

Thoughts for Our Journey: MARCH 2012

Patrick the Missionary

Well, it's March. In time, the flowers will be in full bloom and the trees will be budding. Everywhere around us we will soon see the signs of a new season, which is Spring. We will soon put away the sweaters, scarves, gloves, and coats of winter for the beautiful pastel colors of spring. As we flip the calendar over to March, we celebrate a holiday primarily draped in green. We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day. In some cities and towns around the country, there will be parades, parties and celebrations. Those of us from Irish heritage will wear the green proudly, which would make our Irish ancestors proud. Many people think that wearing green on March 17th will bring them good luck. Many people think about luck on St. Patrick's Day – lucky shamrocks or finding the leprechaun's pot of gold – which is funny because the man we honor, St. Patrick, didn't believe in luck at all. I found some biographical history on Patrick's background I thought you may find interesting.

Patrick was born in England over 400 years after Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead. Patrick, as a young boy, went to church every Sunday with his family. When he was 16 years old, his parents left him alone at home. One night, Irish slave traders surrounded Patrick's house. They captured Patrick and all the servants and loaded them in chains and sailed for Ireland. In Ireland, Patrick was sold to a farmer and given the job as a shepherd. Patrick said he was very lonely as he watched the flock, and even when he was with other servants, he couldn't understand the language they spoke. It sounds like Patrick was unlucky, don't you think? However, that is not what he thought. When there was no one else to talk to, Patrick would always talk to God. Patrick knew God cared for him and knew God protected him and loved him which he wrote to his mother in a letter. During the next six years of Patrick's life, he remembered the teachings of his parents and pastor. Patrick spent a lot of time in prayer while tending to the sheep and he learned to speak the language of the people in Ireland. After six years, Patrick escaped from his Irish master and was able to work on a ship heading back to England. Can you imagine how Patrick and his parents felt when he came back home? However, after Patrick got back to England, he began to long to return to Ireland. Patrick wanted to go back to teach the people in Ireland about Jesus.

With the help of his church in England, Patrick received training in God's Word and returned to the place where he had been a slave. This time, he returned to Ireland to free others who were slaves – slaves to sin and to false gods. Thousands of people came to know Jesus over the next 40 years as St. Patrick preached all over Ireland. Do you think that was lucky? Patrick didn't. In a letter he wrote late in his life, he said, "You must understand – because it is the truth – that it was all the gift of God." May the life and faith of St. Patrick give to us a faith that is grounded in knowing all that happens in our lives "was all the gift of God."

Blessings for the Journey,

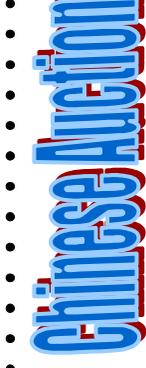
Rev. Chuck

The VOICE

“Working together to make the difference that matters.”

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(440)748-2230

Visit us at: www.neccdisciples.com



Wednesday, April 18

Doors Open @ 7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar so you don't miss this fun family event. Advance tickets will be available after worship the latter part of March.

North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 35895 Royalton Rd. Grafton, Ohio 44044
 Address Service Requested

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 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 ELYRIA, OH 44035
 Permit No. 8

DATE— MARCH 2012
 Minister: Rev. Charles Butcher
 Christian Ed. & Youth Director: Polly Tallos
 Secretary: Londa Blaine
 Music Director: Miki Saito
 Pathways Counseling and Growth Center: Dr. Ralph Thompson

Kids Resale

Saturday, March 24
8 a.m.-2 p.m. at
North Eaton Christian Church

Table rentals —\$10
Admission — \$1
Sell your child's
gently-worn clothing,
toys, books, etc.
OR

come and purchase items for
your children.

Contact Pat Ables
(440-748-2610)

if you are interested
in renting space
or need more information.

Lunch will be available
at a reasonable price.

Mothers and Daughters

Mark your calendar for **MAY 12, "High Tea at High Noon"**, for all mothers and daughters.

The theme is a "Teddy Bear Tea Party." Linda Zapola, from Waymaker's Christian Bookstore will speak on "Godly Manners Matter."



Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for girls 10 years and younger.

Our monthly potluck will take place on **March 25 at 11:46 a.m. in the fellowship hall.** This is an event for the whole church family.

