

## THOUGHTS FOR THE JOURNEY—OCTOBER 2016

### *Am I Giving My Best?*

“. . . the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints – and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God to us . . .” (2 Corinthians 8:5). The following stories make an excellent application of this scripture passage. The first story is about Queen Mary. Queen Mary used to travel to Scotland every summer. She was so loved by the people that she went about the country without an escort. One afternoon she was walking with some children. Suddenly dark clouds came upon them. The queen stopped at a house and asked to borrow an umbrella. Queen Mary said to the lady of the house, “I’ll send it back to you tomorrow.” The lady was reluctant to lend a perfectly good umbrella to a stranger, but she remembered she had an old umbrella in the attic. One rib was broken and there were several holes in it, but she turned it over to the lady at the door with an apology. The next day there was another knock at her door. When she opened the door, a man in gold braid stood with a big envelope in his hand. “The queen sent me here,” he said, “She asked me to thank you for the umbrella.” For a moment the woman was stunned and then she burst into tears. She exclaimed, “Oh! What an opportunity I missed. Why did I do that, I did not give her my best.”

The second story is of a rich man who wanted to help a poor carpenter and his family. The rich man hired the carpenter to build a house for him and the rich man went away on a long journey. The carpenter said, “My boss is away, so I can use shoddy materials, cut down on the supporting work, and no one will know but me.” So he built a shoddy and cheap house. When the rich man returned, the carpenter said to him, “Here is your house all finished according to your instructions.” “Good,” said the rich man, “and here are the keys and the deed. It is yours. I am giving you and your family this house.” Over the years the carpenter grieved, for in using the cheap materials, he had only cheated himself.”

Each day, we have the opportunity to give Jesus the best of our time, financial resources, ability and opportunity. According to Jesus, we are helping ourselves when we give our best to him, for example Jesus says, “. . . store up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:20-21). Beloved, Jesus tells us that our treasures are indications of our focus, faith, and future. Our giving tells where we place our emphasis, how much we believe in what we do not see and the direction our heart will travel. What umbrella are we giving our King? What kind of house are we building for ourselves?

Blessings,

Rev. Chuck

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### OCTOBER 2016

Minister: Rev. Charles Butcher  
Christian Ed. & Youth Director: Polly Tallos  
Secretary: Londa Blaine  
Music Director: Miki Saito  
Bookkeeper: Bob Weber  
Dr. Ralph Thompson: Pathways Counseling

# 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)

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIV.

- 2 Steve & Debbie Cihla  
Bryan Garvin  
3 Vic Susak  
7 Mark Carpenter  
10 Melissa & Dennis Folk  
11 Stephen Tyler  
Cassandra Gamble  
12 Jim Ickes  
14 Paul Hayward  
Lonna Blackburn  
15 Kris & Andy Teper  
17 Janet Lynch  
18 Sandra Gruendler  
20 Jennifer Hayward  
Helen Cramer  
21 Mark & Kathy Carpenter  
Terry & Sherry Stone  
24 Karl Tallos  
25 Lee Ann Martin  
26 Gabby Ford  
27 Eric Tallos  
Helen & Rich Walkden  
28 Michaelene Durbin  
Rob Marks  
29 Chuck Slusher  
31 Nancy Yost



## Serving At the Lord's Table OCTOBER 2016

- 8:00** Ed Carter, Chris Hensley  
**9:30** Polly Tallos, Mike Mott, Pat Ables  
Paula Krasnevich, Vicky Spitzer  
Dede Prunty, Nancy Yost

**ELDERS:** Melissa Folk, Glenn Swartz

### New Members @ NECC.....

*We would like to "officially" welcome into our church family:*

*Cody Knorr—Cody attended here until his family moved to New Mexico. He returned this year and is living with his Aunt and Uncle, Melissa and Dennis Folk while he attends college.*

*Mary Jo Clark—Mary Jo is a friend of Diana Tyler's. She started attending the Wednesday evening studies and the 9:30 worship service. She is an artist who is willing to share her talents with us for our Capital Campaign.*

*Miki Saito—Miki is our Music Director and has become a welcome friend to our NECC church family. She is now chairperson of our Worship Team.*

## NECC Church Bazaar SATURDAY, Nov. 12th 9:00-3:00

Table rentals are \$20.00 each  
ON A FIRST COME BASIS. Call  
the office for a contract or more  
info. 748-2230.



