

The VOICE

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TO WIN TO COMMIT TO GROW TO UNITE

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Writing From the Rev.....May 2009

If you happen to be in worship on the first Sunday of May, I will be sharing another song that I wrote. I wrote this one way back in my seminary days. It's a song about prayer, and the chorus goes like this: ***“Say your prayers in the morning, say your prayers at noon, say your prayers in the evening and God will be with you. Yes, God will protect you and help you on your way. God will bring sunshine to the darkness in your day.”***

Now I may be pointing out the obvious, but prayer is a very important part of our faith. Simply put, prayer is how we communication with God. It is an opportunity to share our most intimate thoughts and feelings with the Creator who has made us and loves us. In fact, prayer should be as natural and spontaneous as breathing and eating. And what a joy it is when we find ourselves in times like that; when we feel close to God and it's easy to talk, knowing we have been heard. But there are times when prayer may seem like work, when the words don't come easily, when we feel that God is distant from our concerns.

In Matthew 7:7-8, Jesus says: ***“Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”*** Jesus calls us to prayer because it is the natural thing for us to do. There is a need within us to pray, a searching desire to be in touch with the One who created us and sustains us. Yet sometimes people will go for years without any self-conscious effort to pray. God seems more and more distant, unrelated to everyday events in their lives. Then, in a time of fear or desperation, a person may suddenly blurt out, “O God, help me, I need you!” and in that moment once again the door

is opened to them. This is a spontaneous kind of prayer and it is good, because it reconnects that person with the loving presence of God. Many people find it difficult to pray, feeling that somehow they aren't doing it right. Can there ever really be a wrong way to talk with God. Prayer is the way that we continue our relationship with God, and God with us.

What we need to realize about our prayers is that God always listens and strengthens us, even when our problems seem to remain unsolved. Yes, our prayers are answered, but sometimes the answer is “No!” or “Wait!” And when that happens it may cause some of us to have doubts about God's concern or power in our lives, or worse, that we have somehow failed and that's why God did not respond on cue. Actually, we always receive something when we pray, even though it may not be what we requested. In fact, there are many times when someone is surprised by the way that God responds, because what had seemed like a rejection actually turns out to be an unexpected benefit. (Garth Brooks has a great song called, “Unanswered Prayers”.)

Prayer, whether for ourselves or on behalf of others, demands faith. Without our faith in God and Christ and the Holy Spirit, why pray at all. We pray because we believe that God does hear us.

Over the past few months, we as a congregation have been called upon to lift up prayer on behalf of others for some very special needs, some of these people we know well, and some we know very little about. I just want you to know that your prayers have made a difference. I would also ask that you continue to pray for God's leading in this interim time. Together through our faith, we have much to do in preparing for the calling of your new pastor.

We are Easter People who know the Grace of God, and we know the power of prayer.

North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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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
Pianist/Organist: Bernadette Hisey
Pathways Counseling and Growth Center: Dr. Ralph Thompson

Dear God,

I used to think I could do it all. Minister, wife, mother, grandmother and friend. My days were spent calling on the shut-ins and doing all the things for the church I loved. It was nothing for me to go 100 miles in a day, making sure the congregation knew I was there for them.

Then in a matter of a few days, surgery was waiting and I was stopped in my tracks! It has been since February 11th and I still have a long way to go for a complete recovery. I haven't even driven my car.

Not only was my life turned upside down, but my families, and the church family that I cared for. I talk to you on the phone, but it is not the same as being there, holding your hand when needed, and giving a hug of encouragement.

In my time of recovery I have learned a lot. More compassion is one, and patience is another. I have always had patience for others, but not for myself. I am trying !!! I just want to get back to normal. I also have learned to sit still, enjoy the surroundings around me, and listen to Your voice. Before my surgery, I didn't take the time to be still; it was prayers on the run and meditation time squeezed in between.

You have my attention Lord, I will take time to listen and meditate, for I have a feeling You have a lot more for me to learn.

Psalm 37: 7; "Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him."

Love and Grateful Praise, Judy

Basket Raffle a huge success!

