

## *Thoughts For the Journey—Sept. 2014*

### *“You’re Blessed When You’ve Worked a Good Appetite for God”*

The Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5-7*) opens with the famous list of qualities and rewards known as, “The Beatitudes” (*Matthew 5:3-12*). Now, according to Jesus, rewards like the kingdom of heaven, the inheritance of earth, comfort, mercy, satisfaction, identification as God’s children and the joy of enjoying God’s presence belong to the “blessed” people who manifest the attributes listed here. The context of first-century Israel, Jesus’ list served more of a purpose than to merely say whom God would accept. It also served to expose those who would not be. For example, “blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs – not the boastful, proud and arrogant religious leaders – is the kingdom of heaven.

Then there is fourth of the Beatitudes, which catches my eyes today. *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied”* (*Matthew 5:6*). I find it interesting that Jesus did not say, “Blessed are the righteous.” Had Jesus said that, the Jewish leaders and scholars of his day (along with many self-righteous moralists today) would have quickly applied this designation to themselves, assuming that they being “righteous” according to the law would inherit the reward rather than the lowly masses who made no such claim. Instead Jesus used the illustration of needing and lacking righteousness of – those who hunger and thirst for righteousness – and identity less eagerly embraced by such pharisaical types. Beloved, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be satisfied, Jesus said, rather than those who were already “righteous.” There is something critical here about recognizing – feeling – one’s lack of righteousness. The often-painful experience of hunger and thirst, something we all feel at times, illustrates this experience well. Those who feel this need, Jesus said, are blessed.

It seems that Jesus’ point in *Matthew 5:6*, and in the overall list called, “The Beatitudes,” was to expose and correct a fallacy in prevailing Jewish thought at the time, at least among their religious leaders. The people who were thought to be in God’s favor – the supposed “righteous” – were actually far from God, while those thought to be hopelessly on the outside of God’s favor – the lowly sinners who recognized their spiritual poverty. This message was not unique just to Matthew 5. Jesus said elsewhere, “I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.” The person who has been converted or is close to conversion, is not the one who always sees himself/herself as a “good person,” but rather the one who comes to understand, what the Apostle Paul taught, “None is righteous, no, not one” (*Romans 3:10*). The spiritual discipline of, “hungering and thirsting” illustrates the ongoing desire for increasing our Christ-like righteousness in our daily lives. Jesus’ illustration continues to have significance for those who have come to him by faith. I say “hungering and thirsting” is a spiritual discipline because it is a quality of faith that continues after conversion.

The same attitude that led us to our conversion to recognize our absolute lack of righteousness, now describes our hungering and thirsting for even more increasing righteousness. This is to drive the Christian to diligently seek holiness just as genuinely as a hungry and thirsty person is driven to obtain food and water. On one level, at our conversion our “hungering and thirsting” for Christ’s holiness has been satisfied, the Christian’s hunger and thirst for righteousness will not be fully satisfied until Christ’s return. Then we will be filled to the fullest through the experience of everlasting life, living in the “new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13). Then beloved, we will hunger and thirst no more.

Blessings for the Journey

Rev. Chuck

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**DATE— SEPTEMBER 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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## Sept. BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1 Don Nash , Doug Busche  
Fran Houston  
3 Carol Swartz  
4 Sherry Stone  
5 Jo Walsh  
Grace Hayward  
Stephanie & Rob Szuch  
6 Eddie & Trina Karban  
Alicia Petersen  
7 Sharon Mullins  
Jeff & Janice Brunger  
8 Mary Scott  
9 Bill Chapman  
Dick & Londa Blaine  
10 Don & Ruth Nash  
11 Patty Meldrum  
14 Allison Mott, Amanda Mott,  
Josh Blaine  
Jim & Sue Smith  
15 Brooklyn Daniels, Debra Blackburn  
Kim Blaine  
17 Bob Browne  
19 Polly Tallos  
Barb Colvin  
Paul & Jennifer Hayward  
Vern & Marlene Black  
Madeline Hammond  
22 Jerry Mullins  
Samantha Hensley  
Aaron & Josephine Durbin  
23 Roger & Lisa Woodby  
Grace Bowen  
25 Brandon Baughman  
26 Claire Kauf, Dennis Folk  
27 Mark & Patty Meldrum  
28 Dean Galvin  
Taylor Baughman  
Randy & Laura Kuhn  
29 Cindy Hicks  
Chris & Holly Chapman

## Serving at the Lord's Table: SEPT.

**8:00** Harry Hinkel, Jim Galvin

**9:30** Leslie Klein, Holly & Chris  
Chapman, Tammy Hammond,  
Amy Stafford, John Klinect,  
Tyler Bokman, Theresa  
McDonough, Bill Chapman

