

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

Writings From The Rev—June 2009

Most of you are aware of the fact that my commute into the church office is about an hour's travel time each way. Now for some that would seem like a long and tedious trip to make each day, but for me it's not. It's an opportunity to be free of many of the distractions that come from the rest of the day's activities.

Sometimes I just listen to music on the radio, mostly Classical, not that I can tell Bach from Mozart or Schubert. For me it's just relaxing and at times thought provoking.

I also have the entire Bible on CD. I have been listening to the Word of God as shared through the mind and heart of Eugene Peterson's "The Message." Not every time I'm in the car, but much of my time has been given to this endeavor.

Have you ever realized how long the Old Testament is? Do you know how long it takes to have the entire Old Testament read to you? It has taken weeks! Some of it refreshed my memory of the stories shared since childhood; some were familiar words that I have used over the years in Sermons, at Weddings and Funerals. And to be honest, some of it was dry, historical, repetitive instruction of how the Temple was to be built, or the kind of offering to be given by each Tribe, item by item, for each one.

Yet in its total, the Old Testament shares the story of God's relationship with us, centered on the promise that God makes, that "He is our God, and we are His people."

I am now listening to the New Testament, and I must say, there is a marked difference between how God is revealed in writings of this Testament and that of the Old Testament. For me, it is truly the difference between an old and a new revelation.

In the New Testament God is revealed in the light of Jesus Christ, in both word and deed. Through Jesus, there is a greater understanding of God's love, grace, and mercy.

Most of us know the scripture verse from John 3:16, but I believe that God's grace and mercy is more fully revealed in verse 17, when Jesus says, ***"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."***

This Good News is shared, over and over again, throughout the Gospels and the Letters of this New Testament.

One place in particular is the story of the Paralytic, which is found in Matthew, Mark and Luke. Here we read the story of a man who is paralyzed and some family members or friends or both, desperately try to get into the house where Jesus is so that he might be healed. But it is so crowded that it seems impossible to get in, then they see another option. They climb up on the roof, tear out a hole and lower the man down before Jesus. Jesus admires the faith and compassion of these friends. Then in an act of grace and forgiveness, heals the man.

Granted, there is a lot packed into this story, but after hearing it three times during my travels I began to think more and more about the paralyzed man. Was it his idea to seek out Jesus or did his friends drag him along, helpless to do anything about it? Jesus admired the faith of this man's friends, but it seems to me that the faith of the man was not truly revealed until the man stood up.

Have you been paralyzed in your life, unable to move because of some personal hurt, emotional trauma, or spiritual failing? Sometimes it's an entire family or a group of people, or a whole congregation that's unable to move beyond where they are. So let's thank God for those family and friends willing to help us, even if it means dragging us up on the roof and dropping us in front of Jesus. But remember.... ***Jesus' healing really doesn't take effect until we are willing to stand up in faith. Let it be so for us as we move forward in faith.***

Cans For Cody

*Our thanks to all who have continued to drop off your cans at our home. You can continue to drop them off at our home (9700 Island Road) or **STARTING SUNDAY, JUNE 7th** a pickup truck will be at the church on Sunday mornings, if you prefer to bring them with you to church. Questions, call 440-748-2230.*

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

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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

Strategic Plan Steering Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee will start meeting again in June. We felt it was important to give Rev. Ralph and all of us time to get to know each other. During this time we have grown to appreciate one another and to begin to learn one another's attributes and abilities.

It has been gratifying to see continued progress throughout the church toward our Vision and many activities from our Strategic Plan being accomplished. I think I can speak for the entire Pulpit Committee when I say that Rev. Ralph, who was our top candidate for the interim position, has demonstrated all the attributes that we saw in his resume and wanted in our interim minister. Ralph has brought refreshing change in our worship services. Our Lenten experience was an especially spiritual time with our own personal olive wood chalices and culminating with a very moving and meaningful Maundy Thursday Service. Ralph has shown that he is a very caring, companionate man that relates well to all age groups in the congregation.

