

The VOICE

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TO WIN TO COMMIT TO GROW TO UNITE

(440)748-2230

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Paul's Place – November 2008

Do We Have Anything To Offer?

Do we as individual Christians or as a church community have anything to offer others that is of any real importance to the world?

When I began my ministry as a youth minister, my understanding of Christian ministry was to assist young people in serving others in the name of Jesus Christ. We went on work camps to poor areas of the country. We remodeled a drug rehab center and raised all the money to make the remodeling a success. We started a service group of young people who went to the elderly to wash windows, change out air conditioners, clean kitchen cupboards, clean spouts, and generally do for others those things they couldn't do for themselves. Over the years, my ministry has developed along those lines in the churches I have served.

As I get ready to semi-retire, the question that concerns me is this one: Do we have anything to offer the world that can't be offered by any secular agency? I have come to believe that service in the name of Jesus Christ is essential, but the unique offering of the church to the world is a personal relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior. Such an offering from the church must begin with the personal relationship that each and every member has with Jesus. It is out of that relationship that all service, fellowship with each other, and worship comes. Without that relationship, we are no different than any other service or fellowship group.

What does that mean? It means that the primary focus of the church is to introduce people to Jesus as a reality in one's life. It means that our focus is to cultivate and enrich that relationship in ourselves and others. If we fail to do this or if we encourage people to become involved in activities and projects without a personal relationship with Jesus, we will find ourselves searching for people to do the good work of the church in Jesus name and finding them far and few between.

CHURCH BAZAAR — Saturday, November 8th 9:00-3:00

Bring the whole family and have a great day with family & friends!

North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
35895 Royalton Rd.
Grafton, Ohio 44044
440-748-2230
Address Service Requested

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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

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES NOVEMBER

- 2 Carol Wilson
Charlene Nichols
3 Ruby Burdick
8 Jerry & Sharon Mullins
9 Rita Ward
Marlene Daniels
11 Christine & Randall Smith
12 Jackie Haumschild
Dawn Schieferle
13 Harry & Marlene Daniels
17 Lillian Ingram
19 Ruth Nash
Lauren Cihla
20 Val Fletcher
Renee Carpenter
21 Nick Fitzgerald
23 Bruce Burdick
24 Bill & Maureen Cromling
25 Denise Mott
Ken Hicks
26 Cathy Dusky
Harry Daniels
Darrell Wilford
27 Floyd Chapman
29 Marge Houston

DECEMBER

- 4 Cindy Thompson
5 Leslie Klein
11 Gerry Piscola
Marty & Sally Belfi

WHAT ABOUT RACHEL TRIMBLE?

As most of the congregation is aware, Rachel Trimble is my daughter. In 2009 she will remain on the Board of Elders and be the chairperson of the church Council. As a leader in the church, she will be a major part of the time of Intentional Interim and possibly the Search and Call process. Rachel and I have a clear understanding that things involving NECC Elders, Council, the Intentional Interim, and the Search and Call process are not to be discussed with me. Rachel knows that any advice she may need will be sought in more appropriate places. I will not know what is going on at NECC. I will not have influence over what is going on at NECC.

Dr. Paul H. Durbin

Youth Bake Sale here at the church on Election Day. Stop by and take some home to eat or freeze for later.

WHO IS DR. BILL EDWARDS?

WHERE DOES HE FIT IN THE INTERIM SEARCH and THE SEARCH FOR A SETTLED PASTOR?

Dr. Edwards is the President and Regional Minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ohio. We have met him before as a guest speaker at one of our church anniversaries. He was at the anniversary when we had the parade of Marilyn Monroe impersonators. It was most impressive. Dr. Edwards has also been to several of our earlier worship services.

Over the past years, I have had the pleasure to work with Dr. Edwards on several committees and commissions. He is an excellent leader and resource person. He has been most helpful to me this past year as I have made my decision to semi-retire and eventually serve as an Intentional Interim Minister. As he has been helpful to me, he will assist NECC in the search and call process. He will assist the leadership in locating appropriate candidates to serve as an Intentional Interim. **NECC leadership will select its own Intentional Minister, but Dr. Edwards will do whatever he can to provide information to make a wise choice.** The Intentional Interim will begin ministry immediately following my departure. As the time of intentional interim progresses, Dr. Edwards will be in close contact with the Intentional Interim Minister and the church leadership to assist in any way needed.

