

The News of National City

April 2011

Issue XI Vol. 4

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The Lenten Journey Continues

Easter is coming! Spring is in the air... but with the forecast for snow at the end of March reminds us that Easter is not here just yet. In April we continue our Lenten preparations with daily devotions, small group meetings, and sublime public worship experiences. Remembering the hymnist who wrote: "Lord, who throughout these 40 days for us did fast and pray, teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay," let us remain with Christ as we continue our annual pilgrimage to Calvary's cross and – ultimately – to Easter's glory.



Palm Sunday, April 17

"The church is full of hypocrites"

Rev. Steven Moore, preaching

Send an Easter card to a friend or a loved one, after worship, in the Atrium



Maundy Thursday, April 21

6:30 p.m. Sacrificial meal, Music Suite

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship, Howland Center



Good Friday, April 22

10 a.m. Wilfley Chapel open for prayer

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Communion in the Courtyard

7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service with the NCCC Sanctuary Choir and soloists featuring Gabriel Fauré's Requiem



Easter Sunday, April 24

7:30 a.m. Early Easter Worship Service

On the steps of National City Christian Church, featuring the NCCC Gospel Choir
Music on the steps and courtyard reception following

11 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

"What does the Resurrection mean to you and me?"

Dr. Stephen Gentle, preaching

Music featuring the Sanctuary choir, brass quintet, timpani and organ.

How Well Do You Know Your Church Family?~

Question: How well do you know your church family?

With April 15 tax deadline looming, which members of our church family are professionally involved in taxes? Answers on page 2.

Your Connector Team

– Barbara Boward, Kelly Swanson, Loretta Tate, Kathleen Burger, Beverly Schacht,
Kathleen Simpson, Alan Williams

How Well Do You Know Your Church Family?



Answer One:

Alan Williams works as a tax attorney for the U.S. government. He was raised in Hammond, Indiana, and has been part of NCCC family since November 2008. He is team leader of the Share God's Love group and serves as well on the Governance Task Force and as a deacon, connector, and member of YADA.

Answer Two:



Sara Ann Ketchum is a line attorney with the Appellate Section of the Tax Division of the Department of Justice. They represent the IRS in civil appellate proceedings (and the United States in tax-related civil appellate proceedings) – basically when one party tries to get a trial court's decision overturned.

Being a lawyer is Sara's second profession. She has a PhD in philosophy and taught philosophy – primarily applied ethics and political philosophy, at several colleges. On her first sabbatical, she had a fellowship at Harvard Law School and got hooked. She returned to school at Harvard Law School and after graduation, in 1991, came to DC to work for the Department of Justice. She came to NCCC on Easter 1992 and joined soon afterwards.

She has served as a deacon and deaconess and has twice served as chair of the deaconesses. She is active in Disciples Women (the Betty Mills group) and the knitting group (she knits shawls and baby blankets). A photo of Sara with the knitting group is on page 5.

Sara grew up in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, where her father was a marine ecologist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Welcome to New Member:

Beau Underwood



Our church welcomes Beau Underwood to its church family.

Beau comes to us from Chicago, Illinois. He was raised in Princeton, Illinois, where his whole family was active in the local Disciples congregation. He graduated from Eureka College and completed a Master of Divinity and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Chicago.

Beau serves on the board of directors for the Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He is currently the Partnership and Outreach Coordinator for Faith in Public Life here in Washington, D.C.

Music News & Events

National City Cited as a Top Venue for Concerts

The March 17th issue of the DC Examiner cites National City Christian Church as a top venue for concerts in DC. The author, Patrick McCoy, specifically mentions the great performing arts programming, which appeals to variety of people and ages.

One of the goals of New Beginnings report was to have NCCC become a focus of Music/Arts in MidCity Community. Thanks to Charles Miller, our Minister of Music!



Welcome to New Sanctuary Choir Members

The NCCC Sanctuary Choir is very pleased to have welcomed two new singers early in March. **Sterling Washington**, who sang under Lon Schreiber's direction, has returned as the choir's new tenor section leader/soloist. A long-time resident of Washington, D.C., Sterling works as a grant writer and projects coordinator at the International Federation of Black Prides and studies voice privately here in D.C. **Timothy Edmonds** is a new volunteer singer in the tenor section.

Good Friday Service

To Feature Gabriel Fauré's Beloved *Requiem*

Save the date and plan ahead to attend the Good Friday service on **April 22 at 7:30 p.m.** The NCCC Sanctuary Choir and soloists Alia Waheed and Jarrod Lee will lead a service which will include French composer Gabriel Fauré's well-known and beloved *Requiem*. Readings from the Passion Story and meditations upon the Requiem texts will be interwoven with the sections of Fauré's masterwork. Please join us for this moving and dramatic service and hear one of the great mystical masterpieces on this most solemn and holy day.

