

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: My Life and Kintsugi Pottery

ERIC BYROM

The other day I was watching a YouTube video about sushi, and the video mentioned that the sushi was being served in a Kintsugi dish. I had not heard of that before and looked it up. I learned that Kintsugi means “golden joiner” in Japanese. Wikipedia says: “Kintsugi is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending the areas of breakage with urushi lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold, silver or platinum. As a philosophy, it treats breakage and repair as part of the *history* of an object, rather than something to *disguise*.”



A Kintsugi blue vase made for Lorenzo de Mdici.

The lacquer that is used to piece together the pottery comes from a special tree which is cut down after only extracting a cup of sap from it. The sap is known as the *blood* of the tree, and the tree dies in order to provide the sap. The pottery is then glued together with the lacquer which then can take several weeks to cure. After it cures, the joint is dusted with precious metal to highlight the repair.

I recently was experiencing a great degree of stress from various life circumstances which felt like they were breaking me. Upon

talking with my brother, he recommended that I take some time off for family leave to gather my thoughts and seek the Lord. During this time, God reminded me of His grace and provision for me and pieced me together again. Like the Kintsugi pottery, He reminded me of the blood of Jesus, who gave His life for me that allows me to be whole in Christ.

In processing this, I imagine many others are experiencing brokenness because we live in a fallen world. Whether it is from
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Wade Martin is with the Lord!

After a life of faithful service in pastoral ministry, Wade (Doug) Martin’s faith became sight when he passed into the presence of the Lord on March 7, 2024. He was at home with his wife and daughter.

Wade was born September 21, 1948, in Sandusky, Ohio, to Wade and Betty Jean (Hurst) Martin. He is survived by his loving wife, Marilyn (Howe) Martin; their son, Nicholas (Daisy) Martin and their children, Noah, Olivia, and Ashlee; and their daughter,



Wade (Doug) Martin (1948-2024)

Victoria (Robert) Eggeman, with their children, Amanda, Patrick, Juliana, and Aaron. Wade is survived by his brother, David, and his sister, Bonnie Roberts, along with several nieces and nephews.

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APRIL 2024


3 Wednesday Connect Groups:
Kids: To be announced.
Teens: "Doctrine" by Francis Chan.
Adults: "Cookies..."
Read from workbook & Judges. 6:30-8:00 pm.
Every Wed. (3,10,17,24)

5 OWLs meet in the Multi-purpose Room for Bible Study & Prayer. Bring sack breakfast and a friend! 8:30 am.


6 Women's Retreat at GFC 9:45 am to 4 pm with Harvest Church.

7 Pastor Eric Byrom preaching. Heb. 11:1-10
Members' Meeting: 6:30-8 pm.

11-13 Annual Table Fellowship Conference: Spooner, WI.

14 Jadaé Fox preaching. Heb. 11:11-19. 

21 Eric Byrom preaching. Heb. 11:20-40.

28 Eric Byrom preaching. Heb. 12:1-11. 

DATES COMING UP

May 4: Relax, Renew, Refill at the Inn at Haven Hill; Ladies' Day at Mt. Vernon. Details coming!

May 5: Mansfield Christian School's Choir, IMAGE, joins us for morning worship.

May 18 and June 1: Spring Work Days. *(tentative)*

June 20-22: Rummage Sale at GFC.

July 7-13: Kids DTS.

14-20: Teen DTS.

July 9-11: Family camping weekend.

Aug. 24: Annual Community Celebration, 5:30-8 pm.

POST ON REFRIGERATOR!



EMPTY STREETS TO THE EMPTY GRAVE

Michael Winters,
photographer
Adapted from
Christianity Today,
March 2024

In November 2023, shortly after the war broke out between Hamas and Israel, I was able to find a hotel within walking distance of the Old City. Usually the streets would be full of visitors, but not today. While Israel is at war, the streets surrounding the Old City, Jerusalem, are quite empty.

I am headed to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the traditional site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.

The picture at right comes from the place where Joseph of Arimathea may have been buried. (See the Oct. 2016 *National Geographic Magazine*—first century dating was proved in this location). There are three tombs here.

The bottom picture is a one-person chapel under a gorgeous dome. This is where Jesus' tomb is. The chapel is called "The Edicule."



At the time, I was only thinking of the death of Christ. Of course, the tomb is also the site of the resurrection! The whole reason the Church of the Holy Sepulchre exists, is because the tomb was found empty!!



MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

A large group of students, parents and faculty from Mansfield Christian School has been on a mission trip in Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic, serving at the Juan Tomás School. Talia Byrom, Oliver Cramer, and Abby and Marie Heininger are with them.



Grace Fellowship Church

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| Eric Byrom | Presiding Elder/ Pastor |
| Jadaé Fox | Elder |
| Matt Godsil | Elder |
| Jerry Mathias | Elder |
| Cameron Karger | Treasurer |
| Kay Berry & Karen Gates | Women |
| Lori Judd | Missions |
| Andy Heininger | Worship |
| Judy Nichols | Prayer Chain |
| Kay Berry & Jadaé Fox | Office |
| Andy Anschutz | Sound/Power Point |
| John and Donna Kurtz | TrailNotes |