

# The News of National City

September 2011 Issue XI Vol. 9

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# SPECIAL SUNDAYS

in

SEPTEMBER

## September 4 – Labor Day weekend

Join in worship on Labor Day weekend when Dr. Gentle will preach “Laborers for the Kingdom” based on Jesus’ parable of the workers in the vineyard, Matthew 20:1-16. What are we working for...in our life, in our faith, and in this world? Jesus reminds us that our labor is not the same in length or value, but God honors all work dedicated to the Kingdom.

## September 11 – Spirit Sunday

Ten years ago, on this day, our nation was forever changed. National City will come together in a morning of remembrance as the elders lead us through a moment of prayer, silence, and the tolling of the bells, for all those who have been affected by 9-11. Dr. Gentle will preach a challenging message called, “Unforgivable?” based on the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 18:21-35. At 11 a.m. the Sanctuary Choir will share a new anthem based on the prayer of Francis of Assisi, “Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace.” After the 11 a.m. worship, the community will come together for Sundaes on the Steps.

## September 18 – Anniversary celebration

Fifty years ago a couple pledged their love to one another and on this Sunday Peter and Lynne Morgan have invited their church family to celebrate with them. Read elsewhere in the newsletter about this blessed day filled with poignant memories, delicious food, and a benefit concert for our Sanctuary Choir. Dr. Gentle will preach a message called “For Better or Worse” based on the glorious 105<sup>th</sup> Psalm. “Remember the wonderful works the Lord has done, the miracles, and the judgments God has uttered” (Psalm 105:5).

## September 25 – Dr. Craddock preaches at a combined worship at 10 a.m.

Dr. Fred Craddock will be the pulpit guest in a combined service at 10 a.m., followed by a brunch in Scott Hall. For more than six decades Dr. Craddock has enlightened, delighted, compelled, and engaged listeners with his stories shared in the context of sermons. He is Bandy Distinguished Professor of Preaching and New Testament, emeritus, in the Candler School of Theology. His books include *Cherry Log Sermons*, *Craddock Stories*, and *Reflections on My Call to Preach*. *The Collected Sermons of Fred B. Craddock* and *Craddock on the Craft of Preaching* were published in 2011. Dr. Craddock was selected by *Newsweek* as one of the 12 most effective preachers in the English speaking world.



Gentle Reminder

# Welcoming Our Neighbors as Christ Has Welcomed Us

Welcome to a new year of meaningful church activity. The teaching of Jesus in Matthew 25:35 reminds us, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Our goal as a church this year is to reach out to new people living around Thomas Circle and in the neighborhoods where we live to be a part of the Christian faith at National City Christian Church.

Many people in the 21st century hunger for an expression of Christian faith that is different from the judgmental and limiting caricatures they see on television or in the news. So our theme for the next nine months is: “Welcoming Our Neighbors as Christ has Welcomed Us!”

Through the month of September there will be ample opportunities to share an invitation with a co-worker or neighbor as our community of faith comes together on Sunday morning. Invite a friend to a moving reminder of 9-11 when we recollect in prayer, the tolling of the bells, and reflections on the complex task of Christian forgiveness. Bring a friend to share in the sanctuary choir benefit concert on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. And share with everyone you know the great blessing of hearing one of the great preachers of our time, Dr. Fred Craddock, on September 25. A spectacular month, indeed!

Looking further into the month of October, we have several more special Sundays planned, beginning with World Communion on October 2 and Heritage Sunday on October 16 when we will host the president of Hiram College and the Hiram College choir. On the 16<sup>th</sup> National City will lift up in message and memory the Christian leadership of U.S. President James A. Garfield.

Even as we look ahead to the future days, it is important for me to acknowledge my deep appreciation to National City Christian Church – its congregation and Foundation leadership – in the last three years. Elsewhere in the newsletter you can read a statement regarding U.S.A. vs. Jason Todd Reynolds. All of us recognize the toll on our lives when relationships are broken and trust is misplaced. Thank you for your steadfastness in times of difficulty. Thank you for choosing to walk together as a congregation seeking solutions to the challenges we have faced. Thank you for your faithfulness.

