

THOUGHTS FOR THE JOURNEY — JULY 2015

A Declaration of “Dependence”

July 4th is Independence Day in the United States, a national holiday commemorating our adoption of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The story of America’s quest for political and religious freedom is still capturing the hearts of many people world-wide. Beloved, the idea of political independence is a noble one in the sense America’s founding fathers and mothers perceived and pursued it. Americans hold as almost sacred the idea that all persons have the right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” and that, as expressed in another famous phrase, the government should be, “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” In this sense independence is a good and honorable thing.

However, let’s hold on tight for a moment. Spiritually, the independent spirit is not a good thing. The word independent is defined as, “not subject to the authority of another; self-determining; disconnected; not affected or influenced in action; opinion, by others; self-sufficient and self-reliant.” These words describe an attitude that is exactly the opposite of the way God calls us to live. In practical terms the independent spirit means, “Do your own thing” and “Nobody tells me what to do, man.” A powerful passage in *Philippians 2:3-8* reminds us the “independent spirit” is not the spirit of Christ: “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Let each of you look out not only for their own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus, who, being in form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in the appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death of the cross.”

Beloved, the world is full of self-determined people, who are doing their own thing, doing it their way with little or no concern for what others or even God might have to say. That spirit has no place among God’s people. The church of the Lord, Jesus Christ was purchased by the blood, sweat and tears of One who, even though he was equal with God, refused the independent spirit which insists on having its own way. Jesus chose to depend upon and be obedient to God. Are we followers of the crucified Christ? Such a profession demands that we make a “Declaration of Dependence” every day! Jesus said so well, *John 15:5* – “I am the vine; you are the branches, he who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without me you can do nothing.”

Blessings for Journey,

Rev. Chuck

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

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ELYRIA, OH 44035
Permit No. 8

DATE— JULY 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

JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIV.

- 1 Jeff Ickes, Trina Karban
- 2 Julia Insley
- 3 Sandy Hales, Tyler Bokman
Rob Marks
- 9 Sandy Nowak
- 11 Blake Kyle
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
Mark & Stacy Slack
- 23 Maureen Cromling
Audrey Lyons
- 24 CJ Mott, Amy Stafford
Stu Hicks IV
- 27 Paul Durbin
- 28 Samantha Galvin
- 29 John Vilevac, Carol Butcher
Amy & Bob Stafford
- 30 Larry Weber, Shari Insley
Fred Carpenter

Serving at the Lord's Table:

- 8:00 Shari & Brian Insley
Randy Kuhn
- 9:30 Mike Mott, Chris Chapman
Carol Bokman, John Klinect
Theresa Sizemore, Dave
Carpenter, Theresa McDonough

ELDERS—Jeff Hensley, Bob Hammond



MISSIONS — JULY 2015

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

Food Pantry — Paper products

Salvation Army—Sample size toiletries (soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.)

Cans For Cody —Alum. Drink Cans

Recycle Papers — Bin provided

Cancelled Stamps — Leave 1/4 inch of envelope around the stamp.

These are ongoing mission projects and we appreciate the support from the congregation and the community that has guaranteed their success.

Christian Book Club....(Note date change for this month — July 13th)

BOOK REFLECTION ... Are you sure you're hearing god's voice; or are you being a ventriloquist? For Pastor Paul Hudson in the book **AND THE SHOFAR BLEW** by Francine Rivers, this is what was happening. You see, Paul's desire of what he wanted "for the glory of God" was so strong, he stopped seeking God's truth in scripture, twisted events to become signs from God and compromised the message of the Gospel to move forward with his own plans. In the process, Paul hurt family and friends and led many down the wrong path to God. This book reminds me of Matthew 6:33, "*seek ye first the kingdom of god, and his righteousness; and all these thing shall be added unto you*" (KJV). Paul forced his own timetable instead of waiting upon the Lord, and he sure made a mess of things in the process.

