

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...

When the Spirit of the Lord moves upon my heart

ANDY HEININGER

A few weeks ago Grace Fellowship Church witnessed a wonderful testament as ten young Christians, one by one, were submerged into the pond to make their public declaration to follow Christ. This scene took me back to the autumn of 1999 when my wife and I were baptized together in her parents’ church. Our baptism was truly an awesome and bonding experience for us, but it has also been a reminder to us of the Spirit’s moving in my heart.

By the time Marie and I were baptized, I had been a Christian for approximately nine years. I was led to the Lord my freshman year in college by a fellow student named Joe Wyka one very late night in the chapel. You may think my nine-year duration between my salvation and my baptism was a long time to wait, but it was a vapor compared with the eternity of the two weeks before my baptism.

The initial day of those two weeks was a typical Sunday at church with the exception that we had guests in our house that morning. A couple we knew from college was there on a planned visit to go to church and then out to a nice lunch.

This Sunday, as the pastor was wrapping up his message, he announced there was going to be a baptism. He proceeded into the back room, changed clothes and waded into the baptismal at the front of the church. The baptism proceeded as planned and at the conclusion, the pastor spoke these words:

“The waters are troubled. This is an invitation to all who that feel called to make the public declaration of their faith in Christ through baptism. If you have never been baptized after accepting Jesus as your Savior, what better time than now?”

I have seldom felt the immense outpouring of the Spirit over me. It was as if an enormous steaming crucible was being emptied out engulfing my body. I was completely overwhelmed. My mind was spiritually sprinting to the front of the church to make this declaration. when suddenly I collided with the “wall of reality” full force. The wall was covered in the consequences

of this hasty decision. Written were the inconveniences to our out of town guests, getting my Sunday best soaked with no spare change of clothes, not to mention having to cancel our lovely lunch.... This just wasn’t in the plans! That was difficult enough to fight through, but the biggest obstacle was my fear of man. Thoughts like these ran through my brain. *“What would everyone think? Would they question the last nine years of my Christian walk? Is he really a follower? All the things he has declared—he must not be a true Christian.”*

I wish the story finished with *“the wall was broken and into the water I ran, thus changing the course of the day,”* but unfortunately, Satan’s graffiti had worked.

I stewed the rest of the day in my “practical” decision. We did eat lunch and visited with our guests, but I was unquestionably distracted. That evening I discussed with Marie what had happened earlier. Marie made the decision to be baptized as well. The pastor counseled us, and two weeks later on Sunday morning, with friends and family gathered, we were baptized, and the Lord blessed us richly.



“St. Philip baptizing the eunuch” (~1655) by Aelbert Cuyp (1620-1691)

The point of my story is not the focus on baptism but minding the Spirit of the Lord. Philip was the perfect example of obedience in Acts 8 when he was directed by an angel of the Lord to go toward Gaza and then guide the eunuch through the Scriptures and Jesus’

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When the Spirit of the Lord moves...

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saving grace. When they came across a body of water, the eunuch asked to be baptized. Philip baptized the eunuch and the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away. Philip was obedient to the Spirit of the Lord and did not hesitate. **Result: the eunuch was saved.** He heard the Word of the Lord and did not hesitate.

Result: he publicly declared his salvation.

I have always wondered what if I had not hesitated.... Maybe my two week delay was so I could share in *Trail-Notes* some twenty years later.

Result: the Lord only knows!

SEPTEMBER 2019

- 1 Eric Byrom preaching; *"Growing Down in Christ"* : 10:00 am.
- 7 Men's Breakfast at Hanley Rd. McDonald's: 9:00 am.
- 7 **Eunice Nethery Memorial Service: 2:00 pm, GFC**
- 8 Kevin Springer, guest from CA, preaching: 10:00 am.  Deadline for Community Celebration Catered Dinner--Tickets \$13.
- 8 Circle Church Leaders: 7-8 pm.
- 14 Worship Team/Elders: 9-noon.
- 14 **Community Celebration, GFC: 5:30-8:00 pm.**
- 15 Eric Byrom preaching: *"Growing Down in Belonging"* — Heb. 3:1-19.
- 21 Pancake Breakfast and Game Day breakfast: 8-10 am, games: 10-5 pm.
- 22 Jadae Fox preaching: *"Growing Down in Belonging"* — 1 Cor. 5. 
- 29 Celebration Worship (5th Sunday)

Grace Fellowship Church

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Eric Byrom Presiding Elder/Pastor

(A complete list of church functionaries will return next month)

Eunice Nethery...in March 2013



"Hwyl fawr ar Ddydd Gwyl Dewi" / "Important on St. David's Day"
Eunice Nethery in her "element"— leeks & daffodils on St. David's Day



"Pirates of Hawaii" a Hit!