In all things we give thanks to the One who continues to watch over us in the difficult times and in the good times, and calls us to welcome others as we have been welcomed by Christ.

Let’s make this a great year, for the glory of God!

– Stephen Gentle

# Our Church Family

## **A Family Celebration on September 18**

Fiftieth wedding anniversaries are family celebrations. For seven years you have been our family. You have been a gift to us. We would like to reciprocate. We want you to celebrate with us by being our guests for lunch and a concert by our Sanctuary Choir and minister of music Charles Miller on September 18.

We need to know how many will be having lunch with us. So, sign up (or phone in) on the chart at the atrium desk. As our guests, there will be no charge for lunch. Also, please no gifts. We would enjoy your messages.

The concert is a benefit for our choir. The music of National City has been one of our family delights of the last seven years. Donations will be accepted for the choir fund (memo on checks – Music Department).

See you on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

– Peter and Lynne Morgan



## Just a Little Moore

It's hard to imagine that it has been three months since I began my new ministry here at Lafayette Christian Church. All went smoothly with my move West, although I did have to put my dog down about two weeks after I arrived. My drive across our country allowed me time to decompress and marvel at the beauty we call America.

My new ministry is going well and the community here is very loving and accepting. It is an exciting place to be as we begin conversations about our future! I must say I'm already spoiled by the beautiful weather!

Words can't begin to express my gratitude for such a wonderful and loving sendoff from National City! The brunch was not only delicious, but the program was wonderful. Thanks to all who planned and contributed to make the day so special.

Your notes of personal care, your gifts and well wishes all sustained me as I made the nearly 3,000 mile trek. The "gasoline" check was a humbling gift to receive! I will cherish the time we had together as partners in ministry.

– Blessings and Peace,  
Steve

# Make a Difference in September Volunteer Information

National City is thriving with the help and contributions of our many volunteers.

You can “Make A Difference” on Thomas Circle by volunteering for any of the opportunities listed below.

## **Special Projects and Upcoming Events**

September 10 – 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Church Yard Work Day  
Contact Barbara Collins: barbarafcollins@hotmail.com

October 22 – 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Oktoberfest and Bazaar  
Contact Barbara Boward: bbow75@hotmail.com

## **Community Service Opportunities**

N Street Breakfast 2nd Saturday each month 8:30 a.m.  
Contact Natalie Johnston: flyingnut82@gmail.com

Martha’s Table –Deliver food 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month 4:30 p.m.  
Contact Gary Lewis: garylewis51@hotmail.com

Food Bank – Every Wednesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Organize, package, and distribute food for those who need it  
Contact Barbara Boward: bbow75@hotmail.com

YADA (Young Adult Disciples in Action) Community Service  
Contact Katie Blaisdell: Katie@blaisdells.net

## **Ongoing Opportunities at National City Christian Church**

Church School Teacher (and nursery assistants)  
Contact Teresa Swihart: tisatcamp@yahoo.com

Children’s Time (11:15 Sunday morning)  
Contact Beverly Schacht: bevschacht@starpower.net

Atrium Desk - answering the phone during the week  
Contact Barbara Collins: barbarafcollins@hotmail.com

Property - assisting with building projects  
Contact Rick Mohn: rickarlva@aol.com

## **Music Opportunities**

Sanctuary Choir – Singing at the 11 a.m. service on Sunday  
Contact Charles Miller cmiller@nationalcitycc.org

Gospel Choir – Singing at the 8:30 a.m. service on Sunday  
Contact Valeria Foster valeriafoster@msn.com

## Church Yardwork Scheduled for Saturday, September 10

We welcome everyone's help Saturday, September 10, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. as we catch up yardwork. If you can work two hours in that time frame, we'll achieve our goals.

Our goals are to:

1. Rake debris and trash
2. Finish pulling weeds for the season
3. Plant some fall mums (donated, of course)
4. Plant some pachysandra on "Roy's Hill" (donated, of course)
5. Clean up the plaza area for our ice cream social the following day
6. Clean the skylight windows in the plaza area

Bring your rake and gloves.

All work done in advance is appreciated. If you can't work that Saturday, please work during the week.

