

## Thoughts For Our Journey: February 2013

### LENT

Just a few weeks ago we celebrated Christmas, looking at the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. We heard angel announcements, and Holy Spirit inspired prophecies that revealed so much about the identity and work of this special child. However, just as babies are not meant to stay in the cradle forever, Jesus was not meant to stay in the manger forever. We have to let him grow up in our minds, just as he did in real life. When we left the Christmas story Jesus was growing up with Mary and Joseph in the town of Nazareth, far north of Bethlehem and Jerusalem, the capital city of Judea. We moved into the season of Epiphany, when the child Jesus grew to be the adult Jesus, baptized in the Jordan and now ready to set his feet travelling to Jerusalem. Before that, Jesus went into the desert for forty days.

What is Lent? For some Christians, Lent has always been a part of their spiritual life and practice; however, for others Lent is a season that is unfamiliar to them. What is Lent? Lent is the church season when Christians have historically prepared their hearts for Easter with reflection, repentance, and prayer. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and proceeds for forty days, culminating in Good Friday and Holy Easter. Since Sundays are weekly celebrations of the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays in lent are not counted as part of the forty-day season. Many Christians choose to fast from something throughout the season of Lent. However, the focus of Lent is not so much on depriving ourselves of something as it is on devoting ourselves to God and his purposes in the world.

Lent is an important season of the church year. The church year is an excellent way to help us focus our attention on God by the way we organize our time. Rather than following the solar calendar's more familiar structure, organized by the rhythms of nature, the church calendar is organized around God and God's activity in the world. The invitation to all of us is to allow the church calendar this Lent help to structure our time and energy around the activity of God in these next forty days of Lent. The church calendar follows six seasons, all in varying length: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. Each of the seasons has a different focus: Advent focuses on the anticipation of God's coming into the world. Christmas concentrates on the birth of Jesus. Epiphany centers itself in the light of God's presence shining in the world. Lent directs our attention toward human sin and God's gracious solution. Easter celebrates resurrection life. Pentecost helps us to remember and participate in the ongoing activity of the Holy Spirit in the world. Beloved, the annual rhythm of these seasons can have a powerful effect on our personal spiritual life and on our communal spiritual growth as a congregation.

Blessings for the Journey,

Rev. Chuck

# The VOICE

*“Working together to make the difference that matters.”*

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Visit us at: [www.neccdisciples.com](http://www.neccdisciples.com)

## **Combined District 2A ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE** **Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. North Eaton Christian Church**

We are the host church this year. The guest speaker is Rev. Chris Stark from Lakewood Christian Church. The music will be provided by the combined church choirs. Participating churches are Lakewood, North Eaton and Washington Avenue Christian Churches (Christian Temple is not able to join us this year). A time of refreshments and fellowship will follow after the service.

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— FEBRUARY 2013

Minister: Rev. Charles Butcher  
Director of Christian Education and Youth: Polly Tallos  
Secretary: Londa Blaine  
Music Director: Miki Saito  
Pathways Counseling & Growth Center: Dr. Ralph Thompson

**FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 2 Loretta St.Andre
- 3 Joyce Johnson
- 6 Fran Walker
- 6 Linda Ickes
- 7 Beth Wilson
- 8 Marie Ternes
- 9 Linda Johnson
- 9 Susie Naylor
- 12 John Haupt
- 14 Bonnie Hicks
- 14 Tim Tyler
- 14 Mary Bengough
- 14 James Hensley
- 15 Kristen Hicks
- 17 Jacob Zawoywski
- 17 Glenn Swartz
- 17 Chrissy Baughman
- 18 Amanda Klein
- 19 Gene Yost
- 20 Stu Hicks Sr.
- 20 Chris Chapman
- 21 Royce Klein
- 22 Madeline Blaine
- 23 Breanna Bokar
- 24 Dale & Sally Botson
- 24 John & Karen Vilevac
- 25 Jim Bokar
- 25 Laura Carpenter
- 25 Brian Insley
- 26 Jeff & Chris Hensley
- 28 Taylor Baughman
- 28 Luis Rooney
- 29 Edna Carpenter
- 29 Chuck Butcher

**Serving at the Lord's Table in FEBRUARY 2013....**

- 8:00** Angie Carter, Scott White
  - 9:30** Chrissy Baughman,  
Mike Mott, Micah Butcher,  
Jerry Mullins, Mark Carpenter,  
Polly Tallos, Diana Tyler, Brad &  
Heather Stevanus
- ELDERS—Maureen & Bill Cromling**

**Secret Sister Unveiling  
Salad Luncheon Sunday,  
February 17, noon**

SECRET SISTERS, mark your calendar for the UNVEILING on, Feb. 17 here in the church fellowship hall. Bring your favorite salad to share. Drinks and soup will be furnished.



If you have any questions, please contact Robin Galvin.

**CONGRATULATIONS to Dave and Laura Carpenter on the arrival of their granddaughter, Sophie Marie Rose, December 30, 2012.**

**FAMILY TOBOGGANING —Saturday, February 16, 6 p.m.**

**Chalet in Mill Stream Run Reservation  
16200 Valley Parkway, Strongsville, Ohio 44136**



NECC will be hosting a toboggan outing for District 2 Disciples Churches on Saturday, February 16. We will meet at the Chalet in Strongsville at 6 p.m. ONLY TOBOGGAN RIDERS need to pay. If you are just driving your kids, grandkids or neighbors, you can sit inside near the large fireplace and visit with friends. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 11 yrs. and younger.

**"Thank you" to all our NECC FAMILY**

**From: The Butchers and Gabby**

We would like to thank everyone from the NECC family who has helped us along in this difficult time in our family's journey. We thank everyone for their prayers and the many cards that were sent. They have been sweet expressions of encouragement and love. We have been humbled by the many expressions of love and care that you, our NECC family, have show us. No gift has gone unnoticed.

During this difficult time, when we had our own doubts, the expressions of encouragement from you helped us to be stronger in our resolve for Gabby's care. When we thought this could be one of the hardest Christmases our family could experience, all of you have helped it to be one of the most loving and meaningful Christmas celebrations our family has experienced. Thoughtful gifts of love and affection helped to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Because of your generous gifts, both large and small, all our needs have been met and we thank God daily for his provisions.

We wish there could have been more time for Carol and Gabby to have visited with each of you longer. Gabby loved seeing her friends; she loved her gifts and seeing her NECC family. This has been a time for Gabby to experience God's loving care over her and this period of time will have an impact upon the rest of her life.

**RECYCLE BIN... Thank you to all who continue to bring their papers to our recycle bin. We recycled 11 tons of paper in 2012, making a total of 40.5 tons since we started in January 2009.**

## CHRISTIAN FICTION BOOK CLUB

**Wednesday, Feb. 6**— We meet in the high school room, 6-8 p.m. We will discuss the book, "The Road to Mercy," by Kathy Harris. This book is about the struggles of a contemporary Christian singer and his wife, when the wife's health jeopardizes the life of her and their unborn child.

**Wednesday, March 6** — We will discuss, "Burying the Hatchet" by Chris Well.

**Wednesday, April 10** — We will discuss, "Crazy Dangerous" by Andrew Klavan.

CONTACT Melissa Folk for more information or if you would like to join in on the discussions. Participants are expected to obtain their own copy of the book and read it before the discussion date.



## COUNCIL MEETING SUNDAY, February 10, Noon

The entire congregation is urged to attend, to see and understand the workings of the church Council. Even if you are not a voting member, we want your voice to be heard. Contact DIANA TYLER, Council President, if you have questions.



## NECC WINTER JAM 2013 EVENT

On Sunday, March 22, family and friends of North Eaton Christian Church are invited to attend the 2013 Winter Jam at the Wolstein Center in Cleveland. This is a Christian music/rally event that is appropriate for the whole family. Most of the performers are Christian rock artists; some will share their faith stories with us. Nick Hall will also share a message with the audience. Nick's passion is about "helping people get it about God's great love and salvation!"

The cost is \$10 per person; doors open at 6 p.m. If enough people show interest in attending, we can arrange for car pooling. Tickets are purchased at the door. *If you have questions OR would like to go with us, contact Polly Tallos or Carol Bokman.*

## NECC CHILI COOK-OFF 2013

IT'S TIME TO START GETTING YOUR CHILI APETITE READY FOR ANOTHER FRIENDLY COMPETITION BETWEEN CHURCHES. NECC WILL AGAIN HOST THE CHILI COOK-OFF ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 5-8 P.M. THE WANEW CHURCHES (WASHINGTON AVENUE CHRISTIAN, WESTLAKE CHRISTIAN, ETC.) HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. THIS IS A FAMILY EVENT WITH NO ADMISSION CHARGE. MONEY RAISED FROM VOTING FOR THE BEST CHILI WILL GO TO THE CLEVELAND CHRISTIAN HOME.

