

Thoughts for Our Journey—April 2011

The King of Rock and Roll and The King of Kings

He rose out of obscurity and made a tremendous impact upon the world. Crowds of people gathered wherever he was, thousands were fascinated by him. The authorities felt threatened; it seemed like all the old ways were up for grabs. Families fought and quarreled over this new upstart. Then, well before he reached old age, he met a tragic death. His abused body was laid to rest. All the joys he brought, all the release and new life, came crashing to an end. Those closest to him were lost in grief, as were so many others. However, soon, reports began to circulate that he was alive again. People familiar with his appearance saw him in one place, than another. He always took them by surprise, utter surprise. Who is this, who had such a tremendous impact, died before his time, but was reported to be alive again? You may think Pastor Chuck is talking about Jesus Christ; however, I'm really talking about, The King, Elvis Presley. The King was once the cause of national controversy. Live national broadcasts at the time, refused to televise Elvis swinging his hips during his dance moves on stage. They were deemed too provocative to show to the national family audience. Sadly, Elvis met a terrible and pathetic end. Now stories keep circulating that Elvis has come back from the dead.

The so-called appearances of Elvis also raise a question for us Christians. What difference is there between a risen Elvis and a risen Jesus? Is the man from Mississippi on a par with the man from Galilee, because both are said to have come back from the other side? Can we dismiss the Elvis sightings and keep the Easter story? The answers to these questions can be found when we consider the Easter experience and the difference it makes.

The tomb of Jesus is found to be empty. Even to this day, neither friend nor foe has been able to produce his body. Beloved, as far as anyone knows, there is no serious claim that Elvis' tomb is empty, and no one has bothered to check. The Elvis who is sighted at shopping malls, fast food restaurants and convenient stores seems to make no more than visual impressions. The risen, King of Kings, however, invites the inspection of his wounds, eats and drinks with his followers and organizes his disciples. The Elvis who appears looks more like a memory from the past. The Christ who appears acts as a force for the future. The Elvis appearances leave people astonished but unchanged. Encounters with the risen Christ turn lives around. The resurrection happens not only to Jesus, but, in a way, to his disciples as well. These disciples were lifted from the narrow tomb of their former existence and thrust into the sunlight of a new and spacious life. This transforming process of the resurrection of Christ has never stopped happening since that first Easter Sunday. People continue to be transformed. The places where they were once wounded have become sources of strength, for grace has done its healing work. Perhaps we have seen this phenomenon happen in someone else's life. Perhaps we have seen it in our own life. The return of Elvis brings with it no gift of forgiveness. He was his own victim. However, Christ submits to a world of indignities heaped upon him, punishment undeserved, in order to build a bridge between our sinful lives and the utter holiness of God. This Jesus refuses to remain only a victim.

Jesus is the Easter experience available to us through all the days to come. His resurrection is not an idle tale. It is not even just a barefaced fact. Jesus Christ's resurrection is something more: it is a vibrant reality, a force for the future.

Blessings for the Journey, Pastor Chuck

The VOICE

“Working together to make the difference that matters.”

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EASTER SUNDAY —April 24th

6:00 A.M.—Sunrise Service @ Butternut Ridge Cemetery followed by a continental breakfast @church (Sponsored by Worship Team)

8:00 A.M. Morning Worship at church

8:30 A.M.—Easter Breakfast at church (Sponsored by our Youth Groups)

9:30 A.M.—Morning Worship at church

North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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DATE— APRIL 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

God Girls In Motion — “His Amazing Grace”

On April 1-2nd, 17 women (14 from NECC) attended this women’s retreat at Kalahari. This two day conference was a time for growing relationships, making new friends, laughing and getting motivated, being inspired and rejuvenated. The ladies explored new ways to find joy in the journey and see how they can impact the world around them in a more positive way. This was the second year for some of the women who attended. Presenters included the emcee Missy Faulkner, speakers Allison Allen, Kevin Malarkey, and Debbie Kennedy, comedian Mike Williams, and singer Ayiesha Woods.

Our thanks to those who made the Valentine cookies and our thanks to those who bought and enjoyed the cookies. The proceeds helped to cover some of the cost for this awesome retreat.