Magical, Mystical, Musical Machine Noon Recital and Demonstration Series

Fridays from 12:15-1 p.m. FREE

April 1

NO RECITAL

(This is not an April Fool's prank!)

April 8

Charles Miller

National City Christian Church

April 15

Dr. Jonathan Biggers

Binghamton University, New York

April 22

Charles Miller

April 29

Charles Miller



Yada Lenten Studies During D-Space - All Are Welcome

Yada welcomes the entire church to join in a small group study for the Lenten season. We will be studying Jesus' seven "I am" statements, found in the Gospel of John. Each week we'll explore one of the statements through scripture, discussion, and prayer. We meet in Hilda's gift shop at 7 p.m. every Tuesday. Come a bit earlier for snacks and socializing. For more information please contact Ann at aneeriemer@gmail.com.

Yada Retreat To Be Held April 8-10

April 8-10 the Young Adults are headed out of town. Our beloved Dr. Peter Morgan is leading us through "Leader as Shaman: Playing, Praying, and Probing." The retreat is a great way to get to know other young adults and take a break from the craziness of D.C. The cost is \$75. (Some have asked – Yada is a community of 20's and 30's seeking to know God and know each other.) Forms are available online and from the Yada Support Team - Kristi, Trevor, Kathleen, Katie, Ann, and Beverly.



Knitting Ministry at Work

Sara Ketchum, Kathryn Kluckhohn, Sushila Maru, and Byron Cotton share a knitting/crochet ministry at NCCC. Knitted blankets are given to newborn babies at church. All are welcome to join. The group meets the first Sunday of each month, at 10 a.m. in Hilda's Gift Shop. If you have questions, contact Sara at s.a.ketchum@gmail.com.

Hilda's Fair Trade Gift & Coffee Shop



Volunteers Needed on Sundays at Hilda's Gift Shop

Hilda's Gift Shop needs "ready reserve" volunteers, who can work occasionally on Sunday mornings when the regular volunteers are out of town. Gift Shop is open Sunday from 10-11 a.m. and 12-1 p.m. Training is provided. Those interested may contact Miriam Gentle at miriam.gentle@gmail.com.

Chair Reupholstry Project Nears Completion

Have you noticed a dramatic change in color in the Atrium and the Music Suite over the past several weeks?

A team of 18 NCCC volunteers, very ably orchestrated by Barbara Collins, have re-upholstered 105 of the church's 125 "music" chairs that are used throughout our buildings. The chairs were purchased from the Wenger Company (a company that specializes in band/orchestra equipment) in 1981 and have seen much wear

and tear over the years. Many of the chairs were horribly ripped and embarrassingly dirty. These 18 persons went well above and beyond the call of duty to work on this time-consuming process and help to beautify God's house.

Next time you see or sit on a chair, raise a thank you in your heart to those who made this project possible. Thank you, also, to the many donors whose chair sponsorship contributions helped us purchase fabric and foam. What a beautiful blessing!

– Charles Miller

The News of National City is a monthly publication.

Please submit articles for the May Newsletter by April 15 to Diana Morse at morsediana@comcast.net

or to Colleen Walsh at cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org

Mark Your Calendars



Disciples Women To Meet April 5

Disciples Women will hold their monthly general meeting on Tuesday, April 5, at 11 a.m. in the Music Suite. Speaker will be Diana Morse on the theme of the year: Women of God. Emma King will lead the worship.

All are welcome to attend. Bring a sandwich and stay for lunch. Circle 2 will provide an additional snack.

Make a Difference:

Getting the Church and Grounds Ready for Easter

We'll have two Saturday opportunities to get together to get the church ready for Easter. You can sign up in the Atrium for one or both days. Hours are from 9 a.m. to noon.

The first opportunity is on Saturday, April 9, to rake, weed, and landscape our lawn and flower beds.

The second opportunity is on Saturday, April 16, to dust, clean, and polish the sanctuary. We'll also be doing landscape work again that day.

For more information, contact Rick Mohn, Diana Morse, Barbara Collins, or Gary Lewis.

Congregational Update and Luncheon Scheduled for Sunday, April 10

A congregational update and luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, April 10, in Scott Hall.

A signup sheet is available in the Atrium or by calling the church at 202-232-0323.

Stop in the Atrium on Palm Sunday for Easter Cards

Easter cards will be available in the Atrium on Palm Sunday, April 17, for members of our church to sign and mail to friends and family. Thanks to Colleen Walsh for sharing her artistic talents in designing these cards!

