

## A Gift from a Daughter

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Many of you know that my daughter, Whitney, passed away in July of 2007. For whatever reason as we move into the summer and up through July, Many of us in the family find ourselves thinking of her.

When she was in Confirmation, in September of 2003, she sent me an e-mail that had her reflecting upon her faith. I pull it out and read it on occasion.

Today, I would like to share it with you. I have included my response to her. I trust that it will invite you to reflect upon your faith as well.

Have a great day.

In the hope Jesus offers us,  
*Rev. Scott Carlson*

Tuesday September 16, 2003

At my church that I go to, First United Methodist Church, I am a confirmation student. This year they gave out "*The Original Student Plan-It.*" It's a daily planner that had a scripture in the bible that you can read.

Well as much as I want to be close to Christ and to understand more of what my dad is doing. I am trying to read the daily scriptures. Today it says to read 2 Corinthians 8:9 what the scripture says is "*you know the grace of our lord Jesus Christ. You know that Christ was rich but for you he became poor so that by his becoming poor you might become rich.*"

I marked the saying that I read it and I got something out of it. But I will not yet tell you what I got out of it.

In my bible there are stories about different peoples lives and how God has helped them. On the page of which I read the scripture there was a story of a girl named Linda who went on a ski trip with her friend Judy. By the end of the day Linda was cold to the bone and the bus didn't help much either. Linda's socks where wet and her gloves were soaking.

Jennifer Davis was cold too but she noticed Linda sitting by herself so Jennifer went over and talked to Linda. Jennifer gave Linda warm socks, warm gloves and a scarf for Linda to wear. When Linda's friend, Judy, came on the bus she found Jennifer and Linda laughing about their ski trip.

At the end of the day Linda asked Judy why did Jennifer give her all those clothes when she was cold herself. Judy said, "because giving is what being a Christian is all about."

That is what God is saying to us in this scripture. He gave us riches when he could have kept them to himself but he didn't, he gave us what we needed to live and grow in and outside of church. We are Christians and giving is what we do best.

Whitney Carlson

Dear Whit.,

This is beautiful. Thank you for sharing it with me.

I love you so much. I miss you too.

You alluded to wondering why I do what I do? I sometimes wonder the same thing myself. But what I know is that God wants me to share with people how much they are loved by God. Sometimes I think we forget that. Sometimes in the church we forget that we are to love each other as Jesus has loved us. When we forget this basic information, we end up hurting each other and losing sight of God. When this happens (when we hurt each other and lose sight of God), that is when I wonder why I serve in the church.

But ultimately I know the answer. It is because there are times we all forget. Then it is my job to remind people.

I love you. I hope you have a terrific day.

Love,  
Dad

*The Mission of Sun Prairie United Methodist Church is to invite and welcome people to be committed and compassionate followers of Jesus Christ through worship, through spiritual growth, through fellowship and through service to others.*