



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

'Tis the Season to be...

ANDY HEININGER

Immersed in TRADITION! I know our family will be. We, like most, follow the spiritual as well as the American social traditions each Christmas season. However, we have also gravitated to our own tradition that, to be honest, really seems to have no ties or references to Christ's birth.

Every year as we drag out our faux spruce and erect it smack dab in front of the picture window, a specific movie must be playing during the tree trimming activities, "*White Christmas*," starring Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney, Danny Kaye, and Vera Ellen, has been shown well over 20 times in our household over the years. If you are familiar with this particular flick, you know there is no real "*Savior of the world*" aspect to the story and it made me ask my wife, "*Why do we watch this in preparation for Christmas?*"

Marie's response: "*It's a musical. Our family loves musicals.*" But there is more to this one and it is surprisingly scriptural.

For those who are not familiar with it, here is the brief story line. The famous performing duo of Bob Wallace (Bing Crosby) and Phil Davis (Danny Kaye),

who meet during the war, pull out all the stops to honor their former commanding officer, General Waverly. The General seems to be down on his luck and discouraged after retiring from the army. He is struggling to keep his inn open. When Wallace and Davis realize his plight, they proceed to bring their entire Broadway show to the inn, all the while making the General feel it is for their gain, and unselfishly incur all the expenses to help the inn be profitable. They also encourage their fellow soldiers from the General's former company to converge on the inn to honor the General for his outstanding leadership during the war. They show him how much they respect and love him.

I have a soft spot for stories that honor people for their dedication and unselfish service. Marie hit the nail on the biblical head for this movie and our family's love for it (beside the music). Proverbs 3:27 — "*Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.*"

Wallace and Davis took a significant financial hit to help and honor the General. One of my favorite scenes

(Continued on page 6)



Still from the 1954 color version of the movie "*White Christmas*" shownig Ret. General Waverly being surprised by his former troops.

Angel Vega, Teacher of the Month!

Mix106.FMWVNO



Congratulations to Angel Vega, a 4th grade teacher at Richland School of Academic Arts, who was named as our November “Teacher of the Month!” Her entry was submitted by Sydney Benjamin, who wrote the following:

“Mrs. Vega is a very creative teacher who brings her classroom to life. When learning about the Titanic, the students were surprised to walk into a ship instead of a classroom. There is no end to her creativity whether it’s dressing up in costumes for social studies or learning a new style of teaching. Mrs. Vega is the full package. I was in her classroom assisting when she received a round of applause from her students when teaching multiplication. She adds movement and fun to everything she does and deserves to be recognized for her dedication to her students and their learning.”

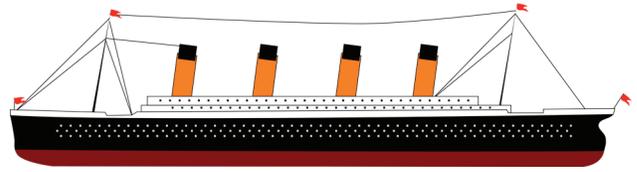
Angel will receive a VISA gift card courtesy of Joe Behr, an apple basket from Wayne’s Country Market, a \$50 gift card from TGIFridays, and a plaque recognizing her efforts. Congratulations again from all of us at Mix 106.1!



The Richland School of Academic Arts: TITANIC

This is a year of adventures of epic proportions. Mrs. Vega recreated the Titanic in her room, learned about the ship, the passengers and the lifestyle of the people. They even had a proper Tea Party in the main dining room. The students loved their adventure! Pinkies up!!

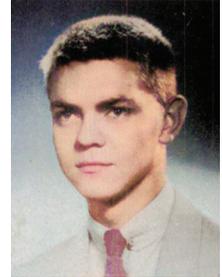
The Richland School of Academic Arts in Mansfield hosted a special event back in November 2018 to celebrate early Ohio history. This event was a student re-enactment from the time periods of 1761-1813. *“This empowers our students by giving them the opportunity to share Ohio’s heritage as a fun ‘living history’ event,”* teacher Angel Vega said. “Students have been researching the everyday life of frontier men and women, their period accurate occupations and how their lives were interconnected inside the life of a frontier fort.”



Dan Jones (Facebook comment)

“Mrs. Angela Vega is an amazing teacher! She makes her classroom an experience for her students that they will never forget. 40-50 years from now her students will say, ‘Remember when we were on the Titanic and had a tea party?’”