Thank you for your support in making National City our proud church.

– Barbara Boward, Barbara Collins, Doug and Chieko Cook,  
Byron Cotton, Sue Frost, Charles Miller, Diana Morse,  
Loretta Tate, David Tyson

### Leadership Training Opportunity

Are you interested in meeting with a small group of individuals who want to explore Christian leadership through the ministries of hospitality, justice, discernment and compassion? Based on biblical models of leadership and reclaiming spiritual practices from the Christian tradition, *Faith Leader* trains participants in discernment, both of their own call to ministry and the spiritual life of our church. If you are interested in two sessions of 12 week studies, please speak with Dr. Gentle or Barbara Collins.

### Draft Bylaws To Be Presented to General Board

On September 25, immediately after the 11 a.m. postlude, the General Board will meet briefly in the sanctuary to receive a copy of the draft bylaws.

A General Board meeting will be held on October 2 to discuss the draft and, if approved, is scheduled to go to the congregation for approval on October 9. The bylaws task force is chaired by Steven Baines.

### Monday - Friday Parking Policy

With the coming of the busy fall season, parking in our lot will be at a premium from Monday to Friday as a result of spaces rented by the charter school and other tenants.

Our National City parking spaces will be designated by a bright color on the sign by the garage entrance to National City.

Please get a permit from the Atrium desk and display it on your rearview mirror while parking in our designated spaces.

Anyone not displaying a permit will receive two warnings and then be towed.

This applies to only Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please speak with Mo Jackson, Colleen Walsh, or Barbara Collins if you have any questions.

*The News of National City*  
is a monthly publication.  
Please submit articles for the  
October Newsletter by September 15  
to Diana Morse at  
[morsediana@comcast.net](mailto:morsediana@comcast.net)  
or to Colleen Walsh  
at [cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org](mailto:cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org)



### D-Space is Back!

Join National City's young adults (Yada) for study and conversation on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. starting September 14. Email Beau Underwood beau.underwood@gmail.com for more information.

### Regional Young Adult Retreat September 14-16

The Christian Church Capital Area will have a young adult retreat on September 14-16 for people 18 to 35 at Camp Mary Mac near Sharpsburg, Maryland.

### New Yada Leadership

Ann Neeriemer is now the main point of contact and Yada representative at the Leadership Team meetings, General Board meetings, and Strategic Implementation Team.

The new Yada leadership team (Support Team) is composed of Ann Neeriemer, Beau Underwood, Kathleen Simpson, Kathryn Farley, and Katie Blaisdell.

– Trevor Dane

# September Birthdays

- 1 Charles Miller
- 4 Margaret Hulen  
Noemi Mena  
Peggy Washington
- 5 Mark Caldwell  
Marcella Hill  
Hilda Reynolds
- 10 Lucy Reed
- 12 Jorge Docabo
- 13 Caitlin Malone  
Sadye Sanders
- 14 Matt Murphy  
Charles Smith
- 16 Marge Bennett  
Deloris Ruddock
- 18 Beth Kelley
- 19 Dennis Jones
- 21 Ellen Crowder  
Miriam Cruz
- 22 John Sparkman
- 23 Ron Moser
- 27 Rick Bahr  
Hal Dungan  
Annavee Leslie
- 29 Noah Craig \*  
Lari Grubbs

\*Indicates student or child

For any changes or additions please contact Kathy Swihart at [kswihart@nationalcitycc.org](mailto:kswihart@nationalcitycc.org)



### Disciples Women To Meet September 13

Disciples Women will be looking at the Beatitudes at their monthly meetings this year. In September Dr. Stephen Gentle will launch the study.

The first meeting will be the second Tuesday, September 13, at 11 a.m. in the Music Suite. Bring a sandwich to add to the salad supplied by Circle One. We invite all to join us for study, worship, and fellowship.

## Washington Sinfonietta

### Opens 2011-12 Season on September 10

Our resident chamber orchestra opens the 2011-12 concert season on Saturday, September 10, at 7 p.m. with a concert of works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, conducted by maestro Joel Lazar.

