“Faithful People” Pastor Dan

When it comes to faithful people, the last one we recall is usually the most important of all. This faithful one came into our world of sin and despair, and found a way to bring wholeness and refreshment to each and every life. This faithful one laid down his life for the sins of us all. This faithful one promises to guide and direct us wherever we may go. This faithful one challenges us in our faith every day—if we’re paying attention.

Yet, this faithful one also challenges us to remain faithful in our daily living. This month we get to read the stories of God’s faithful: Mike Dorn in his bout (perhaps we should say battle) with cancer; Zach Zeutzius in his Confirmation “faith-story”; Bev Cathcart, responding so faithfully to the needs of the hungry that make their way to our door; and Val Schmitt, describing the lives of those faithful ones around her who have been such an influence in her life.

Faithful Friends and a Faithful Savior. What else could we possibly need?

“My Tight Red Briefs” Mike Dorn

I know what you are all thinking... TMI, TMI. Well, relax I’m not going to embarrass myself too much. When I was asked to write something about God’s faithfulness for this issue of the Parish Prints, I was reluctant. What in the world do I know about faith? In fact, my cancer journey has been testing my faith for the last 3 years now, and I’m not feeling any more comfortable with it. That’s where the red briefs come in... You see,
For the Journey...continued

“My Tight Red Briefs” Mike Dorn

hesitant to wear those stupid red briefs because of bad luck. I know this sounds really foolish, and like I said, I am embarrassed. It becomes even more foolish when you associate it with a seemingly spiritual person. As a person of faith, aren’t I supposed to believe and trust God is in control? “Superstitions are the devil’s work” my father used to tell me. God is trying to call me to the correct door, but I keep opening others in search of the answer I want to hear.

On Monday of this week I decided to put my faith back into God’s hands and let go of that silly superstition. I purposely wore my red briefs to a doctor’s appointment after a CT scan. Since I hadn’t learned of the results yet, I kept telling myself I have faith, and to accept God’s will whatever it may be. Faith is supposed to be the opposite of doubt, right? Yet, I struggle with varying degrees of doubt every single day. Then I remembered that our Lord has said the smallest seed of faith is a gift from God Himself. I may continue to doubt, but a mustard seed of faith. Praise God for this amazing gift and for keeping His promise that I am worthy of Him. My faith is not dictated by what color briefs I wear. However, small, faith is a gift from God. I make a promise to God that faith becomes official and I am excited for our journey together. I am excited for the amazing things that You have blessed me with. Thank You for the hope that You have provided for my future. Thank You for my Baptism and for accepting me into Your family. Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross to take away my sins. I value our relationship and the strength that You provide for me. Thank You for all the wonderful blessings that You have provided to me, God. I am excited for our journey together.

Youth

“Confirmation of Faith” Zach Zeutzius

Confirmation is an important time in life. It is the time where my faith becomes official and I make a promise to God to stay faithful through thick and thin no matter what the circumstances. During my life, I’ve tried to be the best person I can be. Whether it is helping out at PDP’s Dining, or just giving a friend an encouraging high five. I try to live by the values that my wonderful parents have instilled in me, such as the golden rule, humility, and honesty.

Meanwhile, God has blessed me with a wonderful family who has been supportive of me since my first breath. As a child, whenever I got hurt, my Mom or Dad would pick me up and hold me no matter what the parenting books said.

God has blessed me with the resources that I need to succeed by providing the love and support of friends and family. He has also given me the opportunities of a lifetime, which include getting the privilege to travel to amazing destinations and seeing things that many people never get to experience.

John 1:9 says, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you always.” To me, this verse means that no matter which route I choose, God will be there right along side me. When times get tough, I know that God will be with me so I have no reason to get discouraged.

Thank You, God, for the amazing things that You have blessed me with. Thank You for the hope that You have provided for my future. Thank You for my Baptism and for accepting me into Your family. Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross to take away my sins. I value our relationship and the strength that You provide for me. Thank You for all the wonderful blessings that You have provided to me, God. I am excited for our journey together.

“Food Pantry Legacy” Bev Cathcart

As I reflected back over the years we have served food to our community, it hit me how LONG it has been! I have served on this board since 1980 when we fed people who came by the church. Care to Share was organized 28 years ago to help direct families to the nearest church or group who had food pantries. It has become such a mission of love to be able to help those who are hungry! We have many satisfying memories of those served. The little girl who asked for a Bible and we gave one. She beamed. Her mother asked if we could provide a Bible in Spanish. Joyce Bjorge bought one and gave it to her. She tearfully thanked us.

A young mother of three received a Christmas box from us a year ago and when she received her tax return she gave $100 for us to buy food for our pantry, she truly knew the spirit of giving.

Another person with a great impact on my life has been Jake. His wisdom mixed with humor has been a special gift for which I am eternally grateful. While his statement, “You’ve always got Jesus in your hip pocket,” may be a little troubling to theologians, it is a great summary of his life and I love him for it.

“Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Rev. 2:10. Many of you had the opportunity to know Margie and know this verse spoke to her. What an inspiration she has been to me. Again, while theologians may be troubled by some of her statements, there was never any doubt about her faith-filled relationship with the Lord and her ability to convey His love.