

Thoughts for Our Journey: November 2012

Thanksgiving

Has it ever occurred to you that no Americans were more underprivileged than that small band of pilgrims from the Mayflower, who started the custom of setting aside a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God? They had no homes. They had no transportation but their legs. Their only food came from the sea and the forest, which they had to get for themselves. They had no money and no place to spend it if they did have any. They had no amusements except what they made for themselves, no means of communication with their relatives in England, no social security and they didn't have Medicare. However, anyone who dared to call them underprivileged would probably have ended up in the stocks!

Our forefathers and foremothers had a boundless faith in God. That sounds strange today in a time when powerful forces are at work in our culture to strip away reminders of the very foundation for which our nation was built. Our Declaration of Independence proclaims, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all people are created equal, that they have been endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights . . ." And then this great document ends with these words, ". . . with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

Perhaps the psalmist said it best even before the pilgrims, even before the Declaration of Independence and even before the official proclamation of Thanksgiving Day by President George Washington in 1789. The psalmist wrote in *Psalms 100* – "Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Know the Lord, he is God; it is he who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful to him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good: his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endures to all generations."

Beloved, Thanksgiving Day is a distinctive United States holiday. No other country has a day on their holiday calendars that is a day for reflecting on thanksgiving. This day doesn't commemorate a battle or anyone's birthday or anniversary. It is simply a day we set aside to express our nations' thanks to our God. May God bless us all this coming Thanksgiving Day when we celebrate with family and friends our nations' blessings with thankfulness in our hearts.

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

NECC BAZAAR and Rummage Sale

Saturday, Nov. 10th 9:00-3:00

Plan to attend our Bazaar & Rummage sale and bring the whole family. Kids 12 yrs. and under look forward to shopping for the family in their own room. Bargain hunters love the rummage sale and the fellowship hall is a great place to Christmas shop, have lunch, and pick up some great baked goods for the family. Bring your camera and the grandkids and take pictures.

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

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Permit No. 8

DATE— NOVEMBER 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

NOV. Birthdays & Anniversaries.....

- 2 Carol Wilson
- Charlene Nichols
- 3 Ruby Burdick
- 6 Kristen Carpenter
- 7 Taylor Daniels
- Bobby Browne
- 8 Jerry & Sharon Mullins
- 9 Rita Ward
- Marlene Daniels
- Christine & Randall Smith
- 11 Jackie Haumschild
- 12 Dawn Schieferle
- 13 Harry & Marlene Daniels
- 16 Kasidee Stevanus
- 19 Ruth Nash
- Lauren Taylor
- 20 Val Fletcher
- Renee Carpenter
- 23 Bruce Burdick
- 24 Bill & Maureen Cromling
- Brad Stevanus
- 25 Denise Mott
- Ken Hicks
- 26 Cathy Dusky
- Harry Daniels
- Darrell Wilford
- 27 Floyd Chapman
- 29 Marge Houston
- December**
- 4 Cindy Thompson
- 5 Leslie Klein
- 9 Ken & Cindy Hicks



Serving at the Lord's Table in NOVEMBER....

- 8:00** Angie Carter, Scott White
- 9:30** Floyd Chapman, Bill Chapman, Royce Klein, Mary Bengough, Dave Carpenter, Paula & Mike Krasnevich, Amy Stafford,



- Theresa McDonough,
- Tyler Bokman,
- Paige Bokman

**ELDERS — Robin Galvin
Linda Rodak**

Ladies Christmas Brunch
Saturday, Dec. 15th, 10:30 a.m.
 All ladies are invited to join us for a Christmas Brunch and beautiful music by the Anderson Trio, for only \$5.00 per person. Come and be renewed and refreshed during this busiest and most blessed season. Enjoy a sumptuous brunch and joyful music. Allow yourself to sit back and rest in the presence of the Lord. Tickets may be purchased after worship or in the church office during the week.

