

The VOICE

“Working together to make the difference that matters.”

TO WIN TO COMMIT TO GROW TO UNITE

(440)748-2230

Visit us at: www.neccdisciples.com

Paul’s Place—October, 2008

THE REASON

*The **Strategic Plan** is the result of the spiritual discernment of where we want to go as a congregation in the next seven years. The Plan is the vehicle moving us forward. More important than the Plan is the reason we want to go anywhere at all. More important than anything in the plan is the reason we are the church and a part of the church.*

The known reality is that we are insignificant life forms hurling through the vastness of space on a speck of “Big Bang” dust. That sense of nothingness is well known to each and everyone of us. It is the root of humanity’s grasping, clawing for significance and meaning. It is the root of all behavior that enables people to shout, “I am important! I have power! Look at all the stuff I have! Look at how happy I am! Look at all I can do that is better than you! Look at how much I control! Look at how much better my family, my community, my country is than yours!”

The Church proclaims a new reality! God came down to earth in the form of Jesus to let us know how much we are loved, and that we need only a relationship with him to fill the emptiness. We may be hurling through space on an insignificant piece of big bang dust, but our God is bigger than our reality. We are not headed to a dead end. We are headed to eternal life with God in a reality beyond the grasping, clawing attempts to do it ourselves.

*The world is in desperate need of such Good News. If the Good News is not proclaimed, we are headed to a dead end. **The Church’s reason for existence is to know and proclaim the Good News.** If the reason is forgotten, then the church and its strategic plan become just another area in our busy lives for volunteering our time, energy, and money **if it is convenient.** If the reason is forgotten, then the mission is forgotten, and the church becomes a place about us and what pleases us rather than the saving of the world.*

*As a congregation, we are thankful for the steering committee and all those who not only embrace the Strategic Plan but also the reason. **It is the Good News of Jesus Christ that gives us a reason.***

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

Director of Christian Education and Youth: Polly Tallos

Secretary: Londa Blaine

Pathways Counseling and Growth Center: Dr. Ralph Thompson

"Christmas In the Country Bazaar"

Saturday, November 8th

9:00-3:00



My thanks to the ladies who have volunteered to head up the different areas of the bazaar. They will need many VOLUNTEERS to help them. If you would like to help, please contact the chairperson or Laura Kuhn (440) 327-5219.

Bakery	Rebekah Circle-Marge Houston (440) 748-2583
Kid's Only Rm.	Jennifer Hayward (440) 365-1846
Trash & Treasurer	Londa Blaine (440) 748-2686
Youth Table	Polly Tallos (440) 748-2246
Lunch Counter	Marie Ternes (440) 365-3632
Craft Tables	Marge Houston (440) 748-2583
Drawing ticket sales	Fran Early & Laura Kuhn

DRAWING — Roberta Balogh has donated another QUILT but we would love to have other donations for our drawing: Afghans, gas/gift cards, gift baskets, etc. Please let Laura Kuhn or Fran Early know by Oct. 15 if you will be donating anything to the DRAWING.



We will be selling tickets at the First Place Bank in Grafton, Sparkle Market, IGA, and the church beginning OCTOBER 19.

NECC CRAFT TABLE — If you are talented in the craft area and would be willing to donate an item to our table, please contact Laura Kuhn.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE — LORAIN COUNTY LIFESHARE BLOOD BANK WILL BE HERE 9:00-1:00. Come and have lunch, check out what's for sale and then donate blood. It's an easy yet life-saving way to give back to the community. Give blood and get a T-shirt. More info in the Sunday bulletin.

MR. & MRS. SANTA CLAUSE—Will be with us again this year 10:00-1:00 but **YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN CAMERA FOR A PICTURE.** You can still say hello and tell him what you want for Christmas without a picture.

TRASH & TREASURE—bring what's left from your garage sale, items found after cleaning out a closet, drawers, basement or garage (no clothes, shoes or big items).

BAKERY—We are asking ALL BAKERS in the church to donate a delicious item for our bakery table. Jams and jellies are welcome, too.

KIDS ONLY—Small, brand-new items are sold for very little money so the kids can do some Christmas shopping for the whole family. We will gift wrap so the gifts are ready for under the Christmas tree! (Donations are needed as well as wrapping paper and ribbon.)

