

The News of National City

June 2011

Issue XI Vol. 6

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Another Busy Month at National City!

We'll start with our first all-church planning event on June 4 to plan for activities over the next 12 to 18 months. That evening, the Congressional Chorus and American Youth Chorus will perform choral music associated with some of the world's greatest films. Disciples Women have their annual June luncheon on June 7. We have volunteer opportunities for Capital Pride on June 11-12. The Heritage Signature Chorale returns to National City on June 17 for its season finale. Our "Food Pantry Sunday" will be June 19.

We're celebrating wedding anniversaries (the 60th for Jane and Wes Strotman) and graduations as we move into summer.

You'll find details of these events – and more – in the June newsletter.

Welcome to New Members

Welcome to **Robyn Fickes**, who joined NCCC on May 8. Robyn, who served as Associate Minister at First Christian Church in Omaha, Nebraska, recently moved to the DC area. Like Stephen Gentle, she studied at Texas Christian University and Vanderbilt University, with degrees in theology. She will be studying at The Ecumenical Institute in Switzerland for six months later this year.



Jay Iacone and **Rick Hernandez** transferred their membership to National City Christian Church from the Episcopal Church on May 22. Jay is a captain in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Rick is a 25 year employee of Continental Airlines. They live near the Columbia Heights community in Washington, D.C. Welcome Rick and Jay!

How Well Do You Know Your Church Family?

Question: Which members of our church family are published authors?

Answer on page 2.

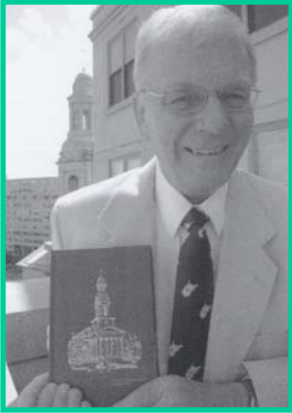
From your Connector Team:

8:30 a.m. service: Barbara Boward, Kelly Swanson, Loretta Tate

11 a.m. service: Kathleen Burger, Beverly & Steve Schacht, Katie Simpson, Alan Williams

How Well Do You Know Your Church Family?

Answer: Sarah McCue, Peter Morgan, Randa Kayyali



Peter Morgan published his first book when he was 38 years old. His best-known works are “*Disciples Eldership/A Quest...*” (Christian Board of Publication) and “*Story Weaving/Using Stories to Transform Your Congregation*” (CBP Press).

Peter grew up in Princeton, West Virginia, where he was inspired to go into ministry by a great-uncle, Ray Manley, who was a Disciples home missionary in southwest Pennsylvania. After 15 years of congregational ministry, Peter became a part of the Disciples denominational program staff. In 1995 his ministry took the form of an executive position as president of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. He continued to publish and teach through his varied ministries.

In 2004 Peter and Lynne retired to National City where he volunteers as church historian. During his seven years in Washington he has published two additional books: “*A History of National City Christian Church/Miracles in the Cathedral*” (with Hilda Koontz) and “*National City Christian Church Dedicatory and Anniversary Sermons and Addresses.*”

Sarah McCue has written nine books. Two – “*Trade Secrets*” and “*Secrets of E-commerce*” – are published in more than 50 developing countries through the United Nations. Sarah grew up in Port Huron, Michigan, “where the summers are full of bonfires on the beach, boating, and excursions to Canada for great antiques.” She works for BluWord, an empowerment portal for youth in developing countries. She joined National City in 2009. Her daughter Mia “is the delight and fascination of my life.” Right now, Mia is discovering the pool “but is content to only walk around the perimeter, never wanting to fully immerse.” At right, Sarah, Darin Skelly, and daughter Mia.



Randa Kayyali has written “*The Arab Americans,*” published by Greenwood Press (available on Amazon.com). She was born in Beirut, Lebanon. She works at the Center for Global Studies and is a PhD candidate in the Cultural Studies program at George Mason University, currently researching for her dissertation. She joined National City in September 2006.



Addendum to Last Month's "How Well Do You Know..."

