



NEWSLETTER

The Crucifer

May 2025

The Faith of Eunice

Early on, due to both my skepticism about Jesus and my God-given inability to enjoy small talk, I used to very much enjoy asking believers why it was they believed in Jesus. And during those early years of my faith, I noticed that responses to this question usually fell into a few different categories. Some people quoted Bible verses or recounted Sunday School lessons. Others shared vivid, even mystical, experiences of God—hearing His voice, seeing His face, feeling His hand. These stories that stretched the imagination (and sometimes my sense of the storyteller's sanity) were always my favorites. But lately, I've been reminded of another kind of response—one I used to overlook, as if weak.

Some would say: "I don't really know why I believe in Jesus. I guess I just grew up going to church. I've always gone, and I've always believed."

A lifelong Baptist once told me he felt cheated because he never had a dramatic conversion or profound moment of being "lost and found." He had simply always been a Christian. He knew and loved Jesus—and for that, he sometimes worried that his faith wasn't as real or deep as others'.

While I would have never said so out loud, in those early days of faith, I think I probably would have agreed with him. I thought of that kind of steady, *inherited* faith as being shallow—something that hadn't wrestled with the big questions and therefore couldn't hold up under real struggle. (Don't tell my wife, but... I guess I really am wrong sometimes.)

Paul writes to Timothy, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice, and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also" (2 Timothy 1:5). I've come to realize that it was probably my pride that kept me from appreciating the quiet strength of those who had simply followed Jesus as their parents and grandparents had done. I had bought into the idea that faith must be rooted in my personal experience alone—**my** own reason, **my** own

emotion, **my** own answers to life's questions—and in doing so, I was blind to the wisdom and witness of those I had every reason to trust.

It reminds me of Thomas, who said, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put **my** finger where the nails were... I will not believe" (John 20:25). His doubt was honest, but so was the faith of those whom he trusted and loved who had given him their testimony.

It turns out that the faith of these "always believers" is actually not shallow at all. Quite the opposite—their faith is planted in soil enriched by generations of Christian formation. It springs from the roots of a family tree. And while no one's faith is unshakeable, when trials come, theirs will be the faith that will not fall onto the hard ground of self-reliance, but onto the shoulders of loved ones who came before—strong, faithful witnesses devoted to God and to family.

Somewhat ironically, what was once my least favorite answer to my favorite question has become the answer I now hope for from my own children, from our church, and from the world. We certainly don't advocate mindless belief (and in this church, we never will), but we also must be cautious not to reject what is good and true simply because it was handed down to us by others, especially our loved ones.

I've come to believe that God cares more about our willingness to follow than about the reasons we can articulate for believing. So, I encourage you: find your reasons. And know that you don't have to find it alone. I would be honored to hear why you believe in Jesus—or why you don't—and to share why I do.

Rob+

May 2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

4 Feed My Sheep Sunday Morning Worship (See details below) 9: a Car Wash 5p Concert (See Details below)	5 5:30p Depression Support Group	6 6:00p Nehemiah Action 6:15p AA Meeting	7 Worship Wednesday 9a Food Pantry 10a Hagar's Basket 10a Worship Service 5:30p Dinner & Classes	1 6:15p AA Meeting 6:30p Choir Practice	2 6p ACA Group	3 10a Prayer Shawl Ministry
11 Mother's Day Sunday Morning Worship (See details below)	12	13 6:15p AA Meeting 6:15p Compassionate Friends	14 Worship Wednesday 9a Food Pantry 10a Hagar's Basket 10a Worship Service 5:30p Dinner & Classes	8 6:15p AA Meeting 6:30p Choir Practice	9 6p ACA Group	10 8a Brotherhood of St Andrew 9a DOK 9:30a Compassionate Friends 11a WeCare
18 Graduation Sunday Sunday Morning Worship (See details below)	19	20 5:30p Bunco 6:15p AA Meeting	21 Worship Wednesday 9a Food Pantry 10a Hagar's Basket 10a Worship Service 5:30p Dinner & Classes	15 6:15p AA Meeting 6:30p Choir Practice	16 6p ACA Group 6p Early Steps	17 10a ECW Monthly Meeting
25 Sunday Morning Worship (See details below)	26 Memorial Day	27 6:15p AA Meeting	28 Worship Wednesday 9a Food Pantry 10a Hagar's Basket 10a Worship Service 5:30p Dinner & Classes	22 6:15p AA Meeting 6:30p Choir Practice	23 6p ACA Group	24 11a We Care
				29 6:15p AA Meeting 6:30p Choir Practice	30 6p ACA Group	31

