

Writings From The Rev - March 2010

I hope that you are picking up the pace in the Lenten Journey we started a week or so ago. It's not so much a race to the empty tomb, as some will have you think. It's more like a hike through the hills and valleys of our spiritual understanding and our actions. As my son, the naturalist, points out, you need to pack right and pack light.

In our Lenten journey, packing right means to make sure that you have the essentials, like water and food. Several years ago I took my family on a special vacation to Vancouver, British Columbia. We had never been that far West or North before. We were awed by the majestic scenery and the adventure of seeing so many new things. On the second day, we headed North from Vancouver to a place called Whistler, in the coastal mountains. (I never thought I'd be able to say that I was at the site of the 2010 Winter Olympics, only it was August, and 10 years earlier.)

On the day before, we made a spontaneous stop and walked through a giant corn maze. It was amazing (no pun intended, well, maybe so). We had heard there was a scenic suspension bridge on the way to Whistler, so we stopped to check it out. We pulled in the parking lot of the nature park about 11 a.m. and look at the area map. It showed a circular path with the bridge at the opposite point from where we were standing. The map made it seem like a short hike, so we took off with a light jacket, but leaving everything else behind in the car, even the water bottles. It was just going to be a short trip.

Three hours later we came crawling back to the car. Okay, I came crawling back. The map made it look like the trail was flat, like most of them in the Metro Parks around here. But it was a series of steep inclines and rocky descents. Beautiful? Yes! But it was three hours of no water, no snacks, no restrooms. I thought the map said 1.5 Km, almost a mile. However, when we got back and looked at the map again it really said 15 Km, that's about nine and half miles. While we may have packed light, we certainly didn't pack right.

So, how are you packed for your Lenten Journey this year? Are you packing light, but not right? Packing light means not packing the burdens that weight us down. Lent is a time to unburden ourselves, to humble ourselves to the Lord. To allow Jesus to bear our sorrow, grief, pain, and suffering, as only he can do. Packing right means to bring along those spiritual disciplines that will help us make this journey. It means making time for meditation, reflection, and an openness allowing Christ to walk with you. It involves study of the Holy Scriptures that will serve to nourish your soul. It requires prayer, taking time to talk and share with our God, who loves you for who you are. It may even involve fasting, as you refrain from or change old habits and bad behavior.

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, let us realize that Jesus walks this journey with us. His Spirit will guide us, because he went to the Cross and beyond. He is the Way!

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

We welcome our new Church Council Chairperson.....

We are very happy to announce that **Melissa Folk** has accepted the position of Council Chair, and was elected by Council on February 14th. Please keep her in your prayers as she takes on this responsibility along with being Chairperson for the Christian Education Committee. We also thank Jeff Hensley for serving as Vice-Chair, as well as being Chair of the Elders.

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

Address Service Requested

**Interim Minister: Rev. Ralph S. Wearstler
Christian Ed. And Youth Director: Polly Tallos
Secretary: Londa Blaine
Pianist: Kim Speiran-Wells
Interim Worship & Music Directors: Diana Tyler & Lanson Wells
Pathways Counseling and Growth Center: Dr. Ralph Thompson**

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

Ash Wednesday Worship

On Ash Wednesday North Eaton Christian Church hosted our Annual District 2A Worship. We were joined by the Disciples congregations of Washington Avenue, Lorain Christian Temple and Lakewood. The Sanctuary was very full and we collected \$506.86, for the mission work provided by Week of Compassion and Church World Service. Thanks to all who helped make this a wonderful Worship experience.

A Lenten Reminder Nail

Those in attendance at our Ash Wednesday worship received a large nail as a reminder of Jesus' love and sacrifice for us on the Cross.

Anyone who would like to receive one of these nails for their Lenten preparation time can pick it up from the basket located at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

The nail will also be used as part of our Maundy Thursday Worship, April 1st.

4th Annual Chili Cook-Off

On February 16th, about 15 people from the North Eaton Christian Church joined other congregations at the First Christian Church in Brunswick for our 4th annual chili cook-off. Also in attendance were 12 family members of the Olmsted Falls Jazz Band, our musical entertainment for the evening. Each year a "goodwill offering" is collected and the proceeds are given to an appropriate cause. This year, \$425 was collected for the Disciples Relief Fund for Haiti. Everyone filled their tummies, burned their tongues a bit, enjoyed good fellowship, and had a great time! Unfortunately, nobody from NECC was chosen as the winning chef, but there's always next year. Check out the photos hanging on the board in the Fellowship Hall. THANKS to those who attended and especially to Dave Carpenter, Jackie Haumschild, and Diana Tyler for entering crock pots of chili in the competition. We hope to see even more people joining us next February as we try to win the coveted "Chili For Christ" trophy.
Carol Bokman

CORNERSTONE — Thank you to all who have been so generous with your pocket change each week by putting it in the baby bottle banks on the table in the fellowship hall.
Marie Ternes

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.

Palm Sunday— March 28th

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 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., as we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into the City of Jerusalem. Our children will lead us in celebration during 2nd Worship with a Parade of Palms and a special song.

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

Maundy Thursday—April 1st

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 Reminder Nail" with you.

Good Friday — April 2nd

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 12th

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. Join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at our 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. worship services.

Our Youth will host an **Easter Breakfast** from 8:45 a.m. — 9:15 a.m. A Freewill Offering will help cover the cost of the breakfast.

