

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—AUGUST 2009

As I am writing this before I go, I know that you will in all likelihood be reading this as my wife, Terri and I will be returning from our time at the 2009 General Assembly for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) July 29th - August 2nd, in Indianapolis, Indiana, which is also where the headquarters of our denomination resides.

While I have not attended all the Assemblies throughout my years in ministry, I have attended enough of them to say with all honesty, “You should have been there!”

I’m not sure if Indianapolis could actually handle all six hundred and nineteen thousand members showing up for this Assembly, but there would have been enough room for you. You missed a wonderful experience.

In my mind and heart, the General Assembly is essentially a Church Family reunion that gets together in different parts of the country every two years. This family gathers from all over the United States and Canada, and a few from around the world.

We gather to worship, learn, fellowship and discuss the future of our church. It’s an opportunity to meet with brothers and sisters in Christ, some whom we may not have seen for awhile. I have a good friend, Ray Cuthbert, from my seminary days, who is a minister in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The last time we saw each other was four years ago at the General Assembly in Portland, OR. If things work out I also hope to see my friend, Mike Weber, who grew up and was Ordained here at North Eaton Christian Church. They are just two of the many people I hope to see and catch up with about family life.



Added to this, is the expectation of meeting and making new friendships among the 6,000 or so attending, as well as sharing in new experiences. All of us at the Assembly will be invited to examine what it means to strive to be whole and to bring healing – not only for ourselves but for all God’s creation. We will seek to affirm and declare the gospel with faith, energy, and commitment, learning spiritual and practical skills that allow each of us to become part of a movement for wholeness in the world that will bring hope and healing in Christ.

Coming together as a church family like this, helps us strengthen our understanding of who we are and what Christ is calling us to do. And as the larger family of Disciples congregations we share a vision, a mission, and an imperative.

So, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we believe God calls us:

To be a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice. (Micah 6:8)

To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

To strengthen congregational life for this mission. (Ephesians 4:11-13,15-16)

To make this happen we need to become the Good News; nurturing faith, practicing and teaching the spiritual disciplines, fostering Disciples identity, renewing congregational life, and developing leaders.

Everyone at North Eaton is a part of this Family, so let us do our part to share the Good News.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this year.

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

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Grafton, OH 44044
Permit No. 8

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

AUGUST Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Pauline Ryder (105)
- 4 Sarah Browne
Jim Galvin
Anne Kramer
Diana & Kevin Camp
- 5 Kim Klein
Nicole Teper
- 6 Tim Tripphahn
Laura & Dave Carpenter
- 7 Mel & Marie Ternes
- 9 Linda Rodak
Mel Ternes
- 12 Zoe Knorr
- 13 Cathy Dusky & Don Dusky
Jessica Castro
Bob Bricker
Robin & Bob Bricker
- 14 Paul & Michaelene Durbin
- 15 Stacy & Nick Zawoyski
- 17 Marge Borchert
Nathan Klein
- 18 Sarah Mullins
- 22 Taylor Teper
Claire & Bob Kauf
- 25 Dave Carpenter
Lauren Martin
- 27 Ronda Susak
Ray Konko
- 29 Janice Brunger
- 30 Bob Kauf
Diana & Tim Tyler
- 31 Londa Blaine
Barb & Tom Mott



OUTREACH IN ACTION @ NECC

"Grand New Day" Women's Conference.....

Beth Ann Wilson and Melissa Folk became sponsors for girls in Cambodia over a year ago. Through this organization they were given the opportunity to be a part of World Vision's "Grand New Day" women's conference On July 17th & 18th. During breaks and lunch, Beth Ann and Melissa helped World Vision and other volunteers get close to 300 children whose lives are affected by AIDS in their families and communities.

In their free time, they were able to enjoy listening to several talented speakers, including "The Facts of Life" star Lisa Whelchel and American Idols's Mandisa. They both agreed that it was the most powerful women's conference they have attended.

Lilac Secaur Fund.....

We received a letter from the First Christian Church in Kent, Ohio asking for monetary donations for 3 year old Lilac Secaur, to help with medical expenses. Her father is a Disciple minister, was active in campus ministries at Kent State and graduated from Lexington Theological Seminary in 2002. We were able to send a check for \$894.00. Thank you for your response.

"Cans For Cody"

This is now a year round project. Because of your overwhelming response to collecting the drink cans, we are getting about \$100 a month for Cody. **JUST A REMINDER:** We collect DRINK CANS ONLY (beer & pop). *No other type of cans or aluminum.*

THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO RECYCLE NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, ETC.

Adam Miska's Eagle Scout Project ...