Melissa Folk

Welcome “new members” Rev. Chuck, Carol and Micah

Butcher transferred their membership on March 13th. **Sally Botson** came forward on March 20th. Sally comes from Lakewood Christian and lives on Grafton Rd, in Carlisle Twp. She was very active at Lakewood and we look forward to working with her here at North Eaton Christian Church. She usually attends the second worship, so look for her and introduce yourself.

Serving in APRIL 2011

8:00 Harry Hinkel, Chris Hensley

9:30 Beth Wilson (TL), Ken & Cindy Hicks, Carol Bokman, Marlene Black, Carol Swartz, John Klinect, Bill Chapman, Diana Tyler, Kevin Wilson, Maddie Stevanus

ELDERS—Glenn Swartz, Linda Rodak



Maundy Thursday Service—April 21st, 7:00 p.m.

We will meet on Thursday evening of Holy Week to remember Christ’s gathering his disciples in an upper room for a special meal before moving toward the events leading up to his crucifixion. This service is designed to draw Christians back in time to recall and experience the significance of that night in the light of their present knowledge of the risen Christ. The central focus is upon the Lord’s table.



This is the day that Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him. This is the day that Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room. This is the day that Christ our God gave us this holy feast, that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may here proclaim his holy sacrifice and be partakers of his resurrection and at the last day may reign with him in heaven. The table of the Lord is spread. Come, for all things are now ready.

We invite you to make this meaningful worship service part of your Journey to the Cross.

Needed: CANDY and PRIZES for Easter Egg Hunt

The NECC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPT will again be hosting an EASTER EGG HUNT on Palm Sunday, April 17th, at 2:00 here at the church.



Many families from the community join us, even in cold, wet weather. This is a wonderful way to reach out to our community and share the Good News! Let your family and neighbors know about this fun time for the children.

We are asking the church family to donate individually wrapped candy to stuff in the plastic eggs. (NO SUCKERS, they don’t fit!!) We also need new PRIZES TO HAND OUT: games, outside toys, coloring books, kites, dolls, cars, etc. AND \$5/\$10 gift cards to Dairy Queen, McDonald’s, Burger King, Taco Bell etc. Please bring all donations to the church and place them in the box in the fellowship hall.

If you have any questions see Polly Tallos or Melissa Folk.

Thank You.....

I would like to thank all the ladies for coming to the WELCOME LUNCHEON last Saturday for Carol Butcher. The variety of salads were wonderful. Our thanks to Eileen Weber for the beautiful poem and prayer, Eve Circle for the appetizers, Linda Ickes for the desserts, and Shari Kyle for the homemade rolls. My appreciation to Shari Insley, Shari Kyle, and Fran Walker for setting up and to EVERYONE for helping to clean up. A special thank you to Carol Butcher for sharing with us a little bit about herself and family. Laura Kuhn

Thank you for your concern and prayers for my grandson Chris. After many brain and heart tests, he was released from the hospital with no conclusive results. Chris, his mother Tracey, and I are very grateful for your prayers. Barb Galvin

Dear Polly and friends at NECC, Your gift of \$473.22 representing donations from the Chili Cook-off is very much appreciated. You've helped to give the youth of Cleveland Christian Home safety, shelter, learning, a voice and hope! Thank you for inviting me to the event. It was a great night for a great cause.

Thanks, Jayne Ryan Kuroiwa

CONGRATULATIONS to **Marge Borchert** on the birth of her great granddaughter, Lillian Danielle, born January 26, 2011!

CONGRATULATIONS to **April and Chris Hickman** on the birth of their son, Ethan Hickman, born last month. He was in the hospital earlier this month but is home doing well.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Jerry Mullins, Jr. and wife Debbie** on the final adoption of a son and daughter. They prayed for children for many years, took adoption classes and then their prayers were answered. God has blessed them with a 14 yr. old son and an 11 yr. old daughter who are now a part of this awesome family.

Summer Camps 2011

The Christian Church in Ohio offers Summer Camps for children, youth, and adults. North Eaton Christian Church traditionally attends Otter Jr. Camp, Chi Rho Camp Portahoga, Hiram Conference, Advance Conference, and Adventure Camp. There are also camps for grandparents and their grandchildren and Adults over 30.

More information and registration is available at www.ccinoh.org under Camp Christian/Camp Schedule. Early bird registration is due by MAY 1.



