Pastor’s Pen: What a Difference Faith Makes

What difference does faith make? How would your life be different if you had no faith in God?

The Westminster Shorter Catechism (WSC) deals with that question by directing us to the work of God the Holy Spirit in our lives in Q/A 29-38.

First, the catechism says that the Holy Spirit creates faith. In other words, "faith" is not something you muster up; it is something you are given that then unites you to Jesus. In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says, “I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in.” But how do we open the door of our hearts to Jesus? By the Holy Spirit creating faith in our hearts.

Secondly, when we have this faith and are united to Jesus, we are “justified” – that is, declared to be right, holy, and just in God’s eyes. In justification, it’s like Jesus’ perfect and infinite bank account is applied to our own bankrupt books.

But the work of the Holy Spirit doesn’t stop there! Thirdly, the Spirit continues to work in our lives, transforming us in the here and now. This process is called sanctification (or “becoming holy.”) In “justification,” God declares us to be righteous and just. In “sanctification,” the Holy Spirit begins to make holiness and justice actual, living realities in our lives.

In the late 1800s, the Chicago River was a shallow, sluggish sewer for the entire city, including the Union Stock Yards. Residents called it “The Stinking River” and “Bubbly Creek.” All this corruption flowed into Lake Michigan – the source of the city’s...
Finally, the city took action in 1900. Engineers dug 28 miles of canals (moving more earth than the makers of the Panama Canal) and installed locks and gates. Then on January 2, 1900, a worker opened a sluice gate at Lake Michigan, and the entire Great Lakes flowed into the Chicago River, pushing it a direction it had never flowed. They reversed the flow of the Chicago River. It now flows the opposite way: from Lake Michigan down into the Mississippi, bringing with it a huge flow of fresh, clean water.

There’s a similar principle at work in our relationship with God: the Holy Spirit reverses the flow of the human soul. Instead of the shallow, sluggish, diseased waters of human brokenness, the Spirit opens the sluice gates of transformation. Through the Spirit, we day-by-day become the people God has always intended us to be.

The process of sanctification continues throughout our lives and is completed in our own death and resurrection – when we are completely done with sin and raised up into new, perfect, and everlasting life.

Questions for Reflection:

How did the Holy Spirit create faith in your life?
What does it mean to you that you are “justified”?
Are you making progress in becoming more holy?

Scriptures for Reflection:
Ephesians 2:8-9
Romans 6:1-23

Did you know…

That we have a really neat cabinet in the east room (the room where we have coffee/donuts)? There are many historic items in that cabinet. For instance, a Bible belonging to Gladys Pyle is in there, along with a short history of when/why she received it. There is also a beautiful communion cloth that was given to Gladys Pyle to give to us as a thank you gift. The story is in the cabinet too. There are several other interesting items/books so take a look sometime when you are in the newly-remodeled east room.

Did you know…

That the church is getting new carpet for the library and north foyer that matches the new carpet in the east room. It will be done as soon as possible and will complete the look in that area. Thanks to all who worked so hard and contributed to make that dream come true. The room looks very nice.

Did you know…

That the library has several new books? They can and should be checked out anytime! The Christian Education Committee and Pastor Andrew gleaned the inventory. We found a wonderful home for the books that didn’t sell at the annual rummage sale. A young man, Jesse Katz, who grew up in our church took all of them and is very excited to read them and learn from them! Check out the new books and be sure to return them so that others may enjoy them as well.

If there is something you didn’t know, but heard, saw or are wondering about, please let the office know! Diane will try to come up different items of interest each month for the newsletter. This short column is a result of the retreat we attended in May. It seems there are things peo-
Q30. How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?
A30. The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

Q31. What is effectual calling?
A31. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our mind in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

Q32. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?
A32. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.

Q33. What is justification?
A33. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Q34. What is adoption?
A34. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of, the sons of God.

Q35. What is sanctification?
A35. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

Q36. What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification?
A36. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

Q37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?
A37. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.

Q38. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?
A38. At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

July Celebrations

Birthdays: Jim Pownell 92, Maxine Paye 89, Pat Nagel 80, Milo Pietz 81
Anniversaries: Larry & Keitha Neuharth 50, Dwayne & LaVone Poulisse 46, Hugh & LeAnne Miner 50, Jim & Ada Pownell 67, Cris & Jamie Peterson 17, Brad & Kristi Letcher 20, Brian & Gail Lichty 20, Keith & Corey Decker 29, Dave & Brenda Peterson 26, Al & Jeanne Sager 51

Welcome

New Baptized Members: Janea Rose Smith, daughter of Garret and Kahlie Smith & Hank James Perrenoud, son of Robert and Vanessa Perrenoud.

