

The News of National City

December 2011 Issue XI Vol. 12

Inside This Issue:	
Gentle Reminder	2
Congregational News	2-4
Upcoming Events	3
Administrative Report	4



The Gift of Music

One of the most blessed things about the month of December is the amazing amount of music that is associated with the holidays. The minute Thanksgiving is over, Advent arrives and a dizzying and tempting array of special worship services and concerts, centered on the amazing story of the birth of Christ, appear before us. We hope that you will join us for as many of the services and concerts listed here as you can and that your hearts will be filled with Christmas joy through the remarkable gift of music!

Caroling on the Circles

The Annual Congregational Christmas Caroling Party Sunday, December 4 – 12:30-3:30 p.m.

The congregation is invited to join the NCCC Sanctuary Choir to go caroling for the Logan Circle Holiday Open House and at Thomas Circle Residences following the morning worship services.

Lunch will be served in the Music Suite prior to caroling and we'll end our singing with cookies and hot cocoa.

All members and friends are welcome to join in the merriment!



Worship Services

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 11 – 11 a.m. Worship Service

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas-tide. The story of the birth of Christ told in scripture and music, patterned after the traditional King's College, Cambridge service, with the Sanctuary Choir, organ, chamber orchestra, and harp. Members of the congregation will offer the readings. The special music for this service is generously supported with gifts received in honor of the 50th anniversary celebration of Peter and Lynne Morgan.

Friday, December 24 – 7:30 p.m.

Festive Christmas Eve Service with Candlelight and Carols. The celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, begins at 7 p.m. with a festive prelude for organ, harp, instrumentalists, and our Sanctuary Choir and soloists. The 7:30 p.m. communion service, in luminous candlelight, will recount the miraculous Christmas story through Holy Scripture and the singing of glorious carols, including Franz Gruber's original classical guitar accompaniment of "Silent Night."

Friday Noon-Time Pipe Organ Recitals at 12:15 p.m.

December 2 - Stephen Kalnoske (former assistant organist of NCCC)

Gaston Dethier's "Variations on *Adeste Fidelis*" and improvisations on beloved Christmas carols

December 9 - Eugene Lavery (Cathedral Church of St. John Wilmington, Delaware)

Christmas music by John Rutter, Alfred Hollins, Olivier Messiaen, and Henri Mulet

December 16 - Stephen Harouff (Faith Presbyterian Church Baltimore, Maryland)

December 23 - Charles Miller (National City Christian Church)

Christmas carol arrangements by Marcel Dupré, J.S. Bach, David Cherwien, and G.F. Handel

Special Holiday Concerts

Sunday, December 11 – 3 p.m.

Washington Sinfonietta: Community Christmas Concert

Music and fun for all ages, including Haydn's participatory *Toy Symphony*, and Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*. General admission is \$20 per person, and \$15 for students 19 and under

Saturday, December 17 – 4 p.m.

Children's Chorus of Washington "A Nordic Holiday" Concert

CCW's Bel Canto, Concert, and Young Men's choruses and members of the Washington Symphonic Brass sing a wonderful array of holiday music from Scandinavian countries. Tickets are \$50 (front row seating); \$25 (adult, general seating); \$10 (students 12 and younger)

Sunday, December 18 – 4 p.m.

Children's Chorus of Washington "A Nordic Holiday" Concert

CCW's Treble, Concert, and Young Men's choruses and members of the Washington Symphonic Brass sing a wonderful array of holiday music from Scandinavian countries. Tickets are \$50 (front row seating); \$25 (adult, general seating); \$10 (students 12 and younger)

