

## Thoughts For the Journey — July 2014

### “God Bless America”

America is going to be another year older. On Friday, July 4, 2014 we will celebrate the United States of America’s 238<sup>th</sup> birthday. How do we feel about the United States of America? Clearly, not everybody in the world feels the same. Our presidents often breathe a three-word prayer that is hopefully prayed by millions – “God Bless America.” One comedian reminds us that some would rather blast America than bless America. This same comedian said, “A new book lists all the countries who hate the United States. It’s called the world atlas.” While this comedian surely overstates the case, these words remind us that “America” does not mean the same thing to everyone. Another comedian once said, “I don’t get all choked up about yellow ribbons and American flags. I see them as symbols, and I leave them to the symbol-minded.” Well, I don’t want to be symbol-minded but neither do I want to forget the sacrifice and history behind those yellow ribbons and the American flag.

There is enough wrong with America to trouble thoughtful people. The scriptural and historical fact is, *“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34)*. If this is true, there is no cause for alarm. Beloved, public morality has been on the slippery slope for decades. In spite of coming out from a slow economy, money and material things are popular idols in our culture.

We could probably give a long list stating all we feel is wrong with the United States. However, there is much that is good and right with the United States. Millions of ordinary citizens get up every day and go to work to support and provide for their families. Millions of citizens do not rob banks, rape someone, lie, cheat, steal, abuse their children or commit adultery. These good citizens love their country, vote, salute the flag, sing the national anthem and seek to do good to their neighbors. Many show courtesy to the elderly, pay their taxes, respect the laws of this land and pray for our leaders. In 1 Peter 2:17 it reads, *“Honor all people. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honor the emperor.”* Because of all that is right and wrong with America, I urge us to frequently pray this familiar but magnificent prayer and then live a righteous, upright life so that God can honor it – *“God bless America, land that I love. Stand beside her and guide her. Through the night with a light from above. From the mountains to the prairies to the oceans white with foam God bless America, my home, sweet home.”*

Blessings for the Journey

Rev. Chuck



North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
35895 Royalton Rd. Grafton, Ohio 44044  
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### DATE— JULY 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

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

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**JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

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



**Serving at the Lord's Table: JULY**

- 8:00** Shari & Brian Insley, Randy Kuhn
- 9:30** Paige Bokman, Pat & Don Ables  
Ken & Cindy Hicks, Carol Bokman  
Carol Swartz, Paula & Mike  
Krasnevich

ELDERS — Jeff Hensley, Bob Hammond

**Start Thinking**

**“CHRISTMAS IN JULY”**

It is never too early to start thinking and planning for our annual Christmas Bazaar. We hope to have a CHURCH CRAFT TABLE this year so we are asking you to donate some of your handiwork.

**When you are out shopping keep the KIDS ONLY ROOM in mind if you see some great bargains for this time of year. The kids purchase gifts for family and friends at a very low cost. They get help with gift wrapping so no one can peek! You also have the option of donating money and we can do the shopping for you. Give this to Londa Blaine in the church office or Laura Kuhn who is in charge of the Bazaar this year.**

We can also use donations of canned pop (Coke or Pepsi products) for the lunch counter.

**Proceeds from the Bazaar will go to the Roof Fund. (Saturday—November 8th)**

**Laura Kuhn, Chairperson**

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 \* Our thanks to Darrell Wilford and Carol \*  
 \* Butcher for the perennials on the east side \*  
 \* of the church and mulching. \*  
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**Chi Rho Camp #1..... An Assistant Director's Point of View**

It was my privilege to serve as Assistant Director for Chi Rho Camp #1, June 8-14. Some of you may not be aware that the Regional Camping Program underwent some changes this past year. We went from 4 camps and 4 conferences to 3 camps and 3 conferences as well as adding a second Jr. Camp.

The camping program: morning prayers, evening prayers, quest groups, Bible classes, recreation, free time, canteen, etc is still the same. Other changes included moving counselors and assistant directors around. Groups of counselors that had been together for years were asked to go to camp a different week. We were all nervous and excited at the same time.

I was genuinely pleased with the team I worked with for Camp #1 under the new set up. I made new friends who I look forward to seeing again at camp and around the Region. I had to think about how and why I do things the way I do ...because I have always done them that way ...and be willing to hear and try “new to me” ideas. All this while striving to create a safe, fun, learning environment for 53 youth.

We did a wonderful job, if I do say so myself! POLLY

**A First Year Camper's View:** I liked the making of new friends, recreation time, free time, quest group and meals. One of the best things I did was help make blankets for Project Linus. I met with some other campers in the North Craft Cabin, where our counselors had everything we needed laid out for us. We had to cut the edge of fleece then tied off strips to finish off the blankets. These blankets will be given to a local hospital for children patients who need a little something to cheer them up.

(We still have campers waiting to head off to camp. Watch for more “thoughts on camp” over the summer.)

**Deacon's Rally!**

On June 28th the deacons met to discuss some important matters and to fellowship together with a delicious potluck lunch.

It was an amazing turnout and several members that could not make the meeting were informed of the issues and were able to give their input on the matters at hand. We are pleased with the upcoming changes in September and excited to try new things and have re-dedicated ourselves to our duties and mission as the Diaconate. My sincere thanks to all who made this a wonderful and meaningful gathering.

Sincerely, Paula Krasnevich

