

The News of National City

August 2011

Issue XI Vol. 8

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Summer Preaching Series: Distinguished Preachers

The worship committee is excited to announce a new emphasis for our summer worship, the Distinguished Preacher Series. Enjoy four Sundays of worship in August as we hear leaders – local and national – share the good news of God's love at Thomas Circle. Each has been selected because of their preaching gifts. Invite your loved ones and friends to join us for this very special summer series.



August 7 - Rev. Beau Underwood

Rev. Beau Underwood is the Partnership and Outreach Coordinator at Faith in Public Life, which is a strategy center advancing faith in the public square as a positive and unifying force for justice, compassion, and the common good. An Illinois native, he is a graduate of Eureka College (B.A.) and the University of Chicago (M.Div/M.P.P.), where he was a Disciples Divinity House Scholar. An ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Rev. Underwood currently serves on the Board of Directors for Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM) and was previously the moderator of the denomination's Young Adult Commission.

August 14 - Rev. Michael Livingston

Ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Rev. Michael Livingston has served as pastor of churches in Los Angeles and New York; as director of admissions and later as campus pastor and director of the chapel at his alma mater, Princeton Theological Seminary; as Executive Director of the International Council of Community Churches; and has served on the boards of several denominational, interfaith, and community organizations focused on social justice. Rev. Livingston is also a writer and editor with numerous publications, articles, and book chapters to his credit. He currently serves as director of the Poverty Initiative of the National Council of Churches.



August 21 - Rev. Barbara Blaisdell

Rev. Barbara Blaisdell, a graduate of Ball State University and of Christian Theological Seminary, has served as a local church pastor since 1980, when she began as a seminary student pastor in Texas. She was the first female pastor at Central Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, and has also served as the senior minister to churches in California and Hawaii. The author of several published sermons and articles and co-author of *Theology of Preaching* with Scott Black Johnson and Ron Allen, Rev. Blaisdell has also served as adjunct professor of preaching at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. She is currently working as a contributing author on *Feasting on the Gospels*, a follow-up to *Feasting on the Word*, to which she also contributed.



August 28: Rev. Dr. Bob Hill

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and raised in Texas, Dr. Robert Lee Hill has served since 1987 as Senior Minister of the Community Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri, with the distinction of being called to the position as the youngest senior minister in the congregation's 119-year history. Before being called to Community in 1985 as associate minister, Bob worked with Project Return, Inc., a non-profit agency working with ex-prisoners and their families in Nashville, Tennessee, and at All Peoples Christian Center in south central Los Angeles, where he was ordained in 1981. He has spoken as a keynoter and guest preacher at assemblies, seminars, retreats, regional and national conferences, seminaries, and worship services across the United States, including ecumenical and interfaith venues. Bob has served on the board of several Kansas City community organizations, where he has received many awards for his work. He is a co-host of the renowned Sunday morning radio call-in show, "Religion on the Line," and the author or editor of eight books on the church and its work.



Gentle Reminder

Summer Preaching, General Assembling, and Leader Training

The dog days of summer are officially upon us. One hundred degree (plus) weather has made some of us long nostalgically for the snowpocalypse of 2010. Well, not really! As we look to the rest of the summer, we welcome to the pulpit four distinguished preachers in August. While I will not be away for all of August, my family and I do look forward to a seven day trip to upstate New York to enjoy our oldest son's performance in a summer stock musical, "Pirates of Penzance." Read about the inspirational summer preachers in this month's National City News front page.

The General Assembly meeting in Nashville in July was a wonderful event. National City was represented by a festive booth in the exhibit hall – with occasional harp music shared live by our resident harpist – and nearly a dozen church members attending the beautiful worship experiences and meaningful workshops. Read about the highlights of this biennial event on page four. And if you are reading "online," you can click on the links and read the full article from the Disciples News Service.