The basket raffle, to offset the cost of "Godgirls in Motion" Christian Women's Conference brought \$521, which amounts to approximately 3,000 tickets sold. This will allow 12 women to go to the conference May 15-16 at Kalahari for less than 1/3 the cost (of conference and 1 night's accommodation). Baskets and items toward baskets were donated to make 16 wonderful baskets. The themed baskets were raffled off Easter Sunday morning. A big thanks goes to the following who donated baskets and items for the raffle: Ed & Angie Carter, Edna Carpenter, NECC Youth Group, NECC Women's Mission Group, NECC Christian Education, Midview Drugs, Mark Cummings/Nationwide of Grafton, Marco's Pizza of Grafton, Harvest Café, Fat Cats, Rainbow Cards Gifts & Flowers, Gail & Shannon Murphy@ Occasion Creations, Donna & Dennis Seibert, and the Folk Family. A special thank you goes out to Dennis Folk's mother, Pat, who was instrumental in getting many of the donations. Also, many thanks to everyone who supported the raffle by purchasing tickets. Tickets were sold at church, the Easter Egg Hunt, and at Sparkle in Grafton. About 40% of the ticket sales were brought in from selling tickets at Sparkle, and half of the baskets were won by non-church members. It is always nice to see our church and community members reaching out and supporting our events.

Winners of the baskets are as follows: Date Night Basket- Chris Osborne, Dining Out Basket- Sharon Mullins, Gift Cards Basket- Cody Knorr, Gnome Basket- Judy Moore, Birdhouse Basket- Keira Magdos, Bee Happy Basket- Sharon Mullins, Doggy Treats Basket- Angie Carter, Ducky Doggy Basket- Dennis Folk, Purina Basket- Vicki Beaver, Purple Bunny Basket- James Demyan, Easter Candy Basket- Jim Ickes, Ice Cream Basket- Chris Yeager, Healing Garden Basket- Alexis Reichard, Book Basket- Cheryl Smith, Italian Dinner Basket- Christina Adair, Movie Night Basket- Melissa Folk



Easter Egg Hunt !!!!

The Christian Education Team would like to thank everyone supported and enjoyed the 2009 Easter Egg Hunt by donating candy, eggs, prizes, time and energy. A special thank you to Mary Bengough, Roxanne Sebastian, Karen Klinec and Diana Tyler for their help with set up, hosting and cleaning up at the Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you also to Rebecca Circle for stuffing 40+ dozen eggs and to the others who stuffed at the church and took some home to stuff.

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
- 11 Aaron Durbin
- 12 Tom Mott
- 15 Lois Brasse
- 16 Jeff Joslin
- 19 Jeannie Sizemore
Maggie Carpenter
- 20 James Gunther
Ray & Karen Konko
- 20 Tammy & Mel Gamble
- 23 Nanci Ickes
- 24 Steve Cihla
Sally Belfi
- 25 Kyle Dusky
- 26 George & Diana Butcher
Roger & Francesca Gunther
- 27 Julie Haumschild
David Gunther



What is a Children's Dedication?

Here at North Eaton Christian Church we view infant dedication as an act in which parents honor God publicly through acknowledging (1) that their child is a gift from God and (2) that they are committed as parents to partner with God in fulfilling His purposes for their child.

"...Bring [children] up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4b NIV).

Therefore, any parent or parents who believe in the Scriptural foundation for dedication of children, who wish to publicly acknowledge God as the giver of life, and who desire to raise their children to understand and experience a relationship with Jesus Christ is encouraged to contact Rev. Ralph to begin the process of scheduling a Dedication Service during 1st or 2nd worship service. Most children are dedicated as infants, but there is no age limit.

NEW PIANIST...

Last month we introduced you to our new pianist/organist **BERNADETTE HISEY**. This month you will meet another pianist, **KIM SPEIRAN**. Kim will be available to play whenever Bernadette has to be away. We are blessed to have two very talented ladies as part of our church staff.

Kim is an active performer and teacher in the Cleveland area. Originally from Buffalo, New York, she began her musical studies on the piano at the age of 7 and two years later on the flute. Kim has both a Bachelor's & Master's Degree in Flute Performance and is currently working on her dissertation to complete a Doctor of Arts degree from Ball State University. While a doctoral student, she taught flute and music theory to undergraduate students at BSU and assisted in conducting and accompanying the flute choir at Taylor University.

She currently teaches flute lessons at the Avon School of Music and Rettig Music, often accompanying her students on recitals. She has performed at the Beck Center and with the Ashland Symphony Orchestra and was previously second flute with the Muncie Symphony Orchestra (IN). In addition, Kim plays in the flute/viola ensemble Duo Galant with her husband Lanson. They perform for weddings, private parties, corporate functions and other special events. In her spare time, Kim enjoys baking, traveling, watching movies and hanging out with her pet hamster, Hamlet.



Lorain County Fair —

August 24-30 Save a VACATION DAY and work with us at the FAIR in our CHURCH FOOD BOOTH. It's a fun place to be!

