

Writings From The Rev - August 2010

I guess it's not that surprising, in my line of work, that the subject of God happens to come up from time to time. When it does I'm drawn back to a great book written years ago by J. B. Phillips titled: "Your God Is Too Small". It's a little book well worth your time to read.

Actually, the book doesn't focus so much on "God", as on "gods" with a little "g". God with a big or capital "G" is the one true God, the Supreme Being, the creator of the Universe and all of us. The other kind of "god", with the small "g" refers to things, that tends to dominate our lives, which is why we talk about them in terms of "gods", because there seems to be so many of them. There are all kinds of little gods hanging around just waiting to be worshiped. The sad part is we don't even realize that we're worshipping them. In fact, we get upset if anyone tries to tell us that we even have these little gods dominating our lives.

For some people that little god may a their Car. You've seen them, they're the ones who put all their free time and a lot of money into maintaining it, to the point that it becomes more important to them then the people around them, their family and friends.

For someone else, their little god might be Money. You've seen them also, they're the Scrooge McDucks and the Gordon Gekkos (Wall Street, the Movie) of the world. For them money is everything, their whole self-worth is measured by a dollar sign. Money is their whole life, making and having money, however possible, is more important than the people in their lives.

Then there's the ultimate little god, the one that involves the worship of one's self. This is the one that we try not to see. The little god of self comes into being when someone lives their life as though they were the center of the universe. Everyone and everything must revolve around them, because they are the most important thing in all the world. They come first, and if there is anything left over, they make sure it's safely tucked away for the next time they need it. These are people who exercise self-love to a fault.

These are just a couple of examples of the little gods that we are tempted to worship. You may have your own list. The point is, these little gods have a way of eclipsing the one true God.

Scripture tells us that after Jesus was baptized, he went into the wilderness in order to fast and reflect on the direction of his life and his ministry to the world. During that time he was tempted by many of the same "little gods" that we are tempted with today; fame, fortune, and power.

The thing that we need to keep in mind is that Jesus was not tempted at the beginning of his fasting, it was toward the very end. And how true that is with us, for rarely are we tempted to worship the little gods of life as we begin our journey of faith. It just kind of creeps up on us.... "I don't need to attend that Bible Study class, I grew up in the Church and I learned all that stuff when I was a kid. Besides, I get all the Christian Education I need by listening to the sermon." "Of course I have a Bible. Let me see, I know it's somewhere in this house." "Yes, I've been a member of the congregation for years, now just give me a minute and I'll tell you what the Minister's name is."

Summer seems to be the season when we talk about taking breaks and going on vacation. It's my hope and prayer that you will not take a break or a vacation from your journey of faith. Absolutely, take a break from the world, so that you can reflect upon your life and take notice of the little gods and find ways to move around their shadows and step into the Light of Christ Jesus. Some Summer Son never hurt anyone. Remember, Jesus is the one who came to show us the true "GOD" of life.

Maybe the vacation you need is joining us for Vacation Bible School each evening, August 9-13.

The VOICE

"Working together to make the difference that matters."

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(440)748-2230

Visit us at: www.neccdisciples.com

Lorain County Fair — NECC Food Booth — Aug. 23-29th

Our church has had the largest food booth under the grandstand at the Fair for over 45 years. This means we have had generations of families working in the food booth with many stories to tell. Daily work schedules will be posted in the fellowship hall in August. We have three different work times—**Early morning, afternoon and evening.** Schedule a vacation day, a day off, or arrange for a sitter or a "grandparents day" for your children. It is work but it is fun! Any questions call the church: 748-2230. **See you at the fair!**

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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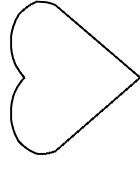
The Prayer Shawl Ministry— On January 6, 2007 at a planning session, the possibility of a prayer shawl ministry was discussed and plans were set in motion. The first prayer shawl was presented to Sylvia Ott in February, 2007. Since then, over 70 have been given to church members as well as people outside the church.

