



Pastors Kristi's Pen Page.

Nov , 2016

Manners, Never Lose Them

Dear Christians,

They are what we use when we don't feel like doing what we know we should. They are what we use when someone gives you a gift, that is wonderful, but just not you. They are what we use when your wife asks you if that outfit makes her look fat. They are what we use when a driver cuts us off.

Manners let us know how to respond when you meet someone new, and how to respond when we are introduced to a new food. They are necessary when we don't feel like doing the right thing, or when we are not sure what that right thing is.

The problem is, many of us have lost our manners. In the United States we tend to believe authentic responses are more important than polite ones. Many would argue, that we would rather have an honest rebuke, than face a half-hearted complement. Most of the time I would agree with this.

But let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater. Manners are still important. It is clear in the current election, manners have been set aside.

During world war II many in England hated the Jews almost as much as many in Germany. The British are known for their manners; when they hated them they did so with manners. They may have been somewhat half-hearted in their dealings. They may have even spoken of them quietly behind closed doors. During the same period, German people hated the Jews, and were authentically honest about their hatred. They didn't mince words; they were clear and direct about their hatred. Hitler took advantage of their hate and started executing the Jewish people. The results are literally history.

While I am all for being authentic, there is something to say about Manners. Manners kept England from responding to the hate they had for these people who were taking their jobs and taking over their nation.

In this Nation we have lost our manners. We have lost the basic respect we used to have for life, any life. How we ended up here, the historians will speak to in years to come, but what we do now is important.

We need to use our manners when we are with difficult people, we need to be showing and teaching our kids and grandkids what manners are. They are a tool we use to keep ourselves from making socially unacceptable decisions. Manners keep our society polite. Use manners in your home, with friends and colleagues. Let them see your gracious attitude.

Christians, in a desire to be authentic, we lost an important part of who we are called to be. Repeatedly, Jesus calls us to respond graciously to those who intend to do us harm. Repeatedly, Jesus calls us to love the unlovable. If we are honest, more often than not we don't feel like doing these things. We do them because they are the right thing to do, because Jesus asked us to. Don't wait to do the right thing... if you wait till you feel like it, you probably never will.

Just something to think about,

Pastor Kristi

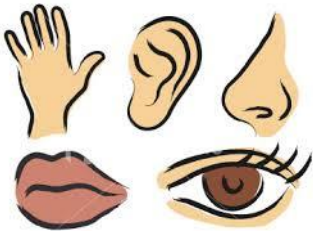
Sense, Scents, & Cents (Pat's Pondering from the Pew)

Although I wrote this over a year ago, it seems to fit in nicely with today's dilemma that many of us face in our daily walk about town as well as the charge that Pastor gave us a few weeks back; 'to go out and love the people'

Sense, scents or cents! What does one have to do with other or are they interrelated more often than not? I found myself on a path of discovery when one of my grandchildren told me of a college written assignment she has to do on smell. And as I love to write, my mind had begun a written essay on smell.

Then quite co-incidentally the following day, a couple of facebook people happen to make negative comments about people who had offensive body odors and how they should wash. I of course had to offer my opinion on this subject as my life experiences with a wide variety of people told a different story. One of the ladies then responded that if they would get a job they could afford to buy soap. I knew better, at which point I offered another opinion and that was that they should have some compassion, mercy and show some grace and buy the soap and gift the offending persons. So this is part of how this essay came into being.

I speak of scent in this sense, not as cents as in coinage, and not in sense as in common sense but in a sense as it relates to one of the five senses that are a recognized method of perception that has receptacles for specific stimuli. Now doesn't that sound scientific?? Of course not, however, the reader will understand the point or so I hope.



