

Writings From The Rev - June 2010

Have you ever used the term “stirring the pot” in a conversation? It’s an interesting phrase, when you stop to think about it. Unfortunately, in many cases, people who use it, use it as a negative, not a positive. “Man, you’ve really stirred the pot now!” Or, “Try not to stir the pot too much.” It is often used to describe a deliberate provoking, or to excite strong feelings, in something or someone.

And yet, a more practical definition of this term means: To mix ingredients so that the heat is evenly dispensed. If you have ever made a stew or chili or soup, you know that if you don’t stir the pot every so often, not everything will be cooked as it should. In fact, if you’re not careful, things on the bottom will get burned and the whole meal could be ruined.

Well the pot is being stirred here at North Eaton Christian Church. It’s not meant to provoke or excite in any negative way. The desire is to mix and evenly dispense.

Some may be thinking that this pot, known as North Eaton Christian Church, has been in the stirring process ever since the departure of Dr. Durbin and my arrival. That may very well be true. Others may have been thinking that this pot of church has just been simmering on the stove, and there’s truth in that also.

However, with the Commissioning of your Search Team, a new and/or great stirring is now taking place. We are all in this process together. Questions are being asked of you, opinions, hopes, and dreams are being sought. If this stirring is provoking in anyway, its intent is to get you excited about the future of this congregation and how you will serve God, Christ, and the Church through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

One of the utensils for stirring (mixing) has been our Small Group Dinners, hopefully you have made the effort to be a part of one or more of them. Maybe you met someone you have seen around the church but really didn’t know. Maybe you felt comfortable enough to share some of your impression and hopes for the mission and ministry provided by this congregation. However, looking at the sign up board, it seems that we need a bit more stirring in this pot. All it takes is someone willing to host and people making the effort to attend.

Another utensil is the Congregational Survey that has been handed out on Sunday morning for the past several weeks. It is also in this issue of The Voice, and is being sent out by e-mail. This survey is your opportunity to be an important part of the Search and Call process. The information gathered from you will greatly help the Search Team understand what the congregation, as a whole, wants and needs in seeking a candidate to be presented for your consideration. It will help in providing the best Church Profile (a picture of the Church) that is sent out to prospective candidates. Every person (young and old alike), member, worshiper, and friend has a responsibility to this process.

Your opinion does matter. So, fill out the survey and turn it in soon.

I pray that everyone of you will trust in the process, and even more so trust that God is at work in this process of bringing a new minister to you. God says in Isaiah 43:18-19a, “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

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

Father’s DayIf you DID NOT give us a picture of your Father last year, drop it off in the office by June 13th. Pick it back up on Father’s Day in the church office. We will display them on the monitors before and during worship.

Our Fellowship Hour will be moved to JUNE 20th for Father’s Day.

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

News Among the Pews

The congregation was saddened by the death of Tom Kohler on May 2nd. He was a faithful member of this church and a friend to all. He will be missed.

BRICK for TOM — If you would like to donate towards a Memorial Brick for Tom Kohler, send your donation to the church marked "BRICK".

Our sympathy is extended to Kathy Carpenter on the death of her grandmother, Ann Plas a couple of weeks ago.

Del Ott died on May 18th. He would have been 92 on his birthday in June. His positive attitude and his friendly smile made it a joy to know him. Our sympathy is extended to Sylvia and his family during this difficult time.

Our thanks to all who generously donated the many items for our military. They were delivered to the USO. Continue to keep them in your prayers that they will ALL be home safely soon.
Marie Ternes and Laura Kuhn

My thanks to all who continue to drop pocket change into our CORNERSTONE baby bottles. It does add up and is greatly appreciated.
Marie Ternes

My thanks to all who continue to save their aluminum drink cans and place them in the container here at the church and at the home of Dick Blaine.

A BIG THANK YOUThe CYF Youth would like to thank everyone in the church for their support of our Bake Sale on May 23rd. LOTS of bakers provided wonderful goodies for us to sell and we certainly did have a lot of buyers. Thanks for your support! The money will go for our DIG offering at camp this summer.

Tour of Historic Bethany.....On Saturday, May 8th, Polly Tallos, Shari Kyle, Cindy Thompson, Blake Kyle, Carley Petersen, Selena Ramos, Taylor Teper, and Scott Thompson went to Bethany, West Virginia for a tour of the Campbell Mansion, Campbell Cemetery and Bethany College. We learned about the life of Alexander Campbell and the beginnings of the "Disciples of Christ" denomination and Bethany College. It was a fun day for all as we learned about our history and got to know each other better.

JUNE Birthdays & Anniversaries.....

