

THOUGHTS FOR THE JOURNEY -- SEPTEMBER 2016

Let Us Be – Encouragers

At the close of Paul's letter to the church at Thessalonica, Paul encouraged the Christians to "encourage one another" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). The word "encourage" or "edify" occurs 39 times in the New Testament and all except 8 times the word is best translated as "build" or "built." Our dear Lord chose to use this word in Matthew 7:24 when he spoke of the wise man who "built his house on the rock." The idea Paul had in mind was that Christians should "build" one another up in the faith. After defining the word, Thayer says that it is, "the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, holiness and happiness."

One of the highest duties that a Christian has been given is to encourage other Christians. In a world filled with pessimism, violence and despair our need for daily encouragement is great. It is all too easy today to let the, "the path that sinners tread" become our way as well. The happy ones are those who refuse to "take the path that sinners tread" or "sit in the seat of scoffers" (Psalm 1:1). After a week of listening to the gripes, complaints and criticisms of this sin-sick world, Christians should look forward to an isle or an oasis of retreat on the Lord's Day. A place where the name of God is blessed, not cursed. A place where we can enjoy the "seasons of refreshing" which only God can provide (Acts 3:19). It is truly a shame that Christians do not spend more time in each other's company. The writer of the book of Hebrews bids Christians to "consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24). After that command, the writer tells us how this can be accomplished, it is by "not neglecting to meet together . . . but encouraging one another, and all the more as we see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

In the days of the prophet Haggai, the people of God grew discouraged while they were working to rebuild the temple. God commanded them to get back to work, and then gave them comfort by saying, "I am with you, says the Lord of Hosts" (Haggai 2:4). Consider for a moment what it meant for those Jews to whom Haggai spoke to, knowing the Lord was with them. Surely they could remember the stories of how God had been with their fathers and mothers as they passed through the Red Sea. They knew that God had "led them by a mighty hand" through the wilderness on their way back to Canaan. In view of God's goodness, how could they doubt God now? In a similar way, Jesus has promised to be "in the midst" of his disciples when they assemble (Matthew 18:20). What a powerful thought! The Son of God is in our midst every Lord's Day. He has also promised to be with us as we carry out the great commission (Matthew 28:20). Do we desire to be in the presence of the Lord and his people? As we run our race toward eternal glory, let us continually encourage each other and "run with endurance the race that is before us" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Blessings for Journey,

Rev. Chuck

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SEPTEMBER 2016

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The VOICE

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIV.

- 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 Weber
- 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
- 26 Dennis Folk
- 27 Mark & Patty Meldrum
- 28 Dean Galvin
Randy & Laura Kuhn
- 29 Cindy Hicks
Chris & Holly Chapman



Serving At the Lord's Table SEPTEMBER 2016

- 8:00** Harry Hinkel, Jim Galvin
9:30 Pat Ables, Mark Carpenter,
Robin Bricker, Paula Krasnevich,
Carol Butcher, Christ Chapman,
Barb Mott
ELDERS: Ralph Thompson, Robin Galvin

NECC BIKING ON THE NORTH COAST TRAIL

On Sunday, September 25th, the family and friends of the North Eaton Christian Church are invited to go for a bicycle ride on the North Coast Trail. We will start the bicycle ride at the old train building across from the Mc Donald's on Route 58 in Oberlin at about 3:30pm. We will plan to eat dinner together at 5:00, on the patio at Lorenzo's, just down a few blocks from the bike parking lot in Oberlin. There will not be a train option this year, we will simply pedal as far as we want down the trail and turn around in time to meet at Lorenzo's by 5pm. You can also just drive to the restaurant to meet us for dinner. Please let me know if you plan to attend for the biking, eating or both.

*If you have any questions
you can contact me at*

bokmans@att.net or by

calling 440-891-1819.

**BICYCLE
PATH**



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN "Info Moments"

Built on Faith....Grown From Love....Covered By Grace

You spoke and we listened. As a result of your input from the Capital Campaign survey, your CC Committee is now better able to address some of your questions about the CC and overall Project Plan. Please join us in worship (8:00 and 9:30) as we present one-minute "Capital Campaign Info. Moments" during the morning announcements. If you still have questions, speak to a member of the committee after worship. Jeff Hensley (Chair), Bill Cromling, Melissa Folk, Stu Hicks, Glenn Swartz, Glen Thompson, Diana Tyler and Pastor Chuck.

