

The News of National City

October 2011

Issue XI Vol. 10

Inside This Issue:

Gentle Reminder	2
Upcoming Events	2-6
Volunteer Opportunities	4
Congregational News	5
Music Events	6

The Special Sundays of October

October 9 – Celebrating the Ministry

The 10th Ministerial Anniversary of the Reverend Beverly Janet Goines will be lifted up in worship on Sunday, October 9. To honor Rev. Goines, her mentor and former professor Dr. Frederick Ware will be the pulpit guest. At the 8:30 a.m. service he will preach on "No Turning Back," John 6:66-69. At the 11 a.m. service he will preach on "The Depths of God," 1 Corinthians 2:9-10.

Dr. Ware is associate professor of theology at the Howard University School of Divinity. Dr. Ware teaches systematic theology, philosophy of religion, Black theology, theology of Martin Luther King, Jr., and theology of the Holy Spirit. As an ordained minister in the Church of God in Christ, Dr. Ware has served congregations in Tennessee and participated in ecumenical dialogues of the international consultation of the World Council of Churches and Pentecostals. Author of *Methodologies of Black Theology*, Dr. Ware earned his Ph.D. degree from Vanderbilt University and has master's degrees in religion from Vanderbilt and philosophy from the University of Memphis.



Dr. Ware

October 16 – Heritage Sunday

On the 81st anniversary of National City Christian Church, we welcome representatives from Disciples of Christ school, Hiram College. In the 11 a.m. Service of Worship, Dr. Tom Chema will bring greetings and make special remarks. The Hiram College chamber choir will lead us in worship music with Professor Dawn Sonntag conducting. Dr. Gentle will preach the message, "Almost Persuaded," about President James A. Garfield as U.S. President, college president of Hiram College (then called Western Reserve Eclectic Institute), and Christian preacher.

On Saturday, October 15, at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary, Hiram College will have a special event and reception, with a keynote address by Allan Peskin, author of *Garfield*. All are welcomed to attend Saturday evening and Sunday morning.



Dr. Chema

October 30 – Financial Commitment Sunday

How do we give faithfully in these hard economic times? This is the question of our fall stewardship opportunity this month, as we listen to several of our church members share why giving to National City Christian Church is important to them. On October 30 members and friends will have an opportunity to make an estimate of financial giving for 2012. Remembering the 107th Psalm for the Sunday, "O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; for God's steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!" Join the people of National City Christian Church on this day of faithfulness as together we demonstrate our love for God by making a financial commitment for the work of Christ's church in this place.

Gentle Reminder | Felt The Earth Move

“The Lord shakes the earth from its place and makes its pillars tremble.” Job 9:6

The historic 5.8-magnitude earthquake in August has done its damage. Its impact was felt as far away as Boston. That’s where I was when the earth moved. I was speaking by phone with Steven Schacht who was at the church volunteering in the finance office. He said that the church building was moving. When he called back, Steve told me that there had been an earthquake in D.C. “Unbelievable,” I said. And then I felt the Virginia earthquake shake the fifth floor of my son’s townhouse where I was visiting on that day!

Back in Washington, D.C., plaster was falling in National City’s chancel, above the pulpit, and from the capitals of the marble columns in the apse into the organ pipes. At home, we lost a large mirror above the sink as it fell onto the bathroom floor. And across town, the Washington Cathedral was dealing with greater difficulties as three out of four of its pinnacles on the central tower sustained significant damage. Down past the White House, the Washington Monument swayed violently as tourists scrambled to escape. At the end of September, workers are repelling down the Washington Monument in search of cracks and holes and the National Park Service is making no promises as to when the popular tourist site will be open again.