- 2 Erma Yost (85)
- 3 Bob & Sarah Browne
- 5 Jim & Linda Ickes
- 6 Adam Wilson
Barry & Melissa Daniels
Ronda & Vic Susak
- 9 Gabriella Laney
- 10 Genene Slusher, Karen Konko
- 11 Jim Johnson
- 12 Sharon & Mike Kiesel
- 14 Linda Spitzer, Jeff Hensley
Mike & Denise Mott
- 15 Angie Carter
Wil & Linda Morrison
- 17 Stu & Bonnie Hicks
- 18 Mike Gross
Betty Hawke, Jane Eakins
Bob & Janet Lynch
- 19 Matthew Thompson
- 21 Barb Koerner
- 23 Ruth Haupt
Ralph & Becky Thompson
- 25 Ed Carter
Cindy & Glen Thompson
- 29 Karen & John Klinect
- 30 Mike Mott, George Butcher
Jim & Joyce Johnson

Serving Schedule-June

- 8:00** Mel & Marie Ternes
- 9:30** Phyllis (TL) & Floyd Chapman,
Royce Klein, Mary Bengough,
Dave Carpenter, Paula & Mike
Krasnevich, Amy Stafford,
Robin Galvin, James Purdy

Elders Jeff Hensley, Linda Rodak



Election Day Bake Sale


The youth would like to thank EVERYONE who donated the awesome baked goods and those who purchased and enjoyed the baked goods for our Election Day Sale. We made over \$200.00. The few items we had left were enjoyed at the funeral lunch after Tom Kohler's Memorial Service. The proceeds will be used for the Mission Trip this summer and work of the NECC youth groups. This church family is outstanding in your response to anything that the youth are involved in and I also thank you as their Youth Director.
Polly Tallos

All Daughters Banquet -- The hall was "buzzing" with people enjoying good food, fun entertainment and great company! My thanks to the men for a great job of serving and cleaning up. The ladies did an awesome job of cooking, decorating and baking for the event. Our thanks to the over 75 women and children who were in attendance. It was a great day of working and playing together and I appreciate every one of you!!

Phyllis Chapman, President Eve Circle

Youth Membership Retreat

The Youth Membership Class; Paige Bokman, Blake Kyle, Carley Petersen, Chase Stevanus, Maddie Stevanus, Scott Thompson and Kevin Wilson met for an overnight Retreat on Friday-Saturday, April 30- May 1. On Friday evening we met with Antonia Spector who is a Messianic Jew. She helped us to make traditional Holla bread, which was used in worship on Friday night. While the bread was raising, Antonia shared some history that helped us to see the connections between Christians and our Jewish ancestors.



On Saturday, the youth learned about the beginning of the Disciples of Christ churches and North Eaton Christian Church's own history. They also spent time exploring the meaning of stewardship. Some of the mentors were able to join us for lunch; Brian Insley, Diana Tyler, and Fran Walker. After lunch the mentors and candidates looked for crismos in the Sanctuary, then made a banner reflecting the candidates growth during their time in Membership Class.

Thank you to Sharon Mullins who spent some time with us on Saturday afternoon explaining NECC's Prayer Shawl Ministry. She led us in prayer over some completed shawls, several of which have been given to people in the church since the retreat.

Our thanks to Cindy Thompson, Tracey Petersen and Shari Kyle who made sure we were fed during the overnigher. Thank you to Polly Tallos, Melissa Folk and Rev Wearslder for helping to prepare and present the materials used during the Membership Retreat.

Graduates of NECC Are you or someone you in your family graduating from High School, College, or a graduate program? We here at NECC would like to know so that we can recognize them on Sunday, June 13th. Please write the graduate's name & graduation info on the friendship register or email the information to Polly Tallos at pollypetetallos@yahoo.com.

My Deep Thanks

I would like to express my deep thanks and appreciation to everyone who has extended to me congratulations, prayers, well wishes, and gifts on the 30th Anniversary of my Ordination.

I began to notice my call to ministry during my senior year of High School, and it was nearly an 11 year journey from that point to my day of ordination on May 18th, 1980. God truly watched over me, opening many doors of opportunity, some in rather miraculous ways.

These past 30 years have also been filled with blessings and thanksgivings, and more opportunities. Each congregation that I have served has helped to make me a better minister through their caring support and prayers.

I am truly thankful and blessed by the love and support of all my family, especially my wife, Terri, who has shared this journey and ministry with me for over 35 years. To friends and colleagues, mentors and teachers, I am so grateful for your encouragement along the way.

Most of all I thank and praise God for allowing me the privilege to serve Christ and his Church. I will seek to serve the Lord all of my days. For the Spirit of God continues to bless me each day.

