

Writings From The Rev - December 2010

I want to use my space in this issue of the Voice to share with you a wonderful opportunity here at North Eaton Christian Church. It's called: **Home For Christmas.**

In this season of the year "Home" is a special place. Many of us make the effort to be home for Christmas, sometimes traveling great distances to be with family and friends. Or doing what we can to help those we care about make it home to be with us. And when this is not possible, we find other ways to connect through phone calls, cards, and memories.

We often talk about where we worship and share our ministry as our Church Home. Many times the same feelings about our family home apply to our church home.

As we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child into our Family homes and Church home, we have a great opportunity to help ourselves and others make it home for Christmas. So, I'm asking: Do you know of someone who needs or should be home for Christmas, a family member, a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker, a classmate, a new person in town. We not only have the opportunity, but the responsibility to help them make it home and share this season with our North Eaton Christian Church Family.

What better Christmas gift could we give someone than the gift of helping them grow in their faith. Helping them to encounter the God who loved each of us so much that Jesus Christ was sent into the world, showing us the way home.

Our "**Home for Christmas**" opportunities begin November 28th, the 1st Sunday of Advent, and continues each Sunday through Advent and Christmas Eve. Join us for 1st Worship at 8a.m. and Bible Study at 9a.m., or 2nd Worship at 9:30a.m. and Sunday School at 10:45a.m.

Join us for a special Homecoming Worship on Christmas Eve as we share in a Fellowship time from 6p.m. to 6:45p.m. and experience the Joy of Christ's birth with Communion and Candlelight at 7:00p.m.

Remember you may be the only way in which someone makes it to our Church Home this Christmas Season. May God bless you in the efforts that you make to help someone be **Home for Christmas.**

From my Family to yours:

"May you have a blessed and meaning filled Christmas Season!"

("...For see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.") Luke 2:10-11

The VOICE

"Working together to make the difference that matters."

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(440)748-2230

Visit us at: www.neccdisciples.com

Harry Hinkel (Faithful Disciple Award)

Congratulations to Harry Hinkel, who was presented with a *Faithful Disciple Award* by our Elders at our Consecration Dinner on November 21st.

Harry has been a member of North Eaton Christian Church for the past 22 years. He has shown faithful leadership within the life of this congregation, especially in the role of Deacon and Acolyte, but also in his many acts of kindness and the caring friendships he has expressed within our congregation to many people.

May God continue to bless you, Harry in all your days ahead.



North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

35895 Royalfon Rd.

Grafton, Ohio 44044

440-748-2230

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DATE—DECEMBER 2010

Interim Minister: Rev. Ralph S. Wearstler

Christian Ed. And Youth Director: Polly Tallos

Secretary: Londa Blaine

Pianist: Kim Speiran-Wells

Music Director: Lanson Wells

Pathways Counseling and Growth Center: Dr. Ralph Thompson

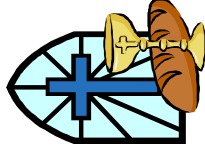
Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Worship Service— 7:00 p.m.

Join us before the service at 6:00 p.m. for a fellowship time to wish our church family and friends Merry Christmas!

Serving Schedule — DECEMBER 2010

8:00 No information at this time

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



Special "CHRISTMAS Offering" 2010

God so lovedthat God GAVE

Summer church camps are an important part of the youth programs of our Church (Disciples of Christ). Each summer the youth and leaders of North Eaton work at, and attend many of our summer camps. We can support these life changing programs by giving to the Special Christmas Offering that goes directly to the Regional church of our Denomination. Our regional ministers not only direct our church camps, but also work with new congregations as well as congregations going through restoration.

CHRISTMAS is a time of giving. What better gift than the support of our youth and the strengthening and growth of the congregations in our region. Add your gift to your regular offering envelope (mark it clearly) or use the special envelopes provided in the bulletin on Dec. 12th & 19th. Extras are on the table in the Narthex.

God gives out of love and we should also.

