



The Christian life is a journey.

TrailNotes speaks to forward movement, paying attention to the “landscape” we are passing through in this trail-laced wooded hillside and valley, not to mention the world beyond. *TrailNotes* is an unfolding, ongoing journal of the people who share the trail with us and the things we’re learning and doing.

ElderTalk

A treasure worth dying for

JADAÉ FOX

“Again, the reign of the heavens is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man having found it, hid, and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”



“Again, the reign of heavens is like a man, a merchant, seeking fine pearls, who when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

-Matthew 13:44-46

My children, like many, love to play “make believe.” I remember, not long ago, they were pretending that Arrow (my two-year old daughter) was royalty. Everyone was concerned with the needs and wants of Princess Arrow. Whatever she wanted was hers for the asking.

The greatest King is able to keep the needs and well-being of His people perfectly in mind at all times. He is absolutely worthy of complete adoration and obedience. All mankind should desire to be a part of His Kingdom.

Jesus talks much about the Kingdom of God. In fact, the ESV translation mentions the “Kingdom of God” 126 times in the gospels (55 times in Matthew alone).

What is the “Kingdom of God?” It is the fullness of God’s reign on earth: God’s sovereign authority and control over all that is His. Psalm 103:19 tells us that God rules over the entire universe. Jesus speaks many times of His Kingdom being “near at hand.” This Kingdom was and is both *Here Now* and *Not Yet Here*. This means God is in control, although at times the evil in the world would suggest otherwise.

This leads to the next question. When will His reign (His Kingdom) be fully seen? The answer is at the Second Coming of Christ where He will come as conquering King!

Until then, every time any man, woman, or child surrenders his or her will to God allowing Jesus to be Lord, a person is, in fact, ushering in more of His Kingdom. When you or I declare that Jesus is Lord, we are saying that His Kingdom has come! Whenever we

submit to God, we are putting His Kingdom on display for others to see. Jesus’ Kingdom can also be seen when God’s hand is moving in our lives. See Luke:11:20, 17:21.

The Good News is that God wants us to be a part of His Kingdom. He wants it so much that He paid a great price for it. Of course, I am speaking of the cross. Jesus, motivated by His great love for mankind, left Heaven to live a sinless life as a man. He willingly died, taking the punishment that you and I deserve. By doing this, Jesus showed both what the Kingdom looks like and how it works. (See Philippians 2:7-11.)

Being a part of God’s Kingdom means saying yes to what God wants, and conversely, often saying no to what we want. This truth is at the heart of our text.

The man in the parable sees the treasure hidden in a field. The treasure, we are told, is “the Kingdom of God.” Or, to put it another way, the treasure is our relationship with God where He is King and we are His loved, cherished, protected, and provided for children. Jesus tells us that this is hidden. Unless the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to this truth, we are blind to the value of this relationship.

As a believer, I can look at these two parables and say, “Oh well, I already have the treasure or the pearl, and miss the full benefit of it. Remember God’s Kingdom. His rule is *Now* and *Not Yet*. You may have surrendered to Jesus as Lord many years ago when you became a Christian. We are told that if Jesus is to be Lord, He is to be Lord of all of our life. We are to deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and follow Him daily.

(concluded on page 2)

Progressive Picnic held Saturday, July 10

Sixteen women and girls enjoyed the delicious cooking of three hostesses. We went to Kay Vega's house for potato salad and Seven Layer Salad. Next we drove to Judy Nichols' house for the main course of Chicken Alfredo, green beans, and homemade bread. The dessert course was held at Linda Mathias' home—berry trifle, mixed nuts and mints.

A great time was had by all!



← At Kay Vega's



At Judy Nichols' →



↑
At Linda Mathias' →



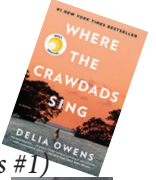
(Photos courtesy of Kay Berry)

Are you reading a book this summer?

DONNA KURTZ

That's the question I've been asking lately. I thought it would be fun to see what GFCers are reading currently. (We might get some ideas for our next books.) I thought it was interesting that there were no duplications!

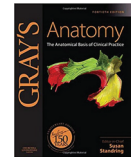
KAREN GODSIL:
Where the Crawdads Sing
by Delia Owen (a NY Times #1)



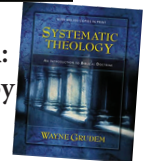
STEVE & DEB McKEE:
A Burning in My Bones,
The Authorized Biography
of Eugene R. Peterson (*The Message*)
by Winn Collier ("We're reading
it aloud as part of our daily devo-
tions.")



DEBBIE KEY:
Anatomy and
physiology texts!



MARIE HEININGER:
Systematic Theology by
Wayne Grudem



STEVE PHILLIPS:
*Awake and Alive
to Truth* by John L.
Cooper and *Death
in the City* by Francis
Schaeffer



LORI BARKER:
*21 Seconds to Change
the World* (Finding God's
Healing and Abundance)
by Mark Rutland



(continued on page 3)

.....
A treasure worth dying for
(concluded from p. 1)

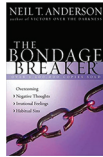
(Luke 9:23) In both parables the people recognized the great value of the treasure and the pearl. They were willing to go and sell all they had in order to have them.

Are you reading a book this summer? (concluded)

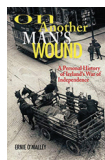
LINDA MATHIAS:
The Mount of Olives (11 declarations for an extraordinary life) by Michael V. Ivanof.



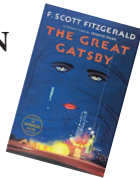
BETH FEIA:
The Bondage Breaker (“Insightful. Situations and long-term struggles”) by Neil T. Anderston.



