

Thoughts for Our Journey

The next holiday we will be celebrating throughout the nation is St. Patrick's Day. This holiday has now become an adult holiday to dress up, similar to Halloween. You can observe people wearing plastic green derbies, green sport coats with top hats rivaling the Cat in the Hat, and funny looking beards. In the midst of this crazy celebration, I think we may be able to find a meaningful and spiritually based tradition in the St. Patrick's Day holiday.

A very common symbol tied to our St. Patrick's Day tradition is the shamrock. The shamrock is a plant that is commonplace in Ireland. The shamrock has a wonderful spiritual connection to Christianity. There is a legend about how the shamrock was used by the famous saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. The legend is told, when the Irish were converting to Christianity, St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach these early Christians about the relationship of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach that the Trinity is three separate persons all in one God. As the shamrock has three separate leaves and each is part of the whole shamrock, so to, the separate persons of the Trinity are all one whole God. The shamrock is a wonderful object to teach about such a deep spiritual theme. A great scripture passage that touches on this theme is found in John 16:13-15, which reads, *"When the Spirit of Truth comes, the Spirit will guide you into all truth. The Spirit will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. The Spirit will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."* A secondary passage that expresses a similar theme of the Trinity is Ephesians 4:4-6. It reads, *"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."* Is the term Trinity directly named in each passage? No, it is not. However, the theme is indirectly discussed. For example, the Ephesians passage says there is one Spirit, one Lord and one God and Father of all. It is wonderful to discover that through such simple objects like the shamrock, we can learn deeper truths about our God, the Son and Holy Spirit.

May we all be watching and observing when God may use a simple rainbow or sunset to help us discover a deeper truth about his love. The shamrock is a beautiful example of how something in nature can teach us a deeper biblical truth. May we all be looking for those "God moments" when we can learn more of God's faithfulness for us. Beloved may God bless us all in our faith journey.

Blessings for the Journey,

Pastor Chuck

The VOICE

"Working together to make the difference that matters."

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(440)748-2230

Visit us at: www.neccdisciples.com

Bread and Broth Supper and Study Series

Join us for our Lenten Study Series starting on Wednesday, March 16th—April 20th. A light meal of soup and bread will be provided at 6:00 p.m. combined with a study of 6 important Biblical characters, 6:30-7:30. There will be additional Lenten activities for children. Sponsored by the Christian Education and Worship Teams. More information will follow in our Sunday bulletins.

North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Grafton, OH 44044
Permit No. 8

DATE—MARCH 2011

Minister: Rev. Charles Butcher
Christian Ed. And Youth Director: Polly Tallos
Secretary: Londa Blaine
Pianist: Kim Speiran
Music Director: Lanson Wells
Pathways Counseling and Growth Center: Dr. Ralph Thompson

Disciples, District 2A, Combined "Ash Wednesday" Worship Service
Wednesday, March 9, 2011 7:30 p.m.

Our host church this year is Washington Ave. Christian Church, 301 Washington Ave. Elyria. The guest speaker is Rev. Amy Gopp, Executive Director of Week of Compassion. A freewill offering will benefit this disaster-relief ministry. Combined choirs will be led by Alan Petersen, accompanist is Rosalie Gainer. Participating churches are Christian Temple, Lakewood, North Eaton and Washington Ave.

Words cannot convey to you enough how touched we have been by your thoughtful expressions of kindness. We want to thank everyone who have given us encouraging phone calls, cards, guitar cords, flowers, fruit, gift cards, meals, cookies, helped get us settled, cleaned the parsonage, and performed maintenance and repairs. We're sure we have forgotten to mention something because there has been so much generosity. So thank you everyone! Most of all, we want to thank you for opening your hearts to us as you have welcomed us to Grafton, Eaton Twp. and most of all into the family of North Eaton Christian Church.

Rev. Chuck, Carol and Micah Butcher

Serving in MARCH 2011

8:00 Jim and Linda Ickes

9:30 Phyllis Chapman (TL), Floyd Chapman, Royce Klein, Mary Bengough, Dave Carpenter, Paula Krasnevich, Mike Krasnevich, Jim Galvin, Amy Stafford, Robin Galvin

ELDERS Vern Black, Jeff Hensley



Needed: Candy for Easter Egg Hunt

The NECC Christian Education Dept will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 17, 2011. We are asking the church family to donate **individually wrapped candy** to stuff in the plastic eggs. Now is the perfect time to buy up the leftover Valentine's day candy. The kids won't care if the candy is wrapped in red foil or covered in hearts.



