

Sierra Christian Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

In Memory of Constance “Connie” Cole



Constance Cole being escorted down the aisle by her father, the Rev. Ellsworth A. Benedict, on the day of her wedding to Cliff Cole



Cliff Cole surrounded by his daughters on the day of his wedding to Constance Cole



*September 20, 1942 -
October 24, 2024*

When Constance “Connie” Cole died on September 20 Sierra Christian Church’s lights forever dimmed. She has been a driving, smart and sensible force in the church’s operations and vision for more years than we can calculate. She was reliable, intelligent, and whenever a question about bylaws or past practices arose, she was our goto person. She was much more than all that of course, but for now, we simply celebrate her life and mourn her passing.

Remembrances next page

Her common sense combined with an acute awareness of our congregation's potential always kept us moving forward. When she identified an issue it was usually accompanied with a solution. Plus, I loved her laugh.

—Rev Steve Kindle

Connie's service to Sierra's financial health was long standing and exemplary, a part of her diligent service to her Lord.

—Joy Reed

Constance was very wise. She always had the right and sometimes tough questions or observations. She was generous with her time and talents.

—Liz Throne



Lovely Couple
Lovely Lady
Connie was a real trooper going through her health issues.
Connie will be missed.

—Maurine & Jack
Rollins

I remember Connie's poise and strength. She was always beautifully dressed and groomed and enjoyed decorating her home.

When she submitted for a bone marrow transplant, her faith, grace, and strength were on full display. She used this challenging time as a teaching moment and then established a relationship with the cell donor. In grief at the time of her daughter's death, she shepherded her beloved grandson, Jacob who was at her side when she died. Connie was about faith and family and a very bright light in our world.

—Suzanne Awalt

Connie and Cliff gave me (and David) such a nice warm welcome when I started zooming into church. But we got to meet in person when they invited me to come to their home and share a meal. We ordered, and then it was picked up by Cliff from Cheesecake Factory. It was then I got some alone time with Constance. What a kind heart and a fun laugh! She was easy to talk to and relate with, and I was so impressed with what she'd been through. I was tickled when she reached out to me on a few occasions. I treasure the memory of her care and concern.

—Beth Murphy

Remembering my first Sunday at Sierra, and the happy reunion with Cliff, as he introduced me to Constance. She hugged me and welcomed me to what was to become a family I had never really had in the church since my youth. Over the next few years I learned to rely on her to answer my questions as I took over as the board secretary. Her knowledge and her strength and courage, as she faced her leukemia diagnosis was something that I found so incredible. I am so proud to have known her.

—Sandy Barry

Disciples' Men's Retreat Was Rich in Hope

On October 25-27, the Northern California-Nevada Disciples' Men's Ministries held its annual retreat at Camp Arroyo in Livermore. The Rev. Doug Wirt (pictured kneeling) was the featured speaker, the theme being, "Hope is Real Life." Rooted in the following scriptures: John 3: 1-8, Romans 8: 19-27 and Jonah 4: 1-11, he spoke of his journey with hope and how the church can be a harbinger of hope. 13 men enjoyed the visit with the notion and practice of hope; good fellowship, plentiful food, hiking, and tracking the Dodgers first two World Series game wins.



Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Spy, Assassin

Later this month, a week before Thanksgiving, the movie, “Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Spy, Assassin,” opens here in Northern California at a variety of theaters. It will tell the story of how Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian during the time of Hitler’s rise to anguishing power, morally reasoned that the brand of National Socialism Hitler preached was unsupportable by Christians and had to be opposed, at any cost. Which is what he ultimately paid.

