

Thoughts for Our Journey: APRIL 2012

“He Still Moves Stones”

There was a stone that presented a formidable problem on that first resurrection morning. Massive and threatening, it blocked the entire entrance to Jesus’ tomb impeding the women from getting to anoint the body. They asked themselves, “Who will move the stone for us?” When they arrived, however, amazement gripped their hearts. The stone had already been set aside, allowing them to enter the tomb.

That great stone of worry, the deepest of concerns in the early morning hours, had been rolled away for their benefit, not His. On the inside of the empty tomb they discovered not the worst of their expectations, but the best. Though Jesus had promised to rise from the dead, they hadn’t believed . . . until they saw the stone had been moved. Then gripped by both fear and joy, they raced to tell others. This was not the first stone to conceal a great work of God from those who desperately needed deliverance and relief. It happened before at the tomb of Lazarus. Due to that stone, the family couldn’t see in, nor did they want to. Jesus promised, “Your brother will live again.” Still, they hadn’t believed . . . until he moved the stone. Then Lazarus, dead just moments earlier, walked out of his dark tomb into a bright new life. The glimpse of resurrection and life eternal foreshadowed with Lazarus was secured when Jesus himself passed from death into life; not even an immovable stone could hold him there.

Stones persist today and gain their power in the same way as they did in the time of Jesus: our reluctance and refusal to believe what he has said. For me, ominous stones of fear, confusion, doubt, bitterness, and a host of their companions have repeatedly entombed my future and outlook in darkness and blinding hopelessness. However, Jesus still moves stones, and for every one that has gained ascendancy, there’s a life-giving promise begging me for belief and obedience. Am I anxious? He promises a peace that passes all understanding. Am I confused? He promises wisdom.

The empty tomb of Jesus on that first resurrection morning paints this picture of truth: a stone is powerless in the face of a promise. And on the other side of the stone we will discover not the worst of expectations, but the best. He lives, and so shall we – for time and eternity. Let us believe!

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

Chinese Auction

Wednesday, April 18th

DOORS OPEN @ 7:00 p.m.

• Advance tickets (6/\$100) are available in the office and after worship on Sunday. Tickets the night of the auction are 4/\$1.00. Great fun for the whole family.

North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
35895 Royalton Rd. Grafton, Ohio 44044
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Permit No. 8

DATE— APRIL 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

Mothers and Daughters

May 12, 2012
"Teddy Bear Tea"

NECC will host a "Teddy Bear Tea" for mothers and daughters on Saturday, May 12th at 12:00 (Noon).

TICKETS — \$5.00

Young Ladies 10 & under — \$2.50

Tickets are available after worship or call the church office to make arrangements to purchase your tickets. You must have a reservation.

Linda Zapola from Waymaker's Messenger Book Store will speak on "Godly Matters Matter."

For more information contact Pat Ables, 748-2610.



Special EASTER Offering

Each Sunday during the month of APRIL we will be collecting our annual Easter offering. This offering goes towards the general ministries funds for *Christian Church in Ohio*. The Easter offering will make up 20% to 25% of the annual funding for the General Ministries.

Monies from this offering will go to theological education, agricultural and medical training in South America, to support congregations in Africa, and to support after school programs in Southeast Asia. Funds will also be divided up between congregations in the United States and Canada to help with mission work, planning, leadership training for students, pension payments to clergy and small congregations with insufficient retirement benefits for their clergy. General Ministries also provides for children in foster care, and for developmentally disabled adults.

This Easter offering will provide much needed support to the Christian community throughout the world and in our own backyards. You may make your donation by using the envelope provided in the bulletin, by writing "Easter Offering" on one of the envelopes provided in the pews, or add it to your regular offering, marking the amount clearly.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE — **Aaron Durbin** has transferred his membership to Woodmont Christian Church (Disciples) in Nashville, Tennessee. We are pleased that he has found a home church and wish him and his fiancé the very best in their future.

Robert and Tammy Hammond have joined our church family. They have three children; Madeline, Juliet and Lacey. Our thanks to Chris Hensley for inviting them to worship with us.

