

THOUGHTS FOR THE JOURNEY — Jan. 2016

Have a Good Year -- 2016

There is an old story about a happy young boy who went out to a field to play ball. In one hand he carried a baseball and in the other a baseball bat. His face bore a look of tremendous confidence. Cocking his bat, he tossed the ball into the air, saying "I'm the greatest batter in the world!" Then he swung and missed. "Strike one!" he said. The boy picked up the ball, examined it, and then threw the ball in the air again. As he swung, he repeated, "I'm the greatest batter in the world." Once again he missed hitting the ball. "Strike two," he said. This time, he stopped to examine his bat to make sure he didn't have a hole in it. Then he picked the ball up, adjusted his cap, and tossed the ball in the air for the third time. He repeated again, "I'm the greatest batter in the world." And he swung with all his might and missed for the third time. "Wow!" he cried, "What a pitcher. I'm the greatest pitcher in the world!"



As we look back over the previous 12 months, I'm not sure whether most of us would be considered pitchers or batters. One thing is for sure, at times we have all struck out. So, I guess it's good to be able to start fresh. Boys and girls will be going back to school. Young people will be heading back to college. Most of us have recovered from the holiday season and are back to work and involved in activities for the coming year.

What do we anticipate for this coming year? Are we full of enthusiasm, looking forward eagerly to what each day will bring? Or are we filled with dread, worried that 2016 may be worse than 2015 for us? Like the little boy with the bat, may I suggest that our attitude, our frame of mind and our reaction to its events will largely determine whether it is a year of victory or defeat? The Apostle Paul was never one to let circumstances conquer him. Rather, with the help of God, he was determined to win the victor's crown. Listen as his attitude, dedication, and determination shine through in these words found in *Philippians 3:12-14*, "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended, but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Blessings for Journey,

Rev. Chuck

North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
35895 Royalton Rd. Grafton, Ohio 44044
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DATE— JANUARY 2016

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

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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 Klinect
- 23 Carol Bokman
- 26 Karen Klinect
- 27 David Houston
- 30 Hanna Susak
- 31 Matthew Gross

Dec. Free Community Meal—

What a night! The people kept coming! We served between 55—60 at the December meal. A special thank you to those who baked casseroles. The smells and tastes were awesome. Folks ate heartily. Three Ohio State Troopers helped serve this month. I was impressed with their caring spirit. They were touched by what they observed, the needs of some and the fellowship of all. See you on January 26th, 5:30.

Pat Ables

**Serving At the Lord’s Table
January 2016**

8:00 Jim Galvin, Laura Kuhn

9:30 Theresa Sizemore, Carol Butcher, Carol Swartz, Polly Tallos, Jerry Mullins, Erik Tallos, Marlene Black

ELDERS: Ralph Thompson, Robin Galvin

Winter Brunch

Join us for a “winter brunch” on Saturday, January 16th. We will reflect on and rekindle our spiritual walk with the Lord. *The Spirit of Life Performing Arts featuring the “Journey of the Angels” will favor us with enchanting music, prayer, poetry and dance.* The program starts at 11:30 with a brunch to follow.

Please RSVP to Pat Ables, 440-748-2610. A free will offering will be taken.

The event is hosted by North Eaton Christian Church and New Life Wesleyan Church and will be held here at NECC. ALL are welcome. (This is not just for women.)

Eve Circle’s next meeting will be Tuesday, January 12th at 1:00 p.m.

(instead of the 19th)



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION..... *On December 15th, fifteen ravenous women descended on Clementine’s Victorian Restaurant for Eve Circle’s Christmas luncheon. Such chatter, such chatter, such fellowship, such a celebration was held as we reminisced, as we planned, as we experienced worship of the Son of God.*

Not only did God give us the gift of His Son, but through the generosity of some kind soul, our meals (with the gratuity) were completely paid for. Indeed there was a Godward focus on our event. All left with a heart full of gratitude! We knew that love had come down and blessed us all.

Pat Ables

NEW Adult Sunday School Class — Please join us for an 8 week interactive class beginning **JANUARY 24—March 20th at 9:00 a.m.** (45 minute class in the large room off the fellowship hall). This story is one that can be enjoyed and experienced by all age groups. We’ve shared this class in the past with our youth and thought it would be appropriate to share, this year, with **our adults.**

The Chronicles of Narnia—The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe

We will help you identify and understand some of the many spiritual treasures in this story. Hopefully you will find yourself developing an even deeper love for the source of C.S. Lewis’s inspiration: The Word of God. A sign-up sheet is on the table display in the fellowship hall. Any questions see **ROBIN GALVIN**, who will be our leader for this class.



