

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 - October 2009

Are you ready to go on a ride with me? A virtual one, that is. I'm not sure where we are going but I'll be picking up a couple of ideas or notions along the way to share the ride. So, buckle up here we go.

I always like to take a ride in the Autumn. It's best known as the season of change, as we watch the luscious greens of Summer turn to the brilliant multi-color hues of yellow, red, orange, and purple. Did you know that these colors are always present in the leaves? However, during the Spring and Summer, it is the green chlorophyll that is dominant and hides these colors. So, in the Fall the chlorophyll begins to disappear from the leaves. As the bright green fades away, we begin to see their true colors.

Oh look, there's a "Notion" hitchhiking on the side of the road, holding up a sign that reads, "**Your True Colors**". These days it's not always a good idea to pick up hitchhikers, but since this is a virtual ride, let's take a chance. "**Your True Colors**" is an interesting notion. How much are we like the Summer leaves, hiding our colors from others, not allowing our true self to be seen? What is the chlorophyll that dominates our lives? Is it self-doubt, mistrust, anxiety over health or finances or both? Does grief or anger, hopelessness or despair, uncertainty or apathy, hide your true color?

In Luke 17:20-22, we find this event: **The Pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God would come. He answered them, "People can't observe the coming of the kingdom of God. They can't say, 'Here it is!' or 'There it is!' You see, the kingdom of God is within you."**

If we understand this correctly, then the Kingdom of God that is within us, is the source of our True Color, revealed in the Spirit of Christ. So, it is the Spirit of Christ within us that enables us to be who we are called to be. But if we allow the Chlorophyll of worldly life to dominate our living our True Color, our True Nature is hidden.

In Romans 8:5 (GWT), the Apostle Paul writes: ***"Those who live by the corrupt nature have the corrupt nature's attitude. But those who live by the spiritual nature have the spiritual nature's attitude."***

And then in 1 Corinthians 2:12, he says:

"We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us."

We are in a season of change, as individuals, and as a congregation. It is an opportunity to displace the worldly chlorophyll that can hide our True Color, our Spiritual Attitude. In Christ, we have faith and hope in the reality of God's love for us. By this love, it is the Spiritual Attitude within us that enables us to be the Church, to carry on the mission and ministry of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Our ride has come to an end, so I leave you with this Spiritual Truth from the Apostle Paul: ***"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."***

(GWT = God's Word Translation)



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

More Questions About Transition at North Eaton Christian Church

The following Q&A offers an update on the transition work now underway:

1. What is the role of the Interim Minister?

Serving as North Eaton's Interim Minister, Rev. Ralph will continue with the responsibility of managing the church's worship services, supervising the staff and facilitating the work of the Church Board and Transition Team. He is also the point of contact with our Regional Office and Dr. Bill Edwards.

2. Will Rev. Ralph be a candidate as our new Settled Minister?

No! In the same manner as a retiring or relocating minister, Rev. Ralph is ethically bound to not be a candidate and will leave the congregation at the end of his tenure as Interim. He anticipates being called to help other churches as an Interim Minister.

3. What is the relationship of the Regional and General Offices during the transition?

The Regional office will serve as a resource during the transition and search process, particularly through the General Office of Search and Call in Indianapolis, IN. The Regional Office will assist in securing names of potential candidates and the General Office will serve as a resource in conducting background checks on potential candidates.

4. How are the profiles for the Search and Call created?

The Transition Team will develop two profiles during the interim period, incorporating feedback from the congregation. One is a Church Profile that will include, among other things, demographic information, personnel, our mission and ministries, and what we see as challenges for the future. The other profile is a Pastoral Profile. The congregation will have an opportunity to indicate the qualities and skills they believe are important for a Minister to have in order to fully serve North Eaton's Mission and Ministry.

5. How are the youth involved in the transition process?

We will have at least one youth on the Transition Team, as they are available, mainly due to the time commitments of school. Julie Haumschild has agreed to fill this role. It is also anticipated that youth will be represented in the appointment of the Search Committee. The Transition Team will also seek input from the various youth organizations during the transition process.

6. What is the timetable of the transition process and the completion date?

The Team would like the process to move along as quickly as possible, but also be thorough and complete. The way a congregation chooses to use its interim time will shape congregational growth, identity, and health for years to come. **The estimated completion date for the information gathering work of the Transition Team is late Spring 2010. The search committee will then begin their work of searching and calling. This process could take 6 months or longer.**

NECC HAYRIDE & BONFIRE Sunday, Oct. 11, 6:00 p.m.

NECC is planning another outing for families and friends. We will meet on Sunday, October 11 at Jim and Robin Galvin's home at 6:00 pm. Jim and Robin's address is 12740 Cowley Road in Columbia Station. Hot dogs, marshmallows, and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

There will be a hayride followed by a bonfire to roast hot dogs and marshmallows. Dress for the weather as we will be outside the entire evening. If you did not sign up at church and would like to come (please bring the whole family), contact Carol Bokman at bokmans@att.net or by phone 440-891-1819. We hope to see you there.



