

Piano Lessons  
July 2, 2008

When I was in the third grade, my parents made me take piano lessons. I took them from a lovely lady by the name of Tess Allison. Mrs. Allison was the wife of one of the pastors of our local church. She was a good teacher and a beautiful lady on the inside and outside.

The only problem then was that I really wasn't interested in playing piano. I didn't think it was cool.

When I graduated from High School, I found that I was wishing more and more that I had continued to play piano, because of how much I love music. That remained an unfulfilled wish until this past January, when Debbie and I started taking lessons together from Kristi Estervig at the Arboretum Music School. We have been having a terrific time learning how to play piano together.

However, the last two months have not been very good for me. I have had to do too much traveling. That means my practice time on the piano has been pretty much non-existent. What I have learned is that if I don't practice, I simply don't improve. I am sure that if I don't practice long enough, I end up losing the skills that I have worked so hard to acquire at this point. I have rededicated myself to practicing again.

How much like faith this is. If we don't practice the disciplines of faith, our faith doesn't have the chance to grow. But when we take time to do things like build time for prayer and scripture study into our own lives, when we take time to go to worship. When we take time to get involved in a small group, when we take time to practice our faith: All these things help us actually grow in faith.

They help us grow in our love for God and in our practice of getting to know God. How are you doing at practicing your faith? What do you need to work on this week?

If there is something you feel you need to work on, here is my suggestion. First of all, identify what it is that you want to work on (like praying/reading scripture). Second set a reasonable goal for yourself to reach it (like I will take at least 15 minutes each day to practice this). Third, tell someone else about your goal. That actually helps you to follow through with it. Fourth, find a tool to help you do what you are attempting to do (for example, if you want to pray/read scripture, make sure that look for a method that can help you practice and succeed at your goal).

I look forward to seeing you in worship this weekend.

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

*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.*