ALL NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS MAY BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH STARTING November 3. Contact Laura Kuhn or the church office (748-2230) with questions.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US FOR A FUN FAMILY DAY!

DON'T HURRY THE INTERIM!!!!!!

The last time NECC searched for a minister, the common idea around the region and nation was to get an interim in place to hold things together until a new minister was found. The hope was that the Pulpit Committee would get to work as fast as possible, find out what the congregation wanted, get resumes from the regional office, and "get us a minister." In many churches, the process worked well. In a great many more, especially those completing a long pastorate, the results were poor matches for church and minister. Conflict over unresolved issues, unhealed grief over the departure of the previous minister and family, unclear goals and expectations, and the normal pressures of a thriving church led to a series of short-term ministers. Congregations began to think it was their fault when it was actually the fault of the system.

WE'VE LEARNED FROM OUR MISTAKES!

Several decades ago, denominations began looking at the system for calling ministers to serve local churches. We now have trained Intentional Interim Ministers. The training is to help congregations deal with those issues that were previously ignored in the hurry to get a new minister in place. Those who serve as Intentional Interim Ministers are doing this as a full-time call to ministry. They are not just holding things together. They are helping the church prepare itself for a new ministry and a new minister. **It is not a time to be in a hurry.** Haste may result in reliving the problems of the past.

People have asked about getting the Pulpit Committee together and reviewing the make-up of that committee. This is not the time. Those who have been through a search-and-call process might need to put on hold their knowledge of how things used to be done.

We are not in this alone. The Region of Ohio and the denominational offices are well-equipped to lead us through this important time in the life of the church. They have the skills and the leadership to know how to search and call a new minister. It is time to relax and allow the way before us to unfold as we learn a new way of going about the search-and-call process.

WHAT ABOUT JUDY?

Some have asked if Judy would step into the pastoral role until we secure a new, full-time pastor. Even if Judy were the church's full-time ordained associate pastor, it would not be an advisable move. An Intentional Interim Ministry is a specialized ministry to move a congregation through a time of transition. Most associates, licensed, and ordained ministers are not trained in this specialized ministry. Judy has a specialized ministry of her own that she does very well. There should be no changes in that excellent ministry she provides NECC.

The challenge for Judy will be to assist the Intentional Interim and the new settled pastor in gaining the trust of the congregation. The tendency of the church members will be to call on Judy for their pastoral concerns and needs. It is natural. We know Judy and trust her. However, if that happens, the Intentional Interim and the settled pastor will be unable to serve their pastoral role. If that happens, NECC can plan on a future of a rapid turnover of ministers. No senior minister will remain if not given the opportunity to serve as the senior pastor. Please give consideration to this concern which will not only help a new minister and the future of NECC, but also the future of Judy's ministry.

MOM'S GROUP for October....
Friday, October 24, 6:00 p.m.
2nd annual Pumpkin Fest at the
Blaines', 9700 Island Rd.

We will carve pumpkins (provided), roast hot dogs & marshmallows over the fire. Bring a simple dish/dessert to share. Come dressed for a hayride! Bring the whole family. Any questions call Jen, 440-365-1846.



For Music Lovers:



ENSEMBLE REHEARSALS—
Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

EXCEPT the first Tuesday of each month, when the Elders meet. (On those weeks, we'll meet on THURSDAY.)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR meets each Sunday after the 9:30 worship service. Diana Tyler will work with the children 10:30-10:45, at which time they will go immediately to Sunday School.

Please note: Children's Choir will NOT meet when there is a fellowship gathering after worship. On those Sundays, children will go directly to class following the fellowship time.

Dear Church Family and Friends,

When my husband decided to retire a couple of years ago, we were excited and a little scared of this life-changing decision. We were excited and happy, the friends he had made at work were happy for him, our children were happy for us, and our friends were happy for us. When he went in to sign the final papers for retirement, he began to think about all the guys he worked with, ate dinner with, and spent the most hours of the day with. They were great people. He would miss them. Would he ever see them again? It's been over two years now. It was the right decision. Yes, he is still in contact with his FRIENDS: not every day, not even every week—but they are still friends. You have to want to keep in touch. So simple, so easy in this age of instant communication—cell phones, emails and texting.