## NECC Biking Event



On Sunday, Sept. 25th, there were nine cyclists (Ed and Angie Carter, Jackie Haumschild, Polly, Erik and Karl Tallos, Ralph Thompson, Diana Tyler, and myself) who rode their bikes on the North Coast Trail from Oberlin to Kipton and back. It was a gorgeous afternoon for being outside. After biking, eight more friends (Cindy Hicks, Melissa Folk and her nephew Cody and brother-in-law Larry, Chuck and Carol Butcher and Gabby, and Carol Busche, our church photographer) joined us for a leisurely dinner on the patio of Lorenzo's Restaurant in downtown Oberlin. The food was delicious, the company was awesome and it was a gorgeous day for biking with family and friends. This is an annual Fall event, so join us next September if you are looking for some outdoor fun! Even if you don't ride a bike, I know you can eat dinner.

Carol Bokman

**A Math Lesson for Church**... I attended an Elder's Workshop on 9/24 where we talked about two main ideas. The first session was titled, "**Beating the Odds: If God is For Us Who Can Be Against US?**" and the second session was "**Re-Grouping for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Frontier**".

We discussed how many churches are facing declining numbers and a division among members. Although this isn't good news for us as Christians, it is somewhat comforting to know we are not alone. Our speaker from Disciples Home Missions, Rev. Degges, then gave us a "math lesson". Since I am a math teacher, it really resonated with me. He said that often, the church (we) focus is on subtraction (decline) and division when we should be focusing on the addition and multiplication (of the new members we do have, growing our numbers and our ministries, etc.). Let's focus on what we're doing well and where God's leading us to grow. He left us with a powerful statement then a question to ponder, which I offer to you. He said, "There had to be a burial to be a resurrection. What burden do you need to bury so you can move on?"

Respectfully through Christ, Melissa Folk, Elder

**Operation Christmas Child** is a terrific way to get involved in the evangelism and discipleship of children around the world. The Samaritan's Purse shoebox ministry kicks off NOW. Shoeboxes and instructions are available on the table in the Narthex. You have until **NOVEMBER 6th** to fill them. Any questions SEE PAT ABLES or call the church office, 440-748-2230.



**Timothy Sunday...** Our Jr. Worship children are growing up fast. Christian Education is committed to helping them to be fully ready to join the regular services when they are ready. Research has shown that youth and young adults often feel disjointed between themselves and the rest of the body of members, and this feeling is the reason why many fall from regular church attendance as they grow older. In an effort to make our children feel more connected to the “regular” service and members, last year we tried bringing the children back into the sanctuary to participate in the end of the service. This wasn’t received by the children the way we had hoped, so we are trying something new this year.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month (starting Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>), we are going to do a Timothy Sunday where students will sit with the teacher throughout the entire service. Through the use of teaching aids, the kids will continue to learn some things about the service such as what Gloria Patri means. The activities will not require verbal communication between the teacher and children, so there should be nothing to disrupt the normal flow of the service or impede others’ worship experience. Please help us to continue to show our youth how important they are to us and our congregation. Questions, concerns and/or suggestions can be brought to Christian Education (Polly and Melissa).

