

## Thoughts For the Journey — August 2014

### “A Look That Kills”

Beloved, as believers, we are encouraged to “watch over our souls” diligently (Hebrews 10:39 and Hebrews 13:17). For every one who could be accused of being overly conscientious to the point of debilitation, there are hundreds who neglect self-examination. The job isn’t done by merely seeing what we are; however, the job can be done when we by faith make the needed corrections. Surely we have them to make. Take a look in the mirror. Don’t forget what you saw!

Don’t forget the Spirit either. The Spirit is our help for our sanctification. We can accomplish the needed correctives “by faith,” not by sheer grit and determination. Paul spoke of putting to death the deeds of the body this particular way . . . “by faith.” Beloved, this term means that someone else is providing the power, like a mother lifts a child to reach a glass from the cabinet, or a gasoline engine pushes and turns the drill to go deep into the earth through soil and rock. “Putting to death” demands action, determination and discipline, but with the Spirit’s help it is palpable to do.

Just recently, on our trip to Oregon, I was struggling to get three suitcases onto the light-rail car we were boarding. A gentleman came along and offered his hand, seeing I was straining under the weight of the suitcases. It was such a compassionate gesture of kindness. It made lifting them so much easier. I thanked him. This is what the Holy Spirit does for us as well. The Holy Spirit comes under us as we strain to “watch over our souls” so we don’t seek to do this alone, for the Holy Spirit will lift that burden so it is lighter for us to watch over our souls. We are not thinking clearly if we despair of change and, therefore, to take a longer look at ourselves. We can have hope as we do the since God has already promised to get us to heaven. If God can accomplish that, he can do the lesser things. Let us “watch over our souls by faith” and please God, not only removing our sin but also in the way we go about it.

*Search me, O God, and know my heart;*

*Try me and know my anxious thoughts;*

*And see if there be any hurtful way in me,*

*And lead me in the everlasting way. (Psalm 139:23-24)*

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— AUGUST 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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## AUG. BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Abby Workman  
2 Sally Botson  
4 Sarah Browne, Jim Galvin  
5 Kim Klein, Nicole Teper  
6 Laura & Dave Carpenter  
7 Mel & Marie Ternes  
9 Mel Ternes, Marlene Black  
Mike & Becky Moran  
12 Zoe Knorr  
13 Cathy & Don Dusky  
Jessica Castro, Bob Bricker  
Robin & Bob Bricker  
14 Paul & Michaelene Durbin  
15 Stacy & Nick Zawoyski  
17 Nathan Klein  
18 Sarah Mullins  
22 Taylor Teper, Cameron Castro  
Claire & Bob Kauf  
25 Dave Carpenter, Lauren Martin  
27 Ronda Susak, Ray Konko  
29 Janice Brunger  
30 Bob Kauf  
Diana & Tim Tyler  
31 Londa Blaine  
Barb & Tom Mott

### Community Vacation Bible School Clear View Church—Columbia Station

I volunteered to help with the music at vacation bible school this year. The theme was "Big and Loud For Jesus." She was MRS. LOUD and her husband was MR. BIG. We ALL got big and loud for Jesus!

I really enjoyed working with Carol and her youth assistant Heather. Carol has a beautiful voice and she had actually invented her own body movements to go with some of the songs. She had so much excitement and energy. I tried my best to keep up! The music was very upbeat and the children were into the music and events. By the last day, even the timid kids were moving to the music.

One day the kids all got instruments and made a "joyful noise" unto the Lord in a fun conga line. A lot of the teachers and helpers joined in the fun.

This was a well organized event and they exceeded their food donations goal for their community food pantry. It was a spiritual experience for me. I am still singing some of the songs.

*Amy Stafford*



## Serving at the Lord's Table: August

8:00 Jim & Linda Ickes

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

ELDERS — Bill & Maureen Cromling

### AN ENLIGHTNING EXPERIENCE

The day started out beautiful at the Leesville Lake Campground. We had just cooked a wonderful breakfast of bacon, sausage, eggs, potatoes and pancakes. Ed (my daughter's father-in-law) had rented a ten person pontoon boat. Bob and I and our daughter Courtney, Lisa (Ed's wife), Alex (Ed's son), Michelle (Ed's daughter), her husband Brad and son Trent climbed on board. In a small fishing boat were Dillon (Michelle's son) and Kurt (Ed's son). In kayaks were Richard (Ed's son) Heather (Kurt's girlfriend), and Mike (Ed's son and our daughter's husband).

We stopped for a while and fished off shore then went to the lake's sand bottom swimming hole for a swim. After a while, we heard a little thunder in the distance. Dillon and Kurt left in the small fishing boat to go back to the campground to secure our campsite before the storm hit. Halfway across the lake the storm hit. Dillon and Kurt told us later they had said their goodbyes to each other as the wind swirled around their boat. They couldn't tell where on the lake they were, as it was raining and hailing so hard. Lightning flashed all around them.

