

Thoughts for the Journey – NOVEMBER 2013:

God's Wings

I came across an article in an issue of National Geographic from a few years ago. The article provides a penetrating picture of God's love for us. The specific article focused on the damage of a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park. The park's forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the fire's damage.

One particular ranger found a bird, petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by this eerie sight, the ranger knocked over the bird with a stick. When the ranger gently poked the bird, suddenly three tiny chicks scurried out from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of the impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but she refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.

This particular story illustrates poignantly the love God has for us. In *Psalm 91:4* the scripture says, "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge." Jesus came to this earth and tried to save the souls of men and women, but there were many who rejected Jesus and what he had to say. Near the end of his life, an almost despondent Jesus says in *Matthew 23:37*, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!" The thought of how much God loves us should change our view of ourselves and change our lives!

Blessings for the Journey,

Rev. Chuck

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DATE— NOVEMBER 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

The VOICE

"Working together to make the difference that matters."

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NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Carol Wilson
Charlene Nichols
3 Ruby Burdick
6 Kristen Carpenter
7 Taylor Daniels
Robert M. Browne
8 Jerry & Sharon Mullins
9 Rita Ward
Marlene Daniels
11 Christine & Randall Smith
12 Jackie Haumschild
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

Serving at the Lord's Table — NOV.

8:00 Angie Carter, Scott White

9:30 Diana Tyler, Micah Butcher, Jerry Mullins, Mark Carpenter, Mike Mott Polly Tallos, Dave Carpenter Theresa Sizemore

ELDERS—Jeff Hensley, Bob Hammond

Wednesday Night Bible Class – 6:30-8:00 pm.

When Christians Get it Wrong

When young adults between the ages of 18-35 talk about the problems they have with Christianity and the church, they often name certain attitudes and behaviors they believe are practiced too often by Christians: judging others, condemning people of other faiths, rejection of science and other interesting topics of concern. The purpose for this study is for us to learn something from the concerns of these young adults to learn about ways we get it wrong so that we may strive to get it right. So we can be the kind of Christians who draw people to Christ rather than push them away. We need to show the world a Christianity that helps them see who Jesus really is. With the help of Rev. Adam Hamilton we will tackle these issues and address the how's and why's of Christians getting it right when it comes to being Christ in the world.

So please come and join in this very challenging and meaningful study. We will start this study on October 30th and going to December 11th. We will start at 6:30 pm and end promptly at 8:00 pm. Each week we will have a dessert break. Even though the class has already started we invite you to join us.

CHRISTMAS VBS

Parents Day Out

NECC is excited to host a one day Christmas VBS/Parents' Day Out, on Sunday, Dec. 1st, from Noon-4:00 p.m. We'd love to lighten your load this holiday season and give you the gift of a free afternoon.

Your children will have a wonderful time learning about the true meaning of Christmas, while moving through different rotations of a Bible lesson, craft, music and more. The children will be served lunch and a snack. A "love offering" will be taken and monies will go to Cornerstone Among Women.

This one day VBS will be for children ages 3—5th grade. There is no cost for this event. The materials will be purchased through NECC Fair Grant Funds. **Registration is a MUST**, and space is limited to 40 children. **Deadline** for registration is Monday, **NOVEMBER 25th, 2013**. Call the church office, 748-2230 or see Polly or Melissa after worship on Sunday.

We are also looking for volunteers to help.



LOOKING AHEAD:

CONSECRATION SUNDAY,

Nov. 17th — Our speaker for the morning worship will be Rev. Dr. LaTaunya M. Bynum, Regional Associate Pastor. A potluck lunch (Pork & chicken provided) will follow at 12:00, Noon.

Community Thanksgiving Worship —

Wednesday, Nov. 27th, 7:00 P.M.
Clearview Church, 23963 Royalton Rd.
Columbia Station. Rev. Matt Merriman,
Columbia United Methodist Church will be the speaker for the evening. Rev. Chuck will also have a part in the service.

NECC Christmas Cookie Sale

Saturday, Dec. 7th

11:00-12:30

\$8.00 lb. (Mix & Match)

Calling all Camp Christian Alumni!

We're searching for the thousands of campers and counselors who have graced the grounds of Camp Christian over the past 64 years. In preparation for a special celebration during the 2015 General Assembly—to be held in Columbus, Ohio—we are collecting stories, photos, and other memorabilia from anyone who has attended Camp. You may mail memories to the Regional Church Office, Christian Church In Ohio, 355 East Campus View Blvd. Suite 110, Columbus, Ohio 43235 or email the to ccio@ccinoh.org There are postcards on the table in the Narthex with more information.

Edifying ELDERS ... Pastor Chuck, Glenn Swartz, Bob Hammond and I went to an elder's workshop featuring Amy Gopp, Executive Director of Week of Compassion. Two questions that were a focus of discussion were "How do we, as ministers of the table, share bread with those who have no bread? How do we share the cup with those who have clean water?" Amy challenged and encouraged us not to make our ministry at the communion table one that becomes rote. She asked us, "What are our table manners? How do you 'set' the table?" As a fairly new elder, this workshop was very inspiring and encouraging. Amy's passion and enthusiasm was evident and contagious. One of the exercises she had us do was to create a topic prayer/poem. Here is the one I wrote:

Forgiveness
 Unfathomable, Eternal
 Cleansing, Freeing, Reviving
 Given on the cross
 Mercy



Humbly Submitted, Melissa Folk

Outreach Project—Canceled Stamps

Many thanks to all of you who have donated stamps to our Outreach Program and especially the large amount the past several months. I recently prepared and sent two boxes of canceled stamps: one to Habitat and the other to the Veterans Stamp Club. The stamps are sold through Habitat to collectors, or used by the Vets for rehabilitation activities. The most valuable stamps are the historic and foreign, but they are ALL used (except the Brown Bell Forever stamp). December will be here soon and the mail always increases at Christmas, so before you throw that envelope away, take a few seconds and cut/tear (1/4 inch space around the stamp) the canceled stamp and bring or mail it to the church. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and used to benefit these two worthwhile organizations. Thank you again.

