

The News of National City

Our 80th Year: *Representing Disciples' hopes for a great church with far-reaching influence*

– R.A. Long

September 2010

Issue X Vol. 9

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Spirit

The season of 100-degree temperatures is behind us. Praise God! The seasonal shifts from summer to fall are upon us. As children return to school and the 111th Congress returns to its 2nd Session, National City Christian Church begins its autumn ministries here on Thomas Circle.

Spirit Sunday!

On Sunday, September 12, Dr. Stephen Gentle is preaching the message, “A Christian For All Seasons.” How do you grow spiritually in all the seasons of your life – in a dry season or a fruitful one? In a season of struggle or success? In a time of tremendous energy or a time of great weariness? All of these are God’s seasons for your life. The question is this: How can you grow spiritually in every one of them – no matter what “season” you are living in? Bring a friend to join with you in worship on this day and read Ecclesiastes 3 to prepare.

Sundaes on Sunday

Following the 11 a.m. Traditional and Hispanic services, all are invited to the plaza between the Campbell Building and the Sanctuary for make-your-own ice cream sundaes. Special jazz music, ice cream toppings, and the Spirit-filled joyousness of fellowship will festively launch our fall season.

All Church Picnic on Saturday, September 11

All are invited for an afternoon of fun at the church picnic on Saturday, September 11, from 3 p.m. to dark at Glencarlyn Park in Arlington, Virginia. Bring Frisbees, footballs, soccer balls, horseshoes, and creek shoes and enjoy the jungle gym and sheltered space at the park. Plan to bring a food item to share that will feed 8-10 people. A flier is available in the Atrium and includes directions. Sign-up at the Atrium front desk. The picnic is sponsored by the Education Committee.

Yada Retreat

Young Adult Disciples in Action are meeting during this weekend for a spiritual retreat.. Please e-mail Kristi Beckwith Dane at welcometolondon@hotmail.com with your questions and to receive registration information.

“There is a time for every purpose under heaven...” and now is the time to nurture our spirit for fruitful living. Join us for Spirit Sunday and these other activities that enrich our life together.

“For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

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Gentle Reminder: New Beginnings @ National City

What a summer! I am so proud of the people of National City Christian Church. When most churches are in a summer slump, our members and friends were dedicating themselves to six weeks of two-hour small group sessions consisting of Bible study, prayer, and congregational analysis. All in all, we had 10 groups meet, eight during the week, and two weekend retreats. A tremendous amount of information has been shared and the small group leaders met on August 29, to begin to sort through it all...and to begin working on our Future Story. It is so wonderful to see all of the energy and passion that our people have for National City Christian Church.

Next steps: a first draft report will be shared with the General Board on Wednesday, September 17, and then reported to the Foundation on Friday, September 24. The General Board will meet again on Wednesday, October 6, to finalize this work and then it will be shared with the congregation on Sunday, October 10, culminating with its celebration at our 80th Anniversary on Sunday, October 17. We are so grateful to the small group participants who have given so generously of their time, energy, prayers, best thinking, and passion to this endeavor. National City is already experiencing “new beginnings!”

Nurture Your Spirit with “Five Practices”

Our fall emphasis for spiritual growth is *Five Practices of Fruitful Living*. This study provides an honest and practical guide to our spiritual journey. These five practices – to receive God's love, to love God in return, to grow in Christ, to serve others, and to give ourselves fully – as we attend to them and develop them, help us connect with God and become instruments of God's grace. By repeating and deepening these certain fundamental practices, we cooperate with God in our spiritual growth.

This excellent study will guide our Sunday morning worship services and *new* small groups, beginning Sunday, September 19. Pick up the book now and start reading ahead. *Five Practices of Fruitful Living*, Robert Schnase (Author), ISBN-13:978-1426708800. A limited number of books will be available for purchase in Hilda's Gift Shop in September.

NCCC Foundation Meeting September 24, in Baltimore, Maryland

The Board of Trustees will be meeting at the Maritime Conference Center in Baltimore, near the Baltimore-Washington airport, on Friday, September 24. This daylong meeting will focus on the implications of the new purpose statement for the Foundation. The Foundation is meeting in Baltimore to make the board more economically feasible to those who fly in from around the United States.

