

THE GOOD NEWS STORY

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

BETTY SHUSTER



"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1 NLT

I came to accept that although I was in a job I liked, did well and liked the people I worked with, the time had come for me to retire. I was also completing my third 3-year term as an active Elder and member of BRC's Transition Team planning for Pastor Don's retirement and Pastor Dan's ordination.

My husband Gene had retired a year earlier and had been putting together a bucket list of things we'd do and places we'd go together, when he got sick. Thankfully, by time I retired Gene's cancer was in remission and we got to take one extended winter trip to Florida before it returned that fall. When Gene passed away less than 4 months later, I've not looked to that list to make any plans for myself.

Instead I've been given a number of reasons to recall Pastor Don's messages that he was retiring **to** what God had planned for him next. Although I've not prayed daily for God to show me the plans He has for me and how He can use me, He certainly has presented opportunities. In a time of life when I thought my life would be slowing, God is showing me there are still ways I can show up for Him if I just say "yes" to His call. For my good news story, I'll share three of these opportunities...

First of all, my youngest daughter and her husband accepted my offer to watch their two preschool children 2-days a week. Mack is in school now, and in the midst of the pandemic I started spending 5-days a week with Tenley. What joy that brings, giving me good reason to get out of bed and sure keeps me moving!

About the same time, Pastor Don approached me about an opportunity to serve on the RCA's General Synod Council. My 3-year term (which ended last June) allowed me to serve alongside 20+ other elders, pastors and leaders with sincere, loving hearts for our Lord as they oversee the directives from the annual General Synod meeting, even in these very trying times.

And most recently, Pastor Dan asked if I'd consider serving a 3-year term in the Great Lakes City Classis, (as VP, President, Past-President), to which I was chosen just last month. To this I will say, I don't know what God's up to, but I'm praying for *His hand to be upon me* as well as all of the GLCC Executive Team as together we seek to do His will for His church, *for such a time as this*.

All of this to say, I do wake everyday thankful to have breath and my prayer is that my "yeses" to be available to the ways God chooses to use me will only please and honor Him, my audience of One.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne." Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
PRAY WITH AMERICA
MAY 5TH

Annual Spring Clean Up
MAY 21ST

BRC AMAZING RACE
MAY 22ND

Happy Mothers Day
MAY 8TH

2022 GRADUATION SUNDAY
MAY 22ND

MEMORIAL DAY
REMEMBER AND HONOR
MAY 30TH