

The VOICE

“Working together to make the difference that matters.”

TO WIN TO COMMIT TO GROW TO UNITE

(440)748-2230

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Paul's Place — January 2009

EPILOGUE

When I think back at my greatest excitement and feelings of pride, it was during those times when we joined together in ministry. We resettled a Ukrainian family. Rudolph and Anna Yaremko and their children were given a chance to live free in America because of what we did together.

I have taken great pleasure in the beginning of the 8:00 worship service, the establishment of the food basket program as well as the beginning of the minister's discretionary fund. Our involvement in Pathways Counseling Center, Cornerstone Pregnancy Center, Genesis House for battered women, serving meals at the Dunham church, and supporting the Salvation Army have been wonderful.

Our experiment with a contemporary worship service didn't end up the way we wanted but it was an exciting experience of ministry. We had a good time and learned from it. A high point of my ministry has been the 7:00 in the morning Bible study and the beginning of the Wednesday night Bible study for beginners. (Have I mentioned that you need to be in a Bible study in order to be spiritually healthy?) These are just a few things that I will take special pleasure in when I remember my time with you. Each one is about ministry and service in Jesus name.

As to your future: My hopes and dreams are that you will be guided by the Holy Spirit to explore new and exciting ministries that proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the Salvation found in Him. I hope you will embrace the time of Intentional Interim with excitement and openness. I pray that none of you will think that NECC is about me and that you will remain here as a faithful part of Christ's body.

Dr. Paul H. Durbin (Former Pastor)

North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Grafton, OH 44044
Permit No. 8

Licensed Minister: Judy Ponting
Christian Ed. And Youth Director: Polly Tallos
Secretary: Londa Blaine
Interim Worship & Music Director: Diana Tyler
Pathways Counseling and Growth Center: Dr. Ralph Thompson

NECC FAMILY ACTIVITIES FOR 2009

NECC is sponsoring a monthly “family activity”. Since this is the first year, we may have to tweak it as we progress throughout the year. We are always open to other activities and hope you are willing to research the details and work with us.

There is a bright pink poster in the fellowship hall on the bulletin board which displays the current activities being planned. As the month draws nearer, updated information will be added to the poster. Most activities will be scheduled on a Sunday, some may be on a Friday or Saturday depending on the event. Below is a brief rundown of what has been planned so far, but please check the poster often for updates.

January – sledding or tobogganing, January 11th— 2:00 p.m.

February – skiing or tubing

March – bowling

April – swimming at a recreation center

May – Cleveland Metro Parks Zoo

June – possibly canoeing with the Christian Men’s group

July – Bicycle trip

August – All Church picnic

September – Hiking and picnic

October – Hayride and bonfire

November – roller skating

December- Christmas concert, play, etc.



We can use the church van for carpooling to the farther destinations, if necessary. If anyone has any questions, please contact either Carol Bokman: 440-891-1819, bokmans@cox.net or Robin Galvin: 440-748-6051

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION and YOUTH UPDATES

Hanging of the Greens

On November 30th the Sunday School children, their parents and other friends stayed after church to help decorate the church for Christmas. A special thank you to Karen Klinect for decorating the Education Wing bulletin board. After decorating we enjoyed a potluck dinner. Thank you to Londa Blaine for supplying the sloppy joes.



Breakfast With Santa

On Saturday, Dec. 6th, 65 children and parents came to the church to have breakfast with Santa. They enjoyed a delicious meal, fun crafts, listening to the story of Jesus’ birth, and visiting with Santa. Melissa Folk coordinated the event with guidance from Kathy Carpenter. Thank you Cindy Thompson, Shari Kyle, Marie Ternes, Cindy Hicks, Polly Tallos, Kevin Wilson, and of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus for making the event a success again this year!!

Christmas Cookie Sale

Thank you to everyone who supported the Youth Christmas Cookie Sale. We received enough homemade cookies to fill four, eight foot tables. We sold over 100 pounds of cookies to people from the community and the church family. Two small boxes of cookies were tightly wrapped and froze to be used for the Free Meal at Dunham Ave. Christian Church.



The youth will use the money raised to support their mission projects. The CYF gave Jen Wilson and Julie Haumschild \$100 towards their UN Seminar Trip in February. They will also use the money to cover the cost of their Workcamp trip to Lexington, NC in June 2009. The Chi Rho used their portion of the money to purchase \$10 gift cards for the Cleveland Christian Home.

WANEWL St Retreat

The Chi Rho and CYF will be attending a WANEWL St Retreat at Camp Christian the weekend of January 23-25. We will meet with youth from Westlake, Akron High St, Lakewood, and Washington Ave Christian Churches.

Cost is \$25 plus money for McDonald’s. If you have any questions please contact Polly Tallos.

Dear God,

Several years ago Paul preached a sermon on some of the myths in the scriptures. The one that stuck in my mind was the story often told of Mary riding on a donkey to Bethlehem. There is nothing in the Bible that tells us Mary was on a donkey. Through the years of stories told, assumptions are made and the idea sticks in our brain. Then the donkey gets kicked out from under us and the holy family and we have to go back to scripture to get the real story.

This has been a year when many in our congregation have had the donkey kicked out from under them. There has been illness, suffering, and unforeseen happenings. Plans turned upside down. Sometimes the first plan turns into the second and the third. We have to re-group, re-think and re-plan. Life is a series of the unexpected.