Two NEW Bible Studies Begin Oct. 11—10:45-11:45

“God’s Ordinary People” By Michael Dixon Leader: Polly Tallos

In God's ordinary people you will meet: Amos, a farmer; Pricilla and Aquila, tent makers; Philemon and Onesimus, master and slave. They weren't patriarchs, kings, queens, or messiahs. They were just ordinary people, yet God worked in their lives—just as God can work in ours.

Call Polly, 748-2246 or stop in the class on Sunday and see what it is all about.

“If You Want to Walk on Water, You’ve Got to Get Out of the Boat” By John Ortberg Leaders: Carol Wilson & Robin Galvin

You're one step away from the adventure of your life. John Ortberg reflects on the biblical story in Matthew 14 and applies it to our lives today.

Please join us for this 6 week class, as we learn to face our fears, discover and embrace our unique calling, and experience the power of God in our lives. Call Robin Galvin, 748-6051 or stop in the class on Sunday and see what it is all about. We meet in a classroom off the fellowship hall.

Entertainment 2010 Books....

We are once again selling the books. Please let your friends and co-workers know about us. The cost this year is \$30.00. They are available after worship on Sundays or call the church office to reserve your books: 440-748-2230.

Some of the profit will go towards the cost of having the women's restroom stalls repainted. If you have questions, contact Londa Blaine or call the office.

News Among the Pews.....

Our congratulations to: **Randy and Laura Kuhn** on the birth of a great granddaughter.
Julie Haumschild on completing her Girl Scout Gold Award.

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Steve and Jenny Tyler who were married on Sept. 26 at the Oberlin Inn.
Melissa (Wilford) and Donald Moss who were married in our sanctuary on Sept. 26.
Lauren Cihla on her recent marriage.

Our sympathy is extended to:

The family and friends of **Chet Nowak** who died last week. Chet had been battling a number of illnesses this past year. We were blessed to know Chet through Barb Koerner, who invited him to worship at North Eaton.

The family of **Matthew Ulmor**. He is the 23-yr.-old nephew of Barb Galvin who was killed in a motorcycle accident.

THANK YOU:

For the overwhelming response to our call for prayer shawls and yarn. The shawls are beautiful! We also received a huge garbage bag full of yarn. With the winter weather coming and being indoors more, this is a great time to knit. Just come in Judy's office and take your pick of yarn.

To NECC:

Thank you for letting us have our grandmother's, Ethel Hein's, Memorial Service at the church. We very much appreciated Rev. Wearstler's words and his help preparing for the slideshow. Special thanks to the ladies who worked so hard preparing our meal and cleaning up afterwards. That meant a lot to us as we visited and remembered. My grandmother would have been so pleased.

Jessica Hein and Amanda McLeod

My thanks to the church for the beautiful prayer shawl. It helps to keep me warm and cozy on these cool nights. Your prayers and kindness are much appreciated. Carlene Beres

TEMP. ADDRESSES:

BOB BRICKER is recuperating from surgery in Florida. His address is: 1000 Wiggins Pass Rd. Lot 5, Naples, Fl. 34110.

TOM KOHLER is now at Life Care of Medina. His address is: Rm. 609, 2400 Columbia Rd. Medina, Ohio 44256.

NECC Youth Groups

Youth Groups will be starting up again in October. Our Kick-off Cook-out at Polly Tallos' house on Sunday, September 27. We had hot dogs and everyone brought good food to share. Then we spent some time getting to know each other by playing "Dumb Polly" Games. (Polly's not dumb—it's just her games that are.)



JYF—Jr. Youth Fellowship is for children in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. We meet the 2nd and 4th Weds of the month from 6:30 to 8 PM in the High School classroom. We have a bible study, play games and have a snack.

Chi Rho—Jr. High/Middle school youth-6th, 7th and 8th grades. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 5 to 7 PM. We have bible studies, play games, eat, and have special events.

CYF-Christian Youth Fellowship is for youth in the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month for our regular meetings. We also meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month to go to Dunham Ave Christian Church to help serve their Free Meal.

If you have any questions about the youth groups please feel free to contact Polly Tallos at the church office, 440-748-2230.

ALL BAKERS at NECC ———Please read this page and get out your recipes!!!

NECC Christmas Bazaar — Saturday, November 14—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).



The success of this project depends on ALL OF US. We need your help in all areas:

BAKE SALE TABLE—bring to the church Friday evening if possible or by 8:00 Saturday morning.

NECC CRAFT TABLE—Anything you make that you would like to donate.

CHILDREN ONLY ROOM —Donate small new gift items children can purchase on their own for family and friends for Christmas etc. We also need gift bags, tissue, tape, ribbon, and wrapping paper.

LUNCH COUNTER—Come for lunch. Bring a friend. Have a bowl of homemade soup and sit and enjoy the company.