Thomas Morgan Nichols

MAY 23, 1936 to NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Thomas M. Nichols, 84, of Mansfield, OH got up early Sunday morning, November 29, 2020 and went to worship Jesus in person, something he had looked forward to for over 50 years. In Grace Fellowship Church’s service that morning, Elder Robert Key said, “Yesterday we thought Tom was doing better. Today he really is!”

Tom was born May 23, 1936 in Mansfield, OH, the son of Colonel Robert J. and Barbara Jones Nichols. Col. Nichols was a wounded veteran of WW 1. (France) Following WW 2, he was sent to Japan where he was a prosecutor for the War Crimes Trials. He later practiced law in Mansfield. Tom’s mother, Barbara, came from Wales. The family’s other children, Tom’s siblings, are Sandra (James) Bertz, Scottsdale, AZ, John (“Jack”) Nichols, Grand Rapids, MI (Tom’s twin), and James (Patricia) Nichols, Green Valley, AZ. In addition to his parents, Tom was preceded in death by his two brothers, Robert Thomas Nichols (1928-1928) who died on the day he was born, and Robert Mervin Nichols (1931-1938). “Bobby” attended Prospect School and First Presbyterian Sunday School in Mansfield. He died following a 4-week illness at the age of 7.



“Candlemaker”
(Grace Haven Artisans - 1972)



“Maple Sugarmaker”
(1986)



“Gardener”
Tom loved to “play in the dirt!”

Tom’s high school yearbook showed an early interest in math: he was Class Treasurer for three years . He graduated “with distinction” from Ohio Northern University with a Bachelor of Science Education Degree. As a math teacher, he shared his love of math and math jokes with students in Crestview, Howard, Lucas, St. Peter’s (7 years) and North Central State College (18 years) where he was Associate Professor of Mathematics.

He wasn't always a teacher. After Tom's high school graduation, his father swore him into the Army Reserves (1955). In the midst of his early teaching career, he worked for 2 years as a geo-physical engineer in oil exploration (New Orleans, Los Angeles, and Australia).

Tom was a devoted member of Grace Fellowship Church where he served as bookkeeper and treasurer for more than 20 years. He never met a stranger and could always be found sharing the love of Jesus with many others. Tom met his wife-to-be, Judith Halstead, at Grace Haven when she was the secretary for Grace Haven Ministries. Their wedding was December 17, 1972 at the Lodge, with Kevin Springer officiating and Ray Nethery speaking.

Tom had become a Christian shortly before arriving at Grace Haven. He was eager to learn more about what it meant to follow Jesus and became a candlemaker for Grace Haven Artisans in order to help that ministry. Ray Nethery commented: "Tom constantly wanted more of the Lord and was up for any kind of service."



...out of the waters of baptism
...Praise the Lord!



Almost 48 years of shared bliss together while raising two children who were the light of his life. True love endures all things!

Tom leaves behind wife, Judy Halstead Nichols: his son, Thomas Andrew (Kristine) Nichols of Mansfield; his daughter, Catherine (Andrew) Burleigh of Lancaster; his grandchildren: Asher, Clara, and Thea Nichols; Sophia, Micah, and Hannah Burleigh.

Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Fellowship Church of Mansfield or to Mansfield Christian School.

Tom's high school ambition was to be a "successful professional soldier." He has been an exemplary Soldier of the Cross and completely fulfilled that ambition!

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye Soldier of the Cross.
Lift high His royal banner,
It must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory,
His army shall He lead,
'Til ev'ry foe is conquered
And Christ is Lord indeed.*

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
The strife will not be long.
One day the noise of battle,
The next the Victor's song.
To him who overcometh,
A crown of life shall be.
He, with the King of Glory,
Shall reign eternally!*

(George Duffield)



Feeding his sweet tooth



"Waitin' for to carry me Home"



"Adios queridos amigos ...
nos vemos de nuevo!"

The Diamond St. home of Wappner Funeral Directors is honored to serve the Nichols family.

A Service of Celebration of Tom's Life will be held at a later date.

Missionary Becky Kuelker visits our Grace Fellowship Church Women

DONNA KURTZ

You might be wondering why, when it's the end of November, you are just now hearing about the visit of missionary to Mexico, Becky Kuelker to Grace Fellowship's women. It actually had to do with John Kurtz's alphabetical listing for the October *TrailNotes* articles. We discovered we had two spellings for her last name so the listing for Kuelker did not pop up.

