

Thoughts for Our Journey: July 2011

“Our Only Sure Defense”

Beloved, we are soon going to prepare as a nation, to celebrate the holiday of all national holidays, Independence Day. Now, as I prepare this article, the weather outside seems far from what we associate with the 4th of July. It seems more like we should be celebrating Labor Day or Halloween. However, the optimist that I am says we have plenty of time for there to be July 4th type weather. Then again, with July comes the heat and with the heat index rising, we will wish fondly for these cooler days. On the topic of our independence and the rising of national pride I thought I would try and offer some thoughts to ponder.

The Bible does not teach against patriotism and the joys of living free. However, from examples going back to the Old Testament, the Bible talks about and cautions about the dangers of nationalism. Patriotism leads one to thank God for the joy and privilege to live in a country that is free from any form of oppression, unlike living in Libya or Syria. Nationalism, on the other hand praises one country, as though it was greater and better than all others in the world. That is what happened in ancient Israel because Israel presumed it was the most special because they were led by God. God reminds Israel over and over they are one of many nations he loved and cared for. By the time of the Old Testament prophets, Israel was judged harshly for its sinful nationalistic pride. Our patriotism should be energized by those persons who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Our patriotic pride should be energized by those founding fathers and founding mothers who risked everything for the sake of living and worshipping in a country unhindered by any outside oppressive force. Our patriotic pride should lead us as people of life and faith to live differently from the nationalistic furor around us.

How do we do this? It is more simple and harder to do than we might think. In the New Testament there is a very thought provoking passage in Romans 13:1-5. This reads, “Everyone must submit themselves to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” A complimentary passage is found in 1 Timothy 2:1-2. This passage reads, “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings, and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” Beloved, our patriotic joy and spirit should simply lead us as Christians first to live lives in submission to God and secondly, live lives in submission to the governing authorities in this country. This should include praying for the leaders in our country, out of our patriotic pride. The reason we should live such prayerful and submissive patriotic lives, it is so we may live peaceful and quiet lives. So if we want to live in peace, patriotically, then we must ask ourselves when we last prayed for our leaders, representative from all parties for the common peace. May the Lord bless us all this Independence Day.

Blessings for the Journey, Rev. Chuck Butcher

The VOICE

“Working together to make the difference that matters.”

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Cancelled Stamp Program: Habitat recently sent us a letter thanking us and stating: “Over the past several years, the Stamp Program has funded two Habitat homes and we continue to collect, soak, sort and sell stamps, with the funds going toward our third “stamp house.” During the past twelve months, we were able to put a total of \$5,000 into our house account, bringing our balance over \$21,500. It will take \$55,000 to begin that third home, so there is much work to do, but we are off to an amazing start.” They also mentioned that there is NO MARKET for selling the Liberty Bell stamps (the brown bell “forever” stamp) and they would like at least A HALF INCH of envelope around each stamp if possible.

COLLECTION BOX on the table in the Narthex. Questions see MARLENE BLACK

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

Secret Sister Blessings Anybody who knows a little about me knows that my mother is in a nursing home. Whenever I visit she always has a bag of comics, magazine articles and puzzles waiting just for me. It's a great feeling to know that she is thinking of me when I am not there. At Easter time I received a gift from my Secret Sister with lots of personal things that I love; a candle, a book, bath & body hand soap, and Easter chocolates! It made me think of my Mother and how blessed I am that she thinks of me when I'm not with her and how blessed I am to also have a Secret Sister who thinks of me. Praise God!

Robin Galvin

2011 Mission Trip

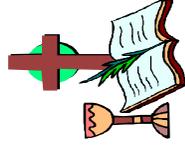
NECC adults and youth will be traveling to Nashville, TN the week of July 24-30, 2011 to help in the recovery from the 2010 floods. We already have 6 participants but there is still room for more. The cost is \$175.00 per person PLUS traveling expenses. Each participant is responsible for the first \$50.00 and helping with the fundraising to help cover the rest of the costs.

Channeling financial resources and volunteer labor through locally run organizations provides the best opportunity for a quality mission experience, maximizes stewardship of resources and ensures that local folks are directing the aid and recovery in their own community. Contact the church office, 440-748-2230 or Polly Tallos, 440-748-2246 if you are interested in going with us this month.

Serving in JULY 2011

8:00 Randy & Laura Kuhn

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



ELDERS — Glenn Swartz, Jeff Hensley

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

Sharing "news" from our church family:

Congratulations to PAIGE BOKMAN for being recognized as the "Reading Student of the Year" in her 8th grade class at Olmsted Falls Middle School. Her parents are very proud of her accomplishment!

Night of summer theatre! Our congratulations to Maggie and Alex Carpenter who are in the performance of "Mirror Image, An Enchanted Musical" at the Stocker Center July 15-16. For tickets—323-7429. Maggie is also in the play "Honk Jr." July 21-23 in North Ridgeville. For tickets—327-2909.

CORNERSTONE "pocket change" donations this month were \$35.00. "Cans For Cody" this month were \$90.00.

Our sympathy is extended to Ralph and Becky Thompson on the death of Ralph's mother who lived in Michigan.

Please continue to keep in your prayers: Dawn Schieferle, Jan Mitchell, Pauline Rider, Charlene Nichols, Marge Houston, Don Binnie

THANKS GUYS: Mel Ternes, Don Nash, and Jerry Mullins for filling the potholes in the parking lot, Mel Ternes for his determination to get the backyard high grass cut so Don could keep it mowed, Dick Blaine for mulching the back flower bed, Larry Weber for fixing the kitchen drawer, Jim Johnson for offering to fix the cabinet bottoms and the frig shelf.

