

# The News of National City

Our 80th Year: Representing Disciples' hopes for a great church with far-reaching influence

– R.A. Long

December 2010

Issue X Vol. 12

## Inside This Issue:

Moderator's Message	2
Presidential Note	2
Congregational News	3-6
Hispanic Ministry	6
Yada Happenings	7
Music Happenings	8

## Gentle Reminder

# We Need A Little Christmas...

Twenty-eight days before Christmas. But you didn't need a pastoral article to tell you that. Store owners and television and radio advertisements have been reminding us for weeks already: get ready for Christmas.

Generally, I believe in delaying the celebration of Christmas. I have come to enjoy the season of Advent as a time of preparation before the celebration of Christmas Day. I like the anticipation of waiting before we launch head-long into Christmas hymns and holiday exchanges of "Merry Christmas!" Observing the season of Advent is an excellent way to prepare – and postpone – the full-on Christmas-mania that begins around Halloween!

But this year, I can't wait for Christmas to arrive. I'm ready to give thanks for this time of year when we celebrate the seasonal joy of giving and sharing, singing and merry-making, and holiday cheer and good news. Why? Because... *We need a little Christmas... right now!*

Some of you may remember that song from the Broadway musical, *Mame*. The story takes place during The Depression and Mame has lost lots of money in the crash of the stock market. But in this song, she is singing to convince herself and others that even in direst of times we need to celebrate! And Christmas is a wonderful time to celebrate.

*Mame:* Haul out the holly; Well, once I taught you all to live each living day.

*Young Patrick:* But Auntie Mame, it's one week from Thanksgiving Day now.

*All:* But we need a little Christmas. Right this very minute, candles in the window, carols at the spinet. Yes, we need a little Christmas. Right this very minute... For we need a little music, need a little laughter, need a little singing ringing through the rafter, and we need a little snappy, "Happy ever after!"  
*Need a little Christmas now!*

In the Christian faith, we proclaim that the whole universe is trying to say something, and one of the ways the universe proclaims it, is like this: "We need a little Christmas and we need a little Christmas right now!"

We need the celebration of new life. We need the joy of holiday sharing. We need to take hold of the opportunities to give and receive gifts and say, "Thank you!" We need the good news of the great joy!

For if there is any time we can push back the sorrow of this world, if there is any time that we can unzip the clouds of depression that roll in on our heads and through our lives, if there is any time we can pierce through the gloomy drone of the evening news and get a glimpse of hope, it is at Christmastime.

Our world desperately needs to know that God has come in Jesus Christ and that God reigns forever and in unexpected ways. This is the message of Christmas.

So let's get started. Haul out the holly. Join the worshipping communities of National City Christian Church as we make our Advent preparations. Come hear again that God has invaded this earth and God shall reign forever and ever!

– Dr. Stephen Gentle

## ...Right Now!

**"We Need A Little Christmas...Right Now!"**

**November 28**

**"Haul Out The Holly!"**

Hanging of the Green Ceremony

**December 5**

**"Are We There Yet?"**

Peace Sunday

**December 12**

**"We need a little music...ringing through the rafters"**

Lessons and Carols at 11 a.m. Service

**December 19**

**"Have Yourself a Merry, Little Christmas"**

**December 24, Christmas Eve**

Candlelight Communion Worship

# Message from the Moderators

To the members and friends of National City Christian Church,

As we enter this Advent Season, may we take time to reflect on the goodness of Jesus and all that he has done for us. We wish to acknowledge the pride and the hopefulness we share as your moderators. This year we have journeyed with you through a time of introspection, celebration, and new beginnings.

As a congregation trusting in the Lord our God, our introspection has allowed us to cherish the past and the present. We have searched our hearts and minds for our passion in Christ and acknowledge our love for Christ and our thirst to serve him completely.

The celebration of 80 years of National City Christian Church has brought us much joy: the joy of serving proudly as people of faith; the joy of life heard and experienced in these hallowed halls; the love shared and experienced by each and everyone who came into our doors. But along with the joy we acknowledge, we give thanks to God for those who have left us behind – those

who have served well in this House of Prayer. Celebration is always about the past and the present. And now we turn the page to the future.

