

THOUGHTS FOR THE JOURNEY

Bloom Where We are Planted

Beloved, what age did you first learn the world was not perfect? For many of us, that lesson comes early in life. Maybe it was first day of school. Can you remember how your mother set you up to have a wonderful day? But then, at school your day comes crashing down because you have been pushed around by the school bully. Then the teacher didn't think you were nearly as cute as your mother does. We learned it quickly. There are things in the world that are defective, and as time goes on, we keep learning it. High school wasn't perfect either, and neither was college. Then your boss on the first job may have been defective in many ways. The field of accounting, the field of business isn't perfect, neither is the field of law or medicine nor is ministry. The church is not perfect either.

Now face it, whether it involves career, faith, marriage, church or whatever, our first instinct when we find ourselves in an imperfect situation or we are facing something defective is to bravely say, "Get me out of here!" Two words that can fall like seeds in our life and can take root, and then destroy us are, "If only." "If only I had not taken this job . . . if only I hadn't majored in business . . . if only I had not married him/her . . . if I only had . . ." You fill in the blank.

However, what we need to appreciate is that, we are where we are so we might find the way to bring out the best in the situation. Bloom where we are planted! Any bad situation can be turned around for good, if a person responds in the right way. A psychologist once interviewed two young men, brothers, whose father had been a hopeless alcoholic. The psychologist was astounded to find that one son had become a teetotaler and the other had become a drunk. "How did this happen?" He asked both men. Strangely, both men gave exactly the same answer. "What could you expect with a father like mine?"



Describe your own upbringing, your own faith journey, your own job, and your own life, would you say, they are imperfect or defective? Of course we would, "none is righteous no not one," but we have the choice to make of it what we will. Don't dream about some perfect job somewhere or some perfect marriage somewhere or some perfect church somewhere. Let's bloom right where we are planted! Start with whatever we have to give to God to use us, and let God change what is defective. Perhaps theologian and pastor Reinhold Niebuhr's prayer says it all for all of us in whatever imperfect circumstance we may occupy: "God grant me the courage to change that which should be changed, the serenity to accept that which cannot be changed, and the wisdom to know the difference." O God give us the power to bloom where we are planted!

Blessing 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— MAY 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

"Working together to make the difference that matters."

TO WIN TO COMMIT TO GROW TO UNITE

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MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIV.

- 3 Carol & Buz Bokman
Bob & Tammy Hammond
- 5 Stacy Zawoyski
- 6 Shari Kyle
- 7 Roger Driver
Dan Hicks
Sharon Kiesel
- 8 Theresa & Mac McDonough
- 9 Harry Hinkel
Brett Nash
- 11 Aaron Durbin
- 12 Tom Mott
- 13 David Insley
- 15 Lois Brasse
- 18 Chris Hickman
- 19 Jeannie Sizemore
Maggie Carpenter
Vern Black
- 20 Ray & Karen Konko
- 21 Tammy & Mel Gamble
- 23 Nanci Ickes
- 24 Steve Cihla
Sally Belfi
- 26 George & Diana Butcher (60th)

Serving At the Lord's Table MAY 2016

- 8:00** Ed Carter, Chris Hensley
- 9:30** John Klinect, Mark Carpenter,
Dave Carpenter, Carol Butcher,
Mike & Paula Krasnevich
- ELDERS** — Robin Galvin , Ralph
Thompson

Youth Group "pays it forward" at IGA....

I've never had so much money flow through my hands! Through fundraising, we were able to give \$1,500 to individuals as they checked out at Schild's IGA. It was cool to see that we made such an impact. The idea was to purchase groceries for about 15 people (figuring about \$100 each). But the grocery bills ranged from \$5.00-\$100.00 so we were able to help a lot more people. We gave them a flyer that told them "God loves you". People asked if this was going to be televised; and wanted to know what the catch was. They gave us hugs, smiles and even cried. One lady even said, "that's the type of youth group I want my kids involved in". We actually had a few people give us more money. It took us 2 1/2 hours to give it all away. God blessed us, and we helped God bless the community.

Samantha Galvin

Graduate Recognition Sunday

NECC would like to recognize all of our graduates on Sunday, May 22. If you are graduating from high school, trade school or college, please let POLLY TALLOS or the church office know. We would like to celebrate with you. We will recognize you during worship on May 22nd.



Chili Cook-Off—Polly Tallos

What started as a gathering of a few sister churches, has grown into a true community event. Our first year at North Eaton we didn't even have a band. Since then we have added the Midview Swinging Blue Jazz band. In the beginning, each church brought a chili or two. Now the band and some of the band parents bring one; Boy Scout Troop 111 spent the afternoon cooking in the parking lot to offer their winning chili, and a band parent brought her church- Grace Community of Grafton-with chili.

Each year the total we raised has increased. This year we raised \$1100 for the Cleveland Christian Home. They will use the money to help severely neglected and abused boys in their residential treatment center, young single mothers and teenagers who are aging out of the foster care system.

While the Chili Cook-off takes a bit of organizing (THANK YOU! To Carol Bokman for doing the loin's share of that) I truly enjoy the evening, hearing the band, encouraging everyone to sample chilies and VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!!

