

Thoughts For the Journey

Kindness Is Timeless

I was thinking recently about the social media explosion and how it has occurred at an alarming pace. Social media seems to bring out the worst in so many people. Anger, hostility, rudeness and profanity have replaced civility and younger generations are accustomed to obscenity as the soundtrack of their generation. Perceived humor in our day seems to be built on innuendo and without it; this current generation is practically speechless.

As we age, we see the trends come and go, and they become less important to us. We can ride the waves in a desperate attempt to remain relevant or we can try a timeless approach. Regardless of what is considered cutting-edge in any year, the practice of kindness never goes out of style. We spread flowers, not hate and nastiness, when kind, positive words emanate from us. In so doing, we change the people around us and bring light to dark worlds (Matthew 5:16).

God's people should make kindness a law in their lives (Proverbs 31:26). In fact, we find kindness is the fruit of the spirit that should be growing in all Christians (Galatians 5:22-23). We also find in the Galatians passage Paul says, "There is no law against such things," concerning the fruit of the spirit. A kind word soothes the savage beast. A smile banishes the scowl and warms the frozen heart. People gravitate to kindness and appreciate its medicinal properties. Kindness disarms anger (Romans 12:20) and can transcend time and place so it is never out of fashion. Kindness touches the heart and soul of humanity as nothing else can. We need a touch of kindness desperately in a coarse and hateful world. If every person was treated with kindness, so much evil would be overcome. When we add Jesus to a kind disposition, it is an unstoppable force for good (Colossians 3:12).

Spread kindness, goodness and love to the world and then share Jesus with an open heart. Beloved, kindness opens doors that anger would never see. When we lift others above the doldrums, they begin to see the world in a different light. In so doing, we create the possibility that Jesus can finally be seen in us.

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

NOVEMBER 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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIV.

- 2 Carol Wilson
Charlene Nichols
- 3 Ruby Burdick
- 6 Taylor Daniels
Robert M. Browne
- 8 Jerry & Sharon Mullins
- 9 Rita Ward
Marlene Daniels
- 11 Christine & Randall Smith
- 12 Dawn Schieferle
- 19 Ruth Nash
- 20 Val Fletcher
Renee Carpenter
- 22 Miki Saito
- 23 Bruce Burdick
- 24 Bill & Maureen Cromling
- 25 Denise Mott
Ken Hicks
- 26 Cathy Dusky
Darrell Wilford
- 29 Marge Houston



**Serving At the Lord's Table
NOVEMBER 2016**

- 8:00** Angie Carter, Scott White
- 9:30** Chris & Holly Chapman, Jerry Mullins, Carol Bokman, Carol Butcher, Don Ables, Mike Mott
- ELDERS**—Jeff Hensley, Bob Hammond

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

This is a great place to be with family and friends. We have an awesome bake sale, lunch counter (homemade soups etc.), crafters, Trash & Treasure room, Kid's Only Shopping room, and a place to put on a costume and have your picture taken in a stable.

RAFFLE—we have 3 beautiful quilts and cash prizes in our raffle (\$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00).

No matter what the weather is outside, we have plenty of sunshine and good times inside at North Eaton Christian church!



Building on a strong foundation, we seek to ensure a lasting presence of Christian love and service in the heart of this community and beyond.

During worship on Sunday, October 30 we joyfully kicked off our annual stewardship emphasis. What this means is that, over the next few weeks, we'll be *consecrating* ourselves through prayer and assessing our individual abundance, as we consider our need as God's people to respond gratefully to God's gifts, in support of the many ministries that take place in, and through, North Eaton Christian Church. However, this year's stewardship emphasis is a bit different in that it is a combined effort—

First, we will prayerfully consider our personal pledges of support for the **ANNUAL** mission and outreach goals, and the regular operating expenses of NECC for the coming year just as we do every year at this time. This pledge will support our **GENERAL FUND**.

Second, we will prayerfully consider our additional support towards fixing the pressing physical needs of the building in which we gather together to worship, celebrate, pray for one another, and work together to bring Christ's light to this community and beyond. That effort has been presented to you over the last few months in our Project Plan to address a failing roof and some mandatory kitchen upgrades. Should we exceed that goal (see below), we will then be able to address replacing the parking lot, followed by some additional interior improvements, including redesigning the courtyard (following additional input from the congregation). This pledge will be for a **THREE-YEAR PERIOD** and will support our Capital Campaign's Project Plan. This plan calls for rebuilding and unifying the various rooflines from previous multi-phase building projects, for a more seamless, secure roof of long-lasting material. The changed roof line will necessitate venting repairs involving the kitchen, with some interior cosmetic changes in the kitchen that already have funds set aside for them from specific fundraisers going back several years. The estimated cost—and funding plan—is as follows:

- \$ 75,000 General Fund (cash in hand)
- \$ 40,000 Building Fund (cash in hand)
- \$ 14,000 Kitchen Funds (cash in hand)
- \$ 4,000 Fair Funds from 2016 (cash in hand)
- \$300,000 Disciples Church Extension Fund (will loan up to 2x funds pledged*)
- \$29,000 Other creative, individual fundraising (i.e., video, dinners, etc.)
- \$462,000 Cost of roof and kitchen renovations (only)**
- * (\$150,000 in pledges anticipated)

(continued.....)