We must pray that God will lead and guide us and that we follow in his footsteps. We must continue to serve faithfully – always trusting in God to show us the way. We must also be prepared to listen and follow him. How do we do that? The Bible states: “My servant listens to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” (*John 10:27 KJV*) Let us prepare ourselves and listen to the quiet inner voice that speaks from within. Let us remember that the Lord is our light and our salvation – whom shall we fear. (*Psalms 27:1 KJV*)

We end this year in joyous expectation. This Christmas, may God open our hearts to his love, our minds to his wonder, our ears to his voice, and our lives to his presence. Have a blessed Christmas as we anticipate a wonderful and joyous New Year.

– Loretta Tate and Steven Baines

---

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 4, 2010

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to congratulate you on your anniversary. Throughout our Nation’s history, places of worship have been a cornerstone of our communities.

On this occasion, we are reminded of the abiding truth that each of us has the power to create a better world for ourselves and our children when we do God’s work here on earth. As you celebrate this important milestone, I hope you will look back on your achievements and contributions with joy and pride. May God bless you.

Sincerely,



# Martha's Table - Teamwork at National City



On the second Wednesday of each month, four to five volunteers from National City meet at Martha's Table at 4:45 p.m., put hot soup in individual containers, gather bags already filled with sandwiches, fruit, and dessert, and drive in a Martha's Table van to Second Street, N.W., to provide food to all who come – usually 55 to 70 people. November's team was (from left to right), Bill Eldred, Pat Bonavia, Gary Lewis, and Tom Beacham. New and "old" volunteers are always welcome. Contact Gary Lewis at [garylewis51@hotmail.com](mailto:garylewis51@hotmail.com).

# Thanks to All for National City's Rummage Sale



Thank you for your time, energy, and support in making our rummage sale a success. We had more than 40 people working together on Saturday, October 30, and in preparation for Saturday.

Our books, clothes, and furniture drew in many people and the festive atmosphere brought us together with our Thomas Circle neighbors. We made over \$2,500 which will go to church outreach as well as our church budget.

Thank you again for your dedication and support!

- Barbara Boward
- Barbara Collins
- Lorraine Magnussen
- Loretta Tate



### Angel Tree to Go Up November 28

The Angel Tree, with gift tags for presents to be bought for children of inmates, will go up in the Atrium on November 28. You are invited to select a tag and return the requested gifts.

The Angel Tree ministry, founded by the Prison Fellowship, connects parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts. Every Christmas, thousands of churches help brighten the lives of children by purchasing, wrapping and delivering gifts on behalf of their incarcerated parent – not only delivering a message of love from parent to child, but also the true meaning of Christmas – the good news of Jesus Christ.

### Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 12

Our annual Christmas dinner will be held Sunday, December 12, at 12:30 p.m. You'll be able to sign up for the dinner at the desk in the Atrium.

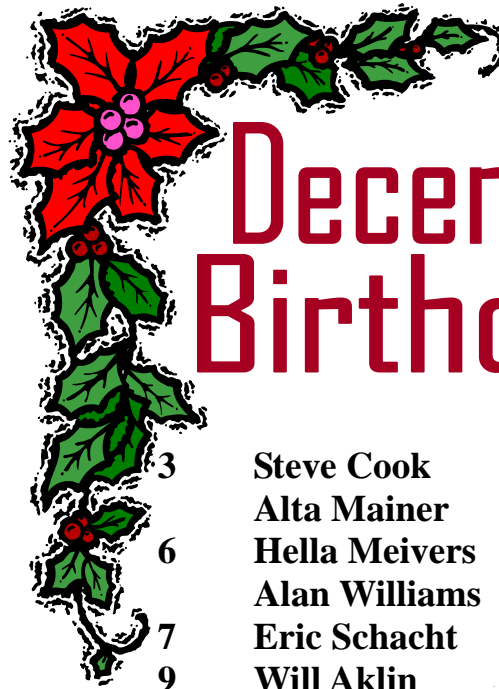
### Our "Snow Angel" in *The Nutcracker*: Lauren He

Lauren He will be a snow angel in Septime Webre's "The Nutcracker" at the Warner Theatre in December. Lauren, the daughter of Polly He, is eight years old and will be performing with the Washington Ballet.

Lauren will be in seven performances: December 2 and December 3 at 7 p.m.; December 5 and December 26 at 5:30 p.m.; December 12 and December 24 at 1 p.m.; and December 18 at 2 p.m.

Tickets start at \$31 and can be purchased at 202-397-SEAT, washingtonballet.org, or the Warner Theatre Box Officer.

"The Nutcracker" stars George Washington as the heroic Nutcracker and England's King George III as the villainous Rat King. It runs December 2-26.