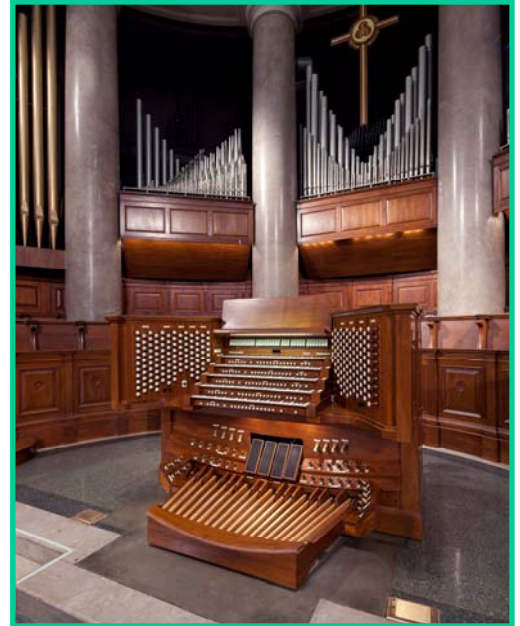
We have learned of another pilot in our church family. David Coatsworth, who serves as chair of the development committee of the NCCC Foundation, served in the U.S. Air Force and flew 88 missions in Vietnam. Here he stands in front of the F-4 Phantom, which was the plane he flew in Vietnam.

Music News & Events

Congressional Chorus Makes Its First Appearance at NCCC on Saturday, June 4

The 85-voice Congressional Chorus and 40-voice American Youth Chorus perform at National City for the very first time, with their season finale concert called “Cinemagic” on Saturday, June 4, at 8 p.m. Under the direction of conductor David Simmons, the ensemble will perform choral music associated with some of the movie world’s greatest films, such as *The Lord of the Rings*, *Star Wars*, *Amadeus*, and *Harry Potter*. NCCC members Chrys Lemon and Jorge Docabo sing with this fine group.

Tickets are \$25 general admission and will be available at the door on the night of the show or in advance by calling 202-399-7993 x182. Grab your popcorn, hold onto your seat, and get ready for a wild musical ride!



Heritage Signature Chorale Returns to NCCC on Friday, June 17

The celebrated African-American chorus, Heritage Signature Chorale, which celebrates its 11th anniversary this year, will present its season finale concert here at NCCC on Friday, June 17, at 7:30 p.m. Under the direction of former NCCC interim minister of music Stanley Thurston, this choir’s mission is committed to preserving at the highest possible level the performance tradition of African-American music, especially the Negro Spiritual.

Tickets for this concert are \$20 general admission and will be available at the door on the night of the concert or in advance online at www.heritagesignaturechorale.org.

Organ Historical Society’s National Convention Visits NCCC on June 28

Just as in 2010 for the national convention of the American Guild of Organists, the NCCC organ will be featured in a performance by concert organist John Weaver (retired professor of organ of the Juilliard School in New York City) for some 400 organists and historians during the national convention of the Organ Historical Society on Thursday, June 28, at 1 p.m. While the concert is not open to the general public, NCCC members who would like to attend this recital should contact Charles Miller at 202-797-0103 to receive special church member passes.

Magical, Mystical, Musical Machine Noon Recital and Demonstration Series

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

Friday, June 3

Richard Spotts

Doylestown, Pennsylvania

featuring the music of Charles Tournemire

Friday, June 10

Charles Miller and Emil George

(French hornist of the National Opera Orchestra)

Friday, June 17

Simon Thomas Jacobs

Christ Church, Episcopal,

Greenwich, Connecticut

Friday, June 24

John Lowe

Trinity Episcopal Church,

Gainesville, Florida

**Summer Camps, Conferences,
Retreats, and Events:**

at Bethany Beach

June 3-5

Regional Women's Retreat
(Sponsored by CCCA DWF)

June 16-19

Young Adult Conference (YAC)

June 26-July 2

CYF Conference 1

July 3-9

Family Camp 1

July 31 -August 6

CYF Conference 2

August 7-13

Family Camp 2

August 25-28

Footprints

September 6-9

Senior's Fall Conference

at Camp Mary Mac

June 24-26

Pioneer Camp

June 26-July 2

Chi Rho Camp 1

July 3-9

Junior Camp 1

July 17-23

Chi Rho Camp 2 (service)

July 24-30

Junior Camp 2

July 31 -August 6

Created 2B Me
(rising 9th graders only)

August 7-10

Camp Starfish
(Sponsored by Hyattstown CC)

August 13

Annual Corn Roast



Young Adults

Open Mic Night – Yada is planning a summer community open mic night at National City on June 9. If you are interested in helping to plan please contact Katie Blaisdell at katie@blaisdells.net. Also let us know if you know any local musicians!

