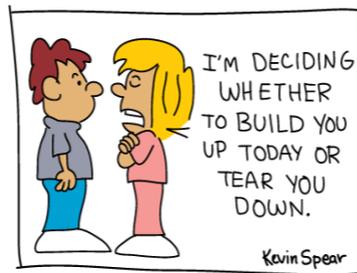


## Thoughts For the Journey—FEBRUARY 2017

### Are We a “Strangler or a Wrangler?”

In one of the most delightful books to read titled, *A Touch of Wonder*, the author, Arthur Gordon tells the story of “the stranglers” and “the wranglers.” Gordon had a friend who attended the University of Wisconsin and tells the following story. At the University of Wisconsin group of brilliant young men with some real literary talent formed a writer’s club. At each meeting, one person would read a story or an essay one had written. The others would evaluate and provide critical analysis for each of the essays. The group conducted the evaluations with such a relentless form of criticism they soon became known as the “The Stranglers.” There was a group of young ladies who were not to be outdone. They formed a similar literary club who were called “The Wranglers.” However, instead of being critical and destructive, they were encouraging and uplifting.

The results, Gordon reports, could be seen twenty years later. Not one of the young men from “The Stranglers” ever made any kind of reputable literary contribution. However, from out of “The Wranglers” a dozen or so young women had gone on to earn national recognition for their contributions to the field of literature. One of the illustrious members from this group was, *Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings* who went on to write the book, *The Yearling*. How do we explain this? It was not that the ladies literary club had more talented or smarter members, nor they had been given better opportunities. The difference was this – one group gave each other a lift, while the other group pulled each other down.



From this poignant story there are two lessons we can glean. The first is, *very few people are helped by harsh criticism*. Even if the criticism is labeled “constructive,” very little criticism is actual helpful. People are changed quicker, more completely and easier by praise than criticism. The Apostle Paul in *1 Thessalonians 5:11* says something very similar, “*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.*” If you want one to adopt a particular lifestyle, develop a certain habit or manner then praise them for their success in this area of growth. It brings out the best in others. The second lesson is, *be a builder*. It is easy to fall into the habit of being a habitual “critic.” It is also easy to fall into the habit of being a habitual “builder.” People love to be around someone who can find strengths, abilities and talents in them. So, are we a “strangler” or a “wrangler?” I want to thank Arthur Gordon for helping supply some of the inspiration for this article with his poignant story.

Blessings for Journey,

Rev. Chuck

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### FEBRUARY 2017

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

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Visit us at: [www.neccdisciples.com](http://www.neccdisciples.com)

**February BIRTHDAYS & ANNIV.**

- 2 Loretta St.Andre
- 3 Joyce Johnson
- 6 Fran Walker  
Linda Ickes
- 8 Marie Ternes
- 9 Linda Johnson  
Susie Naylor
- 12 Kaily Udovich  
Rebecca Zapora
- 14 Bonnie Hicks  
Tim Tyler  
Mary Bengough  
James Hensley
- 15 Kristen Hicks  
Jacob Zawoyski
- 17 Glenn Swartz
- 18 Amanda Klein
- 19 Gene Yost
- 20 Stu Hicks Sr.  
Chris Chapman
- 22 Madeline Blaine
- 23 Breanna Bokar
- 24 Dale & Sally Botson  
John & Karen Vilevac
- 25 Jim Bokar  
Laura Carpenter  
Brian Insley
- 26 Jeff & Chris Hensley
- 29 Edna Carpenter  
Chuck Butcher



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

**8:00** Angie Carter, Scott White  
**9:30** Polly Tallos, Mike Mott, Pat Ables,  
 Paula Krasnevich, Vicky Spitzer,  
 Dede Prunty, Nancy Yost  
**Elders:** Melissa Folk & Glenn Swartz

**"Giving Tree" a Huge Success**

**A BIG thank you** to everyone who helped with the Giving Tree in anyway...filling whole orders, partial orders, donating money and those that went shopping with the money, and mounds of gift wrapping. All the gifts were turned over to the schools and delivered to the families in time for Christmas.

Midview and Columbia Local Schools reached out to NECC for help filling their Giving Tree Christmas Wish Lists. The residents of Mallard's Edge, the new housing development on Rt. 82 next to the Mallard Creek Golf Course, asked for our help getting connected with families in need this Christmas. NECC connected them with Tammy Hammond at Midview Schools. Mallard's Edge residents filled the many requests for a family of six children. Columbia Schools asked us to fill five orders for children in two different families. Tammy then contacted me asking if we would be able to help with another 7 children. (This is the same family we helped last year.)