NECC offers 50% scholarship for anyone interested in attending any of the camps. Additional scholarships are available if needed. Please see Polly Tallos for more information or to get a registration form. (There is also a schedule in the church office.)

NECC CHINESE AUCTION---Wednesday, May 11th

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 P.M.

This is a fun event for the WHOLE FAMILY. Tickets may be purchased after worship or in the church office NOW until the day of the auction. This event is sponsored by our YOUTH and the MEMBERSHIP TEAM, Our thanks to **CAROL BUSCHE** for being in charge of this fun night for many years and making it the success it is!!

Disciples 101



Rev. Chuck and Christian Education are looking for adults and youth who are interested in learning more about being followers of Christ, the Disciples of Christ denomination, and North Eaton Christian Church.

If you are interested, please contact **Rev. Chuck, 641-757-1362**
or **Polly Tallos, 748-2246**
or call the church office, 748-2230

BIRTHDAYS AND

ANNIVERSARIES.....APRIL

- 1 Jeanne Kekic
- Renate Maurer
- 2 Diana Butcher
- Tony Ward
- 3 Dennis & Chrissy Baughman
- 4 Luke Bowen
- 6 Dave & Mary Schofield
- 7 Don Binnie
- 8 Kathy Carpenter
- 9 Tammy Gamble
- John Hicks
- 10 Mike Carpenter
- Logan Szuch
- 12 Eddie Karban
- 13 Alta Mitchell
- Jordon Gross
- 14 Carol Busche
- Mark Meldrum
- Jack Susak
- 15 Jim Ponting
- Kristen Teper
- Bob Lynch
- Mike Klinec
- 20 Andy Teper
- Melissa Folk
- Chase Stevanus
- Doug & Kim Blaine
- 22 Paula Krasnevich
- 23 Alisha Hicks
- Barb Galvin
- April Hickman
- 24 Sherry Wilson
- 25 Becky Thompson
- 27 Scott Thompson
- Jan Mitchell
- 29 Pete & Polly Tallos

2011 Easter Offering

"God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3

The Easter Offering is your opportunity to support the Disciples general

ministries. They anticipate mission possibilities before the emergencies.

YOUR GIFTS nurture networks of people and programs--relationships and resources--that equip us to step up when our brothers and sisters fall down. Your gifts witness to a living, resurrection of hope.

David Vargas, DOM President said, "We were in Haiti before the earthquake and we'll be there long after the earthquake." Your gifts to the Easter offering help us to be "THERE" wherever that might be, every day.

EASTER OFFERING — supporting the world wide mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Include your gift with your regular offering (mark your gift amount clearly) or special envelopes will be in the Sunday worship bulletins. (More on the table in the Narthex).



Lifeshare Blood Bank will be here at the church on Sunday, May 1st, 8:30-11:30. Our fellowship hour will be moved to this Sunday so you can have something to eat before donating. If you have any questions, contact Laura Kuhn, 327-5219.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR—November 12th

Laura Kuhn says the "real" Santa plans to stop by this year between 11:30-12:30 to see all the good girls and boys. PARENTS bring your camera to get a picture. As always—we are in need of items for the NECC Craft table, kid's room, trash and treasure, workers to sell raffle tickets at the grocery stores and workers the day of the bazaar (work in shifts). **Lifeshare** will also be at the Bazaar that day.

The "return" of BETHLEHEM @ EATON.... We have had a few years off and now we are ready to reorganize and return to Bethlehem! This project takes roughly 75 people to perform, build and carry out the production. We have set aside the weekend of DECEMBER 9th (7:00 p.m.) and 10th (3:00 & 8:00 p.m.). NOW is the time to mark in those dates so there is no conflict of interest.

We ask that anyone wishing to be a part of this project to contact Paula Krasnevich, 371-3127 or see her after worship on Sunday mornings. If you are willing to contribute to the production, we are in need of material for costumes and food items for the marketplace (dates, figs, fruit, breads, nuts). The night of the production we provide cookies and drinks for people before or after they tour Bethlehem; these will need donated.



As always, we ask for DONATIONS of food for our food pantry.

We encourage everyone to be a part of this performance or come and take a walk through Bethlehem @ Eaton. In the past we have been blessed to have many families from the surrounding communities and the church support this event.