Living Out the WORD



Webb Hunt knew he was going to be assigned a mentor as part of Westminster's confirmation process for joining the church; he just wasn't sure what a mentor did. He also didn't know Chad Folk, but his parents, Jim and Betsy Hunt, thought that Chad would be a great mentor for Webb. "I didn't know you at the beginning," Webb says to Chad during their joint interview, "but it's been great getting to know you better."

CHAD FOLK & WEBB HUNT

Mentors and confirmands meet at least six times throughout the school year, and are also encouraged to do mission work together (e.g. preparing dinner for *Room in the Inn*). The topics of conversation during Chad and Webb's time together included God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the church, and the sacraments...interspersed with questions about how Webb was doing in school and with his golf game. Chad especially remembers their conversation about the Holy Spirit: "Webb, do you remember when we talked about the Holy Spirit being God in another form, and when you first felt that?"

Webb nods and smiles, recalling the moment: "My family and I were in Africa (with the Outreach Foundation). The kids in the village we were visiting love to play soccer, and they were using a bunch of trash bags tied together as their ball. We brought them some real soccer balls to play with. Later, we were in their church, which was really small, and there were fifty people crowded in, and I just felt really good being there and helping out."



Every Member Has a Mission

Talking about his experience as a mentor, Chad says, "I learned as much as Webb did through the process; we really ended up learning together." Studying and rediscovering the core tenets of the faith, "looking at it in different ways, side by side, was spiritually refreshing." Turning to Webb, Chad adds, "I was really touched by your creed." (Each confirmand writes a personal creed, as well as participating in writing a group creed.)



"I learned as much as Webb did through the (mentoring) process; we really ended up learning together."

It is clear throughout the conversation that Chad Folk enjoys being a mentor, and it's not hard to understand at least one reason why. For once upon a time, Chad also went through the confirmation process at Westminster. His mentor was Tom McDow.



"Tom is really my model for what a mentor should be. Not only did he walk with me through my confirmation, he kept in touch with me afterwords, through my high school and college years and into my professional career. Since then, I've had the opportunity to serve with Tom on the Session, the Stewardship Committee, and the Pastoral Search Committee."

When asked if he would like to be a mentor someday, Webb nods his head "yes" and adds that the experience was "a lot different from what I thought it would be." Turning to Chad, he grins and says, "I'm really glad I got you."



For his part, Chad reflects that the mentoring experience "has been really great for me as a parent to younger children. It's given me a chance to know some of the older kids." Looking at Webb, Chad smiles: "And when my daughters get older, they'll already know one of the cool high school kids."

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