

THOUGHTS FOR THE JOURNEY September, 2011

Discovering God's Unsearchable Greatness

Psalms 71 contains a troubling sentence. "My mouth shall tell of your righteousness and of your salvation all the daylong; for I do not know the sum of them." Did you catch the troubling statement? Can you see why I said the sentence is troubling? The writer of this psalm offers a limited knowledge of God and God's unfathomable ways. The writer tells us he *does not know* the sum of God's righteousness and salvation.

Imagine what our response would be to the following advertisement for a college lecture series on the topic of nuclear physics. "Don't miss the upcoming lecture series, by the Nobel Prize physicist, Dr. A. Tom Splitter. He *doesn't know all that much about nuclear physics.*" Who would want to hear a person speak on a topic they don't fully understand? Wouldn't we all rather hear someone who has done their homework – someone who has expertise in the field of study they will be lecturing about? Could it be that the psalm writer's confession of an incomplete understanding says less about his inadequate study skills and says more about the greatness of the subject the writer was contemplating? Could it be that admitting that he didn't know the sum of God's righteousness and salvation, the writer was extolling the unsearchable greatness of the God he knew and was further discovering? Could it be that the prospect of ongoing, even endless discovery concerning the amazing God we serve was what motivated the writer to speak of this inexhaustible treasure "all day long?" I think this best explains the puzzle of, Psalms 71:15. We talk about what we get excited about, and we get excited about discovery.

We are most enthusiastic when one discovery leads us to another, then to another and then to another. A miner who discovers a small vein of gold leading into a mountainside will dig enthusiastically until they have followed their first discovery to its conclusion. If the vein grows wider with each stroke, every inch of discovery will naturally produce more and more excitement – more and more desire to dig deeper. Beloved, this is how it is with respect to the study of God. Our subject is infinite; therefore, our joy of discovering or experiencing God's greatness will have no end. When the psalm writer said, "I do not know the sum of them," the writer was expressing joy and excitement at the prospect of endless discovery – the ever-widening vein of the treasure that is our God. Therefore, God opened his mouth and spoke, testifying to all who would listen, just as David did in another psalm: "**Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable (Ps. 145:3).**" Sadly, for many professing Christians, this is just another fact on a piece of paper. We know it and can quote it but it has not become part of our personal discovery. Let us be busy searching out the depths and riches of the unsearchable greatness of God. Beloved, if discovery of God's greatness is our habit, our mouths will speak of God's greatness, "all day long."

Rev. Chuck

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

Youth Groups — Kick-off Cook-Out
Sunday, September 18th — 12:00 (Noon) P.M.



ALL youth in 3rd — 12th grades are invited to meet at Polly Tallos's home (Director of Christian Education & Youth) for the first meeting of the 2011-12 Youth Year. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Hot dogs/hamburgers and drinks will be provided. Any questions contact POLLY, 440-748-2246.

North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
35895 Royalton Rd. Grafton, Ohio 44044
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DATE— SEPTEMBER 2011
Minister: Rev. Charles Butcher
Christian Ed. & Youth Director: Polly Tallos
Secretary: Londa Blaine
Pianist: Kim Speiran
Music Director: Lanson Wells
Pathways Counseling and Growth Center: Dr. Ralph Thompson

Adult Evening Study — September 21st, 6:00 p.m.

God is love. The God of the universe, the Creator of nitrogen and pine needles, galaxies and E Minor — loves us with a radical, unconditional, and self-sacrificing love. Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling us to a passionate love relationship with the Lord. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts — it's falling in love with God. And once we encounter God's love; we'll never be the same. Because when we are wildly in love with someone, it changes everything.

Come and experience this crazy love. We will start Wednesday, September 21st at 6:00 p.m. We will meet in the fellowship hall for a light supper. The Bible study, lead by Rev. Chuck, will follow, based on the book titled, Crazy Love and will conclude by 8:00 p.m. Please call the church office or sign the friendship register on Sunday morning if you would like to be a part of this study.

