

Thoughts For the Journey—January 2017

Are We Superstitious or Spiritual

Success and happiness as a New Year begins has been the goal of countless people throughout the centuries. In a world of superstition and ignorance people have believed that success and happiness depended upon luck and fortune. History supplies us some very interesting examples, here are just a few.

1. The Babylonians considered it a good omen for the king to weep on New Year's Day. So on this day, removing his robe and crown, the king would kneel in the temple and weep while confessing his sins.
2. The Romans worshipped the god Janus; he was the god of beginnings, transitions and was usually depicted as a two-faced god one looking back on the past and the other looking forward to the future. Therefore, every person must review their past and then consider their future on this day.
3. Iranians gave eggs as presents, which symbolized new life and future hope. The British people felt a chimney sweep would "wipe the slate clean." Interestingly, it was believed the first person drinking from a well on New Year's Day was sure to have good luck.
4. The Scots believed good luck would come to a house if the first person entering after midnight was a dark-haired person. It was bad luck, if a woman, criminal or a red-haired should enter the house first.
5. The Germans felt one's actions on New Year's Day would determine his/her actions throughout the year; therefore, dressing up and being on one's best behavior was very important.
6. The Spaniards believed a gold coin in the pocket on this day would mean that person would have money all year.
7. Then many of us know, especially those in the Southern United States, believe that eating black-eyed peas, hog jowl, and cabbage on New Year's Day will result in good luck all year long.

Beloved there are many people who believe in New Year's superstitions, not to mention the thousands of other superstitions people believe in ...the number 13, walking under a ladder and not crossing your path with a black cat, etc. As we begin a new year, let's put these things in their proper perspective and let's rely on the promises of God. Jesus says in *Matthew 28:20*, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." *Hebrews 13:5* tells us, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Then there's *Romans 8:28*, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God and who are called according to his purpose." I hope we get the point. Let's trust in the promises of God instead of superstitions.

Blessings for Journey,

Rev. Chuck



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JANUARY 2017

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Secretary: Londa Blaine

Music Director: Miki Saito

Bookkeeper: Bob Weber

Dr. Ralph Thompson: Pathways Counseling

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JANUARY 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
- 20 Allison Cihla
John Klinec
- 23 Carol Bokman
- 26 Karen Klinec
- 27 David Houston
- 30 Hanna Susak
- 31 Matthew Gross



**Serving At the Lord's Table
January 2017**

8:00 Jim Galvin
9:30 Deacons

ELDERS: Robin Galvin

Christian Fiction Book Club. (Melissa Folk)

If you enjoy reading books and Christian fellowship, please feel free to join us the third Monday of every month to discuss a book. We meet from 7-8pm in the high school classroom. The books we have lined up for the beginning of 2017 are as follows:

- Jan. 16th Long Way Gone by Charles Martin
- Feb. 20th Since You've Been Gone
by Christa Allan
- March 20th The Blue Bottle Club
by Penelope Stokes
- April 17th Sensible Shoes by Sharon Garlough
- May 15th Traces of Guilt by Dee Henderson
- June 19th Priceless: She's Worth Fighting For
by Joel & Luke Smallbone

Constitutional Review 2016—2017

Just over a year ago, the Elders recommended that Council review the current state of our church's Constitution. This was also recommended by the Visioning Committee, started almost 8 years ago, while Paul Durbin was still pastor.

A Constitutional Review Committee has been hard at work, looking over the old style Constitution and considering ways to make it more streamlined, while maintaining the content and intent of our predecessors. **This team is currently made up of Stu Hicks, Diana Tyler, Glenn Swartz, Paula Krasnevich, Ed Carter, and Pat Ables.** We were honored to have George Butcher as our chairman, before he had to step down due to health issues.

We have maintained most of the content of the current Constitution (dated Jan. 2004), and we have clarified many ambiguous articles with current grammar. We have re-ordered the content into a core Constitution and accompanying By-Laws. We have added an area to collect other governing documents of this congregation, such as Job Descriptions and binding resolutions of Council, like the Covenant Gift for Pathways. We have also collected some of the unspoken rules of the congregation into the By-Laws, like rules for use of the Fellowship Hall, and emergency spending limits for Budget line items.

This is an important document, and it takes time to get it right. The committee has worked for over a year, starting with a look at other church's documents, and carefully regarding the heritage of this congregation. We need a Constitution that reflects us and our ministry in North Eaton, and is useful to guide us. But it also must be balanced between being flexible to meet the times, and being steadfast enough to stand the test of time.

Our intent is to bring forth the revised documents for consideration by Council in February and again in April, before coming to the Congregation for approval. This will give everyone adequate time to look at them and make suggestions for improvement. **Please talk with the committee members if you have any concerns.**

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: **THANK YOU to Lynn Edwards for donating her time to make the unique tree that is part of our**
: **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN.**
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NECC would like to thank Nancy's Main Street Diner in Grafton for their generous donation of \$500 to be used for children and families in our community. Nancy's held a Christmas Celebration Fund raiser on Friday, December 2. They had a 50/50 drawing, sold raffle tickets for pies and a Disney Christmas Decoration as well as selling special treats through out the evening. A special thank you to everyone who took the time to support the fundraiser.