April Birthdays

1	Jane Strotman	18	James Arterberry
2	Kathy Burger	21	John Arterberry
3	Amy Ward	22	Sue Frost
4	Andrew Ashton*	23	Darrell Ertzberger
6	Gary Lewis		Martha Thompkins
7	Chieko Cook	25	CT Turner
	Charles Hickman	28	Verdia Haywood
8	Kent Woods		Glen Kruse
9	Judith Lotz	30	Eric Hedlund
10	Susan Baughman		

*Denotes child

In Sympathy

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Bill and Debbie Stewart and their family on the death of Bill's father, Dale Stewart, who died on March 19 in Dover, Delaware.

Memorial Service for Howard Sears To Be Held April 3

A memorial service for long-time member Howard Sears will be held in Phillips Chapel at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 3. A reception will follow in the Atrium.

Mr. Sears died on February 26 at the age of 91. He had been an elder, an usher, and was active in the Sunday school program for adults.

He and his wife Nina were long-time members of National City. They were married in the church in 1946. He and Mrs. Sears, who died in 2009, have three children – Treva, Gregory, and Nancy.

Memorial Service Scheduled for April 17 for Pauline Holt Wilson

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. at National City on Palm Sunday, April 17, for long-time member Pauline Holt Wilson, followed by inurnment in the Columbarium.

Pauline died at the age of 94 on November 12 in Richmond, Virginia. A memorial service was held on November 16 at Westminster Canterbury, where she lived.

Pauline and Chester Holt were married at National City in 1940, raised their four children in the D.C. area, and were active members of National City. They moved to Richmond, Virginia, in 1987. Chester Holt died in 2003. In December 2004 Pauline married the Rev. James Wilson, a long-time family friend who had also recently lost his spouse.

Survivors include her husband, four children, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Gentle Reminder: Something Moore

On Wednesday, March 23, we received the bittersweet news from Rev. Steven Moore:

“It is with mixed emotions that I submit my letter of resignation to you. I have accepted a call to be the Senior Minister of Lafayette Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Lafayette, California. I cannot thank you enough for the opportunity to serve you as I have learned and grown so much during my time here. I have formed wonderful relationships with so many of you and please know I will miss you. Yet, there comes a time when God pushes us to something new. God is calling National City to a New Beginning and it is time for me to experience a New Beginning as well.”

It is with mixed emotions that we receive the news about Rev. Moore’s call to ministry at Lafayette, California. Since Rev. Moore’s beginning with us in January, 2008, he has given us “something Moore” than the ministry of development and stewardship for which we brought him to National City. That “something Moore” was not only a deep friendship to many of us, but a great clarity of thought as we met challenge after challenge

over these last three years. Indeed, we have been so blessed by his ministry at National City Christian Church -- as a congregation and a Foundation. We are so grateful for the enormous job he has done in dealing with the internal financial issues, and the gifts and graces that he has brought to our facilities operations, staffing challenges, and leasing agreements. None of this was anticipated nor expected of him, but using his accounting and business background he has brought to National City a tremendous service. I am personally grateful to Rev. Moore, for his collegial relationship and care, to me and so many of us at National City.

We wish for him the very best that God can give as he makes this transition in ministry. We know that the congregation at Lafayette will be richly blessed by him and his ministry with them. On May 22, we will show our appreciation to him with a congregation luncheon on his last Sunday here. For now, please share with Rev. Moore your words of encouragement and appreciation.

– Stephen Gentle

Strategic Plan Update

In our strategic plan, our goal is for National City to be a vital and vibrant congregation whose goal is to create a Christ-centered community for people of all ages. The plan comes from the work of the church during the “New Beginnings” process we carried out last year.

Here are a few highlights, three months into the plan:

- We are recognizing first-time and second-time local visitors with gift bags – spiritual literature, bookmarks, info about National City, and gift cards from local businesses.
- We’re studying possibilities for new small groups, reaching both members and the community around us.
- We’re putting out “lawn signs” on our Lenten sermon topics to attract interest in the community.
- We’re working toward our first “annual planning event” on June 4 to provide better program coordination.
- We’ve formed a governance task force to (1) streamline our general board, (2) enhance the congregation’s sense of being regularly consulted, and (3) shift the time and energy of members from governance to mission. Steven Baines chairs this task of separating governance from mission in our bylaws.
- Other work underway includes using the recent gifts and skills survey, developing a lay leadership handbook, and using a new budget process to help develop the budget earlier in the year, based on the annual planning event results.