

Writings From The Rev - April 2010

It's been a number of years since Easter has come close, if not on April 1st. In fact, it won't happen again until 2018. This year the first of April is on Maundy Thursday, the night we remember Jesus meeting with his disciples in the Upper Room for a farewell meal. But since April Fool's Day is within Holy Week this year, I felt it appropriate to share with you this poem I wrote some years ago:

"The Easter Fool"

Hear my words, if you may... Jesus Christ has risen today!

Why, what a foolish thing to say.

We know he died upon the cross, he suffered death and all was loss.

What a Foolish thing to say, that Jesus Christ has risen today.

I speak these words that you might hear, what may sound foolish to your ear,

That Christ has risen from the grave, salvation's price has now been paid.

What a foolish thing to say, that Christ has risen from the grave.

No one can pay the price of sin, the hands of fate our lives are in.

You must not know the world as we, your foolish claim we can not see.

I come to share a news that's true, a gift of love from God to you.

For what seems foolish is really wise, when viewed through God and not your eyes.

So, foolishness I come to share, into this world filled with despair.

That you may too be fooled this day, to come by faith and know the way,

To speak with foolish hearts and say that Christ the Lord has risen today!

For the sake of Christ, what a foolish thing to say.

Most of the time when we think or talk about fools or foolishness, it holds a negative image. Nobody wants to be known as a Fool. In fact, Jesus tells us that one of the worst things you can do is call someone a fool. And yet, when the Apostle Paul writes his first letter to the Corinthians he gives us a whole new viewpoint of what it means to be foolish. In chapter 1:18, he writes, "*For the message about the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*" In verse 27, he says, "*God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise.*" In chapter 3:18 & 19, Paul says, "*Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.*" And in chapter 4:10, he boldly states, "*We are fools for the sake of Christ.*"

To a great many people in this world the Easter Story seems foolish. And even those who claim to believe, sometimes find it hard to share their faith, because they are afraid of being labeled a fool. As Easter People, we are called by Christ to proclaim the GOOD NEWS. Love your enemies; pray for those who hurt you; give more than you are required to give; hope when there is no hope. What the rest of the world may see as foolish, we know to be the power of God. To the worldly, faith in the Good News of our risen Christ may seem foolish, but to those foolish enough to believe, it is the gift of God's Love and Grace.

May you be filled with the Foolish Joy of this Easter Season!

The VOICE

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Children's DedicationFrom time to time in the life of the Church we rejoice when parents bring their children (infants—toddlers) forward during the worship service to be blessed by God and dedicated into our church family. The dedication is a time when the child's family and the church family promise to support the child in developing a Christian faith. If you are interested in having your child dedicated into the life of the church, please contact Rev. Ralph or call the church office, 748-2230. May 9, Mother's Day, would be a very good time to consider doing this. It can be done any Sunday that is best for you.

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

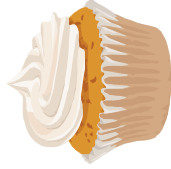
Address Service Requested

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

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April Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Jeanne Kekic
- 1 Renate Mauer
- 2 Diana Butcher
- 2 Tony Ward
- 3 Dennis & Chrissy Baughman
- 4 Luke Bowen
- 6 Dave & Mary Schofield
- 7 Don Binnie
- 8 Kathy Carpenter
- 9 Tammy Gamble
- 9 John Hicks
- 10 Mike Carpenter
- 10 Logan Szuch
- 12 Eddie Karban
- 13 Alta Mitchell
- 13 Jordon Gross
- 14 Carol Busche
- 14 Mark Meldrum
- 14 Jack Susak
- 15 Jim Ponting
- 15 Kristen Teper
- 15 Bob Lynch
- 15 Mike Klinec
- 20 Andy Teper
- 20 Melissa Folk
- 20 Chase Stevanus
- 20 Doug & Kim Blaine
- 22 Paula Krasnevich
- 23 Alisha Hicks
- 23 Barb Galvin
- 24 Sherry Wilson
- 25 Becky Thompson
- 27 Scott Thompson
- 27 Jan Mitchell
- 29 Pete & Polly Tallos



MAY.....