NECC was asked to help by donating new socks and underwear for ages 4-12 years old. Our Vacation Bible School is also using this as a part of their Mission Project. There is a box on the table in the Narthex for the items. Thank you to those who have already donated.

Julie Haumschild — Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Julie has chosen NECC as her Girl Scout Gold Award project. She has been painting and refurbishing the game room for the youth. Part of this project will include a lending library. She is asking for your help by donating books, dvds, and cds suitable for children, youth and young adults. Thank you in advance for your donations. Please put them in the box located on the fireplace in the fellowship hall.



Thank you, Julie Haumschild

Lorain County Fair —August 24-30 Save a VACATION DAY, take a day off, come after work and work with us at the FAIR in our CHURCH FOOD BOOTH. It's a fun place to be! **WORK DAY SIGNUP SHEETS ARE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL** or call the church office and we will sign you up. If you have any questions as to how this works, just call the church office and we will explain the routine, 748-2230.



SUMMER-CAMP-SUMMER-CAMP-SUMMER-CAMP-SUMMER-CAMP

Ohio "Disciples" love to camp, especially at Camp Christian! There are also other camps and camp-like opportunities available during the summer to take advantage of, and we do. Take time to read the following articles written by some of our happy campers:

PAIGE BOKMAN—Chi Rho 2009 —was my first time at Chi Rho Camp and I loved it! Kevin and Theresa also went for their 2nd year. Some of my favorite things about camp were quest, free time, the activities, and my counselor Beth Wilson (cabin 17 rocks!!!!). Some of the things that didn't make my week would be the showers, morning dip (I like my sleep), and the bugs. The shower smelled lovely (gross!!), morning dip is great (if you want hypothermia!), and the bugs make up for the pets back home (they are everywhere!!!!). But because of all this it made it a great summer experience and I can't wait to come back. If you want to be closer to God, Camp Christian is the place to be!

JULIE HAUMSCHILD—Otter Camp — Honestly, I have no idea what possessed me to sign up to be a CIT (counselor in training) at Otter Camp this summer. Many of the counselors would joke about how they had chosen to baby-sit two hundred third, fourth, and fifth graders for a week! The task ahead seemed overwhelming, but when I met my girls, I realized why I did it. There were so many kids who had never been to church or to church camp and I saw how the stories of God touched many of their lives that week, and made me realize why I gave up a week of my summer for that camp - to help those kids find Jesus.

SAM GALVIN—*Otter Camp —At camp we learned about miracles! They can happen! At camp I liked that we did a night hike, went boating, seeing old friends and more. But it was even better because I already knew my counselor in training, Julie Haumschild and my friend Cassidy. I HAD SO MUCH FUN!*

TAYLOR SALAS — Partnership Camp (Badger Camp) — To Rev. Ralph & NECC, It is going way too fast. It hasn't rained yet, I'm in Parker cabin. My cabin was quiet after lights out. No, we didn't have to wash dishes. The water is so cool. Yes, we swam every day. Yes, I did make a lot of new friends. I don't know if they are, but they seemed like it. My counselors are Josh and Savannah. Our dance was so cool and waking up in the morning was the thing I didn't like. Yes, I will have a picture to share. Thank you again for helping me to get to camp.

2009 WORK CAMP MISSION TRIP

JJ Haumschild—"A painting job? Really?" I was pretty bummed out over the type of work that my crew and I had just been assigned to do, but I decided to just stick it out and pray for some little carpentry job to pop up at our site. We arrived at our resident's drab and listing home and realized that it would take all the energy we had to complete the monumental task of scraping, washing, priming, and painting her house. But seeing our resident, little old Rosie with her Alzheimer's and arthritis, made me drop that selfish attitude in a split second and be thankful that I could still swing a paint brush. I realized then what I was there to do, and I did it with a big old smile on my face. We showed that neglected little neighborhood that we were there as agents of God and expected nothing in return.

TYLER BOKMAN —*Work camp was truly an awesome experience. Not only is it a fun time and a chance to make many new friends from all over the country, but it is also an amazing way to grow closer to God and watch Him work through all the campers. All of the residents seemed extremely grateful for the blessings they received. I know my crew's resident was. She frequently thanked us and knowing that we were brightening up her life was a wonderful feeling.*

ALL CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC AND CORN ROAST —August 16th—Noon

At the home of Mel & Marie Ternes, 37360 Chestnut Ridge Road, Elyria

BRING a side dish or dessert to share. EVERYTHING ELSE IS FURNISHED.

(Lawn chairs and lawn games if you have them.) Bring the whole family.

Any questions call Marie Ternes, 365-3632 or the church office, 748-2230.