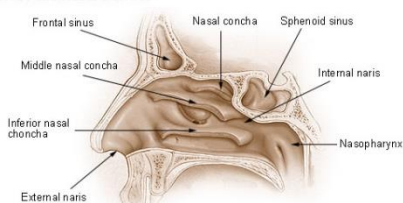
There was time that my sense of smell stopped working as I was a smoker. Since this habit was broken, my sense of smell gradually returned and while it is not up to snuff yet, I enjoy a vast improvement of detection. I rejoice in that I can smell rain in the sky or when even a trace of marijuana is present. I can distinguish the difference between burning wood, paper, or trash. Other smells have now surfaced that I could not discern when I smoked.

The pungent odor of death is difficult to put into words and is one smell that the brain never forgets once it has received its smell. I have had the experience of smelling death 3 times in my life and all were different circumstances. The first impression I had was one of complete blackness and dark shadows overwhelming the room as the person was in the final stages of the death process. The second time this odor presented itself was in a pastor's study where I sensed a growing brown presence much like an evil invasion. When I looked around this office, I finally spotted the cause of the color and odor. It was in a 'sand' tray that Buddhists use as a form of meditation. This Christian pastor had brought un-Christ like articles into the church. The third time I was shocked to discover that the color of brown mixed with black and with a smell emanating from a friend whose liver was shutting down from being a long time closet alcoholic. Other friends managed to convince him to go into rehab and he survived and is now free of this type of death. Although I have not experienced it, a grandson told me the odor of live burning flesh is one that never goes away and is very distinct. He witnessed and tried to help, along with others, a lady who set herself on fire in her vehicle.

I contrasted this odor with the sweet fragrance of life, hope and grace as my nose told my brain that frankincense offers relief from the negative side of life to the more positive and joyful side. Roses, Lavender, Peonies, Daphne, Jasmin and other fragrant flowers bring pleasant memories of other life experiences.

Food odors tell my brain what tasty morsels might be worth trying and or tantalizing the taste buds and making me salivate. BBQ'd meat is one, strawberries dipped in chocolate, fresh baked bread, roasted turkey fresh from the oven, zesty lemons, and more. Savory flavors such as onions, garlic, and some herbs also tantalize the olfactory nerve.

Nose and Nasal Cavities



Other odors that get the olfactory nerves working over time more often than not are body odors of various types. One is excessive perspiration or urine and feces. All can be attributed to lack of knowledge of good hygiene practices, severe disability issues or just a lack of funds to purchase the necessary items to clean the body. Deodorant or soap can be expensive when a person has restricted funds and has to decide between hygiene products or food that will nourish life.

I have worked with people in some of these circumstances of life and found all to be quite grateful when soap or deodorant is offered them in a loving way. As an example, many years ago, myself and two other ladies used to collect the used and unused bars of soaps from a few motels in town, (100 Lbs at a time) take them home, separate the wrapped from the unwrapped and bag them in zip lock baggies (10 to 15 bars to a bag) , then clean and bag the others as well. We then distributed these bags of soap at a food distribution site to any who had need. The people were grateful and appreciative of this unexpected gift. These were not homeless people but were what some call the working poor. One person told us that she worked two jobs to support herself and 2 children and often had to forego hygiene products in her monthly budget in favor of food and sometime medicines for the kids.

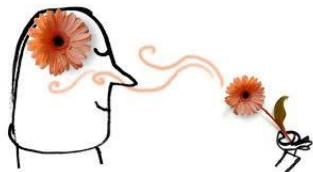


Another time I spearheaded a personal grooming project within the church I attend. The entire congregation participated. We collected small soaps, body lotions, socks, oral hygiene products, deodorants, hair and nail care products etc , then put together (in gallon size baggies) the products that were appropriate for a man, woman or child. We then disbursed them to those who had need where we also passed out a nutritious sack lunch at the same time. Some of the folks on the receiving end were seniors on restrictive incomes, a few homeless, some had mental illness, some physically disabled with most trying to stretch a working poor mans budget.

I can share other heart rendering stories of people I have worked with whose bodies gave off odors that society would condemn. I will refrain from relating these stories as they involve severely abused children.

