

## Thoughts for Our Journey: *Who Needs Encouragement? We All Do.*

We all have those times we would like to have back to do over. Using a popular catch phrase when we are discouraged, “I’ve had a bad hair day.” There are days when we need to be encouraged and lifted up. The founder of the fast food chicken restaurant chain, Chic-fil-A, was once asked, “How do you identify someone who needs encouragement?” The founder said, “That person is breathing.”

As Christians, we might ask ourselves, where does the Bible speak about bringing encouragement to those who are discouraged. In the Old Testament, Isaiah 35:3-4 shares some wonderful insights. *“Give strength to hands that are tired and to knees that tremble with weakness. Tell everyone who is discouraged, ‘be strong and don’t be afraid! God is coming to your rescue, coming to punish your enemies.’”* I like Isaiah’s advice to encourage those who have hands that are tired and knees that tremble. There are many issues we face as individuals and families on a weekly basis that are too heavy to carry by ourselves. There are burdens we try to carry by ourselves and God is advising us to let our brothers and sisters, who have stronger hands and knees to come alongside us to encourage us. In the New Testament there is similar advice Paul the Apostle shares with us. **Romans 15:1** reads as follows, *“Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves.”* In both instances the scripture is clear that we are to care about those who may need encouraging. Even Jesus asked us to be willing to give others a cup of cold water in his name. We need to examine ourselves, beloved, by asking, “What is the cup of cold water Jesus is asking us to give to those who need encouragement?”

Here are some helpful suggestions I found from an outside source to keep in mind when we seek to encourage others. I find these reminders helpful when trying to be of help to someone.

***Remember we can’t give encouragement when we’re talking about ourselves.*** Too often we try to give others perspective on their problems by telling them how bad ours are. This doesn’t help anyone.

***Tell the person what they’re doing right.*** They already know what they are doing wrong. Tell them what they do well and tell them something good about themselves.

***Tell them what the future can be.*** Remind them of what God can do. Remind them how God can transform any situation for his glory. Remind them God can transform any person into the image of Christ.

***Tell them how it’s worked before.*** Tell them how a friend overcame a similar problem or situation. Tell them about how a business leader dealt with the same adversity. Talk about how another Christian’s perseverance ultimately paid off. Leave them with hope.

***Tell them, you will help them refine their strategy.*** We can’t solve their problems for them. We can’t take the actions they need to take. However, when they ask, we can gently, in love point out what should be done differently, and what should be done next.

Remember beloved, the words of Isaiah, *“Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. Say to those with an anxious heart, take courage, fear not. Behold your God will come with vengeance; the recompense of God will come, but he will save you.”*

**Blessings for the Journey, Pastor Chuck**

# The VOICE

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## Easter Egg Hunt

NECC hosted an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 17. About 40 children and their families joined us for a mad dash across the Fellowship Hall picking up dozens of candy filled eggs. Every child found at least one prize ticket in their basket or bag. Then it was a mad dash to the prize table to pick out a prize. *Thank you to everyone who helped to make this fun afternoon a success: donations of eggs, candy and prizes, egg stuffers, egg placers and all those who helped clean up after the event.*

**North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
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**DATE— MAY 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**

9:00 A.M. BIBLE STUDY — We will be starting a new study on *Sunday, May 1st* We invite you to join us at 9:15 am. in the large Sunday School room off the fellowship hall any Sunday morning.

**“Character” — *Who Are You When No One’s Looking?*” by Bill Hybel’s.**

We all do our best when others are watching. But what about when no one is looking? That’s where character comes in: Courage. Discipline. Vision. Endurance. Compassion. Self-sacrifice. The qualities covered in this Bible study guide provide a foundation for character. With this foundation and God’s guidance, we can maintain character, even when we face temptations and troubles. If you have any questions please see FRAN WALKER who is leading the class or call the church office.

### **Bread & Broth: A Kid’s View By Erik Tallos**



While the adults were listening to Rev. Chuck, we were doing different activities with Melissa Folk. Some of the different things we did were— watched movies about Jesus, made palms, and used “glow in the dark” paint to make a poster. The poster was to help us remember that Jesus is the light unto our path. We even had to try some of those soups! We liked the bread and the desserts, though. For the last day, we started class in the front of the sanctuary near a cross that resembled the one Jesus died on.

