

## Thoughts for Our Journey: March 2013

### At All Cost

Our God is a God who follows us. The psalm writer of, *Psalms 139:7-12* confirms our God is a loving follower of us. He writes, “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me; your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, ‘surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me, even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, the darkness is as light to you.’” Have you sensed or felt God following you?

Scripture says God is the one who came to seek and save the lost. Have we sensed him seeking each of us? Have you felt God’s presence through the kindnesses shown to us through a stranger? Have we felt the presence of God in the majestic display of a beautiful sunrise or sunset? Have we sensed God’s presence through a word well spoken or a touch well timed, have we sensed him? God gives us himself. When we choose our earthly house over his home and we choose our earthly trash over his grace, still God follows us. God never forces us. He will never leave us. God uses all his power to convince us that he is who he says he is. God simply wants us home with him. To bring us home, God offers us a gift.

God gave that gift and the gift demanded a costly sacrifice. God on a cross. The ultimate sacrificial gift and most creative act of compassion as well. In this act, God is seeking to convince humanity once and for all that he would give up anything, pay any price to save his children. God, in Christ could have walked away from the wretched mess the world became, but God didn’t. When people spat in his face, he didn’t spit back. When the bystanders slapped him, he didn’t slap them. When a whip ripped his sides, he didn’t turn and command the waiting angels to stuff the whip down the soldier’s throat. When human hands fastened the divine hands to a cross with spikes, it wasn’t the soldiers who held the hands of Jesus steady. It was God who held them steady. Those same hands formed the oceans and built up the mountains. Those same divine hands designed the dawn and crafted each cloud. Those divine Godly hands are the same hands that drew the blueprints of an incredible plan for all of us. Let me encourage us all to take a stroll out to the hill. Let’s stroll out to the hill of Calvary. Out to the cross where, with holy blood, the hand that placed us on the planet wrote this promise, “God would give up his only Son before he’d give up on us.”

Blessings for Journey, Rev. Chuck

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

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

DATE—MARCH 2013

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

## Holy Week Schedule

Good Friday 12:00-3:00 Sanctuary open for meditation and prayer  
7:00 Evening Worship  
Easter Sunday 6:00 Sunrise Service @ Butternut Ridge Cemetery  
8:00 Sunday Morning Worship  
9:30 Sunday Morning Worship

# 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](http://www.neccdisciples.com)

**MARCH Birthdays & Anniversaries.....**

- 2 John & Lillian Ingram
- 3 Collin Trimble
- 4 Pete Tallos
- 5 Alex Carpenter
- 6 Eileen Weber
- Stephanie Tyler Garvin
- Brittney Bokar
- 7 Lisa Woodby
- Arlene Squire
- 8 Mary Tite
- 11 Dolly Dixon
- 12 Tammy Hammond
- 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, Becky Moran
- Holly Chapman
- 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

**Serving at the Lord's Table**

**MARCH 2013....**

- 8:00** Jim & Linda Ickes
  - 9:30** Floyd Chapman, Bill Chapman
  - Royce Klein, Mary Bengough
  - Dave Carpenter, Amy Stafford
  - Paula & Mike Krasnevich
  - Theresa McDonough
  - Paige Bokman, Tyler Bokman
- ELDERS—Linda Rodak, Jeff Hensley**

**Good Friday Service**

We encourage you to join us for our Good Friday worship service, March 29th @ 7:00 p.m. This service commemorates the suffering and death of Jesus Christ and represents the darkness that overcame the earth as God's only Son was crucified.



**2013 MISSION TRIP—Centralia, Illinois (July)**

**OUR YOUTH TEAM:** Paige Bokman, Alex Carpenter, Samantha Galvin, Taylor Salas, Eric Tallos

Our adult team: Mark Carpenter and Polly Tallos

**LET US WORK FOR YOU....** We are willing to do odd jobs around the house or yard. *Adult supervision will be provided if needed.*

Lawn mowing, babysitting, weeding, moving or hauling boxes or small items, window washing, dog walking or watching, etc. Let us know what you need and we will accommodate.

Money will go towards our travel, food and other expenses for all of us on the trip.

**Special Easter Offering 2013**

**I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10b)**

As people of faith, we know and experience the generous and powerful love of God in our lives. And yet we recognize the brokenness in our communities and in the world. We are a church that reaches out so that wholeness is experienced, suffering is alleviated, and our faithful witness creates a just and merciful world. The special Easter Offering supports the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) — our Church in the world!

