

Thoughts for Our Journey: November, 2011

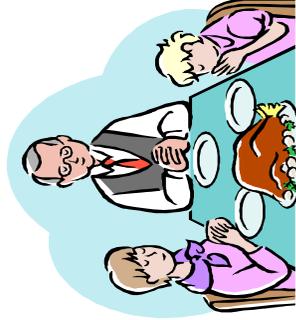
A Day of Thanksgiving or Turkey Day

The late comic Milton Berle (also known affectionately to millions of Americans as *Uncle Miltie*) once said, “We had a turkey for Thanksgiving dinner. He sat on my right.” Beloved, millions of turkeys will be consumed this Thanksgiving by tens of millions Americans. In many cases, the true Thanksgiving turkey sitting in the middle of the table will be surrounded by one or more thankless “turkeys” sitting around the table. While many Americans will bow their heads and thank God for blessings large and small, material and spiritual, millions more will enjoy a feast fit for a king without so much as a thankful thought.

An attitude of ingratitude can turn otherwise terrific people into real “turkeys”. Samuel Johnson once said, “Gratitude is a fruit of great cultivation. You do not find it among gross people.” Beloved, the Bible frowns on thoughts of ingratitude and unthankfulness in the strongest terms. In *Romans 1:21*, Paul notes the character crisis in his culture, “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify God, nor were they thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” Ingratitude not only makes us less godly, it also makes us less human. One scholar adds, “While we as a nation have set aside one day a year to say, ‘thank you,’ thanks to the skeptic, Thanksgiving Day has now been reduced to Turkey Day. That ironic caption may well be more descriptive than we ever intended.” *Ephesians 5:20* counters this thankless attitude with the following words, “give thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.” Beloved, let us thank God before ingratitude makes turkeys out of us.

Blessings for the Journey,

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

NECC CHRISTMAS BAZAAR—Join us for a fun day here at NECC on **Saturday, November 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** This is our annual bazaar, lunch, bake sale, trash & treasure room, raffle, and blood drive. It's a great family fun time for everyone. Even if you don't need any gift items, come and have lunch with us, purchase some baked goods, talk to Santa, give blood, and just enjoy yourself.

North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
35895 Royalton Rd. Grafton, Ohio 44044
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NOVEMBER, 2011

Minister: Rev. Charles Butcher

Director of Christian Ed. & Youth: Polly Tallos

Secretary: Londa Blaine

Interim Pianist: Rachel Brandt

Music Director: Lanson Wells

Director, Pathways Counseling & Growth Center: Dr. Ralph Thompson

Proud to be a Deacon!

On October 9, 2011, I served as a Deacon for the first time. I was raised in an American Baptist church until about the age of 20, when I met Chuck. I know we had a woman Moderator and missionaries, but never a woman minister or women in other positions of leadership. Chuck was raised in the Church of Christ, where women were not allowed to be in leadership positions although they could teach Sunday school, cook, clean, etc.

There is a big difference in being served and serving. I had the opportunity to walk in with the minister and worship leader to light the candles. Then, when it was time for communion, I was almost taken over with emotion as I stood before the congregation in the front of the church. It was not because I was up front and people could see me, but because I was standing at the foot of the cross, near the Lord's table with the other Deacons. It was like we were at the Last Supper receiving our communion and then going out to serve the congregation. I am usually being served and thinking of all Christ did for me as an individual, but that day it was a more corporate experience, sharing the gifts of Christ's body and blood with others. At the end of the service, we extinguished the candles and carried the "light of Christ" out into the world, encouraging us all to take Christ's light to others in all we say and do.

I am also very excited about our current stewardship program. I would encourage all of my NECC family to consider serving our Lord together in any way we feel led to serve. It may not always be easy or comfortable, but it is always worth the effort. *Thank you for allowing me to serve you as a Deacon.*

Carol Butcher

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 is a full day at NECC!

Breakfast With Santa — Come have breakfast with us at 9:30 a.m., make a craft and hear the story of Christmas! Bring your camera and take pictures with Santa. **Tickets are \$7.50** each; children 2 and younger admitted free. **The deadline for purchasing tickets is Monday, November 28. RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!** Call the church office (748-2230) and reserve a seat or buy tickets in the fellowship hall after worship. Bring a small gift for baby Jesus and it will be donated to Cornerstone Pregnancy Center (optional).

Annual Christmas Cookie Sale—11:00-12:30

Let us help relieve some of the stress you may be feeling with your Christmas baking needs. The cookies are baked by the members, family and friends of NECC. **The cookies are \$8.00 a pound (a great price and better cookies than from the bakeries).** Pick the varieties you want and we will bag them for you. Tell your family and friends about this great opportunity. The money goes to our youth groups for their different mission projects throughout the year.

We need lots of homemade CHRISTMAS-STYLE COOKIES to sell. The support of this congregation is overwhelming each year. THANK YOU! This has grown to well over 100 lbs. of cookies made and sold in an hour and a half!

Thanksgiving Special Offering

"Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life—guard it well."
Proverbs 4:13-14

On November 13 and 20, Disciples congregations across the country will be collecting a special Thanksgiving offering, the proceeds of which will be sent to the Disciples Seminary Foundation to provide funding for Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)-affiliated colleges and seminaries.