Needed: Candy for April 1 Easter Egg Hunt

The NECC Christian Education Dept will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on **Palm Sunday, April 1.** We are asking the church family to donate individually-wrapped candy to stuff in the plastic eggs. Place the bags of candy in the **BLUE BOX** on the fireplace.

We also need prizes to hand out (i.e., stuffed animals, \$5 or \$10 gift certificates to Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Burger King, toys, books, paints, kites, etc.).

Did you know that McDonald's still sells booklets of \$1 gift certificates? Please bring all donations to the church and place them in the box in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Polly Tallos or Melissa Folk.

Cancelled Stamp Program... A special, "Thank you" to all who brought stamps to church for Habitat and the Veterans. I recently sent a box to each of the organizations and within a few days I received a letter from the Veterans Stamp and Coin Club in Tucson, Arizona. They thanked us for our thoughtfulness, generosity, and support of "Operation Outreach." The materials donated will be given to veterans undergoing treatment and rehabilitation as a result of a service-related wound, some other serious illness, or medical disorder resulting in a disability or handicap. They also said that the hobbies of stamp and coin collecting have long been recognized by medical professionals as an effective therapy vehicle in treating and rehabilitating injured, impaired, disabled, handicapped, and wounded patients in VA medical facilities.



Your support of this project is very much appreciated. It is a small, but meaningful way to contribute to two worthwhile organizations that "make a difference" in the lives of so many, especially the Veterans, who have given so much for us. Thank you again.

Grace and Peace, Marlene Black

Adults LUNCH OUT: Sunday, March 11

Amber Oaks, 4798 East Lake Rd., Sheffield Lake

(If you have a coupon book, the savings is \$5 for a single meal and \$10 for couples.)

You do not need to have a coupon book to join us.)

Our thanks to Linda Ickes for making the arrangements.

Save the date—Monday, June 18

Cleveland Christian Home's "2012 Scramble For Kids" Golf Tournament at Fox Meadow Country Club, 4260 Fox Meadow Dr., Medina

This is a great way to check out a different golf course, have fun and help the Cleveland Christian Home. Many in our church have been supporters for years. (Ask Bob Vernadakis, Jim Ponting and Roger Hales)

For more information, call 216-476-0333. (Website: www.cchome.org)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES.....MARCH

- 2 Collin Trimble
- 3 Pete Tallos
- 5 Alex Carpenter
- 6 Eileen Weber
- Stephanie Garvin
- Brittney Bokar
- 7 Lisa Woodby
- Arlene Squire
- 8 Mary Tite
- 11 Jill Hartness
- 12 Dolly Dixon
- 13 Susan Smith
- 14 Cassidy Karban
- Kevin Wilson
- Robin & Jim Galvin
- 17 Mike Krasnevich
- Dan Landin
- Kennadi Daniels
- 19 Sylvia Ott
- 20 Melissa Daniels
- Val & Ted Fletcher
- Glenn & Carol Swartz
- 21 Ted Fletcher
- Angie & Ed Carter
- Donna & Bruce Burdick
- 22 Jeremy Piper
- 23 Linda Morrison
- 24 Rachel Trimble
- Liz Bokar
- 25 Bill Nowagarski
- 28 Scott White
- Shannon Belfi
- Carol & Doug Busche
- 29 Karen Vilevac
- 30 Christine Smith
- Kristy Piper
- 31 Vicky Spitzer
- Paige Bokman

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 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
- Wade & Barb Colvin
- 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
- 29 Pete & Polly Tallos



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Serving at the Lord's Table in MARCH

- 8:00 Linda and Jim Ickes
- 9:30 Floyd Chapman, Bill Chapman, Royce Klein, Mary Bengough, Dave Carpenter, Paula & Mike Krasnevich, Jim Galvin, Amy Stafford, Robin Galvin
- ELDERS: Linda Rodak, Jeff Hensley

Congratulations to Royce & Leslie Klein on the birth of their new grandson, Samuel Joseph Michael Klein, born February 12, 8 lb., 2.3 oz.

SPECIAL THANKS to Barb Colvin for the beautiful baby afghans she continues to make for Cornerstone. Right now, the count is at 55!

Please continue to keep many in our church family in your prayers for healing and comfort: Juanita Mitchell, Nelta & Mel Tripphahn, Marge Borchert, Eileen Weber, Dawn Schieferle, Jim Muth, John Betes