

The VOICE

“Working together to make the difference that matters.”

TO WIN TO COMMIT TO GROW TO UNITE

Paul's Place—MAY 2008 *HE WAS MY FRIEND*

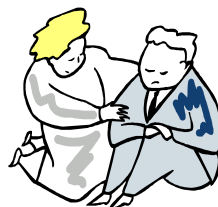
Last month, I googled an old friend. It doesn't always work to do that, but this time there was a newspaper article that led off with his name. The article said that he was charged with soliciting sex online from a minor. An undercover police officer communicated online as a 14 year old girl. I don't know the details of his arrest or whether he is in jail. The article informed me that this was not his first involvement in crime. He had some drug charges against him in 2003.

In 1966, I graduated from high school. My friend was to graduate and did not. He had failed too many classes in the four years and would never graduate. My mother, a girl friend and I meet at Sanders Ice Cream store to celebrate my graduation by eating ice cream. My friend decided that I needed a “real” graduation party. Even though he was not graduating, he organized a graduation party for me in his back yard. It was great. I don't know how he did it, since his family really didn't have many resources.

During our six year friendship, I remember there weren't too many in my family and among my friends who liked him much. Teachers didn't like him. During our early high school years, the police arrested him for disorderly conduct because he was smoking a cigarette in public. I was with him and smoking a cigarette too. He was arrested and taken to jail. I was left alone. I remember an incident at Jo Mel's sandwich shop after a dance. A group of guys were waiting for him. They beat him up while they held me against the wall. I was not hurt. He ended up at the hospital to sew up his lip. I miss the friend that I knew in high school.

You may know someone like my friend. The Good News of Jesus Christ has something to say to my friend. Somehow he didn't get the message. He didn't get it from me and he didn't get it from the church. I got him involved in the church high school choir, but that didn't do it.

At Camp Christian several years back, there was a popular Boy Co-president of a high school camp week who sought out all the young people who seemed lonely or un-liked, and he befriended them. He embodied the love and acceptance of Jesus. I wish my friend had known a popular person like him to seek him out and befriend him in the name of Jesus.