Ladies from our church who have a creative gift to knit or crochet make the shawls and lap blankets. As a crafter takes the needles and yarn in hand they pray and continue to pray with each stitch. If they know who the shawl is going to, they pray for that person. As word got out about this outreach project, friends in the community have donated yarn and prayer shawls also.

The shawls are not magical nor do they heal or take sorrows away. They are, however, tangible evidence of GOD'S LOVE through the crafters hearts and hands. It's like getting a hug from God. Once the shawl is completed we have a short dedication moment, attach a small card with love from NECC and it's ready for presentation.

If you would like to join in this great ministry, please talk to one of us, we can always use another set of hands. Maybe you or someone you know is having a difficult time (sickness, death, unhappiness) or it can be for a happy time (wedding, birth, etc.) and would like to receive one, please let us know.

We would like very much to keep this "hands on" ministry going in honor and loving memory of Judy Ponting, who was instrumental in getting this ministry started at NECC. She didn't make the shawls, but she was so pleased to be able to present them. On many occasions she would take several on her visit to a nursing home and allow the person to pick the one they liked. She received much joy and returned much joy. Judy always knew what to say to give comfort in times of need. We want to continue to share the love that she had for this ministry.



SHARON MULLINS 748-3396
PAULA KRASNEVICH 371-3127 (cell)
Church Office 748-2230

PSALM 139:13-14 "You created every part of me, knitting me in my mother's womb.

For such handiwork, I praise you. Awesome this great wonder."

Disciples Fellowship Camp or "Family Camp"

as we call it around here—Remember the articles written by Robin Galvin and Polly Tallos about their great time at FAMILY CAMP over the Memorial Weekend? Well, there is another one over the LABOR DAY Weekend if you would like to go. (September 3-5).

Find out more about it at www.facebook.com



The Cancelled Stamp Outreach Program is still ongoing.

Thank you for taking the time to save the stamps and bring them in. They will be sent to Habitat for Humanity and the VA Hospital.

Just a reminder: we take all cancelled stamps with a 1/4 inch border cut around them.

Marlene Black

In response to your donations, the President of the Board of Directors at the VA hospital in Tucson, Arizona writes: "A special thank you for your thoughtfulness, generosity and support of "Operation Outreach." The stamps donated will be sorted and made ready for distribution to those veterans undergoing treatment and rehabilitation as a result of a service related wound, some other serious illness, or other medical disorder, resulting in a disability or handicap. Your donation is most welcome and appreciated.

Week of Compassion — Your gift that keeps on working 24/7

GULF OIL SPILL: As the primary outreach Ministry of our church, WEEK OF COMPASSION is actively working in solidarity with the people along the Gulf coast. They have already reached out to our congregations in need of assistance. All area and regional ministers are there to respond to pastoral needs as well as acting as resource persons to connect people with the services they need.

Week of Compassion envelopes are always on the table in the Narthex. We may highlight it once a year but it is an ongoing ministry that helps those around the world, wherever and whenever disaster strikes.

Serving Schedule — AUGUST 2010

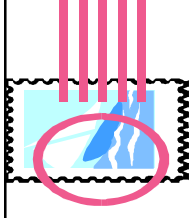
8:00 No one at this time.

9:30 Melissa Folk (TL), George & Diana Butcher, Jerry Mullins

Mark Carpenter, Mike Mott, Polly Tallos, Jackie Haumschild,

Julie Haumschild, Sally Belfi (kitchen)

ELDERS — Bill Cromling, Vern Black



Have you ever thought you might like to sing in a choir?

As our warm Summer days shorten and my thoughts turn toward the coming Autumn, the start of the **CHOIR SEASON** jumps into my mind.

During this summer break, I have spent much time contemplating how to bring a more dynamic and fun musical experience to both our choir members and the NECC congregation. For this, my second season as Interim Music Director, I am planning a diverse and exciting season of performances. I look forward to conducting anthems ranging in style from my beloved Bach and Mozart, to contemporary praise music, gospel, old favorites, and even a new composition of my own.