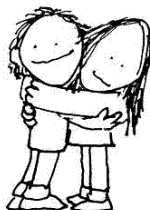
Soap was first thought to be made by the Babylonians back in 2900 B.C.E. and made of lye (animal fat), water and cassia oil Soap is not necessarily used in the global arena by all peoples. 1/3 of the world's soap is used in the USA. 10 Billion pounds are produced each year, and 2.6 million bars are discarded daily by hotels, motels and resorts.

In a little research of costs to purchase a bar of soap, I was surprised to learn that they are now sold in bundles of 4 to 6 bars. I also learned that homemade soaps, while fairly easy to make, costs an average of \$7.50 per small 4oz bar to purchase. This brought back a memory of an Apache Shaman friend, who taught me about "Indian Soap." This is a plant that grows wild and has an appearance of onion. The root or bulb part of this plant can be peeled and the exposed clean portion of the bulb has a soapy and cleansing effect when rubbed on the skin. It also has properties that dries up the oils on the skin due to exposure to poison oak. Clean ash or sand is another method of cleaning oneself or cooking utensils. Of course, one might want to have some water handy to rinse off the gritty particles that adhered to the body or utensils.



Can you imagine what smell-o-vision on television, video's and movies while not yet a reality, will be? What a sensory overload one would have when it becomes a reality. No doubt it will in the near future.

In conclusion, I sense that scent of smell by those who have turned up noses by what they perceive as offensive can be partially eliminated with the giving of hygiene gifts to the offending party for a few cents to them, or by simply showing some compassion, mercy, and grace and give the person a smile and hug anyway. It may be the only one they get.



What does this have to do with us? We have a collection box in the fellowship hall especially to hold personal grooming items that will be donated to Manzanita , a non profit, that assists those suffering from various types of mental illness. These folks can use hand soaps, small packets of tissues, oral hygiene products, hand lotions, hair care products, female hygiene products nail clippers, and maybe a pack of gum or individual wrapped hard candies. Carol Mordhorst is chairing this project on behalf of the mentally ill. Many of these folks have a place to live but their income does not usually support extra's like this.

Let us fill the box with over flowing goodness during the month of November.

Sunday School Students Send thanks



We have oodles and oodles of thanks to Hilde Mueller and Joannie Dunn for donating enough bibles for each of us to have our own.

We have a new exciting program that gives us a 'coin' for coming to Sunday School. We get 5 of them each time we bring a friend with us, and then we get 5 bonus 'coins' every Sunday that we remember to bring the bible with us.

We get to trade in our 'coins' for something in the treasure box or save them up for a bigger prize that is waiting in the box.



We say our profound thanks and send blessings to Kathy Allen and hubby Rick as they move to Utah to be closer to their daughter and new grandchild. Kathy has been most

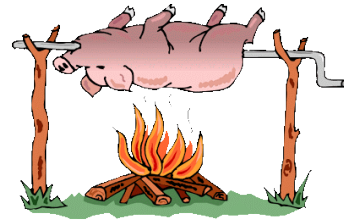
diligent leading our choir as well as playing both the piano and organ. She will be missed!

Please pray for the team that will search out another talented musician to take her place.



Meets the 2nd Fri evening of the month with a light supper at 5:30pm followed by fellowship and a craft or project that encourages their faith walk in thankfulness.

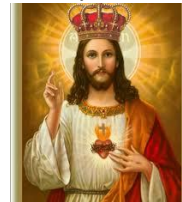
HAM IT UP Dinner Nov 6m 2016 at 5 PM



According to reports from Holly C, the hospitality liaison: **No!** We will not be roasting a whole pig on a spit but we will have some delightful scrumptious baked ham and all the fixings. This is underwritten by Thrivent again this year. The dinner will be \$10.00.

A dessert auction will be held after dinner, (so we do need donated sweet things) with the proceeds of auction going to Project Sanctuary.

We end the church year on **Nov 20** with Christ the King Sunday



Come and See --Come and Celebrate our King of kings and Lord of lords.