Your financial gifts directly sustain the mission outreach of ministries that faithfully serve individuals, local congregations, communities across the country and our global neighbors. Truly, your prayerful support and benevolent gifts embody the abundance of God's love for all of creation. Thank you for your generous participation. Thank you for your continued faithful witness.

Add your donation to your regular giving or use the special envelope that will be provided in the Sunday morning worship bulletins. (Extra envelopes are on the table in the Narthex.)

## News Among the Pews

**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to Carlene Beres and her family on the death of her husband JOHN a few weeks ago. John was a faithfully attended our 8:00 worship service. He work in our food booth at the fair when his health allowed and was always ready to give you a smile and had a good story to tell.

**REOPERATING:** Dawn Schieferle, Bob Burdick, Genene Slusher, Marge Borchert, Edna Carpenter, Floyd Chapman, Fran Slack, Rita Ward, Nancy Yost, Karen Klinec, Jim Wilson

## THANK YOU

*We would like to thank Mack McCray of Boy Scout Troup 111 for freshening up the High School/Bride room. Mac chose North Eaton Christian Church as the focus for his Eagle Scout Project. Mac spent time shopping for "new" furniture then he, along with other boys from Troup 111 and family, spent a Saturday afternoon painting and redecorating. Stop by and take a look and the improvement.*

My thanks and appreciation to Sharon & Jerry Mullins, Cindy Thompson, Jim & Linda Ickes, Diana Tyler and Londa Blaine for all their help in decorating, hosting and cleaning up for the fellowship time after the Combined Ash Wednesday Service.  
Marie Ternes

The delicious baked goods for the Ash Wednesday service were provided by some of the generous bakers in our congregation. Thank you for sharing your time and talents.  
Londa Blaine

*On behalf of Cornerstone and NECC I want to thank Barb Colvin for the 12 beautiful baby afghans she has made in the past few months. This is a blessing to the maker as well as the receiver.*

Marie Ternes

*Dear Church Family, My thanks to Rev. Chuck for the beautiful memorial service, to all of you who sent the many cards of sympathy,, to all who attended the service, and to the many who prepared the food and served. The love and compassion you have shown to us has been a great comfort. John loved this church and we understand why.*

The Family of John Beres

**UNVEILING LUNCHEON** — The Secret Sisters met for lunch on the 17th. The snow did not keep of us from enjoying an afternoon of fellowship. We started off with prayer, played a group game, ate a lot of wonderful food and shared with the group who our Secret Sister was. Carol Butcher could not be with us but was able to call and say "hello" and she was thinking about us. We were grateful to have a few visitors. Thank you to all the women who participated in building up one another (the body of Christ) in prayer, thoughts and deeds.

Robin Galvin

Sharon Mullins and Paula Krasnevich will be in charge of the SECRET SISTERS this year. If you WANT A SECRET SISTER or if you WANT TO BE A SECRET SISTER, please let them know or call the church office as soon as possible.

## NEEDED: Candy and PRIZES for Easter Egg Hunt



The Christian Education Dept. will be hosting their annual Easter Egg Hunt/Race on Palm Sunday, March 24th. We are asking the church to **donate individually wrapped candy** to stuff in the plastic eggs. We also need **small prizes** to hand out, for example: stuffed animals, books, small toys, art supplies, kids jewelry, and \$5.00 and \$10.00 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 see POLLY TALLOS or MELISSA FOLK.

## CHRISTIAN FICTION BOOK CLUB

**Wednesday, April 10th** — 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.

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

## Championship Chili for Christ

**THANK YOU** to everyone who supported the Chili Cook-off on Sunday, February 24!! What a great evening! The Fellowship Hall was filled with people hungry for chili and good music, which was provided by the Midview Jazz Band and band leader, Josh Brunger. Five Disciples churches participated: North Eaton, Westlake, Washington Ave, Brunswick and Dunham Ave, providing 11 chilies as well as lots of delicious side dishes and desserts. We raised just over \$700 for the Cleveland Christian Home!!

### Our TOP winners were:

1<sup>st</sup> Mary Hunter – Brunswick  
2<sup>nd</sup> Stephanie Tyler-Garvin – NECC  
3<sup>rd</sup> Val Collins and Fauna Griffiths – Washington Ave

### Honorable Mentions go to:

Sharon Evans- Washington Ave  
Paul Hayward—NECC  
Dave Carpenter- NECC

Our thanks to Rev, Jayne Ryan  
Kuroiwas for telling us more about the  
Cleveland Christian Home and also  
providing some great door prizes.

Our thanks to Carol Bokman for making the bags of chocolate candy that was sold and money given to the Jazz Band.