Lesson in life: Appreciate and cherish your friends.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to **Betty Hawke** who celebrated her "90th" birthday with family and friends here at the church.

Our thanks to Carol Busche for all the wonderful Father's Day pictures and to the Membership Team for giving a token gift of "peanuts" to all Father's present in worship.... "We're nuts about you!"

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL —

August 8-12th—6:00-8:30

Light dinner-5:30 (optional)

Children everywhere, ages 3-grade 6th are invited to join us at church where you will be going “Inside Out and Upside Down on Main Street” — where Jesus makes a difference every day!



Each day on Main Street, kids will participate in the large-group excitement of a sidewalk celebration, experience God’s word at Parable Productions, have fun creating crafts with a purpose at the Fun Factory, enjoy snacks at the Brown Bag Bistro and play action-packed games at Firehouse Fitness! Each evening, kids will sing along to the music of the Sidewalk Celebration and will be introduced to five stories Jesus told that taught people unexpected truths. They’ll learn that *gratitude* is more important than whining, *compassion* is always in fashion, *forgiveness* has no limits, *grace* is always welcome and *faithfulness* adds up. CONTACT the church to register: 748-2230.

Pathways Counseling Center—

Looking for a place to get emotional and spiritual help? Depressed? Abused? Addicted? Live with an addict? Marriage problems? Family problems? Panic attacks? Life unfulfilled? Just plain need someone to listen and help sort things out? The North Eaton Christian Church is in covenant with this fine Christian Counseling Center. CALL Pathways Counseling Center –323-5707.

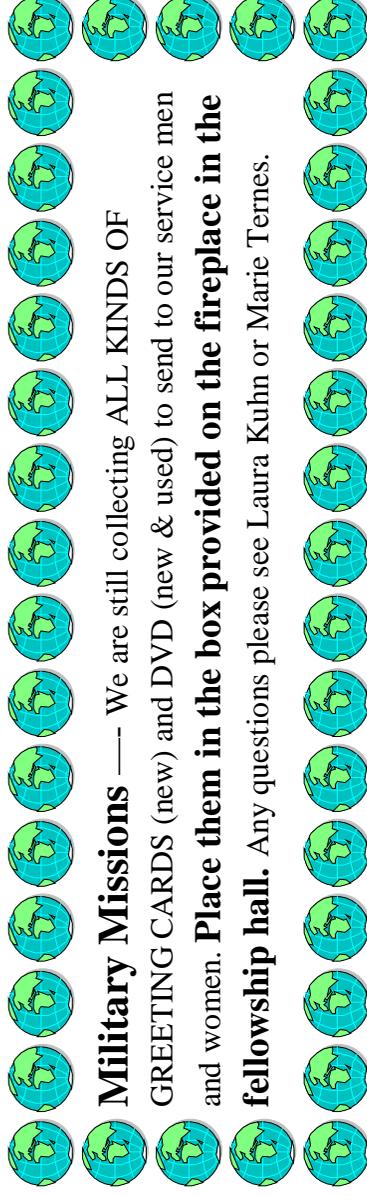
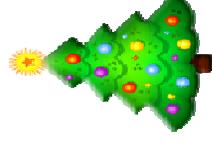
JULY birthdays & anniversaries

1 Jeff Jekes
 3 Jessica Brunger, Trina Karban
 3 Sandy Hales, Tyler Bokman
 9 Sandy Nowak
 11 Blake Kyle
 Ruth & John Haupt
 Carol & Chuck Butcher
 12 Josh Meldrum
 Mike & Sandy Gross
 John Hartness
 16 Dede Frunty, Hope Humphrey
 17 Robin Bricker
 Fred & Renee Carpenter
 20 Barb Mott, Wil Morrison
 21 Nancy & Gene Yost
 Shari & Brian Insley
 22 Jennifer Hicks, Tom Hartness
 23 Maureen Cromling
 24 CJ Mott, Stu Hicks IV
 25 Bob & Ruby Burdick
 27 Paul Durbin, Skyler Baughman
 28 Samantha Galvin
 29 John Vilevac, Heather Stevanus
 Carol Butcher
 30 Larry Weber, Shari Insley
 Fred Carpenter

NECC ALL CHURCH FAMILY ACTIVITIES FOR 2011

August 8th-12th VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
 14th All Church picnic
 22nd Lorain County Fair begins
 September 17th Point Fest (Christian concert at CP)
 ? Biking and/or Train ride and dinner on the Towpath Trail
 October Hayride and bonfire

NOVEMBER Christmas Bazaar, Nov. 12th (:00-3:00)
 (Profit will go towards roof repairs, etc.)
 December 3rd Breakfast With Santa
 Christmas Cookie Sale
 9th & 10th Bethlehem @ Eaton



Military Missions —

We are still collecting ALL KINDS OF GREETING CARDS (new) and DVD (new & used) to send to our service men and women. **Place them in the box provided on the fireplace in the fellowship hall.** Any questions please see Laura Kuhn or Marie Ternes.

Lorain County Fair—NECC FOOD BOOTH

August 22—August 28
 Have you figured out your Summer vacation yet? Please keep these days open so you can work at the fair with us — August 22—August 28

Save a vacation day, have the kids spend time with their grandparents, or work the breakfast shift and go into work late, or work the dinner shift and come after work. There is always a place for you.

SETUP is Tuesday, August 16th TEARDOWN is Tuesday, August 30th
 BACON FRYING DAY will be announced.

