

Another Word June 15, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

The month of June is in full swing. There have been high school and college graduations and parties, yesterday was Flag Day, and June 4th was National Cheese Day. (I haven't quite recovered from that one yet.) This coming Sunday is Father's Day; when we recognize and thank those who have helped us along the road to adulthood. I will have more on that later on in this letter.

I want to thank you for your continued support for our outreach of cards and letters to the lonely and forgotten in our nursing homes. The cards collected last Sunday have been delivered to Good Shepherd.

I'm sure you have noticed that we have again begun recording our services over the past few weeks. Our goal is to start "live streaming" them very soon. This way, those who can't be with us on Sunday can still be part of the service as it happens, at home. Of course, the services will continue to be available on line during the week. Technology is a wonderful thing!

Our scriptures for this Sunday are; Psalm 20, and Mark 4: 26-34, "Riddles, Riddles, Riddles!" Our Elder is Ellie Wells.

Let us go to our Father in prayer.

Holy Father in Heaven. From our hearts we offer You all our praise, glory, and to You and You alone, honor. We ask that you lead us and guide us with Your truth. May we find the strength to reach out to our

neighbor and show them love, understanding, and direction. Please continue to protect those who are willing to stand in the line of danger to protect others. May the leaders of our nation and the leaders of the world be inspired to govern by Your truth and justice. We thank You for the gift of Your son and the forgiveness that is ours because of His sacrifice. And may our lives continue to be a reflection of Your voice. In Jesus' perfect name we pray, Amen.

As I sit here pondering what I want to say, I hope what ends up on the page reflects what is in my head and heart.

Not long after my father died, a man from our church called, and asked if he could take me to the upcoming Father and Son Banquet. My mother said yes and a week or so later he came, introduced himself and off we went.

The Fellowship Hall was abuzz with many fathers and sons and after a brief program we all sat down to eat. The ladies began bringing out the plates of food and setting them down in front of us. However when they came to me, I was skipped over. Can you imagine? Here I am, a shy boy in the middle of a talking and laughing crowd of strangers. I'm already feeling alone and afraid, and then to be passed over; and not one person, including the gentleman who brought me, even noticed?

Everyone ate and laughed and was having a good time. Most were finishing their meals when one of the ladies, upon noticing that there

was no plate in front of me said, “My you finished quickly; you must have been hungry!” Sheepishly, I said, I was never served, but that it was ok. Needless to say, everyone around me began to pay attention and I was quickly fed. It was hard to eat with everyone staring at me.

You need to know that I find this little tale humorous; a little tragic of course, but humorous. And it taught me a lesson. We all can miss what we set out to do by being distracted with more comfortable and familiar surroundings. I’m sure the person who took me had no intention of ignoring me, but he became so involved with his friends that I was forgotten. (Shades of the song, “Cats in the Cradle.”)

Father’s Day is fast approaching. Traditionally, we celebrate the men in our lives, and that is ok. But there is something we need to see a little more clearly. David wrote in Psalm 68: 4-5, “Sing to God... His name is The Lord... the father to the fatherless.” We all have an ultimate father, He is The Lord, and He protects the fatherless. These verses mean a lot to me, because I’ve seen it in action.

Every day someone becomes fatherless, either physically or by some other situation. That’s where you and I come in. God our Father positions us to be in the perfect place when a surrogate is needed. My mom took up the challenge of not only being our mother, but also being our father. And along my journey, I had a number of men and women who came into my life at the right time to aid in my growth, understanding, instruction, knowledge and wisdom. They were sent by our Father to become my father to the fatherless.

Our Father to the fatherless is always there, always watching out for us, and always sending just the right person when needed. That right person is you. We are each poised in our lives to help, love, and mentor those who need guidance, and it doesn't matter what gender or age we are.

From time to time I think of the man who took me to the banquet. And I have come to realize, he was sent by my Heavenly Father, to teach me patience, humility, how to cope and face my fears. But most importantly, how to laugh when life goes, shall we say, a little "unexpectedly."

Please remember that each of us, through our Father, have and will make important, lasting, and positive impressions in the lives of those around us who are in need. And all we need to do is step forward when called!

"Happy Father's Day!"

In His Peace,

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