NECC Family Fun — LASER TAG

On Sunday, March 14th, the family and friends of the NECC are invited to join in a laser tag challenge at Lazer Xtreme in Middleburg Hts. We would like everyone to meet at 2:00 p.m. at Lazer Xtreme which is located at 13409 Smith Road in Middleburg Hts. Please let me know if you would like to car pool with the church van. The cost for this event is \$7.00 for one play, \$13.00 for two, and \$18.00 for three plays. Each play session lasts about 20 minutes. You must be at least 6 years old to play. If we have a group of 10 – 24 the cost would be \$6.00 per play and 25 or more would lower the cost to \$5.00 per play. Up to 30 people can play at one time. There is also a video arcade in the lobby. Please let Carol Bokman know if you plan to attend and as always, financial assistance is available. If you have any questions, you can contact me at bokmans@att.net or by calling 440-891-1819. (Discount coupons are also available at <http://cbscleve.mwccoupons.com/7422>)

Thank You

"Thank you for your recent donation of \$1,242.80 sent to us through the Christian Church in Ohio. Thanks to your ongoing support, the caring staff of the CCH continue to stay dedicated to our mission of being a haven of hope for our community's most troubled children and families."
James D. Runyon

Dear Friends of NECC,

My thanks to NECC and Fran Early for bringing us yarn for our ongoing project of making scarves, hats and gloves for children in Lorain County and wraps for nursing home residents.
Laura Moore, LCRSVP

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your many prayers, visits, and cards sent to me after I fell a last month. The sling is gone and the doctor says I am good.
Ruth Haupt

"Thank you" to the lady who made the prayer shawl that was given to me after my baptism. Your kindness is much appreciated.
Cameron Castro

Serving at the Lord's Table in MARCH

8:00 Jim and Linda Ickes
9:30 Phyllis & Floyd Chapman (TL), Royce Klein, Mary Bengough,
 Dave Carpenter, Paula & Mike Krasnevich, James Purdy,
 Amy Stafford, Robin Galvin
ELDERS Linda Rodak and Jeff Hensley

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES....MARCH

2	John & Lillian Ingram	24	Rachel Trimble
3	Collin Trimble		Doris Goist
5	Alex Carpenter		Liz Bokar
6	Eileen Weber	25	Bill Nowagarski
	Stephanie Garvin	28	Scott White
	Brittney Bokar		Shannon Belfi
7	Lisa Woodby		Carol & Doug Busche
	Arlene Squire	29	Karen Vilevac
8	Mary Tite	30	Chris Smith
11	Jill Hartness		Kristy Piper
12	Dolly Dixon	31	Vicky Spitzer
14	Cassidy Karban		Paige Bokman
	Kevin Wilson		
	Robin & Jim Galvin		
17	Mike Krasnevich		
	Dan Landin		
	Kennadi Daniels		
19	Sylvia Ott		
20	Melissa Daniels		
	Val & Ted Fletcher		
	Glenn & Carol Swartz		
21	Ted Fletcher		
	Angie & Ed Carter		
	Donna & Bruce Burdick		
22	Jeremy Piper		
23	Linda Morrison		

Reminders:

We're saving
 CANCELLED
 STAMPS.

Easter Egg
 Hunt —
 March 28th

Easter
 Breakfast
 April 4th

April 21st
 Chinese
 Auction!!

Mother-
 Daughter
 Banquet
 May 12th

News Among the Pews

ROBERTA BALOGH has moved into a new home. Her new address is 1096 Revere Run, Lebanon, Ohio 45036.

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO THE FAMILY OF ALAN MUNN who died a few weeks ago. After the memorial service on February 19th, family and friends gathered for lunch and fellowship at the church.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jan Mitchell on the birth of her great-grandson, Rene Edward Cutteridge.

We continue to pray for healing for: Eleanor Smith, Linda Ickes, Ralph Thompson, Alberta Amos, Mike Weber

My thanks to all who remembered me in prayer, sent cards, and stopped by to say hello while I was recuperating at Keystone Point. I'm home now and waiting for the snow to melt so I can drive again. Rich Walkden

Scout Recognition @ NECC
BOY SCOUT SUNDAY — March 7, 2010 @ 9:30 worship (Fellowship hour provided and hosted by the Scouts.)
GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY —March 14, 2010 @ 9:30 worship (Fellowship hour provided and hosted by the Bokmans and Haumschildts)
North Eaton Christian Church is the Charter Organization for Cub Scout Pack 111 and Boy Scout Troup 111, as well as the meeting place for many units of Girl Scouts. This is a vital and worthwhile community ministry. One in which a safe meeting place is provided for our area youth. One of the main foci of these programs is to develop responsible citizens. It has worked very well. It is a time to celebrate our small part in this worthwhile organization.

PROCEDURE FOR ORDERING FLOWERS for Sunday worship:

YOU are responsible for ordering and paying for any flowers you would like to have in honor or memory of a loved one for Sunday worship. You then call the church office by Thursday to let Londa know what message you would like printed in the bulletin. You can have the flowers delivered to the EAST ENTRANCE on Saturday and they will be brought in and placed in the sanctuary for Sunday morning. You then take them home after our second worship service.



When we do not have fresh flowers for worship, SUE WEBB has designed and donated many beautiful floral arrangements to be used on Sunday morning. We are blessed that she is willing to share her talent to beautify our chancel area each Sunday.

Annual Chinese Auction @ NECC Wednesday, April 21st

Doors Open @ 7:00 p.m.

This event is sponsored by our Youth Groups and the Membership Team, under the expert direction of CAROL BUSCHE. This has become a family event the whole community looks forward to attending. Each person/family attending is asked to bring at least one new item for the auction (not mandatory). It can be handmade, baked, bought, a gift certificate or service. Items donated are placed on the table and a large cup is placed by the item. Tickets are purchased and you drop a ticket/tickets in the cup by the items you would like to win. (This way you do not win something you don't want.) Tickets sold in advance are 6/\$1.00 and 4/\$1.00 the night of the auction. We will begin to sell tickets after worship in April or in the church office during the week. INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS!!