Food Scavenger Hunt
Sunday, November 11th, 4-5:30



The Youth will be holding a Food Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, November 11. They may be stopping at your house to ask for food to help fill the shelves in the NECC Food Pantry. If we don't make it to your house please bring the food to the church any Sunday. **Or get in on the fun**--- bring it to the church on **Nov 11 about 5 PM.**

EVE CIRCLE LADIES meet Nov. 27th at 12:00 (Noon) for lunch (bring your own) and meeting at 12:30.

We are trying to incorporate more prayer time and truly enjoy "sweet fellowship."

All ladies of the church are welcome to join us anytime.

Breakfast With Santa.....
Saturday, December 1st
(9:30-11:00)



Included with breakfast will be the Christmas Story, a craft for the children, and an opportunity to take pictures with Santa. Bring a gift for baby Jesus (donations will be given to Cornerstone Pregnancy Center). **Tickets are \$6.00 per person and MUST be purchased in advance.**

Children two years and under free.

Tickets will be available starting **NOV. 4th thru NOV. 25th** after worship. **Reservations a must!**

CLEVELAND CHRISTIAN HOME --- Christmas Wishes 2012

(COPIES ON TABLE IN THE NARTHEX)

Help us make the holidays sparkle for the children and families served by the Cleveland Christian Home. CHOOSE WHAT WORKS BEST FOR YOU:



Put your effort where it is most needed by using our Top 10 List.

Make an online donation at www.cchome.org and let us do the shopping.

"Sponsor A Child" for Christmas: Purchase all the gifts for one child (About \$200).

Ask for a list of larger items needed for programs or families. (SEE POLLY)

Volunteer to shop, wrap gifts or receive and inventory donations.


Joyous Celebration of Diana Tyler

AND OUR

Music Ministry lead by Miki Saito

Sunday, October 21st worship services were filled with joyous song that praised God for all his blessings. Rev. Chuck, Miki Saito and all the talented voices and musicians of NECC were responsible for two glorious worship services. Early service attendees were especially blessed as the choir is not normally a part of the 8:00 service.

Following services, we had fellowship together while enjoying donuts and beverages. During fellowship, after the 9:30 service, the Worship Team and the Choir recognized Diana Tyler for her outstanding service to the Music Ministry at NECC over the many years she has been with us. Diana has been blessed by God with an incredible talent to write and perform music. And, we have been further blessed by her freely and lovingly sharing that talent with us to the glory of God in countless services and events at NECC.

 **ONGOING Mission projects:** We appreciate your continued support of these important projects.

Operation Christmas Child — Boxes are ready to go (100) Donations of monies for the postage would be helpful. See Pat Ables or call the office.

Salvation Army—November, small bars of soap & toothpaste

Blue Star Mothers—list of items on table in Narthex (or see Sally Botson)

Cans for Cody — **Drink cans ONLY** (tied bags, please) bin in parking lot

Cornerstone—Pocket change and Blessing Baby Bottles (fellowship hall)

Cleveland Christian Home — Campbell labels for education (tin in kitchen)

Cancelled Stamp Project — (for veterans & Habitat) shoebox in Narthex

Recycle newspapers — **Bin in parking lot**

Food Pantry — Nonperishable food items, paper products, toiletries

If you have any questions regarding any of these projects, please call the CHURCH OFFICE, 440-748-2230 (M-F 8:00-1:00).

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's Consecration Sunday committee has selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, NOV. 18th, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Consecration Sunday Chairperson,

Melissa Folk

Prayer Shawl Ministry: *A presentation was made at the 2007 Annual Planning Event about a Prayer Shawl Ministry. A seed was sown and it has taken root and bloomed beyond our expectations. Fourteen women started to knit and crochet. As they worked, they prayed for the person who would receive the prayer shawl. The shawls are then dedicated to the receiver and prayed over by members of the congregation. There is no real magic in the shawl. But it is our hope that the person who receives it would feel the tangible evidence of God's love through the crafter's hands and heart. It is a hug from God. If you could like to be a part of this ministry, contact Sharon Mullins.*

If you know someone you would like to give a prayer shawl too, please see Sharon Mullins or Londa Blaine. They are ready and waiting to be used.

