

# The News of National City

## March 2011

## Issue XI Vol. 3

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## Gentle Reminder: What Keeps You From a "Closer Walk With Thee?"

The season of Lent is the Christian's time for spiritual preparation before Easter. It begins with Ash Wednesday (March 9) and concludes with Holy Saturday (April 23). Our Lenten theme is *Major Excuses for a Marginal Faith*. What are some of the excuses that people use to keep from having a closer walk of faith with God? Some are silly excuses ("Can't I worship God at Sunday brunch?") and others are quite serious ("Religion doesn't fit into my schedule right now!")

This year, members of our congregation have prepared the 51<sup>st</sup> daily devotional guide for Lent. Each day you can read the scripture and thoughts of one of our members as he or she considers our weekly text. Daily devotions are available by e-mail, Facebook, or even the good old-fashioned printed page. Look for your devotional on Sunday, March 6, or they will begin to arrive in your e-mail inbox daily, beginning on March 9.

Also to help in your spiritual growth, small groups will begin during the week of March 13. Our church will be studying the same lectionary texts from the gospels of John and Matthew, and one from Genesis. I hope that you will make time for God and worship at National City Christian Church for these next 40 days as we grow together in Christ Jesus.



## Ash Wednesday Service on March 9

As we begin the Lenten journey, join us for a special Ash Wednesday service. We will begin with a soup supper. The soup will be available from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and the service will begin at 7 p.m.

### Major Excuses for a Marginal Faith

#### March 13, First Sunday in Lent

"The Devil Made Me Do It!" Rev. Moore, preaching  
*Adam & Eve & Disobeying God*  
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

#### March 20, Second Sunday in Lent

"I Believe In God, But I'm Not a Fanatic" Dr. Gentle, preaching  
*Nicodemus and "Born Again" and Jesus' invitation to new life*  
John 3:1-17

#### March 27, Third Sunday in Lent

"Can't I Worship God On the Golf Course? Or at Sunday Brunch?"  
Dr. Gentle, preaching  
*Samaritan Woman at the Well and Jesus teaching on Worship*  
John 4:5-42

#### April 3, Fourth Sunday in Lent

"I'll Believe It Only When I See It" Dr. Gentle, preaching  
*Jesus helps us see differently with the man born blind*  
John 9:1-41

#### April 10, Fifth Sunday in Lent

"Religion Doesn't Fit Into My Schedule Right Now"  
Rev. Moore, preaching  
*Lazarus is raised from the dead*  
John 11:1-45

#### April 17, Palm Sunday

"The Church Is Full of Hypocrites" Dr. Gentle, preaching  
*Palm Sunday processional begins with triumphalism, but ends in Christian service and sacrifice.*  
Matthew 26:14, 27:66

#### April 24, Easter

"The Resurrection and the Life" Dr. Gentle, preaching  
*What does the resurrection really mean to you and me?*  
Matthew 28:1-10

## How Well Do You Know Your Church Family?

Question: Which member of our church family has a patent pending on a new invention? Turn to page 2 for the answer.

Your Connector Team

– Kathy Burger, Chrys Lemon, Beverly Schacht,  
Kathleen Simpson, and Alan Williams

# How Well Do You Know Your Church Family?

## Answer: Michelle Jezycki



The Bike Coat and Michelle at a triathlon in Cancun.

Michelle has a patent pending for The Bike Coat, a compact and reusable bike cover that protects bicycles on car racks, in bike racks, and at races. Michelle left her position as Director of Human Resources for the U.S. Senate to run her own business, Tri The World Travel, a full-service travel agency specializing in endurance sports travel by creating an ease of access for athletes competing in worldwide events such as triathlons and marathons.

Michelle and her partner, Marian Huish, came to NCCC eight years ago. At NCCC they have served as deacons, vice-chair of deacons, volunteered at Martha's Table, served as chair of the personnel committee, as well as GLBT group.

Submitted by Connect Team:

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

## Updates from Your Connect Team:

### Local Visitors

While many churches are struggling to bring first-time visitors in the door, NCCC is blessed with a steady stream of visitors each Sunday. You may be surprised to learn that our church welcomed 22 first-time local visitors in the bleak month of January, plus 9 repeat visitors and a returning member. This represents a remarkable 32 percent "return rate" with our first-time visitors.

This is a great richness and wonderful opportunity! All local visitors receive a personal e-mail from Stephen Gentle on the following Tuesday. Many receive additional e-mails, based on the interests they checked when filling out the Connect Card. After sharing worship with us for several weeks, these local visitors are invited to a monthly Pie with the Pastor at Miriam and Stephen Gentle's home, with pastor Steve Moore also serving as host. These small gatherings over coffee and pie offer regular visitors the opportunity to get to know our pastors better and to ask questions about our church.

### New Connector

The Connect Team welcomes Loretta Tate! Loretta will be sharing warm greetings to local visitors at the 8:30 service each Sunday.

