

# The Messenger

*N. Ft. Myers Church of the Nazarene*

*A loving, caring, serving community of believers in Jesus*

**September 2021 ~ Volume 12, Issue 4**

## **Kiss the Wave**

I read this devotional from Mark Batterson which feels so appropriate for these times through which we are traveling I want to share it with you.

“I have a friend who has had a migraine for five years. Moments of relief are few and far between. The pain became so debilitating that he eventually had to resign from the church he was pastoring. He’s been to countless specialists. He’s tried a wide variety of treatment plans. Nothing seems to help much or for long.

I asked him how he’s managed the pain and the emotions that go with it. He said, “I’ve learned to kiss the wave.” I must have given him a quizzical look, so my friend explained. He was quoting Charles Spurgeon: “I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages.”

Kissing the wave doesn’t mean we don’t experience storms or get seasick during them. The good news? There is a God who can rebuke the wind and the waves with these words: “Peace, be still.” But before you rebuke the storm, you need to accept it. You can’t move past the pain if you ignore it or hide it or deny it.

A few years ago, Lora and I found ourselves thrown against the Rock of Ages. Lora was diagnosed with breast cancer. If you’ve had cancer or have a loved one who has, you know that a thousand questions fire across your synapses. What stage is it? How do we treat it? What is the prognosis?

When you get cancer, denying the diagnosis does no good. If you don’t own it, it will own you. Kissing the wave is confessing what’s wrong—in this case, cancer. But it’s also professing what’s right—God’s healing power. Remember my miraculous healing from asthma? It began with a brave prayer. For Lora, the healing process began with a brave question she stumbled across while reading a poem about illness:

**What Have You Come to Teach Me?**

When we find ourselves in difficult situations, we get so focused on getting out of them that we fail to get anything

out of them. Then we wonder why we find ourselves in the same situation all over again. There is nothing wrong with asking God to change your circumstances, but His primary objective is changing you. The circumstances you’re asking God to change may be the very circumstances He is using to change you. In the words of John Piper, “Don’t waste your cancer.” You can fill in the blank with whatever challenge you face. Don’t waste it! Maybe it has come to teach you a lesson that could not be learned any other way! Kissing the wave starts with a brave question: *What have you come to teach me?*

You don’t need to sabotage yourself—that’s for sure. Suffering will find you soon enough. When it does, you must recognize that it has the power to enrich your life in a way that nothing else can. If you find yourself in a season of suffering, that is a difficult sentence to read. I acknowledge that, and I don’t stand in judgment over others, because I don’t stand in their shoes. I don’t pretend to know the trauma you’ve endured. I do know this: everyone is fighting a battle we know nothing about.

Lora and I have experienced our fair share of grief and pain and disappointment. I’m not sure where we rank on the bell curve, especially compared with those who have experienced injustice or aren’t sure where their next meals are coming from. Like our memories, suffering is subjective. We have some long-lasting regrets, like every parent I know. We have deep wells of sadness, like every person I know. We have walked through the valley of the shadow of death more than once, and we have the emotional scars to prove it. We’ve also seen God turn some of our toughest tests into our most treasured testimonies. We wouldn’t want to live those seasons all over again, but we wouldn’t trade them for anything in the world. Every testimony starts with test. Pass the test, and you get a testimony, and testimony is the way you overcome the next obstacle!” Mark Batterson

## September Birthdays & Anniversaries

06 – CJ Atkins  
 10 – Becky Garner  
 Lynn & Janice Kent  
 14 – Linda Young  
 Lee & Jean Monroe  
 16 – Dorothy Chapman  
 24 – Richard & Brenda Loubier  
 Martha Pickett  
 25 – Anna Marie Anderson  
 28 – Mitchell & Nancy Irvin



## September Calendar

6 – Labor Day  
 16 – Church Board Meeting  
 18 – District Team Day @ Anthem Church  
 Oct. 2 – Pumpkin Delivery



## Prayer Needs

The Clark Family	Eloise Garner	Patrick Lindsey	Darlene Roach
Perry Souzis	Julia Moore	Janet Van Skyver	Wendy & Emily Horvath
Ronnie Kiser	Jeff Clark	Lisa Koch	Jeffrey Hailey
June Carsey	Drew Baker	Greg Atkins	Anna Marie Anderson
Shelby Pickett	Elis Lodge	Martha Wade	Cindy Jones' son
Rev. Greg Story, D.S.	Eileen Massett	Dave Peck	Ernie Rybold
Paul Jones	Tom Blakeman	Joseph Groves	Regina Williams & Fam
Dorothy & Laurel Chapman	Paul & Grace Boling	Lorraine Jungles	Flood Victims in TN
Louis Perez	The Monroe Family	The Garner Family	Our District Family
Kenny & Gail Goodman	Eileen Jennings	Doug Keuther	The Church Roof
Unsaved Loved Ones	Those affected negatively by the Covid		Afghanistan & Haiti

## Saturday, September 18, 2021

Fort Myers Anthem Church (First Church) from 9 AM – 12 Noon

You will hear a vision message from the DS, a greeting from General Superintendent Duarte, exciting reports and news from our NMI, SDMI and NYI, and helpful information for improving your live streaming or audio/video setups at church and online giving. Meet new church planters and hear exciting testimonies of new believers. We will all be staying in the main sanctuary areas and not breaking out into small classrooms this year for safety reasons.

There is no cost to this event. And no registration is needed. This is an open invitation to pastors to come with key leaders (associate pastors, board members and NYI, NMI and SDMI leaders).

Masks are recommended and requested, but not required. The time of the event is short and we encourage you to do what you can to protect yourself and make others feel at ease as well.



**BUSY HANDS –**  
**Every Tuesday at 9:30 A.M.**  
**in the Fellowship Hall**  
**All ladies are invited!**

While we continue to mourn the passing of our beloved friend and sister-in-Christ, Phoebe Barr, Bud found the following message among her papers:

*I want to thank you for all your prayers!  
 This has been a difficult year so far for us.  
 Jesus is my Lord and Savior and gives me healing and peace  
 God is in control of my life.  
 Bud is my love and helper. I love you all and am so thankful  
 that the Lord lead us to N.F.M. and this church which is now  
 my second home in Florida. May God continue to Bless  
 N.F.M. Nazarene as we endeavor to do His will.*

Phoebe Barr