Bonhoeffer happened to be Chris Hartmire’s theological hero, along with Jesus. They shared a recognition that for a Christian it was a privilege and honor to suffer with those who suffered, and they also shared a connection to Union Theological Seminary, where they both studied, though a few decades removed from each other. Eventually, Hartmire taught classes on Bonhoeffer at the Claremont colleges in the later years of his life, partly explaining his life through Bonhoeffer’s immense, if at times, flawed theology. Bonhoeffer had several things right, however, and Hartmire trumpeted them. Most notably, the difference between cheap grace, that which comes without cost, and is claimed simply by affirming faith in Jesus Christ, and costly grace, which is pure and real, beautiful and sweet, and changes you from the inside out.

Grace and discipleship are inseparable, Bonhoeffer wrote. Grace is not something that comes simply by professing a belief in Jesus, but by professing radical allegiance to him, by taking up the cross and all that it means. Jesus himself was pretty clear on this.

That is the heart of Bonhoeffer’s theology. What follows is a short description of his life, and why, in real world cause and effect terms, he became one of the most influential Christians in the 20th Century.

The German Evangelical Church under National Socialism

With Hitler’s ascent to power, Bonhoeffer’s church—the German Evangelical Church—tore itself apart from the inside. Germany was in tatters. The years following World War I were devastating, and the experiment with democracy called the Weimar Republic (so named after a small town in central Germany where the new constitution calling for a democracy was ratified) that emerged from the ruins was doomed from the start, setting the stage for the

rise of Nazism. Protestant leaders and members of the church welcomed the rise of Nazism.

As early as 1933, a group called the German Christians began to promote the Nazification of German Protestantism through the creation of a pro-Nazi “Reich Church.”

The German Christians wanted Protestantism to conform to Nazi ideology, and they pushed for the implementation of “Aryan laws” within the churches.

The German Christians claimed that

Jews, as a “separate race,” could not become members of an “Aryan” German Church through baptism.

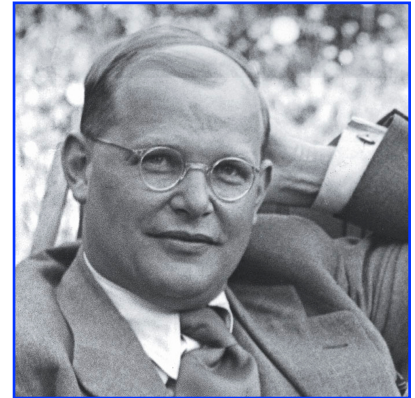
Despite widespread antisemitism and a surging enthusiasm for Nazism, most church leaders initially opposed the Aryan caveat—It contradicted traditional teachings about baptism and ordination after all.

Bonhoeffer started finding the voice that either doomed him or exalted him, depending on your historical perspective. He argued that this Aryan exception surrendered Christian precepts to political ideology. If “non-Aryans” were banned from the ministry, he argued, their colleagues should resign in solidarity and establish a new “confessing” church that would remain free from Nazi influence. In May 1934, the German Confessing Church was established. While no one could deny its opposition to rise of German Christian influence, it remained sadly silent about the mounting persecution of German Jews.

“The Church and the Jewish Question”

Now Bonhoeffer’s voice took on even more tone and gravitas. His essay, “The Church and the Jewish Question,” took on the challenges Nazis posed for Christians, arguing, rather simply, that National Socialism was illegitimate and therefore had to be opposed on Christian grounds.

His call for opposition had three critical ele-



Prayers & Celebrations

- ➔ Love, patience, courage, strength, acceptance, and every other adjective we can think of sent with love and admiration to Cliff Cole, mourning the passing of his wife, Connie.
- ➔ Happy Birthday on November 28th to the one and only Karen Steinke!
- ➔ On November 5, it's a happy 68th birthday to John Hartmire, husband to our pastor.
- ➔ Though not twins, a no less leaping and cartwheeling shared Nov. 4 birthday dance to Norm & Iris Pobanz, parents to our pastor.
- ➔ A Nov 10 birthday greeting to Tanya Morgan! A friend to our pastor.
- ➔ Joy and unfathomable gratitude is blessedly given for the life of Jane (Pudge) Hartmire, Nov. 2, 1932 - Nov. 2, 2017. She would be turning 92! And she is missed! Oh, how she is missed!