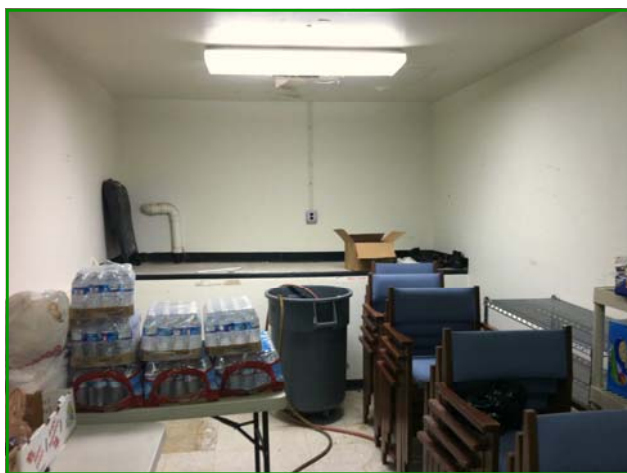
Gentle Reminder: Tell of *The Yuletide Treasure*

In this season at National City Christian Church, we have more opportunities than ever to share blessings with others. You can read about some of these opportunities in this month's *News*: from sharing toys with children whose parent is incarcerated, or offering food for those who receive from our weekly food pantry, or putting together care packages for the homeless, to collecting coats for those in need in the Town of Riverdale. This is the season to share of yuletide treasure, because we have experienced *The yuletide treasure* in Jesus Christ. Jesus is not only the "reason for the season," but the "cause for our caring" and the "ground of our giving." It is Jesus who was given to us so that we would be inspired to share in the same generous way with others.

Thank you for your giving in this season and throughout the year. National City Christian Church is a stronger, more vibrant witness because of your thoughtfulness and generosity. As we anticipate the conclusion of 2011, your continued giving – in kind and in finances – makes all the difference. Because our church is still challenged in this economy, your special monetary gift at the end of the year is very, very helpful.

From the leaders and staff of National City Christian Church, thank you. And may you have a meaningful season of Advent and Christmas as we continue to tell of *The yuletide treasure*, which is Christ, the Lord.

With deep appreciation,
– Stephen Gentle



Steve Baines starts the makeover

The back of the Food Pantry before the Makeover

Food Pantry: Extreme Makeover 2011

Since the well-known TV show "Extreme Makeover" was completely booked with other projects this fall, members and staff took paint brushes, floor scrubbers, and all manner of tools into their own hands to complete a major transformation of one of this church's most active and visible ministries – our Food Pantry. For many years now, a team of six to eight workers have been tirelessly collecting, bagging, and distributing ready-to-eat food to the city's homeless and hungry, and have been doing so in a rather dated, worn, tired, and somewhat inefficient space. In order to make their space function better, have more production area, and simply be an inviting and pride-inducing room in which to work, the Food Pantry was renovated on November 16-19, with newly painted ceiling and walls, new floor and wall shelving units, a new desk, garbage bins, and bulletin board space. Bill Travis personalized the room by painting the words of Christ from Matthew 25:35 on the wall: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Future plans, as funds become available, are to add more shelving units and to replace the water-damaged flooring. Profits from the October 30 rummage sale funded this first phase of the project.

Many thanks to Barbara Collins, Doug and Chieko Cook, Tim Edmonds, Bill Travis, Moe Jackson, Mike Dula, and Roy Hatton for their time and talents given to the renewal and refreshing of this vital outreach ministry of our church. Come on down and see their handiwork!



Sundays in Advent

November 27

First Sunday in Advent

Deck The Halls

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Hanging of the Green

Lighting of the candle of Hope

December 4

Second Sunday in Advent

'Tis The Season To Be Jolly

Mark 1:1-8

"Prepare the way of the Lord"

Lighting of the candle of Peace

December 11

Third Sunday in Advent

Join The Chorus

(Lessons and Carols)

Psalms 126

*The Lord has done great things,
and we rejoiced!*

Lighting of the candle of Joy

December 18

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Tell of The Yuletide Treasure

Luke 1:26-38

With God, nothing is impossible.