Rev. Ralph S. Wearslder, A Servant of Christ

Youth Mission Trip— "Week of Hope" Bay City, Michigan July 25-30, 2010

NECC Youth: Paige Bokman, Tyler Bokman, Julie Haumschild, Jen Wilson, Kevin Wilson along with Polly Tallos and a male adult to be named later, will be participating in a Mission Trip to Bay City, MI. Much has changed since the Bay City region was settled more than 170 years ago...many elderly, widowed and disadvantaged residents are unable to make ends meet. Many local agencies struggle to support families through the hard winters and severe spring storms that have taken their toll.

Our group will partner with local churches, service agencies, and homeowners over the four days, to help bolster the efforts of the ongoing work in these communities. We'll learn new skills, serve in important roles, and have loads of fun as we: help people with projects in their home...assist the elderly...tutor struggling kids...conduct a backyard Bible club...serve at a food bank...staff an activities camp for disabled children...spruce up the grounds of a financially strapped social service agency...engage children at a day camp...and improve the community in many important ways.

The youth will be holding various fund raisers to help earn the money needed to take this trip to help others. The cost is \$199 per participant plus traveling costs; i.e. gas, dinner stops, and Walmart runs. The youth are responsible for the \$50 non-refundable registration fee and their incidentals. We try to raise all the money needed for any other costs. **If you have any questions or would like to make a donation toward our trip, please contact Polly Tallos.**

Parents Reminder: Off for the summer!! *Pre-kindergarten thru 12th grade Sunday School Classes will be off for the summer months. The last day for children and youth will be MAY 30th. Enjoy the summer with family and in Sunday morning worship with us, then join us back on Sept. 5th. The Christian Education Team would like to wish everyone a fun, safe summer.*

Melissa Folk

NEW MEMBERS:

April Clark was baptized on May 16th and her fiancé **Chris Hickman** transferred his membership. They will be married on Saturday, June 19th here at NECC.

Carley Petersen, Scott Thompson and **Blake Kyle** were baptized on May 23rd after attending the Membership Course and Retreat.

NECC JULY FAMILY EVENT

July 11th the family and friends of NECC are invited to attend the *Cleveland Tall Ships Festival*. We will be able to board the ships for a close-up viewing between the hours of 11:00am and 6:00pm. **Ticket prices are:**

- Children 5 and under FREE,
- Ages 6 – 14 yrs.— \$8.00
- Ages 15 and above — \$14.00
- Seniors — \$11.00

For more detailed information check out the website at www.Clevelandtallships.com. Let me know if anyone is interested in attending and we'll decide transportation logistics and meeting locations as needed.

Rummage Sale — June 3rd

9:00—3:00

NECC - 35895 Royalton Rd.

Rebekah and Eve Circles will be having their annual rummage sale on Thursday, June 3rd. Tell all your "bargain hunter" friends!

At 1:00 you can get a bag full for \$2.00.



Vacation Bible School

Monday, August 9th — Friday, August 13th

5:30 Light Meal (Optional)

6:00 Egypt: Joseph's Journey From Prison to Palace

Each day family members can become a part of history as they see, hear, touch and even taste what it was like to live in Pharaoh's empire! You'll discover more about how God was with Joseph in good times and bad. The Christian Education Team will need your help to make this year's VBS another successful week of fun and learning. We will need volunteers in many areas and donations of supplies and food.

Please see Brad and Heather Stevanus, Polly Tallos or Melissa Folk if you are willing to help or have any questions.

LORAIN COUNTY FAIR — Monday, August 23 — Sunday, August 29th (work in our food booth)

Columbia Homecoming

North Eaton Christian Church will once again have a Hospitality Booth at the Columbia Homecoming held at Columbia Park on Rt. 82, Friday, June 25th—Sunday, June 27th.

We provide a place in the shade for children to do a simple craft, a Baby Changing area, free water, and information about NECC. Most importantly: it is a chance for us to show God's love to people in our neighborhood.



Volunteers are needed to be in the booth for 2 to 3 hour shifts. You will help the kids get started on their craft or coloring pages, direct parents with young children to our Baby Changing Table, demonstrating our love for Jesus and invite the community to get to know us better. If you would like to volunteer see Polly Tallos.

Sign up as a family, with friends, Bible Study Class, Circles, or make up your own group.



We are also going to have a Bake Sale on one of the days. We would like to focus on pies that can be sold whole or by the slice. Although all baked items would be greatly appreciated.



All Church Work Day

Saturday—June 12th, 9:00 A.M.

We plan to get busy and do a lot of cleaning up around the outside of the church.

Lunch will be provided. Come and join us for an hour or as long as you can. The more hands, the more we can get done. Any questions call the office, 748-2230 or call MIKE KRASNEVICH, 440-731-8031.

Tables and Chairs:

Just a reminder that the church has a limited number of tables and chairs that are available for your use. **YOU MUST** schedule them out thru the church office.

During the summer months they get booked quickly for graduation parties, reunions and picnics.



Thank you, Londa Blaine