Good things that are happening include: Our Women's Ministries have renewed their commitment and increased their activities. NECC Youth had two delegates, Jen Wilson and Julie Haumschild, attend the United Nations Seminar along with Rev. Ralph. Bernadette Hisey, our new pianist, is sharing her talents in both piano and organ to enhance our worship services. Diana Tyler, our Interim Worship Director, has artfully assembled new music ministries and visual aids to our worship service. A new vocal ensemble is performing at the 9:30 service and our worship leaders are more involved. The Men in Action (4 plus Rev. Ralph) attended a Men's Retreat work day at Camp Christian. The VOICE is in your mail earlier. The Easter egg hunt, open to the community, continues to grow.

NECC is blessed with a church family that continues to make a difference here and in the world in which we live through service to Christ, as he has called us all to do.

A final thought: Would you all continue to:

- **PRAY**— *that our church has the strength and wisdom to fulfill God's Vision for us;*
- **PATIENCE**— *have patience with the process; and*
- **PRAISE**— *give praise to God for all the good things NECC has accomplished.*

Pray Patience Praise.....

Bill Cromling
Chairman—Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Paper Retriever Bin.....

0-3 tons — \$5.00

4-7.99 tons — \$15.00 a "BIG" difference!

As you can see by the tonnage, the more we have the better the payout.

Save us those magazines and catalogs—they weigh heavy!!



The BIN is emptied twice a month. Bring them to church with you on Sunday or drop them off during the week. It is always open. Any questions see LINDA ICKES.

JUNE Birthdays & Anniversaries....

- 2 Erma Yost
3 Bob & Sarah Browne
5 Jim & Linda Ickes
6 Adam Wilson
Barry & Melissa Daniels
Ronda & Vic Susak
9 Gabriella Laney
10 Genene Slusher
Karen Konko
11 Jim Johnson
12 Sharon & Mike Kiesel
14 Linda Spitzer
Jeff Hensley
Mike & Denise Mott
15 Angie Carter
Jessica Dusky
Wil & Linda Morrison
17 Tom Kohler
Stu & Bonnie Hicks
18 Jane Eakins
Mike Gross
Betty Hawke
Bob & Janet Lynch
19 Matthew Thompson
21 Barb Koerner
22 Del Ott (91)
23 Ruth Haupt
Ralph & Becky Thompson
25 Ed Carter
Cindy & Glen Thompson
26 Margaret Bokar
29 Karen & John Klinec
30 Mike Mott
George Butcher
Jim & Joyce Johnson



No Sunday School

For Children and Youth in SUMMER

After careful consideration and prayer, Christian Education team members have decided to not have Sunday school during the summer months (June-August) for the preschool through high school classes. This will give teachers and students the opportunity to enjoy their planned summer activities. (Junior Worship will continue to be offered during the 9:30 Sunday morning worship service.) We encourage families to use their summer fun as teachable moments. For example, what better way to talk about how God made the universe in all its splendor than while stargazing on a clear, bright summer night? See you in class in SEPTEMBER.

Let's Celebrate!

How quickly another school year has gone by! To end the school year with a bang and kick-off the summer, Christian Education would like to invite children and families to come and enjoy fun and refreshments,



Sunday, JUNE 7th
10:45-11:45

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.

CYF Mission Trip—June 13—June 20

Lexington, North Carolina

THEME: REVEAL-Luke 4:18-19

A Group Workcamps Foundation summer mission trip is a powerful way to jumpstart our teenagers' faith. It's unforgettable. It's fun. And it changes the lives of our students as they serve people in real need. The results are amazing, as students serve people in Christ's name (and with a little guidance and nurturing) they grow in faith and character and have loads of fun at the same time. That's why so many of us go back year after year. Polly Tallos, Jen Wilson, JJ Haumschild and Tyler Bokman will meet with 400 youth and adults from different denominations and states. During the week work campers will repair and improve the homes of residents who aren't able to do the work themselves. We have been asked to bring CANNED FOOD DONATIONS. All the food will be donated to a local food pantry at the end of camp week. Can you help with the donations???

