

Writings From The Rev - May 2010

I am often amazed at the number of people unfamiliar with the Day of Pentecost. Even for faithful worship attenders the significance of Pentecost is foreign to them. It seems that the less formal a congregation's worship is, the less emphasis is placed on this Holy Day.

We celebrate Christmas with a lot of enthusiasm and preparation, intertwined with cultural and secular traditions. Easter calls us to a more spiritual preparation with times of prayer, Bible study, reflection, and self-sacrifice, so that we might have a greater and growing understanding of all that Jesus Christ has done for us.

But what's the big deal about Pentecost? Well, first, and foremost, it is the Birthday of the Church. While it is not a part of the Gospel story, Jesus does speak of this coming day.

In John 14:18-20, Jesus says, *"I will not leave you all alone. I will come back to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. You will live because I live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father and that you are in me and that I am in you."* And then in verses 25-26, he goes on to say, *"I have told you this while I'm still with you. However, the helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything. He will remind you of everything that I have ever told you."*

In Luke's Gospel the very last words that Jesus speaks to his disciples are these, *"I'm sending you what my Father promised. Wait here in the city until you receive power from heaven."* (Luke 24:49). The full story of Pentecost is shared in Luke's history of the Early Church found in the Book of Acts, chapter 2. On that day the disciples did indeed receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Yet, it wasn't only Jesus' closest disciples who received this gift, but all who turned to God and believed that Jesus was and is the way to Salvation. On that day the Church, the Body of Christ, was born. And what was true then is still true today, and every day, that everyone who proclaims Jesus as the Christ and is baptized is forgiven, receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, and takes their place in the Body of Christ.

This is why we celebrate Pentecost, it is our birthday as the Body of Christ. As the Apostle Paul so clearly put it in I Corinthians 12:27, *"Now you are the Body of Christ, and individually members of it."* Each of us is a part of this body, but we are not all the same part, there are many parts. Some are new and some are old, some are strong and some are weaker. However, each one is gifted with a purpose and a responsibility to carry out the Mission and Ministry that began with Jesus. In fact, in verse 26, Paul says, *"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."*

This Body, the Church, is alive today because of those who shared in it, from past to present. And it continues to live and grow with each new generation of believers. Come join us on Sunday, May 23rd, as we celebrate Pentecost and rejoice in the baptism of new believers as they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and take a fuller part in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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To my church family: THANK YOU for all the encouragement, prayers and support for me in my new role as Council Chairperson. I encourage everyone to come to our council meetings, regardless of whether you are in a position to vote or not. Your opinion is important. Also, I ask for your continued prayers as I follow His call to step out of my comfort zone into this new role, and that I am able to balance my duties as Council Chair with my responsibilities as Sunday School Superintendent.

..... Blessings, Melissa Folk

**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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THANK YOU

Our thanks to Brownie Troup #424, Girls Scout Troup #490 and to the Cub Scouts #111 for their generous support of our "food pantry."

The Midview North Hot Stove and the Board members donated \$100.00 to our church. "We appreciate you letting us use your Church for our meetings. We thank you for opening your doors to our members and all the parents involved in the organization."

"On behalf of the Lakewood Christian Church, Wanda Miller and myself, thank you for the use of NECC's baptistry. Also, thanks to Floyd and Phyllis Chapman for taking the time and effort to get everything ready and to assist in the baptism. Thank you to Londa Blaine for making the arrangements and to Mike Krasnevich for checking on us.

*Dr. Paul H. Durbin, Intentional Interim Minister
Lakewood Christian Church*

"I want to thank all the congregation for their prayers and concerns for Micah and Jonah Stafford, my twin grandsons. They have come a long way and I know without my faith and the strength you have given me through prayer, they couldn't have come so far. I praise God and your support. Please continue to pray as Jonah heals and they grow.

Your sister in Christ, Amy Stafford

THANK YOU to all who took part in making the **CHINESE AUCTION** another fun and successful event for the 19th year. Special thanks to **CAROL BUSCHE** for all her time and effort in heading up this event each year. We made \$1,440.00 and the Youth made over \$150.00 from the food kitchen.

