

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today is Father's Day, a secular holiday, but one that touches all of us. For some, like myself, we remember our late fathers and their influence in our lives. Perhaps one of the most important things that my father did was to set an example for my brothers and me. He attended church on a weekly basis, participated on church committees, served as the Head Usher for many years, and taught a Sunday school class.

When I was in middle school, my father asked if I would help him on Sundays with his Sunday school class of elementary children. I would cut-out, staple, tape, glue or fold the paper projects for the day. I would set the projects on the tables, arrange the chairs, and make sure everything was ready. When they arrived, my dad would often read a Bible story to the children and talk with them about it. He played the piano, so sometimes we would learn a song that related to the story. He would lead them in prayer.

As I look back on this special time with my dad, I am thankful for his teaching and modeling. He set an example for us of the importance that God had in his life. He encouraged us to not only attend church, but to be actively involved in the church.

Although I did not receive my call to ministry until after my dad had already passed away, I believe he would have been happy. I believe he would have been supportive of me becoming a minister. The reason, is that he was supportive of me in so many things--my attending college, going on for advanced degrees, participating in interscholastic sports, and more. I always felt that he supported me in my educational aspirations, career choices, and most importantly, my walk with God.

What is your experience? If you are a father or grandfather, I hope that you encourage your daughters and sons, granddaughters and grandsons, in their journey with God. By following God's ways, reading the Bible, modeling the importance of going to church and being actively involved in the church, they will see God's light shining in you.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy