

*Thoughts For the Journey — JANUARY 2015*

New Year's Resolutions -- 2015

Tragically, New Year's resolutions are on the "out" list. Only 2% of the American population will make serious 2015 resolutions. Now of course, reality can account for much of this. We can make them only to break them in February. Resolutions have seemingly lost their punch. Maybe I should have started this article saying; "Now that we've broken all our resolutions for 2015 . . ." Some are still holding on though.

What's the number one resolution on your list? Whatever resolutions we may make, decisions must be made; resolutions have to be made before changes can be made. Success begins with a goal. Dreams can become reality.

Don't make little resolutions. This is especially true in church. We cannot accomplish great things unless we think big! Big plans stir people's bones. Don't ask a little – ask a lot. Resolutions must be significant, meaningful and life-changing. Make resolutions that can challenge and change your life!

Be serious about your resolutions. If they are treated as a "joke" they will become a joke. Jokes do not change lives. Resolutions are a serious business. Sometimes they can make or break our lives, save or condemn our souls.

Tell someone. Go public with our resolutions. Go ahead let's lay our reputations on the line. Seek other people's help. We may dismiss our failures but others will not. They will hold us accountable. Enlist the help of family and friends to help you achieve your goal. **KEEP YOUR RESOLUTIONS!**

Actually, our problem may not be keeping our resolutions. Our problem may be making them. Try keeping these resolutions in 2015. I will.

- . . . be faithful in attendance at all services.
- . . . faithfully give each week as I have been prospered.
- . . . read the Bible daily.
- . . . pray daily.
- . . . do my fair share at North Eaton Christian Church.

Blessings for Journey,

Rev. Chuck

**North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**35895 Royalton Rd. Grafton, Ohio 44044**  
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**DATE— JANUARY 2015**

**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."*

**TO WIN TO COMMIT TO GROW TO UNITE**

**(440)748-2230**

Visit us at: [www.neccdisciples.com](http://www.neccdisciples.com)

**Jan. BIRTHDAYS & ANNIV.**

- 1 Holly Gross
- 4 Roberta Balogh  
Sandy Gross
- 5 Dan Gross
- 6 Erin Martin
- 9 James Purdy
- 10 Richard Blaine
- 11 Hope Swindell  
Micah Butcher
- 12 Phillip Muth
- 13 Helen Literati  
Fran Early
- 14 Chris Hensley  
Larry & Eileen Weber  
Mike & Paula Krasnevich
- 15 Lucy Vernadakis
- 16 Bill Cromling  
Marty Belfi
- 18 Laura Kuhn  
Alberta Amos
- 20 Allison Cihla  
John Klinec
- 23 Carol Bokman
- 26 Karen Klinec
- 27 David Houston
- 30 Hanna Susak
- 31 Matthew Gross

**MISSIONS —JANUARY 2015**

- Cornerstone Among Women — Pocket change on the small table display.
- Food Pantry — Canned fruit, puddings, jello cups, applesauce, jelly, peanut butter
- Salvation Army—Sample size toiletries (soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.)

**Serving at the Lord’s Table:**

**8:00** Mary Scott,  
Bob Weber



**9:30** Carol Swartz, Carol Butcher,  
Mike Krasnevich, Polly Tallos,  
Bill Chapman, Leslie Klein,  
Marlene Black

**ELDERS** — Ralph Thompson,  
Robin Galvin

**NECC Game Night**

**5:00—8:00**

**On Sunday, January 18th family and friends will gather in the fellowship hall for a night of games and fellowship. We will have some table games but encourage you to bring one of your favorite games to share. What better way to spend a cold winter evening then with family and friends.**



**Bring a snack, appetizer or dessert to share. Beverages will be provided.**

**Call the church, 748-2230, Carol Bokman 891-1819 or Polly Tallos 748-2246, if you plan to attend or bring a game or would like to host a table game.**

**Any questions contact Carol Bokman at bokmans@att.net or call 440-891-1819.**

**Sunday School Adult Class: *Vanishing Grace***

“Why does the church stir up such negative feelings? Author and journalist Philip Yancey has asked this question most of his life. This question seems so relevant. Current research shows that favorable opinions of Christianity have plummeted drastically. While the opinions about Christianity are dropping, interest in spirituality is rising. Why the disconnect? Why are so many asking, “What’s so good about the Good News?” In *Vanishing Grace*, Yancey shows the desperate need the world has for grace, and how Christians can truly make the gospel good news again. In this 5-session Bible study, we will journey with Yancey to explore what kind of news is good to a culture that thinks it has rejected the Christian version.

We will start this new topic of study on, January 11, 2015. We will begin at 11 AM each Sunday. Please see Rev. Chuck regarding more information about this class. We hope to see you as we start a New Year together.

**Bountiful FOOD PANTRY ...** We are blessed to have a caring congregation, youth group, and Scouts at North Eaton who make sure our food pantry is full and ready to go when the need arises. During the month of December we were able to open our pantry to LORAIN CHRISTIAN TEMPLE whose food supply had been used up because of the high demand for help. We FILLED Rev. Brad Donahue’s SUV. He sends thanks and appreciation that we were ready and willing to help the community.

We continue to help families in our church, extended families and neighbors. *Our wealth lies in what we have been given and what we are able to share with others. May God bless the giver and the receiver.*

**UNDIE SUNDAY — January 25th**

**Bring NEW packaged underwear, any size, to worship or drop them off at the church in the East entrance.** We will collect them on the 25th & 1st in a laundry basket outside the Sanctuary.



CYF and CHI RHO will be participating in WANEW RETREAT at Camp Christian the weekend of Feb. 6-8th. As part of the retreat we will spend time helping in the Free Store at Camp Christian. We want to show our support by also bring them much needed items as well. Our primary focus will be the NEW UNDERWEAR but new or gently used towels, bed sheets and blankets would also be appreciated. Any questions see Polly Tallos (748-2246) or call the church office (748-2230).

**Board of Elders** — “to encourage the spiritual growth of church members by officiating at the Lord’s Supper during morning worship and other services, serving communion to our shut-ins and engage in spiritual growth through prayer and Bible study.”

**ROBIN GALVIN**—“*I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the Kauf family. I have been blessed to meet, get to know and have communion with Bob and Claire Kauf.*”

*Clair is now 82 but was told at age 65 she should be put in a nursing home, which they would have no part of. Bob has been a loving, dedicated husband and by her side through good and bad health. Claire worked with Roberta Balogh on the second church cookbook and cut fabric for quilts and other crafts. As a member of Rebekah Circle she baked for bake sales, cooked for church dinners and the funeral lunches. Londa recalls how she could always call on Claire anytime to provide food, no questions asked, no excuses.....Claire would make it happen. They were not able to work in the church food booth but found a way to be useful.....they would bring their van to the church and let us load it up with all the supplies that needed to go to the fair. The last night of the fair they would come out around 9:30 p.m. ready to be loaded up to go back to North Eaton.*

*Claire has fond memories of sharing **life stories** with Judy Ponting and was blessed with a book of Judy’s “Dear God” stories and prayers that Jim had published after Judy died. Judy officiated at Claire’s granddaughter’s wedding. After Paul Durbin retired and was an Interim Minister in Westlake, he officiated at a family member’s wedding. She was not able to attend but when looking at the wedding pictures saw her minister, Dr. Paul Durbin. Their home has always been a place where family members knew they could come if they needed a place to stay for awhile. They both have health issues but never let that stand in their way of being kind and helpful.*

*They both share a love for dogs and showing their 7 Rottweilers. Claire was the first director of the Lorain County APL. She had the motivation and passion for the job.*

It has been my pleasure and a blessing beyond measure to serve the Kauf family. I look forward to our visits as they share their life for the Kingdom of Christ so unselfishly. I am thankful for the stories shared and the times when we come together in prayer and thanksgiving before our Lord and Savior.

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As I am writing this article today (Tuesday, January 6th) I received a call from Rev. Chuck that Claire Kauf passed away. She is now with her Lord and Savior. Amen.

**Family Meal: A Free Community Meal**

Tuesday, January 27—Dinner is served at 5:30 PM

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month NECC serves a free meal to ANYONE in the community that is interested in coming together as a ‘family’. Enjoy good home cooked food and good company for an evening. The menu this month is hot roast beef, mashed potatoes, corn and salad. DONATIONS of food and money for the meal is appreciated.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Hour Prayer Time—Sunday Morning -- 9 to 9:15 AM**

Meeting 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 2014, 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?

The answer was YES!

What we have implemented is a Sunday Morning prayer time between services. It is called the 3rd Hour Prayer. The 3rd Hour refers to the Jewish way of keeping time; the day started at 6 AM so 9 AM would be the 3rd hour of the day. Over that last several months we have prayed for various countries throughout the world- praying for the governments, the women and children of those countries and the Christians working and worshiping in those countries. We have also prayed for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada-their many ministries and regions; the government from the President to the Governor of Ohio to the Eaton Township Trustees; the Staff of North Eaton Christian Church -paid and volunteer as well as the many ministries.

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. **If you have any questions please see Polly Tallos, Melissa Folk, Robin Galvin or Pastor Chuck.**

**Youth New Year’s Overnight/Late Night**

On Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup> ten youth and five adults met at North Eaton Christian Church before heading down to the Cleveland Christian Home, where they helped dismantle the Santa Shop. They spent the better part of two hours packing up the remaining presents, household supplies, wrapping paper, etc that had been donated for Christmas. All the extras will be used throughout the year as the Home serves their clients. Once the boxes were packed the youth had to move them all from one end of the home to the other.

After the work was done, the fun began! We headed to CiCi’s pizza for dinner then on to Lazer Xtreme in Middleburg Hts. for a couple of rounds of laser tag before heading back to the church for more games, Bible study and a movie. Our Bible Study was “What are you known for?” As we move into the New Year, the youth need to think about their reputation- — What they are known for,.....how they want to be remembered.

Polly Tallos-Youth Director