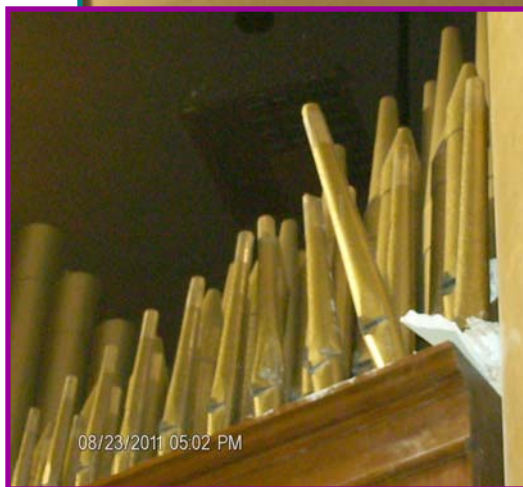
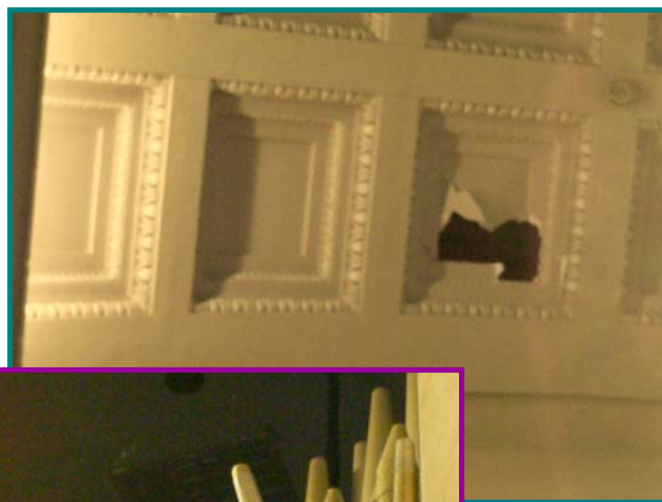
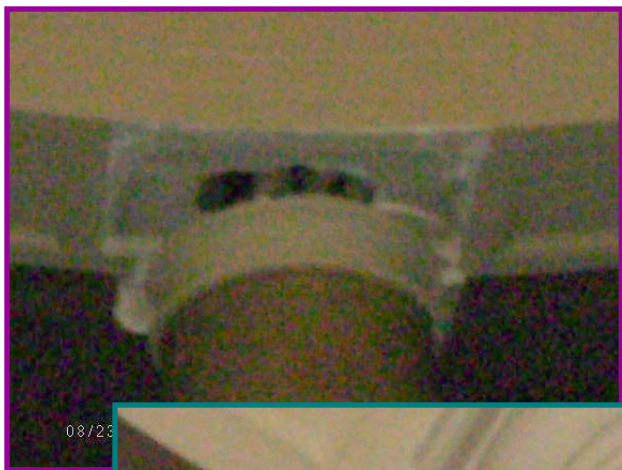
As for the damage at National City Christian Church, we continue to get estimates. Scaffolding alone will cost

nearly \$15,000. Estimates for repairs to the chancel and the rotunda are still being gathered, as well as the costs to repair the eight ranks of the pipe organ that were damaged by falling plaster and dust. In addition, there may be a problem between the sanctuary and the Beasley building as new leaks have been discovered on the fifth floor. The initial assessments indicate that the damage done to the church is not structural, but cosmetic. And thus, our insurance does not cover it.

Still we have much to be thankful for: the Week of Compassion is responding to the needs of the churches all over the affected areas as our church-wide ministry for relief makes solidarity grants to help with restoration. They have said that a grant of \$5,000 is being given to us! We are also grateful that no one – to my knowledge – was fatally or critically hurt in this natural disaster. And God is still working among us for good. Worship services are continuing. Church program is continuing. Community service is continuing. The school is continuing. And God is good.

May we learn the lesson of Job. When he saw that the Lord was shaking the earth from its place and the pillars were beginning to tremble, he proclaimed: “You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit.” Job 10:12

Thanks be to God who watches over us!
– Stephen Gentle



Oktober Fest!

October Birthdays

Music, face painting, soup, baked goods – and a yard sale – will highlight festivities in the courtyard at National City on Saturday, October 29, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Clothing and household goods are being accepted now. These include clean household items, small furniture, slightly worn clothes, toys, and baby items. We cannot accept large or heavy items, such as couches, or such personal items as underwear and nightclothes. Storage room for the sale is available in the basement. Check with Mo Jackson or Mike Dula to let you in. Storage areas have been marked for the yard sale. The congregation is also encouraged to contribute food items.