We're celebrating again! We will end the summer with a celebration of the return of children and adult Sunday School classes on August 30th from 10:45-Noon. Join us for some great fun and LUNCH.

NECC Christmas Bazaar — Saturday, November 14th—9:00-3:00.

Sponsored by Eve and Rebekah Circle, with the proceeds going to the Kitchen Fund. Craft tables available — let your crafty friends know about us. Any questions regarding table rental, call Marge Houston, 748-2583 or the church office, 748-2230.



Still more great stories about campingHi! I'm Karen Konko, and I have been a Hiram Conference counselor nine times now. I've been asked why I would want to spend a week of my summer at Camp Christian with (this year) 160 high school youth and 25 other counselors. It's a complicated question with an easy answer: I love Camp Christian and Hiram Conference!

Despite the lack of TV and other electronic communications, the lack of my king-sized bed, air conditioning, private bathroom, and other amenities, Camp Christian has its own very special appeal. From the quiet calm of Morning Watch to a thoughtful dialogue about the Holy Spirit; from the lively singing after all meals to the provocative Vesper services each night; from the hoedown on Monday night to the talent show on Thursday; Conference is full of different kinds of events that stir up many responses. I am often in awe at the conversations during our classes, and I see Christ in many faces. I enjoy participating in activities led by enthusiastic Christian teenagers, particularly the elected Conference officers. Nanci Ickes was one of the officers during my nine years.

If asked about one specific, defining moment at camp, I would have great difficulty choosing just one. For several years I have sat with and prayed with the officer candidates who hoped to lead the next year's Conference. This year the Holy Spirit was the bible study focus, and the Spirit was especially evident during individual testimonies given during our Consecration service on Friday night. Last year I was one of the teachers for a study of the book of Luke, which included great discussions about the story of the Prodigal Son. And, for the past 8 years I have had the pleasure of helping direct the banquet for Friday's dinner. Every year it seems the committee finds a way to top the year before.

Being in a group of at least 25 counselors is wonderful, too. I've met and become re-acquainted with many good, solid Christian adults at Hiram Conference. Several of these counselors are now close personal friends that I would never have met without Camp Christian. We learn together, pray together, laugh together, play together, and sometimes cry together. I've had the privilege of serving with Polly Tallos, Linda Ickes, and Rev. Ralph among the group. And, I've seen some of my campers grow up to be counselors with me.

"You did WHAT?" *has been the typical response when I tell people that I bicycled 140 miles during **ADVENTURE CAMP** last month. "What's Adventure Camp?" you ask? Adventure Camp is a relatively new offering of the Christian Church in Ohio for high-schoolers, young adults and older adults in "reasonably-good" shape. (You've seen me, right?? In fact, I like to think of Adventure Camp as my own personal version of "Fat Camp", at least for this particular adult!)*

Whether hiking 40 miles of the Appalachian Trail, canoeing 80 miles on Michigan's Au Sable river, or bicycling 140 miles on the network of trails throughout Southwestern Ohio, Adventure Camp lives up to its name. It's a chance to explore the beauty of God's creation, discover some unknown personal strengths, rediscover some unused muscles, and make friendships with other Disciples across the Ohio region. Those from North Eaton who attended this year's camp were Carol and Tyler Bokman, my (then) non-bicycling husband Tim, and me.

Just so you know—there was no gun to my head when I signed up for this year's Camp. As a lifelong klutz when it comes to athletics, I was worried about not keeping up with the group. However, I was assured that, should any muscles tire (including the one upon which I sit), our "Rescue Truck" (affectionately dubbed the "Sag Wag" and driven by Tim) would safely transport me and my bike back to base camp. (And on Wednesday that week, it did!) But most of the days, I was able to keep up. In fact, our entire group decided by Thursday that we ALL needed a "break".....so we HIKED 5 miles in a local park, instead of bicycling!

We're now making plans for NEXT summer's Adventure Camp. Ideas suggested include whitewater rafting, doing a variety of activities in the Hocking Hills area (canoeing, zip-lining, hiking, etc.) a series of day hikes from a base camp, a photography scavenger hunt, etc. But Adventure Camp is for ALL OHIO DISCIPLES. So what interests YOU? We need to collect all ideas before the end of August, so please contact me ASAP with suggestions for YOUR Adventure Camp. We hope you'll join us next summer.

P.S. *We had so much fun this year that Tim has now purchased his own bike, and we've been taking short rides together as time and weather allow. **Anyone else out there want to be part of a church cycling group to explore the scenic trails of Northeast Ohio? LET ME KNOW***

- Diana Tyler