### Connect Table

You may notice something new in the Narthex on Sunday mornings: a table with colorful gift bags on them. These bags are for our first-time local guests to pick up after each service. The gift bags contain a book of devotionals, an NCCC pen, monthly newsletter, flier with info on music programs at church, as well as volunteer opportunities. The Connect Table in the Narthex also gives us on the Connect Team an opportunity to answer questions that our local visitors might have and to invite them to join us in the Atrium for coffee hour.

### Valentine's Day Cards

Joe Reef stopped by after the 8:30 a.m. service to write a Valentine's Card to send to his mother. A selection of Valentine cards, designed by Colleen Walsh (THANK YOU, Colleen!), were provided by The Connect Team, for church members to mail to family and friends.

Easter cards will be available in the Atrium on Palm Sunday, April 17.





**Open House for the Nursery**

Teresa Swihart (left) sponsored an open house in the nursery in February. Attending were Sarah McCue – mother of 18-month Mia – and Rev. Alyssa May and her partner Tabitha Bowling with their son Marshall.



**Couples from the Hispanic congregation at their Saint Valentine's dinner.**

Marisol and Francisco Lendor, Jose Rosa and Ana Soriano, Dorothy and Tomas Arache, Elizabeth and Albert Nieves, Noemi and Armando Guevara



**Hearts for Heart Patients**

Disciples Women stuffed and sewed pillows in February for heart patients. Shown with the finished products are Emma King, Sue Frost, and Kathryn Kluckhohn.



**“New” Chairs**

National City has been abuzz with ripping apart more than 80 of our chairs, putting on new fabric, and putting the chairs back together. At one of the work sessions in the Music Suite were Sue Frost, Beverly Schacht, Chieko Cook, and Barbara Collins, who has taken the lead for the project. The “new” chairs will return to the Atrium and the Music Suite. For those who have asked how much they might donate for the cost of recovering one chair: \$25.



**Souper Bowl Sunday**

Anita Drew (left) was one of the many buying soup on Super Bowl Sunday to enjoy, with proceeds to benefit National City’s food pantry. Super sales people were Gary Lewis and Mary Paradise. Super chef was Theresa Beaton.

*The News of National City is a monthly publication.*

**Please submit articles for the April Newsletter by March 15 to Diana Morse at [morsediana@comcast.net](mailto:morsediana@comcast.net)**

**or to Colleen Walsh at [cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org](mailto:cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org)**

# Girl Scouts

In addition to all our excellent NCCC member volunteers, we are also excited to have five young adults from the community join the troop as co-leaders. Our troop continues to grow. Thanks to the support of the school, we now have 26 girls and have expanded from one to three rooms for our Friday meetings.

## Help Celebrate Girl Scout Week March 6-12

Save the date! Girl Scout Week starts with Girl Scout Sunday on March 6 and ends with Girl Scout Birthday on March 12. If you would like to volunteer with the Girl Scout program, just contact Kathleen Simpson at 615-424-6498.



Troop 574 gathers around their booth about Yemen at the International Festival



Junior Girl Scout Aliyah and mom, Antonia, attend the Let's Move Town Hall Meeting to learn about healthy eating.



Shana Pereira and Alan Williams discuss "Christians and Poverty" at a recent Tuesday night D-Space.

# Yada

Yada D-Space – The Young Adults gather in the gift shop on Tuesday evenings for study and discussion. It's a great time out of your week to develop spiritually and connect with other young adults. Gather for snacks and socializing (6:45 p.m.) and study (7-8:30 p.m.). If you are interested in leading a week of the study or providing snacks, contact Ann at aneeriemer@gmail.com.

# Music Ministry

## Friday Noon Recitals Resume

The "Magical, Mystical, Musical Machine" Friday Noon Recital and Demonstration Series returns this month with four exciting artists from the mid-Atlantic region:

### March 4

Roman Krasnovsky, organist from Israel

### March 11

Christopher Gage, organist from Rochester, New York

### March 18

Charles Miller - All Bach program

### March 25

Charles Miller - All Bach program

These half-hour-long recitals begin each Friday at 12:15 p.m. and are FREE. Bring your friends and anyone who loves the thrill and the rumble of the pipe organ!

## National City Hosts Heritage Festival Choral Showcase

National City Christian Church will open its doors in March and April as a site for the adjudication of choral ensembles from across the U.S. organized by Heritage Festivals, Inc., based in Charlottesville, Virginia. The events are open to anyone to attend so please stop in on Friday morning, March 25, for a great morning of inspired singing from some of the finest youth choirs the U.S. has to offer!

# Mark Your Calendars

## Model of Ministry/ Leadership Meeting.

Saturday, March 5, 9 to 11 a.m., Howland Center. This involves team leaders and committee chairs.

## General Board Meeting

Sunday, March 20, 12:30 p.m., Howland Center. If you are an officer, a committee chair, elder, a deacon, a deaconess, president of Disciples Women or Yada, you are a member of the general board.

## National City Clean-Up

April 16 Saturday morning. Polish the sanctuary and clear up our grounds for Easter. Contact: Gary Lewis

## Disciples Women To Meet Tuesday, March 1

Disciples Women will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 1, at 11 a.m. in the Music Suite. Speaker will be Steven Schacht.

All are invited and encouraged to bring a sandwich and stay for lunch following the meeting. Circle 1 will provide a snack.