ANNUAL "HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS COOKIE" SALE
Saturday, December 1st, 11:00-1:00

Let us help relieve some of the stress you may be feeling with your Christmas baking. The cookies are baked by the members, family & friends of NECC. Cookies are only \$7.00 lb. (Must better price and taste then the grocery store bakery.) You pick the kind you want to buy and we will bagged them for you. Tell your family and friends about this great opportunity. The money goes to our YOUTH GROUPS and funds their different MISSION PROJECTS throughout the year.



ANNUAL ADULT "Potluck" Christmas Party ...Sunday, Dec. 9th
 Join us at the home of ED & ANGIE CARTER, 11950 Castleton Lane on Dec. 9th at 5:30 p.m. as we celebrate this joyous season with our church family. Bring your favorite family food/dessert. Appetizers & punch at 5:30 and dinner at 6:00.



"Heaven Is For Real"

Rev. Chuck lead a study based on the book "Heaven Is For Real" by Todd Burpo. Told by the father, but often in Colton's own words, the disarmingly simple message is, heaven is a real place. Jesus really loves children, and be ready, there is a coming last battle.

Heaven Is For Real Is the 5 week study we just finished. Did you ever wonder what heaven would be like? That is the journey 4-yr. Old Colton took after his appendix ruptured and went untreated for 5 days. Months later, Colton revealed to his family that he had been to heaven. When we arrive the first person we meet is Jesus. We will meet John the Baptist. We will meet people we never knew but will know us when we get there. Everyone is young, but will look the same. Pets and animals of all kinds are there. Colors will be so bright, like we have never seen before. There will be homework for all to do. Colton explains all the life changing experiences we all want to knowis heaven for real? For me, I believe there is another place I will journey to when I pass.

Theresa McDonough

Heaven Is For Real --- An enlightening book that brings comfort to the soul.

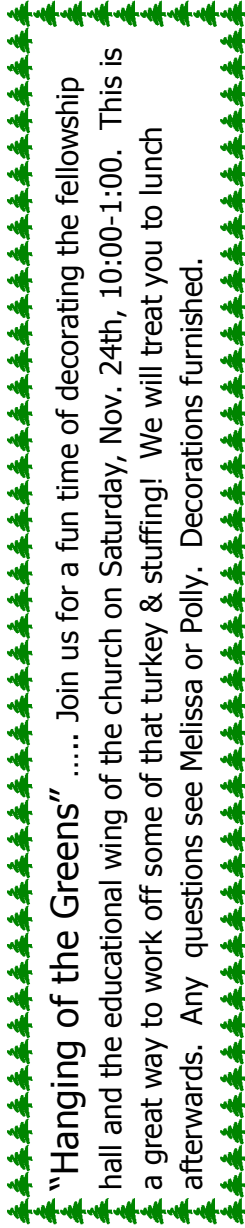
I had the wonderful opportunity to be a part of this class led by Rev. chuck. If you haven't read the book, I urge you to do so. It is a true story about a young boy who dies during surgery and goes to heaven. He comes back to life and what he has seen, learned and who he met in heaven is shared with his family throughout this book. It is fascinating!

The bible study was an awesome, personal experience. Every seat was filled in the class with friends sharing hopes, fears, anxieties, and joys about death. I walked away with a true sense of comfort and peace about dying and what awaits me in heaven. I also shared bits and pieces with my children, to bring them comfort and ease their fears. They would wait every week to hear more. Take time to read *Heaven Is For Real!* It will change your life.

Ronda Susak

COUNCIL UPDATES:COUNCIL met on Oct. 7th. New business included the "resignation as Deacons" of Brian & Shari Insley, Melissa Folk and Robin Galvin. John Klinect, Theresa McDonough and Bob Weber were approved as Deacons. Diana Tyler is our new Council President and Jeff Hensley is Vice President. Updating the Prayer Chain was discussed. **NEXT COUNCIL** meeting is **DECEMBER 9th @ 12:00.** Make it a priority to attend; your opinion is important.