If you have a specific question you'd like addressed in these "Info. Moments" please contact DIANA TYLER. Thank you for your interest, support and patience as we continue our Capital Campaign.

NECC CHRISTIAN LIBRARY

We have officially open a Christian Book Library for the congregation and friends of North Eaton Christian Church. I will use a rolling shelf (until our book stock outgrows this shelf) in a designated location to house this library. Ideally, the library will house Christian fiction and nonfiction books, utilize a process for checking out and tracking books, and contain short summaries of various titles to introduce an interest for potential readers. You can look for a Voice article every month which will feature a particular title and/or author. There is no cost to use this library, we only ask that you do return the books when you are finished reading them. If you have any questions please contact me at bokmans@att.net or by texting 440-225-4088.



CLOTHE-A-KID to begin the school year....NECC came through AGAIN !

Thank you to all who helped clothe a kid for school through Love INC. We were originally asked to buy clothing for 10 children. Which we did through families taking an order and filling it and others donating money for us to do the buying. Then there was a last minute request to clothe another family of four. Again we were able to fill the orders at the last minute. We invited all the children and their parents to come on Sunday afternoon for their clothes along with some ice cream treats and donuts. Before they left, we took time to pray with them. All the families were very appreciative of the clothes, ice cream, prayers and the time we spent visiting with them.

When we got the call from Tammy Hammond, counselor at Midview East, that she had 2 children that needed school clothes, we were again able to help because of the generous money donations from our NECC church family.

We helped 15 children to start off their school year on a positive note by simply supplying new clothes.
Polly Tallos

FAIR REPORT... SOME POSTINGS ON FACEBOOK ABOUT THE FAIR

Thursday-Aug. 18th: I was blessed today. I had five men from the Lorain Correctional Inst. That came over and moved all the pop to our back storage room in our booth. They did an excellent job. (Cindy Thompson)

Sunday-Aug. 21st: What an awesome turnout we had to setup and start the first day of cooking at the Fair. Thank you everyone. We had a great day. (Cindy Thompson)

Saw the last of the sun while leaving the fairgrounds this evening. We had a WONDERFUL crew of workers—all day! We shared a lot of laughs, fed and “watered” a lot of hungry and thirsty people and spread smiles to all who came to our booth. This year, we will also be using some of the proceeds for our roof project. It takes a lot of hands to organize, set up, operate, and tear down this large-scale venture each yearand you ALL are appreciated *so* much. (Diana Tyler)

Thursday-Aug. 25: Once again, a wonderful crew of folks at the fair tonight. We appreciate all our helpers—you’re doing an outstanding job through this hot week! Let’s keep making this a great week at the Lorain County Fair. (Diana Tyler)

A BIG THANKS to all who helped with the Fair in any way. Those who got up at 5 AM to be in the kitchen ready to serve breakfast sandwiches and pancakes by 6:30. AM. Those on the counter that early taking orders. To those who stood in the heat hoping someone would order a water or pop so they could have those 2 seconds of cold air as they opened the cooler. To those who stayed late into the night selling the last hot dog or sloppy joe and cleaning, stocking and locking up the booth so it was ready for the next day. A special thank you to the ones who did the truck runs — our refrigerated stock truck was moved to the back gate this year. We had to hike out through the midway to get our water, hamburgers, hot dogs, and other supplies.

I love working the NECC food booth at the Lorain County Fair. I’m pretty sure I have been there every year since I was in my mother’s womb —some 49 years ago. What an exciting year it was when I was finally able to work the summer before my 7th grade year, and when I was finally able to work the counter! I was grown up. I realize the Fair isn’t for everyone and that is OK, just continue to pray for those of us who do work. I enjoy encouraging Cindy Thompson as she orders the supplies and gets the permits in the weeks leading up to the fair week. I enjoy working with old friends and learning more about new friends as we chit chat between customers. I’ve watched not only our own youth grow up in the booth but also the children in the neighboring ice cream booth. Every year we wonder how everything is going to get done—setting up the booth, cooking hundreds of eggs, hamburgers, hot dogs, and sloppy joes, stocking the coolers, serving customers and closing up the booth. Each time NECC members and friends step up to help.