There are signup sheets in the Atrium and narthex. Volunteers needed include:

- Sunday, October 23 – 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. – pricing and organizing
- Friday, October 28 – 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. – pricing and organizing
- Saturday, October 29 –
 - 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. – set-up and kickoff – 8 to 10 people
 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – selling – 8 to 10 people
 - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. – finish and clean up – 8 to 10 people

Opportunities for Chi Rho and Juniors

Corn Maze on October 9

If you're a Chi Rho (middle school) or Junior (elementary) youth, find yourself in the CORN MAZE after church on October 9. Bring a lunch or a few dollars to purchase one and \$8 for admission to the maze (\$9 for adults). We'll leave the church at 12:30 p.m. and return to the city by 5 p.m. Contact Teresa Swihart to join in the fun, to volunteer to drive, or if you have questions.

Chi Rho Fall Retreat at Camp Mary Mac October 14-16

It's late but not too late to sign up for the Chi Rho (middle school) fall retreat at Camp Mary Mac October 14-16. Info brochures can be found in the Atrium or online. Registration forms are online at www.cccadisciples.org. The cost is \$60. Scholarships are available.

Atrium Art Show in November

National City is blessed with people with great artistic abilities: painters, sketch artists, quilters, knitters, and other creative souls. We want to showcase these gifts and gifted people with an Atrium Art Show during the month of November.

For our many walls, we are looking for unframed photographs, drawings, or paintings, wall-hanging textiles (such as small, lightweight quilts), or hang able sculptures. The art can be on a variety of topics, black and white or color, but needs to be suitable for a general audience and viewable by children. All sizes of art pieces are welcome. All pieces should be clearly labeled with your name and have a one-paragraph story explaining the art piece's creation.

Deadline for submission is October 15. Please leave your art pieces at the Atrium desk. Members of the art show committee will mount them, give them a border, and hang them in the Atrium.

For more information please contact Colleen Walsh, Mo Jackson, Barbara Collins, or Charles Miller.

- 2 William Nichols
- 4 David Hemingway
- 5 Barbara Boward
- 6 Leah Craig*
Diane Ives
- 7 Randa Kayyali
- 9 Dennis Simmons
- 11 Lucinda Klaphthor
Taylor Tate*
- 15 Alex Jones
- 16 Mona Corneiro
- 21 Teresa Swihart
- 23 James Owens
- 24 Bill Ryan
- 25 Betty Jones
Beverly Schacht
Wes Strotman
- 27 Jessica Kelley*
- 28 Roy Ross
- 29 LaFon Terrell
- 31 Miriam Gentle
Claudine Nichols

* Indicates either a student or a child.

Send corrections to kswihart@nationalcitycc.org



Disciples Women To Meet Tuesday, October 4

Rev. Noemi Mena will present a program to Disciples Women at their General Meeting at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, October 4, in the Music Suite.

Rev. Mena will be discussing the third Beatitude from Matthew 5:5: "Greatly Are the Humbled."

Sylvia Snyder will have the devotions and Group 2 will host. All are welcome to attend and bring a sandwich and stay after the meeting to enjoy fellowship.

Volunteer Opportunities

Sunday School Teachers Needed for Our Children

If you're able to volunteer to teach Sunday school to children in elementary school (and preschool), please contact Teresa Swihart. Materials will be provided.

Helpers Needed at N Street Ministries

The second Saturday of each month, four volunteers from National City are needed to prepare and serve breakfast to 40-50 neighborhood women. The location is on N Street behind Luther Place Church. We arrive at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and work for two hours. The next two dates are Saturday, October 8 and November 12.

We need your help and request that you bring one (or more) of the following:

- Eggs – 10 dozen
- Bread - a variety of sliced bread, enough to serve 45 people two slices each
- Fruit - any fruit is fine, but we prefer fruit that does not take much preparation
- Juice - two gallons. Canned juice from concentrate is fine if you don't want to lug gallon jugs
- Meat - Turkey sausage seems to be the favorite. Patties or links, or a combination of both. Enough to serve 45 people two pieces.