EACH CHURCH IS ASKED TO PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE POT OF CHILI PER 8 PEOPLE ATTENDING. DIG OUT YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE AND ENTER IT IN THE COMPETITION. A SIGN-UP SHEET FOR CHILI, DESSERTS AND OTHER ITEMS WILL BE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ENTER THE COMPETITION, PLEASE COME FOR THE FOOD, FUN AND MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT.

WE WILL HAVE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY THE MIDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND. WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CAROL BOKMAN AT [BOKMANS@ATT.NET](mailto:BOKMANS@ATT.NET) OR CALL 440-891-1819.



## SPONSOR A MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANT

In July, several youth and adults from NECC will head to Loveland, Colorado for their annual summer mission trip. Because they will be traveling a bit farther than usual, it will be necessary to raise more money for their trip.

The congregation of NECC has always been very supportive of the youth's fundraisers in the past and because your support is so very much appreciated, this year we'd like to give you some "ownership" of the mission-bound youth. We will be asking the congregation to "sponsor" the youth and adults who will be participating. You will receive a package from an individual youth or adult whom you can help to sponsor. The package will contain a picture and personal biography of your sponsored mission trip attendee. Your special person will in turn, keep you abreast of the plans for the trip, send a postcard or two, and possibly bring you back a special souvenir. Plans are still in the works, but once the mission trip attendees have made that final commitment to give their time to help others in need, their packets will be available after church services in the fellowship hall. This is a way that you, too, can be involved and be a vital part of helping to make a difference in someone's life.

## 2013 "Image of God" Women's Conference

This year's conference will be held on Saturday, April 20 at GRACE CHURCH in Middleburg Heights, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. This conference is for women of all ages, backgrounds and walks of life. The theme this year is, "More Than Gold." Featured speakers are Kerrie Roberts, Danita Harris, Brooke Taylor, and Linda Isaiah, with music by Britt Nicole and 220b.

EARLY BIRD ticket prices are \$39 per person if ordered before FEBRUARY 10. The cost includes a boxed lunch and beverage.

**Check out the website for more information at [www.imageofgod.org/events.htm](http://www.imageofgod.org/events.htm)**

Several of us attended last year and were pleasantly inspired and refreshed. Please let CAROL BOKMAN (bokmans@att.net or 440-891-1819) know if you would like tickets or to get questions answered. WE NEED YOUR TICKET MONEY BY FEBRUARY 10.

## Lenten Bible Study

Pastor Chuck will be offering a Bible Study during the season of Lent, beginning Wednesday, February 20. We will start at 6 p.m. with a meal, shared with the ALPHA group, and then move to the CYF classroom for our study at 6:30. The Alpha group will stay in the fellowship hall. Our study will conclude on April 3.

The focus for this study will be the book, "24 Hours That Changed the World," by Rev. Adam Hamilton. Come join us as Rev. Hamilton guides us from the Last Supper to Gethsemane, to the trial and to the Crucifixion of Jesus. We will experience together and understand together the significance of Christ's final hours in a way we may never have before.

*If you are joining us, please let Rev. Chuck know or mark it on the FRIENDSHIP REGISTER.*

## State Youth Convention — March 8-10

This is a wonderful gathering of high school students from across Ohio at HIRAM COLLEGE, Hiram, Ohio. There will be worship time led by our tremendous state officers, games, a great curriculum, and much frivolity! Cost is \$30 per student.

## Alpha at North Eaton Christian Church

The North Eaton Christian Church will again be offering The Alpha Course on Wednesday evenings beginning February 20, led by Polly Tallos, our Director of Christian Education and Youth. A light dinner will be served at 6 p.m., followed by Bible Study and discussion 6:30-8 p.m.

### What is Alpha?

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. The Alpha course usually meets once per week for 10 weeks, and includes an amazing one-day getaway.

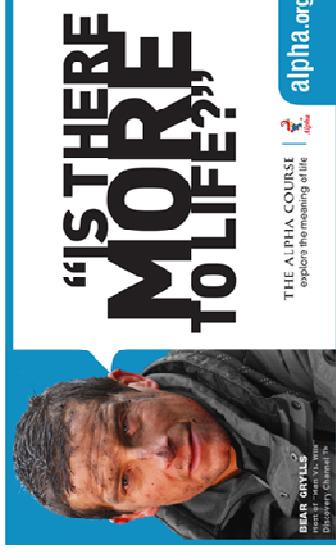
At each session, people enjoy great food, laughter and learning in a fun and friendly atmosphere in which no question about life or God is seen as too simple or too hostile (questions like, "Is there a God?" "Why am I here?" "Where did I come from?" "Where am I going?")