"Snip those stamps"

- **Our mail increases dramatically this time of year, so please take a moment and cut off the stamp (leave an edge) before you recycle your envelopes. It's an easy way to "give" to our veterans and the homeless.**
- **THE BOX is on the fireplace in the fellowship hall or the table in the Narthex. Thank you for your support. Blessings, Marlene Black**



Come Home For Christmas Cards

As Rev. Ralph said in his article, we all have an opportunity to invite people we know to Worship with us during the Advent/Christmas Season. However, as much as we'd like to think that this is an easy thing to do, some of us are a bit shy or tongue tied when it come to doing this. So, we have an option for you this year. Bring in a "Spiritual Based" Christmas card (not cute puppies in Santa hats, or Snowmen golfing, or any other secular image) and the name and address of the person you would like to invite and we will send it along with a formal invitation to "Come Home for Christmas."

Bring in as many cards as you'd like, **but do it soon.**



Join Us For An All Church

Caroling Party

Sunday, December 19th (12p.m. to 3p.m.)



What better way to share the holiday spirit than to join us for a Caroling Party. Once again, we will begin by having Lunch at the Church, after Sunday School (NOON) and then we will travel to the homes of several members and friends who are unable to get around for the Holidays. We hope to make about 12 stops in and around the Grafton/Elyria area. The more people we have join us, the more people we will be able to sing to.

After completing our rounds we will return to the Church for hot chocolate and cookies. So, bring your voice, your family, and a friend as we share the "Good News of Great Joy." Please let Rev. Ralph know that you are coming so that there will enough food for lunch.

Annual Christmas Cookie Sale Dec. 4th.....

Our youth will be holding their annual Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 4 from 11 AM to 12:30 PM. The cookies will be sold for \$8.00 a pound. The money raised will help cover the cost of the CYF's Mission Trip in the summer of 2011 and the Chi Rho's support of the Cleveland Christian Home.

We need lots of homemade Christmas Cookies to sell. Last year we sold out of cookies! That was over 100 pounds!!

DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Terri Wearstler
- 3 Donna Burdick
- 4 Cindy Thompson
- 5 Leslie Klein
- 11 Gerry Piscola
- 12 Marty & Sally Belfi
- Randy Kuhn,
- Diana Tyler,
- Buz Bokman
- Robin Galvin
- Brandy Burdick
- 13 Sandy & Jim Hales
- 14 Nicholas Rodak
- 15 Antonia Spector
- 16 Ralph Thompson
- 17 Lorraine Cragin
- Glen Thompson
- Helen Walkden
- 18 Jeff Brunger,
- Bob Burdick
- Doug Blaine
- 19 Tony Piscola
- 20 Holly Hill
- 21 Stephanie Szuch
- 23 Joseph Klein
- 24 Barry Daniels
- 25 Jan Brooks
- 26 Nolan Gamble
- 29 Debbie Cihla
- 30 Pam Daniels

We Remember

Thelma Hurley

Thelma Hurley went to be with her Lord on Nov 15, 2010. No doubt, our Lord

said, "Welcome home good and faithful servant." Thelma was a person of love, faith, and prayer. She raised a family of seven children. Her life was not always easy, but she learned to be content and trusted God.

God brought her out of the darkness and into the light. Thelma was a faithful member of North Eaton Christian Church since 1976. She attended worship, was a member of the CWF and a friend to all who knew her.

Thelma will be missed, but we celebrate her eternal homecoming.

WANEW Retreat—Camp Christian

Friday – Sunday, January 21-23

Chi Rho and CYF—Cost: \$30

The Chi Rho and CYF will be meeting with youth from area Disciple churches at Camp Christian for a weekend of study and fun.

Any youth interested in attending should see Polly Tallos to get Medical Release forms.

Our thanks to everyone who faithfully donates their aluminum cans for Cody each week and continues to put their pocket change into the Blessing bottles for Cornerstone. It does make a difference!

The Adult Potluck Christmas Party

Dec. 5th, 5:00 p.m. at the home of Ed and Angie Carter, 11950 Castleton Lane. The time was moved back to give those who want to attend the "Holiday Lighting" later, time to do both.



NECC Holiday Lights Outing

Members, family and friends are invited to visit the Carlisle Nature Center in the Lorain County Metroparks on Sunday, December 5th at 7:30 pm. Admission to the event is one non-perishable food item per attendee. We will meet by the animal cages to the left of the building and then hike and/or ride a train along trails that are decorated with holiday lights. Light refreshments are available inside for a small fee. This event is outside so dress appropriately for the weather.

START THE NEW YEAR OUT WITH US.....January 2011, 10:45 a.m.

