

Thoughts For the Journey — February 2014

Our Desperate Need for Mercy

The phrase "Lord have mercy," though frequently misused, is a thoroughly biblical idea. The New Testament records several individuals crying out, "Lord have mercy." In *Matthew 15:22* it was a Canaanite woman whose daughter was demon-possessed. In *Matthew 17:15* it was blind Bartimaeus. In *Luke 18:13* it was a tax collector smitten by the consciousness of his own sinfulness. Though from different people with different needs, there are at least two common elements in all these pleas for mercy. First, there was a sense of desperation. The people who begged for mercy faced problems and needs beyond the scope of human resources. No bank, no doctor, no pill, counselor, government program or formula could dispense the help they needed. They saw in Jesus a supernatural source of help unavailable anywhere else on earth. Second, in every instance where Jesus was asked for mercy, he gave it! There is no record he ever refused a sincere plea for mercy.

These days it is rare to see people desperately going to Jesus for help. Not that it is rare to see desperate people. Thoreau said, "we live lives of quiet desperation." There are desperate people all around us. Families are in crisis. Then there are marriages where one or both spouses are desperate for more than a shared roof and joint bank account. There are young people desperate for communication, relationship and acceptance with their parents. There are older people desperate for someone to just come by and say hello and stay for a little while. There are single parents desperate for strength and courage in the face of the Herculean task of raising children without the help of a spouse. Beloved, there are millions of people who are desperate for a sense of direction, meaning and purpose in life.

Do we need the Lord's mercy? Are we facing sickness or aging? Do we fear the past, present or future? Do we have sins for which we need pardon and from which we need release? Have our hopes been dashed and dreams disappointed? Do we need to say, "Lord have mercy on me?" Beloved, the cross proves to us not only that God can help us but also God wants to help! Nothing rivals the cross for mercy. *Ephesians 2:4* reminds us God is rich in mercy. What is our deepest need? God will show mercy! As children of God, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (*Hebrews 4:16*). Lord have mercy!

Blessings for the Journey,

Rev. Chuck

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

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DATE— FEBRUARY 2014

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

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FEB-Birthdays & Anniversaries

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



Serving at the Lord's Table

8:00 Angie Carter, Scott White

9:30 Micah Butcher, Diana Tyler,
Jerry Mullins, Mark Carpenter,
Mike Mott, Polly Tallos,
Theresa Sizemore, Dave Carpenter,
Marlene Black (K)

ELDERS Melissa Folk, Glenn Swartz

My Calling To Serve The Lord

As many of you are aware, I'm going on my second year as Financial Secretary for North Eaton Christian Church. Due to the recent needs of both a Worship Leader and someone to email out the Prayer Chain, I felt the calling to step up and volunteer for both of these positions. Being both an Accountant and a Teacher, I'm comfortable with numbers, being in front of people, and using a computer, so it was an easy, natural transition for me to handle. I feel that God gave me these gifts and talents and that I should use them for His service. It makes me feel good to be setting an example for my children to not only get involved in the church but to volunteer ones God-given gifts. (I tell this to Hanna when I encourage her to learn another song to sing during worship.) It also feels good to assist North Eaton Christian Church with their needs and, most importantly, to serve our Lord.

I encourage any one else who feels the calling to volunteer their gifts but just needs some extra encouragement, to come forward. You won't be disappointed with how great it makes you feel.

Ronda Susak

Christian Fiction Book Club

(MEETINGS are the **THIRD MONDAY** at 6:00 p.m.)

Truth from Fiction

The book club read *Twisted Wolf* for January. It is about Josh Davis, a former Army Lieutenant who becomes President of the U.S. Josh wants nothing more than to leave a legacy of achieving Middle East peace, but pride and a string of decisions and lies to try to cover up a sin causes great turmoil in Josh's life. During the height of Josh's life-crisis, he thinks, *God, I feel like you've abandoned me. What do I need to do?* The answer he hears, which God has kept trying to tell him all along, is "confess." The truth is that sin separates us from God. Josh's character reminds us that when we don't admit our mistakes, our lives can continue to go down the wrong path until we repent and draw ourselves back to God.

