

“REMEMBERING OUR GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES”

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Sometimes we can't quite see it. The Lord God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, Master of the Universe, looms so high and far above us we can't hear what he says. Even Jesus Christ, God's human emissary to all of us, shows a level of committed sacrifice and loving faithfulness that we will never be able to equal.

So we ask, how can I find my way forward toward God despite all of my flaws and imperfections? What difference can I hope to make in the humdrum of my daily routine? What am I supposed to do in my own little corner of my existence?

Paul the Apostle understood this, immersed as he was in forming new Christians and nurturing a score of weak and fledgling new churches. “Be imitators of me,” he told them. He didn't want to remake others in his image; he wanted them remade in God's image. Still, when we want to learn how to be a stone mason, we apprentice at the shoulder of one. Same is true for gardeners or auto mechanics or doctors or parish ministers. We imitate those who know what they are doing until we get our feet underneath us to grasp the basics and contribute ourselves.

This is what All Saints Sunday is about. Remembering them shows us the way. We don't make our ancestors in faith into unattainable superheroes, remote from our efforts to love God above all and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Instead we look at ordinary Christians through whom God managed to do extraordinary things. Sometimes it was through their good and gifted striving for God. Other times God accomplished things as much despite them as because of them.

Lay leaders are here today armed with stories about recent saints from FCC who made a difference here. They're not marble statues, but real people who are now buried in our Memorial Garden, the courtyard through and behind our Morehouse Room. After worship, at 11:15 am today, we will rededicate our Memorial Garden, where I expect someday to be buried. So hear these stories about our own.

Nina Miller on Georgie Brown
Chris Peters on Pamela Peters Fiorito
John Wygal on Jean Kroll
Kathy Monro on Bobbie Earle