Some Notes Worth Noting

1. Books that Bind meets Thursday, December 19 at 6:30 pm on Zoom. We are reading, "Mad Honey," by the prolific Jodi Picoult. There is room in the group for anyone who loves to read and enjoys a robust discussion every other month—sometimes even about the book we just read
2. The Men's Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, November 2 at 9 am, on Zoom.
3. CGC is 60 years old and showing its age. You are invited to adopt a cabin as your very own project. With a paint job and some repairs our cabins would be fresh and welcoming. We would ask that a family, a church, an individual, or group of friends, take one cabin to refurbish for a one-year 2025 commitment (with an option to renew) with your own work days scheduled for at least three times during the year. For more information, email Leanne Stump at leannestump925@gmail.com to choose a cabin or for more information.
4. There will be a CCNC-N Regional Disaster Recovery Mission Trip from April 13 to 19, 2025—Holy Week/Holy Work—to assist fire victims here in our region.. You can come and go as your schedule allows. More details to come.

An Affordable Housing Update

Pastor Christine and John met with Martin Rubalcava of Christian Church Homes to discuss Sierra Christian Church and CCH's shared commitment to develop affordable senior housing on the church's property. This is what we learned:

- Financing: Unfortunately, the Town of Loomis does not have available funds for affordable housing, unlike cities like Sacramento, and due to the budget deficit, the state reduced housing funds by over \$250 million, which makes securing affordable housing financing highly competitive this year.
- At this time, there is no clear funding path forward. CCH remains committed to affordable housing but must be cautious during this period of limited financing. As a result, we are pausing predevelopment activities at Sierra Christian Church for now.
- Depending on future developments, CCH may explore options like a land purchase or another financing arrangement to help maintain the property for future affordable housing projects.

BONHOEFFER

(Continued from page 4)

ments, and, one might argue, his theologically social reasoning remains true to this day:

1. The church is called to question injustice.
2. The church has an obligation to help all victims of injustice, whether they are Christian or not.
3. The church might be called to “put a spoke in the wheel” to bring the machinery of injustice to a halt.

But it is important to note, that Bonhoeffer had a touch of antisemitism rooted deep in his German Lutheran psyche. While the essay was a clear repudiation of the Nazi Party, foretelling his future path, he also wrote that the “Jewish question would ultimately be resolved through their conversion to Christianity.”

Bonhoeffer 1933–1940

Bonhoeffer's theology and outspoken political opinions isolated him within his church, and throughout the 1930s many of his activities were focused abroad. He reported regularly on events in Nazi Germany to ecumenical Protestant leaders in Europe and the United States. In September 1933 he attended the ecumenical World Alliance meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria, where he spoke about the Jewish question and the delegates passed a resolution condemning Nazi actions against Jews. Bonhoeffer took a copy of the resolution to the German consul in Sofia to prove that Nazi policies were damaging Germany's image abroad. The leaders of the German Evangelical Church in Berlin demanded that he withdraw from ecumenical activities. True to his core, Bonhoeffer refused.

From September 1933 to April 1935, Bonhoeffer served as pastor to several German-speaking congregations in London, leading them to break with the official German church and join the Confessing Church. When he returned to Germany in April 1935, he found the Confessing Church under increasing pressure from the Gestapo. Across the country, church leaders were now

not only refusing to openly oppose the Nazi regime but openly criticizing their colleagues who did. As a result, Confessing Christians found themselves targets of the Nazi regime and its supporters.

In response, Bonhoeffer began to train young clergy at an illegal Confessing Church seminary, Finkenwalde, which was closed by the Gestapo in September 1937. Bonhoeffer then spent the next two years secretly travelling throughout eastern Germany supervising his students who were working illegally in small parishes. By 1938 he was banned from entering Berlin, and by the end of 1940 he was forbidden to speak in public.



