



# The News of National City

Our 80th Year: *Representing Disciples' hopes for a great church with far-reaching influence*  
- R.A. Long

March 2010

Issue X Vol. 3



## A Season Full of Questions and Music

### What is it About the Music of Lent?

The music of Lent is nothing like that which we sing during Christmas. It avoids the "Alleluias" of Easter. Often Lenten music is considered sad or depressed.

But the sound track of this season creates a drama all its own: between life and death, good and evil, between God and all that stands in the way of God. Viewed this way, the music we sing and hear at Lent can be perfect preparation for the celebration of Easter and the welcoming of spring.

Lent is not just about the Passion of Christ, the cross, or personal penitence. Lent creates space in our life to consider silence, quiet meditation, sobriety, and our own mortality.

Sing the hymns of Lent and enjoy the musical presentations with the recognition that the 40 days of preparation are not just prelude, but purposeful action to ready our hearts for the remembrance of the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord.

- Stephen Gentle

### Good Friday Service

#### To Feature Joint Choir Performance

Save the date and plan ahead to attend the Good Friday service on April 2 at 7:30 p.m. The NCCC Sanctuary Choir will join forces with Lon Schreiber, the Chancel Choir of First Baptist Church (where Lon is Minister of Music), and members of the Washington Sinfonietta for a service which will include French composer Theodore Dubois' dramatic oratorio, *The Seven Last Words of Christ*. The reading of the Passion Story will be interwoven with musical renderings of Christ's poignant words, sung by the choir and soloists from both churches. Please join us for this moving service and one of the great musical masterpieces of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- Charles Miller

### Life is Filled With Questions

How did the world and the universe come into being? Is there a Creator? If there is a Creator, does that One know and care about you and me? What is my life? How can I find purpose and meaning in my life? Am I following God's will?

It does not take much time to fill a page with questions -- especially our faith questions. During the season of Lent, we will continue to consider some questions of faith during Sunday morning worship. Don't miss a Sunday. And bring a friend. I assure you, your friend is asking the same kinds of questions as you and me!

**March 7: Luke 13:1-9**

**Why Me, Lord?**

**March 14: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

**Can A Broken Relationship Be Healed?**

**March 21: Isaiah 43:16-21**

**Can A Painful Past Be Forgotten?**

**March 28: Luke 22:14-23:56**

**Why Did Jesus Have To Die?**

**April 4, Palm Sunday: John 20:1-18**

**What Happens When I Die?**

- Stephen Gentle

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**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour Sunday, March 14!**

**Help Write the Next Chapter in National City Christian Church's Story  
March 26-28**

National City Christian Church is at a crossroads. To help us navigate our future faithfully and effectively, we are initiating a conversation to engage in an "envisioning process" whereby we can take a new look at our context for ministry, present resources, and circumstances, and discern anew our calling for the decades ahead. All members and friends who care about this unique ministry are invited to participate in the first step of this process: "Envisioning Sessions." Envisioning Sessions will take place at the church on March 26, 27, and 28.

In each session we will consider questions like: Why are you at National City? What keeps you coming back? What do you like best about our church? What concerns do you have? What do you understand the relationship to be between the Foundation and the Congregation? What do you think the Foundation does? Do you believe there are barriers to realizing God's future for National City, and if so, what do you perceive those barriers to be? What do you think God desires for the future of National City Christian Church? As you can imagine, the sharing will be interesting and the discussion lively!

Plan now to participate and watch the weekly bulletins for an opportunity to sign up for a session.

**Quadrennial Assembly for Disciples Women  
To Be in Greensboro June 23-27**

"Awake! Awake!" is the theme for the 2010 Quadrennial Assembly to be held June 23-27 in Greensboro, North Carolina. For more than 50 years, Disciples women have been gathering for worship, study, and mission at the assembly. The assembly will challenge attendees to be awakened to new ways of living out their Christian faith in today's troubled world.

Among the speakers are Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Amy Gopp, executive directory for the Week of Compassion. Daily Bible study will be led by New Testament scholar Dr. Sharyn Dowd. The assembly will be gathering items for hygiene kits and assembling them. Other projects include accepting pre-made knitted and crocheted blankets made in accordance with guidelines on [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org) on type of yarn that may be used.

Registration is \$375. For further information on registration, housing, and activities, check the Web site at [www.quadrennial.org](http://www.quadrennial.org).

**Disciples Women to Meet Tuesday, March 2**

Mary Ann Brown will give the program on "Can War Be Holy" when Disciples Women meet at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 2, in the Music Suite.

Judy Lotz will lead the worship at the meeting, and Circle One will be the hostess. All are invited to attend and to bring a sandwich and stay for lunch after the meeting.

At its February meeting, Disciples Women prepared more than 40 "cough pillows" for the American Heart Association to be used by recovering heart patients.

**"Blanket Sunday" Scheduled for March 7**

"Blanket Sunday," sponsored by Disciples Women, will be on Sunday, March 7, providing the opportunity during church services to contribute funds to purchase blankets for disaster relief efforts around the world. The funds are channeled through Church World Service. The cost of each blanket is \$5.