A special thing for me this year was being reminded of my mother, Edna Carpenter. My mother was very active in all things Fair. I recently got my hair cut short. There is no denying that I am my mother’s daughter — in looks and to some extent in temperament. Several people at the Fair commented that I look like her with the hair cut and body movements. How nice to be reminded of her in an environment that is very special to her.

Polly Tallos

A Day Out with the National and Air National Guard

On May 5, 2016 I was given the privilege to spend the day with 44 other clergy colleagues at Rickenbacker Airbase. We were extended this special invitation by a service person. In my case, I received an invitation from Dennis Folk. This is a one-time invitation. The main objective for this day was to help us clergy be aware where the church can serve the needs of service persons and their families. I learned that we have about 16,000 soldiers and airpersons who live and serve in Northeast Ohio. We learned as well, that 65 % of the personnel from both National and Air Guards in Northeast Ohio have been deployed to either Afghanistan and Iraq or both. It was enlightening to know that many of the service personnel had experienced multiple deployments because the salary payment is higher when they are deployed. However, in a recent Ohio longitudinal study of all service persons that have been deployed 50% have experienced a traumatic event in combat. They have also explained when back in civilian life they feel helpless to stop a traumatic event from affecting their family when they could stop it in the combat situation. It was explained to us that this is the feeling many service persons have acclimating to civilian life when they have been trained as warriors. Further impact on our heroes is that 75% experienced situations in combat where they could have been killed or wounded, 62% know of someone who was killed or wounded in combat and almost all some form of combat trauma.

Due to these staggering results the National and Air Guard have been more proactive seeking the assistance of civilian leaders and agencies. One of those projects is H.E.O.R.E.S. Care. What do they do? H.E.O.R.E.S care seeks to pair service members and their families with trained Hometown Support Volunteers (they are also vetted volunteers) in the communities where service members live. This project can offer free mental health services, financial assistance, employment referral and job placement to the service member and the family. A second project that seeks to provide support and assistance to service members and their families are the Troop and Family Assistance Centers. This project seeks to offer six essential services to the service person and their family and they are: information and referral, financial management, crisis intervention, legal assistance, health and dental care information and other information. This is where they encouraged the assistance of clergy and a church to support and assist our troops and families is through these Troop and Family Assistance Centers. If you wish to know more about the Troop and Family Assistance Centers go to homefront.ohio.gov. We (NECC) are in are in Region #1 along with 18 other counties. These are two projects where one could be involved in a military ministry. **Flyers are available in the Narthex so you can read more about the Troop and Family Assistance Center.**

The day was highlighted by a special ride on a Blackhawk helicopter. The ride was for 30 minutes over various areas of Columbus. The day was showery and cloudy. We boarded in alphabetical order so I was with seven other pastors in the first helicopter. We boarded the chopper and a few minutes later we had to exit because we were grounded due to cloudy conditions. Several minutes later we were again allowed to board and take off. It was exhilarating to say the least. However, it is very noisy. You could not sit and just talk to your seatmate. The fun had only begun. We went to another area of the base where the pilot took us through some quick touch downs and quick take offs. Some of the take off were fast with the nose of the chopper pointed face down. I told Dennis, when he got back home recently, “the ride on the Blackhawk was better than any ride at Cedar Point or Disneyworld.” That is because anyone can go on a ride at those theme parks but the ride I was on only clergy are invited to experience and that is only once in a lifetime. So it was humbling and honorable to receive that special invitation from Dennis Folk. Oh and by the way Dennis is still a little jealous because he has never been on a Blackhawk Helicopter. Just a little inside humor he has with me. Once we landed we were then treated to a bus ride to another site on the base where we could walk through stationary vehicles and airplanes. They had everything from a C135, Hum Vies, Mobile Command Centers and another Blackhawk. I have come away from that special experience with an even deeper and greater appreciation for what our men and women do for our nation’s security and the protection they give to our freedoms we hold so dear.



Rev. Chuck