Bonhoeffer with students

Resistance Activities

Bonhoeffer became informed about different German resistance plans in 1938 through his brother-in-law, Hans von Dohnanyi, who worked in the Justice Ministry and was one of the earliest opponents of the regime. In October 1940, soon after the Nazi regime forbade him from speaking in public, Bonhoeffer started working of the Office of Military Intelligence,

which by this time had secretly become the hub of German military resistance groups that eventually culminated in the July 20, 1944 failed attempt to assassinate Adolph Hitler, what became known as Operation Valkyrie. On behalf of the Military Intelligence office Bonhoeffer made several trips outside the Reich between 1941 and 1942, informing ecumenical contacts in Geneva and the Vatican of the resistance plans.

The first deportations of Berlin Jews to the east occurred on October 15, 1941. A few days later, Bonhoeffer and Friedrich Perels, a Confessing Church lawyer, wrote a memo giving details of the deportations. The memo was sent to foreign contacts as well as trusted German military officials, in the hope that it might move them to action. Bonhoeffer also became involved in “Operation Seven,” a plan to smuggle Jews out of Germany by providing them false papers identifying them German Military Intelligence agents. After the

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Sitting with a Dying Loved One is a Sacred Thing

Seven years ago already, on November 2, 2017, on her 85th birthday, my mother died. It wasn't sudden—she had been dying for several months—and except for my youngest brother we were all in the room with her reading the scores of birthday cards she had received in the mail and remembering with filial humor and private gratitudes the role the card senders had in her life, and ours. At some point during the morning, her breaths shallow and infrequent, neighbors came by and serenaded her with the birthday song.

My sister, Jane was there, and our brother David and his wife, Judy. My wife, Christine, was there, as was Daven, and of course my father, who was in a state of disbelief because he had always believed he would “go first,” though now that I sit here writing about it, I think it was more hope than a staunch belief, because he knew Mom would do more than simply survive when he died, and he was not so sure about himself.

We were keeping Mom company, of course, and Dad, and each other. This was the passing of a force, not on the world stage so much, but in the universe she orbited; she was an energy that fostered love and respect, and when she died the hole she would leave in that universe would be a deep one.

My father later lamented, “The world is much more boring without her.”

Waiting for someone to die is a very odd thing. Sitting around a table playing cards seems somehow disrespectful, inattentive, and maybe even callous. Staring at her as she passes from the only life you know to the Great Mystery we all wonder about seems a bit morbid. Talking about sports reminds you how utterly unimportant the Rams and Lakers, even the Dodgers, are when moments of true magnitude are at hand. We were, mind you, keeping vigil, even if none of us dared utter the word or embrace the idea. We are family and being with each other at these times is what families do. It is a blessing, and it is a gift. Mom would have insisted on it, and she knew we were there.

To sit with someone as they are actively dying is

a remarkable gift. It is to stand witness at the door between life and death, acknowledging the imminence of death and at the same time honoring the life and soul of the loved one; in this case, Mom. It can be a time of deep spiritual meditation, silent existential musings, of reconciliation and restoration, of prayer, and in our instance, laughter and remembrance of cherished things, like love and friendship, of beautiful times and powerful women who had a lot to do with making the world a better place, especially considering that the world begins at home.

It may be the best, most sacred, and graceful thing we can do, be present and bear witness as someone we love dies. It is peaceful. It is serene. It is a holy stillness. It is the ultimate offering we can bestow on them, and by doing so, upon ourselves.

One more birthday card and fond memories of when the card sender was over for dinner and how we laughed at his stories. Mom's breaths were growing even more shallow. At Christine's urging, my father came over and held my mom's hand and told her it was okay. He would be okay. Her children would be okay. We would take care of each other, just as she would have demanded had she had the voice to demand it. Then, moments later, my sister looked over at Christine and said, “I think she stopped breathing.”