Meanwhile, we were considering our options; go on shore in a wooded area, stay under the canopy on the pontoon boat, or head back to the campground. None of these sounded safe. Ed, Alex, Heather and Mike went on shore to give the rest of us more room under the canopy. I told everyone to put on their rubber shoes. Richard (who is autistic) tried to bolt off the boat as the wind and hail hit. I grabbed his arm and we all huddled around him to keep him on the boat. The lightning strikes were pretty close. Lisa reminded us it was Friday the 13th, and that seemed to relieve the tension a little. I just closed my eyes and prayed to keep us all safe. After what seemed like an eternity, it ended and we were all okay. The crew on land looked like drowned creatures, but safe. Dillon and Kurt were at the campground soaked but safe. Everyone went to their campsites to check for damage. I told everyone there must have been family angels huddled with us.

***In the storms of life, HE is there with us. PRAISE THE LORD.***

*Amy Stafford*

## Raves for Ribbit Camp.....

Pastor Chuck, Gabby and I were privileged to be able to attend Ribbit Camp this year. This was the first Ribbit camp to be held at Camp Christian. It is designed for those who have finished 2nd grade through 4th grade that want to either begin their camping experience or who just prefer a short camp, 3 night and 4 days. Pastor Chuck served as a counselor, Gabby was a camper, and I served as assistant craft leader. I had not been at the camp as a staff person since my first Otter Camp in 2011. I saw two people from that camp: one is now a CIT (counselor in training) and the other was serving as staff in the kitchen this year.

Gabby said that *“each day was the best ever”* at Ribbit Camp! She enjoyed everything from catching a fish, to boating, crafts, swimming and the hoedown. Making new friends and sleeping on the top bunk was great. She hopes to go to Otter Camp next year. We would like to thank NECC for helping send Gabby to camp this year. Pastor Chuck, who usually goes to CYF and Chi Rho camp, had this to say about Ribbit Camp: *“The energy was awesome and the spiritual atmosphere was enriching. The kids really loved the songs with the actions and enjoyed leading the prayers for each meal.”*

We, as staff, were asked to fill out an evaluation form about the camp, describing what we liked about the camp, what we would change and any suggestions for next year. I truly could not think of even one thing I would change about the camp. The weather was nice, however, we did have one campfire in the gym, due to thunder and lightening.

Carol Butcher

## CYF Conference .....

While at church camp, participating in the CYF Conference, I realized something I had never really put any thought into. We were all searching for “true love” but if I hadn’t opened my eyes I would never have found it. At camp, the true love we all search for can be found in every smile and act of kindness. This may not be a traditional love but just people who love, support and care for each other.

It is a place where you can’t help but feel loved, not only by God but the people around you. Walking to the car on Saturday morning you’re already anticipating coming next year. I encourage everyone to go to camp, even if you easily get homesick. You will be too busy to even think about home!

Samantha Galvin

## Otter Camp....

When I went to camp for the first time I was surprised at how happy I was at the end of the week. This *second time* I was even happier, due to my great week. It rained on and off for two days but when it was raining we were in the dining hall or the gym. We got to watch **The Lion King** in the dining hall. I had never watched it before, so I thought it was a really good movie, but a little sad in the beginning. During the whole week I was impressed with the food, staff, counselors and CIT’s (counselors in training).

I think if you or someone you know wanted to go to church camp...encourage them to because at first I didn’t want to go but my two cousins Sam and Dean told me I should go. So I did, and you know what? I had a GREAT TIME!

Emily Adkins

**MONTH OF MISSION** —We are collecting the following items for AUGUST.....

*Cornerstone Among Women* — Pocket change on the small table display.

*Food Pantry* — PAPER products

*Salvation Army*—SOCKS, UNDERWEAR

## Moms Day/Night Out

*(Grandmas, Guardians, and Caregivers are also recognized and welcomed.)*

**Wednesday, Sept. 3rd, 9:00-12:00 OR Wednesday, Sept. 3rd, 7:00-10:00**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**DESSERTS and SNACKS**

*Let us pamper you!*

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*This is your invitation to come and spend a few hours relaxing together and thinking only of yourself. Come in the morning after your kids are in school for a pancake breakfast, the movie “Mom’s Night Out” and more surprises JUST FOR YOU.*

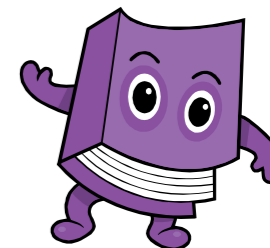
*Come in the evening after dinner and Dad is ready to help with the homework and put the kids to bed. Sit back, relax, have some desserts and snacks and watch the movie “Moms Night Out” and more surprises JUST FOR YOU.*

*YOU MUST SIGNUP .... Call Polly (748-2246), Melissa (458-8275) or the church office (748-2230) to register. You can also signup on the friendship register on Sunday morning.*

***This special day is on us — come and let us “make your day!”***

## Coupon/Entertainment Books for 2015

We will be trying a new BOOK this time that has become popular with local families. It is called “Save Around.” They are \$20.00 and will be available the middle of August.



