Heads up, everyone! Change is coming. Already someone is groaning at the mention of change...humanity in general is resistant to change, especially as we age. I'm fairly certain there are no creatures on God's green earth so highly allergic to change as members of a local Baptist church! Actually, churches of all denominations are highly resistant to change even though we know that change is one of the constants of life.  

But we must also be honest in saying that in retrospect, change is often the catalyst that moves us to deeper and more meaningful experiences in our faith, our relationships, and our attitudes. Jim Rohn accurately summarized the value of change this way: “Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change.” I think there are times in the life of a local church when it is a good, maybe even necessary, thing to initiate and embrace intentional, meaningful change.  

You’re probably like, “Come on PK, get to the point! What’s the change already?!?” Okay...glad to hear you are so eager for change! For the past several years we have transitioned during the summer months to a one service Sunday morning schedule. In the month of June we worship in the sanctuary; during July we meet in the fellowship hall. Also during the summer we shift our starting times to 9:00 for Sunday School and 10:15 for worship. So here’s the first part of the coming change: this year we will follow this same summer schedule for Sunday morning except we’re changing the order of events - worship will begin at 9:00 and Sunday School will follow at 10:15.  

Now for the second part of the coming change. When summer ends, instead of transitioning back to the 8:30/9:45/11:00 Sunday morning schedule, we will be transitioning to simultaneous Sunday morning services @ 9:00 followed by Sunday School @ 10:15. During the fall months, a contemporary service will be held in the fellowship hall while at the same time a more traditional service is being held in the sanctuary — both services beginning at 9:00. Following worship, we will transition from two large worship groups to many small groups in our Sunday School classes. I know. This is a fairly monumental change! The preaching in the simultaneous services will be shared between Jeff, Jamie, Clyde, and me. More details will be shared as we near August and the launch of the simultaneous service schedule.  

We have discussed this change among the staff, and I shared this idea with our Deacons and they were on board with giving it a shot. So we’re committing to this simultaneous Sunday morning service schedule through the fall months. Come November we’ll start evaluating the impact of this change, discuss if tweaks to the Sunday schedule start times need to be made, and/or discuss if we need to change back to the original early service/late service schedule. In other words, this change is not yet set in stone although we fully expect this change to have an incredibly positive impact on our church.  

I love the idea of us all arriving for church services and departing from church services at the same time. I love that simultaneous services will lessen the load on our nursery and children’s church volunteers. I love that people will be able to choose the “music voice” of their heart w/out having to factor in service start times. I love that the voices of our other pastors will be added to the mix of Sunday preaching. I love how this new schedule will simplify planning of other Sunday events...like Sunday lunch fundraisers.  

Again - more details to follow. I just wanted to give you a heads up! Only four Sundays remain before the summer schedule begins. No changes this week, though. I hope to see you in Sunday School & Worship...and the Children's Camp fundraising lunch.