For a second, we all did, and for another second my attention was diverted by movement I noticed out the front window of my parent's modest home. I turned in time to see a handful of birds fly out of the Elm tree that shaded their front lawn. My youngest brother hustled over from his home 45 minutes away to say his goodbyes before Mom's body was taken away to be cremated.

Here's the thing about angels. I don't know if they actually exist, though I would like to think they do and don't see any reason why they couldn't, and if they do exist, I certainly have no idea what they look like. For all I know, they could look like small birds ascending from an Elm tree in Claremont California early in the afternoon on November 2, 2017.

--John Hartmire

Sierra Christian Church Monthly Calendar

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 9 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
3 Daylight Savings Time Ends 10:30 am Worship	4	5 Election Day	6	7	8	9
10 10:30 am Worship	11	12	13 Board of Directors Meet 6:30 pm	14 6:30 pm Books That Bind	15	16
17 10:30 am Worship	18	19	20	21 Happy Thanksgiving!	22	23
24 10:30 am Worship	25	26	27	28 Happy Thanksgiving!	29	30

Remember!
Turn your clocks back one hour when going to bed Saturday night, November 2



He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

—Micah 6:8

Some November Noteworthy Dates in History

November 1, 1848 - The first medical school for women opened in Boston.

November 1, 1963 - South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu were killed in a military coup.

November 1, 1995 - The first all-race local government elections took place in South Africa, marking the end of the apartheid system.

November 3, 1948 - *Dewey Defeats Truman* banner headline appeared on the front page of the *Chicago Tribune*. Harry Truman actually defeated Republican candidate Thomas E. Dewey for the presidency.

November 3, 1957 - Soviet Russia launched the world's first inhabited space capsule, Sputnik II, which carried a dog named Laika.

November 3, 1983 - White South Africans voted to allow Indians and "Coloreds" (persons of mixed race) limited power in the government, but continued to exclude blacks.

November 4, 1890 - The first electrified underground railway system was officially opened in London.

November 4, 1979 - About 500 young Iranian militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Teheran, Iran, and took 90 hostages, including 52 Americans that they held captive for 444 days.

November 4, 1995 - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated as he left a peace rally in Tel Aviv.

November 5, 1733 - The first issue of the *New York Weekly Journal* was published by John Peter Zenger, a colonial American printer and journalist. A year later, he was arrested on charges of libeling the royal governor.

November 6, 1860 - Abraham Lincoln was elected as the 16th U.S. President and the first Republican. He received 180 of 303 possible electoral votes and 40 percent of the popular vote.

November 6, 1917 - During World War I, the Third Battle of Ypres concluded after five months as Canadian and Australian troops took Passchendaele. Their advance, measuring five miles, cost at least 240,000 soldiers.

November 6, 1962 - The U.N. General Assembly adopt-

ed a resolution condemning South Africa for its apartheid policies and recommended economic sanctions.

November 7, 1811 - General William H. Harrison led 1,000 Americans in battle, defeating the Shawnee Indians at the Battle of Tippecanoe Creek near Lafayette, Indiana.

November 7, 1837 - A pro-slavery mob attacked and killed American abolitionist Elijah Lovejoy at his printing works in Alton, Illinois.

November 7, 1885 - Canada's first transcontinental railway, the Canadian Pacific, was completed in British Columbia.

No

November 7, 1944 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented fourth term, defeating Thomas E. Dewey. Roosevelt died less than a year later on April 12, 1945.

November 7, 1967 - Carl Stokes became the first African American mayor in the U.S., elected mayor of Cleveland, Ohio.

November 7, 1989 - The East German government resigned after pro-democracy protests.

November 7, 1989 - L. Douglas Wilder became the first African American governor in U.S. history, elected governor of Virginia.

November 9, 1872 - The Great Boston Fire started in a dry-goods warehouse then spread rapidly in windy weather, destroying nearly 800 buildings. Damage was estimated at more than \$75 million.