We also need prizes to hand out, for example: stuffed animals, \$5 or \$10 gift certificates to Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Burger King, etc. Anyone willing to donate a new bike. Please bring all donations to church, place them in the box in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any question please see Polly Tallos or Melissa Folk.

"Ladies Get Acquainted Luncheon"

Saturday, March 19th, 11:30 A.M.

Please join us to welcome Carol Butcher to our church family!



A get acquainted Salad Luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 19th at 11:30 here in the fellowship hall. We encourage all women of all ages to come and meet Carol. Bring a salad to share. We will have a punch bowl at 11:30 and eat at Noon. Beverages and dessert provided.

For reservations call Laura Kuhn at 440-309-5864 or email randykuhn@hotmail.com or call the church office at 440-748-2230.

The Love was felt The Valentine Treats and Messages sponsored by Christian Education was a huge success! Approximately \$145.00 was raised and will be used for the NECC women attending the Godgirls in Motion Retreat at Kalahari on April 1 & 2. Many thanks to Londa Blaine, Carol Busche, Cindy Hicks and Melissa Folk for baking scrumptious cookies and thanks to all who purchased them.

NECC MAPLE SUGARING EVENT

On Sunday, March 12th, the family and friends of North Eaton Christian Church are invited to meet at the Carlisle Visitor's Center for a fun afternoon of maple sugaring. A pancake breakfast is being served from 9am until 1pm. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$3.50 for ages 2 – 10, and free for under 2 years old. After breakfast you are encouraged to learn about and experience the maple sugaring process with several options.

12–4pm: Sugar House open for tours, tasting, and demonstrations

12–12:30pm and 2-2:30pm: Indoor talk

12:30-1pm and 2:30-3pm: Indoor movie

1-2pm and 3-4pm: Outdoor tree tapping and sap collection hike

Little Green Choo-Choo rides may be available, weather permitting

Plan to meet in the Black River Room (where the breakfast is being served) at 12:45pm. This will give us enough time after Sunday School to get to the breakfast and eat before preceding as a group to the maple sugaring events.

For more information check out their website www.metroparks.cc and click on “special events” or call the Visitors’ Center at 440-458-5121.

If anyone has other questions, please contact Carol Bokman at bokmans@att.net.

Scout Sunday

Scout Sunday is March 6, 2011. This is the day we celebrate the alliance between the church and the Scouts. This gathering acknowledges the Scouts’ Duty to God. It is also the day set aside to thank all of the Leaders in the Scouting organization who work hours to provide a great Scouting experience for the youth. The Cub Scouts of Pack 111 and the Boy Scouts of Troop 111 are thankful for the support provided to them by the church.

As scouts we are happy to provide “cheerful service” to our church and its members and we are actively searching for such service projects. We are prepared to serve others as Christ has served us.

Please contact Ed Carter if the Scouts can be of any service to you or your church group.



NECC 2010 Fair Grants

One of the benefits of our church having a food booth at the Lorain County Fair, besides the opportunity for fellowship, is the profit made. NECC’s fair booth is one of the biggest ways that we make money available to NECC members, groups and supported ministries. The application is a fairly simple one and asks, most importantly, how the requested money will be used and how that project relates to the mission of NECC. As stated in the church constitution, the purpose of NECC is to “win people to faith in Jesus Christ and commit them actively to the Church, to help them grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ that increasingly they may know and do His will, and to work for the unity of all Christians and with them engage in the common task of living the Kingdom of God.” The funds available through “fair grants” help to allow us, as a body of Christ, to carry on this purpose. A committee led by Chris Hensley meets to go through the grant proposals and then recommends to Council how to distribute the funds for the completion of approved grant proposals. Grant applications are available in the church office. You can also receive a digital copy by contacting the Council Chairperson, Melissa Folk, folk1010@aol.com.



Examples of what has been funded through fair grants in the past include youth activities, camp scholarships, CE sponsored events (women’s retreats, Breakfast With Santa, Easter Egg Hunt) and support for Boy Scout Camp Scholarship and Pathways Counseling Center.