NECC BIKING ON THE TOWPATH

On Sunday, September 25th, the family and friends of the North Eaton Christian Church are invited to go for bicycle ride on the Towpath Trail. We will start the bicycle ride at the Canal Visitor Center at about 2:30pm (it is about 12 miles from here) or from the Brecksville Station (about 8 miles) and pedal our way to the Winking Lizard restaurant in Peninsula. We will eat dinner together at 4:00 and then ride back to our cars. Unfortunately the train tracks are being serviced at this time so that is not an option, however, you can drive to the Winking Lizard to meet us for dinner. Please let me know if you plan to attend so we can arrange the proper seating at the restaurant. If you have any questions you can contact me at bokmans@att.net or by calling 440-891-1819.



Choir Rehearsal begins! The Fall season is upon us and it is time to get back together for CHOIR. We meet each TUESDAY EVENING @ 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We are looking forward to another exciting year as we reconnect with current members and welcome new ones! EVERYBODY is invited to join us. *Experience is not required.* From Bach to The Beatles and in between, we cover it all, as the Choir provides weekly special music at the 9:30 worship service. We will be performing Joseph M. Martin's "A Prayer For Our Time" on Sept. 11th. Any questions contact Lason—859-230-3369 or Kim—440-836-4736

2011 Mission Trip Completed and Enjoyed!

I have always wanted to join Polly and the youth on their annual Mission Trip because I was curious to see what it would be like and I've felt the desire to help those in need. This summer I was finally able to work out my schedule so that I would be able to accompany them on this trip.

As we headed to our destination in Nashville, TN, we first made a stop in the Hocking Hills Recreation Area for an afternoon of zip lining fun. I have never tried zip lining and at my age I felt that it could be quite an adventure. Zip lining (for those of you who are not familiar with this sport) is where you hang from a metal cable which is suspended between two trees and you slide from point A to point B, landing on a small wooden platform. Sometimes you need to walk on skinny wooden planks and other obstacles, which are suspended 30 plus feet off the ground to get to your starting points. Sometimes we were hanging over 100 feet above wooded ravines while gliding on the cables. If you looked ahead instead of down it wasn't too scary. The whole course included about 15 launching points. A thunder and lightning storm striking during the middle of our zip lining just added to the adventure. I had a great time and would love to do it again!



From Hocking Hills we traveled to a Disciples church in Paris, KY (not France, unfortunately) where we rested our tired bodies that evening. The members of the church were very friendly and hospitable. After attending their morning worship service the next morning, we headed to Cane Ridge, Ky. Here we were enlightened with some early Disciples history. Then it was off to our destination of Nashville, TN.

We spent the week in a small church in Nashville, working with some long term volunteers that coordinate the projects and work crews for the summer. Our crew worked on houses that were being renovated due to damage from the 2010 flooding in the area. We installed doors, window frames, and fiberglass insulation. We also mudded, sanded, and painted ceilings. Crawling under a trailer to install insulation was probably everyone's favorite activity (not!). The best part of the work week was getting to know the homeowners that we were helping. Some of their stories made us realize just how strong their Christian faith really is. It was also very rewarding to work with the other volunteers and get to know them.

It wasn't all work in Tennessee. We enjoyed several evenings swimming, eating southern BBQ, walking through downtown Nashville, visiting the Nashville Zoo, and exploring the Grand Ole Opry Resort. Bill and Maureen Cromling were gracious enough to allow us to use their swimming pool during the week as the temperatures were always near 100 degrees. Check out our pictures on the Shutterfly website.