## Thank You

My thanks to all those that have helped me with my recovery in so many ways. Without my family and church family I would not have recovered so well. Specials thanks to Laura Kuhn and Karen Konko for the rides to therapy and doctors appointments. Paula Krasnevich

Our thanks to Rebekah Circle for purchasing the two new faucets for the kitchen sinks. Our thanks also to Glenn Swartz and Jerry Mullins for installing the new faucets.

*THANK YOU NECC for your generous support of the "Clothe A Kid For School" program sponsored by LOVE INC. We committed to fill 5 clothing orders but there was such a willingness to help that we were actually able to fill an additional 5 orders. If you didn't get in on this opportunity to help, you can still buy underwear and socks of all sizes for the SALVATION ARMY.* Polly Tallos

My thanks and appreciation to Randy & Laura Kuhn, Jim Galvin, Mary Scott, Bob Weber and Bill Cromling for all their help each Sunday morning unloading the tubs of bread. Thanks also for your donations to the Salvation Army of socks and underwear. Marie Ternes

Dear NECC, I would like to thank your congregation for your loving support during my two recent visits. You welcomed me with open arms and helped me feel right at home. Your kind words and compliments were all greatly appreciated and very humbling. I look forward to visiting again soon.

In Christ's Love, Ali Miguel

My thanks and appreciation to Polly Tallos, Youth Director, for organizing the youth and their parents to help with the parking at my auction. My thanks to others who helped with the parking, purchasing and those who came for moral support. Jim Ponting

**Spiritual Vacations??** Have you ever thought of Sunday worship as a spiritual vacation? Sunday is the Christian Sabbath, a day of rest, a day of renewal. Sunday is the day that we set aside from the rest of the week, in order that we might retreat from the demands of the world around us. It doesn't mean that we hide from those demands, it means that we allow ourselves time to pull back, to reflect upon our lives and our relationship with God through the reflection of the "stilled" waters. Worship is not truly worship if we cannot retreat from our busy world long enough to let God in. (I understand that not everyone has the option of having Sunday as a day off, so make your Sabbath where and when you can.)

For many of us there are two kinds of vacations coming up in the remaining weeks of summer. One will be for a well-earned rest from our daily jobs, in order to renew and refresh our mind and body. The other is our weekly "spiritual vacation" for the renewal of our hearts and our souls. Please don't get the two of them confused. God is the ultimate re-newer of life, both physically and spiritually. So, as you vacation this summer, whether it be on the beach or in the mountains, don't forget to take the time to vacation with God. The Peace of God Be With You — Rev. Ralph Wearstler

## NECC CHOIR "Greatest Hits" CONCERT == DESSERT BAKEOFF

*I would like to thank everyone who came to our "Greatest Hits-Dessert Bakeoff." We had 22 dessert entries and were able to raise \$450.00, which was an amazing blessing. With the fair grant, we are very close to purchasing a new keyboard and repairing our drum set. I am very grateful for the support I receive for our music department. I want to thank everyone who came to hear the music, the wonderful bakers, Polly, Carol Bokman, and Melissa who took charge of the Bake Off for me without being asked. This gave me time to concentrate on the concert. My thanks also to Bob Weber who ran the 118 Powerpoint slides throughout the concert, the many who helped setup and take down the tables and those who pitched in to help us clean up. Our thanks to Carol Butcher who fed us a wonderful lunch before the concert. And the list goes on and on. How blessed we are at North Eaton Christian Church. And most of all I want to thank our CHOIR, WORSHIP BAND and QUEST SOLOIST who dedicated their time and talent so happily and selflessly throughout the year! You guys rock!!!*

*My prayer is that during the concert, the Holy Spirit was able to use our music as a vehicle to bring us closer to know and feel God's love for us. As much as I love music, I know that in the end, it is not about music or our technique or accomplishments. It is not about us. It is about Jesus.*

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow, Miki Saito, Music Director*

**Bake-Off** ..... What a wonderful day it was. Sunday, June 1st I was headed home after worship to take it easy for a while before going back to the church for the Choir Concert and Dessert Bake-off. After all, I wasn't in charge. When I heard the choir practicing I decided to sit with Ronda Susak to listen for a while before heading home. Then Carol Butcher needed some help preparing lunch for the choir. So off we went to the kitchen to heat up the food, then I was going home for a little while. On my way out, Carol Bokman and I decided we should setup the bake-off as much as we could so that we wouldn't have to do it during the concert. Well, by the time that was done, there wasn't time to go home "for a little while."

So it sounds like my day got off track, that each time I was going to do what I wanted, I got pulled into helping someone else. But that is what being a church and Christian is all about. I was with good friends, working together to have a successful, fun, excellent concert and bake-off. The bake-off raised over \$450.00 towards the new music equipment and we enjoyed wonderful music and good company. Polly Tallos

*Many thanks for all who helped make the afternoon such a huge success. We raised over \$450.00  
Additional donations would be appreciated if you would like to further support the keyboard effort.*

*Diana Tyler*

**Mark your calendar and join us on our "Annual Bike Ride" and dinner. SUNDAY, September 28th (more info next month and in the church bulletins.) Any questions contact CAROL BOKMAN.**