

Thoughts for the Journey – July/2013:

Liberty Throughout All the Land

July 4, 1776 is a day all United States citizens remember as the birth of our nation. It was on that historic date that the then British American Colonies declared their independence from England. On July 8, 1776, along with church bells throughout the colonies, the Liberty Bell pealed out the symbolic message of freedom and independence. On the Liberty Bell is found the following inscription, “Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.” The inscription is taken from the Old Testament, *Leviticus 25:10*. Until 1835 the Liberty Bell was rung every year during the celebration of the Declaration of Independence. Now for the most part it is relegated to be a historic relic. The Liberty Bell is one of the few remaining national symbols on which a passage from the Bible remains. This indicates the respect the founding fathers and mothers of this nation held toward God and His Word.

The Declaration of Independence cost many rebellious colonists their lives. They fought for freedom and the right to pursue their own happiness. They inscribed on our currency, “In God We Trust.” Which leads to a question to ponder, how much do we think the majority of United States citizens really put in God Almighty? I think many of our nation’s problems could be remedied by returning to that foundational belief expressed on our currency, “In God We Trust.” From the Old Testament comes this passage, “Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him” (Proverbs 30:5).

People are willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice of their life for political freedom. Bruce Barton said, “What a curious phenomenon it is that you can get men to die for the liberty of the world, however, they will not make even the smallest sacrifice that is needed to free themselves from their own spiritual bondage to sin.” The way to spiritual liberty is through Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. Jesus said, “then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32). Truth is the only thing that frees humanity from spiritual slavery. But liberty requires that the slaves to sin rise up in a spiritual revolution of sorts. A declaration of freedom against the bondage of sin is made the very moment one comes out of sin and into freedom. The Apostle Paul wrote, “But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness” (Romans 6:17-18). The turning from spiritual slavery in sin to freedom in Christ is wholehearted obedience. Obedience beloved must be grounded in faith. Faith is produced by revelation (Romans 10:17). Saving faith obeys the word of God without reservation. Obedience is compliance with the law. The Roman philosopher Cicero taught, “Liberty consists in the power of doing that which is permitted by the law.” Living under God’s law is the only way to free ourselves from the blight of our sinful condition. This year beloved when we celebrate the 4th of July, let’s remember those men and women who gave their lives for our freedom to make this one nation under God. May we fully give our faith to the statement it is truly, “In God We Trust.”

Blessings for the Journey,

Rev. Chuck

North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Permit No. 8

DATE— JULY 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

A HUGE THANKS to DON NASH for his many, many years of faithfully taking care of the church grounds; mowing, fertilizing, and picking up trash. He always made sure the grass looked good for Sunday morning. It took many hours of time, devotion and love to keep God’s earth looking good. Well done, good and faithful servant!
Our thanks to ROGER DRIVER, who has volunteered to take over the lawn care position. We are blessed to have many, many faithful volunteers here at North Eaton Christian Church.

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

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Jeff Ickes, Trina Karban
3 Sandy Hales, Tyler Bokman
9 Sandy Nowak
11 Blake Kyle
Ruth & John Haupt (63)
Carol & Chuck Butcher
12 Josh Meldrum
Mike & Sandy Gross
16 John Hartness
17 Dede Prunty, Hope Humphrey
18 Robin Bricker
Fred & Renee Carpenter
20 Barb Mott, Wil Morrison
Don & Pat Ables
21 Nancy & Gene Yost (59)
Shari & Brian Insley
22 Jennifer Hicks
23 Maureen Cromling
24 CJ Mott
Stu Hicks IV
25 Bob & Ruby Burdick (67)
27 Paul Durbin
Skyler Baughman
28 Samantha Galvin
29 John Vilevac, Heather Stevanus,
Carol Butcher
30 Larry Weber
Shari Insley
Fred Carpenter

Serving at the Lord's Table — JULY

8:00 Mary Scott, Bob Weber

9:30 Paula & Mike Krasnevich, Pat Ables,
Ken & Cindy Hicks, Carol Bokman,
Marlene Black, Carol Swartz,
John Klinect

ELDERS — Glenn Swartz,
Linda Rodak



NECC “WELCOME BACK” CHURCH PICNIC

On Sunday, September 8th, the family and friends of the North Eaton Christian Church are invited to attend the “Welcome Back” Church Picnic in the field behind the parking lot. This will celebrate starting up the new school year as summer comes to a close. We will set-up immediately following the 9:30 service and eat at approximately noon. The church will be providing the meat and beverages, please bring a dish to share. There will soon be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. We will have some games set-up for your entertainment.

