

The News of National City

November 2011

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Gentle Reminder: Be Thankful and Share Thankfully

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As we approach the season of thanksgiving, let us be reminded of the words attributed to Apostle Paul to his son in the faith, Timothy.

“For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by God’s word and by prayer.” 1 Timothy 4:4-5

Paul knew that this young minister would have many challenges in his ministry, so he reminds Timothy that everything God made is good and that we should receive God’s gifts with gratitude.

Look around you. Go on, take a moment and look around you – wherever you are reading these words. Look at the goodness of God’s creation. Enjoy it. Drink it in. Give thanks for it. Everything created by God is good!

Look around National City Christian Church. All that we have has come from God as well. Some of those things have come to us through the work of our hands...hands given to us by God. Some of those things have come to us through the generosity of others. Most of what our church has been given is from many people who loved this church and sought to support it and help it to grow.

I visited an old mentor of mine. He had been the director of our small town’s choir for children. As we talked during our visit it dawned on me that Mr. Newman had given an extravagant gift, not only to me but to hundreds of children as well. The very best of his life – time, energy, and talent – had been poured into his children’s choirs. He had sacrificed just about all that he had, so that children like me could learn the joy of singing and the discipline of making music. What an amazing and extravagant gift he poured into the lives of so many.

Let us give thanks for all those saints who have given so generously and sacrificially. Because what we have is not just yours or mine alone to enjoy. They have a larger use in the great scheme of things. Because we have been given so much, we are to share what we have with others.

Let us share what we have for the good of others and for the strengthening of God’s kingdom work at National City, because this is the season of our life to be thankful and share thankfully.

Grateful to be sharing in ministry with you!

– Stephen Gentle

Cross, Church, Chalice: An Introduction to the Disciples

Who are we? What are we doing here? Why does our church logo resemble an anti-drinking symbol?



These are the sort of questions new Christians and new Disciples often ask. If you’ve been recently baptized or are new to National City Christian Church, you’re invited to participate in this exciting small group experience that will explore the basics of the Christian faith, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and NCCC. Each of the three discussions will cover a range of topics focused on deepening faith, building community, and fostering the individual gifts of each participant.

Space for the first group of meetings is limited, so those interested in participating should email Rev. Beau Underwood right away at beau.underwood@gmail.com.

Worship in November

Sunday, November 6

All Saints Sunday

For All The Saints

Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes

Sunday, November 13

God’s Trustees

Matthew 25:14-30

Parable of the Talents

Sunday, November 20
Christ the King Sunday

Christ The King

Ephesians 1:15-23

The Reign of Christ

Celebrating Staff Addition and Changes

Rev. Beau Underwood has joined the staff this fall as a part-time Assistant Pastor. His role involves facilitating new member classes, serving as clergy representative to the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), and assisting in the planning and leading of both worship and Christian education. Originally from Illinois, he is a 2006 graduate of Disciples-related Eureka College. He went on to complete a Master of Divinity and a Master of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. Beau has held a variety of leadership positions within the denomination and is currently on the Board of Directors for the Higher Education and Leadership Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Charles Miller was called to be Minister of Music in August 2006. He came to National City as an ac-

complished and broadly experienced church musician, bringing to the position his training as concert organist, choral and instrumental conductor, and tenor. Since his coming to National City Christian Church, Charles has demonstrated that he is also a gifted administrator. As you will read on page six, Charles has begun to lend his considerable talents to church administration, calendar oversight, building usage and wedding ministry, tenant relationships, and maintenance staff oversight, as well as a host of other duties to help our church look better and run more smoothly.

National City Christian Church is grateful to the unique giftedness that these two men bring to our ministry. Express your appreciation for their work and lend to them your support.

Coming in November: A Coffee Kitchen in the Atrium

When you have a meeting at NCCC, do you know where the coffee pots, cups, and sweeteners are? Do you have quick and easy access to them? If not, you will soon!

The kitchen next to the Large Visitors' Center in the Atrium has now been designated as our new "Coffee Kitchen" and will soon be redesigned with new shelving and storage space and convenient access. Early in November, two or three new makers (12 cup and 20+ cup) for coffee and hot water, eco-friendly paper coffee cups, filters, decaf and regular coffee, sugar/sweeteners, artificial and real creamers, stirrers, plates, napkins, and other necessary supplies will be stocked in this kitchen for all church members to use. This kitchen will be kept locked but a key for that door will be kept at the receptionist's desk.

Donations of Folgers coffee, Lipton or flavored teabags, boxes of Splenda, Equal, Sweet & Low, Truvia, or sugar packets would be gratefully received for this new "Caffeine Ministry." Please see Charles Miller for more information or to offer donations.

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 down.

The News of National City is a monthly publication. Please submit articles for the December Newsletter by November 15

*to Diana Morse at morsediana@comcast.net
or to Colleen Walsh at cajwalsh@gmail.com*

November Art Show

During the month of November, our Atrium will be awash with color and the God-given creativity and imagination of many of NCCC's visual artists. Mo Jackson, Ann Neeriemer, Warren Brooks, John Scott Williams, Bill Travis, Kelsey Stewart, Beverly Williams, Barbara Collins, and Marge Bennett are among those who will showcase drawings, photographs, cross stitch, and quilts.