Grace and Peace,
 Marlene Black

Truth from Fiction.....

The Reason by Willima Siris is a wonderful book about miracles that change the lives of many people in a small Michigan town. One of the characters, Dr. Zach Norman, had a deep hurt from his past that was rotting him from the inside out. At the beginning of his faith journey, when he was speaking to a pastor and friend, he asked the question we all have asked, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" Pastor Jim responded, "God has a plan, and everything does happen for a reason. In fact, Paul tells us to *'know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.'* His promise isn't that bad things don't happen. His promise that God can turn every circumstance into something good. *Every* circumstance. Sometimes we just need to look. Sometimes it takes a lot of time to see it. Sometimes we don't get to see it at all — but somehow our suffering aids others. **The key is trusting the Master through it all.**" When asked why, then, should we bother praying, Pastor Jim continues the conversation with Zach by saying, "Because He loves to hear from his children. You and me. And you never know if he simply wants us to ask before he grants it to usregardless of what the outcome is, and as much sense as it does or doesn't make, we really are not capable of understanding it all. We're left with one decision: to trust or not to trust. Because we are not in control, as much as we'd like to belet go, and let God take care of it, no matter how it feels at the time.

CHRISTIAN FICTION BOOK CLUB

Our book for November is ***THE TELLING*** by Mike Duran. Here's part of the description about the book: "A prophet never loses his calling, only his way. Disfigured with a hideous scar from his stepmother, Zeph Walker lives his life in seclusion, cloistering himself in a ramshackle bookstore on the outskirts of town. But Zeph is also blessed with a gift of an uncanny ability to foresee the future, to know people's deepest sins and secrets. He calls it the Telling, but he has abandoned this gift to a life of solitude, unbelief, and despair until two detectives escort him to the county morgue where he finds his own body lying on the gurney...." Want to know more? Read the book and then come meet with us to discuss it. We're meeting on Saturday, November 9th, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. at the church.

ANY QUESTIONS contact Melissa Folk .

NEW MEMBERS ———Mary Ann Daughtery and Norma Richards came forward to make their confession of faith on October 13, 2013 at the second service. They have been a part of our worship and have decided to become a part of our church family at NECC.

TRANSFER: Sue Webb has transferred her membership and united with John Knox Presbyterian Church in North Olmsted. We extend our prayers for God's blessings.

News Among the Pews

Our thanks to Barb Galvin, Norma Richards, Janet Davis and friends for the Fall display in the Memorial Garden. This was done in memory off their friend, Fran Slack.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the youth in their effort to build a Tower of Towels. *As of Nov. 1st the Chi Rho counted over 80 bath, kitchen, and other towels/washcloths as well as a few blankets and sheets. We will deliver them to the Free Store at Camp Christian on Saturday, Nov. 9th.*

With the generous support of the congregation and the fantastic help from the ladies of Rebekah Circle and a few others, we stuffed and handed out 600 Halloween bags to children at Columbia Station and Midview and another 150 bags with church info to the parents.

Polly Tallos, C.E. Director

Our thanks to Tammy Hammond for delivering boxes of canned goods for our food pantry. We were given a portion of the items collected at the Midview/No. Ridgeville football game.

Congratulations to Gene and Nancy Yost on the arrival of a new great-grandson, Austin Thomas Yost, born October 2nd.

2013 THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING

Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps underwrite the education of students attending our 14 member undergraduate institutions and our 7 seminaries or divinity houses. You are helping ensure that when students from our congregation go away to study they will Come Home to a Disciples institution. These learning communities are an extension of the church, challenging students to understand and respond to God's call to service.

Coming home to a Disciples College or theological School is possible through the scholarships and grants that are made available by generous individuals, the Disciples Mission Fund and your gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering. Consider your investment not just in the student's opportunity to learn but also as an act of stewardship for future generations. **Your support of the 2013 Thanksgiving Offering helps Disciples Come Home!**

Add your support in your regular offering envelope (mark it clearly) or use the special envelopes on the table in the Narthex or in the church pews during the month of November.

Dear NECC Church Family,

Needless to say, I was very surprised and greatly overwhelmed by the love and kindness you extended to me on Sunday, Sept. 22nd. I had all I could do to keep from crying as we exchanged memories, parting thoughts and wonderful hugs! I loved every minute of that precious time together. I truly appreciate your cards. I read them on our trip to Florida and have returned to them several times since. The warm sentiments of love bring to mind the sender, and the activities we shared as a church family. THANK YOU to everyone who had a hand in creating such a wonderful occasion on my behalf. You are in my thoughts and prayers and I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in the future. Till we meet again.

FRAN EARLY

Annual ADULT Christmas Party ... Ed and Angie Carter have opened their home again this year for our annual Adult Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 8th, at 5:00 p.m. This is a potluck and has been a much enjoyed tradition that was started many years ago by Bert and Lois Hampson. We will have a signup later in the month.



On August 11, 2013, Rev. Dr. Howard Ratcliff, retired Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church In Ohio, passed away from this earthly life. We are grateful for his life and legacy.