When I was told that Paul was retiring, I could hardly breathe. We had joked about it for years and now it was here. My boss of 26 years, my pastor, my friend. I felt such loss and yes, hurt. How could he do this to me if I was his friend? How could he leave me? We were supposed to go out together! I wasn't ready to go yet. I lost my mother this year, now my pastor and friend. I cried. Getting old means losing people you love. I'm not ready for this.

Let's get a grip on the situation here, I told myself. (Yes, I talk to myself all the time.) This isn't about me. Paul is retiring. That's what we all are reaching for as we go to work each day, year after year. The golden years, when we are in good health and financially stable and can do something different in our life. Aren't we supposed to be happy for people who retire? Weren't we happy for our friends and family when they were able to retire? Why shouldn't we be happy for Paul? He is part of each of our families. We are a part of his family. Let's celebrate this new adventure in his life. He has been here for 26 years. Let's be happy for our friend. He still lives in Brunswick. We have other friends who live 20 minutes or more from us, don't we? Yes, we can be sad that we are losing our Pastor but we should not be sad that our friend Paul Durbin is able to retire!

As I was leaving Paul's office the other day, I stopped to read the beautiful plaque that WE gave him on his 25th anniversary at NECC....

*To Dr. Paul H. Durbin on the celebration of 25 years of giving
pastoral care and spiritual guidance to family and friends of NECC.*

Presented with love and appreciation.

NECC has had many Pastors before Paul and many will come after. We have been blessed to have him as our Pastor and we are still blessed to be able to call him friend, no matter where he is.

Londa Blaine, NECC Secretary

166th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, October 12

Worship-8:00 & 9:30 Guest Speaker-Sтивен Clifford

Lunch and Celebration 12:00

POTLUCK: Meat furnished—bring a salad, vegetable or dessert.



The following letter is the official resignation letter read at the September Congregational Meeting by Council President Rachel Trimble:

The last 26 years have been absolutely wonderful. It is therefore the most difficult thing in my life to tender my resignation as the pastor of the North Eaton Christian Church as of December 31, 2008. It is my intention to use the remaining three month of the year to prepare the church for my departure, to encourage the continued implementation of the strategic plan, to assist the annual planning event in creating a calendar for 2009, to fulfill my responsibilities in all areas of my ministry, and to support the overall ministry of NECC.

The constitution requires a minimum of 60 days' notice to terminate the pastor-congregation relationship. It is generally understood in the books I have read on the subject, that a longer period of time is needed for a long pastorate. In consultation with Dr. Bill Edwards and Dr. Richard Hamm,, today would be a less distracting event at which to do this than any of the later congregational events .

Sincerely, Paul H. Durbin

It's coming Nov. 23rd!

God's Green Earth: PAPER RECYCLING IS HERE @ NECC

There is a new GREEN and YELLOW bin near the church dumpster for PAPER RECYCLING. This is for PAPER ONLY: Save all your paper (all that junk mail you get each day—catalogs, magazines, letters, envelopes, applications) and bring it to church with you and drop it in the bin. We get paid by the pound, so even small amounts add up.

**NO CARDBOARD
OR PHONE
BOOKS**

REMINDER: You can still bring your ALUMINUM CANS to Dick Blaine's house and drop them off anytime.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS 2009

The Membership Team, under the direction of CINDY THOMPSON, is selling the books each Sunday morning after the worship services. The cost HAS NOT gone up! They are still \$25.00, which makes them a great bargain. **Tell your friends and family to purchase their books from NECC.**

Fair Grant Allocations

Each year the congregation is given the opportunity to ask for some of the Fair profits. A Fair Grant application is filled out and given to the Fair Grant Committee. They will evaluate the Grants and recommend to the Council how the funds should be distributed. **2008 FAIR GRANT forms are available: SEE: Chris Hensley, Polly Tallos or check the church office for the FORMS.**

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO2008 Regional Assembly

"Strengthening Your Congregation For Mission"

October 17-18, 2008

Crowne Plaza-600 Metro Place North Dublin, Ohio (Columbus area)

The Regional Assembly Planning Team has been working for over a year to put together an assembly that celebrates the exciting transformation that is happening in the mission and ministry of our congregations and to equip leaders "for the work of ministry, building up the body of Christ."