The our next choir rehearsal will be **TUESDAY, August 24th at 7:00 p.m.** NECC CHOIR is open to all who would like to sing, regardless of experience. As group we are friendly and inviting, and we would love to have some new voices join us for this upcoming season.

Lanson Wells



Technology Team

A common bit of wisdom is that, "if EVERYONE did ONE thing, more things could be doneand done better."

Our Technology Team (Power Point/Audio/Video) could use a few more representatives for the 9:30 worship service. As we head into September, we need additional team members who AREN'T already committed to other areas of service at that time of the morning.

Please contact DIANA TYLER (458-5829) or diana@dianatyler.com if you are willing to be "one" of our tech people.

We offer "on the job" training. Ready to try something new? Give it a try and see if you like it....we don't bite!

School Kits and Non-perishable Food Items

This August at Vacation Bible School we will be asking participants to bring in School Supplies and Non-perishable Food Items as offering. The School Supplies will be made into School Kits that will be taken to Regional Assembly in October. The Region will then send them on to Church World Services who will in turn send them to children in countries that have experienced a disaster. All Non-perishable food items will be donated to the North Eaton Christian Church Food Pantry. Would you please help us by bringing in school supplies and/or donating \$2 to help cover the cost of shipping the kits.

One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)

Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper)

One 30-centimeter ruler (12")

One hand-held pencil sharpener

One large eraser

Six new pencils with erasers

One box of 24 crayons (only 24)

One 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)

\$2 to cover shipping cost

Looking ahead:

August 8th 11:00 COUNCIL MTG.

9th 5:30 VBS Begins

18th 9:00 FRY BACON

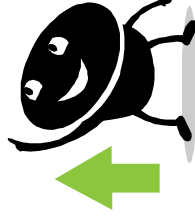
23rd Lorain Cty. Fair Begins

Sept. 5th Guest Speaker/Rev. Jane Ryan Kuroiwa (Cleve. Ch. Home)

12th ALL CHURCH PICNIC

Oct. 10th Church Anniversary

Celebration w/ speaker Steve Bently



Search and Call Team Report to the congregation:

Your Search and Call team includes Ralph Thompson, Jeff Hensley, Stu Hicks, Bill Cromling, Linda Rodak, Paula Krasnevich, Melissa Folk and Julie Haumschild. The team has gone over all the surveys that were turned in and compiled the results for the desired traits for the new minister and goals for NECC for the next five years. This information goes with the church profile for the regional office to use to find potential candidates. The team appreciates all who took the time to fill out the survey and asks that all members of the congregation continue to pray for discernment of the team members and possible pastor candidates as the process continues.

Melissa Folk, Board Chairperson

Welcome new member....Ann Marie Johnson

Ann Marie transferred her membership to NECC on July 11th. She lives in Elyria and was invited to worship with us by her friend Diana Nicholas.

Lorain County Fair: Aug. 23-29

Tues. Aug. 17th—setup food booth

Mon. Aug. 23rd—FAIR begins

Tues. Aug. 31st—teardown food booth

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Pauline Ryder
2	Ralph & Terri Wearstler
4	Sarah Browne
	Jim Galvin
5	Kim Klein
	Nicole Teper
6	Tim Tripphahn
	Laura & Dave Carpenter
7	Mel & Marie Ternes
9	Linda Rodak
	Mel Ternes
12	Zoe Knorr
13	Cathy Dusky & Don Dusky
	Jessica Castro
	Bob Bricker
	Robin & Bob Bricker
14	Paul & Michaelene Durbin
15	Stacy & Nick Zawoyksi
17	Marge Borchert
	Nathan Klein
18	Sarah Mullins
20	Ralph Wearstler
22	Taylor Teper
	Claire & Bob Kauf
23	Brad & Heather Stevanus
25	Dave Carpenter
	Lauren Martin
27	Ronda Susak
	Ray Konko
29	Janice Brunger
30	Bob Kauf
	Diana & Tim Tyler
31	Londa Blaine
	Barb & Tom Mott
	September
	1—Don Nash
	Doug Busche
	Fran Houston
	3—Carol Swartz
	5—Jo Walsh
	Grace Hayward
	Stephanie & Rob
	Szuch