Christian Fiction Book Club

February's book is *The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate. "When Iola Anne Poole passes away in her bed at ninety-one, Tandi Jo Reese finds herself charged with the task of cleaning out Iola's house. Running from a messy, dangerous past, Tandi never expects to find more than a temporary hiding place within Iola's walls, but everything changes with the discovery of eighty-one carefully decorated prayer boxes, one for each year, spanning from Iola's youth to her last days. Hidden in the boxes are the hopes and wishes, fears and thoughts of an unassuming but complex woman passing through the seasons of an extraordinary, unsung life filled with journeys of faith, observations on love, and one final lesson that could change everything for Tandi." Intrigued? Pick up the book and meet us Monday, February 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the church to discuss the book.

They're coming home! After almost two years Carol Butcher and their granddaughter, Gabby will be moving back to North Eaton. Rev. Chuck flew out to Iowa on Sunday, Feb. 2nd to drive them back. They should arrive no later than Friday, February 7th. We pray for a safe journey home.

NECC CHILI COOK-OFF 2014

IT'S TIME TO START GETTING YOUR CHILI APPETITE READY FOR ANOTHER FRIENDLY COMPETITION BETWEEN CHURCHES. NECC WILL AGAIN HOST THE CHILI COOK-OFF ON SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND AT 5:00. THE WANEW CHURCHES (WASHINGTON AVE, WESTLAKE, ETC.) AS WELL AS OTHER AREA CHURCHES WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. THIS IS A FAMILY EVENT WITH NO ADMISSION PRICE, BUT A FREEWILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN FOR THE CLEVELAND CHRISTIAN HOME. MONEY DONATED TO THE CHILI COMPETITION WILL ALSO GO TO THE CCH.

EACH CHURCH SHOULD TRY 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 IS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ENTER THE COMPETITION YOU CAN STILL COME FOR THE FOOD, FUN, AND MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT.

THE MIDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND DIRECTED BY JOSH BRUNGER WILL BE HERE AGAIN THIS YEAR TO ENTERTAIN US THROUGHOUT THE EVENING. WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CAROL BOKMAN AT BOKMANS@ATT.NET OR CALL 440-891-1819.



Our church family was saddened by the sudden death of ROYCE KLEIN. Our prayers continue to surround Leslie and her family and all his many friends and co-workers. He was a kind, caring, helpful Christian that will be missed.

NECC WINTER JAM 2014 EVENT

On Sunday, February 23rd, family and friends of the North Eaton Christian Church are invited to attend the 2014 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 story with us. Several speakers will also share messages with the audience. The cost is \$10 per person and doors open at 6pm. If enough people show interest in attending we can arrange for car pooling. Tickets are purchased at the door. Polly may have some additional ideas regarding time and transportation arrangements. If you have other questions you can contact Polly Tallos or Carol Bokman.

THANK YOU

- To all that are involved in making and distributing the prayer shawls,
My Mom (Rita Ward) sent me one last week and I am honored to have received it! It is absolutely beautiful. I will treasure it forever. With Love, Becky Coffey (from Texas)
- To My Church Family, Thank you so much for the use of the fellowship hall at Christmas time.
The Prunty Family
- North Eaton Christian Church, My thanks and deep appreciation and surprise for your financial gift at Christmas. I never dreamed that anyone would care about the financial pressure I was under and put out a hand to help me, a stranger. Thank you all
- We would like to thank our church family for all they did in the lose of Floyd Chapman. The many cards, your visits, and prayers helped us get through it. Thank you to all the ladies who made the delicious food for the lunch and all the workers who served and cleaned up afterwards. God bless you, Bill and Hope
- Thank you church family and Pastor Chuck for the visits in ICU, the cards and prayers. I am getting better, thanks to God and prayers. Your sister in Christ, Hope
- "My thanks and appreciation to Mike Krasnevich for donating his time to do some work at my home before my surgery. My thanks to Pastor Chuck for his visits while I was in the hospital and for the cards and prayers from my church family." Shari Kyle