Looking ahead: 80th Anniversary and Super Sunday!

Save the Date: Sunday, October 17. Join the faithful on Sunday, October 17, at 10 a.m., when National City Christian Church will celebrate its 80th Anniversary on Thomas Circle. Special music...delicious brunch...and an all-church photo on the steps of National City. Great day. Once-in-a-lifetime party. Don't miss it!

As you can read, it is time to “fall back” into worship, spiritual growth, and church life. Make it a point to worship every Sunday at National City Christian Church as we pray and work for God's new beginnings within our life together!

– Stephen Gentle

The News of National City is a monthly publication.

Please submit articles for the October Newsletter by September 15
to Diana Morse at morsediana@comcast.net
or to Colleen Walsh at cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org



**Disciples Women
To Meet
on September 14**

National City's Fall Kick-Off for Disciples Women will be Tuesday, September 14, at 11 a.m. in the Music Suite.

Mary Ann Brown will be the speaker. Paula Engle will provide the devotional and Circle 1 will be the host.

All are invited and encouraged to bring a sandwich and stay for lunch after the meeting. A salad will be provided.

**Regional Disciples Women Meeting
on September 18**

A Regional Disciples Women (CWF) Fall Gathering will be held on Saturday, September 18, at University Christian Church from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Kitty Shaver will be the speaker and will talk about the East African Education Initiative. Registration forms are in the Atrium rack and must be returned by September 13.

General Board To Meet September 15

The General Board of National City Christian Church will meet on Wednesday, September 15, at 7 p.m. in Howland Center.

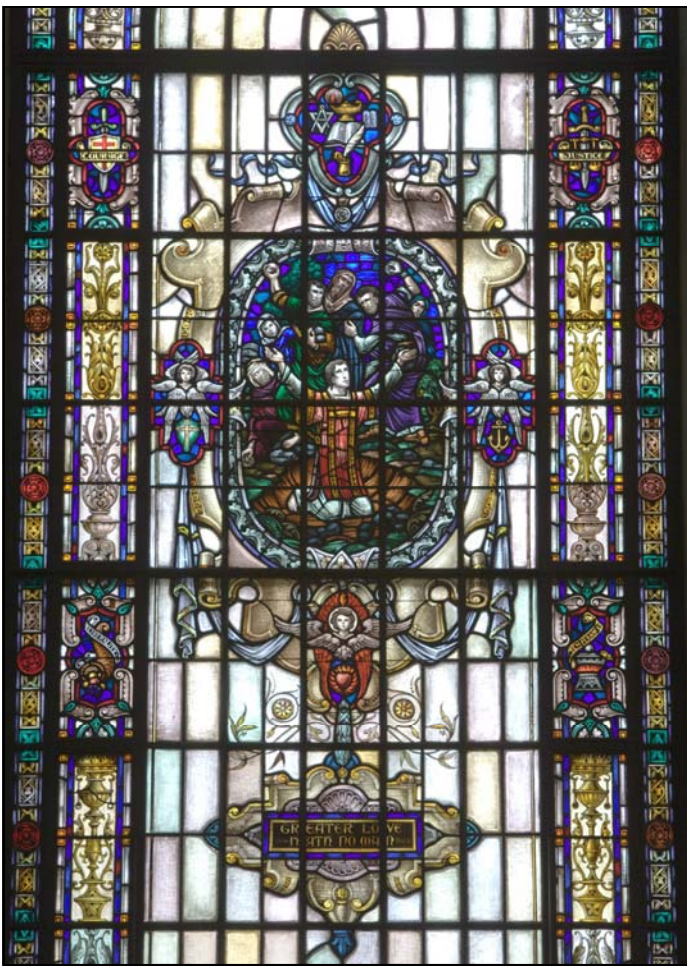
On the agenda is discussion on "New Beginnings" and a first draft of its possibilities.



