

~ Kevin's Kolumn ~

Just 'fix' it!

Proverbs 27: 5-6 "**Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.**" Most generally, the folks I know like to fix things. If somethings broke, just fix it! Right? Yes...to an extent. Sometimes we try too hard to fix something that will take more than simple remedial work. For instance, say you have a good friend who struggles with a problem that they're ashamed to admit to someone else. Maybe they came to you. First and foremost you should feel honored. But, at the same time you should feel humbled. You've been given a great responsibility to help someone through a difficult time. What steps should you take? What advice should you give? First, make sure that the person who is talking to you is actually soliciting advice. He or she may just want you to listen and be a good friend, seeking instead understanding, empathy, and compassion. Don't assume that everyone wants advice. You may have some insight into the problem(s), but you really need to listen attentively to a person first for a very long time to understand the situation. If, and only if, your friend actually ASKS for advice should you then furnish it. Make sure you're willing to listen. Every situation is unique, so never assume you know all you need to know about a problem. Listen carefully to the person who wants advice, and learn as much as possible about this situation. If you need clarification, ask questions. Being an active listener will not only help you give good advice, it will also increase the chances that the person will take your advice. Secondly, put yourself in that person's shoes. Try to imagine yourself in the other person's situation. If you've been in a similar situation, think about what you learned, but don't rely solely on your experiences to give advice--imagine that you are giving yourself advice for the unique circumstances that the other person is facing. While you're at it, think about the consequences of *not* taking your advice. If there's no significant difference between the results of those two scenarios, your advice might not be bad, but it's not useful either. The same thing is true if the action you advise is impossible. Sometimes when we wish to help another person we give advice so as to move them forward. Make sure the advice you give brings them closer to Christ Jesus. It's possible they need to reverse their actions so as to see how God can use them for His glory later on.

Have a blessed day, and remember the One who gave it to you!
Kevin

Good Morning! Happy Spring!

Prayer Requests

- ♥Gerry Wyer, Dianne Tonkery's mother, had her scans this past week and received great news! There are no signs of the cancer spreading! Thank you for all of your prayers, cards and words of encouragement. She will have another scan in three months to monitor everything. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.
- ♥Please keep Ken Holbert, Leah Earle 's father in your prayers.
- ♥Continue to pray for Edwina Summers, Harold Phillips, Greg Toothman, Gentry Vass, Paula Huber, Rolle Sullivan, Joan Lough, Nola McKain, Rick Pyles, Buck Osborne, Bill Davis and Dallas Shaffer.
- ♥Charlotte Wilson asks that we pray for her daughter, Shelly Cunningham.
- ♥Ebie Titchenell's surgery was successful. Thx to everyone for their prayers!
- ♥Keep Betty Jo Shaffer in your prayers as she recovers from her recent set back. She returned home from UPMC on Tuesday.
- ♥Rex Bartlett ' s brother passed away. Ed's service was held in Elkins on Monday. Rex's father has been hospitalized. Please keep that family in your prayers.
- ♥ Robert Moore had an ultrasound on his liver just to make sure all is well. He and Mary await results.
- ♥Pam Jackson has had good checkups since her last treatment!! She wishes to thank everyone for their prayers.

News & Notes

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? This will be on Saturday, April 1st . For more info, please see Justin or JoAnna Kirk.

Easter Egg Hunt & Luncheon will be on Sunday, April 9th immediately following the morning service. Please bring a covered dish and join the fun! Our **Spring Friend and Family Day** will be on Sunday, April 30th. Please mark your calendars!

Vacation Bible School will be the week of June 5th If you would like to help, please see Mary Lough. Theme is "Happy Trails...The West of the Story".

Ladies Retreat – All ladies are invited to attend a Ladies Retreat on May 19th & 20th. For more information, please see Jerry Criss, Tammy Hayhurst or Marsha Sparks. There is also a brochure and sign-up sheet on the back table in the auditorium with more details.

Need list for Pleasant Acres:

Q Tips, Fabreeze, Clorox wipes, muscle rub, tennis balls.
Please see Linda Hawkinberry for more information.