- 1 Sue Webb
- 2 Cody Wilson
- 2 Chuck & Genene Slusher
- 3 Carol & Buz Bokman
- 6 Dennis Baughman
- 6 Shari Kyle

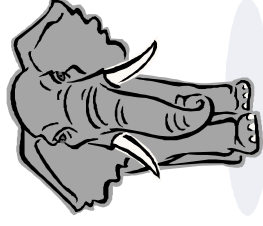
Game Night Update

On February 28, about 18 people (of all ages) from the North Eaton Christian Church gathered for a fun night of playing games, socializing, and eating snacks. *Some of the games we enjoyed were Scrabble, Farkle, Kemps, Spoons, Euchre, LRC, and Uno Attack.* Everyone seemed to have a great time and some of us learned some new games. There may be some photos in the Fellowship Hall to check out. THANKS to those who attended and brought games and snacks to share. We hope to see even more people joining us next for the next Game Night.



NECC AFTERNOON AT THE ZOO

On Sunday, April 25, 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 5 p.m. that afternoon. Enter the zoo on your own and plan to meet on the upper level, by the playground, around 2:30 for some fellowship with other NECC attendees.



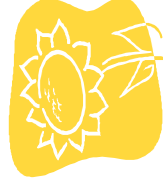
Admission prices for the zoo and rain forest are as follows:

Adults (ages 12 and older) - \$10

Children (ages 2 – 11) - \$7

Children young than age 2 - 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.
Email address: bokmans@att.net; Phone: 440-891-1819.



NECC BASEBALL EVENT

On Sunday, May 23, the family and friends of North Eaton Christian Church are invited to go to a Lake Erie Crushers baseball game. This is a minor league team and all of the seats are very close to the playing field. The ticket prices are \$9 for a box seat and the price will decrease to \$8 for a group of 20 or more people. Game time is 5:05 p.m. Sundays are family days so it should be a good environment for all ages. **I need to order tickets in advance, so please get your reservation AND payment to me by April 30.**

If you have any questions, please contact me at bokmans@att.net or 440-891-1819.

BOWLING UPDATE..... The March family event took place on Sunday,

March 8 at the Brunswick Zone in North Ridgeville. We spent several hours bowling and eating pizza. 16 of us bowled on three lanes and had a great time with each other. We did find out that none of us are ready for the PBA Tour yet. Photos are on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Our next event is **SWIMMING** at the Strongsville Recreation Center. Find your bathing suit and join us. More info. in the Sunday worship bulletins. Any questions contact Polly Tallos or Carol Bokman.

L a Z e R T a G ...

A small but fierce group of parents and children took on the forces at LAZER XTREME in Middleburg Heights on March 14. Much fun was had running the maze and looking for the opposing team.



Celebration of "Discipline" Group Study

Consistent with NECC's Strategic Plan, a new small group study was started at the beginning of the Lenten Season. We met on Wednesday evenings for one hour to study Richard J. Foster's "Celebration of Discipline." Lead by Maureen Cromling, we learned how the classic Christian Disciplines can open hearts to the transforming grace of God. After completing the first set of lessons that included *The Introduction* and *The Inward Disciplines*, we have decided to complete the series that includes four sessions on *The Outward Disciplines* and four on *The Corporate Disciplines*. We should complete this study by mid-June.

If you were not able to attend this study and it sounds like something you would like to attend, please contact Maureen Cromling, 748-3786. If there is enough interest, we will start another class. This study covers Christian disciplines that are essential in advancing each of us in our spiritual journey. As stated by Richard J. Foster, "*Because the discipline of study is so important for transformation, it should be a part of normal church life for all Christians.*"

I thank everyone who committed to join me in this group study. I have been blessed by each of you.

Yours in Christ, Maureen

EASTER EGG "Thank You"



Thank you to...

...the dedicated egg stuffers who met on two Wednesday mornings before the Easter Egg Hunt. On the first day, we stuffed 55 dozen eggs, which is about a third of the eggs we put out at the Easter Egg Hunt. The second day we stuffed 70 dozen.
...those who took home eggs and filled them on their own.
...all who donated prizes and candy.
...Eve Circle for stuffing information bags.

We had over 150 dozen plastic eggs stuffed and ready to be gathered by excited children at the Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, March 28.