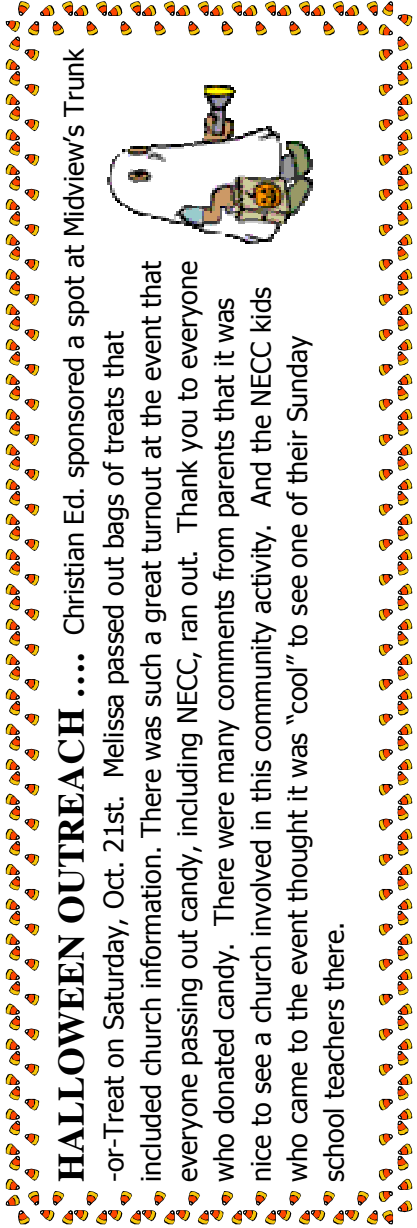
Melissa Folk



"Hanging of the Greens" Join us for a fun time of decorating the fellowship hall and the educational wing of the church on Saturday, Nov. 24th, 10:00-1:00. This is a great way to work off some of that turkey & stuffing! We will treat you to lunch afterwards. Any questions see Melissa or Polly. Decorations furnished.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Rev. Ralph Wearstler who was recently recognized at the Ohio Regional Assembly, in October, for the many years he has faithfully helped organize state Disciples youth programs — serving as the Assistant Director of Hiram Conference, the United Nations International Seminar and State Youth Convention Director. Rev. Ralph was recognized for always graciously offering and assisting leadership when it comes to Disciples Youth Ministry.

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to Rev. Ralph and Terri Wearstler on the death of Terri's mother, Mary Wolford. A memorial service is planned for Nov. 24th, 11:00 at the North Royalton Christian Church (Disciples).
Wearstler Address: 7012 Jackson St. Mentor, Ohio 44060



HALLOWEEN OUTREACH Christian Ed. sponsored a spot at Midview's Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, Oct. 21st. Melissa passed out bags of treats that included church information. There was such a great turnout at the event that everyone passing out candy, including NECC, ran out. Thank you to everyone who donated candy. There were many comments from parents that it was nice to see a church involved in this community activity. And the NECC kids who came to the event thought it was "cool" to see one of their Sunday school teachers there.



"Our Town and All Around" coupon books are IN and cost only \$28.00. **NEW THIS YEAR** is \$25.00 in coupons for groceries at our IGA, so that would cost you only \$3.00 for the book after you use all the coupons. **BOOKS** are available after worship in the fellowship hall or in the church office during the week. (440-748-2230).

ADULTS DINING OUT is Thursday, Nov. 29th at 6:00. Meet at the Radisson Inn across from Great Northern Mall at Boulevards.

Thank You To Our Church Family



Our thanks to all my church family for the many cards, prayers, food and help with the Memorial Service for my dad. My thanks to the many who prepared, served and cleaned up after the dinner. Special thanks to Rev. Chuck for the beautiful service and to Rev. Chuck and Carol for their support before and after my dad died.
Paula and Mike Krasnevich

I have never known a church family like members of NECC. The love, support, hugs, and encouraging words offered to me in my recent health diagnosis has certainly been a source of strength to me, to accept the uncertainty that I may face. As Chris Hensley and I were chatting at our coffee hour, one without a church family does not have many blessings in their life. I feel very blessed. Thank you all for keeping me in prayer. It is very much appreciated.
Sincerely, Sandy Hales

To my church family, I would like to thank everyone for their cards and call. It will be a long recovery and I am at home recuperating. I have been very blessed and I am thankful for your love.
Dianne Nicholas

Thank you for all the food, cards, gifts, concerns and prayers while I was in the hospital and during my recovery at home. I am blessed to have such a wonderful church family. We are very grateful.
Sherry Wilson and family

Barbara Lynch arrived safely in her new residence in Hilton Head, S.C. and Bob & Janet continued on to their winter home in Florida.