Please contact Stephanie Tyler-Garvin at stephanietyler@gmail.com or Carol Bokman at bokmans@att.net if you have any questions or you have an outdoor game that you would like to share.



Lending a helping hand

The REBEKAH CIRCLE has started a fund to help Linda Rodak with medical expenses. If anyone would like to donate to this fund, CHECKS are to be made out to REBEKAH CIRCLE, memo line to read—Linda Rodak. Mail them to the church (35895 Royalton Rd. Grafton, Oh. 44044) or place in the offering plate. (DO NOT give or send to Linda please.)

If you have any questions, call the church office, 440-748-2230 or Laura Kuhn, 440-309-5864. We will be collecting for this fund during the months of JULY and AUGUST only.

Don't vacation from God.....

I know this is the season for vacations, and from time to time some of us will be away from the area. But the truth of the matter is, we have made a commitment to both Christ and the Church. A commitment that is more than just when we can make it to worship, it's a commitment of faith and support, to be part of the Body of Christ, not just 52 Sundays a year, but living out our faith 365 days a year.

So, whether you go on vacation this Summer or not, *don't take a vacation from God.* I know for a fact that God has no intention of taking a vacation from you. If you are away, make the effort to worship where you are. Maybe by being a stranger in another congregation it will help you become more aware of those who enter our Church for the first or second time, and find ways to help them make NECC their Church Family.

Still, Christ has called us to be more than just “greeters” at the church door, we are also called to move out into the world and minister to those in need of God, whether they are a part of this church family or not. So, take to heart the words when Jesus says, *“....truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)*

(Copied from Rev. Ralph Wearstler's article in his June newsletter)

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

Rummage Sale — August 3rd

American Legion at W. 220th & Brookpark

We are asking for items for our rummage sale. This is our biggest fundraiser and helps pay the items and postage that go into our packages for the military. We also use funds to help our Wounded Warriors and our Veterans when a need arises.

Our Chapter sends packages to our deployed soldiers every other month — the postage alone costs us between \$500-\$900. This is a worthwhile organization and 100% goes directly to our military. We can provide a tax from if you need it. (Non-profit 501 C3).

NOW is the time to do some cleaning out — give me a call, 440-458-4237 or email sallysb52@Yahoo.com and we can make arrangements for delivery or for us to pick it up.

THANK YOU for your support, Sally Botson

CMIA invites the church to join them on their annual canoe trip on Saturday, July 27th. See Mike Krasnevich for more information and directions.

NECC family and friends have the opportunity to see “The King and I” performed at Hathaway Brown School on July 14th. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$11 for children. Contact Carol Bokman, 440-891-1819, for more information.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of JIM MUTH who died on June 18, 2013. Jim was an active member here during his youth: attending worship, Sunday School, Jr. Deacon, youth activities and Camp Christian.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of MARGE BORCHERT who died on June 17, 2013. Rev. Chuck officiated at her memorial service. Marge attended our 9:30 worship and was an active member of Rebekah Circle for many years.

Our thanks to Darrell Wilford, who has been very busy planting bulbs and spreading mulch on the east side of the church. These flower beds will be maintained by Carol Butcher and Darrell Wilford. We appreciate them offering their time and talent to keeping this side of the church grounds looking good.

NECC WORKDAY The Trustees would like to thank Boy Scout Troop 111 for the fine job they did in weeding and trimming bushes and flower beds in the front of the church. Our thanks also to Mike Krasnevich, Glenn Swartz, Harry Hinkel and Ed Carter for the hard work (and great fellowship) in clearing out bushes, debris and branches around the playground and church yard. Many projects are still in need of upgrade so we are hoping for another work day. The more help we have, the more work that gets done. It is also an awesome way to build friendships. We have windows that need washed, pews to clean, ceiling tiles replaces, and small painting jobs. If you are willing to commit to helping get the jobs done, please call Mike Krasnevich or Glen Thompson and we will schedule time together.

Everyone also appreciated the delicious leftovers we added to our lunch menu.

Sincerely, Church Trustees



**Boy Scouts Troop 111 Return From Gettysburg
Ready to work!!**

- Troop 111, Boy Scouts spent the Memorial Day weekend touring Gettysburg.
- They had a great time and of course it was very educational. Soon after returning, the Scouts provided service to the NECC Work Day.
- The Scouts landscaped—trimming bushes an trees and weeding. Pickup truck loads of trimmings and clippings were removed and discarded. The area looks quite improved! The scouts are available for other cheerful service projects.
- Just let us know what is needed.

- Ed Carter
- Charter Organization Representative
- Troup 111 — North Eaton Christian Church