Christian Fiction Book Club —July's book will be a work of fiction. Singer Plumb wrote a biography titled "I Need You Now", the same title as one of her songs. The book is described as "both laugh-out-loud funny and deeply moving, Need You Now is the story of beautiful and embarrassing moments on stage, the joys and trials of motherhood and unbridled forgiveness. It is the story of soul mates, best friends and a marriage redeemed. And more than anything, Need You Now is the story of love, fresh starts and the relentless message that no matter who you are or what you have done....there is always HOPE." if this interests you, pick up a copy to read and join us JULY 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the high school room for a lively book discussion.
MELISSA FOLK

VBS REFLECTION ... God's Armor of Love— This is the title of a poem a dear friend of mine wrote; I found the poem today (after we already finished VBS about the Armor of God). The children had a wonderful time learning about the Armor of God and how to be prepared for the things in life that kids have to deal with. I want to share a part of my friend's poem:

The Helmet of Salvation guards your thoughts and your mind.
The Breastplate of Righteousness keeps your heart kind.
The Belt of Truth you cannot deny, for to you it will truly reveal the world's lie.
The Shield of Faith keeps your belief strong, Your troubles here will not last long.
The Sword of the Spirit is His Word and the way, The Shoes of Peace keep you from walking astray.

I remember when there was a time superhero undershirts were popular. Kids would wear them under their clothes, and it would help them feel brave and powerful. The ARMOR OF GOD is so much better than that. Let's ALL REMEMBER to daily clothe ourselves in God's Armor of Love
Melissa Folk

COMMUNITY VBS @ North Eaton Christian Church

What could be more exciting than making a “helmet of salvation” from a milk jug and duct tape?!



An average of 50 youngsters and 30 adults/teens enjoyed activities focusing on the “Armor of God”, **Ephesians 6:12-18**. The **belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, feet fitted with the gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation and sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. Eight churches were represented this year. The children were sweet and eager to learn; the teens and adults committed to serving with a loving heart. Three teens from other churches came back on Tuesday evening to help serve at our community free meal and are planning to return next month.

143 hygiene kits were put together to help in disaster situations around the world. Plastic bags were cut, looped and wound into balls to be crocheted into waterproof mats for the homeless. **460 food items** were collected for the Columbia Food Bank.

The singing was LOUD and JOYOUS! The picnic on the last day was awesome. **Boy Scout Troop 111** helped setup tents and tables and grilled delicious hot dogs. I heard that the best snack was the “mud with worms”.

Carol Busche was there every morning to get all our smiles and laughs on camera. Check out the pictures on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.



Thank you ALL (many, many) for donations of items and time to help spread God’s love to this corner of His world.

Are we a people who bring more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done (Exodus 36:5)?

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS

... 4th Tuesday of each month.

We are pleased that the attendance has been increasing each month. ALL who want good fellowship as well as good food for nourishment are invited and welcome to join us each month. We will gladly take a meal to any shut-ins, just let us know BEFORE the 4th Tuesday. (440-748-2230)

THANK YOU for your prayers, food and money donations, and especially your help with cooking, serving and cleaning. It is a joy to get to know the people who attend. We look forward to seeing them as much as they enjoy being here.

We like to have hygiene items on hand for those who need them. This bit of thoughtfulness is much appreciated. Other "community meals" also offer items to take home. (Wanted to keep you informed as to why we ask for the non-food items.) Pat Ables

CANOE TRIP & PICNIC....

The CMIA will have their annual trip on Saturday, **JULY 25th** at the Mohican Lodge and Livery. This is their 15th year on the river (and IN the river) and they invite you to join them. Cost is \$20.00 per person. We will have a potluck meal afterwards. Meat and buns furnished but bring a dish to share and your own beverages. Any questions see PAULA OR MIKE KRASNEVICH.

Thank You’s.....

To all my friends at NECC,

What a wonderful surprise to receive your gift card and cards congratulating me on my Doctoral degree! I can truly feel your support and prayers in the words and signatures on each of the cards. I am discerning a big change in my call to advocate for those like me, who are survivors of environmental illnesses. This will be a big challenge. I love you all and am so grateful for our friendship and faith life together.

Blessing, Sharon Kiesel

I would like to thank the church so much for my gift card for graduation. I will put it to good use if I attend school this Fall.

Blake Kyle

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

We had 26 join us for breakfast at Blue Sky Restaurant on June 28th. We were happy to have Bob and Janet Lynch join us. We will meet again soon for breakfast with info in the bulletin and Voice. We have room for many more. Laura Kuhn

One Nation Under God

As Christians and Americans, we have every right to say with great pride: “One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” Those words are more than important, they are vital. They indicate the foundation of our Christian lives and the American way. That foundation is built upon people—Christians who accept the authority of God as being overall and pledge their lives to the protective care of his special truths we know as Unity, Liberty and Justice.