My "ever-detective" husband decided to find out the translation of this name and started with German. "Try *Luxembourgish*," was the Google response. Ever hear of that language? "Moselle Franconian dialect of the West Middle German Group spoken by all classes of people in Luxembourg."



The word kuelker, or more correctly k elker, means "chalice" in Luxembourgish. Fascinating!



In the late afternoon of Tuesday, October 13 women gathered to hear Becky Kuelker share about missionary work in Mexico. Becky and her husband, Mike, have served as missionaries for 23 years. They adopted two Mexican girls after they had raised their own children. She told how God healed her after a serious car accident in the U.S. last year, and is continuing to bring her physical healing. The Lord also supernaturally made provision for her 6-week hospitalization and surgery to be paid in full!

Special thanks to Lori Barker, Linda Mathias, and Becky Roggio for their delicious meal.

McKee's Circle Church feeds the hungry at 73 Bowman Street lot

with information adapted from Mansfield News Journal article.(9/1/19)

MONROE TROMBLY

MANSFIELD – "People Helping People of North Central Ohio," the group that has provided a meal every day at the fountain in Central Park, has moved to a location just a half-mile away. Steve McKee's Circle Church began presenting a meal every other month on a Sunday afternoon at the Central Park location, but moved to the new location where a new pavilion has been built at Fourth and Bowman Streets where there is electricity and designated parking.

"We have a place to plug in our roasters and Crock Pots so the food will be warmed when served," said Vivian Winters, People Helping People's main organizer. "Also in the winter, if we want to plug in a space heater, people can warm their hands." Individuals, companies, churches, and restaurants donate time and food on a certain day. The McKee group has been participating for 2 ½ years. Others from the church with a similar vision, have joined forces, including some children.



This pavilion was provided by an anonymous donor. Most of the people coming do not have a car. Now with COVID-19 and social distancing, the guests cannot always eat at the site.



Susan Judd offers her beautiful handmade pillows to visiting guests.



'Tis the Season to be... (continued from p. 1)

is when Davis asks Wallace how much this is all going to cost and he replies, “*somewhere between ouch and BOING!*” This film shows that there’s a sacrifice for doing good, but that we should absolutely do it when the opportunity presents itself.

What does this mean to us today? This could not be more poignant than right now. Amid this pandemic, so many local businesses are struggling to stay afloat. But how can we help our neighbor? What is within our power to act? I am not suggesting you stage a Broadway show at their establishment to show Christ’s love, but seeing their need and shopping for gifts at local businesses this year might be more ministry-like than ever before.



Davis (Danny Kaye) discussing the “*somewhere between ouch and BOING*” plans with Wallace. (Bing Crosby)



Ret. General Waverly (Dean Jagger) watching the dramatic tribute on stage ...all in his honor!



DECEMBER 2020

- NOV.**
29 First Sunday of Advent: Celebration Sunday, “Grown-up Christmas List: HOPE.”
- DEC.**
6 Second Sunday of Advent: “Grown-up Christmas List: PREPARATION” Eric Byrom.
13 Third Sunday of Advent: “Grown-up Christmas List: JOY” Jadae Fox.
 Circle Church leaders Zoom meeting 2 pm.
16 GFC Christmas Party 6:30-8 pm at church.
19 Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9 am. GFC. Bring a sack breakfast.
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent: “Grown-up Christmas List: LOVE” Eric Byrom.
TrailNotes deadline to bucytalent@aol.com.
24 Christmas Eve service 6:30 pm. Youth drama.
25 **Merry Christmas!**
27 Robert Key preaching on “Spiritual Gifts” from I Corinthians 12.



Grace Fellowship Church

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Eric Byrom | Presiding Elder/Pastor |
| Jadaé Fox | Elder |
| Andy Heining | Elder |
| Robert Key | Elder |
| Jon Vega | Elder |
| Rick Widener | Treasurer |
| Kay Berry & Karen Gates | Women |
| Lori Barker | Missions |
| Dan and Karen Gates | Worship |
| Circle Church Serve Group | Greeters |
| Angel Vega | Dance |
| Judy Nichols | Prayer Chain |
| Kay Berry & Jadaé Fox | Office |
| Kathy Barth, Manfred & Janet Adalem | Communion |
| Andy Anschutz | Sound/Power Point |
| John and Donna Kurtz | <i>TrailNotes</i> |