## Lenten Studies to Begin in March

Lenten studies, at homes and at church, will begin the week of March 12.

## "Recover the Chairs" in the Atrium

Dates are flexible. Contact: Barbara Collins.

**A list of ongoing  
volunteer activities and  
contacts is  
available in the  
Narthex and Atrium.**



Kate Kruse and Kevin Wilson lead communion with the breaking of bread at the 2010 Chi Rho Fall Retreat.

## Time to Register for Spring Retreats!

Spring retreats are hosted at our very own regional Camp Mary Mac. Our rustic facility in Sharpsburg, Maryland, provides cabins, a bath house, dining pavilion, and lots of open space. Campers will have a great time studying the Bible, playing games, and roasting marshmallows in the great outdoors.

High school students CYF Spring Retreat is scheduled for April 8-10 and junior high school students attend the April 29-May 1 Chi Rho Spring Retreat.

Scholarships and carpooling can be arranged – just ask Teresa Swihart or Kathleen Simpson. The registration deadline is April 1 – no joke!

## Ecumenical Advocacy Days Set for March 25-28

Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace and Justice will take place this year on March 25-28 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia. For more information, visit [www.advocacydays.org](http://www.advocacydays.org).

There will be a special free event for Disciples on Saturday, March 26, at 7 p.m. featuring Dr. Michael Kinnamon and Dr. Daisy Machado (invited). Dr. Kinnamon is a Disciples theologian and General Secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Dr. Machado is the dean of academic affairs and professor of church history at Union Theological Seminary. More information is available at [www.dawnccca.org](http://www.dawnccca.org).

# Birthdays

- 7 Loretta Tate
- 11 Michelle Jezycki
- 13 Phillip Gentle\*
- Carlson Klaphthor
- 16 Peter Morgan
- 19 David Albee
- 23 Enid Maitland
- Bettie Moores
- 24 Jimmie Gentle
- 26 Garnet Branch
- Norman Kruse
- 28 Eric Woodard
- 30 Loretta Franklin
- 31 Sydney Ashton\*

\*Child or Student

# Something Moore

The auditors will be here in a couple of weeks to examine the Foundation's financial books. In fact, they have already been here for some preliminary work. I have had to send confirmation letters to the banks, provide the auditors with a trial balance, chart of accounts, roster of board members, and the list goes on. The auditors will review all of our procedures, internal controls, and our financial statements to make sure we are following the accounting rules. At the end of their time an opinion will be issued which will (hopefully) say that our financial statements are presented fairly.

As we begin the season of Lent, maybe it's time for us to do a self-audit. Perhaps we can audit the way we

are living. Are we choosing kindness over meanness? How are we doing loving our neighbor? Is our giving current? Are we being stretched in our faith or do we need to join a small group? How are we participating in building the community known as National City Christian Church?

The good news is that while the season of Lent takes us through the valley of the shadow of death, there is nothing to fear, for in the end, God's opinion is revealed to us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through the mystery of the resurrection, God offers us a new way to live – one filled with hope, grace, and love and the promise of God's unfailing presence with us forever!

Peace,  
Steve

## Opportunity to eradicate DEBT!

The congregation of National City Christian Church currently has an outstanding line of credit with the bank of \$65,000. The line-of-credit was established many years ago and has slowly reached the limit on 2008. The current monthly interest payment is \$274. A generous member of the congregation is willing to make a matching gift up to \$5,000 to pay down the principal amount of the line-of-credit. If you would like to make a donation to help NCCC eradicate this debt, in the memo section of your check please write: Debt payment.

– Steven Moore

## Cyberspace is listening to NCCC!

NCCC's Web site (<http://nationalcitycc.org>) currently averages around 2,100 visitors/month – or about 70/day. The average visitor spends 2.5 minutes on the site and views 3 pages during their visit. 66 percent of visitors are new visitors.

The most popular pages on the site are photos, the virtual tour, the staff directory, and the GLBT section. The vast majority of visitors find us by searching for our name in Google or by typing in the url <http://nationalcitycc.org>.

In comparison, the NCCC Facebook page gets about 90 views daily. It boasts about 500 followers; around half of those actively visit the NCCC Facebook page.

– Eric Woodard  
Communication Committee

## In Sympathy

A memorial service for **Judith Bolton** will be held on Sunday, March 27, at 1 p.m. at National City.

Ms. Bolton died on February 6 at the age of 93. She had been a member of National City since December 1981. She will be interred at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

We extend our thoughts and prayers to her family and friends. Primary caregivers were Maryn and Leon Goodson and Gretchen Hakola. For their care, and the care of many others for dear Judith, we give thanks to God.

We also extend sympathy to the family and friends of **Hilton Vaughn**, a deacon emeritus and long-time member who died on February 7. A funeral service for Mr. Vaughn was held at National City on February 18.

Our prayers also go out to **Dick and Mindy Hamm** during this time of the loss of her mother, Edna Fishbaugh, who passed away February 2 at the age of 99 in Bluffton, Indiana. Notes of sympathy and support may be sent to Dick and Mindy Hamm, 8162 Winterset Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46214.