If you attended one of the four performances of this delightful "period" production, you will know what we mean. Below is a sampling of what the cameras caught. Sorry, no music to accompany them here. Thank you cast, crew and especially Samuel Heininger, their director!



(Photos by
Laura Byrom
and John
Kurtz)



Eunice Rees Nethery (1927-2019)

BETH FEIA

Eunice Nethery was welcomed into the arms of Jesus on August 2, 2019. She was the beloved wife of Ray Nethery and beloved mother of five daughters: Victoria Nethery, Jennifer Calori, Elizabeth Feia (Tom), Katherine Gardner (Bob), and Jacqueline Nethery. She was grandmother to David Gardner, Anna Gardner Weberling, Nick Gardner, Devin Calori, Ali Calori, Jacob Feia, Grace Feia, Kera Gardner, Amy Gardner, Danny Gardner, Justice Gardner, and Braylon Gardner. Her mother and father, Mildred and Silas Rees, and sister, Gwen Chapman, preceded her to heaven.

Eunice was born in 1927 in New Jersey to Irish and Welsh parents. At nine years old, she moved to Bangor, North Wales, with her family. After World War II, her family returned to the United States where Eunice worked in New York City before going to college. She attended Bob Jones University and received both a Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Interpretive Speech. At the university, she taught American Literature and was an accomplished Shakespearean actress.

After marrying Ray Nethery in 1954, she and Ray joined the ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ, an organization which is thriving today. Their work took them to U.C.L.A., The University of Minnesota, and then on to Arrowhead Springs, California, where Ray became the Asian and Middle East Director for Campus Crusade. Eunice was an inspiring public speaker and a mentor to many. In 1969, she and Ray and their five daughters moved to Mansfield, Ohio, to help start Grace Haven, a ministry center where college students could live in Christian community, work, and study.

Through the years, she has touched the hearts of countless people with her compassion, wisdom, and tremendous gift of listening. As a leader and friend, she affected many lives for the better. Always interested in others, she saw the very best in people giving encouragement and empathy, hope and comfort, to all who came across her path. Her church family at Grace Fellowship had in her a woman of great Christian service. She always had her eye on those who were suffering, lonely, or simply needed to be acknowledged. Many treasured her friendship and looked upon her as a second mother and mentor.

Eunice's sense of curiosity opened the door of the world to her. She had an adventurous spirit. She loved to travel with family and on her own. She was a voracious reader, a forward thinker, and a champion and advocate of women. She knew how to save money and live on a shoestring, but her life was rich beyond measure. She was cultured while being down-to-earth; she was simple and a lover of beauty, humble and brilliant.

Eunice always said that motherhood was the richest, most meaningful, and most fun work of her life. Through her love of literature, music, art, and all things Welsh and Irish, she brought richness to the lives of her daughters. She read aloud the classics and paid her children to memorize poetry. She took her children traveling across Europe to experience art, culture, and history. She cheered them on in all their endeavors, whether academics, sports, careers, or parenting. And she was always their greatest supporter and confidante, giving wise counsel and unconditional love.

She was committed to encouraging and affirming the young people in her life, especially her grandchildren. She helped homeschool some of them, celebrated their graduations, taught them poetry, cheered for them at their sporting events, and attended their music, dance, and theater performances. She was interested in all their endeavors and proud of them.

During their 65 years of marriage, Eunice and Ray served the Lord, their community, and their family, touching the lives of many.

Please join us to celebrate this extraordinary woman's life on September 7, 2019, at 2:00 in the afternoon at Grace Fellowship Church, 365 Straub Road East, Mansfield, Ohio.

“I baptize you: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Photographic remembrances of a very special day for some very special people - August 11, 2019



“Go therefore and make disciples
of all nations, baptizing them in
the name of the Father and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that
I have commanded you. And
behold, I am with you always, to
the end of the age.”

Matt.28: 19-20

(Photos by Laura Byrom and John Kurtz)