Then **on Nov 24**, most families and friends will gather in homes across the nation to celebrate THANKSGIVING. It is a time to give thanks for all our blessings. If you have room at your table this year why not invite someone who might not be able to be with their family this year.



Operation Christmas Child was a rounding success, Our members contributed approximately 10 to 13 filled boxes toward this joint effort with First Presbyterian. Some of the poverty stricken children will be blessed because of your generous gifting.

We begin our church calendar all over anew with the first Sunday of Advent on **Nov 27**. As we look forward to the birth story of our Savior once again.



We will be having an Advent Party the first Saturday in Dec and begin a **COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS**. There will be ornaments to make for all age brackets to hang on your home tree.

The ELCA **reports** on some of the reasons there is a shortage of pastors nationwide. It is both sad and alarming at the same time, The ELCA has over 3.7 million members.

---Fewer people are church or answering seminary.



interested in the call to

---the 'dones' with about 65 million in this category are folks that have a deep understanding of their faith but are leaving traditional congregations due to their failure to support them in their faith walk.

PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by Pastor Kristi's personal mission statement that was read to the congregation on our voting day, I did a little research on how to get started writing one.

The following are a few tips to get started composing your own.

- examine the lives of others (qualities you like)
- determine your ideal self (your core values)
- consider your legacy (remembered by)
- determine a purpose (fundamental elements of who you are)
- clarify your aptitudes(talents and skills)
- define specific goals (measurable)

Then the hard part-- keep it simple and written in 2 to 3 sentences.

Resting in the Lord !

We celebrated Louise Bromley's life with us this past month as she entered into her eternal home with Jesus. (Dorothy Bettencourt's mom) She will be missed!

Ginny Maurer passed into the arms of Jesus on Oct 23. She is remembered for her love of children and gracious attitude toward all.

Heard a great quote last month and now share it with all of you on behalf of those who have great needs,



"It's hard to be poor when surrounded by wealth (or plenty)"

Thank you to all who generously give to fill the grocery cart.

Confirmation started on Oct 18 at 6pm with an organizational meeting to determine the direction of this age group. All youth ages 6th grade thru 8th grade are encouraged to attend and by all means bring your friends too.

New to Grace---This coming months until our annual congregational meeting on Jan 22 we are encouraged to discuss and explore new ways to do church as well as times and to think outside the box. This is a great opportunity to explore the reasons why we do not want to change or reasons why we should change and what we hope to achieve.

Council looking into the possibility of re-financing to accommodate some rather expensive past and future projects. They are also looking into the purchase of a new updated AV system for the sanctuary. They continue to research both these issues.

Nominating team met in Oct and asks that if you are called- to prayerfully consider their request to serve in leadership, a position on council, endowment or nominating teams for upcoming year(s)

If you have not yet placed your pledge card in offering plate, please do, so that our budget team can continue their work on the 2017 budget preparation.

Time to turn clocks back NOV 6TH

Don't forget!!!!

Grace's Pumpkin Patch memories



Organizer, Shelia Prax preparing signs



Tom Koppa & Don Bettencourt bringing in the pumpkins



"blankets" ready for the dogs"



Chef Steve Prax laying out the free lunch



Jeanne Yttreiness & Gwen Rasmussen
Having fun at one of the craft tables



Lynn Edwards guarding
the candy bowls



Jeanne Yttreiness & Karli Keefer waiting for
their first crafters to arrive,



Ricky & Andrew helping with the carving project



Jason made sure all was in order as a member of the Dabbs' SWAT



Lots of neighbors stopped by to carve or paint pumpkins with Carol Mordhorst trying to keep up with the kids.



Shelia Prax & Leroy Glass offering suggestions



Sidewalk chalk art promises more to come for future years



Not to be forgotten, Christmas soon to come with a snow man made with chalk art by one of our guests! Happy Halloween , Joyful thanksgiving or Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Never hurts to be prepared for all holidays.

Many Many members came out in full force to assist with this outreach effort.

THANK YOU TO ALL-----