### **Serving in MAY 2011**

**8:00** Randy & Laura Kuhn

**9:30** Melissa Folk (TL), Brad & Heather Stevanus, George & Diana Butcher, Jerry Mullins, Mark Carpenter, Mike Mott, Polly Tallos, Jackie Haumschild, Chrissy Baughman



**ELDERS**—Ralph Thompson, Bill Cromling

**REMINDER:** YOU are responsible for finding a replacement if you cannot serve.

### **God Girls In Motion Conference**

While packing to come here, it was like a carrot dangles before me. If I got packed, moved, and unpacked I could attend the God Girls Conference in April. It sounded like fun. I did get packed, moved to Ohio and unpacked. Well, almost unpacked. I am still working at it. Life has been great here in North Eaton but life is still life. By the time April 1st came around, I needed some “girl time” and some “God time”. I so needed a touch from God and He did not disappoint me.

Our first speaker was Kevin Malarkey, who was in a serious car accident with his son, Alex, several years ago. Together they wrote the book, “The Boy Who Came Back From Heaven”. I got it, read it, and will share it with anyone who wants to read it. I, like Kevin, have had many times in my life when I needed answers, hope, encouragement, or someone to help me. God has always provided. In Kevin and Alex’s life, God provided an army of prayer warriors and others to help. I am not sure I would have had their faith but that is not what God had planned for me. I am reminded daily that their struggles are theirs, and they are great, but God is greater.

We all have health issues, job issues, family issues, etc. that can steal our joy and keep us from being content and able to reach out and be a witness to Christ. I also realize that God allows our struggles, but they are ours, and we have much to learn and share with others about our struggles. I sometimes wish I had someone else’s struggles, or better yet, no struggles at all.

This weekend I realized that my struggles are necessary to teach me what I need to learn, and to be able to share what God has taught me with others. I also saw the face of God in my struggles. God is able to do far more than we can ever ask, think, or imagine, if we only believe.

My thanks to NECC for your support of the fundraiser that helped defray some of the cost and provide breakfast and lunch for the ladies from NECC. I hope we can attend next year and that we can be blessed by what we all heard from God.

With love, Carol Butcher

*Our sympathy is extended to Floyd Chapman and his family on the sudden death of Phyllis. Phyllis was a very active member of this church and Eve Circle. Not only will she be missed by her family but her friendship and love is a great lose to all of us here at North Eaton Christian Church.*

## Columbia Homecoming

North Eaton Christian Church will once again have a Hospitality Booth at the Columbia Homecoming held at Columbia Park on Rt. 82, Friday, June 24th—Sunday, June 26th. We provide a place in the shade for children to do a simple craft, a Baby Changing area, free water, and information about NECC. Most importantly: it is a chance for us to show God's love to people in our neighborhood.



*Volunteers are needed to be in the booth for 2-3 hour shifts. You will help the kids get started on their craft or coloring pages, direct parents with young children to our Baby Changing Table, demonstrating our love for Jesus and invite the community to get to know us better. If you would like to volunteer see Polly Tallos. Sign up as a family, with friends, Bible Study Class, Circles, or make up your own group.*

We are also going to have a Bake Sale on one of the days. All kinds of baked items would be greatly appreciated. More information will be coming.

## Family Events

Carol Bokman has been working hard coming up with and planning events for the North Eaton Christian Church Family. She has taken us to plays, the Zoo, bike riding and so much more. She recently sent out a survey from *surveymonkey.com* to everyone on the church email list that she has and those connected to the church through Facebook.

Please take a moment to fill out the survey and return it so that Carol can keep working on fun events for the whole family. If you don't have an email or are not on Facebook please see Carol Bokman to share any suggestions you have.



## All Daughters Garden Tea/ Luncheon

May 14th (Saturday)

11:30—Meet and Greet 12:00 Lunch

BRING A SALAD TO SHARE

Dessert and beverages will be provided by the ladies of EVE CIRCLE.

**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 [ccinoh.org](http://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 during the week (8:00-1:00) @ 6.\$1.00 or the night of the auction @ 4/\$1.00. Sponsored by our **YOUTH** and the **MEMBERSHIP TEAM**. Our thanks to **CAROL BUSCHE** for being in charge of this very successful event. She puts in lots of time and energy into making it the fun evening that everyone looks forward to attending.