Lighting of the candle of Love

December 25

Christmas Day (10 a.m. service)

Sing We Joyous, All Together

Luke 2:1-20

The Christmas story of angels and shepherds

Lighting of the Christ candle

Sunday, January 1

New Year's Day (10 a.m. service)

Rev. Beverly Goines, preaching

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

For everything there is a season



December Events



Disciples Women To Meet Tuesday, December 6

Disciples Women will hold their monthly meeting at 11 a.m. in the Music Suite. Mary Ann Brown will lead the study on the fifth beatitude. Sue Frost will have devotions. Group 3 will be the host. All are invited and encouraged to bring a sandwich and stay for fellowship after the meeting.

Disciples Men's Event Scheduled for July 13-15

"A Gathering of Disciples Men" is being held at historic Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia. The event is called: Extreme Faith Bold Action, A Gathering of Disciples Men. The five Atlantic Area Disciples Regions (Capital Area, Northeastern, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia) plus Ohio are jointly sponsoring this event. It will have excellent worship experiences, workshops, and opportunities for hands-on service, not to mention great fellowship. Early Bird Registration ends January 9. To register or for further information, go to the website: www.gathering2012.org.

Ralph Wesley of Michigan Park Christian Church and Art Banks of the United Christian Parish represent the Capital Area on the steering committee for the Gathering. Both Ralph and Art are serving on the Committee's Task Group charged with promoting the 2012 event.



In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with Terri Malone, whose brother Tim Erchul died on November 4.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of long-time member Tom Allen, who died on November 5.

In Appreciation

Rev. Beverly Janet Goines, in a note to Dr. Gentle, thanks National City for being such a blessing to her on her 10th anniversary in ministry and for the worship service in celebration of her ministry.

Emma King sent a note to thank the congregation for their prayers and kindness during her illness.

Congratulations

Rev. Jason C. Pearson was ordained on October 23, and on November 6 the congregation of the Covenant of Faith Christian Church in Memphis, Tennessee, extended to him the call as their senior minister.

Rev. Pearson and his family became members of National City in 2006. Rev. Pearson was a seminary intern for a year at National City and graduated from Howard University Divinity School. He also assisted in worship leadership at the 8:30 a.m. service, taught the high school class, and staffed the front desk for a year.

Notes of congratulation may be sent to: Rev. Jason C. Pearson, 1284 Breedlove, Memphis, TN 38107, jpearson7477@gmail.com

He is looking forward to worshipping with us on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Sunday. We give thanks to God and rejoice with Rev. Pearson, his family, and the congregation of Covenant of Faith!

Lauren He, daughter of Polly He, will again be in The Nutcracker this year at the Warner Theatre. She is scheduled to be a snow angel in six productions – at 7 p.m. on December 3, 8, 14, and 23 and at 2 p.m. on December 17 and 22.

Birthdays

3	Steve Cook Alta Mainer
6	Hella Meivers Alan Williams
7	Eric Schacht
9	Will Aklin Mary Paradise Cameron Tate*
10	Will White
11	Dale Rowland
12	Greg Kubiak
13	Chrys Lemon
15	Ann Cappiello Aiden O'Sullivan*
16	Sally Bitting Adriene Gesell Dickerson Maury Mausbach
18	Robyn Fickes
19	Rysom Sanderlin
20	Bill Knight
21	Kevin Biggins Ann Flowers Narka Ryan
24	Samar Chatterjee Ann Howland
29	Wayne Upton
30	Earl Johnson Garry Devinger

*Indicates a student or child

Welcome



Sergio and Martha Ordoñez embrace their son, Sergio Israel, the newest member of the Hispanic congregation. Sergio and Martha were married in Phillips Chapel two years ago. They will be dedicating their son on December 12.

Bring in Toys and Children's Clothes for the Angel Tree Project

The Angel Tree Project for National City is an opportunity to bring Christmas to the families and children of those spending time in prison.

Our mission is the same. Our plan to implement it is slightly different this year. Instead of adopting a child per person, you are encouraged to bring new toys and new children's clothes, placing them in the boxes marked "Angel Tree" in either the Atrium or the narthex. The boxes will appear Sunday, November 27, and disappear after Sunday, December 11, giving you three Sundays to contribute to this mission project.