**ELDERS** — Ralph Thompson, Robin  
Galvin

## CYCLE FOR LIFE EVENT

On Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, the team ***Dawn Riders*** (Ralph Thompson, Carol Bokman and two others) will participate in the *CF Cycle For Life* event. They will bicycle 65 miles on the Towpath Trail to help raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Please pray for their safe journey and consider donating to this worthy cause. You can either donate on-line by going to this website: [fightcf.cff.org](http://fightcf.cff.org) and select the Cycle for Life option (following the prompts for donating to specific teams or individuals) or give either Ralph or Carol a personal check made out to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. If you have any questions, please see Ralph or Carol. Thank You so much for your generosity.



## NECC BIKING ON THE TOWPATH

On Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, the family and friends of the North Eaton Christian Church are invited to go for a bicycle ride on the Towpath Trail. We will start the bicycle ride at the Canal Visitor Center at about 3:30pm (it is about 11 miles from here) or from the Brecksville Station (about 8 miles) and pedal our way to the Winking Lizard restaurant in Peninsula. We will eat dinner together at 5:00 and then ride back to our cars. If you would like to ride the train back to your starting station, you can do so for \$2.00 per person (if you have a bicycle), the train leaves the station at 6:50pm. You can also drive to the Winking Lizard to meet us for dinner. Please let me know if you plan to attend so we can arrange the proper seating at the restaurant. If you have any questions you can contact me at [bokmans@att.net](mailto:bokmans@att.net) or by calling 440-891-1819.

## Sunday School Adult Class: *Greater*

In the new book study, *Greater* the author, Pastor Steve Furtick draws on the biblical story of Elisha. Furtick uses the story of Elisha to help empower us to take a God-given dream from idea to reality, stretch our limited resources and abilities in ways we never thought possible. Furtick's study seeks to replace the images of ourselves that keep us stuck in the past and starting today making a significant impact reversing those images of the past. This is not just another study that seeks to help us make endless plans for tomorrow that we never get around to making. If we're tired of being ordinary, it's time to dream bigger. Beloved, if we are feeling overwhelmed about where to begin, it's time to start smaller. It's time to ignite God's greater vision for our lives. Please plan to join us starting, September 7, 2014 at 10:45 or whenever you can.

Blessings, Rev. Chuck

## Wednesday Night Bible Study: Banned Questions About Jesus

*Have you ever had the feeling there are certain questions you can't ask church? Such questions as, "Was Jesus ever wrong?" or "Do people have to choose to follow Jesus to go to heaven?" Well beloved, if we can't ask the tough, keep-you-awake-at-night questions within the safety of our church communities, then where can we safely ask them? We will listen in as more than a dozen contributors – whose ranks include: a lawyer, a recovering over-achiever, ministers (ordained not ordained). We will listen and discuss the questions our Sunday school teachers were afraid to answer. Please join us starting September 10, 2014. Once again, we will start at 6:30 and end at 8:00 pm. We will take a break for dessert and drinks.*

**3rd Hour Prayer Time**  
**SUNDAY MORNING — 9 to 9:15 AM**

*Meet in Sunday School Room — Blue 6*

*(Last room in the Education Wing by Polly's Office and South Entrance)*

Back in the Spring of this year, Pastor Chuck was leading the Wednesday night Bible Study class through Francis Chan's "Basic. We Are Church" bible study. The topics included Teaching, Fellowship, Prayer and Communion. All the sessions were interesting, instructional and well worth the time we spent studying them. But for me, the prayer sessions really hit home. While I pray throughout each day and in church when Pastor Chuck leads us in worship, I know I *personally* need to set aside more time for more intentional prayer. *What about the church? It's the question I asked during the discussion time. Should we, could we, here at North Eaton Christian Church have a time to just pray together?*

Francis Chan broke down the Lord's Prayer for us. One point he made was very interesting to me. Chan highlight the community aspect of prayer. "OUR Father...give US our daily bread and forgive US our debts..." not "MY Father...give ME my daily bread and forgive ME my debts..." When Jesus was teaching His disciples, and us, to pray He expected that our prayer life would include praying together as a church family. A second point that Chan made revolved around "THY Kingdom come, THY will be done"; not MY Kingdom come, MY will be done." Jesus was teaching us to pray for God's Kingdom to come to earth. We aren't to limit our prayers to our own selves, our own desires and needs. We are to ask God what His desires are, so that we may do His work of spreading the Good News throughout the world.