November 9-10, 1938 - Kristallnacht (the night of broken glass) occurred in Germany as Nazi mobs burned synagogues and vandalized Jewish shops and homes.

November 9, 1965 - At 5:16 p.m., the Great Blackout of the Northeast began as a tripped circuit breaker at a power plant on the Niagara River caused a chain reaction sending power surges knocking out interconnected power companies down the East Coast. The blackout affected over 30 million persons, one-sixth of the entire U.S. population. Electricity also failed in Ontario and Quebec.

November 10, 1775 - The U.S. Marine Corps was established as part of the U.S. Navy. It became a separate unit on July 11, 1789.

November 10, 1871 - Explorer Henry M. Stanley found missionary David Livingstone at Ujiji, Africa. Stanley began his search the previous March for Livingstone who had been missing for two years. Upon locating him, he simply asked, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

November 10, 1928 - Hirohito was crowned Emperor of Japan. He was Imperial Japan's Emperor during World War II. Following Japan's defeat, he was allowed to stay and remained Emperor until his death in 1989.

November 11th - Celebrated in the U.S. as Veterans Day (formerly called Armistice Day) with parades and military memorial ceremonies.

November 11, 1992 - The Church of England voted to allow women to become priests.

November 12, 1974 - The U.N. General Assembly suspended South Africa over its policy of apartheid.

November 13, 1945 - General Charles De Gaulle was appointed president of the French provisional government.

November 13, 1956 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

November 15, 1943 - During the Holocaust, Heinrich Himmler ordered Gypsies and part-Gypsies to be sent to concentration camps. The number of Gypsies killed by Nazis is estimated up to 500,000.

November 15, 1969 - The largest antiwar rally in U.S. History occurred as 250,000 persons gathered in Washington, D.C., to protest the Vietnam War.

November 16, 1989 - South African President F.W. de Klerk announced the abandonment of the Separate Amenities Act, thus opening the country's beaches to all races.

November 17, 1734 - *New York Weekly Journal* publisher John Peter Zenger was arrested and charged with libeling the colonial governor of New York. In his trial, held in August of 1735, truth was successfully used as a defense against libel, an important early step toward freedom of the press in America.

November 18, 1993 - South Africa adopted a new constitution after more than 300 years of white majority rule. The constitution provided basic civil rights to blacks and was approved by the ruling party, and members of 20 other political parties.

November 19, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address during ceremonies dedicating 17 acres of the Gettysburg Battlefield as a National Cemetery.

November 19, 1868 - New Jersey suffragists attempted to vote in the presidential election to test the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which states, "no State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States." 172 suffragists, including four African American women, were turned away.

November 19, 1969 - The first news reports emerged that American troops in Vietnam had massacred civilians in My Lai Village back in March of 1968.

November 19, 1978 - The biggest mass suicide in history occurred as Reverend Jim Jones led over 900 followers to their deaths at Jonestown, Guyana. Members of his "Peoples Temple" religious cult were ordered to drink a cyanide-laced fruit drink. Those who refused were forcibly injected. Jones and his mistress killed themselves after watching his entire membership die. A few cult members escaped.

November 20, 1789 - New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

November 20, 1945 - The Nuremberg War Crime Trials began in which 24 former leaders of Nazi Germany were charged with conspiracy to wage wars of aggression, crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

November 21, 1920 - The IRA (Irish Republican Army) shot and killed 14 British soldiers in Dublin in what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

November 21, 1992 - The Anglican Church of Australia voted to allow women to become priests. The largest of the dioceses voted against the bill, however, it still received the required two-thirds approval.

November 22, 1963 - Dallas, Texas.

November 24, 1859 - Charles Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* was first

published, theorizing that all the living creatures descended from a common ancestor.