Our Chinese Auction Team has been busy collecting donations of gifts from Puffer's Florist, Arby's, Applebee's, Carlisle Café, Corso's Italian Restaurant, Vandemark Jewelers, Dairy Queen and Schild's IGA. We have been given a few **BIG** items to incise you: \$250 Visa Gift Card, \$100 Walmart Card and \$200 cash jar.

We ask each person/family to bring a new item for the auction, keeping in mind that we need items for men, women, and children of all ages. (optional) Baked goods are also welcome and enjoyed by those who win them.

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ... May 22nd @ 12:00 (Noon)**

**A letter with more details will be coming in the mail.**

**BIRTHDAYS AND  
ANNIVERSARIES....MAY**

- 1 Sue Webb
- 2 Cody Wilson  
Chuck & Genene Slusher
- 3 Carol & Buz Bokman
- 6 Shari Kyle  
Dennis Baughman
- 7 Roger Driver  
Dan Hicks  
Sharon Kiesel
- 9 Harry Hinkel  
Brett Nash
- 11 Aaron Durbin
- 12 Tom Mott
- 14 Ann Marie Haehn
- 15 Lois Brasse
- 16 Jeff Joslin
- 18 Chris Hickman
- 19 Jeannie Sizemore  
Maggie Carpenter
- 20 Ray & Karen Konko
- 21 Tammy & Mel Gamble
- 23 Nancy Ickes
- 24 Steve Cihla  
Sally Belfi
- 26 George & Diana Butcher
- 27 Julie Haumschild

**NECC AT "POINTFEST 2011"**

On Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> the family and friends of the North Eaton Christian Church are invited to attend the 2011 PointFest Concert at the Cedar Point amusement park. This is a Christian music event that is appropriate for the whole family. The performers are Christian Rock artists, some will share their faith story with us.

The cost for this event increases as the date draws nearer. If tickets are purchased **before June 23, 2011** the prices are as follows:

Adults (age 3 – 61, over 48" tall) \$34.99

**Juniors/Seniors** (age 62 and over, 3 – 61 under 48" tall) - \$27.99

**PointFest only** - \$21.99 (does not include admission to CP)

**CP Season ticket holders (only)**  
Can purchase tickets day of event

For more information see:

[www.pointfestival.com/tickets.php](http://www.pointfestival.com/tickets.php). We are asking that you purchase tickets individually and if enough show interest we can arrange to use the church van or car pool. If you have other questions you can contact Carol Bokman at [bokmans@att.net](mailto:bokmans@att.net) or Polly Tallos.



**COUNCIL Updates from Melissa Folk, Board Chairperson....**

The big topic of discussion for April's Council meeting was the Fair Fund Grant request. On behalf of the Fair Grant Committee, Chris Hensley reported that the committee didn't want to make recommendations because of the great expenses that the church will be encountering with the needed repairs to the parking lot and roof over the Educational wing. The committee felt that Council should discuss the possibilities. It was decided by Council that because of the reason the Fair Grants were started, it was important to fund the grant applications. Council felt it was important to continue to support the works of the church through its members and community. Stephanie Tyler Garvin will be the new Outreach Chairperson, as Marelene Black has resigned. Council voted to add Glen Thompson as Trustee.

An update on the microphones was given. Because of the natural disasters globally, there have been delays in the order. *Here is an excerpt of an email sent to the church: We talked with the manufacturer, and together we have agreed to provide you with wireless microphones that are worth nearly triple what you purchased, at no additional cost. We upgraded all the microphones too. Thank you, Caleb Dick, Audio Video Electronics.*

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING IS August 7th...mark your calendar!**

**Christian Education and SUMMER** Summer, along with vacations and camp is fast approaching. There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL offered for the PreK-12th grade classes for the months of June-August. It is up to the individual adult Sunday School classes if they wish to continue during the summer months.

**IN ADDITION:** There will be no JR. WORSHIP during JULY. Christian Education would like to thank all of our teachers and volunteers and wish everyone a blessed, safe summer.

**SEE YOU BACK IN SEPTEMBER.....**

**Congratulations to Gene and Nancy Yost on the birth of their 3rd great-grandson, Caleb Isaiah Yost, born April 13th.**