

# The Riedy Reader

## January 2019



The New Year is always a time of new starts, transitions, and adjustments. This year, we will be adjusting to the loss of Eric's Dad, Wilson. I asked Charissa if she would be willing to share the story from her perspective, and now I have the chance to share it with you:

*"On October 26th I received a voicemail from my dad asking me to call him back when I had a chance, I knew by the tone of the message that something was wrong. When I called back, he told me that Grandpa Riedy had been diagnosed with lung cancer and given three to six months to live. Mixed emotions ran through my head ranging from despair to happiness that my grandpa would get to meet Jesus pain free. Dad and I made plans to visit during my Christmas break. Originally I was supposed to work up at college during the last week of Christmas break, however, one of my high school friends was getting married on January 5th, so I asked if I could switch that work week to be able to attend his wedding. After a challenging switch that was settled, I now had three weeks of Christmas break, two weeks at home and one week scheduled in PA. Little did we know how important our visit would be.*

*When we arrived in PA on December 29th, we spent about 10 hours at my grandparent's apartment, we played card games, talked, watched football and enjoyed each other's company. Grandpa was doing so well! Such a wonderful, normal day! The next day we got a call in the morning that Grandpa wasn't good, he didn't recognize his surroundings and his blood sugar had dropped (unusual for him). Hospice visited and told us that after his blood sugar came up, he should be okay.*

*After church we went over to the apartment, Grandpa still wasn't doing well. He asked us all to come in the room, told us he loved us and to take care of Grandma. We tearfully told him we loved him too and we would. After about an hour, he improved immensely. He began to interact normally except for being tired. I fed him a piece of his favorite pie, sour cherry. After we ate dinner, he started to get worse again and we called hospice for the second time. They gave him some sugar and morphine to calm him down and said that he would probably improve by morning but sometimes, people seemed to wait for those who they loved to be around before passing away.*



**Wilson P. Riedy, Jr.** 82, of Allentown, passed away Monday, December 31, 2018 in the St. Luke's Hospital, Fountain Hill. He was the husband of Dorothy M. (Kistler) Riedy. They celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary last June. Wilson was born in Allentown a son of the late Wilson P. Riedy, Sr. and Hilda E. (Rice) Riedy. He was a graduate of Catasauqua High School and attended Penn State University. Wilson was a salesman for Charles Chips for 23 years. After leaving Charles Chips he held various positions some of them including Greyhound Bus Lines, overseeing the transportation department at Good Shepherd Home and as a bus driver for Laidlaw Transportation. Wilson was a member of Faith Free Church, Trexlertown and a former member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown. He sang on both church choirs for over 70 years and was a member of several community choirs including Summer Harmony. Wilson served on the Welcoming Committee and was a former member of the Seniors in Action group at Faith Free Church. He was a former Boy Scout Leader. Wilson was an avid sports fan and had a deep seated faith and was willing to share it with everyone he met. Most importantly he loved spending time with his family.

The next morning (December 31st), we all rushed to the hospital following a call from my grandma. Grandpa's heart had stopped and they were headed to the ER with him. We were all together when the doctor told us that he hadn't made it. While it was one of the hardest moments of my life to be in that room with so much grief, I wouldn't have traded it for anything. God was present through the whole trip.

At the funeral on January 5th we celebrated my grandpa's full life after a week full of tears and blessings. I've listed some of these blessings here. We were blessed with a wonderful, normal healthy day with him on the 29th. On Sunday, we had a few hours to say goodbye and love on him with kisses, cherry pie, prayers, our presence and hand holding. All four of us; my dad, Aunt Jessica, Grandma and I were all together at the hospital to cry together and hold each other. My dad and I did not return home on January 3rd as planned but instead I stayed in PA until January 7th. I may have missed my friend's wedding but I didn't miss any school or work hours and I was there to help in any way possible. Brenna, Amanda and Mom drove up safely and quickly and also helped in many ways. The house Dad and I were staying at made room for the rest of the family and let dad stay for another week. The outpouring of love from friends and family was a constant support. So many stories and memories of Grandpa were shared and remembered that showed how he used his imperfect life to point others towards our perfect Savior. At the viewing and the funeral our extended family supported one another as we celebrated his life through our tears.

God is good. The pain of losing someone so dear to our family is bearable because I trust that Grandpa is singing with the angels in heaven worshiping God, which is where he longed to be. Thank you to all of you who prayed for my grandpa in the past few years and have helped in many ways. Ecclesiastes 5:19-20 reads, 'Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil – this is a gift of God. They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.' My grandpa enjoyed the 'wealth' he was blessed with; family, faith, friends, food and music, his favorite parts of life. He happily served his God, family and friends until the end of his life with a glad heart. Now, he peacefully rests with Jesus. I love you Grandpa, I miss you, but I'll see you again."

Our whole family echoes the wonder at the amazing blessings and the gratitude for all the support! When Dennis Rainey called Eric on Jan 3rd, Dennis said that he was a bit jealous of the chance Eric had to say such a sweet goodbye. May we all live in mind of the legacy we will leave behind.

Eric & Deb

### Tear & Prayer



**Pray for the Riedy Family**  
Serving in Arkansas with

**FAMILY LIFE**  
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

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Deb  
Eric  
Charissa  
Brenna  
Amanda

**Pray** for Eric's mom as she adjusts to life without Wilson, esp. for possible housing options  
**Pray** for our family as we catch up after being away for an extended time for the funeral.  
**Pray** for the upcoming Arkansas Diamond, our local Speech & Debate Tournament-Jan 31-Feb 2  
**Praise** Brenna's acceptance into the College of the Ozarks for the fall of 2019! Go 'Hard Work U'!!  
**Praise** for all the outpouring to us during this time of grief & joy, and all the blessings God continues to provide.  
**Praise** for God's provision of support during December.