Sunday Mornings

8:00a Worship
9:00a Hot Breakfast
9:15a Library Hours
9:35a Sunday Classes
10:30a Worship
11:45a Community Hour

Sunday Classes

Nursery - Nursery
Children's Ministry - Classroom 1
Youth Sunday School - Youth Room
Contemporary Discussion Class - Lanier Hall
Father Matt's Class - Holy Cross Rm
Book Study - Chapel
Choir Rehearsal - Nave

Wednesday Evening

5:30p - Dinner
6:15p - Classes for all ages
Wednesday Classes
Nursery - Nursery
Children's Ministry - Classroom 2
Youth Sunday School - Youth Room
Adults - Outside

The Choral Society of Pensacola Treble Ensemble Presents
LIFE, LOVE, & LOSS
A concert of choral music and solo vocal
pieces reflecting on the human experience.
Sunday, May 4th 5pm
Samantha Holland, piano
John Schuster, horn
Isabelle Peterson, director



Connections Class



YOU'RE INVITED

A 3-Week Sunday School Class
in Lanier Hall beginning May 11th
for Newcomers or Attendees who are
curious about our worship, beliefs &
joining our community.

BIRTHDAYS!

Helen Stuebing - May 1	Julian Iversen - May 16
Maddox Miller - May 5	Katie Diamond - May 16
Craig Iversen - May 6	Paula Hitchcock - May 17
Dean Dake - May 7	Patrick Resler - May 18
Alicia Umbreit - May 7	Croix Bennett - May 22
Mia Jerrems - May 7	Everleigh Thomas - May 22
Gloria Quesada - May 8	Mary Shontz - May 25
Mable Wilson - May 9	Charles Collins - May 25
Jordan Williams - May 11	Fay Scordato - May 26
C.J. Moffett - May 11	Greyson Coleman - May 26
Janelle Berger - May 12	Margaret Brabham - May 28
Andrea Rogers - May 13	Hayden White - May 28
Beckie Mims - May 14	Cindy Corritore - May 29
Roger Hungerford - May 14	Della Maddox - May 30
Jean Gibson - May 14	Anna-Frances Apap - May 30
Sierra Dixon - May 14	Luke Umbreit - May 31

Graduation Sunday





May 18th 2025 @ 10:30 Worship
followed by a cake reception

Episcopal Night!

at the ballpark

Join us on Sunday, May 25, on
the Winn-Dixie Party Deck at
the Blue Wahoos Stadium for a
fun evening of baseball and
Episcopal fellowship as the
Pensacola Blue Wahoos take
on the Birmingham Barons!

Get tickets here

ANNIVERSARIES

Shane & Tammy Brannock - May 6 - 32 years
Jemison & Beckie Mims - May 9 - 27 years
Chuck & Nancy Collins - May 16 - 50 years
Joe & Alicia Nunnari - May 18 - 2 years
Isabelle Peterson & Eden Ridgeway - May 20 - 2 years
Aaron & Dana Wimmers - May 23 - 16 years
Ed & Marline Austin - May 30 - 38 years

WeCare

*A support group for those who care
for loved ones with dementia.*

When: Join us every 2nd & 4th Saturday
of the month @ 11:00am - 1:00pm.

Where: Holy Cross Episcopal Church

Why: If you or someone you know is
caring for a loved one, or whose life
has been affected by dementia.

Contact: Barbara Coats at 251-223-2484.

Holy Cross Episcopal Church
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