# December Birthdays

- |    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 3  | Steve Cook               |
|    | Alta Mainer              |
| 6  | Hella Meivers            |
|    | Alan Williams            |
| 7  | Eric Schacht             |
| 9  | Will Aklin               |
|    | Mary Paradise            |
|    | Cameron Tate*            |
| 10 | Will White               |
| 11 | Dale Rowland             |
| 12 | Greg Kubiak              |
| 13 | Chrys Lemon              |
| 15 | Ann Cappiello            |
|    | Aiden O'Sullivan*        |
| 16 | Sally Bitting            |
|    | Adriene Gesell Dickerson |
|    | Maurie Mausbach          |
| 19 | Rysom Sanderlin          |
| 20 | Bill Knight              |
| 21 | Kevin Biggins            |
|    | Ann Flowers              |
|    | Narka Ryan               |
| 24 | Ann Howland              |
| 29 | Wayne Upton              |
| 30 | Earl Johnson             |
|    | Garry Devinger           |

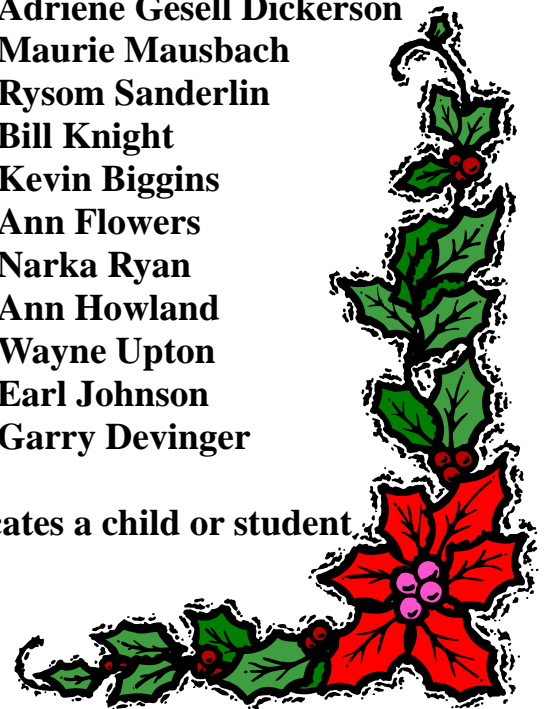
\*Indicates a child or student.

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

Please submit articles for the January Newsletter  
by December 15

to Diana Morse at [morsediana@comcast.net](mailto:morsediana@comcast.net)

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





# The Cradle Club has three new members!

## Welcome to Newest Addition

Our best wishes to Tabitha Bowling and Alyssa May on the birth of their son Marshall Owen Theodore May on October 30. Rev. May is a member of the Gospel Choir.

**First-Time Visitors** – The Woodard twins made their first visit to church on November 14. Proud father Eric is holding son Fletcher. Proud mother Keri is holding daughter Piper.



# ¿Que Pasa?

Our neighbors from the Norwood together with two other groups presented "Popol Vuh" the creation story of the Mayas at the Museum of Native Americans.

In their story God created the world and then the animals but was unable to get the animals to worship him. God then tried to create humanity with different mediums. First God tried using mud but they came out too frail. God then tried wood but that did not work either. Finally God decided to make humanity out of corn and that worked out very well.



Silvia Salazar, a resident and leader of the Norwood Neighbors Association, participates in the presentation.



Rev. Mena is pictured with several of the actors who are truly of Indian descent, and are wearing traditional costumes.

# Yada (Young Adults)

## D-Space Year-End Study

The Young Adults will be meeting for D-Space four more weeks in 2010: Nov 23+30 and Dec 7+14. 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.). Ann Neeriemer is preparing a short study on a book of the Bible with a Christmas theme. If you are interested in leading a week of the study or providing snacks, contact Ann at [aneeriemer@gmail.com](mailto:aneeriemer@gmail.com).

## Yada Christmas Party

The Young Adults will be gathering Friday, December 10, for our annual Christmas party at Albemarle House a.k.a. Kathleen's place. Details on white elephant, service activity, food and beverage to come. Guests are welcome, but please RSVP for a head count on Facebook or text Kathleen at 615-424-6498.



Shana, Kathryn, and Kristi hope you dress festive for the Yada Christmas party!

## Everyone Has A Story...

Each Sunday National City Christian Church welcomes guests from around the country and often from around the world. Some have wonderful stories to tell about why they made the special effort to arrive at 5 Thomas Circle for a worship service. Talk to them – ask them about their story.