Council Updates from Melissa Folk ...Council met on Sunday, February 13th. One of the important business matters of the meeting was the voting in of Melissa Folk as Council President and Jeff Hensley as Vice President for another term. (With all the preparation and excitement surrounding the call of Pastor Chuck, this had been overlooked.) It was reported by Laura Kuhn that \$900.00 in donations was given for the Thank You/Farewell gift of a laptop for Rev. Ralph Wearstler. A motion was brought forward and passed to purchase sound equipment (microphones, stands, cables) through building funds. The current equipment has been on loan from Diana Tyler for several years as previous equipment disappeared or was outdated. A huge thank you to Diana Tyler for graciously allowing us to use her equipment. This is just another act of love and kindness shown time and time again by the members of our congregation.

REMINDER: All elders, deacons, trustees, committee chairs, clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary, SS Superintendent, SS Secretary, Pastor, and Board Members Emeritus have voting privileges. Everyone is invited to the Council meeting and to keep on top of all the good things happening at North Eaton church.

APRIL 10th at Noon is our next schedule meeting, so keep this date and plan to attend.

**BIRTHDAYS AND
ANNIVERSARIES....MARCH**

- 2 John & Lillian Ingram
- 3 Collin Trimble
- 5 Alex Carpenter
- 6 Eileen Weber
Stephanie Garvin
Brittney Bokar
- 7 Lisa Woodby
Arlene Squire
- 8 Mary Tite
- 11 Jill Hartness
- 12 Dolly Dixon
- 13 Susan Smith
- 14 Cassidy Karban
Kevin Wilson
Robin & Jim Galvin
- 17 Mike Krasnevich
Dan Landin
Kennadi Daniels
- 19 Sylvia Ott
- 20 Melissa Daniels
Val & Ted Fletcher
Glenn & Carol Swartz
- 21 Ted Fletcher
Angie & Ed Carter
Donna & Bruce Burdick
- 22 Jeremy Piper
- 23 Linda Morrison
- 24 Rachel Trimble
Liz Bokar
- 25 Bill Nowagarski
- 28 Scott White
Shannon Belfi
Carol & Doug Busche
- 29 Karen Vilevac
- 30 Christine Smith
Kristy Piper
- 31 Vicky Spitzer
Paige Bokman

EASTER SUNDAY

6:00 A.M.—Sunrise Service @ Butternut Ridge Cemetery followed by a continental breakfast @church

8:00 A.M. Morning Worship at church
8:30 A.M.—Easter Breakfast at church
9:30 A.M.—Morning Worship at church

WORSHIP TEAM —PPT TEAM

The Worship Team is excited that we have more people volunteering to help create the Power Point slide shows that are used in both worship services. With different people volunteering to create PPTs for worship and having multiple people needing to get information for slides, we thought it necessary/easiest to create an e-mail account that would be a single point-of-contact e-mail address for sending information, pictures, and/or slides to whomever is creating the PPT for worship. This e-mail address is *necc.worship@gmail.com* and is **ONLY INTENDED FOR INFORMATION PERTAINING TO SUNDAY MORNING POWER POINT.** Do not send personal or person-specific emails to this address. The deadline for submitting information is Wednesday evening for information to be include in that Sunday's slide shows. Hopefully this will work well and uncomplicated things nicely. For us, Gmail will stand for God mail as it is to Him we worship and give all glory.



Melissa Folk

Thank You

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your cards of sympathy and for the donations toward my mother's brick that will be placed in the Memorial garden. She loved coming to visit, because you were so gracious in making her feel welcome. She would be pleased to know her brick will be close to those of her husband and son. Much love, Michaelene

We want to thank everyone who attended our "Valentine Potluck Party" on February 12th. We are grateful to all who helped to set up and clean up. Special thanks to Jerry Mullins for setting up all the tables & chairs. Everyone had a great time! Thank you again. Sincerely, EVE CIRCLE

Thank you for all the prayers for my grandson, Cameron Castro. His arm is healing and he will be attending Spring Training in Florida with the team this month. Helen Literati

Dear NECC,

Please convey my appreciation to NECC for the recent gift of \$1,200 to be used to subsidize the counseling for those uninsured. Pathways is now the largest provider of out-patient counseling services for children and adolescents in Lorain County. Sincerely, Ralph Thompson

Our thanks to CAROL BUSCHE for sharing her photography skills with the church. She is always ready with her camera to get our smiling faces, acts of kindness and hard work. Check out the bulletin board each Sunday to see what new faces are on display. Our thanks to Carol for taking time to organize the Craft Room and the Jr. Worship Room.