Columbia Homecoming June 26-28th

NECC will once again have a HOSPITALITY TENT at the Columbia Homecoming held at the Columbia Park, Friday, June 26th—Sunday, June 28th. We provide a place in the shade for children to do a simple craft, a Baby Changing area, free water, and information about NECC. It is a chance for us to show God's love to people in our neighborhood. **VOLUNTEERS are needed to be in the booth for 2-3 hour shifts. Sign up to work as a family or with friends.**

If you have any questions or want to get signed up CALL POLLY, 748-2246 or the church office, 748-2230.

Pentecost Special Offering.....*New Church Ministry*

Pentecost — After waiting together in prayerful unity, Jesus' followers were given the gifts of power by the blessing of the Holy Spirit. Thus the CHURCH began and thus it continues.

Each year the NEW CHURCH MOVEMENT is supported by funds raised by our annual Pentecost Offering. This special day offering provides support for new church planter training, coaching, special project grants and additional services to support this Ministry.

And, importantly, half of the money collected through the PENTECOST OFFERING remains in OUR REGION to benefit new churches. Since 2001, we have started 583 new congregations, reaching more than 40,000 new Disciples.

The theme for this year, **Expanding the Table**, refers to our embrace and welcome with the love of Christ, all who will come to the table. Expanding the table, we share the witness of Christ. We hope that you will keep this ministry and all the new Disciples churches in your prayers and help with this most important outreach of our church. This special offering will be received on Sunday, May 24 and May 31. *ACTS 2:1-21*



*Grace and Peace,
Marlene Black, Outreach Chairperson*

Technology Team

We are in need of additional members of our **Technology Team**, to help run the sound board on Sunday mornings (Stu Hicks could use some back-up) as well as assist with Power Point presentations.

In addition, we will be looking at installing a more aesthetically-appropriate design for our sanctuary projection needs. Those with expertise and ideas in this area are especially welcome to meet with us.

PLEASE contact Diana Tyler (458-5829 or diana@dianatyler.com) if you are interested in helping with any of these projects.

Summer Music @ NECC.....

We are looking for vocal and instrumental music providers for the 9:30 worship service during the upcoming 2009 summer season while our Ensemble (choir) takes a well-deserved break.

Amateur and professional soloists, musicians, duets, trios, etc. may contact Diana at 458-5829 or diana@dianatyler.com to audition. Diana is willing to help you select music and arrange for accompaniment if needed.

A SIGNUP SHEET is also posted on the choir room door for available dates.

What better way to share God's talent, that you have been given, than in worship?

Vacation Bible School

July 27th—July 31st

6:00-8:00 P.M.

Put this date on your calendar so you will not miss out on this fun week!

NECC AFTERNOON AT THE ZOO

On Sunday, May 31st, the family and friends of North Eaton Christian Church are invited to meet at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for a fun afternoon together. The zoo will be open until 7:00 p.m. Plan to meet on the upper level, by the playground at about 3:00 for some fellowship with other NECC attendees.

Admission prices for the Zoo and Rain Forest:

Adults (ages 12 and up) - \$10.00 Children (ages 2 – 11) - \$7.00 Children under 2 are free

You do NOT need to pay ahead or make reservations for this month's event. If anyone has any questions, please contact Carol Bokman for more information.

Please note the new email address: bokmans@att.net. Phone: 440-891-1819.



Our **June activity** will be joining the Christian Men In Action for a canoe trip on the Mohican River. The tentative date at this time is **June 14th**. More information will be forthcoming.

Adventure Camp—July 5-11

Is Adventure Camp for you? It is—if you're a person of high school age or older, in good health, who wants to make new friends, explore exciting vistas, and test your personal limits, while considering how your "Sunday faith" can apply to your daily life.

Last year, Tim and I enjoyed all of the above while canoeing (and camping alongside) over 70 miles of Michigan's Au Sauble river. The previous year, Adventure Campers trekked 40 miles of the Appalachian Trail on a backpack trip.

This year, Adventure camp will be a week of daily bicycle trips in the Xenia, Ohio area—an area which has an internationally acclaimed network of safe bicycle trails. The trips, with tourist excursions built in, will start out small and gradually increase in mileage as the week progresses. Bring your own bike or rent one (\$75/week). Cyclists are welcome to turn around and head back to base camp at any point during each day's trip. Plus, a car will be available for those who might experience repair needs, fatigue, etc.