This Thanksgiving, your offering will go towards the Disciples Seminary Foundation, which provides a traditional education as well as spiritual guidance for the students who will one day become leaders of our communities and congregations.

The fund provides opportunities for students in Disciples colleges to engage in crisis assistance and missionary work around the world. In our bulletins this coming month, there will be stories from students about their trips to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake, and about missionary work in India.

This offering is a special offering and will be collected in addition to the regular weekly offering. Please place your donations in the special envelope provided or write "Thanksgiving Offering" on the outside your regular envelope or check.

More information can be found online at www.disciplesmissionfund.org, under the Thanksgiving Special Offering link.

NECC THEATER EVENT

— On Sunday, December 4, the family and friends of the North Eaton Christian Church will be heading to the Olde Town Hall Theatre in North Ridgeville, for a 2 p.m. performance of "Seussical, The Musical". This musical is based on the Dr. Seuss book, *The Cat in the Hat*. Maggie Carpenter has a starring role in the musical. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 11 years and under. This is an event for the whole family. I need to know if the tickets you are requesting are for adults or children. For questions and to order tickets please see me at church or contact Carol Bokman (bokmans@att.net or 440-891-1819).

You can mail your payment to: Carol Bokman, 23705 Sawmill Bend, Olmsted Falls, OH 44138

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■ "I would like to thank each of you for all of your prayers. You have helped me through a difficult
■ year of sciatica, spinal surgery and gall bladder problems. God does listen and it did help!
■ Thank you for caring. Special thanks to my Mom, Ruth Haupt, for getting me all the help she
■ could."
■
■ God bless all of you.

Doris Duceman

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Birthdays & Anniversaries-NOV.

- 2 Carol Wilson
- Charlene Nichols
- 3 Ruby Burdick
- 6 Kristen Carpenter
- 7 Taylor Daniels
- 8 Robert M. Browne
- Jerry & Sharon Mullins
- 9 Rita Ward
- Marlene Daniels
- 11 Christine & Randall Smith
- 12 Jackie Haumschild
- Dawn Schieferle
- 13 Harry & Marlene Daniels
- 16 Kasidee Stevanus
- 19 Ruth Nash
- Lauren Taylor
- 20 Val Fletcher
- Renee Carpenter
- 23 Bruce Burdick
- 24 Bill & Maureen Cromling
- Brad Stevanus
- 25 Denise Mott
- Ken Hicks
- 26 Cathy Dusky
- Harry Daniels
- Darrell Wilford



Bethlehem @ Eaton

“The Birth Story of Jesus Christ”

FREE admission — Wheelchair accessible

Friday, Dec. 9 — 7:00-10:00
 Saturday, Dec. 10 — 1:00-8:00
 (Continuous 1/2 hr. tours)

We are in need of lots of help before, during and after the production.

Please call **MIKE KRASNEVICH** or **ROYCE KLEIN** if you are able to help.

We need material for Herod’s room and costume (shiny, bright colors) and other materials for costumes. We also are in need of swords (play ones are fine), jewelry, crocks, etc. If you have something you think might work, contact Paula.

We are also taking donations of nonperishable food items for our food pantry.

Annual Adult Potluck Christmas Party

Sunday, December 4, 5:30 p.m.

Join us at the home of ED & ANGIE CARTER, 11950 Castleton Lane. Bring a dish/dessert to share. Appetizers & punch at 5:30 and dinner around 6:00.

Wear your Christmas outfit and enjoy fellowship and food with our church family.



Serving In NOVEMBER 2011

- 8:00 Maureen Cromling, Scott White
- 9:30 Team B-Melissa Folk (TL), Brad Stevanus, Carol Butcher, Micah Butcher, Jerry Mullins, Mark Carpenter, Mike Mott, Polly Tallos, Chrissy Baughman
- ELDERS—Linda Rodak, Vern Black



Laugh Your Way To A Better Marriage —Video Seminar

Friday, November 18 (7-10 p.m.) and Saturday, November 19 (9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

Whether you are recently married or have been married for years, plan on attending this event. Pastor Mark Gungor uses a candid and comedic approach, unforgettable illustrations and the power of laughter to teach proven principles that are guaranteed to strengthen any marriage. Cost of the seminar is \$35.00/couple or \$18/single. Register online at www.laughourway.com or through the church office, 440-748-2230. For more information, visit the Laugh Your Way website or call Melissa Folk, 440-785-8569. NECC couples who register with a non-member couple will get \$5.00 off both registrations (MUST register through NECC). There are scholarships for couples who need assistance with the registration cost.

Up Coming NECC Events:

(Watch VOICE and Sunday bulletin for more information)

- Saturday, November 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Christmas Bazaar
- Saturday, November 26, 10 a.m. Hanging of the Greens
- Wednesday, November 30, 6:30 p.m. Advent Bible Study
- Saturday, December 3, 9:30 a.m. Breakfast with Santa
- Saturday, December 3, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Christmas Cookie Sale
- Fri.-Sat., December 9-10 Bethlehem @ Eaton
- Sunday, December 4, 2 p.m. “Seussical” Theatre Outing
- Sunday, December 4, 5:30 p.m. Adult Potluck Christmas Dinner
- Saturday, December 17, 10 a.m. Women’s Christmas Brunch