### Who is Alpha for?

Alpha is for anyone... anyone who thinks there may be more to life than meets the eye. Alpha is for you, your friends, your family, your coworkers, anyone you would like to invite. People attend from all backgrounds, religions and viewpoints. They come to investigate questions about the existence of God, the purpose of life, the afterlife, the claims of Jesus, and more. Some people want to get beyond religion and find a relationship with God that really changes lives. Others come for the close, long-lasting friendships that are built during the Alpha course. Many guests have never been to church, others may have attended church occasionally but feel they have never really understood the basics of the Christian faith. Everyone is welcome!

### What Happens at Alpha?

The Alpha course usually lasts 10 weeks, with a one-day getaway in the middle. Each gathering begins with a meal or refreshments—a chance to get to know others. Then, there is a short talk which looks at a different aspect of the Christian faith each week. This is followed by a time of discussion in small groups where everyone is welcome to contribute their opinions and ask questions. People usually stay in the same small groups for the duration of the course so they can get to know each other, continue discussions and deepen friendships. The emphasis is upon exploration and discovery in a relaxed and informal environment. For more information, please visit The Alpha Course website, <http://alphana.org>.



# Thank You

Thank you for your prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls during my recent illness. Your love and support helped me to get stronger and back to my church family. I missed my hugs and talks. I could not be where I am today if it weren't for all of your support. I thank God for my church family and Pastor Chuck.

Love and Prayers, Barb Koerner

What a beautiful surprise on January 13! Our thanks to Linda & Jim Ickes for the beautiful flowers, Carol Busche for the pictures, and our church family for your love and support.

Mel and Marie Ternes

The youth say, "Thank You for buying our Super Bowl Hoagies!" The money raised will be used to support youth events and mission projects. We spent Sunday morning putting the hoagies together so they would be fresh.

Our thanks to everyone who donated \$1 and canned soup on February 3 for our "Soupers Bowl of Caring." The money and food items will be divided between our own Food Basket program and Dunham Avenue Christian Church's Free Meal program.

Thank you for your generous donation of Christmas gifts for the children and families of the Cleveland Christian Home. And thanks also for the after-Christmas muscle!! (Some of our youth and adults packed and moved boxes to storage.)

Rev. Jayne Ryan Kuroiwa

**Recuperating at home: Rita Ward, Nancy Yost, Dawn Schieferle, Sherry Wilson, Alberta Amos.**

**Our sympathy is extended to:** Pat and Roger Driver on the death of Pat's mother, Dorothy Pesta, a few weeks ago.

## NEEDED: Candy for Easter Eggs



The Christian Education Committee will be hosting its annual Easter Egg Hunt/Race on Palm Sunday, March 24. We are asking the church to donate individually-wrapped candy to stuff in the plastic eggs. Now is the perfect time to purchase the leftover Valentine's Day candy. The kids don't care if the candy is wrapped in red foil or covered in hearts.

We also need small prizes to hand out, for example: stuffed animals, books, small toys, art supplies, kids' jewelry, and \$5 and \$10 gift certificates (Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Burger King, etc.) Please bring all donations to church and place them in the box in the fellowship hall. If you have any questions, contact POLLY TALLOS or MELISSA FOLK.

## Youth Update . . . .

- The youth have been spending a lot of time together in the new
- year. We started out with a New Year 's overnight with Laser Tag and late-night games.
- The weekend of January 25-27 was spent at Camp Christian with youth and adults from
- Akron ' s High Street, Westlake, Medina, Franklin Circle, and Lakewood Christian Churches.
- Our theme for the weekend was, "The Nerve to Serve. " We took a closer look at Jesus '
- example of servanthood and then were commissioned to go out to put what we learned into
- practice. On Saturday, we helped in the **Free Store** that operates out of the Camp Christian
- Rec Hall during non-camp months.

“Our Town and All Around” Coupon Directory—we have only three left. They are available in the church office for just \$28. These have great savings on restaurants, dry cleaning, fast food, grocery stores, etc. These also make great gifts for family and friends.

**NECC new CHURCH COOKBOOKS — are available in the church office during the week or after worship on Sunday for only \$10. These also make great gifts.**

**Mark your calendar: CHINESE AUCTION, Wednesday, April 17!**