Finally, here is an opportunity for significant leadership training this next nine months. I would like for 12 persons to think seriously about spending two semesters – 13 classes each – in the fall and spring to explore Christian

leadership with me. The study program is called "Faith Leaders" and we will explore together in depth Christian spirituality, prayer, spiritual gifts, discerning God's will, and putting together a unique plan for Christian living. This will be a significant commitment for us as a church, but it will result in leaders who are excited about ministry, and who are not afraid to lead with the transforming power of God in their lives, in the church, and in the world. If this sounds like something that you may be interested in, contact Barbara Collins at barbarafcollins@hotmail.com.

Finally, the U.S. Attorney's office has informed us that the trial of United States v. Reynolds will begin August 1. Your prayers are welcomed – for me, the staff, and leaders of National City – as well as those who are involved in the proceedings. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we bring to a close a long, complicated chapter... and look to the new thing that God is already doing among us and through us at National City.

Stay safe in your travels. And as always, I look forward to seeing you in worship when you are not traveling. God's summer blessings to you and yours.

– Stephen Gentle



"The Green Thumbs"

Have you noticed the impatiens, marigolds, sweet potatoes, and sunflowers in our flower beds?

Our gardeners – which include Barbara Boward, Doug and Chieko Cook, Barbara Collins, Byron Cotton, Paula Engle, Diana Morse, Kathleen Simpson, and David Tyson – have been planting and weeding. Because of their busy schedules, they each put in an hour when they can and the more "thumbs" working in the garden the better.

If you have a half hour, here's what you can do:

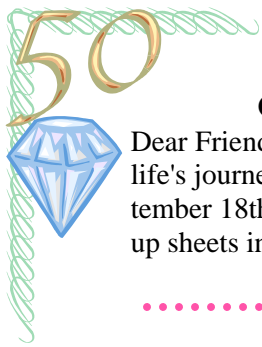
1. Continue watering the flowers
2. Continue weeding
3. Choose a spot, plant some flowers, and make a difference.

Also notice Barbara Boward's African Violets on the Atrium second floor.

All work is appreciated - we are a team supporting each other.

For more information contact Barbara Collins at barbarafcollins@hotmail.com.

From Classroom to Courtyard – Byron Cotton's sunflowers started as seedlings in his classroom. Most went home with his students, but National City got some "leftovers" that Byron has been nurturing. One of Byron's red sunflowers is now taller than he is (with a little height help from the flower box!).



News & Events

Come Celebrate with Peter and Lynne Morgan

Dear Friends of National City: You have become very significant in our life's journey. We want to say "thank you" by treating you to lunch on September 18th as we celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Atrium toward the end of August.

– Peter and Lynne Morgan

Congratulations!

Lauren and Polly He were featured on the front page of the Kids Post section in the Washington Post on Sunday, July 17. The article, "Where Does Food Come From?," promoted local farmers markets, including Freshfarm Market on Vermont Avenue.

Greg Kubiak received the Harmony Award at the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington's Spring Affair gala in May at the Grand Hyatt Washington. The gala is the largest fundraiser for the chorus and netted \$186,000 for the chorus and its youth outreach program.

Lift Your Voice in the NCCC Summer Choir

The members of the sanctuary choir will return to our worship services in August and they, along with our minister of music, would like to invite any and all singers to join them in their musical praise. If you love to sing but are not able to sing with the choir on a regular basis, now is your chance to add your voice! All ages and levels of musical experience welcome. During the month of August, the choir will meet in the music suite at 10 a.m. to quickly learn a very easy anthem and a choral introit which will be sung at the 11 a.m. service. Please contact Charles Miller at cmiller@nationalcitycc.org or at 202-797-0103 if you would like to join. Sing with us only one Sunday or join us for two or more. We would LOVE to have you with us!!

Friday Noon-time Organ Recitals Resume in August

In years past, the weekly organ recital series has taken the months of July and August off, but due to popular demand, and our interest in keeping this ministry available to our many summer tourists, the Friday noon-time recitals begin again on August 5th. Please join us for these FREE performances on our celebrated pipe organ!