Mozart's Overture to the Opera 'Idomeneo,' Violin Concerto #4, and 'Posthorn' Serenade No. 9 will be performed, with Amy Beth Horman as violin soloist. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students. Those 19 and under are admitted free. All are welcome!!

### Friday Noon-Time Organ Recitals

Our increasingly popular and FREE Friday Noon-time Pipe Organ Recitals continue in September. Come hear the roar of our grand pipe organ at 12:15 p.m. each week for 30 minutes of majestic pipe organ music!

September 2 – Charles Miller

September 9 – Charles Miller (In commemoration of 9/11)

September 16 – John Cannon (from Fort Collins, Colorado)

September 23 – Julie Evans (from Silver Spring, Maryland)

September 30 – Alvin Blount (from Augusta, Georgia)



### Book Group to Meet Thursday, September 22

Our book group will meet on Thursday, September 22, in the Gift Shop at 7 p.m.

All are welcome as we begin this new group. Those attending share in selecting the book to be read. For the September meeting, the book is "The Shack" by William Young.

Amazon writes online that "in a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant The Shack wrestles with the timeless question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?"

If you have questions, contact Miriam Gentle at [miriam.gentle@gmail.com](mailto:miriam.gentle@gmail.com) or 321-356-1554.

### Hall of Crosses

- As many of you may have noticed, crosses of all shapes and sizes have begun to appear on the basement hallway wall leading from the garage to the church elevator.
- Offering a visible reminder of the holiness of this place as we enter, and offering a silent blessing as we exit the church and go into the world, this display is meant to show the meaning of the cross in the lives of our members and share the crosses and personal stories with all who visit.
- If you have a cross/crucifix from your worldwide travels that comes with a meaningful personal story, and would like to donate it to the hallway project, please leave it for Barbara Collins at the Atrium desk with your name and information about the cross or give it to Minister of Music Charles Miller. When you bring us the cross, please leave a note as to where you found/bought the cross, if it has any special family heirloom qualities or any special significance to you, any information about your travels when you acquired the cross, etc.
- Our goal is to have enough crosses to cover the entire hallway wall.
- Please direct any questions to Barbara Collins at 703-323-1187.

# Oktober Fest!

October 29 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rummage Sale

Face Painting

Live Music

Bake Sale

## Statement from

### National City Christian Church

#### Regarding USA v. Jason Todd Reynolds

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 16, 2011 – Jason Todd Reynolds, former chief financial officer of National City Christian Church Foundation (NCCCF), was convicted yesterday of charges of wire fraud, bank fraud, aggravated identity theft, tax evasion, and fraud, all stemming from his systematic embezzlement of NCCCF funds.

Reynolds was released from employment at National City Christian Church in June, 2008. An internal audit of the church's finances revealed numerous irregularities. According to court documents, Reynolds used unauthorized checks and unauthorized credit card charges to purchase cars, furniture, vacations, jewelry, and sports tickets, totaling over \$500,000 over a six-year period. He also secretly increased NCCCF's bank line of credit to hide his thefts.

"Money that would have been used to feed the hungry and help those who are hurting in our community was diverted," said Stephen Gentle, senior minister. "This has hurt the congregation, which has had to reduce its staff, and those in our community who are in need, like community children's minis-

try and the weekly food pantry that National City has supported for many years."

National City leaders and former leaders, Stephen Gentle, senior minister; Alvin Jackson, former senior minister; D. Duane Cummins, former Foundation chair; Steven Moore, vice president of development; Ann Flowers, Foundation treasurer; and Carla Wilson, chair of the audit committee, all testified for the Government at the trial. After the verdict, Reynolds was ordered to be detained until sentencing, scheduled for November 4 before U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler.

"Reynolds was a trusted employee who abused his position and our trust to personally benefit himself," said Gentle. "Naturally, the ministry of the congregation has been genuinely hurt by such a breach of trust, but we have also made great strides in the last three years to strengthen church accounting procedures."

Since Reynolds' termination in 2008, NCCCF has received three clean annual audits from its outside independent audit firm. In addition, other management and accounting controls have been instituted to ensure that there cannot be a repetition of the schemes employed by Reynolds to defraud National City.