June 4: Our First All-Church Planning Event

Everyone is invited to attend our "Planning Event" at National City, Saturday, June 4, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Our goal is to prepare a full and active calendar for the coming year.

To do this each committee/department chair is to bring three dates of events for your department for the coming year. They are requested to bring one event for each category: (1) a community service event (2) a development (spiritual, educational, professional, or enrichment) event and (3) a social event.

Together, we are completing many projects, and when we start filling the church calendar with three events per group, we really will "Make A Difference."

Barbara Collins

Team Leader, Serve With Joy – Model of Ministry



Disciples Women Luncheon Tuesday, June 7

Gardener and flower arranger Barbara Collins will lead the program for the Disciples Women annual luncheon on Tuesday, June 7, at noon. The theme: "Diggin' In The Dirt."

Recently elected officers for Disciples Women are Kathleen Swihart, president; Deloris Ruddock, vice president; Sylvia Snyder, secretary; Marjorie Bennett, treasurer; Ann Cappiello, program chair; Sue Frost, worship chair; Kay Kluckhohn, service chair; and Dorothy Davis, music chair.

The News of National City is a monthly publication.

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

or to Colleen Walsh at cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org

For more information and registration:
<http://www.cccadisciples.org/camp>

Family Fun Time At The Gentle Home

Families with children are invited to come to Stephen and Miriam Gentle's house for fun, food, and fellowship on June 18, 2 to 5 p.m. This will be a time to meet other National City parents and their children in a relaxed environment. RSVP today with Teresa Swihart at tisatcamp@yahoo.com

Capital Pride Volunteers Needed June 11 and June 12

The LGBT fellowship is seeking volunteers for this year's Capital Pride celebration the weekend of June 11-12. For the fourth year, National City will once again open our doors and our hearts to the LGBT community as the Saturday night parade ends at Thomas Circle and at the steps of our beloved church. Volunteers are needed Saturday, June 11, beginning at 4 p.m. and anytime until 10 p.m. We will once again be serving popcorn, lemonade, and water to parade participants and offering generous hospitality to those seeking relief at the end of the parade.

This year we will be doing much preparation ahead of the parade route so as to ease the workload for all participating. Just one or two hours of service will help us mix lemonade, prepare popcorn, and decorate the courtyard. Our extravagant hospitality has always been extremely welcomed and appreciated by Capital Pride and our own Mary Paradise has been on the planning committee for this year's festivities.

On Sunday, June 12, National City is seeking volunteers to staff our booth at the Capital Pride Festival on Pennsylvania Avenue beginning at 10 a.m. and running through 6 p.m. We would welcome anyone who would be willing to volunteer one- or two-hour shifts throughout the day. We have had many members come to National City through our outreach at these events, so the LGBT fellowship sees this as an important ministry and evangelism opportunity to the metro DC community.

For more information about the weekend activities or to volunteer, please call or contact Rev. Steven Baines or Rick Mohn at Scbaines@gmail.com, Rickarlva@aol.com or 202-887-8090.

Our Next Food Pantry Collection: Sunday, June 19

Each month we service hundreds of our homeless neighbors. Also, many families within our neighborhood are aided by the Food Pantry.

Please bring your non-perishable food items to either the 8:30 or 11 a.m. service. Any food item is greatly appreciated. Our focus this month is on fruit/jello/pudding cups, granola or snack bars, and juice boxes.

If you would prefer, you may make a monetary donation to the Food Pantry by using one of the envelopes. Put Food Pantry on the memo line of your check.

Bill Knight
Chair, Board of Elders

2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 9-13, 2011 * NASHVILLE, TN



Tell It!

Repete yo! • ¡Dilo! • 들려 주어라!