Vacation Bible School

July 27th—July 31st
(Monday—Friday)

5:30—light dinner (optional) 6:00-8:30—Paul & the underground church

The theme this year is **ROME: Paul and the Underground Church**. It's the family vacation of a lifetime! Bring your entire family to the ancient city of Rome! You'll travel back into Bible times —without setting foot outside our community. Experience this fun, hands-on Bible times empire right here at North Eaton Christian Church.

Each day, your family members can become part of history as they see, hear, touch and even taste what it was like to live in Rome during bible times! You'll explore authentic marketplace shops, visit the Apostle Paul (who's under house arrest). Sneak to the cave where the underground church meets, take part in games, dance to lively Bible songs, and sample tasty tidbits as you discover more about the early church. These experiences make God's Word come alive with new meaning for all who participate!



TO REGISTER: Call the church office at 440-748-2230 or visit our website neccdisciples.com

IF YOU WANT TO HELP SEE: Melissa Folk, Robin Galvin or Polly Tallos
We need help in ALL AREAS, please see one of the above and ask where you are needed.

Congratulations to our graduates!

North Eaton Christian Church is pleased to congratulate our graduates. We wish you the best as you begin a new chapter in your life. Graduates were recognized at the 9:30 A.M. worship service on June 7th. They and their families were also invited to a breakfast before the service to celebrate their accomplishments.

HIGH SCHOOL:

JJ Haumschild Olmsted Falls High School

COLLEGE:

Amanda Klein Edinboro University—*BS in Biochemistry /Minor in Biology*
Kim Klein Sanford Brown Institute—*Medical Billing & Coding*
Paul Hayward LC Comm. College —*Assoc. Degree Mechanical Engineering*
Bonnie Hicks Remington College — *Assoc. Degree Business*
John Hicks University of Illinois — *Masters of Archeology*

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. Soloists, musicians, duets, trios, etc. may contact Diana at 458-5829 or diana@dianatyler.com to audition.

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

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank the following individuals for giving of their time to help drive Jan Mitchell to her treatments:

Glenn & Carol Swartz, Sandy Hales, Londa Blaine, Nancy Yost, Fran Early
Marlene & Harry Daniels, Carol Wilson, Edna Carpenter, Karen Konko,
Theresa McDonough

God bless each of you for sharing your time and giving love to Jan. She truly enjoyed the time spent with each one of you.

Marie Ternes

EVE CIRCLE would like to thank all the ladies who attended the Mother/Daughter Banquet. A big hug and thanks to the men for doing a wonderful job of serving the ladies and manning the kitchen duties.

I, as President would like to thank all the ladies of Eve who cooked and worked very hard to put on this dinner. There were 81 women plus 12 workers—WONDERFUL!

Thank You, Phyllis Chapman, President of Eve

The Godgirls Conference was uplifting and a great time for the women who attended for personal reflection and a touch from our King! Don't we all need this? To become more intimate with our Lord by being with other believers and having speakers and artists challenging our hearts with testimony, worship, tears, laughter and wonderful fellowship. A time without having home, job and other responsibilities is *special*. A *HUGE* thank you of appreciation goes to our Melissa Folk for the gifting of her time and the loving manner by which she organized this event for the ladies who attended.

I would like to thank everyone for my visits, prayers and cards during my last visit at Rainbow's hospital. I would like to thank everyone who helped support me for my CF Walk For Great Strides this past Saturday. I raised \$465.00! My group raised over \$1600.00 and for the total, we raised over \$195,000. Sarah Browne also walked with us. Thanks again for a great day! The rain stayed away, even with a 90% chance for the day.

Love, Dawn Schieferle and Theresa McDonough

Ohio Disciples Men's Spring Retreat @ work at Camp Christian

5 men from NECC spent a day working, eating and praying together.

There was plenty to do for all the men who showed up to work. Plumbing, weed wacking, fixing the boat dock, general clean-up were just a few of the things need to be done.

Our guys focused their time and energy on making picnic tables. They were hoping that we could put four 12 foot tables together, we did five. Then we put together four 8 foot tables. It was a good day, and the staff at Camp Christian were very pleased that we could do so much.



Testing out one of the new picnic tables



Good Job! Glenn Swartz, Stu Hicks, Jerry Mullins, Mike Krasnevich, and Rev. Ralph