In consultation with the Intentional Interim and the church leadership, the appropriate time to activate the pulpit committee will be determined and NECC will enter the Search and Call process. **Remember not to rush the time of Intentional Interim.** The church needs time to adjust to the idea of a new minister and ministry. Enjoy this time. Grow during this time. As NECC enters the Search and Call process, Dr. Edwards will guide the leadership in ways that will help us make healthy and wise decisions. Though Dr. Edwards will serve as a resource and guide, the Pulpit Committee will meet on its own to investigate, interview, and select a candidate to be presented to the NECC Council and congregation. The purpose of the Regional Office and Dr. Edwards is to assist but not determine the direction of NECC. They are a resource, and all decisions for the future of NECC belong to the congregation of NECC.

Paul H. Durbin

MBP and the time of Interim?????



Every interim minister knows the initials MBP. Every pastor who is called to a church following a pastor who has served a church for a long time knows the initials MBP. My years as the youth minister at the Southeast Christian church came to an end after five years. Five years is a long time for an ordained minister to serve as a youth pastor. It was time for me to move on to my own church. I knew it would be difficult for Southeast since I was their first youth minister. The likelihood of their replacing me anytime soon was not good. In order to prepare them for the transition, I helped the youth and their parents put together a youth council and program for the coming year. I assisted them in becoming a self-directed youth program. When a new youth minister was called, she found a well-established youth program in place. She also found the strong influence of the MBP. The Most Beloved Pastor is not a term of endearment to those called to follow them. The new youth minister's way of doing things was not the same as my way of doing things. "But Paul did it this way," is one of the phrases said many times. "Paul never liked to do that," was a second phrase heard many times. "When Paul was here..... The way Paul thought was..... If Paul were here....."

In this time of Interim, please deal with the MBP influence. A new minister will do things differently. A new minister will have new ideas and NECC needs new ideas, new leadership, and a minister with other skills.

Please remember my ministry with you fondly, but do not let it hold back a new and exciting future.

Paul H. Durbin

**NECC Craft Bazaar, Rummage Sale, BLOOD
DRIVE.....Saturday, November 8th 9:00-3:00**



DRAWING —Quilt made by Roberta Balogh, two afghans made by Paula Krasnevich, \$50.00 cash donated by Rebekah Circle, ENTERTAINMENT BOOK 2009 from Membership Team and a School Bag filled by the Mom's Group. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00. You do not need to be present to win.

LUNCH available and Mr. & Mrs. Claus will be here from 10:00-1:00

Bring your own camera for pictures.

Delicious baked goods and a KIDS ONLY room.

Great place to spend time with family and friends!

WHO LEAVES?

"When you leave, we'll be leaving, too." "I guess it's time to start looking for another church." I take all such comments as letting me know that people would like me to stay and they approve of my ministry. I am honored by your care. However, if some are seriously considering leaving because of me, I am very much concerned. The first concern is theological. If people come to church and stay in church because of me, then they have heard the Gospel of Paul Durbin. If that is what I have preached and proclaimed in my life with you, then that is sin. If that is what you have heard and determines your involvement, then that is sin.

The other concern is personal and I suspect prideful and also sinful. I love the North Eaton Church and have invested 26 years of my life and ministry among you. If I leave and the church suffers because people leave as I leave, I will feel as if all those years didn't mean much. I want NECC to grow and thrive under a new ministry as the strategic plan unfolds. I want to be able to pursue my semi-retirement ministry as an Intentional Interim assured that my future desire did not hurt NECC. What is done at NECC should not be about me. It is all about Jesus who is our Lord and Savior.

Dear God,

November is a month for giving thanks, and I have so many prayers of thanksgiving to share with you.

I give thanks for my church family. They have loved and supported me with words of encouragement. I am grateful.

I give thanks for my family who keeps me grounded, yet lets me go out into the night for emergencies when needed.

I give thanks for Londa who corrects my spelling and guides me in the programs I humbly try to plan.

I give thanks for Paul who supports and pushes me far beyond any tasks I would ever think to accomplish.

I give thanks for the 9:00 am Bible Study class, who help me learn. Their questions and insights keep me studying as I attempt to keep up with them.

I give thanks to all the church for the cards and gifts given to Jim and me on our 50th Wedding Anniversary. It was generously beyond anything we could have imagined.