## Census Day 2010 is April 1

Don't miss your opportunity to be counted and to make a difference. Your census form will arrive in March 2010 and responses should represent the household as it exists on April 1. By answering 10 simple questions, you can help to create thousands of jobs, improve schools, hospitals, roads, and social services. Please fill out your census form and mail it back.

The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. The census will show state population counts and determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

For further information, fliers are available in the Atrium.

### In Memoriam

Fred W. Nall, a member of the Board of Trustees of the National City Christian Church Foundation, died on January 28 in Woodland Oaks Health Care Facility in Ashland, Kentucky. He was born in 1919.

Upon retiring as vice president of Ashland Coal in 1985, Mr. Nall focused on establishing quality long-term health care in the Ashland area. His dedication was realized through the development of four facilities in Kentucky: Woodland Oaks Health Care Facility, Oakmont Manor in Flatwoods, Middlesboro Health Care Facility in Middlesboro, and Martin County Health Care Facility in Inez.

He has served as deacon, elder, and chairman of the board of the First Christian Church in Ashland, as a member of the General Minister and President (budget and finance) committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and as moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky.

He and his wife gave National City the crèche which was used during Christmas services in 2009.

### Find National City Online!

Trying to find out about the latest news and happenings at National City Christian Church? Get regular updates online.

Visit our Web site at <http://nationalcitycc.org> (or simply Google "National City Christian Church"). Besides lots of updates about upcoming events, you can sign up for our weekly E-Newsletter "The Steps." In addition you can take a look and even print out church announcements and the upcoming bulletins for 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday worship services.

Did you miss a Sunday? No problem. You can download any sermon you missed right from our homepage. If you have an MP3 player you can listen at the gym, listen in the car – anytime, anyplace!

Are you on Facebook? So is National City Christian Church. Just search for us in Facebook or go to <http://www.facebook.com/nationalcitycc> – we'd love to have you as a fan.

– Eric Woodard



**7 Loretta Tate**  
**11 Michelle Jezycki**  
**12 Florence Miller**  
**13 Phillip Gentle\***  
**Carlson Klaphor**  
**16 Peter Morgan**  
**19 David Albee**  
**23 Enid Maitland**  
**Bettie Moores**

**24 Jimmie Gentle**  
**Frances Smith**  
**26 Garnet Branch**  
**Norman Kruse**  
**28 Eric Woodard**  
**30 Loretta Franklin**  
**\*Teen**



## SERVICE:

**Next Opportunity: Monday, March 1. Yada Serves Dinner** - at Luther Place Night Shelter for Women, part of N-Street Village on the first Monday of every month!! It usually takes 3-4 people to cover the night. We meet at 6 p.m. in front of National City's 14th St. entrance and walk over (across the street!). We make dinner and serve it by 7 p.m.; it lasts until around 8 p.m. If you are interested in helping out some Monday night, please call Trevor at 202-340-5177.

## SOCIAL:

**Lunch after Church, March 14th** - meet after the 11 a.m. worship service for lunch (12:15 p.m.) This is a great time to invite friends or meet young adults you haven't had time to get to know! We are going to check out Las Villa, on 14<sup>th</sup> St north of the church.

**Game Night! Saturday, March 27th, 7 p.m.** - Join us for a social night of games. Bjae has invited us to her place to battle it out over our favorite board games! Food, drinks, games and fun – what more do we need? Check the Web site for more details.

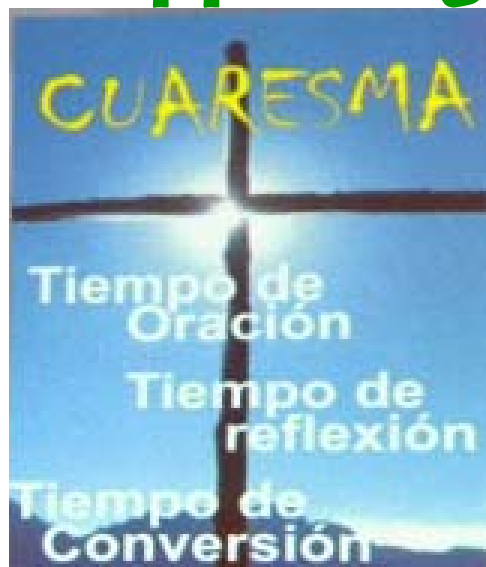
### **D-SPACE: Spend an Evening with Yada - Thursday, March 18 – 7 p.m.**

Yada will be starting a new study on March 18 entitled Christianity's Family Tree. We would like to invite all church members and visitors to join us for the kick-off. We will share dinner (provided at no cost), watch a short video on the Orthodoxy, and explore the themes with a rousing discussion on what we can learn from that tradition to strengthen our own Christian faith. We always welcome drop-ins, but would appreciate an RSVP to ensure we have enough food. Email [simpska@gmail.com](mailto:simpska@gmail.com) to RSVP. The entire series, barring another snow-storm, runs as follows: Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism, Methodism. The series on Joshua ends on March 11.

