

# The VOICE

***“Working together to make the difference that matters.”***

**TO WIN TO COMMIT TO GROW TO UNITE**

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## **Writings From the Rev.....April 2009**

Now I know that this might seem a little strange, but how many of you have ever thought of the events leading up to the Resurrection of Jesus as a LOVE STORY? Usually we think of love stories as being romantic and full of passion. Most romantic stories deal with fictional accounts of high adventure or extravagant incidents, rather than the day to day realities of our living. Most of the time when we think of passion we identify it in several different ways. It is seen as violent anger, intense emotional chaos or excitement. It's also seen as a deep desire or love for something or someone. Have you ever looked at the Easter Story in this way?

When we take the time to read the events of Holy Week, what we will find is that Jesus' life was full of romance and passion. And the real beauty of this story is the fact that it's "NOT" a fictional account. Holy Week is often referred to as the Week of Passion. It's a time filled with Adventure and Excitement, Violence and Anger, but most of all love. And yet, for many of us, this love that is so vividly shared in the Gospels is at times beyond our understanding. Somewhere during this Lenten Season, as you've read through your Bible, you may have come upon the Scripture text from Romans 5:1-11. Within those words from the Apostle Paul we are told, *"Look at it this way: At the right time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for ungodly people. Finding someone who would die for a godly person is rare. Maybe someone would have the courage to die for a good person. Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God's love for us."* (vss. 6-8).

What Paul is saying to us here is that Christ in his death has taken on the consequences of our sin and thus has reconciled us to God.

Could it be that this extraordinary act of Love is often overlooked in our rush to celebrate of Easter? Do we really understand the greatness of the sacrifice made on our behalf? Could it be that because we are on this side of the Resurrection, celebrating year after year the triumphal victory that Jesus made over Death, that we have lost sight of the passion that Jesus and his disciples experienced, as well as the greatness of God's love poured out to each and every one of us.

As we journey toward this coming Easter, it is my prayer that you will gain a sense of the true romance and passion of Holy Week. As you prepare yourself for the celebration of our Salvation, may you experience in a much fuller way, the love that God has for you. The truth is, we all share in the Easter Love Story, for in our helplessness and in our need God continues to reach out to us, through Jesus Christ, with a reconciling love.

***Let the joy of this Easter lead you into a greater understanding of God's love, and a stronger commitment to your part in the mission and ministry of the Church.***



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Interim Minister: Rev. Ralph S. Wearstler  
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

## "Go Light Your World"

We are a family whose hearts are blazing;  
So let's raise our candles and light up the sky  
Praying to the Creator, in the name of Jesus  
Make us a beacon in darkest times

"Go Light Your World" is the theme for this year's special EASTER OFFERING for the General Ministries of our National Church. YOUR GIFTS will be a beacon of light during dark times all over the world. Some of the areas that will be funded are the Division of Homeland Ministries, Hispanic Ministries, North American Asian Pacific disciples, Home Missions, and the Pension Fund (this fund covers the pensions of Retired Ministers and Missionaries.) Through this special EASTER OFFERING the Ministerial Relief Fund is able to increase the pensions of these faithful servants whose incomes today are less than adequate. **May your gifts brighten the lives of those with whom we share Christ's love.**

Grace and Peace—Marlene Black

This offering will be taken April 5th and April 12th. Use the envelope attached or include your gift with your regular offering. Extra Easter Offering envelopes are on the table in the Narthex.

## THANK YOU to all who came for the church workday!

### Working Together

All have a share in the beauty  
All have a part in the plan.  
What does it matter what duty  
Falls to the lot of each man?  
Someone has blended the plaster,  
and someone has carried the stone,  
Neither the man nor the master  
Ever has built it alone.  
Making a roof from the weather,  
Or building a house for the King,  
Only by working together  
Have people accomplished a thing.

About 30 energetic people came ready to work on Saturday, Feb. 28th. We washed windows, cleaned cupboards & storage areas, shampooed carpets, shined woodwork & stained glass windows, replaced floor tile, and did minor repairs. We were rewarded with a delicious lunch and good fellowship. Our thanks to all who were a part of this special day.

NECC TRUSTEES

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES.....

- 1 Jeanne Kekic  
Renate Mauer
- 2 Diana Butcher  
Tony Ward
- 3 Teresa & Wayne Gill
- 4 Luke Bowen
- 6 Dave & Mary Schofield
- 7 Don Binnie
- 8 Kathy Carpenter
- 9 Tammy Gamble  
John Hicks
- 10 Mike Carpenter  
Logan Szuch
- 12 Eddie Karban
- 13 Alta Mitchell  
Jordon Gross
- 14 Carol Busche  
Mark Meldrum  
Jack Susak
- 15 Jim Ponting  
Kristen Teper  
Bob Lynch  
Mike Klinect
- 20 Andy Teper  
Melissa Folk  
Doug & Kim Blaine
- 21 Teresa Gill
- 22 Paula Krasnevich
- 23 Alisha Singh  
Barb Galvin
- 24 Sherry Wilson
- 25 Becky Thompson
- 27 Scott Thompson  
Jan Mitchell
- 29 Pete & Polly Tallos



## THANK YOU FOR THE T.P.

The Salvation Army said they were in great need of toilet paper. Polly put out an email request to some of our church members and Sunday we had 147 rolls of toilet paper! Monday, we took them to the Salvation Army and they said it was like "getting candy!"