YOUTH PROGRAMS will be at Camp Christian on Saturday for Grades 3-12. If you do not want to drive, a bus is being provided to take you there from the assembly location.

REGISTRATION FORMS are on the table in the Narthex. SATURDAY, October 18 is the most important day for lay people, with many workshops offered. We encourage you to attend and participate. It is less than a two-hour drive to get there. If you need financial help with the registration and gas, please contact Paul Durbin.

“The Good Time Gals”

(TGTG)

We are a women’s support group,
mostly widows, taking care of
ourselves the best we can.

TGTG meets on the third
Thursday of each month for lunch and
support. If you have questions, call
EDNA-327-9667

On Oct. 16., we will meet at the SUGARCREEK
RESTAURANT (Detroit & Abbe Rd..) at 11:30 a.m.
Come join us—we’re a good group.

Dear God,

This past week has been beautiful; perfect temperatures, abundant sunshine, and no rain or wind. I praise your beautiful earth. In fact, it is too beautiful to stay inside and write to you on the computer, so let’s go outside. I will find a quiet spot and you can talk to me.

Psalm 19: 1 -" The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork."

Love, Judy

166th ANNIVERSARY **FOR INVITING AND WELCOMING!** **October 12, 2008**

It is essential that we are a welcoming and friendly congregation. As an uncomfortable visitor at a church I had never attended, I can attest to the importance of having people offer a friendly greeting. I have observed only a few guests slip out of church without receiving a friendly greeting at NECC. We are doing a wonderful job welcoming our guests.

*The strategic plan instructs us in our need to become an "Inviting Church". Please be sure to invite a friend, who doesn't already go to church, to come to worship on **October 12 for our 166th anniversary**. Please invite our guests to stay for the dinner. We will be celebrating 166 years of ministry in the name of Jesus Christ. We will be celebrating the accomplishments of the strategic plan and renew our commitment to the positive future. It will be a wonderful time to bring a guest. Please make sure they sign the friendship register and the guest book. Please keep a look out for the guests others have brought and welcome them.*

Prayer Shawl Ministry

A presentation was made at the 2007 Annual Planning Event about a Prayer Shawl Ministry. A seed was sown and it has taken root and bloomed beyond our expectations. Led by Sharon Mullins, fourteen women started to knit and crochet. As they worked, they prayed for the person who would receive the prayer shawl. The shawls are then dedicated to the receiver and prayed over by members of the congregation. There is no real magic in the shawl. But it is our hope that the person who receives it would feel the tangible evidence of God's love through the crafter's hands and heart. It is a hug from God.

If you could like to be a part of this ministry, by making a shawl (yarn provided) or receiving a shawl, contact Sharon Mullins or Judy Ponting.

SERVING IN OCTOBER, 2008

8:00 Harry Hinkel, Tom Kohler

9:30 Nancy Yost (TL), Pam Daniels, Ken & Cindy Hicks, Carol Bokman,

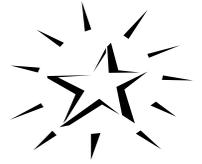
Leslie Klein, Carol Swartz, John Klinect, Beth Wilson, Tyler Bokman, Jen Wilson



MISSIONS COLLECTIONS:

CORNERSTONE — Diapers (all sizes)

SALVATION ARMY—Shampoo (sample size and up



NEWS AMONG THE PEWS:

Our thanks to Dr. Kramer in Grafton for the donation of over 100 toothbrushes for our Salvation Army collection for September.

Thank you to everyone who has included my daughter-in-law in their prayers. God has heard us! The chemo is working, the tumor is shrinking. Dana was able to take a break from treatment to vacation with her children in August. Please continue to keep her in your prayers. **BARB GALVIN**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you to all who remembered me in prayer, sent cards, and came to see me in the hospital. It was very much appreciated. **Dawn Schieferle**

HAPPY 60th BIRTHDAY TO REBEKAH CIRCLE

CONGRATUALIONS TO: Mark Carpenter and Jen Wilson, our gas card winners for filling out the church questionnaire!

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Fran Walker (Nana) on the birth of a granddaughter, Skylar Olivia Walker on Sept. 12.