Londa Blaine and Polly Tallos

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Sue Webb
- 2 Cody Wilson
- 3 Chuck & Genene Slusher
- 3 Carol & Buz Bokman
- 4 Stacy Zawojski
- 6 Shari Kujle
- 7 Dennis Baughman
- 7 Roger Driver
- 8 Dan Hicks
- 8 Sharon Kiesel
- 9 Harry Hinkel
- 9 Brett Nash
- 11 Aaron Durbin
- 12 Tom Mott
- 13 Lois Brasse
- 16 Jeff Joslin
- 19 Jeannie Sizemore
- 19 Maggie Carpenter
- 20 Ray & Karen Konko
- 21 Tammy & Mel Gamble
- 23 Nancy Ickes
- 24 Steve Cihla
- 24 Sally Belfi
- 26 George & Diana Butcher
- 27 Julie Haumschild
- JUNE
- 2 Erma Yost
- 3 Sarah & Bob Browne
- 5 Linda & Jim Ickes

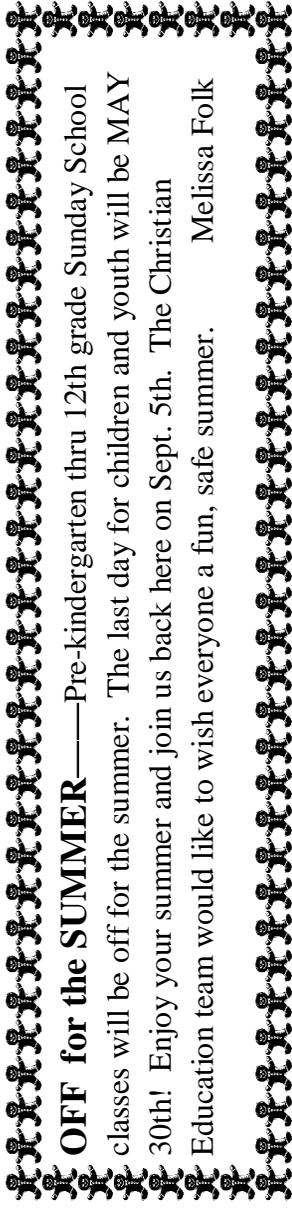
Summer Music Program

We are looking for volunteers to provide the **SPECIAL MUSIC** at the 9:30 a.m. worship service during **JUNE, JULY** and **AUGUST**, while our **CHOIR** is on summer break. Vocal and instrumentals are welcome. **SIGNUP** sheet is on the Choir Room door. Instrumental accompaniment can be provided. Please contact: **DIANA TYLER, LANSON WELLS** or **KIM SPEIRAN** if you have any questions.

Women's Conference

Several ladies from North Eaton Church and friends enjoyed a wonderful weekend at Kalahari for the Godgirls' Women's Conference "Loved By the King". There were wonderful speakers, including Nancy Stafford, whom you might recognize from her roles on Matlock or St. Elsewhere, and lots of amazing music. We hope more will want to join us next year on April 1-2.

His and yours, Melissa Folk



OFF for the SUMMER—Pre-kindergarten thru 12th grade Sunday School classes will be off for the summer. The last day for children and youth will be MAY 30th! Enjoy your summer and join us back here on Sept. 5th. The Christian Education team would like to wish everyone a fun, safe summer. Melissa Folk

NECC All Daughter Banquet —Wednesday, May 12th

Purchase your ticket after worship or call the church office to make your reservation, as soon as possible. Last day to reserve a place is May 9th.

Adults—\$7.00 each, Children — \$4.50, under 6 yrs. Free

Easter Egg Hunt—*The egg hunt this year had to be moved inside because of rain. It did not keep the kids away. About 30 children had a lot of fun dashing around gathering up dozens of eggs. Many of the children found eggs with prize tickets which allowed them to pick a prize from the table to take home.*

THANK YOU to the men and women who stuffed the plastic eggs, and donated candy and prizes.

The Easter Egg hunt has proved to be a great way to connect to the community as well as our own congregation.

Polly Tallos

YOUTH SUNDAY

The youth led worship on Sunday, April 25th. They served as deacons, elders, worship and prayer leaders and presented the morning message. The message was a series of monologues from people with theories trying to explain away the Resurrection of Jesus. The theories were then refuted with scriptures and facts proving the resurrection. The youth—Jr. Youth Fellowship, Chi Rho and Christian Youth Fellowship—all did a great job. **“Thank you” to them and their parents for making this a priority by coming to practice and getting up early on Sunday.** Polly Tallos

**TOUR of Historic Bethany, WV
Saturday, May 8th**

On Saturday, May 8th, the Youth Membership Class will be leaving at 8:30 a.m. to go to Bethany, WV for tour of the Campbell Mansion, old meeting house and Bethany College. Their Mentors, and anyone in the church (singles or families) are invited to go with us. We will be learning about our heritage as “Disciples of Christ.” Follow us in your own car or ride together. Please contact POLLY TALLOS or REV. RALPH if you would like to come with us. We should be back to the church around 7:00 p.m.