D-Space Starts Back This Month

Yada (the young adults group) gets together for food, fellowship, worship, discussion, and prayer called Disciples Space (or D-Space). All backgrounds and opinions are definitely encouraged to join. Stay tuned to your mailbox for the date, time, and topic.

1 Charles Miller
4 Margaret Hulen
Noemi Mena
Peggy Washington
5 Keith Craig
Marcella Hill
Hilda Reynolds
10 Lucy Reed
12 Jorge Docabo
13 Caitlin Malone*
Sadye Sanders
14 Charles Smith
16 Marge Bennett
Deloris Ruddock
17 Sandra Day
18 Beth Kelley
Terry Yarbrough
19 Dennis Jones
21 Ellen Crowder
Miriam Cruz
22 John Sparkman
23 Ron Moser
27 Rick Bahr
Hal Dungan
Annavee Leslie
29 Noah Craig *
Lari Grubbs
*** Indicates child or student**



Detail of the Garfield Window.

A Special Tour Focused on the Architecture of John Russell Pope

Thirty architectural students from the University of Notre Dame have sent their appreciation for the architectural tour of the church by David McKinney, on August 17. The students were on a trip to study the architecture of John Russell Pope.

Dr. McKinney, a long-time member of National City, is an architectural historian.

Tours of the church are available every Sunday after the 11 a.m. service, meeting by the James A. Garfield stained glass window at the back of the Sanctuary on the pulpit side. Rick Bahr is the usual tour guide. Special tours may also be scheduled by calling the church office.

Visitors can also check our Web site www.nationalcitycc.org for a virtual walking tour of National City put together by Peter and Lynne Morgan and Eric Woodard.

Connector's Corner - Tip on Parking Near Church

The New Beginnings Report identified parking as potential issue for local visitors who attend NCCC. When you chat with local visitors, you can share a tip on good parking spots on Sunday morning: the ramp leading off Thomas Circle onto Massachussetts Avenue. When standing on the front steps of the church, this is the 2nd street to the right off the circle. Free parking is available there on Sundays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can also remind our local visitors that parking is available at Washington Plaza Hotel for \$4. (Voucher available at reception desk.)

Your Connector Team always appreciates your help in introducing us to local visitors and sharing information about them.

Thank you!

– Kathleen Burger, Chrys Lemon, Gary Lewis, Beverly Schacht, Kelly Swanson, and Alan Williams

In Sympathy

We extend our deepest condolences to Dr. William Brown and his family during this summer when two of his brothers passed away. Dr. Brown conducted the funeral service of his brother, Ed Brown, following his death on July 1. Shortly after this death, Winston Brown passed away. His services were held in Richmond, Virginia, on July 17, where Dr. Brown spoke. Please offer your prayers of support and words of encouragement with the William Brown family during this time of loss.

We also extend our deepest condolences to Will Lang and his family on the loss of his mother, Allegra (Boots) Lang, who passed away in July.

Musical News & Happenings

Come Raise Your Voice With a National City Choir

Do you sing in the shower? Do you sing along with the car radio on the Beltway? No matter if you're a trained singer or have never had a voice lesson in your life, there IS room for your voice in one of the NCCC choirs! Each Sunday, the 8:30 a.m. Gospel Choir and the 11 a.m. Sanctuary Choir lift their voices in praise and help to lead the congregation in worship. The NCCC choirs are made up of volunteers who have widely varying levels of formal musical training, but more importantly, have the deep desire to offer to God whatever musical gifts they've been given. The volunteers are supported and enhanced by our gifted soloists who have the musical training to assist in musical leadership and can offer vocal guidance in our rehearsals. What makes choirs truly good is the number of bodies present. ALL people who can sing are invited to join!

The Gospel Choir rehearses each Tuesday night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and then on Sunday warms up at 8 a.m. for the 8:30 a.m. service. The choir is directed by Valeria Foster. The musical focus of this group is the Black Gospel, African-American Spirituals, and Contemporary Gospel music, much of which is easy to

pick up by ear. Tuesday rehearsals kick off on September 2nd in the Music Suite.