Paula Krasnevich has transferred her father's membership to NECC. **Paul Gruendler** is in a nursing home and not able to worship with us.

Cancelled Stamps Mission Project ... HABITAT recently sent a letter thanking us for the stamps. Over the past several years, the Stamp Program has funded two Habitat homes and they are working toward a third "stamp house". During their fiscal year, which began May 1st, they deposited \$3,000 into the "house account" from the sale of stamps. The account balance is now over \$32,000, which means they are half way to a third house. They stated that it is truly a blessing the difference they are making in Lake and Sumter counties in Florida by the simple task of collecting and selling used stamps. Habitat is truly making a difference.

Thank you again for supporting this fun and rewarding project. Keep clipping those stamps!

Grace and Peace, Marlene Black

LORAIN COUNTY FAIR — August 20-26th

It's hard to believe that we have only 5 MONTHS till the Fair.....I am really excited this year, we will be celebrating **"50 YEARS"** at the Lorain County Fair. We have some specials for the week to celebrate our 50 years. More details to follow. Last year we experimented with a new sandwich—peanut butter and jelly. It was a big hit! This year we received a donation of a warmer that will keep the sloppy joes and hot dogs warm. The warmer was purchased by Mel and Marie Ternes. "Thank You. "MAKE SURE TO SAVE THE DATES —AUGUST 20-26.



CINDY THOMPSON

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES.....

- 1 Jeanne Kekic
- Renate Maurer
- 2 Diana Butcher
- Tony Ward
- 3 Dennis & Chrissy Baughman
- 4 Theresa McDonough, Luke Bowen
- 6 Dave & Mary Schofield
- Don Binnie
- Robert Hammond
- 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 Klinect
- 20 Andy Teper
- Melissa Folk
- Chase Stevanus
- Doug & Kim Blaine
- 22 Paula Krasnevic
- 23 Alisha Hicks
- Barb Galvin
- April Hickman
- 24 Sherry Wilson
- 25 Becky Thompson
- 27 Scott Thompson
- 29 Pete & Polly Tallos



Serving at the Lord's Table in APRIL 2012.....

**8:00 Harry Hinkel, Chris Hensley
Jim Galvin**

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

ALL DEACONS—if you are not able to serve PLEASE let your team leader, or Paula Krasnevic know, or find your own replacement.

ELDERS—Stu Hicks, Ralph Thompson

THANK YOU — THANK YOU!

Our thanks to all who have donated to the JUDY PONTING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND. After our "focus" on this scholarship on March 18th, we were able to send the FIRST CHECK to the Christian Church In Ohio for **\$6,700.00.**

We are amazed by your generosity and your love for Judy. You may donate to this fund at ***any time.*** Checks need to be made out to NECC and we will then send the money to CCIO. The fund will exist as long as the money keeps coming in.

Any questions contact Paul Durbin or the church office.

2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off



On February 26th, about 140 people from the North Eaton Christian Church and other WANEW churches attended the 2nd annual North Eaton Chili Cook-off. Also in attendance were members of the Midview High School Jazz Band, our musical entertainment for the evening. The money collected from voting on our favorite chili was given to the Cleveland Christian Home and totaled over \$800 this year. Everyone filled their tummies, burned their tongues a bit, enjoyed good fellowship, and had a great time!

The first place winner this year was Marilyn Berg, followed close behind were Bev Sajna (from the Westlake Christian Church), Robin Galvin, Dave Carpenter (chili egg rolls), Jerry Mullins, and Bryan Garvin (not necessarily in that order).

A BIG "thank-you" to those who entered chili and made side dishes and joined us for a fun evening for the whole family. An especially BIG THANKS to Dave Carpenter for graciously providing the delicious house chili (regular and extra spicy). We hope to see everyone again next February when the coveted "Chili For Christ" trophy may go to a new home.

Operation Christmas Child

Eve Circle has picked the "shoebox" ministry as their mission project this year. We're asking that each family partner with us in this awesome opportunity.