Polly Tallos is currently working with Tammy Hammond to determine the best use of this money. If you would like to help with this project please see Polly Tallos

DECEMBER 2016 — Youth Christmas Cookie Sale

Thank you to everyone that supported the Youth Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 3. I am always amazed and very grateful for the many, many, homemade cookies that YOU provide. This is a very busy time of the year and you always include time to bake for us. We started the sale with 4 – 8ft tables full of homemade cookies. By the end of our hour sale we were down to just one table of cookies, which we then sold on Sunday morning. Approximately 60 lbs of cookies were sold, helping us to raise \$500, which will be used in February for a special Youth outreach event.

POLLY TALLOS

Capital Campaign Coin Folders: When your folder is full bring it back to NECC; drop it off in the office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning, to be donated to the Capital Campaign for the new roof. This was an idea for our younger members but works well for **members of all ages!** Coin Folders are currently located on the **table in the Narthex** as you head into the Fellowship Hall, please feel free to take one or two or more. If you have any questions, please contact Polly Tallos or Londa Blaine.

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• WANEW Retreat '17 •
 • Friday-Sunday, January 27-29 @Camp Christian •
 • **Cost is \$50 (NECC will pay half)** •

• The Chi Rho and CYF Youth will be participating •
 • in their annual winter retreat with youth and adult •
 • from Washington Ave, Medina, Franklin Cr and •
 • New Horizons Christian Churches. We will meet •
 • at NECC at 5:00 PM on Friday evening to pack •
 • and head out. Each Youth needs to bring a •
 • completed Parental Consent form. If you have •
 • any questions please see Polly Tallos. •

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▪ Youth New Years Lock-in ▪
 ▪ Dec. 30-31 ▪

▪ The Youth met at NECC at 2:30 PM. WE ▪
 ▪ went to the Cleveland Christian Home, ▪
 ▪ putting away the Santa Shop before going to ▪
 ▪ CiCi's Pizza, then on to Lazer X-treme for ▪
 ▪ lazer tag. We ended the evening back at ▪
 ▪ NECC, where we played a few games, ▪
 ▪ watched a movie, had a midnight worship ▪
 ▪ service and more food. JYF youth headed ▪
 ▪ home at 11 PM. Chi Rho and CYF spent the ▪
 ▪ night before going home at 8 AM Saturday. ▪

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NECC CHILI COOK-OFF 2017

NECC will host our annual Chili Cook-off on Sunday, February 28th at 5:00 p.m. The WANEW churches as well as some other area churches have been invited. This is a family event with no admission price. A goodwill offering will be accepted for the CLEVELAND CHRISTIAN HOME.



It's time to dig out your favorite chili recipe or find a new one (the cable channels are loaded with cooking shows) and enter it in the competition. A sign-up sheet for chili, desserts and other food items will be posted in the fellowship hall in February. You DO NOT have to bring a chili entry, just come and enjoy the food, fun and musical entertainment.

Once again, Josh Brunger will be here with the awesome Midview High School Jazz Band to entertain us.

Mark your calendar now so you do not miss this fun, family event. Any questions see CAROL BOKMAN or POLLY TALLOS.

UN Seminar

The UN Seminar is a trip offered by the Christian Church in Ohio for youth in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades. The Youth go to Washington DC to not only visit the monuments and museums but also to with their Congressional Representative and discuss how their Faith plays into the policies of our nation. From DC they then go on to New York City to take a tour of the United Nations and meet with representatives of other countries. Before the youth leave for the trip they must write two papers: one on the UN – what it s designed to do and what they think is the UN's most important purpose and one paper on the theme for the week. This year, the theme is immigration and slavery as it relates to child labor and the sex trade. If you know a youth (your child, grandchild, etc.) who might be interested in participating in the UN Seminar please contact Polly Tallos so she can give you all the details and the expense information.



I, Polly Tallos, have been invited to be an adult chaperon on this year's trip in February 2017. Only 8 adults are chosen to lead 30 plus youth. I am looking forward to leading and learning with the Ohio Youth who participate in the UN Seminar.

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- **Reminder:** We still collect the sample size hygiene items for the **Salvation Army**...shampoo, conditioner, mouthwash, soaps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.
 - **Cornerstone**—The large bottle bank is on the small table in the fellowship hall to drop in pocket change or dollars.
 - Blessing bottles are also available to fill and bring back full.
 - FOOD PANTRY and Backpack Weekend Take Home Food @ Midview
 - CANCELLED STAMPS — Veterans
 - CANS FOR CODY - Aluminum drink cans (tied in plastic bags)
 - Recycle PAPER BIN (NO cardboard)
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We want to thank everyone from NECC for your visits, cards and prayers for John. He is progressing very slowly from his stroke and we ask for your continued prayers.
In God's Love, John & Karen, John, Brian Vilevac

CHRISTIAN MEN IN ACTION (CMIA) is no longer active. We thank all of you who have helped support us in our ministry to help hose in and out of our congregation. We are getting older and becoming more aware that climbing ladders and lifting heavy objects is not a good thing. We have decided to end this ministry as a group and have donated all funds in our account to the Capital Campaign.
With sadness and joy, Mike Krasnevich, Jerry Mullins, Glenn Swartz, Stu Hicks

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♥ **REBEKAH CIRCLE** ——— Rebekah Circle had their last meeting in November of ♥
 ♥ 2016. They have officially disbanded. They still plan to be active in church activities ♥
 ♥ and in worship. The February Fellowship Hour will be in their honor on Feb. 12th. ♥
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