If you can help, please contact Natalie Johnston and she will coordinate the breakfast food.

Thank you.
– Natalie Johnston
678-725-0850, flyingnat82@gmail.com

Help Close Camp Mary Mac for the Winter

Closing day at Camp Mary Mac is Saturday, October 29, beginning at 8. We'll be mouse proofing, cleaning, making minor repairs, climbing ladders, and shutting the facility down for the season. Bring a sandwich for lunch; soup and drinks provided. Email Teresa Swihart know if you can attend at Tisatcamp@yahoo.com.

Help Close Bethany Beach Center for the Winter

Closing weekend at the Bethany Beach Conference Center is October 21-23. All able-bodied folk are needed to help make minor repairs, clean furniture, paint, and batten down the hatches in preparation for the winter. Those interested in helping out for all or part of the weekend should contact the manager Dana Miller at www.ccadisciples.org to let her know you are coming.

– Teresa Swihart

Lighting and Sound Updates

Meetings were held the last two weeks of September with Charles Miller, Mo Jackson, and representatives of Cardinal Sound & Communications of Silver Spring and Barbazon Lighting Company of Alexandria in order to get up-to-date assessments of our existing sound system and lighting equipment in the sanctuary. Additional meetings with electricians for both lighting and sound will happen in October and final project cost estimates and plans will be offered. To sum up the work quickly, *preliminary* plans include the following:

- The immediate change to lower wattage light bulbs in the sanctuary ceiling lights and select use of the lights so that they can be used without overloading the wattage on the remains of our fragile system.
- New dimmer panel with condensed, efficient function which will allow the light board in the balcony to operate once again.
- Six new programmable light panels at all sanctuary doorways that allow for several energy-efficient set-

tings for full light for worship, work lights for cleaning and organ practice, musician/audience settings for concerts, and timers on the whole system to automatically shut off at certain times to prevent lights from being left on overnight.

- Four new digitally operated speakers will be placed just above shoulder level on front and side columns giving clear sound at ear level rather than above heads.
- I-pad interface to the sound board to allow for sound levels to be controlled from the sanctuary floor so that the sound system operator can hear just as the people hear.

Please contact Charles Miller if you have any thoughts, frustrations, questions, or concerns about either of these projects. Work will be done over the upcoming months to make sure that we have solid, effective, reliable, and cost-efficient systems so that worship is enhanced rather than diminished by technical difficulties. Many thanks to Mo Jackson for helping us with his many behind-the-scenes, “Band-aid-like” fix-it jobs over the past several months.

Welcome to New Members

Bill Eldred joined on September 25. He has been a church volunteer for several years, serving food to those in need through Martha's Table. Originally from Terre Haute, Indiana, he had a 20-year career in the Navy as a surface warfare officer and worked with the Navy for 2 years designing and building missile systems and ships. He has two children and three grandchildren. He and his partner for 17 years live nearby at 1615 Q Street, N.W.

Dixon Martin joined in August. He attends the 8:30 a.m. service and sings in the Gospel Choir. He moved here in May from Portland, Oregon, where he sang in several choirs. He is a support specialist, providing specialized support for a social services software program. He lives at 18223 Lost Knife Circle in Montgomery Village, Maryland.

James Denison and Amanda Sallee began attending National City in May and joined in August. They are planning their wedding at National City next August. Amada is in her third year of law school at the University of Maryland and is training for a half marathon this fall. James runs the residential design department in his family's landscaping business. He also coaches North Point High School varsity soccer. They live in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

Congratulations

Emily Strotman recently received her Masters in Public Communications, Magna Cum Laude, from American University. Emily is the granddaughter of Wes and Jane Strotman.

In Sympathy

Ethel Schwengel, sister of long-time member Florence Miller, died on August 30. She was 102.

Mrs. Schwengel was the widow of Fred Schwengel, who served as U.S. Representative from Iowa for 16 years and was founder of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. Mrs. Miller, who was also active in the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, died in 2010.