*We tend to take the everyday things in our life for granted, until we don't have them; running water, electricity, a car, a job and in some cases...food and toilet paper.*

THANK YOU for your quick response.  
Marie Ternes

## News Among the Pews ....

### OUR SYMPATHY is extended to

....the family and friends of PEARL JONTZ, who died on March 6th. Pearl was an active member of our church for 58 years. She was a member of Esther Circle and held different offices over the years. She also had a passion for playing bridge, volunteering and making crafts. Pearl was 96 yrs. old and still drove to church each Sunday until she was hospitalized a couple of weeks before she died.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

Dave Carpenter on winning a car at the Cleveland Car Show and to his daughter Kelly Rose who won a motorcycle just two weeks before!

### THANK YOU .....

Dear church family,

Our many thanks for all the heartfelt love, concern and prayers for Roger and I, and our family. It worked. He's just fine—amen! Glory be to God, on the highest! Our thanks and appreciation to all who remembered us in prayer.

Roger & Lisa Woodby  
Carol Steffen (my mom)

Boy Scouts support us ....Our thanks to Boy Scouts 111 and their leaders for the bags of food items for our Pantry. Each boy was given a brown paper bag to take home and fill and bring to church on Scout Sunday, March 1st. It was an awesome sight to see; the counter in the kitchen full of everything from toothpaste to pop tarts!!

The youth would like to thank the NECC ENSEMBLE (Diana Tyler, Edna Carpenter and Amy Stafford) for filling in for us in March, at Life Care. Polly Tallos

"My thanks to all who have been so supportive during my recent surgery with prayers, cards, calls, and thoughtful acts of kindness. I miss my babies in the nursery and my church family very much. I hope to see you soon."

Love, Jan Mitchell

"My thanks to all those who have helped to fill 60 dozen plastic eggs. We still have many more to fill. My thanks to the church family for your generous donations of candy and gifts for the Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 5th."



Polly Tallos

## Holy Week Schedule

*There will be a full schedule of events and activities available to help us become more open to a greater understanding of our Lord and the sacrifice he made on our behalf. Please consider the following, so that you may participate in as much as possible.*

### Palm Sunday—April 5<sup>th</sup>

This day begins Holy Week in churches throughout the world. Before we reflect on Jesus' passion and death, we celebrate a short lived but glorious moment of His life... His entrance into Jerusalem. Like the mass of people greeting Jesus with song and the waving of palms, we also give praise to Jesus with our hearts and our voices. Come join us in worship at 8:00 and 9:30, as we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into the City of Jerusalem. Our children will lead us in celebration at the 9:30 A.M. service with a Parade of Palms and a special song.

Everyone, young and old alike, are invited to join us at our Annual Egg Hunt beginning at 2:00 P.M. Make it a point to invite family, friends, and neighbors to join you.

### Maundy Thursday—April 9<sup>th</sup>

Traditionally the word Maundy refers to the service of washing feet, reflecting Jesus' act as a humble servant to his disciples. It was done on what has become **Holy Thursday**, the time Jesus ate a last meal with those He considered to be His family. From this event came our observance of the Lord's Supper.

On Thursday at **7:30 P.M.** the Elders' will lead us in a time of worship as we gather just as Jesus and his disciples did in the Upper Room, in a worship of Holy Communion, candle lights and scripture. Please remember to bring your Lenten "Cup of Christ" with you.

### Good Friday—April 10<sup>th</sup>

This is the most solemn day of the Church year; a day when we reflect on how much Jesus loves us and wants us to love one another. Why is the Friday of Jesus' death called Good? It's not really known, but maybe it has something to do with all the good that came from that day of sacrifice.

You are invited to observe this day in prayer. If you would like, the sanctuary will be open 12:00 (noon)—3:00 P.M. Please use the South Sanctuary entrance only.

### Easter Sunday— April 12<sup>th</sup>

This day is the high point in the Christian year. We celebrate the Good News that Jesus has overcome death and has risen into new life, a new eternal life that He invites us to share in.

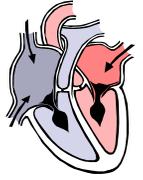
There is NO Sunrise Service at the cemetery this year, so join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord during our 8:00 A.M. and 9:30 A.M. worship services.