Adventure Camp---Aug. 8-14th

Adventure Camp 2010—developed with Regional leadership, combined with input from former Adventure Campers Carol Bokman, and Tim and me—grew out of a shared passion discovered during last year's cycling trip. We'll be embarking on a Photo Safari to scenic and fun sites around the Columbus area. Nature-lovers will enjoy the beauty of Dawes Arboretum, the animals at the Zoo and the scenery of Hocking Hills. Those fond of bright city lights, exotic restaurant fare and architectural study will enjoy our evening trip to Downtown Columbus. Adventurous types will delight in visiting the Zoombezi Bay Water Park and some of the activities to be found in the Hocking Hills area. AND, we'll all benefit from the expertise of award-winning photographer Jack Acri who will send us off on our week of adventure with photography tips and digital-imaging pointers.

The spiritual component of this year's trip is that we'll be photographing people and locations with an eye towards illustrating the Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control). Images will be used in our closing worship at Camp Christian on Friday evening. We've also agreed to share with the wider Church the results of our photography sessions, making the images freely available to Disciples congregations in Ohio and beyond.

Tim, Carol, and I have agreed to serve as counselors. If it's too late for you to join us this year, we hope you'll keep Adventure Camp in your plans for next year.

In Christ's love,
Diana Tyler
458-5829/ diana@dianatyler.com



Camp Comments:

We had twelve youth and two adults attend Camp Portahoga this year. Some for the first time and some for the last time, as they move up....

"There are a lot of things I liked but I'll tell you the ones I thought were the most fun. My first is the cabin meeting. I was the cabin representative so I had to bring back info to my cabin and we always had fun with what we did. I felt like we were a family on the first day. My all time favorite thing was when I got to hold the torch in consecration. Oh, and I liked my meal table, the kids were awesome and so was the counselor." Theresa Sizemore

"Camp was fun! Vespers and the craft cabin were my favorite part. The Consecration service was very cool." Maggie Carpenter

"Going to camp helped me realize my spiritual faith. It helped me grow closer to God and taught me more about how much He loves me." Maddie Stevanus

"I have gained self confidence in myself so I can tell all my friends at home about God. I will take one of my friends to church because he hasn't gone in a year. I hope he will come with me again. Thank you for paying my way to come for this life changing experience." James Baughman

"I had a great time at camp because I met sooooo many new friends and all the activities were lots of fun. Vespers was really cool. I learned how even if you had nothing, in God's eyes you still are able to give....from your heart." Chase Stevanus

"As my 3rd year at camp, I had a few new responsibilities. Some of them consisted of holding a torch at the consecration service, being an evening prayer leader, and just being a responsible leader and role model. I also enjoyed the meals (especially the chip beef). I met new friends, learned new talents, connected with God more, and learned more about him and his everlasting love. I love camp and look forward to CYF Conference." Kevin Wilson

"This was my 2nd year at Chi Rho camp and I had a blast! A different activity every night, good food (I promise, you'll gain a few pounds by the end of the week). And the people are all very helpful. But it's not all fun and games. We have the vespers service every night, where you can learn more about the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Our quest groups are fun to be in, with a different lesson on our God every day!

There is no better place to become closer to our God while having the time of your life! I will be going next year without a doubt! Paige Bokman

This year was one of the best I have had. The Assist. Directors and I did have our share of "situations" to take care of: homesick youth, young lady in the hospital and situations that occur when you have a large group of young people together; it was a wonderful week with dear friends. I believe the Spirit was working through us, giving us the opportunity to use our gifts and show the fruit of the Spirit as good examples to the youth of Portahoga." Polly Tallos

"This was my 2nd year at Camp Portahoga and like last year, I had a great bunch of girls in my cabin! There were some challenges this year, like my basement flooding, but over all, it was a good week! I was especially proud of Kevin, but have no intention of joining him at CYF Conference next year. lol, Beth Wilson