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to Rob and Rachel Trimble on the death of Rob's father, Robert Trimble II, on Sept. 29. Please keep the family in your prayers.



WALKING CLUB

 It's Fall —why not start walking again with us on Saturday mornings at 8:00 a.m.? You walk at your own pace and do as many laps as you want. You can walk outside or inside. It's just fun being with a group to get encouragement and to give encouragement!

 We will not be walking on Saturday, Nov. 8 because of the church Bazaar. Come and WALK around the craft tables and have lunch. Bring your "wish list" for Santa.





YOUTH Service Project.....

 The Chi Rho and CYF youth will be going to **Life Care in Elyria** on the first Sunday of each month. They will help residents make a craft and get ready for the afternoon worship service. Our first Sunday will be October 5. We will meet right after Sunday School, have lunch, then go to Life Care. If you have any questions please see Polly Tallos or Beth Wilson.

KICK-OFF GATHERING....

 All 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, and 9th-12th grade students and their families were invited to the Youth Kick-off Cook Out on Sunday, Sept. 28 at the home of Polly and Pete Tallos. We ate, played games and discussed upcoming meetings and events.



October birthdays & anniversaries

- 2 Steve & Debbie Cihla
Bryan Garvin
- 3 Vic Susak
- 4 Pearl Jontz (96)
- 5 Gerry & Tony Piscola
Lee & Pam Daniels
- 7 Mark Carpenter
- 10 Helen Fisher
Melissa & Dennis Folk
- 11 Stephen Tyler
Cassandra Gamble
- 12 Jim Ickes
Jim & Judy Ponting
- 14 Paul Hayward
Lonna Blackburn
- 15 Kris & Andy Teper
- 17 Janet Lynch
- 18 Jared Dusky
- 20 Jennifer Hayward, Helen Cramer
- 21 Mark & Kathy Carpenter
Terry & Sherry Stone
- 24 Karl Tallos
- 25 Lee Ann Martin
- 26 Shirley Edwards
- 27 Eric Tallos
Helen & Rich Walkden
- 28 Michaelene Durbin
- 29 Chuck Slusher
Brenda Koehler
Jeff Koehler
- 31 Nancy Yost



NOVEMBER (1st week) birthdays and anniversaries

- 2 Carol Wilson
Kim New
Charlene Nichols
- 3 Ruby Burdick
- 8 Jerry & Sharon Mullins
- 9 Rita Ward
Marlene Daniels



Lorain County Fair Food Booth

THANK YOU to all who worked at the fair again this year. Over the 7 days, 190 people worked at the fair. Some of you worked one shift, two shifts and some, a lot of shifts!! Ten people from the Pathways Counseling Board of Directors and their families filled the night shift on Thursday and had a great time. (They said it was a learning experience and they are ready to come back.) The night of setup we had 25 people at the fairgrounds cleaning and putting together the booth. We were invited back to Rob & Rachel Trimble's for pizza again this year. The week after the fair we had 9 people tear down the booth and close it for the winter.

If you were not able to be a part of this experience, you have missed out on something very special. We hope you will want to be with us next year.

Youth Group Meetings

Regular Youth meetings will begin in Oct. Our first meeting is Sunday, Oct 5. We will meet right after Sunday School for lunch, then go to Life Care to help residents make a craft and go to worship service.

Jr. Youth Fellowship (JYF) is for children who are now in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. They meet with Polly Tallos, Mark Carpenter, and Mary Bengough on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Chi Rho is for youth who are now in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. They meet with Polly Tallos on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, 5:00-7:00 p.m. and as special events are planned.

Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF) is for youth who are now in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades. They will meet with Polly Tallos on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, 6:00-8:00 p.m. and as special events are planned.

THANK YOU FROM THE CLEVELAND CHRISTIAN HOME....

"It's wonderful what we can do, if we're always doing." This quote from George Washington best describes our work at the CCH.—"always doing." Since 1900 the CCH has been **doing** what we have always done—"to be a haven of hope and healing for children, youth and families." Your financial support assists us in making a difference. Thank you for your gift of \$739.00 representing part of the proceeds from the Chinese Auction. Again, many thanks for your support and interest in the Cleveland Christian Home. Visit our new website! www.cchome.org

Sincerely, John Runyon