PENTECOST Special Offering: “Expanding the Table”

As Disciples, we welcome and embrace with the love of Christ all who will come to the table. New Church Ministry will continue to be mission-driven in ways that effectively and concretely extend the witness into neighborhoods and mission fields where new churches are planted and beyond? Did you know that the money collected through your Pentecost Offering is evenly divided between New church Ministry, which represents the wider church, and the region where your giving congregation is located? We need your support more than ever to help us build on the momentum of the New Church movement. As of January 2010, there are 640 new churches. We humbly ask that you keep this ministry and all the new Disciples churches in your prayers. Be encouraged and know that we thank God for your support in EXPANDING THE TABLE and pray for your congregation’s continued strength.

Rick Morse, V. President of New Church Ministry

Serving Schedule for MAY

8:00 Randy & Laura Kuhn

9:30 Melissa Folk (TL), Sally Belfi, George & Diana Butcher, Jerry Mullins, Mark Carpenter, Mike Mott, Polly Tallos, Jackie Haumschild, Julie Haumschild

ELDERS Bill Cromling, Vern Black

Resolving Disputes: The Rule of Christ

Recently, at our Camp Counselor Training event this, we talked about what was the best way to handle possible misunderstandings, conflicts, and bad behavior. One of the resources provided was a document called, "The Rule of Christ". It points out that when we find ourselves at odds with another person or perhaps just not understanding his or her position, the natural inclination for many of us is first to go to a third person (or group of people) and complain. This approach not only fails to resolve the problem, but frequently results in getting the third party entangled in a situation that is not his own. This is known as triangulation. A healthier response is for Christians to look to the insights provided by Jesus in Matthew 18: 15-17 and 20.

This model, "The Rule of Christ", walks us through a process of self-examination and dialogue with the person with whom we have an issue or concern. The basic steps are as follows:

1. **Pray:**

Honest reflection and true prayer might lead you to change your own behavior and your own way of thinking, and the issue will be resolved. *If the issue is not resolved, move on to the next step.*

2. **Approach the person by yourself** (Matthew 18:15):

For this step to be effective, you not only have to have an understanding of your own emotions, but you also have to be able to keep your feelings in check. You seek out the other person, not to yell at them but to work out the problem. Share your feelings and your perspective. Use "I" statements such as "I was hurt when..." or "I was angry when..." The person might not be aware of how deeply their words or actions have affected you. Invite the other person to share his/her perspective. This will help you understand that person better. Find a common solution that both of you can agree on. *If the issue is not resolved, move on to the next step.*

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3. **Invite a Third Party to Help** (Matthew 18:16)

These people are brought in not to "gang up" on the person with whom you are having a problem, but to help the two of you see things from a new perspective and hopefully help you find a solution. Both you and the person with whom you are in conflict should trust these people. The people you bring in must be able to be objective and be capable of listening to both sides fairly. *If the issue is not resolved, move on to the next step.*

4. **Involve Church Resources** (Matthew 18:17a)

A church official or staff member either serves as a mediator for the issue or seeks a person trained in conflict mediation to solve the problem. This can be a long and involved process. *If the issue is not resolved, move on to the next step.*

5. **Move On** (Matthew 18:17b)

Some issues resist our best efforts at a resolution. We need to recognize the impasse and move on with our lives. The key is letting go of our negative feelings so that they do not continue to plague us.

6. **Trust God** (Matthew 18:20)

God will always be with us. This knowledge can help us as we move through the difficult seasons of our lives. If you find yourself in a situation where you are troubled with another person, begin by looking to Matthew 18 for guidance. If it is a matter related to North Eaton Christian Church, and you are still not sure where to start, you can speak to one of the staff members or church officers. General church concerns can be brought to Melissa Folk, Council Chairperson, one of our Elders, or Rev. Wearstler; church building or grounds concerns should go to Londa Blaine; Youth-related issues should be directed to Polly Tallos, Director of Christian Education and Youth; Worship issues should go to Diana Tyler or Lanson Wells. These staff members and church officers should be able to help you work through "The Rule of Christ" and direct you in the process of resolving your differences.