CAROL BOKMAN

ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE — November 8th. The youth are asking you to support this fundraiser by providing baked goods of any kind. NECC has great bakers and the items go fast. THANK YOU for your support! Polly, Youth Director

NECC Christmas Bazaar — Saturday, November 12th 9:00-3:00

Each year we sell table space for the bazaar. We also have a church table with crafts (Eve Circle in charge) —like items donated by our church family. If you have a talent for making things, are you willing to donate an item for the table? CONTACT: Pat Ales -748-2610 or the church office—748-2230. REBEKAH CIRCLE is once again in charge of the BAKE SALE table so you will be getting a reminder call. New small gift items for the KIDS ROOM is appreciated as well as your used items for the TRASH AND TREASURE ROOM. If you have



something that might be used as one of our Raffle gift items please see LAURA KUHN. If you would like to donate money toward the food we will be selling on the lunch counter, please see Laura Kuhn, Cindy Thompson or put it in an envelope marked BAZAAR KITCHEN SUPPLIES.

LIFESHARE BLOOD BANK will be here as well as a visit from Santa. Mark your calendar and plan to bring the whole family for a fun day.

This year the profit from the bazaar will go towards the roof repairs. Thank you for your cooperation and working together doing God's work here at North Eaton Christian Church.

Laura Kuhn

MOMS Prayer Group

Are you concerned about your children? Would you like to join other moms, grandmas and aunts as we lift up our cares and concerns for our children and schools to our loving Father?

Experience the joy of replacing anxiety with peace and hope when you pray with others. Join the local chapter of Moms In

Touch International at NECC on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. beginning

September 7th. Moms, grandmas, aunts or caregivers of any denomination or

background are well to join MITI groups. If you have any questions please call the church office at 748-2230.



WEDNESDAY, SEPT 14th — 6:00-7:30 p.m. Did you know?

Did you know that the Bible has clear instruction that we Christians should be praying for Israel? Please join us for a Jewish meal and informative time of sharing on Wednesday, Sept. 14th. Antonia Spector will share scripture and explain God's desire for us concerning Israel. Any questions please see Melissa Folk.

The BIG DAY of Serving —Saturday, Sept. 24th, LIMA, OHIO

The Big Day of Serving brings together youth groups throughout the state for ONE DAY of service that will revolutionize an entire neighborhood. When you think about the BIG DAY OF SERVING, picture this: a thousand teenagers from youth groups in our state uniting to serve a neighborhood in need. We'll tackle an area the size of several city blocks and bring help and hope to people by working on projects like painting, home repairs, landscaping, cleaning and beautifying city parks, cleaning vacant lots, cleaning schools and nursing homes. We'll be part of a new movement of Christian teens across the country who are uniting to show what it means to be than "hands and feet of Jesus." The registration fee is \$29.00 which includes pre-event project selection and coordination, a kick-off rally on the morning of the event, all supplies and project materials, lunch, devotional materials for mid-day break and a neighborhood Block Party celebration to finish the day! Adults are needed and encouraged to be a part of this great day.

PLEASE SEE POLLY TALLOS if you can go with us.

COUNCIL Updates from Council President

Council met on August 14th. The major item of business was the recommendation and approval of election of officers. Sept. 18th at 9:00 a.m. will be the CONGREGATIONAL VOTE for these positions. Jeff Hensley reported that we now have a representative from the Church Board of Extension assigned to us and that he will be setting up the first visit. The resignation of Floyd Chapman as Trustee was accepted. It was approved to get a review of the church books/financial records for 1.5-2 years, which will include training some of our church members to perform this task.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The next COUNCIL MEETING is Sunday, OCTOBER 2nd (please note date change for this month only). We hope you will all be celebrating with us on our anniversary, October 16th. Roberta Balogh will be here as our guest speaker for the morning worship services.

Respectfully, Melissa Folk

Birthdays & Anniversaries-SEPT.

