



Hello NEC Friends,

As we move together through this series on "*Listening For God*", hopefully we are realizing (or remembering, again), how this is both comforting and challenging. We can be comforted, knowing that God and His grace are always seeking us out, always speaking truth and love into our lives. We are never alone. Yet, it's challenging, knowing that we can get in the way, becoming quite hard of hearing, spiritually speaking.

In a church like ours, we can easily fall into a passive approach to our spiritual life. That's the last thing we want. Following Christ is an active adventure. It's a way of life. Our action plays an essential part in God's process. Our leadership longs to equip as many people as possible to actively participate in their own growth ... but also in the growth of our church. Growing not just in numbers, but in spiritual depth.

This is why we have worked so hard at assessing and adjusting our leadership structure recently, so that we are poised to equip more people for this growth.

- **Chris Paine**, in his new role as Executive Pastor, will bring his gifts and experience to this process, helping us tighten and strengthen our operations.
- **Jodi Koeman**, serving as Pastor of Community Restoration, brings her gifts and experience to help us showing compassion and mending injustice.
- **Bryan Wieggers**, serving as Pastor of Family Ministries, brings his gifts to help enrich the partnership between NEC and families in forming faith their together.
- **Mike Laird**, serving as Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation, brings his gifts and experience (are you seeing the pattern here? :-) ...) to help more people engage in relationships for spiritual growth.
- Note: Go to [www.newenglandchapel.org/ministries](http://www.newenglandchapel.org/ministries) to see more on our website about how these roles fit into the larger life of NEC.

As our leadership looks for ways to 'get better' at doing church together, this Pastoral Team will serve NEC superbly into this next chapter of ministry. As Senior Pastor, preparing for a Sabbatical, the thought of coming back to a congregation like ours, serving on a team of leaders like this, reminds me that this is one of the great privileges of my life. I can't wait to come back and get at it in August!

Prepare for this coming week's message by taking a little peek ahead. We'll look at a passage from James, who wrote one of the most challenging books in all the Bible. The entire letter, from beginning to end, is a call to action, moving us away being consumers of God's blessings, to becoming doers. A life of faith is anything but passive ... it's about action, living out our faith daily, as a way of life. It's our prayer that exactly that is happening in and through all of us.

Looking forward to seeing you next Sunday!

Much Love

Pastor Chris