November 24, 1969 - The U.S. Army announced that Lt. William L. Calley had been charged with premeditated murder in the massacre of civilians in the Vietnamese village of My Lai in March of 1968. Calley was court martialled, convicted, and sentenced to life in prison. His sentence was later commuted to three years of house arrest by President Richard Nixon.

November 25, 1995 - By a margin of less than one percent, Ireland voted to legalize divorce, the closest vote in the nation's history.

November 26, 1789 - The first American holiday occurred, proclaimed by President George Washington to be Thanksgiving Day, a day of prayer and public thanksgiving in gratitude for the successful establish-

ment of the new American republic.

November 26, 1940 - During the Holocaust, Nazis began walling off the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw, sealing in 400,000 inhabitants, denying them adequate food, sanitation and housing.

November 28, 1520 - Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan passed through the strait (of Magellan) located at the southern tip of South America, thus crossing from the Atlantic Ocean into the Pacific.

November 28, 1934 - FBI agents killed bank robber George "Baby Face" Nelson near Barrington, Illinois.

November 29, 1947 - Palestine was partitioned into Jewish and Arab land by the U.N. General Assembly, resulting in the establishment of the Jewish state of Israel the following year.

BONHOEFFER

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Gestapo uncovered the "Operation Seven" funds that had been sent abroad for the emigrants, Bonhoeffer and his brother-in-law, von Dohnanyi, were arrested in April 1943.

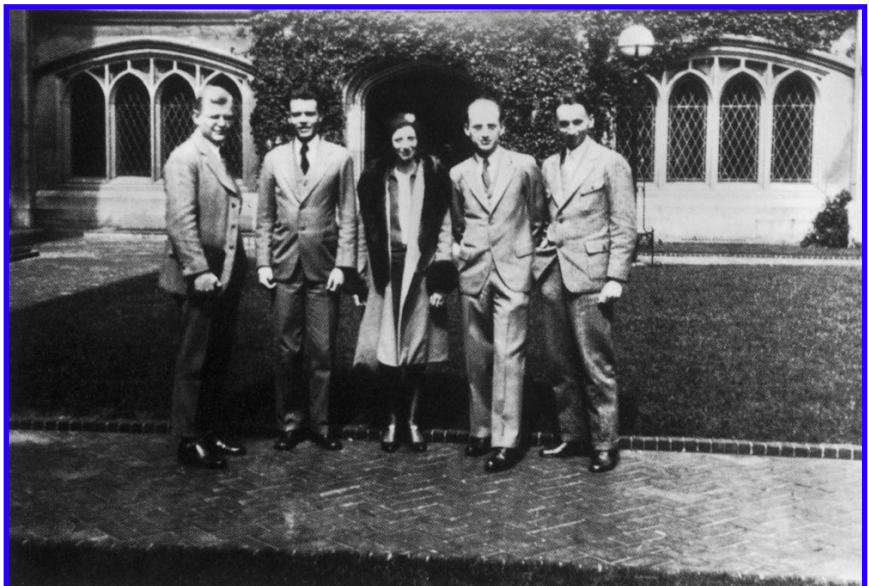
Bonhoeffer was initially charged with conspiring to rescue Jews, using his foreign travels for non-intelligence matters, and misusing his intelligence position to help

Confessing Church pastors evade military service. After the failed July 20, 1944, assassination attempt, his connections to, and activities for, the broader resistance circles were uncovered, and he was moved to the Gestapo prison in Berlin. In February 1945, he was taken to Buchenwald and in April moved to the Flossenbürg concentration camp.

On April 9, 1945, he was hanged with other conspirators, including the former head of German Military Intelligence, Admiral Canaris. Before walking up the steps to the gallows, he was overheard saying to a guard he had befriended, "This for me is the end, the beginning of life."

The camp doctor who witnessed the execution, described Bonhoeffer as serene, "brave and composed." He wrote, "I have never seen a man die so entirely submissive to the will of God."

That just may have been the grace he wrote about.



Bonhoeffer at Union Theological Seminary