Please stop in the Atrium and enjoy the works of their hands and hearts!

November Events



Disciples Women to Meet November 1

Charles Miller will speak at the program for Disciples Women on November 1 at 11 a.m. in the Music Suite. He will continue the group's study of the Beatitudes and will speak on the 4th Beatitude - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled. Ann Cappiello will have the devotions. Circle 1 will host. All are invited and encouraged to bring a sandwich to supplement the soup that will be served.

The Fall Assembly of the Council Of Churches of Greater Washington

Sunday, November 6, at 3 p.m. at historic St. Aloysius Church. Mayor Vincent Gray is the invited guest to speak. All are welcomed to attend this free event. St. Aloysius Church is located at 19 "I" Street NW ("I" Street NW and North Capital Street). Refreshments will be available following the Assembly.

General Board To Meet Sunday, November 13

The General Board of National City will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 13. On the agenda is the proposed 2012 budget and the proposed leadership slate for 2012 from the nominating committee.

Help Support N Street Ministries Through the Homeless Walkathon November 19

Our nearby N Street ministries would welcome our support again this year in the homeless walkathon on November 19. N Street ministries presently has 1,200 walkers registered. But in order to reach their goal of 3,000 walkers to receive \$50,000 from Fannie Mae, they need our support. If you haven't already, invite your friends to walk and join today.



Thanksgiving Dinner and Congregational Meeting To Be Held Sunday, November 20

Our traditional Thanksgiving dinner and congregational meeting will be Sunday, November 20, at 12:30 p.m. The official business of the congregation at the meeting will be approving the 2012 budget and nominations for 2012 for church leadership, as approved by the General Board on November 13.

Join Us on Fridays for the Noontime Pipe Organ Recital and Demonstration Series

Recitals are every Friday at 12:15 p.m. on our heroic 7,000-pipe Möller organ – and are always free.

November 4

Richard Spotts (Doylestown, Pennsylvania)
plays the works of Charles Tournemire

November 11

Lon Schreiber (Minister of Music Emeritus)
plays works of Bach, Sowerby, Schumann, and Schreiber

November 18

David Enlow (New York City)
plays opera on the organ: works of Strauss, Vierne, and Verdi

November 25

Thanksgiving holiday – no recital

Birthdays

5	Virginia Taylor
6	Becky Brock
7	Mary Ellen Deardorff Rick Mohn Keri Woodard
9	Sarah Birdsong
10	Ruth Lee John Scott Williams
13	Nadine G. Bishop Howard Sears
14	David McKinney Betty Warner
15	Larry D. Thompson Al Weaver
16	Mary Ann Brown Lorraine Magnussen
20	Eva Moore
21	Tim Schaefer
22	Laurese Dancy
24	Beverly Goines
26	Ann Haines Sylvia Snyder
27	Tom Pederson
28	Tom Beacham Charles Covington
29	Larry Groves
30	Phyllis Allen Lon Schreiber

Congressional Chorus Concert

Saturday, November 5, at 7:30 p.m.

The 85-voice Congressional Chorus and 40-voice American Youth Chorus kick off their 25th anniversary season on Saturday, November 5, at 7:30 p.m. with "American Tapestry: Our Story in Song" – a fresh musical look at America's ongoing quest to build a "more perfect union" as "We the People" search for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Under the direction of conductor David Simmons, the ensemble plus an array of instrumentalists will bring to music the words of Thomas Jefferson, Sojourner Truth, Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, Langston Hughes, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow through an eclectic mix of music by American composers. 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.

Tell of the Yuletide Treasure!

events during the Advent Season

Preparation work for the Hanging of the Green day will take place on November 21, 22, and 23.

Volunteers are needed those days to help bring up boxes from the basement; sort and organize ornaments, tree and red bow “fluffing;” and minor cleaning projects to assist our maintenance staff. Please sign up in the Atrium if you can help on November 21-23, or call Barbara Collins for more information.



Hanging of the Green

Sunday, November 27, at 12:30 p.m.

Our annual “Hanging of the Green” Christmas decorating festival will take place following the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, November 27, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Trees in the narthex, Atrium, Howland Center, and Music Suite; greens on the Atrium stairway railings; and other fun tasks will be accomplished that day.

And as always, Sue Frost will bring a couple of pots of her famous chili for lunch.

Holiday Preview

As the busy holiday season draws closer, now is the time to mark special events into your calendar. Here is a quick preview of what’s coming to us in December:

Sunday, December 4, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Congregational Caroling on the Circles
(Thomas & Logan Circles/Thomas House)

Sunday, December 11, 11 a.m.
Lessons and Carols Service
with choir, harp, organ, and strings

Sunday, December 11, 3 p.m.
Washington Sinfonietta’s “Family Christmas Concert”
with the NCCC Choir

Saturday, December 17, 4 p.m.
Children’s Chorus of Washington Christmas Concert #1.