Throughout the year we will be asking for items that can easily fit into a shoebox. *Starting in May* we will have a suggested list of desired and needed items for children around the world and in the United States.

**APRIL---CHURCH FAMILY
"POTLUCK" is April 22nd
at 11:46 a.m. Why 11:46?**

to help you remember we are special and unique brothers and sisters in Christ and we can dare to be different

Eve Circle meeting is April 17th.
LUNCH AT 12:00 (Noon) and meeting at 1:00. All women in the church are always welcome to join us.

Thank You

Dear NECC Family, Thank you so much for your prayers, visits, cards and expressions of kindness on my behalf during and after my recent hospital stay. I've got more medical issues ahead, but I have faith God will continue what he has begun to make me well and whole again. I so much appreciate all of your love and support.

Love, Linda Rodak

Dear Church Family, Our warmest thanks come to you for: prayers, cards, calls, flowers, everything! Absolutely, prayer works. Our God is an awesome God! Indeed! Still have some healing at home to do — but so very grateful!

Love to all. Carol Steffen and Roger & Lisa Woodby

“Thank you for allowing Midview High School's National Honor Society to fundraise at your chili cookoff event. We were having trouble raising money for our induction ceremony. But because of the generous donations we received at our bake sale, we can cover the expense.

Thank you, Colleen Craytor

On behalf of our Midview Schools Director of Bands, Joshua Brunger and Assistant Director of Bands, Barb Fieger and the musicians of the Midview Marching Blue, Swingin' Blues Jazz, Symphonic and Ensemble Bands, I would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$100. The Midview 'Swingin' Blues were honored to have been asked to perform at the Chili Cook-off. We look forward to the opportunity to play at NECC again. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and support.

Christine Elkanick, Treasurer Midview Band Boosters

SPECIAL thanks to:

- BILL CROMLING** for keeping our parking lot and doorways free of snow and ice this again this winter.
- MEL TERNES** for rolling and mowing the back field. Because of the rain and the warm weather, we needed the John Deere to get it under control.
- DON NASH** for keeping our grass looking its best all Spring, Summer and Fall. Our appreciation to Don for making sure the equipment is in running order at all time.
- RANDY KUHN** for coming each week and setting up the tables and chairs and getting the coffee ready for the ALPHA study group.

NEWS AMONG THE PEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to **Dale Botson** on his retirement for AT&T after 41 years. Sally says his plans are to work part-time at his buddy's Hot Rod Custom Shop, work in the yard, riding his Harley, and relaxing a little in between.

CONTINUED PRAYERS OF COMFORT and HEALING FOR:

Jim Muth, Linda Rodak, John Beres, Dawn Schieferle

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to Barb Colvin, family and friends of **WADE COLVIN** who died suddenly a few weeks ago. Rev. Chuck officiated at his service. Our love and prayers surround Barb during this very difficult time.

KIDS RESALE — It was our first try and it went very well. The fellowship hall was full of people selling, buying and snacking at the food counter. The opinion of those who rented tables was “they would come back and do it again in the Fall.” Keep this in mind as your kids outgrow their clothes this summer and plan to be a part of our Fall Kids Resale, sponsored by the ladies of **EVE CIRCLE**.

ADULTS NIGHT OUT ... Our next evening out together is **TUESDAY, MAY 8th**, 6:00 p.m. Coupons from the Entertainment books we sold can be used. We will be heading to Westlake to the **ASIAN WOK**. (You do not have to have a coupon to join us.)

Crafty ladies AND those who would like to be crafty....Are you ready for some time “time out” to just work on your projects and fellowship with those who have the same passion as you do? Would you like to learn how to quilt, crochet, rubber stamp, scrapbooking? **SEE CAROL BUTCHER**.

We would like to set aside one Saturday a month to be together here at the church to share ideas and supplies or work on our own projects.

I am open for your ideas, so please contact me or see me in church. With school out very soon, this is a great way for the kids to be with Dad or grandparents too.