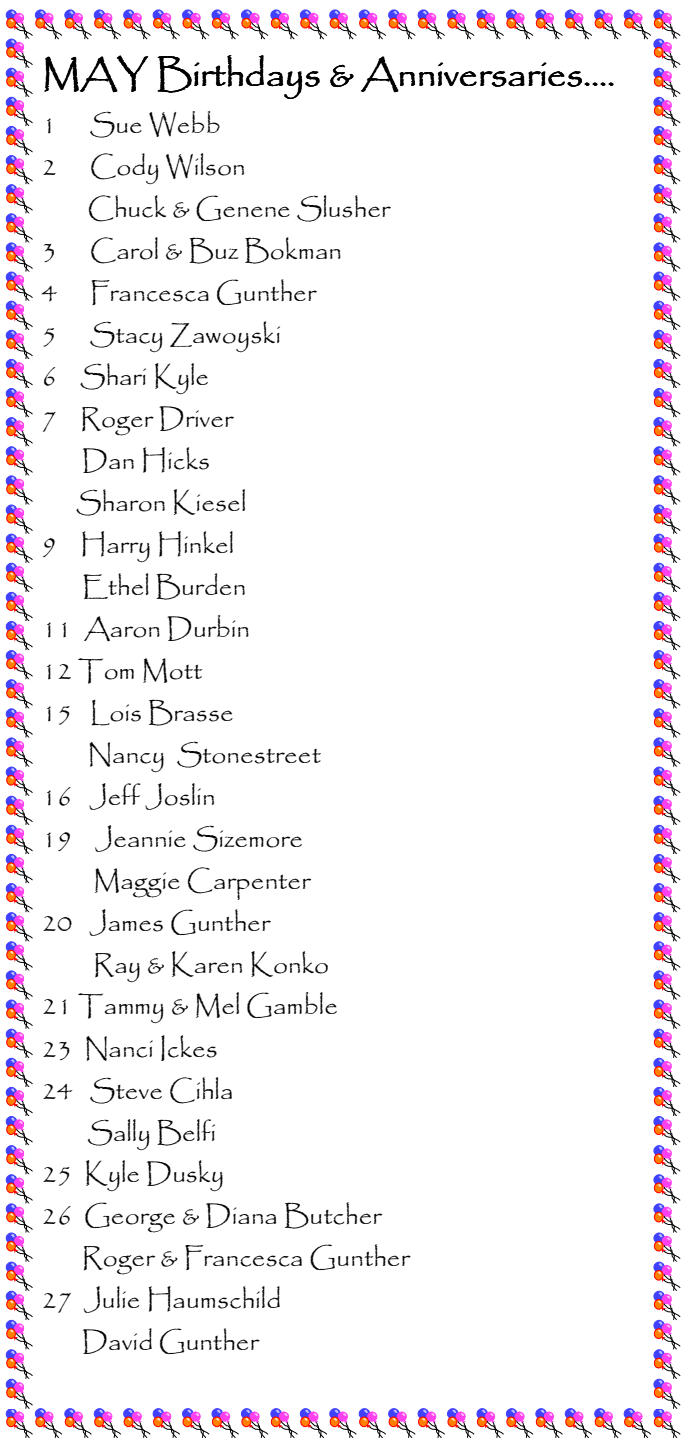


North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
35895 Royalton Rd.
Grafton, Ohio 44044
Address Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Grafton, OH 44044
Permit No. 8

Minister: Dr. Paul H. Durbin

Licensed Minister: Judy Ponting
Christian Ed. And Youth Director: Polly Tallos
Secretary: Londa Blaine
Pathways Counseling and Growth Center: Dr. Ralph Thompson
Choir Director: Kyle Vander Schrier
www.neccdisciples.com



MAY Birthdays & Anniversaries....

- 1 Sue Webb
- 2 Cody Wilson
Chuck & Genene Slusher
- 3 Carol & Buz Bokman
- 4 Francesca Gunther
- 5 Stacy Zawoyski
- 6 Shari Kyle
- 7 Roger Driver
Dan Hicks
Sharon Kiesel
- 9 Harry Hinkel
Ethel Burden
- 11 Aaron Durbin
- 12 Tom Mott
- 15 Lois Brasse
Nancy Stonestreet
- 16 Jeff Joslin
- 19 Jeannie Sizemore
Maggie Carpenter
- 20 James Gunther
Ray & Karen Konko
- 21 Tammy & Mel Gamble
- 23 Nanci Jckes
- 24 Steve Cihla
Sally Belfi
- 25 Kyle Dusky
- 26 George & Diana Butcher
Roger & Francesca Gunther
- 27 Julie Haumschild
David Gunther

2nd Annual NECC "ARCHERY CLINIC"

Saturday, MAY 10TH 10:00 A.M.

*Want to learn how to shoot?
Already know how to shoot? All
skill levels are welcome.*

*Once you learn how, put your
skills to the test in our friendly
Competition.*

*This is for adults & children accompanied by a
parent.*



Mom's Group Schedule for M A Y . . .

**MAY 15th (Thursday) is our
Midway Mall stroller walk
@ 11:30 (note new time)
and then lunch.** Grandparents
and friends are welcome to join us.



**MAY 31st (Saturday) we will join
other families in the church for a
POTLUCK picnic at the church
playground @ 11:00. Hot dogs and
punch furnished at 12:00 (noon).**
Family and friends are invited to join in the fun.

Vacation Bible School

Power Lab: Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power
Monday, July 28 through Friday, August 1
5:30 PM Light Dinner
6:00 to 8:30 PM Power Lab

Summer is just a few short months away! Which means Vacation Bible School is fast approaching! Soon NECC will be oozing with Bible adventures. Each day children will take part in fun Bible learning they can see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible Point crafts, team-building games, lively Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the Power Lab activities that help faith flow into real life.

We need to "fill" our shelves with VBS supplies! You can buy a beaker to put on our shelf: \$5 for the bottom shelf, \$10 for the middle shelf and \$25 for the top shelf. Your donation will help us buy crafts, student books and snacks to make our week a "Powerful" success.