- 1 Don Nash, Doug Busche
- Fran Houston
- 3 Carol Swartz
- 5 Jo Walsh, Grace Hayward
Stephanie & Rob Szuch
- 6 Eddie & Trina Karban
Alicia Petersen
- 7 Sharon Mullins
Jeff & Janice Brunger
- 8 Mary Scott
- 9 Bill Chapman
Dick & Londa Blaine
- 10 Don & Ruth Nash
- 11 Royce & Leslie Klein
- 12 Patty Meldrum
Lauren & Bob Taylor
- 14 Allison Mott, Amanda Mott,
Josh Blaine
- 15 Brooklyn Daniels, Debra Blackburn
Kim Blaine
- 17 Bob Browne
- 19 Polly Tallos, Barb Colvin
Paul & Jennifer Hayward
Vern & Marlene Black
- 20 J. J. Haumschild
- 22 Jerry Mullins, Samantha Hensley
- 23 Roger & Lisa Woodby
- 24 Brandon Baughman
- 26 Claire Kauf, Dennis Folk
- 27 Mark & Patty Meldrum
- 28 Dean Galvin, Taylor Baughman
Randy & Laura Kuhn
- 29 Cindy Hicks

ALL children and youth Sunday School classes resume at 10:45 on Sept. 11th.

The Pre-K — 5th grades will be in one class and the 6th — 12th grade will be in one class, using a one-room school house approach curriculum).



SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS

In an attempt to help the Sunday School teachers keep track of the supplies in the rooms and the safety of our children, Christian Ed will be locking the Sunday School rooms and the Craft room when they are not in use. When using the class room, please LOCK the door when you are finished.

If you have items to donate to the CRAFT ROOM please leave it in the church office or coordinate with Polly Tallos or Melissa Folk to get into the Craft room.

Thank you for your continued support for the success of our education programs.

Melissa Folk — S.S. Superintendent

Serving In September 2011

- 8:00** Jim & Linda Ickes
- 9:30** Heather Stevanus (TL),
Floyd Chapman, Royce Klein,
Mary Bengough, Dave Carpenter,
Paula & Mike Krasnevich,
Jim & Robin Galvin, Amy Stafford,
Micah Butcher
- ELDERS** Bill Cromling, Stu Hicks

NECC Golf Outing
September 18th, 3:00 p.m.
Royal Oaks Golf Course 1057
Parsons Rd. Grafton



\$12.00 per person including cart for 9 Holes—1st tee time is 3:00 p.m.

SIGNUP SHEET is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Any questions see Joyce Johnson, 353-2763 or Don Ables, 748-2610.



LADIES we want you to golf too.

EVE CIRCLE...Ladies, we will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 27th at 10:00 a.m. to start some cleaning in the church kitchen areas, stop for lunch at NOON (bring a sandwich and dessert is furnished) and then we will have our regular meeting.
Pat Ables

Thank You's

The family of Jan Mitchell would like to THANK North Eaton Christian Church and her friends there for loving prayers, transportation and gifts during Mom's illness. We also say THANK YOU for the cards, flowers, memorial gifts, and the wonderful lunch and the blessed hands that helped in the celebration of Mom's life. Thank you to all the "little people" who were such a blessing and filled Mom's life with so much love.

NECC Food Booth — *what a great week we had at the fair! The weather was perfect for "eating" and we were ready to feed them all. Our thanks to all who worked at the fair: one shift or MANY shifts! Your support of this effort was fantastic. Special thanks to Randy Kuhn and Jerry Mullins who were there for us almost every day—we couldn't have done it without you guys. (Even though we had to get a special keychain for Randy to wear around his neck, instead of in his pocket, so he wouldn't take the keys home with him!!!) We also had excellent help in setting up the booth and taking it done. Thank you to Marie Ternes for keeping all the aprons and towels washed. We are closed for another year but look forward to working together in 2012. See you there.*

Cindy Thompson & Polly Tallos

Words cannot express all the thanks and appreciation we have for Rev. Butcher, Mrs. Blaine and the NECC during this time of sadness in our families. Thank you for being there for us. Your kindness and support have touched us deeply.

The White/Hartness Family

What a fantastic week we had at VBS! Our thanks to the many, many people who helped make this a fun week for all in attendance.