I give thanks for the hugs every Sunday, especially when I have struggled with the sound system that sometimes has a mind of it's own.

I give thanks for all the people who are helping me with our Annual Planning Event. Their work will lead to new and improved programs for the congregation.

I give thanks for the Steering Committee who faithfully work on the Strategic Plan that will enable the church to grow and witness to the community.

I give thanks to the many who clean, keep the heat going, the roof repaired, and all the systems in order so we may worship in a beautiful place.

I give thanks for all who teach, plan programs, write checks, keep our accounts, and all the other tasks that are unseen but so necessary.

I give thanks to You, who allowed me to be a part of this faithful church. After 166 years, it continues to preach Your word.

Most of all I give thanks for my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who died that I would have eternal life. I pray that my witness will lead others into his saving grace.

Psalm 7: 17; " I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness, and sing praises to the name of the Lord, Most High."

Love, Judy

Breakfast With Santa
Saturday, December 6th, 2008
9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m.



Come have breakfast, do a craft, get a picture with Santa, and hear the story of Christmas!



TICKETS—\$5.00 per person (2 yrs. and under free)

RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!
(Deadline for reservations Dec. 2nd)

Bring a gift for baby Jesus.
(donations will be taken to Cornerstone)

THANK YOU'S

To our church family,

Thank you once again for your generosity in collecting "Cans For Cody." Because of your continued support, Cody again was able to attend summer camp and enjoy his horseback riding lessons. He also got new equipment to help him enjoy the outdoors more. We truly appreciate all you've done and we are forever grateful.

Jim & Sherry Wilson

I just want to thank everyone at North Eaton Christian Church for your prayers during my surgery and recovery time. Paul and Judy, your visits, prayers and time spent with me were truly a blessing to me at a very difficult time. Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl that I have over me every day and feel the love and healing it provides. I look forward to getting back to worship on Sunday's soon.

God bless you all!

Nancy Luf

THANKS FOR APPRECIATING US!

Many thanks to all of you who added positive comments to the rolling bulletin board reflecting and thanking Sunday School and Bible study teachers, past and present. The kind words are deeply valued.

During this Thanksgiving season, take a few minutes to let others in your life know how thankful you are for them. Take time to email, call, send a note or remember them in your prayers. Let's all keep our church leaders in our prayers as we continue to plan for the coming year and to select a new minister.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your many prayers, cards, flowers and visits while I was in the hospital. I am home and getting stronger. I am not allowed to drive yet but hope to be back on the road again soon.

Alta Mitchell

Our sympathy is extended to Roger Driver on the death of his father, Claude Driver this past month. Please keep the Driver family in your prayers as they morn the death of a loved one.

Our church family who have been in the hospital this past month:

Margaret Bokar, Bob Burdick, Genene Slusher, Liz Bokar, Alta Mitchell, Dawn Schieferle, Mary Lou Johnson, Lorraine Cragin, Loretta St. Andre.



The North Eaton Christian Church ANNUAL PLANNING EVENT (A.P.E.)

**Saturday, Nov. 22nd
9:30 — 12:00 (Noon)**

Many of you have indicated, on the questionnaires that were completed, interest in several different programs that you would like to see offered at church in the coming year. Please join us on Saturday, November 22nd for exchanging of ideas on how to get the groups going and also see the many accomplishments we have completed this year. EVERYONE in the church is invited. We need your input and direction as we work together to meet God's direction for us in the year 2009. We will begin at 9:30 and end promptly at 12:00. Please plan on attending as we explore the questionnaires and plan for our future.

Refreshments available at 9:30 and the session will begin promptly at 9:45 a.m.

If you have any questions please contact the church office, 748-2230 (M-F 8:00-1:00)

Annual Christmas Cookie Sale
 The youth will be holding their annual Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 6th from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. The cookies will be sold for \$7.00 a pound. This is really a bargain price as the bakery cookies in the grocery stores sell for about \$13.00 lb. or more and we know they are not as delicious. The money raised will help cover the cost of the CYF Mission Trip in June 2009 and the Chi Rho support of the Cleveland Christian Home.
 We need lots of homemade Christmas Cookies to sell. Last year we sold out of cookies! **That was over 100 pounds!!**
 If you have any questions as to what kind of cookies etc. please call POLLY TALLOS, 748-2246 or the church office, 748-2230.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY.....
 Kevin and Jen Wilson attended the Youth portion of the Regional Assembly held at Camp Christian along with Polly Tallos and Beth Wilson. They along with 30 other youth studied Ephesians 4:11-13. Then they used what they had learned to prepare a play that was presented along with a pizza dinner that evening.