If you think you have the time, talent and patience to help lead a Lab Crew for the week talk to Polly, Melissa or Robin. We will help match you to the right crew.

**Registrations available from Polly Tallos,
Melissa Folk and Robin Galvin in the Fellowship
Hall.**

GIVE the "Gift of Life"Sunday, May 11th

Please make every effort to donate a pint of blood on Sunday, May 11th. The blood mobile will be here from 8:30—12:00 (noon) and it is also open to the public. You may also give what they call a "double red" which is then counted as two donations. If you would like more info on this, call Laura or Randy Kuhn @ 327-5219.

The body quickly replaces the blood you give. The actual donation time is about 10 minutes. PHOTO ID required.



Dear God,

Seventeen years ago, Paul asked me to write some articles for the Voice on prayer and meditation. That is how this "Dear God" letter started. I wanted folks to know that talking to You was like talking to a friend. For years I thought prayer had to be formal, but after reading many articles, I found that prayer is as normal as breathing. Now I pray at all times, knowing You to be a listening and compassionate God who wants me to keep in contact constantly.

Our Sunday 9:00 am Bible study is exploring the many ways to pray. I love this class. It has people of varied backgrounds and some times we share different interpretations, but always respect each other. They are always ready to share insights and we rely on each other for support.

This week we had a discussion on praying with open hands. This is new to some of the class, but they were all receptive to the idea. Henry J. M. Nouwen's book "With Open Hands," is a favorite of mine. In it he makes the observation that a new born baby has tightly clenched fists. It is only after they are several months old that they start to relax and trust their parents by opening their hands and reaching out.

Our resistance to pray is like the resistance of tightly clenched fists. In our clenched fists, (or closed hands) we hold bitterness, jealousies, revenge, disappointment, and anger. We sometimes carry these feelings deep inside, reluctant to let go. We don't want to give them up. How can we let go with our past?

We can start by opening our hands a little bit and spread them to receive. In the act of releasing thoughts and pain that hold us captive with our fist clenched, we can open our hands slowly and give to God that which we need to let go.

Praying with open hands before God means to relax the tension that squeezes us. It is being ready to accept our gift of grace from God and praise Him.

Some of us are starting slowly. You might not notice at first, people with their hands on their laps, open and spread, ready to be led into God's presence. Try it some time, it feels good!

Psalm 134: 2; " Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and bless the Lord."

Love, Judy

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2

Can you count to four?

Whether you're 9 or 90 years old or anywhere in between—if you can count to four AND tap your foot (in time, please to the music) we have a place for you in a new MUSICAL GROUP that will be an occasional part of NECC's 9:30 worship services. Best of allYOU DON'T HAVE TO SING to be part of this group! (Naturally, if you DO sing and want to be included in the chorus section of this group, Yah!!) OR if you play an instrument and want to take part, we'll write in a part for you. COME ON—see what we can do.

NOTE: This WILL NOT HAPPEN unless we can volunteer to get together—so don't be shy!

**INTERESTED? Contact Diana Tyler
458-5829 or diana@dianat Tyler.com**

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2

CONGRATULATIONS:

Sandy and Jim Hales on the birth of their grandson, Heath Owen Norris, April 17th, 6 lb. 15 oz. Mom & baby are doing great!

MAY 31st— FAMILY POTLUCK Picnic
Sponsored by: Christian Education and
MOM'S GROUP
11:00 a.m. @ NECC PLAYGROUND and
PICNIC SHELTER

Hot dogs and punch provided. Bring a dish /dessert to share. We'll eat at 12:00 (noon). Don't forget your bikes and Frisbees. Any questions call:

KELLY ROSE, 365-9584

POLLY TALLOS, 748-2246



Mother—Daughter Banquet

May 9th 6:00 P.M.

Sponsored By: Christian Women's Fellowship

Tickets available after worship—see Leslie or Kim Klein

Adults—\$5.00 Children —6 yrs.– 10 yrs. \$2.50 5 yrs. & under FREE