Tim and I will be serving as counselors on this year's Adventure Camp. We hope you will consider joining us. **DON'T WAIT.** Registration deadline is JUNE 26th. Just \$295.00 per person covers a week's worth of meals, lodging at First Christian Church (in air conditioned comfort or outdoors in your own tent), showers, swimming and some sightseeing excursions. In addition, our host church has some great food and entertainment planned for some of the evenings. Prefer to stay in a motel? There are some local options available at your cost.

NECC will pay half the registration fee for Adventure Camp for any active church member at North Eaton church.

TIM AND I WILL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS OR HELP YOU SIGN UP. REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE OR YOU CAN REGISTER ONLINE AT www.ccinoh.org

(This year's camp is also open to youth younger than high-school age but a PARENT must also register and accompany them throughout the week.)

- Diana Tyler

Bootleggers Grill— for Dinner

Mallard Creek Golf Club

34500 Royalton Rd.

Monday, May 25 thru Sunday, May 31

15% of your bill will be donated back to the Youth

NECC Youth, with help from NECC Women's Mission, will be holding a Fund raiser at Bootleggers Grill. You can eat at Bootleggers any day of THIS week, lunch or dinner. The restaurant will give 15% of each bill back to the youth group.

**** You must turn in the dinner coupon for us to get the credit from your bill****

The youth will be handing out the coupons at church on Sunday's throughout the month of May. Or you can pick one up from the church office Monday thru Friday, 8 AM to 1 PM. Take more than one coupon!! Bring your friends and neighbors!! Money raised will go towards Youth Mission Projects.

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May Dining Out—Thursday, May 28th 6:30 p.m.

Bootleggers Grill

34550 Royalton Road

Remember to bring your coupon for the Youth to receive 15% of your check.

REMINDERS FROM OUR TRUSTEES: Children at play!

WATCH YOUR ———S P E E D L I M I T.....The speed limit coming into the church drive is 5 MPH. Please use extreme caution even at 5 MPH. With the warm weather we have children running to the playground, riding bicycles, skateboards, leaving the building and getting out of cars in the parking lot. It is up to us as adults to protect our children by being aware of what is going on around us.



THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

I have been held by the hand of god through all your prayers and concerns. North Eaton Christian Church is the most loving and caring church I have ever known and I am grateful for all your love and support. You ALL have surrounded me and my family with cards, flowers, food, visits, phone calls, emails and a multitude of prayer. We are so very grateful. I started treatment with chemo and radiation on April 27th. This is an aggressive and preventive treatment which will last for about 5 weeks. I am trying to keep in contact with our shut-ins by phone. I am available to talk if you have any concerns. My goal now is to get my strength back so I can "hit the road."

You all are a blessing to me, you keep me going. Please continue to keep me in your prayers, as I still have a ways to go.

Love and Joy, Judy

Dear NECC,

Sometimes the words "thank you" seems so inadequate. It is friends like you who make the work of the Salvation Army possible. It is friends like you who make our community a better place. We count you as one of our special blessings. Not just because of your recent gifts to our pantry supplies but also because of your spirit of generosity.

Together we will make a difference, one life at a time. Please accept this sincere thank you from the Elyria Salvation Army.

Sincerely, Captain Paul

The fellowship hour in April was provided by Laura & Randy Kuhn and Mel & Marie Ternes in honor of: DON NASH for his dedication to keeping our lawn mowed and green. BILL CROMLING for keeping our driveway and doorways clean of snow and ice.

NECC Annual Chinese Auction Wednesday, JUNE 3rd DOORS OPEN @ 7:00 p.m.

This family event is sponsored by the Youth of NECC and the Membership Team. It is an annual event for the family that the whole community enjoys. Each person/family attending is asked to bring ONE NEW ITEM for the auction. It can be handmade, baked, bought or a gift certificate. We always have things for men, women and children. (Who can resist a plate of chocolate brownies, a pan of sticky buns or a homemade cheesecake). ADVANCE TICKET SALES are 6/\$1.00 and can be purchased after worship starting May 10th. The night of the auction they are 4/\$1.00. Purchasing the tickets in advance gives you more tickets and time to put your name on each ticket or your return address stickers. Our youth will be selling light refreshments during the evening. You DO NOT have to be present to win.

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS. This is an event the whole community attends. If you have any questions call the church office, 748-2230 or Carol Busche, 323-6981.

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS: Donated items are placed on tables with a large empty cup beside each item. You put a ticket/tickets only in the items you would like to win. That way, you don't win something you don't want. Everyone will have time to deposit their tickets. We then draw one ticket from each cup and announce the winner.