We also included a food basket for each family. The shelves in the Food Pantry were already pretty bare before these baskets were made up, but now they are almost empty. Would you please consider donating non-perishable food items to restock the shelves for the New Year? Canned fruits, veggies, cereal (with long Best by dates), pasta sauces, soups, peanut butter, jelly, cake mixes, boxed rices, potatoes, noodles, hygiene products, household cleaning products, etc.

If you have any questions about what is needed or if you know of someone in need, see Londa Blaine in the church office.  
 POLLY TALLOS

**Schild's IGA and customers....**

*Our thanks to IGA for putting us on the list to receive food for our pantry. Our thanks to the generous customers who bought the food that was given to us. We received 2 shopping carts full.*

**WEEK OF COMPASSION**

***"Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40***

North Eaton Christian Church will be collecting the Week of Compassion offering on February 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Week of Compassion is a special offering fund that offers assistance to people during times of great need. While this offering is always highlighted during the last week of February, we can donate to Week of Compassion during the rest of the year by writing "Week of Compassion" on the offering envelopes you'll find in the backs of the pews or with your regular giving.

*Week of Compassion is the mission fund* that contributes to disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development, and the promotion of mission opportunities.

This year, a few highlighted missions include aid to tornado survivors in Rowlett, Texas; women's' health screenings in Tanzania; and food, water, and medicine for refugees in Morocco, Jordan, Serbia, and the United States.

For a list of charities and emergency response projects, you can find more information at [weekofcompassion.org](http://weekofcompassion.org). In addition to making a donation on February 19<sup>th</sup> or February 26<sup>th</sup>, you can donate directly from the website.  
 Stephanie Tyler—Outreach Chair



Our **Combined ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** (Washington Ave., Christian Temple, NECC and First Congregational, UCC in Lorain) is Wednesday, **March 1st, 7:00 p.m.** at CHRISTIAN TEMPLE in Lorain.....950 West 5th Street.



This marks the beginning of the season of LENT. Lent is a time when Christian prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ..

***"Happy Birthday" to Samantha Butcher who celebrated her "1st" birthday this month, with love from grandparents, Chuck and Carol Butcher and cousin, Gabby.***

.....  
 • **WANEW Retreat.... 10 NECC Youth and 3 NECC Adults met with Franklin Circle, Washington Ave, and Westlake Christian Churches for a retreat at Camp Christian on the last weekend of January. We did the Micah Challenge. ????** Our theme was based on the Old Testament prophet Micah and his instructions on how God wants us to live. We started with Micah 6:8 and focused on ***Doing Justice, Loving Kindness, and Walking Humbly with God.***

• We spent time in study, fellowship and service. Part of our "free" time was spent helping the Camp Superintendent with cleaning projects around the grounds. We were able to practice loving kindness by helping him prepare the camp for campers who will attend camp this summer.

**UPDATE ON THE “BOKMAN” CHILDREN** (Information from a proud Mom!)

**Tyler’s** saxophone quartet (at the University of Oklahoma) won both their State and Regional College MTNA Competitions and will now head to Baltimore on March 18<sup>th</sup> for the National Championship. Their quartet is called the Stentorian Quartet and can be found on Youtube, just search Stentorian Quartet Recital for their live stream concert (scroll ahead to 12 minutes). Now they have the entire 45 minute performance memorized and that is quite difficult with a quartet. So proud of Tyler and the other musicians! What a great accomplishment during his last semester in Oklahoma. Good luck in Baltimore!



**Paige** arrived in Lyon, France on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. She will be studying at the University of Lyon for the next 4 ½ months, not returning home until June 10<sup>th</sup>. She is a student at Wright State University (in Dayton) working on a dual major in International Affairs and French, so this trip is really a dream come true for Paige. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers! So proud of the hard work and efforts which took her to France! It may be a bit pricey to pay for postage, but her address is:

**Paige Bokman**  
**USAC Lyon**  
**Salle d’animation CIEF**  
**Universite’ Lumie’re Lyon 2**  
**16 quai Claude Bernard**  
**69365 Lyon Cedex 07 France**

.....  
 : She also has a blog to check out her adventures  
 : and travels. The link is:  
 : THEIDIOTOVERSEAS.WORDPRESS.COM  
 :  
 .....