I have been with families that have shown extreme courage. They have gone beyond what we would think possible. And they came through trials, tested and refined, but not beaten. How blessed I have been to be with them and watch as their faith was tested, but not broken.

As I type this article for 2009, I give you thanks for the start of a new year. You give us another chance to start fresh and erase evil thoughts, hurt feelings and unkind words. It is a chance to ask for Your forgiveness and start again. A chance for new miracles to happen and new dreams to be born. A chance for a new beginning. We may not forget what has happened in the past year but hopefully we will grow from our experiences.

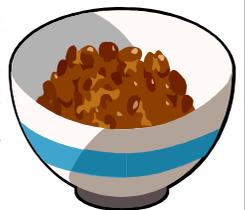
Grant us Your blessing this New Year. And when the donkey gets kicked out from under us, we will have the foundation to overcome and plan for the future. You might have greater plans for us than we could ever dream.

Psalm 91:14 ; "Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name."

Love, Judy

3RD ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN TO START GETTING YOUR CHILI APPETITE READY FOR ANOTHER FRIENDLY COMPETITION BETWEEN CHURCHES. THIS YEAR THE CHILI COOK-OFF WILL AGAIN TAKE PLACE AT THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN BRUNSWICK. THE DAY, OF COURSE, WILL BE 'FAT TUESDAY', FEBRUARY 24TH FROM 6:30 UNTIL 9:00. OTHER AREA CHURCHES WILL BE INVITED AS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.



EACH CHURCH IS ASKED TO PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE POT OF CHILI PER 8 PEOPLE ATTENDING. DIG OUT YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE AND ENTER IT IN THE COMPETITION. A SIGN-UP SHEET WILL BE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL IN JANUARY. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR THE WINNERS IN SEVERAL CATEGORIES. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ENTER THE COMPETITION YOU CAN STILL COME FOR THE FOOD, FUN, AND ENTERTAINMENT.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE OLMSTED FALLS HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND. THEY ARE QUITE A TREAT TO LISTEN TO. WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!

PLEASE COME AND HELP NECC WIN THE COVETED "CHAMPION CHILI FOR CHRIST" TROPHY. IT WILL BE GIVEN TO THE CHURCH PROVIDING THE CHILI VOTED "THE BEST IN 2009."

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CAROL BOKMAN; BOKMANS@COX.NET.

WOMEN'S MISSIONS
Cornerstone — Baby & childrens socks
Salvation Army— Women's Hygiene Products

Reminder: Aluminum drink cans only
 (our thanks to all who continue to drop off cans at the Blaine's @ 9700 Island Rd.)
Paper Recycle Bin— THANK YOU for remembering to bring your papers to church with you and filling our bin.

Children's Choir —

If your child/grandchild loves to sing and would like to be a part of a fun group of singers (no experience or special training necessary) please bring them to our practice that meets each Sunday morning @ 10:30-11:00 in the CHOIR ROOM (except the second Sunday when we EAT DONUTS). This is for boys and girls of ALL ages.



Serving in JANUARY

8:00 Randy and Laura Kuhn
 9:30 Nancy Yost (TL), Pam Daniels (clean), Ken & Cindy Hicks, Carol Bokman, Toni Harless, Carol Swartz, John Klinect, Beth Wilson, Tyler Bokman, Jen Wilson
ELDERS Bill Cromling, Linda Rodak



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Holly Gross
- 4 Roberta Balogh
Sandy Gross
- 5 Dan Gross
Gabriel Mango
- 6 Erin Martin
Mike Carpenter
- 9 James Purdy
- 10 Richard Blaine
Brandi Maser
- 11 Hope Swindell
- 12 Betty Brown
- 13 Helen Literati
Fran Early
- 14 Chris Hensley
Larry & Eileen Weber
Mike & Paula Krasnevich
- 15 Lucy Vernadakis
- 16 Bill Cromling
Marty Belfi
- 18 Laura Kuhn
Alberta Amos
- 20 Allison Cihla
John Klinect
- 23 Carol Bokman
- 26 Karen Klinect
- 27 David Houston
- 28 Mary Lou Johnson
- 30 Hanna Susak
- 31 Matthew Gross



*Dear Paul,
 Please extend our thank you to your congregational family for the many prayers being said for Edward as he recovers from his surgery and proceeds with radiation and chemotherapy. The mere thought of how many prayers are being said for him has been very moving for him and he is so grateful. It was a wonderful surprise and uplifting to receive a beautiful card in the mail from the Friends at North Eaton Christian Church and to know that we are all one family in Christ. Thank you, thank you, thank you.*

Betsy and Edward Grattan

Dear friends,

Just a note of gratitude for the blessings you have bestowed upon me! I'm the one who gives normally, so this is awkward and not the norm for me. I am truly grateful. I believe God is helping through his people—using them as angels in others lives—and teaching me a lesson in receiving. Thank you so very much.
 (This is a thank you from a woman that was referred to us and we helped her with a large amount of food and a turkey.)

Thanks to the generosity of NECC, the Midview Kawanis, Boy Scout, and the VFW Post 1079, we were able to provide 9 families with a large amount of food and gift cards between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We also sent food to Dunham Ave. Church to help with their food pantry.

SPECIAL Council Meeting on Sunday, January 11th at 12:00 (noon).

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend Council meetings to know what is happening. Only Board members have a vote.

Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 18th at 8:45 a.m.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Only active members have a vote.