NECC's Annual Chili Cook-Off—Carol Bokman

On February 28th the North Eaton Christian Church was near capacity with attendees for our 4th annual Chili Cook-Off. Over 150 people from NECC and other WANEW churches enjoyed many delicious chili's and wonderful music provided by the Midview High School Jazz Band, directed by Josh Brunger. Over \$1100 (which was collected from voting on our favorite chili) was donated to the Cleveland Christian Home. Everyone filled their tummies, burned their tongues, enjoyed great fellowship, and had a wonderful time! The 2016 first place winner was **Stephanie Tyler Garvin**. She is the keeper of the Chili for Christ Trophy until next year's competition. A HUGE "thank-you" to all those who entered chili, shared side dishes and desserts, and decided to attend the event this year. A very special "THANK YOU" to **Dave Carpenter** for once again providing the delicious house chili and Polly Tallos for being the emcee of the event and also coordinating lots of other behind the scenes tasks to help make this event a success. Be sure to join us next winter for another friendly competition to see who will take home the coveted "Chili For Christ" trophy.

We also took a free will offering (\$112.00) to help WACC replace the money for the CCH that was stolen from their church.

"The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe" — Robin Galvin

Thank you to all of you who participated in the 9:00 Sunday School class. We had a lot of fun— red & blue teams competed towards the "Thrones of Cair Paravel" with the blue team pulling ahead in attendance at the very end. Over the course of eight weeks, we did some team building exercises, Bible study, group discussion, and group banners. It was fun to see the story unfold; Edmund fell into a trap by the White Witch, he was enticed by enchanted "Turkish Delight" (sin) and he betrayed his brother and sisters. Aslan, laid down his life to save Edmund's life and all of Narnia, just as Jesus laid down his life for each of us. It was an excellent study leading up to Easter.

CHINESE AUCTION

It was our 25th year of fun in the fellowship hall with family and friends! THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all who worked hard to make it a success these past 25 years and to the many, many who bought lots of tickets, donated great items and brought family and friends.! Thanks to Randy Kuhn who always makes sure we have plenty of tables and chairs for the event. Our profit this year was \$2300! Best ever. Our youth made \$200.00 on their snack counter.

Carol Busche

We presented Carol Busche with a bouquet of 25 red roses; a small token of our appreciation for the 25 years she has been in charge of the Chinese Auction and put many hours and lots of energy into it's success! Londa Blaine & Polly Tallos

NECC ALL CHURCH WORKDAY....

THANK YOU to all who joined us on Saturday, April 30th for a great morning of "getting things done" around the church. The boy scouts joined us and did a fantastic job of weeding. No rain, so we did get some outside scraping and painting done along with some power washing of sidewalks. Inside we were busy cleaning the nursery toys and bookshelves. Window blinds were dusted, floor tiles replaced, pews wiped down and spot cleaned. It was definitely a productive day. A delicious lunch topped off the day!

NECC Trustees

COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 20 — June 23
9:00-12:00

**"Camp Discovery" — Jesus
at work through us.**

**Location: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
25801 Royalton Rd. Col. Station**

Date Mon. June 20th —Thurs. 23rd

Time 9:00 a.m.—12:00 (Noon)

AGES 4 yrs. old — 8th grade

IT'S FREE!

**REGISTRATION FORMS ARE IN THE
CHURCH OFFICE...WE ASK THEY BE
RETURNED BY June 18th if possible.**

**We are joining with the following
churches to sponsor this fun week:**

**CleavView, Columbia Baptist,
Columbia Methodist, Hosanna Lutheran,
New Life Wesleyan, NECC, St. Elizabeth
Ann Seton**

**Call the church office, 748-2230 and we
will mail you a registration form or pick
one up in the office.**

**Any questions see Polly Tallos, or call
the church office.**

THANK YOU

Our thanks to **Dede Prunty** for making the new floral arrangements we use in our sanctuary for worship.

Our thanks to **Barb Galvin** for keeping the large pots in the Memorial Garden full of bright flowers until it's time for planting the real thing.

Dear NECC & Pastor Chuck, Thank you for all your calls, cards, prayers and concerns during my recent surgery. I am getting stronger each day.

Dede Prunty

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank everyone at NECC for the love and support following the sudden death of my grandma, Barb Camareno. Thank you for all of the cards and prayers. A special thank you to Pastor Church and Miki for the beautiful service, Londa, Marge and Laura for lining up the delicious food and ladies of Rebekah Circle to serve the meal. It was enjoyed and appreciated.
Thanks, Melissa

CYF — A note of thanks for the purchase of our groceries at IGA. Would like to "pay it forward" with this donation of \$50.00. I know you will put it to good us.

Thank you Glen Thompson for coming to our rescue and plowing the parking lot before a funeral. (IN APRIL!!!)

Our thanks to all the ladies who made the delicious food for the funeral lunch, to Randy for setup, coffee and cleanup duty and all the ladies who served. We have a great group of people who are always ready to help when we call.
Marge Houston, Laura Kuhn, and Londa Blaine

Dear NECC...Our children are blessed that NECC has mde them your children. Thank you for all that you do to hold them in the light. Your gifts allow our children to know that someone sees and cares for them. Your support makes you part of our team. Thank you for your gift of \$1,110 from the Chili Cook-off.
Kate Vinciquerra—Dir. Of Dev.

Dear Friends, Thank you for your kind and generous response following our recent break-in at Washington Ave. Christian Church. We are so grateful for your gift of \$112.43 from the Chili Cook-off. You are a role model of goodness and all of us thank you for the special relationship we share.

Janet A. Long, Pastor

Thank you to all for the beautiful blanet. It was very thoughtful. It will keep Samantha arm for years to come.
Micah, Kathi & Samantha Butcher

Proud Grandpa & Grandma, John and Karen Vilevac would like to share the good news about their granddaughter, CAMRYAN VILEVAC: Congratulations on winning the State Championship for gymnastics two years in a role in her age level (10 years old).