TRASH & TREASURE ROOM—Save some clean stuff for us when you are cleaning out closets and drawers. This is a room for our GARAGE SALE JUNKIES! (NO CLOTHES OR SHOES) Bring them to the church and place in the east entrance starting the first week in November.

QUILT and gifts DRAWING— Roberta Balogh is donating another quilt and we will have other gift items to win also.

CRAFT TABLES—We have a room full of people who are selling their crafted items, supplies and gifts. What a great place to start your Christmas shopping!

VOLUNTEER HELP DURING THE DAY—If you would like to volunteer some time to help us at the bazaar, please call PHYLLIS CHAPMAN—322-6678,

MARGE HOUSTON—748-2583, or church office—748-2230.



Election Day Bake Sale

Tuesday, November 3
(During Polling Hours)

Youth are holding a bake sale during polling hours on Tuesday, Nov 3. Coffee and muffins will be available in the morning.

Other baked goods available all day or until supplies run out. The youth will be helping during the day as most schools are closed for the election. If you would like to donate something to the sale, please contact Polly Tallos.

Even if we are not your polling place, stop by and check out our bake sale.

NECC Annual Christmas Cookie Sale

The youth will be holding their annual Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 5 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The cookies will be sold for \$7.00 a pound. The money raised will help cover the cost of the CYF's Mission Trip in 2010 and the Chi Rho's support of the Cleveland Christian Home.

We need lots of homemade Christmas Cookies to sell. Last year we sold out of cookies! That was over 100 pounds!!

Workcamp Update

Shortly after school was out last Spring, before our Youth could even begin to really enjoy their summer, they took off to Lexington, NC for a week of work. Tyler Bokman, JJ Haumschild and Jen Wilson spent the week painting in the homes of people they had never met before. They joined 400 other youth and adults from around the United States to put their faith into action, expecting nothing in return.

Lives are changed through service! At 2009 Group Workcamp Foundation camps, 23,000 youth served people in need, 4,000 projects were completed, 8,000 disadvantaged residents were helped, and 156,000 cans were collected by youth groups for needy families.

Once again, the youth and Polly would like to thank everyone for their support of our workcamp experiences. We would like to encourage other MEN, WOMEN, AND YOUTH to join us next year. We would like to take more people from North Eaton Christian Church* and possibly work with other Disciples churches in the area.

(*Retirees, laid-off workers, or vacationers. Contact Polly Tallos for info.)

NECC “167th” Anniversary Celebration...Sunday, October 18

Mark your calendar for October 18 and join us for a day of celebration. Our guest speaker at our worship services will be Rev. Amy Gopp, Executive Director of Week of Compassion. She is an awesome speaker you will not want to miss.....

An ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), global activist and peacemaker, Gopp uses dynamic preaching and creative teaching to urge people to engage in compassionate service that imbues hope and empowerment for all. Currently she serves as the Executive Director of Week of Compassion, the relief, refugee, and development ministry fund of the Disciples church. On behalf of its network of more than 3,200 congregations world wide, Week of compassion distributes annually more than \$2.5 million toward global sustainable development and humanitarian relief.

A native of Kent, Ohio, Gopp discovered her call to Christian ministry as a member of First Christian Church and through Camp Christian. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and a Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution.

CATERED LUNCH AT 12:00 (noon).....MUST have a reservation

Our anniversary celebration will continue as we share lunch together.

*This is a catered meal so we **MUST HAVE YOUR RESERVATION** by **OCTOBER 12.***

Call the church office or note your intent to attend on the friendship register during worship on Oct. 4 or Oct. 11.



Telling Our Story

We hope to see everyone in attendance at our Anniversary Dinner on October 18. Besides the good food and fellowship, you will have an opportunity to share about your place in the history of North Eaton Christian Church.

Our Transition Team will lead us in “Telling Our Story.” As the congregation's stories are told, heard and reflected on, it will provide an opportunity to come to terms with significant events and trends in North Eaton’s history, and to recognize important themes and values. There will be more than one telling of the congregation's story, because everyone is being asked to share their part in it.

Only if we have a strong sense of our story from its beginnings up to today will we be ready to look forward and embrace a new chapter in our story. It may be different from where we have been but it needs to build on what has gone before. Some things will need to be grieved, some things celebrated, some things left behind, some carried forward.

Your sharing in this process will be greatly appreciated. Come join us!

Rev. Ralph

FOOD BOOTH —Fair Facts

The attendance at the Fair this year was down by thousands but those who came enjoyed the food at the North Eaton food booth. Our profit this year is around \$12,00.00. It is down from years past but is still an awesome amount to make in one week.

We sold:

ERROR: rangecheck
OFFENDING COMMAND: readstring

STACK:

()
-filestream-
/tables
false
(./s0500001.pfb)
/StandardSymL
/Symbol
-mark-
/Symbol
893824
/Symbol
/Font
/Symbol
false
/2
0
/F14
false
/Symbol