We want to recognize the Disciples Women who initiated this project at National City many years ago, and to Deloris Ruddock, who has faithfully given time and energy over many years. Thank you, Deloris, for your dedication. And thank all of you for joining us this year as we help to bring Christmas to the children who have a parent who is in prison.

Art Show Review

Many thanks to all our NCCC artists for their beautiful contributions to our Art Show which is currently on display in the two Visitors' Center rooms in the Atrium. Needlepoint, knitting, quilts, photography, card making, tile painting, pen & ink sketches, and Japanese collage work have been presented by Beverly Williams, John Scott Williams, Katie Brillhart (granddaughter of Sue Frost), Moe Jackson, Byron Cotton, Noemi Mena, Ann Neeriemer, Harold Magnussen, Barbara Collins, Kelsey Stewart, Warren Brooks, Colleen Walsh, and Kathryn Knight (a member of NCCC in the 1950s, whose crocheted quilt is owned by Marjorie Bennett). The art display will remain in place until early January 2012. Please enjoy the God-given gifts of our members!

Administrator's Report

Since diving head-first into the pool and assuming a good deal of the administration tasks here, I have been reminded how complex churches are (and particularly ours, with the dual Foundation and Congregation entities), the varying needs of our members, guests, and tenants, and the many challenges this church faces on a day-to-day basis. The daily "grind" here is a blessed one and it is deeply humbling for me to be able to work in God's house in this concentrated way. I am also humbled to be filling the shoes of Rev. Steve Moore who, as I have now fully discovered, REALLY had his hands full. During the last few days of October and during the month of November, the following areas were addressed and work completed:

- Detailed consultation and work with Moe Jackson on major and minor work projects needed throughout the facility (Beasley roof, fire detection alarm upgrade, boiler repairs, carpeting, plumbing needs, room renovation, light fixture repair and replacement, storage closet cleaning and repairing).
- Securing updated bids from vendors for roofing, fire alarm, boiler, carpeting, and lighting.
- Review of all lease agreements for the ten non-profit tenants who rent space at National City and have multiple consultations with the leasing company that assists the church with these tenants to insure accuracy of leases.
- Meeting with all tenants and taking care of their scheduling and maintenance requests.
- Tracking of all rent payments made by tenants and creating projection charts for future rental increases per their contracts.

- Repair of the several restroom toilets, doors, and outside lighting, and the cleaning and repair of storage closets, fixing of doors and locks for various offices (church and tenants).
- Initial planning with Dr. Gentle and Colleen Walsh on improvements to 2nd floor NCCC offices to make the work areas more efficient and to provide office space for Rev. Beau Underwood.
- Renovation of the Food Pantry November 16-19 in cooperation with Barbara Collins.
- Working with Dr. Gentle and our bookkeeper Mark Westfield on clarifying and streamlining bill paying and accounting procedures for super accuracy and minimal delays where possible.
- Working with Kathy Burger and Dr. Gentle on an April 2012 fundraising concert to be held in Kansas City.
- Working with Colleen Walsh on organizing our on-line records and the files left behind by Steve Moore.
- Planning for the renovation of our public mail room.
- Beginning of new exterior and interior signage for all areas of our three buildings.
- Cleaning and reorganization of our Reception Desk in the Atrium and work with Barbara Collins on clarification of the duties of our volunteers.

If you have any questions or concerns about the facilities or notice things that need to be repaired or changed, please don't hesitate to call!

– Charles Miller

Church Security and Utilities Conservation – Your Help Needed

Please help keep our facilities safe and secure for all by making sure that all exterior doors close tightly and lock when you exit the church buildings. Because of humidity, sometimes the doors do not latch properly and take a little "nudge" to be sure they're latched and locked.

Please also help us save electricity by shutting off lights in any room that you use, especially bathrooms and supply closets. Every little light bulb left on costs us HUGE amounts of money. Help us be "green" and keep our light bill in check.

The News of National City is a monthly publication. Please submit articles for the January Newsletter by December 15 to Diana Morse at morsediana@comcast.net or to Colleen Walsh at cajwalsh@gmail.com