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 You may take your photos home on January 8th, Epiphany Sunday.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN continued.....

Over the last two months, we have attempted to address the questions you raised in the survey results gathered earlier this year. In our continuing effort to provide you with all the information you need, your Capital Campaign Committee has scheduled two **Town Hall meetings** for your convenience—on **Tuesday, November 1, at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, November 6, at 11 a.m.** Both gatherings will take place in the sanctuary, and you are welcome to attend whichever best fits your schedule or both.



This combined stewardship emphasis will conclude on **Consecration Sunday, November 20**, when we will submit our separate pledges for both parts of this combined campaign. Pledges may come from our current household income or operating funds, from savings, from stocks and bonds, and/ or from legacy gifts through wills and bequests. (In addition to traditional methods of giving [i.e., checks and cash], we are currently exploring online giving options to better serve those who are more comfortable establishing automatic payments, credit card use, etc.)

On **Consecration Sunday**, we'll welcome Maribeth Westerfield, Vice President of Disciples Church Extension Fund, as our guest speaker. We also anticipate a premiere viewing of our fundraising video that day. The morning will wrap up with an 11:30 a.m. celebration meal during which we'll announce the results of our combined campaign effort; **please help us plan by writing the number attending from your family next to your name on the Friendship Register the next Sunday you're in worship.**

We look forward to this exciting time during which, together, we can continue making a positive difference in the lives of our congregation, our community and the world. Thank you for growing together with us!

Thanksgiving Special Offering 2016.....*Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. -Proverbs 9:9*

The Thanksgiving Special Offering will be collected on November 13th & 20th. This offering assists students pursuing a theological education at the 14 Disciples undergraduate colleges and seven seminaries and divinity houses. The Thanksgiving Offering is put to use together with The Disciples Mission Fund and individual contributions to create grants and scholarships for students who want to attend Disciples Institutions. Attending a Disciples Institution allows students opportunities to become better leaders in the church, workplace, and community. The gifts received through the Thanksgiving Offering will support over 26,000 students. You can make your donation by using the special Thanksgiving Offering envelope in the pew, or by using a regular offering envelope and writing "Thanksgiving Offering" on the outside.

Stephanie Tyler, Outreach Chairperson

CHRISTIAN BOOK LIBRARY (Carol Bokman)

The church library is open for business. I place the cart in the Fellowship Hall near the fireplace after the first service. 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 Neta Jackson.



The Yada Yada Prayer Group by Neta Jackson.....What do an ex-con, a former drug addict, a real estate broker, a college student and a married mother of two have in common?

Nothing, or so I thought. Who would have imagined that God would make a prayer group as mismatched as ours the closest of friends? I almost didn't even go to the Chicago Women's Conference—after all, being thrown together with five hundred strangers wasn't exactly my "comfort zone." But something happened that weekend to make us realize we had to hang together, and the Yada Yada Prayer Group" was born! When I faced the biggest crisis of my life, God used my newfound Sisters to show me what it means to be just a sinner saved by grace. There are many wonderful books to follow in this series.

.....
: *Pastor Chuck, Gabby and I were privileged to attend the Christian Church in Ohio, Regional Assembly,*
: *October 13th to 15th, at Northwest Christian Church in Columbus, Ohio. The them for the weekend was*
: *Empowered, looking at Acts 1:9, 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and*
: *you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' We had a*
: *great time of worship, learning and missions. It was good to reconnect with old friends, and meet new*
: *ones. We all have been given talents, dreams, and interests by the Spirit to encourage others, and share*
: *the gospel with those who have not heard it. It was hopeful to come together as the larger church, and*
: *to talk about our strengths and vision for the future. We assembled over 100 backpacks for children. We*
: *ended the weekend with a cookout at Camp Christian.*

Blessings, Carol Butcher

NEWS AMONG THE PEWS

Ruby Burdick is pleased to announce the birth of her great granddaughter, Harper Marie Harman, born October 21st. The proud grandparents are Bruce and Donna Burdick.

Tom and Barb Mott are pleased to announce the birth of their great granddaughter, Lena Kay, born November 5th. The proud grandparents are Mike and Denise Mott.

"Thank you for the prayers and cards that I received while I was sick. I am so thankful for the healing prayers and I am feeling great. I am so thankful for the many blessings from my family at NECC.
Love and prayers, Barb Koerner