HEIMSTRA HUMAN FACTORS
LABORATORIES DRIVING RESEARCH GROUP

The Heimstra Human Factors Laboratories Driving Research Group at the University of SD is seeking participants for an upcoming driving research study. Research will be conducted to compare younger and older adult drivers in an on-the-road examination of driving performance. Participants will be asked to drive in a naturalistic setting on the roads in Huron, SD in an instrumented vehicle provided by the research lab. Primary data collection is scheduled for July/August 2017. The goal of this project is to determine potential age related differences in driving performance behaviors in order to develop advanced driving research technology and safety screening procedures. Participants will receive a payment of $25 that they can either keep for themselves or donated to the church. Additionally, a donation in the amount of $500 will be made to the church from the lab if the participant goal is reached.

Requirements for Participation

Valid driver's license
Current automobile insurance
Normal (or corrected to normal) vision

Participant Goals
18 participants aged 25-50
18 participants aged 70 & older
Contact the church if you are interested. 352-8789 Jeannette will give you the information you need to participate.
Member Highlights

Eric Bliss

Eric was born in River Falls, Wisconsin, to Norman and Melanie Bliss. Norman was a Professor at the University of Wisc. at that time. Eric has an older brother, Andy, (Taryn) who is now a professor at Colorado State in Fort Collins. Their daughter is Zoe.

In 1985 the Bliss family moved to South Dakota. They lived in Sioux Falls and Eric graduated from Lincoln High School. Norman worked for the EROS Data Center, making soil maps. Melanie worked at various places including serving on the School Board. She was involved with the Homeless Coalition, being an advocate for the homeless.

Eric has always enjoyed music. He started piano lessons at age six and cello lessons in the fourth grade. After high school he went to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He graduated with a Bachelor's in Cello Performance. He next moved to Vermillion, enrolling in the USD Music Education Department. His next stop was the Island of St Lucia where he spent nine months teaching cello and piano in their School of Music. He enjoyed the beautiful nature, the sight of the Caribbean Sea, and everything being so green.

Then it was back to South Dakota. He was a long term Substitute Teacher in the music department in Sioux Falls, spending most of the time with the elementary orchestra. Moving on to Wichita State University for two years, he finally decided that Huron seemed to be a pretty good place to live. So in 2011 he started giving private music lessons and then worked with the Presbyterian Choir. He still sings with the choir and now plays the piano and organ here and sometimes his cello.

Eric also plays music in many places in the community. He keeps busy at such places as the Nights in the Park, Fairground, Relay for Life, and the Methodist Ecumenical Services, often playing the cello with Mia Kruse on the piano.

You may have seen Eric's Dad singing in our choir when he and Melanie are in town. The Bliss couple has been doing a lot of traveling lately. They have visited Canada, Peru, China and many of the National Parks and Canyons in Utah.

Besides music, Eric enjoys working with house plants inside and the garden outside. Having recently moved to a different home he is keeping busy settling in. He has a piano and organ in his music studio where he gives lessons. He soon will begin cello lessons there too.

Beyond Huron, Eric plays the cello in Mitchell with the Lyric Wood String Orchestra. He played with the Huron Symphony and he also sings with AAMC, the Aberdeen Area Men's Chorus. Interesting highlights for Eric's summer include a trip to Colorado with his parents to visit brother Andy and his family and attending the Presbyterian Worship and Music Conference at Montreat Retreat Center in North Carolina.

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Friday   July 28   6:00pm-8:00pm
Saturday July 29   9:30am-4:00pm
Sunday   July 30   1:00 pm Sunday

VBS Celebration

Volunteers needed—See Dawn Meink, CE Director to find out how you can help.
Registration forms available in Church office or on bulletin board in East Room.
Watch for a list of needed supplies, coming soon!

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We've got Mail!

Dear Deacons,

Thank you so much for the doodie basket you sent. It was a bright spot in my day. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Randy Jacobson
To: Adele Jacobson and family on the
death of her mother Phyllis Miedema.

Friends of Ervin Krutzfeldt and Craig Atkins.

