

# REFLECTIONS

C3Women—Christ-Centered, Connected, Called

June 2019

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KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



A helping ministry for single moms,  
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## A REFLECTION

by Beulah Williamson

# Thanks Be to God for the Gospel



I am Beulah Williamson, and my main claim to fame here at Knox is my age. At ninety-two, I'm one of its oldest members. I was married for forty-six years to a Presbyterian pastor, and together we raised six children. The Apostle John, in his third letter, expresses my sentiment when he writes, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." YES!

After the children were mostly raised, I went back to school part-time to earn a Master's in Social Work. I served as a therapist for 20 years.

I was raised in a Christian home - complete with daily family devotions and weekly Sunday School and church - and I made a personal commitment to Christ when I was eight years old. There was no dramatic faith event in my life. Until ...

It happened when I was a sophomore in high school. One evening, after the rest of the family was in bed, I was sitting at the table working on an algebra problem, when I heard a voice clear as a bell say, "Imagine that you are in a room all alone." And I was. "In your hand is a pencil." And there was. (Only now did I realize that the radio was on.) "And in front of you is a piece of paper." And there was. "Now write." So I wrote - "For me" (for me) - "to live" (to live) - "is" (is) - "Now you finish it." "Oh good," I thought, "a Bible quiz!" So I quickly finished it, "For me to live is Christ!" "Stop!" the voice said. "What do you really live for? What do you think about when you wake up in the morning? What do you strive for?"



With an honest heart, I had to admit that Christ was not what I thought about mostly - and it was not what my heart strove for. Rather, it was ... Debate! My greatest joy at that stage of my life was being on the high school debate team. I had stacks of handwritten cards to use when I was assigned the affirmative, and other stacks to use for the negative. It was my life! I loved it! And maybe out of proportion. Coming to realize that I wanted Christ to be my fullest life didn't erase the love for debate, but it did put it

*"With an honest heart, I had to admit that Christ was not what I thought about mostly-"*

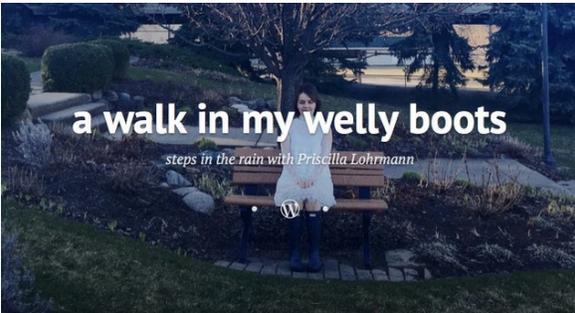
into perspective.



Decades later, another scripture has become real to me. Our children had gathered to be with their father as he lay dying. As we sat together, one son opened scripture to read 1 Corinthians 15, "... it is sown in dishonor" (what a come-down for Bob to be lying there helpless!) "... it is raised in glory." "It is sown in weakness" (my strong husband had become so weak). "It is raised in power!" Wow!

The beauty of the resurrection became real to me! And it still is! The resurrection hymns in Trinity Hymnal are so joy-producing! My license plate and my e-mail address are both "1 Cor 15!" Thanks be to God for the gospel!

*The beauty of the resurrection became real to me! And it still is!*



Beulah's daughter, *Priscilla Lohrmann*, blogs at "A Walk in My Welly Boots." Join her as she explores living life as a woman of faith while following Jesus in the joys and difficulties of life. You'll be challenged by her honesty and encouraged by the winsome way she always lands at a point of gospel reflection, surrender and hope.



## C3W July Ladies Night Out

**Chili's Restaurant**  
3795 Washtenaw Ave.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Enjoy an evening of great food and fellowship getting to know your Knox sisters at Chili's on Washtenaw Avenue in the Arborland Shopping Center! This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce your friends to other Knox women and our C3W ministry! Order off the menu, pay for yourself. Dinner entrees average between \$10-\$15.

RSVP by July 9 to reserve your spot.

[Click to RSVP](#)

**Treasured Traditions - Lasting Memories**



***Treasuring God in our Traditions***, by Noél Piper  
Published by Crossway, 2007

Reviewed by Danae Lauffer

### Our Father and Our Inheritance

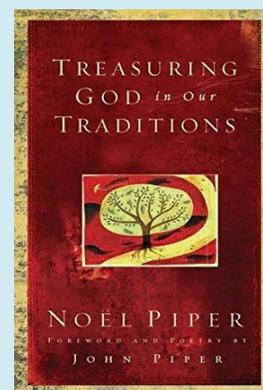
Summer brings a change of pace, different rhythms, and new routines to our lives. Perhaps for you, summer is slower and a welcome break from the onward march of the school year. If you are like me, you may find it challenging to appreciate the less-structured nature of summer schedules. Regardless, I encourage you to consider this summer as an invitation to pause, reflect on the past year, and consider a more deliberate approach to the coming one.

