



“Things My Father Taught Me!”

As I sit here to type out my article for the July-August newsletter I am reminded of Father’s Day which will be celebrated in 4 days. As Father’s Day draws near I am drawn to reflect upon both my heavenly Father (working on Lord’s Prayer Sermon series) and my earthly dad. It has been over two years since my dad went home to be with Christ. I still miss him tremendously. My sister tells me that she sees a lot of dad in me. What a compliment? As a matter of fact, just the other day I found myself singing a song the same way my father used to sing it while I was around him. I suppose a lot of my father still lives in me.

Over the years my father taught me many things (please bear with me as I become nostalgic). Several of which I would like to share in this article. In public, my dad was one of the few men that I knew who was not afraid to share his Christian faith with others. He was a truck driver all of his life and spent much of his time in places where people were not accustomed to hearing the gospel shared. In private, my dad was the same man. There was only one Lester Roy Propst—an authentic Christian man. My dad was one of the most Christ-like men I’ve ever known; the kind of man, the kind of father, I long to be.

In no particular order, here are the lessons on fatherhood I learned from watching dad, each lesson living on in my life from memories of his care for me.

He was a Bible man--My dad was wholeheartedly devoted to Jesus. On Saturday and Sunday mornings I would walk down stairs and find my dad sitting at the kitchen table reading his Bible while drinking a cup of coffee. My dad was a student of God’s Word. He was a Bible man, and he modeled the importance of personal Bible Study/Reading for me.

He praised God--Many men are hard to read. I have no idea what they stand for. But I never wondered about my dad—what he cared most about, what he was living for--never once, at all. Not even a little. He did not take a keep-a-low-profile approach to life. Jesus was too wonderful to him. He praised the Lord throughout his life, in public, in private, in a clear and winsome way that could not be ignored.

He cheered me on--My dad set me free to pursue God’s call on my life. He guided me in appropriate ways, of course, but he did not fearfully cling to me or hope I would always live nearby. He urged me to follow Christ anywhere. Now and then he’d make this speech: “Listen, son. Half-hearted Christians are the most miserable people of all. They know enough about God to feel guilty, but they haven’t gone far enough with Christ to be happy. Be all-out for him! I don’t care if you’re a ditch-digger, as long as you love the Lord with all your heart.”

He was not impressed with worldly success and going to the right schools and all that pretense and sluff. He wanted something better for me, something I

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Let's Grow Green at Forest Farmer's Market!!



If you have never gone to the Forest Farmer's Market behind Forest Library on 221, now is the time. Mountain View has reserved a stall for three Saturday's this summer, in an effort to get outside of the church building and grow relationships. The plan is to promote our small groups and special activities. Saturday, July 4th will be our first date and will focus on our upcoming Vacation Bible School. There will be VBS leaders and G-Force props. There also will be a special 4th of July activity for the kids. The only thing that is missing is the crowd from Mountain View. We need everyone to participate in showcasing their particular activities. Let's reach out to the Forest community!

For future planning, the other two reserved dates are Saturday, August 8th, which will preview the start-up of Knights Club and Saturday, September 19th, which is the day before Aloha Sunday. This should give everyone time to plan their appearances.

Don't forget, there will be Mountain View night at the ballpark on August 4th, to watch the Lynchburg Hillcats take on the Potomac Nationals. The Farmer's Market would be a great place to greet and invite a family to join you at the game!

Contact Robin Grier at rgrier@catcomtec.com for details.

 <p style="margin: 0;">VIRGINIA CONFERENCE THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Virginia Annual Conference</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Congratulations to our congregation! Pastor Steve met his goal of \$1,000 and surpassed it. He will be taking a check for \$1,409 for the Conference Offering. Well done! He will also be taking 34 School Kits and 25 Layette Kits for UMCOR.</p>
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Yard Sale

Thanks to everyone who came out to support Mountain View's 17th Annual Yard Sale. It was truly a team effort and could not have been done without YOU!

Here are the totals:

Youth Clothes	\$ 525.00
Youth Hotdogs	\$ 262.25
Choir Bake Sale	\$ 280.85
Women's Boutique	\$ 777.60
Yard Sale Items	\$6,711.48
 Grand Total	 \$8,557.18.



Leftover purses went to the Women's Prison Ministry for women being released from prison

Leftover scarves went to the Summit.

Leftover clothes and shoes went to Park View Mission.

Yard sale items went to Forest Rotary for their sale or to Goodwill.



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had to find on my own. But I never doubted how urgently he desired for me a clear call from God on my life. And I did receive it, partly because my dad didn't intrude himself into it but cheered me on as I followed the Lord myself.

He had a real walk with God--My dad had a real walk with God. It never occurred to me to wonder if Jesus was the Lord of his heart and of our home. Dad loved the gospel. He served the church. He witnessed to our neighbors. He even tithed when he couldn't afford it. He set the tone of our home, and our home was a place of joy, honesty and comfort. Jesus was there.

He taught me theology in the backyard--One day when I was 11 or 12, while we were hilling up potatoes in the garden my dad stopped, looked me in the eyes, and said, “You know, Steve, before time began, God chose you.” I was floored. Almighty God thought of tiny me? Way back then? I felt so loved by God. My dad had begun my theological education in my boyhood in the course of everyday conversation.

He helped me love the church--Dad had high standards for Christian living. But he was wise enough to know that a 10-year-old follows Christ in a way different from a 40-year-old. He was realistic and compassionate. He made allowances for me to be a Christian kid. And he is the primary earthly reason why I love the church today. He wisely showed me how church life does not need to be oppressive. He, along with my mother, taught me the ins and outs of Church life. One of which was to regularly attend church and to be respectful (along with good and quiet) while in church.

He lived his faith simply and practically--Dad showed me how to walk with the Lord in practical ways. Dad's faith was not only about learning as much as he could about the love of Christ but he also realized that faith must be put into action. More than once I heard my father say that “Faith without Works is dead!” So you would often find my father mowing grass for someone in need or delivering a load of wood to someone who had no money to buy it. Dad exemplified how to make daily Christianity accessible and practical.

He told me ministry isn't everything--I adored my dad. I still do. Even as I write this, I choke up. I miss him so. Being the son of a godly father was a sacred privilege given to me as a gift from God himself. My respect for my dad and his personal attractiveness—the real Christianity I saw in him, the beauty with which he served as a disciple of Christ even when he suffered—the personal impact of it all was that I grew to love “The Father” because of my father.

I can remember my dad saying to me one day as I was sharing with him some of the struggles I was experiencing in the ministry. He said: “Steve, remember that the ministry isn't everything but Jesus is!” What comfort those words brought to me.

I hope that when I “grow up” that I am just like my dad. Wait! I think I am already like him in so many ways (at least the ways that really matter!) I know that there are those who say that their dad was not that great. I am deeply sorry that things turned out that way for those of you that feel that way. However, I will tell you that your relationship with our “Heavenly Father” can be different. If you intimately get to know “The Father of all of Creation” and follow His teachings then you will discover and experience a transforming relationship that will grow you in love. Have a Great summer! I will be looking for you in Church on Sunday,

Pastor Steve

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Worship Services **Sunday School**

10:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.

Nursery Provided

Office Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8:30 am –4:30 pm

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