Military Personnel and Families
President Trump Government Officials
Prison Inmates Military Personnel & families

Assisted Living, Nursing Homes & Home Bound

SunQuest Village: Kathleen Amundson, Shirley Fullerton, Lorraine Jacobson, Idel McDonald, Eva Vilhauer
Violet Tschetter Ione Buckley
Stoneybrook Suites: Madelyn Nickelson
SunQuest Healthcare Center: Henry Sievers
Out-of-Town Nursing Homes: Jill Baker.
Courtyard Apts: Marilyn Rogers & Ruth Winter
Home Bound: Mahalia Connell

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Elder of the Month:
Keith Decker & Chuck Groth

Deacon of the Month:
Dawn Meink

Volunteers for Prayer Chain

#1
Greg & Donna Hepper 352-3621
Vi Magness 352-5377 or 8759
Sue Gose 352-8104

#2
Frances Langbehn 352-4079
Bev Erdahl 352-4746
Marlene Gamber 352-5219
Cam Galliger 352-4928
Mona Kotas 352-9517
Brad Magness 352-9545

To join a prayer chain, please call the church office.

Members
Randy Jacobson Roger Bierstedt Mahalia Connell
Charles (Al) Katz Kyle Klusman Lisa Hepper
Ron Hastings Alan Schmidt David Hook
Madelyn Nickelson Ron Reed Brandee Throckmorton
Kathleen Amundson Melba Galliger Donna Pietz

Friends & family

Family & Friends

Jack Alexander
Michaela Biel (Dick & Pam Biel’s daughter-in-law)
Craig Connell (Mahalia’s son)
Kim Crump (Galliger’s daughter)
Joyce Gardner (Sharon Hastings cousin)
Jason Gehrt (Madelyn Nickelson’s grandson-in-law)
Larry Claypool (Renea Katz’s father)
Arbadilla Huber (Dick Biel’s aunt)
Kenneth Kruger (Brenda Schmidt’s uncle)
Gladys Hrdlicka (Donna Meiers’ mother)
Tami Israel (friend of Barb Peterson)
Cloe Jesson (Marlene Gamber’s friend).
Mary Louise & Leslie Jensen (Brenda Schmidt’s parents)
Vicki Johnson (Kristi Letcher’s sister)
Timothy LeRoux (Deannie’s son)
Nakita Maddox (friend of Becki Lemke)
Janelle Martinez (Louise Van Poll’s friend in the Peace Corp)
Kim Mattke (Dawn Meink’s friend)
Glen Millage (Pastor Andrew’s uncle)
Delbert Minski (friend of Barb Peterson)
Patricia Moore (Greg Hepper’s aunt)
Susan Munion (Galliger’s friend)
Marian (Wold) Martin (friend of Lori Magness)
Roxi Miller (friend of Diane Clayton)
James Teer (Mona Kotas’ brother-in-law)
Amy Weller (Dar King’s daughter)
New Decking Installed at Pioneer Camp
Thank you for contributing!

August 2017

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Dear FPC scholarship Committee and Church Members,

Thank you for choosing me as one of the recipients for a scholarship. I am attending the University of Minnesota in the fall majoring in Sports Psychology. I really appreciate all of the support, encouragement, and guidance that I have received from all of you at First Church over the years. I am honored to be part of such a great church family.

Brianna Lichty

Scholarship Committee and Church family,

Thank you so much for granting Robert and me scholarships to help us as we continue our education this fall. Robert will be attending the Huron community Campus finishing his general courses and then continuing on to earn a teacher’s degree.

Robert & Sabrena Brooks

Presbyterian Family,

Thank you for the scholarship. It is greatly appreciated for the monetary help toward my college degree.

Warmly, Tanner Pietz

Thank you for the scholarship. I’m still at NSU earning my music degree to teach music someday. Thank you for the scholarship.

Tabitha Schmidt

Friends in Christ,

Thank you for awarding me a scholarship. Your gift makes such a difference. Thank you for being a wonderful place to come home to.

Alice Boomsma

First Church,

Thank you so much for the dutch cradle cross for Janae. We really appreciate all the love and support we have been getting!

Garrett, Kahlie & Janae

Our Home Rediscovery would like to thank the congregation of First Presbyterian for the sporting equipment that you donated to us.

Thank you, Thankyou, and thank you again. Luther
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