With these thoughts and new insights in mind, I asked the question during our Bible Study discussion time. "So can we [North Eaton Christian Church] have a prayer service? A time when we just pray." The first response was Yes. I mean who can say no to more prayer. So after more prayer I discussed it with Pastor Chuck; who prayed and took the idea to the Elders; who prayed and said that is a good idea, let's make it happen.

What we have planned is a Sunday Morning prayer time between services. It will be called the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour Prayer. Biblically, we know that Jews were called to pray at three specific times throughout the day: 9 AM, 12 Noon and 3 PM. See *Psalms 55:17 and Daniel 6:10*. The early Christians continued that practice. See *Matt 15:36, Acts 2:15, Acts 3:1, 10:9*. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour refers to the Jewish way of keeping time; the day started at 6 AM so 9 AM would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour of the day. Anyone who is interested can join together for prayer at 9 AM each Sunday in **Room Blue 6**, the last room in the Education Wing, next to Polly's office.

A different Elder will lead each week. Any questions see Polly Tallos our Christian Education Director or Rev. Chuck.



**MONTH OF MISSION** —We are collecting the following items for  
**SEPTEMBER.....Cornerstone Among Women** — Pocket change on the small table display.  
**Food Pantry** — Soups & Cereals                      **Salvation Army**—Winter gloves, hats, scarves

**Thailand ....**

I'm sure many of you have heard by now that I recently went on a trip to Thailand this summer. Just to clear up some things; I made it there and back safely, I did not get malaria (and I didn't even have to take malaria pills!), and yes, I did indeed make paper out of elephant poop! It was the experience of a lifetime! I was able to befriend people from all over the country and the world. I have become fairly close to a girl from Spain. There were girls from all over: Mexico, Qatar, Canada, South Africa, Australia, and from many of the states. Together we flew into Chiang Mai and stayed in the city for the first day then later took a bus into Lampang, Thailand where we stayed for the rest of the week. I ate a lot of rice, chicken, and noodles as well as some Thai delicacy (i.e. bugs... eeew). I spent a majority of my time training with my elephant Pang Lawan and my mahout (keeper & driver of an elephant) Nan. Whenever we rode the elephants into the lake we wore mahout suits. They are a one piece, Capri length suit made of blue denim material.

The Thai people were very friendly and kind everywhere we went and helped everything go smoothly! Culture shock is real and I definitely experienced it. The food, the music, the traditions, the religion, everything is so different and very interesting. I did experience some bad luck, throughout the trip: when I lost my phone, when my camera broke and when one of my flip flops got stuck in a tree in the jungle. I also saw many large insects and reptiles. There was one lizard that came into my room and wouldn't leave, no matter how many times we put it outside. But eventually he became the "mascot of my room" because he ate all of the big bugs for us. I experienced many wonderful things that I otherwise never would have had the opportunity to experience. ***So a HUGE thank you to all who supported me and helped to make this trip possible!***

*Paige Bokman*

**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 are available after worship on Sunday or in the church office during the week.

Congratulations to Coach Cameron Castro and his summer college team in Wisconsin for winning the Collegiate World Series. He is the Assistant Coach at Defiance College.