Midview High School— 2015 Parade of Bands

Thank you for your support of our instrumental music program and for being a sponsor for our 2015 Parade of Bands. The 2015 Parade of Bands was a great success. Your support as a contributing patron will be added to the funds that support the purchases of uniforms, instruments and other needed supplies and awards for the members of the Midview Marching Band.

JOSH BRUNGER—Director of Bands

Scout Sunday — February 7, 2016

Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts #111 will take part in our 9:30 a.m. worship service. Our fellowship hour will be on the 7th so you can see some of their scouting displays.

Putting On the Final Touches ... (By Mark Carpenter)

Wrapping Christmas presents is always a fun time for me. So, when I received the email-invite to come help wrap presents for the Giving Tree, I was ready to go! There were 15 of us that wrapped (adults and children). We all had fun picking out the right wrapping paper for the gift and the person that would receive the gift. I knew I would enjoy being apart of the wrapping for a family that would receive the clothes and shoes that our congregation had provided.

However, I received a "surprise" present that night when Pat Ables shared a story about my Grandma, LaVerne Carpenter. During a rough time in Pat's life, LaVerne brought some clothes to their family for her children. When her daughter Molly received a doll that Christmas, that had been repaired and beautifully dressed by loving hands from family and friends, she decided to name the doll, Mrs. Carpenter. She remembered the kindness that was shown by Mrs. Carpenter that summer. While this was never a story that was passed down through the Carpenter family, it has been a part of Pat's family history and is still remembered fondly 40 years later.

It is a reminder that we all can find someone in need and do a kindness that will help them and may have an impact for a lifetime. Merry Christmas Everyone

Country Christmas Bazaar 2015

The bazaar was a great success again this year, thanks to the many people here at NECC who worked hard to make it a fun day for all in attendance. I thank you all as a group so I do not miss anyone. This was my first year to be in charge of the bazaar and I needed all of your help and advice. The lunch counter and bakery sold out of food, the children loved buying gifts in their special room, the trash and treasure was busy with lots of bargain hunters, the raffle had many happy winners and the crafters were pleased with the customers ready to shop. We deposited \$2,543 into the New Roof Fund. Jen Hayward

NEWS AMONG THE PEWS

Our sympathy is extended to Becky Thompson on the death of her father, William Bingham. William was a retired American Baptist minister.

In the hospital or recuperating at this time: *Alberta Amos, John Vilevac, Chuck Slusher*

From MARCH 2003 VOICE

Dear God,

Her name was Mary and she was 84 years old. I never knew her or her family, but I wish I had. While reading the paper the other night, I found a death notice for Mary. It started out in the usual way, she was survived by her husband of many years, children, grandchildren etc. The common things that you read in a death notice, but in the next paragraph it changed.

Mary was active in her church. She had taught Sunday School, bible classes and participated in many church organizations. It was a sentence near the bottom that caught my interest. The family requested that all her friends that attend the visitation and service refrain from wearing black, for "Mary was a person of joyful colors." It sounded like Mary's funeral was to be a time of celebration, a time to recognize she had lived a lively, Christian life.

When I led the women's retreat several years ago, I chose the theme "Whole Joy." In doing research for the weekend, I checked my concordance and found over 300 scriptures of "Joy" and words associated with it. Over and over again the passages stated that we are to be joyful. A joyful Christian leads others to ask, "What is this religion that brings joy to their heart." People want to know who Jesus is and why we would rejoice in following Him. A joy filled Christian is the best witness we can observe.

I wish I had known Mary, but I caught a small idea of her character from the words, "Do not wear black, for Mary was a person of joyful colors." I want to be a person of joyful colors too. ISAIAH 61:10 "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God."

Love, Judy

Prayer Shawl Ministry (since 2007) — This is a ministry that has touched the heart and soul of many people over the years. Our selection of shawls is getting low. If you are willing to make the shawls and have any questions, please see SHARON MULLINS. There is yarn available for anyone who wants it. We just ask that you make them large enough for men and women. The congregation may take one to anyone they feel would benefit from it. We hope that the person who receives it would feel the tangible evidence of God's love through the crafter's hands and heart. It is a hug from God. With the weather getting cold, this is a great opportunity to keep your hands busy as you stay inside to keep warm.

NECC family and friends near and far have been touched by this ministry.