**CHRISTIAN BOOK LIBRARY.....**The church library is ready for business. I will place the cart in the Fellowship Hall starting with our next Donut Sunday on October 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be located near the fireplace. Each book has a slip of paper sticking out, please fill in your name and date and place slip in basket. The return procedure is to attach to your book a sticky note containing your name and place in the return basket. I do not need to be present for you to check-out and/or return books. This library will be run on the honor system, please be courteous and return your books so others can enjoy them too. This month’s suggested author is Terri Blackstock.

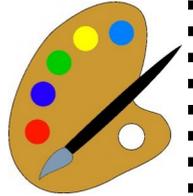


**The Restoration Series by Terri Blackstock:** In the face of a crisis that sweeps an entire high-tech planet back to a time before electricity, the Branning family faces a choice. Will they hoard their possessions in order to survive—or trust God to provide as they share their resources with those around them? Yesterday’s world is gone. Family and community are all that remain, and the outage is bringing out the worst in some.

**Book #1 – Last Light...**Doug Branning’s mind raced to understand—planes were falling out of the sky, crashing and burning ... Birmingham has lost all its power. Its streets are jammed with cars that won’t start, its airport engulfed in flames from burning planes. All communications—cell phones, computers, even radios—are silent. In the face of a crisis that sweeps an entire high-tech planet back to a time before electricity, the Branning family faces a choice. Will they hoard their possessions in order to survive—or trust God to provide as they share their resources with those around them? Yesterday’s world is gone. Family and community are all that remain, and the outage is bringing out the worst in some. Desperation can be dangerous when a killer lives among you.

**Book #2 – Night Light, Book #3 – True Light, Book #4 – Dawn’s Light**

**COLOR YOUR WORLD!** Join us on Sunday, OCTOBER 23rd, 11:00-1:00 for an artistic FUNdraiser for NECC’s Capital Campaign. Artist (and new member of the NECC family) Mary Jo Clark will lead us in coloring, creating and relaxing while enjoying each other’s company. Coloring pages and tools for doodling will be provided to help us experience a little art in our lives. We’ll also be led through the experience of “BLIND DRAWING”, an interesting experience that utilizes both sides of the brain, which helps to re-energize our concentration and creativity. For those who like to “nosh” as they draw, refreshments will be available.



As part of this art experience, watch for a yellow canvas to appear in the fellowship hall over the next few weeks. Mary Jo is asking that between now and October 23, you make ONE MARK (a line, a squiggle, a swoosh, etc.) on that large sheet of paper; she’ll turn the entire thing into a mural in the weeks that follow.

The cost for this fun, learning and relaxing experience? You decide. The money will go towards the upcoming ROOF and KITCHEN RENOVATION PROJECT. Yes, you may invite friends.

**The Christian Education Team** will be making TRICK-OR-TREAT BAGS to be handed out at the Columbia Trick-Or-Treat Street and Midview Trunk-or-Treat events. Last kyear we handed out over 600 bags at Midview alone!! We need your help with donations of fun-sized wrapped candies, stuffing the bags and handing out the treat bags. (THANK YOU to Rebekah Circle ladies for all your help filling bags in the past!) We also make up bags to hand out to parents. If you can help with the CANDY please bring it to the chrch and place it in the giant TRICK OR TREAT BOX in the fellowship hall or drop it off in the East Entrance of the church during the week. We NEVER get too much candy donated. I’ll let you know when we are ready to start STUFFING and the dates of the events in the bulletin or call the church office, 748-2230. The more help, the faster it gets done. If you have any questions see POLLY TALLOS.

**Advent Display ....** As part of this year’s Advent and Christmas display, the Worship Committee is asking all households to bring in pictures of their Advent Wreath and/or Christmas crèche. We anticipate seeing traditional styles as well as (in typical NECC fashion) some creative designs. Share your photos with us by putting them on the bulletin board that will be in the Narthex beginning Nov. 27th. Feel free to identify your family on or near your photo. Pictures may be sent digitally: [webmasterATneccdisciples.com](mailto:webmasterATneccdisciples.com) You may take your photos home on January 8th, Epiphany Sunday.