August 5

Francis Kim

Recent graduate of the American Guild of Organists Potomac Organ Institute and future student at Manhattan School of Music, New York

August 12

Julien Girard

Concert organist and music teacher from Paris, France

August 19

Charles Miller

NCCC resident organist

August 26

Anthony Rispo

Undergraduate organ student from the Cleveland Institute of Music, Ohio

August Birthdays

- 1 Wesley Gentle
- Dorothy Johnson
- Zachary O'Sullivan*
- 3 Eddie Franklin
- Martha Jane Smith
- 4 Steven Baines
- 5 Jamal Gwathney
- 7 Debbie Stewart
- 9 Esther Tyson
- 10 Monte Hillis
- Charles Richardson
- Allison Shepard
- 14 Kristi Beckwith Dane
- Warren Brooks
- Shana Pereira
- 17 Kathryn Farley
- 18 Roger Webb
- 22 Tamara Webb
- Janice Glover
- 23 John Graeber
- 24 Trevor Dane
- Cole Murphy
- 25 Lisa Arterberry
- 26 Robin Schacht
- 29 Richard Waite
- 30 Michelle Gutrick
- Colleen Walsh
- 31 Mia Skelly*

* indicates student or child

For any changes or additions please contact Kathy Swihart at kswihart@nationalcitycc.org

The News of National City is a monthly publication. Please submit articles for the September Newsletter by August 15 to Diana Morse at morsediana@comcast.net or to Colleen Walsh at cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org

News from the General Assembly



Thousands of Disciples traveled to Nashville to attend the biennial General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). If you have internet access, go to <http://www.disciples.org/ga/> for the videos of the worship services,

the business docket, and other interesting resources. Below are just some of the highlights. And if you are reading this “online,” click the underlined text for a link to the longer article.

Disciples Tell of God’s Wholeness At Opening Worship – The 2011 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada opened with a rousing worship highlighting the denomination’s commitment to building wholeness in a fragmented world.

Watkins reelected as General Minister and President – Delegates to the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) voted overwhelmingly to reelect General Minister and President Sharon E. Watkins for a second six-year term.

Soong-Chan Rah Challenges Disciples to Learn From the Changing Face of Christianity – Soong-Chan Rah challenged a General Assembly audience to break free from stagnation and captivity and recognize the

“changing face of Christianity” in Tuesday’s “Be the Change” lecture at the General Assembly.

Youth ministry the focus of spirit-filled discussion – Youth ministers from across North America gathered to compare ministries, share resources, make new friends and associates, and deepen their mission and skills.

Haiti - a people, a country, full of experience and living in Jesus – Patrick Villier, the president of the ecumenical council of 8,000 Haitian Churches, presented the “Be the Change” lecture on Tuesday afternoon.

Malachi - HIV/AIDS Testing Bus Debuts at 2011 General Assembly – Just as the “Tell It!” assembly theme encouraged attendees to get out of their churches and take the gospel message out to their communities, one Disciple is taking a message of hope and HIV/AIDS education to communities around the nation.

Disciples “Tell It” Through Their Actions – Some Disciples are “Telling It” and “Showing It” as volunteers have been putting their faith into action. Volunteers had several opportunities to participate in the projects of their choice while attending the assembly.

Are You Afraid of Being Saved? – Dr. Fred Craddock began his talk lamenting that the economic recession has not simply created a deficit of wealth, but a deficit of words as well. Dr. Craddock asked rhetorically if Disciples felt uncomfortable with referring to themselves as “saved?” He admitted it’s a word you won’t find used very often in the lexicon of many Disciples.

Good News from Our Neighbors



Rev. Noemi Mena has been ministering with our neighbors at the Norwood on N street. On July 25, she received this wonderful news from Silvia Inéz Salazar:

"Today is a special day for Latino tenants in D.C. Since 2005, we at the Norwood apartment building in Logan Circle have been working to improve living conditions in our building...The city has agreed to fund \$9.7 million towards the purchase of our building as affordable housing. Earlier today we signed the closing papers.

The children and mothers in my building have grown into powerful leaders that express themselves through art, Mayan culture, and theater.

As a brain tumor survivor that had to undergo treatment and recovery, I understand why I had to live to see a day like today when the efforts of my community would result in positive change."