Join us for a Sunday morning ADULT Bible Study. We will be using the curriculum "Seeking Him: Experiencing the Joy of Personal Revival" by Nancy Leigh DeMoss and Tim Grissom. "You'll be renewed and revitalized as you explore topics including honesty, humility, repentance, grace, and obedience. What a wonderful way to start out the new year. Put this on your "bucket list" for 2011. See Melissa Folk to put your name on the list for a class book.



"Breakfast With Santa" Saturday, Dec. 4th, 9:30 a.m.
Come have breakfast, make a craft, get a picture with Santa, and hear the story of Christmas! Tickets are still only \$5.00 each. (Children 2 and under are free.)
RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST! Call the church office no later than Tuesday, Nov. 30th (8-1:00)

Hanging of the Greens --- thank you to everyone who came and helped the CE team decorate the church on Nov. 27th. Decorating, singing Christmas carols, and enjoying warm soup and conversation was the perfect way to begin our celebration of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS for Cleveland Christian Home---

Till Sunday, DECEMBER 5th (Bring unwrapped)



The CC Home's mission is to exist as a haven of hope and healing for children, youth and families struggling with mental illness, abuse and neglect. The Home offers programs and services including, but not limited to: Residential Treatment Program, Agape Independent Living Programs, Adoption Programs. The Cleveland Christian Home is able to offer all these programs and services because caring congregations like ours donate time, money and energy to support them.

The Home is asking for new toys, games and clothes to help give the children and families in their programs a Merry Christmas. Stop in the fellowship hall to find out what is needed. Gifts should be unwrapped. Questions— see Polly.

Seeking Him: Experiencing the Joy of Personal Revival

Psalm 69:32b *"You who seek God, let your hearts revive"*

Come be renewed and revitalized as you explore topics including honesty, humility, repentance, grace and obedience. What a wonderful way to begin the new year. See MELISSA FOLK to get your book ordered. Our bible study will begin in JANUARY.

Food Scavenger Hunt — Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who answered our knock on your door Sunday, Nov. 7th.

The youth spent an hour out on the road collecting non-perishable food items for the church food pantry. 25 youth and adults headed out in four different directions to collect. They were able to bring back over 250 items. We ended the evening with pizza and awarding the winning team the FOOD SCAVENGER HUNT

TROPHY. The winning team was Kasidee Stevanus, Erik Tallos and Matt Thompson, driven and navigated by Fran Walker and Cindy Thompson. Our thanks to those who brought your donations to church when we could not get to your house.

With the addition of the many items collected by Cub Scout Pack 111 the food pantry is stocked at this time, ready to assist anyone in the church, their families or the community in an emergency situation. Just call the church office, 440-748-2230.

Church Holiday Bazaar — another successful year!

Each year our bazaar gets bigger and better, thanks to all of you who give of your time and donations to make it great! No deed or donation is too small. Together it is a BIG DEAL! We had nine happy winners of gifts from our Raffle. List of winners and breakdown of where we made our money (\$2,971.54!!!) is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Take a look!" 10% of our profits will go to local missions.

"I appreciate each and everyone of you and all your help. Remember to mark your calendar for our bazaar next year, Nov. 12th, 2011." (the second Saturday in Nov.)

Blood Drive— *Our thanks to those who came to the bazaar and took the time to give blood. What a life saving gift to give. You gave 11 units of blood.*

USO Donations — We collected two boxes of goodies from the church and donations of \$125.00 in monies for the Troops. Chris Hensley collected at Midview East school and brought in 8 boxes of goodies and \$150.00 in monies. **GOOD WORK!** Please continue to keep our military in your prayers, not just during the holidays but all year long.

Blessings to you all, Laura Kuhn

News Among the pews and Thank You's...

Dear NECC — Thank you so much for contributing to the success of Eaton Twp. Bicentennial Celebration. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are appreciated. You've helped to restore hometown pride in Eaton.
Eaton Historical Society

What a great surprise to receive your card with my prize. It is an early Christmas gift. We enjoyed our day at your bazaar and my two grandchildren had a great time in the children's room choosing gifts and wrapping them. My goal is to win one of Mrs. Balogh's quilts — I'm going to keep trying.
Mary Dawson

Our CONGRATULATIONS TO Kim and Madonna Bowen on the birth of their daughter, Grace Elizabeth last month. She joins her brother Luke.

