

Pastor's Corner  
Tribute to Nora Miller

Why is Nora Miller so loved? Why do we admire her so much? Why are we so fond of her?

A week ago, when Idella and I visited Nora, she asked that we read Psalm 103 and 145, failing vision not permitting her to do so herself. Here are portions of those texts:

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits—  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's (103:1-5).

I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.  
Every day I will bless you,  
and praise your name forever and ever.  
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
his greatness is unsearchable (145:1-3).

As we read, Nora sat with hands folded and eyes closed. Serenity settled on her face. Tranquility defined her posture. She was at peace. Finishing, the words of Scripture hung silently in the space between her and us. She hummed a nameless, holy tune, then said: "So true. So true. Thank you."

So why *do* we have such high regard for Nora Miller? Allow me a personal opinion: I think it is because her presence communicates the most essential nature of the Christ whom she follows: grace, love. After being in Nora's presence, I often wonder who visited whom? Because to be with her is to experience things holy, is to catch a hint of heaven, is to notice the words of Scripture communicated by her affect. Mostly, it is to experience grace: *always that*.

I wrote this in present tense. It is my hope that the congregation will read this in past tense: that Nora Miller will have experienced the "home-going" she has been reaching for.

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