Recently we had a special guest who didn't come far – only across the street. Fred Sink recently retired to live at Thomas House, and has a special story to tell. Sixty years ago he sang for the Sunday evening services here – for \$2 a night! Fred had moved to Washington after college for further studies in organ. Then on to Brooklyn, New York, for a career as a church organist. He returned to NCCC once again to hear our great organ.

And that's Fred's unique story. Everyone has a story. Whom have you talked with?

– Lynne Morgan

# Holiday shopping at Hilda's!



Come to Hilda's International Craft Shop for your holiday shopping. With unique gift items from around the world, you are sure to find just the right gift!

All our items benefit the artisans who make them.

New items are coming in weekly!

Hilda's will be open on Tuesdays 12-5 and Saturdays 10-3.

Volunteers are needed for Sunday morning and afternoons.





# A Music-Filled Month

One of the most blessed things about the month of December is the amazing amount of music that is associated with the holidays, including Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. As soon as Thanksgiving is over, a dizzying and tempting array of special worship services and concerts appear before us. For National City, it will be a remarkably music-filled month. We hope that you will join us for as many of the services and events listed here and that your hearts will be filled with the wonderful message of Christmas as told through song and music of all kinds!

– Charles Miller

## **Friday, December 3, at 12:15 p.m.**

### *Magical, Mystical, Musical Machine*

Charles Miller, organist. Christmas music for the organ by J.S. Bach, Karg-Elert, Tchaikovsky, and others.

## **Saturday, December 4, at 7 p.m.**

*Fairfax Choral Society: Christmas Around the World*  
FCS Adult Chorus, Master Singers, Concert & Treble Choirs sing carols from nations far and wide.  
General admission is \$25 per person, and \$15 for students 18 and under.

## **Sunday, December 5 – 2:30-3:30 p.m.**

### *Caroling on the Circles*

The congregation is invited to join the NCCC Sanctuary Choir to go caroling for the Logan Circle Holiday Open House and at Thomas Circle Residences following the morning worship services. Lunch will be served in the music suite prior to caroling and we'll end our singing with cookies and hot cocoa. ALL NCCC members and friends are welcome to join in the merriment!

## **Wednesday, December 8, at 7:30 p.m.**

### *Fessenden Ensemble plays music of Poulenc, Respighi, and Persichetti.*

Tickets are \$30 per person and available at the door on the evening of the concert.

## **Friday, December 10, at 12:15 p.m.**

### *Magical, Mystical, Musical Machine*

Eric Bowman, organist from Charlestown, West Virginia. Arrangements of Christmas carols by J.S. Bach, Virgil Fox, Andre Fleury, and Myron Roberts.

## **Sunday, December 12 – 11 a.m. Worship Service**

### *Service of Lessons and Carols.*

The story of the birth of Christ told in scripture and music, patterned after the traditional King's College, Cambridge, service, with the NCCC Sanctuary Choir, organ, and harp. Members of the NCCC congregation will offer the readings.

## **Sunday, December 12, at 3 p.m.**

### *The Washington Sinfonietta's Community Christmas Concert*

Music and fun for all ages, including Haydn's participatory *Toy Symphony*, and Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*.  
General admission is \$20 per person, and \$15 for students 19 and under

## **Friday, December 17, at 12:15 p.m.**

### *Magical, Mystical, Musical Machine*

Stephen Kalnoske, organist former assistant organist of NCCC  
Improvisations based on favorite Christmas carols

## **Saturday, December 18, at 4 p.m.**

### *Children's Chorus of Washington "Holidays Throughout the Years" Concert*

CCW's Bel Canto and Concert Choruses and instrumentalists sing a wonderful array of holiday music  
Tickets are \$50 (front row seating); \$25 (adult, general seating); \$10 (students 12 and younger)

## **Sunday, December 19, at 4 p.m.**

### *Children's Chorus of Washington "Holidays Throughout the Years" Concert*

CCW's Treble and Concert Choruses and instrumentalists sing a wonderful array of holiday music  
Tickets are \$50 (front row seating); \$25 (adult, general seating); \$10 (students 12 and younger)

## **Friday, December 24, at 7:30 p.m.**

### *Festival Christmas Eve Service with Candlelight and Carols*

The celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, begins at 7 p.m. with a festive prelude for organ, harp, violin, and our Sanctuary Choir and soloists. The 7:30 p.m. communion service, in candlelight, will tell of the Christmas story in scripture and through the singing of glorious carols.