REGISTER
NOW!

www.disciples.org/ga

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Will Lang
- 4 D. Duane Cummins
James Ferguson
Barbara Kelley
- 5 Hedrick Mitchell
- 9 Will Hill
Sara Ketchum
Brenda Thompson
- 10 Helen Gray
Kathryn Kluckhohn
- 11 Terri Malone
Pauline Devinger
- 12 Patrick Malone
- 14 Greshaun Fulgham
Helen Talley
- 16 Stephen Gentle
Charles Leslie
- 18 Jessica Cannon
- 19 Mary Helen Blackwell
Lauren He*
- 26 Gentry Alexander
Kathleen Swihart
- 29 Ana-Elisa Gentle*
- 30 Douglas Cook
Elizabeth Ayers
Paul Rosstead

*Indicates child or student

For changes or additions contact
Kathy Swihart at
kswhart@nationalcitycc.org



A Fond Farewell

Rev. Stephen Moore was the recipient of a lot of feting as he prepared to leave us at the end of May to become senior pastor at Lafayette Christian Church in California. Here, GLBT hosted a brunch and gave Rev. Moore a T-shirt with the title of his memorable May sermon on it – “I’m a Who-body.”

Hilda's Fair Trade Gift & Coffee Shop



New at Hilda's

Stop and shop at Hilda's Gift Shop. A new item is fair trade olive oil from ancient trees near Bethlehem for \$15. Nativities are 20 percent off. Beautiful scarves are always available. And there's always that dark chocolate.

New on Our Church Website

Check out a new item on our church website. You will note a new tab, GIVING, on the left side of the web page, which opens up the opportunity for friends of NCCC to make donations online, through PayPal. Options include Mastercard, Visa, Discover, and American Express. As a donor, you can specify the amount and the purpose of the donation (pledge, music department, Foundation, etc).

We are hopeful that this simple online payment option will make it easier for members of our church family to keep their pledges up to date, even when travelling, and in turn, this will smooth the cash flow of our church, especially in summer months, when many people are away.

The Church Calendar (see tab on left side of web page) is now active and full of information. This calendar is an easy reference for meetings and events. Check it out! If you have events to post, send an email to Colleen Walsh, cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org

Thanks go to Eric Woodard for working his Internet magic in keeping our website up to date.

"Hall of Crosses" Begins

We are starting a "Hall Of Crosses" in the hallway connecting the parking garage with the downstairs elevator. This will be a collection of crosses from different places with interesting stories.

If you have one from your travels or one with a story and would like to donate it, please leave it at the atrium desk with your name and information about the cross. Our goal will be to one day fill the hallway with crosses belonging to past, present, and future church members.

For further information, contact: Barbara Collins at 703-323-1187.

Con-grad-ulations!

Wesley Gentle has graduated from Texas Christian University and will be starting his master in vocal studies with emphasis on opera at Boston Conservatory of Music this fall. During the summer he will be performing in various operas and musicals at Seagle Colony (www.seaglecolony.com) in upstate New York. He was selected from more than 1,000 applicants to be one of the 32 students/young artists to perform at Seagle Colony this summer.



Ruth Noemi the daughter, of Aura Matias, graduated from Michigan State and is currently doing an internship in Costa Rica.



Paul Guequierre (right), his parents Tom and Sherry Guequierre, and his partner James Servino, at National City as they celebrated Paul's graduation from American University with a master of public administration.



Maria Fernanda Lendor is graduating from Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, Maryland. She plans to go to Lynchburg College in Virginia. Here she is on her prom night.

Congratulations!

Happy Anniversary

Our best wishes to **Jane and Wes Strotman**, who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 22. They were married at First Christian Church in Mattoon, Illinois. They met in high school. They have three children, all of whom were baptized at National City: Barbara Wilson lives in Denver; Jim Strotman lives in Arnold, Maryland; and Jackie McCarthy lives in Harwood, Maryland. They also have six grandchildren: Eddy Wilson, who lives in Mattoon, Illinois; Emily and Amanda Strotman, who live in Arnold, Maryland; and Jacob, Daniel, and Eli McCarthy, who live in Harwood, Maryland. Eddy, Emily, and Amanda were baptized at National City.

