

September 2020

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Missing Piece

By Rachel Shankles

As a woman in our church my thoughts have turned to a missing piece lately. One of our long-time members, Vera Edens, passed on to her heavenly reward early last month. And there was no service due to the pandemic. No service to share what all she was to her FCC family. Let me take the time to explain the many pieces of our church that Vera encouraged, enabled or enthusiastically supported.



‘Vee,’ as she was affectionately called, was holder of the recipes for Christian Women’s Fellowship. She had the soup for Jackson House recipe, the Bazaar’s chicken spaghetti, cranberry salad, and apple cake recipes plus the Sacrificial Luncheon bean soup recipe memorized. I remember someone talking her into writing them all down so we could get them typed up for posterity. Even the last few years she would measure the spices and bag them up for the chicken spaghetti for the Bazaar. She was also the Kitchen Chairman for CWF, which meant she would be in the church kitchen for preparations and cleanup for any events whether weddings, funerals, or Fellowship Dinners. She was in this office for more years than I can count. We have had a hard time filling her shoes these past few years when she didn’t get out as much as she used to. But she even showed up to work for our last Bazaar workdays in the kitchen. Always there to see things were done right and to offer a hand of service to CWF and FCC.

Our Vee was also the Sunday School Superintendent until recently. She would ring the bell and collect all the offerings and mark attendance from the class books into the church records plus supervise the office during Sunday School time. Then she was off to share her favorite gift, the gift of her voice, with all of us at FCC. She sang in the church choir from the time she joined until we no longer had a choir— many, many years.

Another area at FCC where she put her gifts to work was in flower arranging and decorating. Vee was the one who put together the alter flowers, the Christmas decorations and decorated for events and weddings. Linda Priddy Pennington shared that Vera did the flowers and decorated for her and Noel’s wedding in 1999. And I know she was there helping me with my two girls’ weddings working with flowers or in the kitchen during the receptions. She knew where everything went in the kitchen and where everything was stored in the flower room. She had a gift and she shared it with us.

A special memory I have is when Vee and her sister Ernie used to drive only one car to church services from way out there off Hwy 270 East. One day church was over and almost everyone was gone and Ernie was walking around the parking lot trying to find Vee, who was no where to be found. I joined the search so Ernie wouldn’t panic, but Vee and her car had vanished. This was before cell phones and instant contact.

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We figured out Vee had left Ernie at church and gone on home. I stayed until we knew for sure Vee was home then I gave Ernie a ride out there because I lived on that side of town at that time in the 1980's. After that, they drove separate vehicles to church for choir and church and CWF.

Cindy Woolery shared another Vee story from a CWF Sacrificial luncheon with me. Back in the day when CWF was a very large group, they were gathering at FCC for the Sacrificial Luncheon where money was collected to support the less fortunate. The Executive meeting of officers would be meeting while the other ladies got ready for the luncheon, which instead of a big spread of food, was a meager bowl of soup (the soup was really wonderful). Cindy brought her big pot of the special recipe bean soup in and set it on the stove when suddenly there was an explosion and pieces of food went everywhere. Cindy did not know what had happened, but she ran to the Executive meeting and said, "Vee, get down here to the kitchen, we have an awful problem because something has blown up!" It turns out Vee had brought her bean soup in a pressure cooker, put it on the stove, turned it on and forgot about it. So it did blow the lid off and send beans flying. Vee apologized to Cindy, but the ladies thought it was caused by Cindy and banned her from the kitchen thereafter.

Kay Palmer shared that Vee's parents and parents-in-law were very active in El Dorado FCC. And Kay's baby book has the signatures of the hosts of her baby shower and Vee's signature is there on the page.

Lastly and above all, our beloved Vee was a fisher of men. Vera and her sister Ernie moved to Hot Springs from El Dorado around 1985 and for many years lived together way out Highway 270 towards Magnet Cove on Lonesome Pine Terrace. My early memories of Vee are of the group of card players who assembled out there on Sunday afternoons to play Hand and Foot. The group included many neighbors and also Lottie Smith and Alice Brawner, among others. Vee managed to bring so many neighbors to our church family from that street and neighborhood including L.E. and Lo Swim, Don and Irene Wilson, Ray and Grace Walker and eventually Dorothy and Howard Daniel. I know I am forgetting some. She modeled her Christianity for others to see. Pieces....that fit together to show that our Vera was a true servant of our Savior and a valued member of our church. She was a role model for all the younger ladies of the church, the encourager and enthusiast of so many things. We are missing the special lady who fit so many of our FCC pieces together, but we know she is in a better place with stars in her crown. You and I have to fill these spaces now. The newspaper obituary just didn't reflect the Vera we knew and loved.

With help from Tracy, Naomi, Linda P., Kay and Cindy, I put together this memorial tribute.



In Appreciation

We want to thank the following who have volunteered their time and energy to help keep the church up and running.

Rachel Shankles, Sharon Rodgers, Dick & Naomi Hundley,
 Mitch & Alice Hunter, Linda Priddy, Kay Palmer, Valerie Hubbard,
 Mark Whisenhunt, Keith Scott, Carol Sipe, John Macchietto, and
 Carla Wall.

Volunteers are at the heart of all that is accomplished

Thought for the Month

The world is full of
 Good People.
 If you can't find one, Be One.



*“Then you will call
 on me and come
 and pray to me,
 and I will listen to
 you.”*

Jeremiah 29:12

Due to the current circumstances of covid-19 and our inability to gather as a congregation at this time, the Board Officers and I have decided to forgo the Nominating Committee process this Fall. This means that all church officers for this year will continue serving in the roles for which they have been elected until further notice. Thank you for your service.

Rev. Don Hubbard



We are blessed to be a part of a very caring congregation that has a wonderfully effective prayer life. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who sent cards and for those prayers during my recent fall and recovery. We love you and appreciate every one of you!

Don And Valerie



September 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3	4	5 <i>Noel & Linda Pennington</i>
6	7 	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15  <i>Dianne Arnold</i>	16	17	18  <i>Alice Hunter</i>	19  <i>Rev. Don Hubbard</i>
20	21	22	23	24  <i>Valerie Hubbard</i>	25	26
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