Our SYMPATHY is extended to Susie and Ernie Naylor on the death of their son **Howard Naylor Jr.** Rev. Ralph officiated at the Memorial Service.

The United Nations Seminar Scholarship Fund



.....The United Nations Seminar has been a vital part of the Ohio Christian Youth Fellowship since the early 1960's. From then to now well over a thousand young people from Disciples congregations around Ohio have had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. and New York City for a week. For many, this has been a life changing experience, witnessing the many ways that faith plays a part in the decision making of our nation and the world. A number of Youth from North Eaton Christian Church have been on this adventure, or you sent your children, or you have given support as a congregation. Year after year, the cost of this event has increased, just due to inflation, and more and more of our youth and their families are finding it difficult to finance this extraordinary opportunity on their own. Even with the help of youth groups and congregational support it is still a challenge. No one who applies for the UN trip will be turned away because of lack of funds.

The Christian Church in Ohio has supported the United Nations International Affairs Seminar Tour for many years. So many young people who have gone on this tour have gone on to become strong youth and adult leaders within the church. Would you please help support the UN Seminar Scholarship Fund by making a donation? Your donation will help keep the scholarship fund alive so that we may continue to enrich the youth of Ohio. There are two ways to donate to the Ohio UN Seminar Scholarship Fund. Contributions can be sent to the Christian Church in Ohio, 355 E. Camp View Blvd., Suite 110, Columbus, OH 44235, or go Online to www.ccinoh.org and click the donation button at the top of the page, then fill in the other Scholarship Funds section.

NECC Outreach Ministry Support

Back in October Rev. Ralph asked the Church Council if there was a way that the congregation could support the United Nations Seminar Scholarship Fund. The church has been blessed over many years by helping to send its youth on this faith based adventure. In 2009, Julie Haumschild and Jen Wilson were the latest to attend. In 2011 there were no eligible junior or senior high school youth to attend. However, 2013 will be here sooner than we think. In the meantime, there are other Disciples youth from around Ohio who could use some scholarship help. And so, it is with great joy that NECC was able to us \$1200 of uncommitted Outreach Funds to support the UN Seminar Scholarship Fund. On behalf of this Regional Program, Rev. Ralph, who is a co-planner and advisor, extends a heartfelt THANK YOU for your generous support.

Share in our LAST worship service of 2010 and our FIRST of 2011

Our Dec. 26th and Jan. 2nd services will be very different in content of worship. Rev. Ralph will be on vacation. Instead of a replacement in the pulpit, we will be focusing on scripture and worship-appropriate readings (poems, reflections, prayers, etc.) as we look "together" on the year ending and on the year beginning. **We need YOU to help provide appropriate readings and/or perform our "usual" Sunday morning tasks.** (i.e. worship leader, scripture reader, perform music, offering prayer, communion prayer, etc.) Have a favorite hymn you want sung? The Worship Team is excited about this opportunity but we need your help. Contact Diana Tyler as soon as possible. Spread the word. Let's all be "Home For Christmas at NECC this year.

Phone—440-458-5829

email—Diana@dianatyler.com

Global Ministries-----Alternative Christmas Giving

With an Alternative Christmas gift, you honor your loved ones and make a difference in the lives of people around the world at the same time. Alternative Christmas Gifts don't get returned because the recipient already has one. They're perfect for the person who has "everything" and are sure to bring smiles to the gift recipient and to the faces of global partners.

You are welcome to make a general gift to support Global Ministries, or make a gift to support the work of a current or new missionary, or support any of the many Global Ministries Special Projects listed for each Mission Area on the [Global Ministries website](http://GlobalMinistries.org). If you would like us to help you choose a project, please contact us at (317) 713-2564. You may make your gift online by clicking the yellow button below marked "Give a Gift Online," or you may send your check along with the enclosed short information form to:

Global Ministries, Office of Resource Development
P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986

Please indicate the name and address of your honoree (s) and the designation you have chosen. We can either send you a special Global Ministries Christmas card for each person that you give an alternative gift to, or we can send the Christmas card directly to the person (s) with a photo of the work you are supporting. You also will receive a receipt for your gift along with a letter of appreciation for your support.

If your gifts are designated for particular programs, they will go in their entirety for the designated purpose to that international partner. No administrative fees are taken from designated gifts to Global Ministries because of the faithful giving from our churches to Our Church's Wider Mission (UCC) and the Disciples Mission Fund.