Our best wishes also to **Miriam and Stephen Gentle**, who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on May 4. They were married in Nashville, Tennessee, at the chapel at Scarritt Graduate School, where Miriam graduated. They have three children: Phillip is a 10th grader at School Without Walls senior high; Ana-Elisa is a sophomore at Denison University in Ohio; and Wesley graduated from Texas Christian University in May.

Annual Dog Blessing In the News

Our church's 5th annual Dog Blessing on May 15 was its usual fun gathering of fine dogs and their owners, who gathered on the front steps for blessings from our ministers. A cameraman from Channel 4 NBC news also attended the event. Our Dog Blessing was a segment on the 11 p.m. news that night. An article by AFP entitled "Dog, Bless You: US Church exalts man's best friend" can also be found on our Facebook page.



Ron Moser and Pluto

Thanks to Eric Woodard, who wrote the press release, and to Kelly Swanson, who distributed it to her media contacts. Great teamwork!

We are working to get a copy of the Dog Blessing segment and post it on our church website. Stay tuned!

Gentle Reminder: **Uniting in Prayer and Understanding**

We live in a pluralistic community. One of the beautiful things about the Washington, D.C., area is the way that different cultures and faiths work and live among each other. That is why it is so disheartening to see anti-Muslim bigotry in public discourse and anti-Jewish sentiments still espoused in the world.

To help us learn about our non-Christian neighbors, National City Christian Church is participating in *Faith Shared* on Sunday, June 26, when hundreds of congregations will share with Jewish or Muslim clergypersons in their houses of worship. In the words of the Reverend Dr. Welton Gaddy, president of Interfaith Alliance and organizer of *Faith Shared*:

“By having hundreds of congregations participate in this project on the same day, we send a message to the world that Americans do respect religious differ-

ences and reject religious bigotry and the demonization of Islam or any other religion. It doesn't mean that we don't have disagreements, or that we are naïve about the challenges facing our country. But we will let the world know that we understand that respect for human dignity, human rights, and the rule of laws is the foundation of our strength and security.

Certainly, we have some different beliefs and traditions than the church, mosque, or synagogue down the street, but we share a common desire to worship freely and search for answers to life's questions through our faith. Join us on Sunday, June 26, for *Faith Shared* as well as each Sunday in June when we explore in worship what we share with our non-Christian neighbors.



Pentecost Offering June 4 and June 11

Because of generous support to the New Church Movement, Disciples have been able to start 602 new churches since 2001.

More than 40,000 new Disciples have been reached through these new churches, and the momentum continues to grow. The goal for Disciples is to start 1,000 new churches by

2020. By supporting the Pentecost Offering, you help expand the efforts of the whole church to reach that goal.

Half of the annual Pentecost Offering is used to support New Church Ministry, which serves the wider church through recruitment, training, and coaching of new church planters.

Equally as important, half of the money collected through the Pentecost Offering remains in the Region of the contributing Disciples congregation to support local new church efforts.

Give generously as our wider church seeks to start new churches and reaches more people for Christ.

God Will Provide

The best thing to do is what we need to do, without any stumbling, bumbling or procrastination. For this is the way God teaches us today in his holy book that is meant for our salvation.

God loves us as his children, and wants to see us as one nation. All we have to do is trust God, and he will guide us in our congregation through prayer and meditation.

A poem by Charles Hickman

Faith Shared Sermon Series

June 4

Our Heritage is Judeo- and Christian

Most Christians are aware that our faith is grounded in the Jewish faith. What we call the Old Testament is really the Scripture for the Jews. Learn about our Judeo-Christian heritage.

June 12

Welcome Neighbor!

Many of us have Jewish friends and are respectful of their faith. But do we really know how they live their faith? What are the different groups of Jews, what holidays do they celebrate, how are we similar, and what do we learn from them?

June 19

Father Abraham Had Many Sons

In the Abrahamic religions, the scriptures provide great encouragement for the faithful to live in love, by law, with prayer and in the practice of charity.

June 26

Uniting In Prayer and Understanding

Where did Islam originate? What do Muslims believe? What similarities and differences are there between Christianity and Islam? How can Christians and Muslims best relate to one another?