# ¿Que Pasa? (What's Happening?)



Couples from the Hispanic Congregation enjoy dinner together on St. Valentine's Day.



The Hispanic Congregation started Lent with a service entitled "Lent: Time for Prayer, Time for Reflection, Time for Conversion."



**Irish Fiddle Music Featured  
on Sunday, March 14**

In honor of St. Patrick's Day on March 17, John Krall will play Irish fiddle music on Sunday, March 14, in the Atrium during the coffee hour after the 11 a.m. service. John is a member of the Sanctuary Choir.

Everyone is cordially invited.

**Music Suite Receives a Splash of Color**

The last weekend of January saw a flurry of paint brushes, drop cloths, and scaffolding as six dedicated NCCC members painted the Music Suite. It's been well over a decade since this music and multi-purpose room has been "spiffed up." It was apropos that the paint color happened to be named "Harmonic Tan"! In addition, the decorative wooden screens over the light fixtures have been taken down to give the room a taller and much brighter feel. Many thanks go to Rick Mohn, Barbara Collins, John Krall, Chrys Lemon, Jorge Docabo, and Charles Miller for their dedication and hard work to freshen and improve this very busy meeting space!

**Magical, Mystical, Musical Machine Noon  
Recital and Demonstration Series**

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

**March 5**

**Lawrence Young**

Dean of the Northern Virginia chapter of the American Guild of Organists

**March 12**

**Paul Murray**

Church of the Holy Family United Nations Parish  
New York City, New York

**March 19**

**Charles Miller**

National City Christian Church

**March 26**

**F. Anthony Thurman**

Irvington Presbyterian Church  
Irvington-on-Hudson, New York

**Bach Pipe Organ Marathon Returns on March 20**

In 2009, over 700 people walked through the doors to hear the Bach Pipe Organ Marathon performed by our Minister of Music Charles Miller over the course of 10 hours. Due to popular demand, we'll celebrate the organ music of the great German master and his 325<sup>th</sup> birthday, in a six-hour marathon on Saturday, March 20, from 12 noon until 6 p.m. Charles Miller will perform five out of the six hours (each recital starts on the hour and is 50 minutes long). The 3 p.m. recital will be played by Christopher Keenan, an award-winning undergraduate from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. Come hear our glorious pipe organ play some of the world's greatest music; stay for 30 minutes – an hour – all day! While the recital is free and open to the public, a free-will offering will be collected to support the on-going restoration of the NCCC pipe organ. We look forward to having you BACH to church on Saturday, March 20!!

## Church World Service and Week of Compassion ... Help Where It is Needed

When disasters occur, the church is there – in many ways.

One is through Church World Service, an ecumenical effort in which the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a participant. The more than 200 health kits our youth helped put together will go to Church World Service for worldwide use – and will help replace the many already sent to Haiti. “Blanket Sunday” on March 7 is sponsored by our Disciples Women. Your gifts to “Blanket Sunday” provide blankets – \$5 each – for Church World Service, which sends them worldwide when disasters hit.

Another effort is through the Week of Compassion, one of six special offerings taken by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) each year. This offering is used for Disciples relief efforts and those of our partners. Shortly after the earthquake in Haiti, Week of Compassion sent a grant to Global Ministries/Overseas Ministries in support of our missionaries, as well as to Church World Service, and that support continues. Although the denomination puts a special emphasis on gifts in February, members are welcome to give any time for this special work.

You have blessed these relief efforts with your gifts to the Week of Compassion to the amount of \$4,460 this year. Praise be to God.

*[For further information, check Web sites: [churchworldservice.org](http://churchworldservice.org), [weekofcompassion.org](http://weekofcompassion.org), [weekofcompassion/haiti](http://weekofcompassion/haiti), [globalministries.org](http://globalministries.org)].*

After the earthquake in Haiti the youth and those young at heart came together in Wells Parlor to put together "Hygiene Kits" that will be delivered to Church World Service for the ongoing relief efforts. Many thanks to Ana-Elisa Gentle, Cameron Tate, Carla, Kevin and Melissa Wilson, Kathleen Swihart, Teresa Swihart, Beverly Goines, Barbara Boward, Lorraine Magnussen, Dale Rowland, Rick Bahr and Diana Morse who helped put the kits together. And many thanks to all those who donated items to make this project such a success.



Carla Wilson folds towels for the kits.

Kevin Wilson, Kathleen Swihart, and Melissa Wilson assemble the kits.



Ana-Elisa Gentle, Beverly Goines, Barbara Boward and Cameron Tate busy putting the kits together.



### Staff of National City Christian Church

Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor

Steven Moore, Associate Pastor

Noemi Mena, Pastor, Hispanic Ministries

Beverly Goines, Assistant Pastor

Charles Miller, Minister of Music

Morris Jackson, Building Superintendent

Michael Dula, Maintenance Assistant

Roy Hatton, Maintenance Assistant

Janice Glover, Housekeeping

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Peter Morgan, Historian in Residence

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

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April Newsletter by March 15  
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