Welcome to NCCC's New Night Security Guard

Many have already seen him and spoken with him, but we now officially give a warm welcome to our newest addition to the NCCC staff – Ezekias Mondesier. Ezekias is with us from 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings to let people in the building at the 14th Street door and the garage, help people find their rooms for evening meetings, and do the final light check and security check once the building closes. Already he has proven to be reliable, exceedingly friendly, supremely hospitable, and dedicated to the job. A native of Haiti, Ezekias is working towards his doctoral degree in international politics at Georgetown University and is able to get much reading and research done while he monitors the desk. Next time you see him, please welcome and thank him!

The Carl Vogel Center Food Bank at National City

If you stop by the church Fridays during the day, you'll see a lot of activity in the Atrium. What's it all about? We asked and got this gracious report from the Carl Vogel Center Food Bank, which is using an area in our visitors' center on Fridays:

"The Carl Vogel Center (CVC) Food Bank has been grateful to be able to utilize the space provided by the National City Christian Church.

"CVC's Food Bank provides 100 per cent organic produce, fresh meats and healthy dry goods to many of Washington D.C.'s most needy.

"The primary function of the food bank is to serve those with HIV/AIDS. The bags of food help to provide essen-

tial nutritional assistance that our clients would otherwise be unable to afford.

"CVC hands out over 700 bags of food to over 150 people on a monthly basis. The food bank is held every Friday from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. and we are always willing to take new clients.

"Please contact Nichole at 202-638-0750 ex. 13 if you have any interest in referring or assisting our program. Thanks!"

– Nichole Gallahue
Community Health Coordinator
Carl Vogel Center
1012 14th Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005



Magical Mystical Musical Machine

Friday pipe organ recital and demonstration series. 12:15 - 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Free.

October 7

Charles Miller

October 14

Hartwig Barte-Hanssen
from Wilster, Germany

October 21

David Brock
from Reno, Nevada

October 28

Eric Dombrowski
from Falls Church, Virginia

Thomas Circle Singers Concert Saturday, October 29, at 7:30 p.m.

NCCC's resident professional chorus will present its 2011-12 season opening concert in our sanctuary on Saturday, October 29, at 7:30 p.m. Maestro James Kreger has created a program entitled "Songs of the Spirit: Spirituals and Spirituality," which will include the works of Anton Bruckner, Stephen Paulus, Rene Clausen, and others. Spirituals, Shaker music, Duruflé's famous Requiem, Fauré's lovely Cantique de Jean Racine, and Alain's seldom heard Missa de Requiem round out the program. Charles Miller will serve as organ accompanist for the concert. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students/seniors. A portion of the proceeds will help support the Wendt Center for Loss and Healing.

AGO PipeSpectacular at NCCC Sunday, October 23, at 5 p.m.

Each year, the three local chapters of the American Guild of Organists host PipeSpectacular, a recital event featuring its chapter members in recital. Since its inception over a decade ago, the recitals have always taken place at the National Cathedral. Because of earthquake damage and lingering building instability, the cathedral will have to keep its doors closed through October, and NCCC will now serve as host for this high-profile pipe organ event.

The congregation is cordially invited to attend this recital. Six organists – two each from the D.C., Northern Virginia, and Potomac AGO chapters – will perform works by American composers and also celebrate the 100th anniversary of French composer Jehan Alain. Freewill offering will be accepted to support the educational work of the AGO.

Morgans' Anniversary Donations Designated for Music Ministry and Outreach

The NCCC congregation was pleased and honored to have been invited by Peter and Lynne Morgan to share their 50th wedding anniversary with them and their friends on September 18th. As an act of generosity typical of the Morgans, they asked that any anniversary gifts be given to the music ministry of NCCC for special musical events throughout the year. As of this writing, \$3,820 was donated, and will help support our December Lessons and Carols service, musicians for various worship services, our Good Friday service, and concert events. Special thanks go to Peter and Lynne for their extreme benevolence and support, as well as to the many donors who made gifts in honor of the Morgans.

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