***HISTORIAN Update:*** *Jan Brooks, our church historian, has been busy reading and researching all kinds of notes, letters, newsletters, Disciple history and booklets to give us info on our ancestry. She will be writing some NECC History in the Rural Urban under EATON NEWS now and then. Be sure and watch for it. Jan has also taken a space on the enclosed bulletin board in the fellowship hall. She will be sharing interesting facts about who we are, where we came from, and who got us to where we are.*

**FREE Community Meal.....**You need to join us for the community meal!! We have so much fun interacting with our guests — those who come to dine and those who come to help. Members of the State Highway Patrol helped serve Tuesday night. *"I'll tell you, a handsome dude in uniform gets your attention!"*

We served 5 kinds of homemade soups with yeast rolls and gingerbread cake. Thank you to the good cooks who donated their specialty soup. Also, thanks to **Nancy’s Diner** in Grafton for donating a pot of chicken noodle soup. Our next meal is FEB. 28TH. Please join us for a delicious home-cooked meal. EVERYONE is well and encouraged to eat dinner with us, relax, and enjoy the evening with friends. You don’t even have to do the dishes!

PAT ABLES

**Color Your World**

Have you seen the beautiful chalk mural in the fellowship hall? The drawing, which took 20 hours to complete, was part of a fundraising project for our Capital Campaign created by Mary Jo Clark and features many elements from Old Testament stories (i.e., Creation, the “Tree of Life” and Noah’s ark).

As part of last September’s “Color Your World” art event, everyone was invited to make ONE line (a squiggle, swirl, check mark—whatever) on a large paper canvas laid out in the fellowship hall. After several weeks, as Mary Jo slept each evening, she began to envision one picture which could be made from each mark. Wanting the finished project to properly reflect its church setting, she was delighted to “see” one squiggle become an apple and another a snake; these comprised the idea for the “Tree of Life” found in Genesis. A check mark turned into Noah’s ark, another squiggle became a frolicking seal, a peace sign became a flower, a backwards “7” became a giraffe, and some loops turned into an elephant.



Mary Jo said the thing which delighted her most about the project was the interaction that happened among those who contributed their emotive lines, and among those who stood together and talked as they sipped coffee or juice, watching the mural unfold. “The children loved being around when I was drawing. Art can be a very good way to get children interested and engaged in learning. It’s an especially good way for children or adults with mental illness or developmental difficulties to express themselves.”

Mary Jo uses “intuitive perception” to create visual art within the themes of beauty and nature, with pencils, watercolors, chalk, etc. She believes that art is a way of helping people express emotions which they may not be able to say with words, and that everyone can create pictures that relay their feelings through something as simple as one mark on a paper.

Mary Jo won her first art award at age 6 and has been teaching art classes, using various drawing tools, in and for area Arts Councils for over 55 years. Her work has been displayed in several exhibitions, including local libraries. She said she’d like to continue to help NECC’s children, youth and adults learn to express themselves through art. Part of that includes learning about the tools available and how to use them. ***She’s offering to conduct classes for those interested, including working with the children on occasional Sundays. Please let her know if you’re interested in what she can offer.***

Mary Jo also hopes that if you enjoy looking at the mural, you’ll relay that compliment by making a contribution to the Capital Campaign.

Diana Tyler

**Leadership Seminar**

**We enjoyed a fun and productive Leadership Event on January 21st. Approximately 15 NECC members enjoyed some breakfast treats and then settled in to talk about the process of communication and where that could break down. We went through some exercises in which we had to draw a picture that was described (or describe a picture for others to draw); made and then untangled a “human knot”, a physical activity which encourages communication and cooperation; and, talked about leadership styles and how they work (or don’t) for various situations. Our thanks to Council Chair Stu Hicks and Pastor Chuck Butcher for putting this together, to Jim Lafollette and Carol Butcher for their help with the food, and to all who attended out of love for NECC and their continuing desire to make this congregation the best representative of Christian love it can be to, in and through this community.**

Diana Tyler

## A Tree Grows in North Eaton

Our thanks to the artists who designed and created the **tree in the fellowship hall** which represents unds in hand (available cash) for our Capital Campaign building improvements—a new roof, parking lot and other enhancements. This visual of our fundraising progress has been a labor of love by Mary Jo Clark, Lynn Edwards, Paula Krasnevich, and Diana Tyler.

The **leaf colors** represent the following amounts: **Gold** = \$25,000 **Silver** = \$10,000 **Red** = \$5,000  
**Orange** = \$1,000 **Yellow** = \$500 **Green** = \$100

There is \$139,000 in hand...with another \$22,700 in leaves (receipts) which will be added by the end of January. Our goal for Phase 1 of the project (roof and kitchen) is \$462,000. Our immediate goal is \$150,000 in pledges, to kick-start the needed loan for the roof. Thus far, we have received pledges amounting to \$109,988, with a few households yet to report.