Serving at the Lord's Table in APRIL

8:00 Harry Hinkel, Tom Kohler

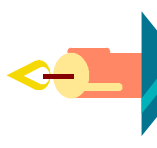
9:30 Beth Wilson (TL), Pam Daniels, Ken & Cindy Hicks, Carol Bokman,
John Klinect, Marlene Black, Carol Swartz, Diana Tyler, Tyler Bokman,
Jen Wilson

ELDERS—Stu Hicks, Ralph Thompson

"The Good Time Girls" (TGTG) Invite YOU to join them on April 22 when they will be going to the A.I. ROOT COMPANY in Medina. We will leave the church at 10:45 a.m. The cost is \$18 per person and includes:

LUNCH—a cooking demonstration with emphasis on salads; includes appetizers and a light dessert.

A PRESENTATION on the history of A.I. ROOT, plus a goodie bag and discount coupons.



RESERVATIONS "a must" BY: Tuesday, April 13
CALL Barb Galvin—440-748-3391

The "Week of Compassion" ministry of our church is our link to those in physical and spiritual need here in our country and around the world. Our donations for this special offering totaled \$650.86. The need for help remains great. Contributions can be made all year and it is important to know that 100% of the amount given is used for this Outreach Ministry. No amount is too small. Thank you for changing lives! Envelopes are always on the table in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Marlene Black

The Special EASTER OFFERING supports the **GENERAL MINISTRIES** of our church such as Missionary support, educational programs and leadership training. It's another way to share the resurrection story and the love of our Lord to those in need. The Easter envelopes are in your bulletin, on the table in the Narthex or just add your gift to your regular offering. (Mark your gift clearly on the envelope or check.)

Youth Membership Class

The Membership Candidates and their Mentors have been meeting about once a week for the last two months. They have discussed many subjects related to their faith journey.

April 30 - May 1 the youth will be meeting at the church for a retreat. During the retreat, they will meet with Antonia Spector who will share with them information about Jewish traditions. They will also have a chance to explore the church physically during a scavenger hunt, and spiritually through Bible study. Rev Wearstler will take time on Saturday to talk with the candidates about their opportunity to be baptized.

Membership Candidates

Scott Thompson
Blake Kyle
Kevin Wilson
Paige Bokman
Maddie Stevanus
Chase Stevanus
Carley Petersen

Mentors

Tyler Bokman
Becky Thompson
Brian Insley
Karen Konko
Julie Haumschild
Diana Tyler
Fran Walker

Summer Church Camps

Summer Camp Applications are now online. Who can go to camp? All youth who have completed the 3rd grade or higher can go. All young adults who have graduated High School or are over 18 years of age to 30 years old can go. All adults 30 years to ??? can go.



Check it out at <http://ccinoh.org/camp/applications.aspx>

Polly Tallos has hard copies of the Camp Applications if you are not able to get them online.

Cost: \$300 for Chi Rho Camp and CYF Conference

\$310 for Partnership/Junior Camp (3-5th grades)

North Eaton Christian Church will cover **half the cost of Camp**. If you are in need of additional financial help, please contact Polly Tallos or Rev. Wearstler as soon as possible.

Camp Christian Reunion

Saturday, May 15, 2010

8:30-10:00 p.m.

Register Online --- www.ccinoh.org

Remember the Vespers Spot? the Dining Hall? sitting in the green chairs, talking with friends for hours? GREAT NEWS!! These things don't have to be just memories. No matter how long you've been away or where you've been, it's time to come home to CAMP CHRISTIAN.

See what's changed.....what's the same, and find out what's happening with old friends.

Whether you attended only a weekend, a year or years and years this event is for YOU! Email an old camp friend to meet you there. Come on Friday night and sleep over or arrive on Saturday morning.

A camp form and more information is in our church office—stop by and take a look.

2010 Vacation Bible School

The Christian Education Team is happy to announce the Vacation Bible School program is scheduled for **August 9-13, 2010**.

Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace

VBS participations will imagine living in a dusty, bustling, noisy city along the Nile in ancient Egypt...you'd gossip about the Pharaoh's palace...work with people who followed countless gods...and perhaps hear about a "dreamer" that Pharaoh put in charge... The Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a Marketplace; children and adults will visit Joseph first in prison then at the palace where he serves the Pharaoh. **If you have any decorations that might fit the Egyptian theme, please let us know.** Brad and Heather Stevanus have agreed to take on a leadership roll with much help and support from Polly Tallos and Melissa Folk. At this time, if you have any questions, please see Polly Tallos or Melissa Folk.