who needs to be involved, etc.? **(3)** Implement the plan. **(4)** Review and refine the plan. What is working? Who is working? Do we have everyone on the same page? Are we making progress? Are we staying focused, etc.?

Here's the problem. It is easy to focus on the PROCESS because eternal souls are at risk.

Sometimes I forget to celebrate. So, let's celebrate what God is doing at First Assembly!

- Our overall attendance is up this year!
- Our Children's Ministries are growing!
- Our Student Ministries are growing!
- As a body, we are more in tune with the Holy Spirit!
- We have an amazing group of volunteers/servants/ministers!
- We are seeing fruit from the ministry that is taking place at Lincoln Elementary!

(Continued below)

First Assembly of God



A church with the community at heart!

Happenings

April

Community Groups
Men's Gun Shoot
WM's PJ/Girl's Night Out
Easter Sunday
Baptismal Service
Egg Hunt

May

Community Groups
F.U.E.L. Spaghetti Dinner
May 8th – Mother's Day.
Al Eastman Puppet Ministry
Men's Gun Shoot
Baccalaureate
Lunch with Leaders

Celebrate Cont'd

- Community Groups are helping us to develop relationships with the community!
- Community Groups are helping us strengthen the community within the church!
- Keegan Jones is teaching guitar

lessons here at the church on Friday afternoons. As a result, we are getting acquainted with a variety of people that we would not normally encounter!

- We had record attendance on Mother's Day! The above items have

life stories attached to them—like children giving their hearts to Christ, parents attending church, etc. So, let's take time to celebrate what God is doing in our midst! Sure there is much to be done, but we still need to celebrate our (His) victories!

In Christ,
Pastor Clark

Children

Our Children's Ministries team has made a big transition, a smooth transition. It is not easy to change locations, while at the same time change the way you do children's ministry. This is especially true when a person is volunteering their time. We know time is a precious commodity these days!

Our team does its best to be

prepared for each class. They are learning new software and getting familiar with new technology we have installed...all while keeping their enthusiasm for Children's Ministry!

First Assembly is blessed to have dedicated people who are willing to give of their lives so that the truths we hold dear are passed on to future generations!

F.U.E.L.

When we came to First Assembly in March, 2008, there were two students. Nate made number three. Through faithful work, planning, and developing, our student ministry has grown to about 20 on the Attendance Roll! Though not all attend regularly, each one's life has been impacted for Christ. Praise God for F.U.E.L.! Praise God for Linda, a faithful, dedicated servant of Christ!

Women

It is not enough to have a Women's Ministries (WM's) at church. We must have a HEALTHY Women's Ministry! I celebrate what our Women's Ministries are becoming. We have a great group of gals! Some people may be surprised at how much input that I (Pastor) have in relation to the WM's.

Traci has been very instrumental in helping me cast the vision for WM's. We have spent many hours talking about the approach, nature, character, and vision for First Assembly's WM's.

The WM's has, and will continue to, have as its focus reaching unsaved, unchurched women. The

primary spiritual emphasis is on creating an environment where women are "real" and can develop "real" relationships with others who do not know the Lord.

I celebrate this ministry to women, by women, and for women! I celebrate one of God's greatest gifts to First Assembly; WOMEN!



Praise the Lord

Men

I am part of the Men's Fellowship. When I go to Men's Fellowship meetings, I do my best to take off my "pastor hat" and just be one of the guys. I want to experience Men's Fellowship just like any other man.

I am pleased to tell you that our Men's Fellowship is strong and healthy. I am also pleased to tell you that we are doing a good job of developing leaders. The men in this group will not let the leader fail!

We are indeed a band of brothers. These men remind me of men from the Bible who stand together. I celebrate all the past leaders and participants of First Assembly's Men's Fellowship! God is good!

First Assembly of God

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