How can you help? All pledges and donations of any amount are welcome. You can send a check to NECC (35895 Royalton Rd., Grafton, OH 44044) and/or donate online at our music video site ([bit.ly/2fvAdka](http://bit.ly/2fvAdka)).

OUR THANKS TO ALL individuals and groups who have pledged or donated, and/or created or attended fundraisers like the Youth Bake Sale at the Walkden Auction, the Art Experience, the Christmas Bazaar, our Lorain County Fair Booth, the George Butcher Memorial Gifts and so many more. (Upcoming fundraisers may include a Genealogy Workshop, an Internet/Social Media Navigation Workshop, a Prayer Workshop, and more Art Events. What skills and ideas can you lend?)

WE VALUE THE RELATIONSHIP WE SHARE AS WE TOUCH AND IMPROVE LIVES IN CHRIST'S NAME. THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVESTMENT IN NECC!!

**Your Capital Campaign Committee,** *Stu Hicks, Diana Tyler, Glenn Swartz, Melissa Folk, Jeff Hensley, Glen Thompson, Pastor Chuck*

P.S. Have you seen—and SHARED—our music video for the Capital Campaign? You'll find it on Facebook, on YouTube AND at [www.CrowdRise.com](http://www.CrowdRise.com) (our online donation site).

## Lorain County General Health District —ADULT HEALTH CLINIC With the merge of the Elyria Health Dept. and Lorain County there have been some changes and a focus on different health issues.

In **FEBRUARY** (here on the 13th) all seniors 55+ are urged to com and have your BLOOD PRESSURE checked at 9:00, 11:00 or 2:00. We will also check the accuracy of YOUR CUFF if you bring it with you. **ASK QUESTIONS. GET ANSWERS. IT'S FREE. IN MARCH** the focus will be on **DIABETES**—how to prevent it, etc. Come—ask questions, get answers. It's free—9:00, 11:00 and 2:00.

ANY QUESTIONS call: 440-567-4120.



## Financial Peace University

Approximately 76% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, regardless of their income. "Broke" has become the new normal in our nation, but this doesn't have to be true for you.



*Taking control of your money starts with a plan, and Financial Peace University is that plan!*

*Financial Peace University is financial expert Dave Ramsey's nine-week money class. You'll learn practical ways to pay off debt, overcome your fear of budgeting, and create a savings plan to replace retirement worries with financial peace.*

*More than 4.5 million people have changed their futures with Financial Peace University. You can too!*

North Eaton Christian Church will be offering Financial Peace University as part of our personal spiritual preparation during **Lent**. By taking financial worries out of our daily routine we will have more time to focus on the joy of Easter.

We will meet at NECC on **Thursdays beginning February 16 th for nine weeks**. Meetings will start at 7 PM and last about 1 ½ hours. Polly Tallos will be facilitating the class. If you are interested please see Polly Tallos or Melissa Folk. Or go directly to the North Eaton Christian Church registration page at <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1036838>

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**OUR YOUTH at work serving others and having fun doing it!**.....Over Christmas Break, while most students were lounging on the couch watching videos or playing X-box, our Youth took some vacation time to serve others. On Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 11 youth and adults headed down to the Cleveland Christian Home to help them dismantle their Santa Shop. Through the month of December one of their meeting rooms is full of presents for their residents and others that they help through their counseling programs. Even after hundreds of clients, social workers and CCH staff going through to pick out Christmas presents there are still lots of items – toys, clothes, household items – left to be moved from the meeting room into storage. All the items have been donated by local churches and businesses to be used by CCH to help the residents and local community. Throughout the year social workers and clients will have the opportunity to request items out of the storage room.

We moved boxes of sweatshirts, socks, hats and gloves, puzzles, art supplies, toys, blankets, sheets sets, and so much more down the long hallway from one end of the home to the other. Karl Tallos, Gabby Ford, Jolee Mitchell and John Sizemore filled boxes at one end of the home, loaded them onto carts or carried them down the long dark hallway through the 'dungeon' to the storage room where Dean Galvin, with friends Zach and David, received the full boxes and unloaded them on to the shelves. Erik Tallos was also loading and moving boxes but he had the extra task of moving the shelves we emptied in the meeting room, down to the store room where they were then refilled.

I think CCH Staff member, David was surprised we got so much done in just 2 hours. It may not seem like a big deal to move items from one room to another but by us serving in that way, the staff of CCH was able to focus their attention on the needs of their residents rather than being stuck in the basement away from the residents.

*Thank you to Robin Galvin and Carol Butcher for driving and chaperoning.*

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