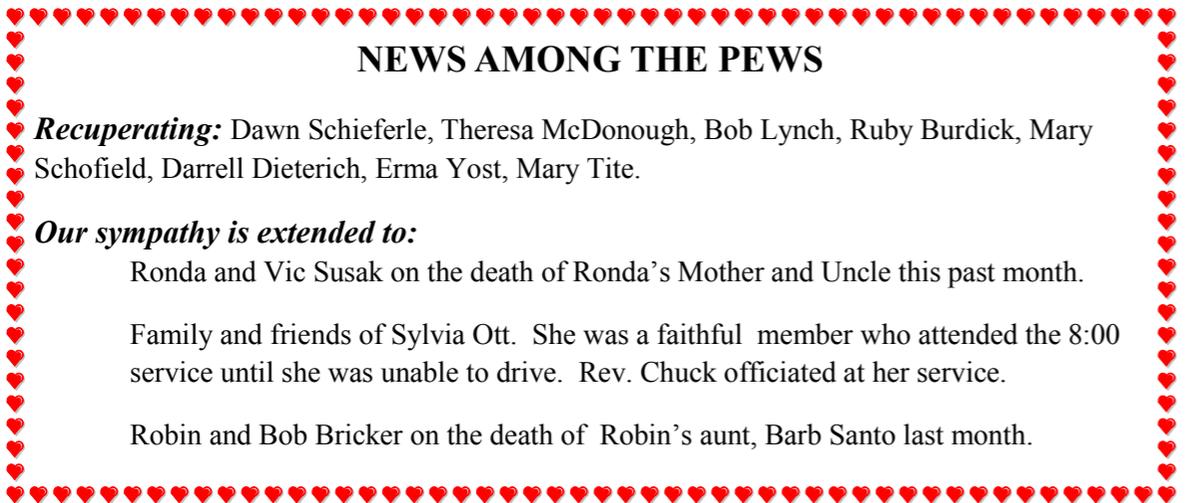
## NECC BAZAAR

**Saturday, November 8th**

**Table rentals for the bazaar are only \$15.00 (table provided).** If you or a friend would like a contract sent to you, please contact the *church office, 748-2230 or MARGE HOUSTON, 748-2583.* Bargain hunters also love our rummage sale and the fellowship hall is a great place to Christmas shop, have lunch and pick up some great baked goods for the family.

Our "Kids Only" room is a favorite place for the kids (12 yrs. And under) to shop for Christmas with lots of new/like new items at a small price. We even gift wrap! (As always we ask your help with providing the items and the gift bags/wrap etc items). Any questions see Laura Kuhn.

SANTA has marked his calendar and will stop by for a visit.  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.



## NEWS AMONG THE PEWS

**Recuperating:** Dawn Schieferle, Theresa McDonough, Bob Lynch, Ruby Burdick, Mary Schofield, Darrell Dieterich, Erma Yost, Mary Tite.

**Our sympathy is extended to:**

Ronda and Vic Susak on the death of Ronda's Mother and Uncle this past month.

Family and friends of Sylvia Ott. She was a faithful member who attended the 8:00 service until she was unable to drive. Rev. Chuck officiated at her service.

Robin and Bob Bricker on the death of Robin's aunt, Barb Santo last month.

**Come celebrate with us!** Our guest speaker, Rev. James Schimmel, will be here to help us celebrate our "172nd Anniversary" on October 12th. Rev. Schimmel retired in 2000 from Warren Central Christian Church. He and his wife Sue are currently members of Franklin Circle Christian Church.



## THANK YOU

Dawn and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls and visit by Rev. Chuck, Carol and Gabby. It has been a very hard month for us but know we were in your thoughts and prayers means more than we can say. I still have blood clots in both lungs and the doctors say it could take six months before they are gone. Please continue to keep us in prayer.

Theresa McDonough

Our thanks and appreciation to Mel and Marie Ternes for providing us with the free bread and buns each Sunday. "All good things must come to an end." They will not be bringing in the bread anymore. It has been appreciated and enjoyed by all of us here and those we have shared it with and we are grateful.

**CORNERSTONE** — I took a check for \$75.00 thanks to the generous donation from Don Nash and the pocket change in the baby bottles.

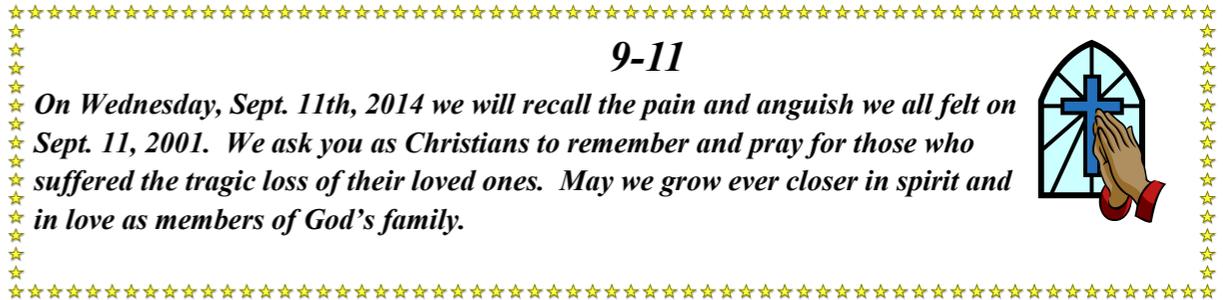
Marie Ternes

**CANS FOR CODY** — Between August and the first of Sept. we gave a check to Cody's family for \$58.00.

Dick Blaine

**OHIO REGIONAL ASSEMBLY "Called to GO" ....** If you've ever wanted to go to a Regional Assembly NOW is the time. It is in COLUMBUS on October 16-18th. **Go for one day or all three.** Rev. Chuck will be attending. If you have any questions about the weekend please see him for more information.

This will be a time of sharing and celebrating the transforming work God is doing in the mission and ministry of our congregations and in our lives as people of faith.



## 9-11

**On Wednesday, Sept. 11th, 2014 we will recall the pain and anguish we all felt on Sept. 11, 2001. We ask you as Christians to remember and pray for those who suffered the tragic loss of their loved ones. May we grow ever closer in spirit and in love as members of God's family.**