The Sanctuary Choir rehearses primarily on Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. to 10:40 a.m., just prior to singing for the 11 a.m. service. There are occasional extra rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. if the choir prepares for a special occasion, such as the December *Lessons and Carols* and our 80th Anniversary services. While the focus of the music is rooted in the sacred classical choral tradition, which offers us challenging music, we work very carefully on making sure that everyone is secure on their own parts and has fun doing so. The Sanctuary Choir kick-off rehearsal, led by Charles Miller, is on Thursday, September 9, at 7:30 p.m., followed by a party, in the Music Suite.

Psalm 66 commands that we "Sing with joy to God, EVERYONE on earth." EVERYONE is invited to be a part of the NCCC choirs. Singing in a NCCC choir will allow you to find talents that you didn't know you had and expand and improve those you DO have. Come join in on a rehearsal, test the vocal waters, and raise your voice to the heavens!

– Charles Miller

Washington Sinfonietta Opens 2010-2011 Concert Season on September 11

The resident chamber orchestra of NCCC, *The Washington Sinfonietta*, will launch its new concert season with a concert program of Mozart and Beethoven on Saturday, September 11, at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and will be sold at the door on the evening of the concert. Led by maestro Joel Lazar, the 35-member ensemble will present four concerts in the coming year, including a Family Christmas concert in December and a concert featuring our pipe organ in February 2011. For more information on *The Washington Sinfonietta*, visit www.washingtonsinfonietta.com or the NCCC Web site.

Magical, Mystical, Musical Machine Noon Recitals Resume in September

For many hundreds of years the pipe organ has been a prominent musical instrument in houses of worship throughout the world. National City Christian Church is blessed to have one of the finest and most commanding organs in the city of Washington, D.C., and loves to share its majestic sounds not only with its worshippers on Sunday mornings but in musical presentations of all kinds for the entire Washington, D.C., community. Come hear the organ, played and demonstrated by concert organists from across

the nation on Friday afternoons from 12:15 to 1 p.m. In addition to hearing exciting, audience-friendly music, you will get to hear about how woodworking skills, computer programming, and metal-smithing techniques were used to build the NCCC organ and actually touch some of the organ's pipes. Featured organists in September:

September 10
Charles Miller
(NCCC Minister of Music)

September 17
Paul Skevington
(Organist of St. Luke's
Catholic Church, McLean,
Virginia)

September 24
Charles Miller

Regional Assembly Features Workshops, Dr. Sharon Watkins on October 2

The Christian Church Capital Area regional assembly will be on Saturday, October 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Universities at Shady Grove, 9630 Gudel-sky Drive, Bldg. II, Rockville, Maryland.

The morning features a presentation on regional transformation by Rev. Dr. Dick Hamm and Rev. Rick Powell; workshops on transformation; and regional church business.

The Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is the keynote speaker and will address the Assembly at 12:45 p.m. Dr. Watkins has been a missionary, a pastor, and an academic. She serves on the President's Advisory Council on Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and serves on the governing board of the National Council of Churches.

Afternoon workshops offered are: Being a Global Mission Church, Engaging in Outreach Mission Projects in Your Community, Soul Tsunami...Sink or Swim in the New Millennium Culture, How to Increase Income for Your Church Through Planned Giving. How Disciples History Impacts Our Understanding and Practice of Church and Theology, Providing Emotional and Spiritual Support to Your Pastor, and Understanding and Appreciating Our Generational Differences and Similarities.

Registration is \$40 and may be made online at www.cccadisciples.org, where more detailed information about the Assembly is provided. Lunch is \$15 and must be purchased in advance. You may register at the Assembly, but will not be able to purchase lunch.



Yada celebrates summer with Jazz in the Sculpture Garden and a birthday party. For more Yada news visit our Facebook page or the NCCC website at www.nationalcitycc.org.

Staff of National City Christian Church

Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor
Steven Moore, Associate Pastor
Noemi Mena, Pastor, Hispanic Ministries
Beverly Goines, Assistant Pastor
Charles Miller, Minister of Music
Morris Jackson, Building Superintendent
Michael Dula, Maintenance Assistant
Roy Hatton, Maintenance Assistant
Janice Glover, Housekeeping
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