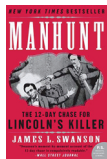
MATT GODSIL:
On Another Man's Wound (First published in 1936. Classic account of 1916-1921 in Ireland) by Ernie O'Malley.



TRACY and CAMERON KARGER: *The Great Gatsby* by Scott Fitzgerald.



BILL MILLER:
Manhunt: The 12 day Chase for Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson. (“Would highly recommend! Reading is my favorite pastime!”)



DONNA KURTZ:
Becoming by Michelle Obama. (“I love getting to meet people in biographies and autobiographies... What it's like to live in the White House, getting acquainted with Queen Elizabeth, raising two young daughters in the public eye.”)



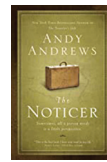
JANINE SCHWARTZ:
Anna's Healing (a story of love, family, Amish community) by Vannetta Chapman.



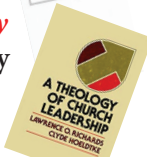
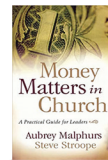
ERIC BYROM:
Friendships That Run Deep by Keith M. R. Anderson.



CONNIE ZHU:
The Noticer by Andy Andrews (a new story of common wisdom... a simple town filled with simple people) (“Last week.”) (“This week.”)
Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini.



JADAÉ FOX:
Money Matters in the Church (a Practical Guide for Leaders) by Aubrey Malphurs
The Elder by William MacDonald, *A Theology of Church Leadership* by Richards/Hoeldke.



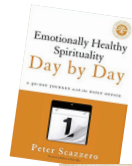
JUDY NICHOLS
A. W. Pink's *Exposition of the Gospel of John*, *The Story of Reality* (How the World Began, How it Ends, and Everything in Between) by Gregory Koukl.



BONNIE WEBERLING
Another Gospel by Alicia Childers. (“a Christian worldview.”)



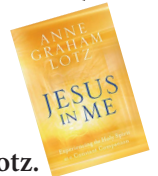
JERRY MATHIAS
Day by Day (Daily Office) by Pete Scazzero. *American Marxism* by Mark Levin (How changes he warned about have come to pass.) 6 times NY Times best-selling author.



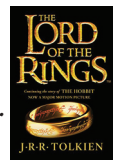
JOHN KURTZ
A Train Near Magdeburg by Matthew A. Rozell (“About Holocaust survivors”) and *Simply Trinity* (Unmanipulated Father, Son, and Spirit) by Matthew Barrett.



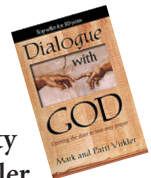
KAY BERRY
Jesus in Me (Experiencing the Holy Spirit as a constant companion) by Anne Graham Lotz.



WILMA PHELPS
Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien. (“I've read 'The Hobbit' so now it's time for this!”)



ROBERT KEY
Dialogue with God (Find out how prayer is the most powerful activity in our life) by Mark Virkler.





HAPPY READING ALL!



Even vizsla pups like to read!

August 2021

- 1 Pastor Eric Byrom preaching. Mark 14:1-26.
- 6-8 Family Camping Weekend.
- 8 Elder Jon Vega preaching.
Mark 14:26-72. 
- 12 Women of Grace Bible Study 6:30 to 8:00 pm.
- 15 Elder Jadae Fox preaching. Mark 15:1-20.
Baptismal Service.
- 21 Men's Prayer Breakfast at the church. Bring a
sack breakfast.
- 22 Eric Byrom preaching. Mark 16:1-20. 
- 28 Annual Community Celebration! 5:30-8:00
pm at GFC. For ages 10 and up. Dress up! \$15.
- 29 Celebration Sunday—extended worship and
sharing.

Our Annual Community Celebration is "just around the corner!"

Saturday evening, August 28

from 5:30 to 8:00 pm...

Keep that day and time in mind for the 2021 Community Celebration, the evening we remember the past year and look forward to the next one. The theme will be:

"Growing in Right Relationships..."

We will begin with a Marvelous Meal, catered by Carle's in Bucyrus. Let this menu whet your appetite:

Braised Asian Beef
Paula Deen's 2 Sons' Restaurant Chicken
Cheesy Potatoes
Colorful Malibu Medley—Broccoli and
Cauliflower Heads with Yellow
& Orange Carrots
Tossed Garden Salad with Poppyseed
Dressing
Hot Rolls and Butter
Assorted Cheesecake Slices



The price for each person is \$15. Children 10 years and older and teens are invited. (There will be a large special Teen Table.) If you need help with the cost, please contact church secretary Kay Berry on Thursdays in the office (419-526-4699) or send an email to her at the church address:

gracefellowship01@gmail.com

We want you all to come!

Wear your dressy clothes (Amazing how wonderful everyone looks!) and enjoy all the fancy tables. We are working to make it a fabulous evening! If you have any pictures taken of "this year's church happenings" that you can share, send them to the church office for the program.

If you can help before the dinner with loading salad bowls, filling water glasses, heating and distributing rolls to tables etc. or dish washing afterwards, call Kay on Thursdays at the office to volunteer.

Tickets will be available on:

Sunday, August 1

Sunday, August 8

Sunday, August 15

Try to bring:

exact change, or
your checkbook!

Grace Fellowship Church



365 Straub Road East • Mansfield OH 44903
419-526-4699 • gracefellowship01@gmail.com

Eric Byrom	Presiding Elder/Pastor
Jadae Fox	Elder
Andy Heining	Elder
Jon Vega	Elder
Rick Widener	Treasurer
Kay Berry & Karen Gates	Women
Lori Barker	Missions
Andy Heining	Worship
Judy Nichols	Prayer Chain
Kay Berry & Jadae Fox	Office
Kathy Barth, Manfred & Janet Adalem	Communion
Andy Anschutz	Sound/Power Point
John and Donna Kurtz	TrailNotes