Sunday, December 18, 4 p.m.
Children’s Chorus of Washington Christmas Concert #2



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)

Psalm 126

The Lord has done great things, and we rejoiced!

Lighting of the candle of Joy

December 18

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Tell of 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)

Fast Away the Old Year Passes

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

For everything there is a season



Congratulations

Charles Hickman plays ice hockey with the Fairfax Canucks, which won the Summer League Novice Division Championship on October 2. Charles has been a member of the team since April 2008 and plays left wing. He started playing hockey in the sixth grade in Bedford, Massachusetts. The Canucks are now playing in the Lower D league for the winter season at Fairfax. You can follow the team's progress at www.fairfaxicearena.com. Click on Hockey and then Schedules & Statistics. All games are free and open to the public.



Charles Hickman

Ron Moser recently completed an MBA in Nonprofit Management from Marylhurst University in Marylhurst, Oregon.

Mary Paradise was recently elected vice president of the board of directors of DC Capital Pride. Capital Pride is an annual celebration of DC's LGBT community and draws over 250,000 participants during June Pride week events. Capital Pride's year-round activities serve residents and visitors to the DC metropolitan area, highlighting diversity by celebrating the heritage and lives of DC's LGBT community and friends.



Mary Paradise



Melissa Wilson and Lauren He

Corn Maze Day

Several members of our Chi Rho enjoyed a day at a corn maze, thanks to the leadership of Teresa Swihart. Lauren He, Melissa Wilson, and Kevin Wilson spent the day with pumpkins and finding their way through the corn maze.



Lauren He

Gardening Work Done in Plaza and Courtyard
Nine NCCC volunteers gave of their time on Columbus Day to tend to much-needed landscaping on the plaza, front step planters, and the courtyard. Bags of new soil and mulch were placed in flower beds and large planters, weeds pulled around ground lighting, 200+ tulip and daffodil bulbs were put in the ground, and plans made for new bushes in the spring. Gratitude is expressed to Tom and Barbara Kelley (who donated a truckload of mulch), Barbara Collins, Kathy and Teresa Swihart, Polly and Lauren He, Charles Miller, and Tim Edmonds.



Barbara Kelley

Administration Report

I am grateful to all the support and kind words and encouragement you've all given me as I accepted the challenge of taking on administrative tasks for church and congregation. Thank you! As I mentioned in our October 9 congregational meeting, there is much reorganizing, streamlining, and detail work to be done in all areas of how we function on a day-to-day basis and how we can work more effectively and efficiently. I am open to any and all ideas and suggestions you may have.

I have jumped in with both feet and offer here a list of things accomplished thus far:

- Computer software upgrades to four computers using discounted software packages through Tech Soup (funds for this project were donated)
- Immediate plans for a much-needed new computer and printer at the receptionist's desk for staff and volunteers (funds for this project have been donated)
- Restoration by Mo Jackson of the power and installation of new lower watt bulbs to the ceiling lights in the sanctuary
- Consultation with and bid from Cardinal Sound & Communications for new speakers and microphones in sanctuary
- Consultation with and bid from Barbizon Lighting for replacement of lighting equipment in the sanctuary, including energy-saving features that would prevent lights from accidentally being left on overnight)
- Oversight of the temporary fix and covering of the Beasley Building fifth floor roof leak
- Gathering of information about potential companies NCCC could use for Beasley Building roof repair
- Meetings with Colleen Walsh, Mo Jackson, Mike Dula, Roy Hatton, and Janice Glover to revise work schedules, clarify job descriptions, and plan immediate fix-it projects
- Created preliminary reconfiguration plans of office space and workroom needs to make office work more efficient
- Created plans for cleaning work/tools/equipment areas for efficiency and easier volunteer access
- Investigated possibility with Dr. Gentle of seminary intern through Wesley Theological Seminary
- Reorganization of upcoming weddings and confirmation with all bridal couples
- Review and renewal of staff health care insurance (at a 25 percent savings going into 2012)
- New phone message procedure for the receptionist's desk

So, we're "on a roll," as they say. As a part of this, Colleen Walsh and I have redefined some divisions of duties at NCCC. Should you need information about any of this, or need to call the church, here is a new guide:

Requests to reserve/rent a meeting room for any activity: call Charles Miller at 202-232-0323 x 103

Wedding information: call Charles Miller

Any and all maintenance issues/requests: call Charles Miller

[Charles will keep a master list of repairs/building needs, prioritize them, and give them to Mo Jackson.]

Bunk House Ministry: call Colleen Walsh at 202-232-0323 x 243

Financial matters for congregation: call Colleen Walsh

Parking garage issues: call Colleen Walsh

Requests for church tours: call Colleen Walsh

Church members (illnesses, deaths, other pastoral concerns) call Dr. Stephen Gentle at 202-232-0323 x 114

Lost and Found: call the receptionist at 202-232-0323

I look greatly forward to working with you all in this new capacity, to hear of your needs and dreams for this magnificent church, and to make our work and ministry here on Thomas Circle all the more inviting, engaging, and energized!

– Charles Miller