In *Treasuring God in Our Traditions*, Noél Piper invites us to carefully consider how our personal and family traditions reflect our view of God. He is our heirloom and inheritance, our greatest treasure. In Scripture, we are called to form deliberate practices to remind us of God's love and faithfulness across generations, and to teach us to rely on him. These traditions are planned habits with the dual purpose of personal remembrance and spiritual renewal, and tools to teach the next generation about His character.

Piper provides plenty of practical examples of traditions from her experiences raising a family. She distinguishes between everyday traditions such as prayer, family devotions, and study of Scripture, and "especially" traditions that highlight spiritual meaning in special occasions such as Christmas, Easter, birthdays, weddings, and times of loss. Through repetition, regularity, and consistency, these traditions teach us to be familiar with God and learn to hope in Him in all seasons and life experiences.

While her focus is primarily on the family, Piper is careful to note the importance of traditions for single Christians and those with opportunities to influence younger generations outside of the parent-child relationship. We are to pass on our treasure to others in our circle and transform our homes into "universities" where others learn about the world and how to live. This is only possible if we are cultivating a deep love and enjoyment of God through our personal habits and practices.

Before we know it, we will be rapidly moving towards fall and the holiday season with all of its chaos and activity. Right now, we are still basking in the warmer weather - what a great opportunity to refresh ourselves in God's Word! We can reflect on and celebrate the fruit borne from our existing family traditions, and identify new ways to mark God's faithfulness in everyday and special occasions. I recommend this book as an invitation to recalibrate and consider first Who we treasure, and deliberately move forward with our traditions, both new and old.





# MEMORY MAKING MOM

by Jessica Smartt

Published by Thomas Nelson (2019)

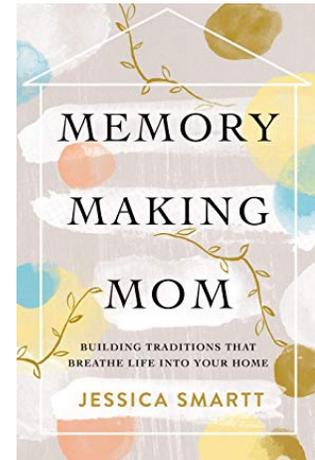
*Reviewed by Jennifer Donovan*

Our hearts long for a life that's rich and full, a tapestry woven over time with a variety of textures and colors that grounds us in the past, celebrates the present and points us to the future. In her book, *Memory Making Mom*, Jessica Smartt invites us to live with an intentionality that will shape our lives with contours of faith, beauty, compassion, celebration and love. From the ordinary rhythms of daily life - food, chores, sickness, learning, caring for others - to the special rhythms of Sabbath, birthdays and holidays, Jessica encourages her readers to take up the challenge to celebrate life and the people God has entrusted to us that they may see the beauty of Jesus and be drawn to Him.

*"My husband and I make memories with our kids because we want to introduce them to Jesus. We bake muffins for the neighbors because we want to share God's love with them."*

She begins her book with a caution, *"This is a book of suggestions, not a must do manual. You can't do them all nor should you..."* This is a timely word because her book is chock full of ideas (handily compiled at the end in an appendix) that could overwhelm. But what I really appreciated was that the more I read the more I sensed the big picture of why this tradition-creating life is nourishing for the soul. It says to the people you love that they matter, that life matters, that it is all a gift of God which should be received with thanksgiving and joy.

So is this book only for moms with children at home? That's certainly the target audience, but as a wife and grandmother whose kids and grand kids live states away, this book challenged me to think about how I live life today. I used to do these sorts of things when our kids were little, but why not now? Is life as a couple, life as a widow or a single gal less worthy of celebrating? Might we bless ourselves, our husbands, our friends, our extended family and our neighbors by weaving traditions into the rhythms of the life God has given us right now? Perhaps creating traditions in any stage of life can be a significant way to celebrate the life God has given us, preach the gospel to ourselves and invite our neighbors to see the beauty of Christ!



Thinking about summer plans for your family? Check out this podcast episode "Summer Expectations: Setting Our Sights on Grace" from Risen Motherhood that will help you frame your summer months with grace filled activities.

[Podcast Link](#)

# HANDIWORKS MINISTRY



Single moms, widows, seniors -  
do you need help with some home repairs?

The Knox HandiWorks team is ready to help! In fact, they would love to serve you as they take care of those annoying little fix-it tasks around your house. This ministry is cheerfully offered free of charge. Don't hesitate to contact Sue Vigo to set up an appointment.

- Email anytime:  
handiworks@knoxannarbor.org
- Call between 9 AM - 9 PM: 734-761-5669,  
ext. 224
- Click the hammer to go to webpage!



*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this:  
to look after orphans and widows in their distress  
and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.  
James 1:27*

Coming in the August C3W REFLECTIONS Newsletter:

- Personal reflections about how God has used Knox Bible studies to re-image his daughters in Christ as they seek to live lives of holiness
- Preview and sign up for **Women in the Word Bible Studies**
- Preview and sign up for **Moms, Tots and Beyond**
- August **Ladies Night Out** at Seva - info and sign up
- More resources to encourage you in your walk with the Lord

*reimagined*  
IN CHRIST  
a holy calling