The ladies of EVE CIRCLE would like to thank everyone who supported their SHOEBOX MINISTRY the past few months by donating supplies, filling their own shoeboxes (20), helping pack over 80 boxes and helping with the shipping cost. (We are still in need of help with the shipping cost. One box cost \$7.00 to send. See Pat Ables or call the church office.)

Thank you to all who continue to fill the blessing baby bottles and drop pocket change in the bank. I sent a check this month for \$65.00 to CORNERSTONE.
Marie Termes

CONGRATULATIONS TO: James & Ashley Moran on the birth of their daughter, Jordyn Elaine Moran, October 29th weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz. The first time grandparents are Mike & Becky Moran and great grandpa Jim Ponting.



ADDRESS FOR Carol Butcher: 732 Richmond, Rockwell City, IA 50579

Combined Thanksgiving Worship Service

Combined Thanksgiving Worship Service

The Columbia Ministerial Alliance invites everyone to come join us for a special Thanksgiving Service. The service will be hosted by the Columbia United Methodist Church (25453 Royaltan Rd.) on Wednesday, Nov. 21st, 7:00 p.m. The message will be delivered by Rev. Jim Carder of New Life Wesleyan Church.

The churches that make up the ministerial alliance are: Columbia Baptist, Columbia Methodist, Hosanna Lutheran, Clearview Church, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, New Life Wesleyan, and North Eaton Christian.

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATED Philipians 4:6-7 tell us, “do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



It has been a while since NECC's PRAYER CHAIN as been updated. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, please give your name and e-mail address or phone number to Jan Brooks or Melissa Folk, and they will add you to the prayer chain

REMINER: The prayer chains is used for prayer requests for NECC MEMBERS and IMMEDIATE FAMILY. ALL OTHER prayer requests are brought to the congregation through Sunday morning prayer CARDS given to Rev. Chuck.

When you receive the request, you are to pray for that person. This info is not to be passed on to others outside the prayer chain and information is not to be changed.

Our prayers are with SUSIE NAYLOR and her family as they continue to grieve over the loss of their Ernie Naylor, husband, father and grandfather. Rev. Chuck officiated at the graveside service.

CHURCH FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Please continue to check pre-worship service slides and in the Voice for updates to this schedule.

December - Walnut Creek “Journey To Bethlehem”

11/30 thru 12/1, 4 – 8pm, free

Praise Apella Christmas Concert

12/22, 7pm, \$15

Medina Performing Arts Theater

January - Winter Jam (1/27?) February - Chili Cook-Off (2/24) March - Bowling

If anyone has any questions or suggestions for future activities, contact Carol Bokman or Polly Tallos.



NECC CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Saturday, December 22nd the family and friends of the North Eaton Christian Church are attending the Praise Apella Christmas Concert. This will be held at the Medina Performing Arts Center.

The cost is \$15 for tickets and the concert begins at 7pm. This is an event for the whole family. Len Houser from the Fish radio station has 2 daughters that perform in this group. I need to know if you would like to order tickets.

If you have any questions contact me at bokmans@att.net or by calling 440-891-1819.

You can mail your payment to: Carol Bokman, 23705 Sawmill Bend, Olmsted Falls, OH 44138 or give it to me at church on Sunday morning.

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING

Proverbs 4:13-14 “Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life—guard it well.”

Disciples congregations across the country will be collecting a special Thanksgiving Offering, the proceeds of which support the 14 colleges and universities, four seminaries and three seminary foundations/divinity houses in our common ministry of education. This is a SPECIAL offering and will be collected in addition to the regular weekly offering. Place your donation in the SPECIAL envelope in the pews or on the table in the Narthex or write THANKSGIVING OFFERING on the outside of your regular envelop or check.