Our Youth will host an **Easter Breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.** The menu is french toast casserole, bacon, fruit & beverages. A **Freewill Offering** will help cover the cost of the breakfast. Any funds left over will help support the CYF Mission Trip to Lexington, North Carolina and youth camp scholarships. **There will be no Bible Study classes on this day.**



## Fellowship Hour in APRIL .....

Join us for coffee, tea, punch and donuts after worship on APRIL 19th. We will also have LifeShare here for our ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE. There will also be displays of lifesaving information as well as people who will answer any questions you may have.



## THANK YOU — Glen Thompson!



Our thanks to Glen for donating his time and energy to teach the CPR/AED Classes here at the church during the months of January and February. Approximately 31 people took the class, which included people from our church, the Boy Scouts, and Midview Hot Stove Baseball.

## National Youth Ministry Convention

*Beth Wilson and I had the opportunity to attend the National Youth Ministry Conference sponsored by Group Publishing and Simply Youth Ministry on February 27 through March 1, 2009.*

The convention, held in Columbus, was for Youth Ministers, Volunteers and Workers. Learning tracks, workshops and seminars were available on lots of subjects to help youth workers better reach and lead the youth in their churches. I attended the “Flip your Youth Group” track led by Jeanne Mayo. Ms Mayo has been in Youth Ministry for 40 years. She has grown youth groups from just a few to hundreds. She gave us 10 tips to turn a youth group around and helping it grow. The tips included the use of small groups and volunteers, how to use technology and media in youth meetings, and having a “target on the wall” plan and purpose for your youth group. It was very informative, fun and useful.

*I also had the chance to see The Skit Guys up close and personal. I am a big fan of The Skit Guys. Tommy Woodard and Eddie James are best friends who have been creating, presenting and witnessing through humorous skits for 20 years. They led a workshop on how to start a drama group and how to prepare and present skits for worship and youth meetings. Beth and I spent a lot of time laughing and learning through out the weekend.*

*Polly Tallos*

## Recuperating at home....

*Many of our church family have been in the hospital and are now home recuperating. Continue to keep them in prayer and give them a call or send a note.*

*JAN MITCHELL, JUDY PONTING,  
MARGE BORCHERT, ROGER WOODYBY,  
MARY TITE, CHRIS HENSLEY.*

*DEL OTT is still at Grace Hospital in Amherst trying very hard to get his strength back to come home.*



## Youth Ministry Convention

*I had the distinct privilege of attending a youth workers conference with Polly in February. I discovered that the majority of youth workers “are just kids that refuse to grow up.” We discussed key components to a successful ministry; including trying to meet youth where they are in their Christian walk. We were introduced to different programs, fund raisers and games. I actually took part in a skit where I threw a dead fish with my mouth! General sessions challenged my personal faith as well as my role as a youth volunteer. Hopefully Polly and I, as well as the other youth volunteers, can use this info to help serve and grow our youth here at NECC.*

**Beth Wilson**

## Welcome our new pianist!

May God bless her as she shares her musical talents with us in worship each Sunday morning.

*Bernadette Hisey was raised in Avon Lake and now resides in Elyria. She received a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Cleveland State, and a Master in Music Education from the University of Akron. She has taught at Lorain Catholic High School, Bay Middle School and St. Peter's Elementary in Lorain. She currently teaches k-5 general music/band/strings at Harrison Elementary in Lakewood. She often substitutes at her home church (Westminster Presbyterian in Amherst) for children's choir. In her spare time, she is involved with musical theater as a director, choreographer, accompanist, or actress. She is married to Ernest Hhisey and has two children, Joseph who is 20 and Susan who is 18.*

**LOOKING AHEAD IN MAY:**

*We all know that once the weather gets warm our schedules begin to fill up. Mark your calendar so you will not miss what is going on at NECC.*

**MAY 6th Mother Daughter Banquet**

**MAY 10th Mother's Day — Moms always get a special gift at church**

**MAY 22-24th Disciples Fellowship Retreat**

*A gathering of Disciples, families and friends of all ages at Camp Christian. What a great way to get away from the hustle and bustle of your everyday life and enjoy the out-of-doors! This is also a great opportunity for you and your family to come and experience camp together, so your children will know what to expect when they attend Partnership, Chi Cho, or CYF Camp.*

*Any questions??? Call Bev Sajna 440-333-1264 or email [sajhome81@yahoo.com](mailto:sajhome81@yahoo.com) We have families in our church who attend every year. Also you can ask Polly Tallos if you would like more information.*

**General Assembly—A “Hands On” Event — July 29th-August 2nd**  
At the Indiana Convention Center..... “for the Healing of the Nations”

For the latest information about the General Assembly visit the web site at:  
[www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga)

**Easter Breakfast**

**Join Us**

**Easter Morning Breakfast**

**8:30 to 9:30 am**

**French toast, bacon, fruit, juice  
and coffee in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Donations will benefit the  
Youth Programs & CYF Mission Trip  
to Lexington, NC in June 2009.**