CHI RHO RALLY, Saturday, November 15th at CAMP CHRISTIAN. Cost is \$15.00
Theme: Salt & Light—Matthew 5:13-16—See Polly Tallos if you want to attend.

REMINDERS FROM OUR TRUSTEES:

T A P E (of any kind).....is NOT to be used to hang anything. Please **DO NOT** use it on the walls or the glass doors.
 (Office supply stores carry all kinds of things that can be used to temporarily hang things—it just takes planning ahead.)

S P E E D L I M I T.....The speed coming into the church drive is 5 MPH. Please use extreme caution even at 5 MPH. We have children running to the playground, leaving the building and getting out of cars. It is up to us as adults to be aware of what is going on around us.

Bring a friend & come Roller Skating with us!

As part of the Fall Sunday School kick-off campaign; students are encouraged to bring friends to Sunday School September through November 16th. They will earn points to be entered into a drawing for free admission to the Elyria Roll Arena on Sunday, November 16th.

All Sunday School Students and their guests are invited for pizza at Pizza Hut on Broad Street in Elyria at 1:00 P.M. November 16th. We'll proceed to the Elyria Roll Arena, on Cleveland Street for skating from 2:00-5:00 P.M. The cost is \$4.00 which includes admission and regular skates.

Please see Robin Galvin or call me at (440) 748-6051 if you plan to attend. I MUST HAVE a list of people who are attending prior to our arrival.

MUSIC.....

We always extend the invitation to join us at our rehearsals each week. Even if you don't want to sing we need NON-SINGERS to play percussion. Our schedule for November is" Thursday-Nov. 6th and Tuesdays, Nov. 11th, 18th & 25th ALL at 7:00 p.m.

The Nov. 22nd A.P.E. will include a music discussion group. We welcome all who are interested in how music is used in worship next year and also ways we can use music to reach out to the community.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR will rehearse 10:30-10:45 on Sunday, Nov. 2nd and 16th in preparation for our performance on Nov. 23rd at the 9:30 worship service (Thanksgiving Song). There is no rehearsal on Nov. 9th due to the fellowship hour.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING—This may seem like an early invitation but we want to invite EVERYONE to join us for caroling. You do not have to have musical talent just the ability to smile and enjoy being with others. **EVERYONE SOUNDS GOOD WHEN THEY'RE HAVING FUN!!** Contact **DIANA TYLER** so we can make the arrangements.

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationships with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Governing Board Chairperson,
Rachel Trimble

"Passion Play" in Germany. Want to go with us????

This play is only performed every ten years. The next date is JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2010. Please see VERN & MARLENE BLACK or ROBIN GALVIN by the end of THIS December if you are SERIOUSLY considering going with us on this trip. If we have group, we will need a commitment by putting down a payment by SPRING 2009. (And that is just around the corner.)

A PLAY OF LIFE AND DEATH—*Promised in a moment of mortal threat, so began the history of the Oberammergau Passion Play in 1633. In the middle of the Thirty Years War, after months of suffering and death from the Plague, the Oberammergauers swore an oath that they would perform the "Play of the Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ" every ten years. At Pentecost 1634, they fulfilled their pledge for the first time on a stage they put up in the cemetery above the fresh graves of the plague victims. In the year 2010, the Community of Oberammergau will for the 41st time be performing the play they have preserved throughout the centuries.*

A MAN OF "FLESH AND BLOOD"—*Today, the churches appreciate the possibility of telling of Jesus as a man "of flesh and blood" in a way that helps all mankind to relate to him, as is the case in the play.*

THE PASSION PLAY TODAY—*In this spirit, during a work period of several years, the text and music were fundamentally revised, new settings and costumes designed and a new production created in countless rehearsals. Now, more than 2,000 Oberammergauers, actors, singers, instrumentalists and stage technicians, in approximately six hours of playing time, bring to the stage those events Christianity regards as its central source of life and hope*

Retirement Reception for Paul Durbin is Sunday, Dec. 28th @
3:00 P.M. Mark your calendar so you do not miss this event.

