

The News of National City

February 2011

Issue XI Vol. 2

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The Thoughtful Christian:

Faithful Living in a Complex World

Every day we encounter issues that are not only controversial but that also seem to divide nations, politicians, and even best friends. Then there are times when we encounter a subject that we know so little about that we don't know how to talk about it with others. Our faith has the potential to enrich both the content and civility of public conversation. Join the conversation in the month of February as we continue studying, praying, and discussing. Don't miss a Sunday in worship or small group gathering as we consider some of the following difficult issues as thoughtful Christians.



February 6

Why is it so difficult to talk about Racism?

Rev. Beverly Goines
and Dr. Stephen Gentle, preaching

Why is it so difficult to talk about Racism? No one can deny it exists yet talking frankly about it is one of the few remaining taboos of our society. We often feel like we've come a long way in regard to race relations, but we still have much work to do.

February 13

Introduction to the Koran

Rev. Steven Moore, preaching
on Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

A basic understanding of the Koran, the holy scriptures of Islam, can be beneficial in helping us understand our Muslim brothers and sisters.

February 20

Same-Gender Marriage

Dr. Stephen Gentle, preaching

The primary aim of this small group session is to give a fair hearing to arguments for and against marriage between two people of the same gender. Participants should feel safe in expressing their own opinions without fear of being put down by other participants and, in turn, should state their own opinions in a manner that is respectful to others.

February 27

Immigration and the Mexican Border

Rev. Noemi Mena
and Dr. Stephen Gentle, preaching

As Christians join the broader American conversation about immigration, it is important for us to understand how immigration and a concern for the well-being of migrants—"aliens" and "strangers"—is deeply embedded in the history of the Christian Church, and woven into the very fabric of Scripture.

— Stephen Gentle

NCCC Connector

How well do you know your church family? The quiz today is: Who in our congregation is a skilled craftsman of violins?

Turn to page 2 for the answer.

Your Connector Team
— Kathy Burger, Chrys Lemon,
Beverly Schacht, Kathleen Simpson,
and Alan Williams

NCCC Connector Quiz: The Answer

John Krall attended The Violin Making School of America for four years in Salt Lake City. He currently works for Brobst Violin Shop in Alexandria. His wife Sue, an MD, is an executive with American Diabetes Association, working on diabetes education. Their family moved to the DC area from Indianapolis, where they were members of Steve Moore's church. Their son Jacob was married in Indianapolis last year, with Steve Moore officiating. Son Evan recently graduated from Case Western Reserve University and is moving to San Francisco for a position with start-up computer software company.

John sings in Sanctuary Choir and also serves as a Sunday School teacher. Sue is a deaconess. They will be hosting a Virginia-based small group discussion group, Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. the month of February.

Connector Tip of the Month

Are you on Facebook? Is NCCC your friend? If so, you can help us reach hundreds of people with the good news of wonderful ministries at NCCC.

If you haven't already, go to <http://nationalcitycc.org> and click the 'Like' link in the upper right hand corner. That simple action adds NCCC as your Facebook friend. Any item that is posted on our church website will appear on your Facebook page, so you will be informed automatically on latest happenings at church.

Equally important, you can also play a vital role in sharing good news of NCCC to your friends and family. When the NCCC posting appears on your Facebook page, simply click 'Share' on that item and it is passed along to your entire Friend network.

How important is this action?

Our church already has an impressive 486 friends on Facebook. Let's assume, very conservatively, that each of you "Friends of NCCC" has 50 other friends. When you click "share" of NCCC postings onto your network, the result would be over 24,000 "hits" to people who might well choose to visit NCCC some Sunday. This potential impact far exceeds any advertising that we might be able to pay for.

So, NCCC Friends, please take a moment, become a Friend on Facebook, and then "Share" information items with your friendship networks. The impact can be astonishing.

If you have any questions on how to implement this, please contact your Communicator Team: Eric Woodward or Kathleen Burger-Gerada. We'll gladly walk you through the process.

– Kathleen Burger and Eric Woodard

Valentine Cards Available on Sunday, February 6

Continuing a tradition begun last year, Valentine Cards will be available for you in the Atrium after the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services for you to address and send to family or friend.

Our in-house graphic artist, Colleen Walsh, is designing the cards this year. Think of someone you haven't been in touch with, or someone who could use a cheery winter greetings, and bring those addresses to coffee hour on Sunday, February 6.

– Compliments of your Connect Team

News of Our Church Family

We welcome to National City Christian Church membership **David F. Tyson**. Mr. Tyson lives on Massachusetts Avenue, near National City, and came by transfer from New York Avenue Presbyterian Church during the 8:30 a.m. worship service on January 16.

Congratulations to **Paul Guequirre**, who graduated from American University with a Master's Degree in Public Administration. Paul currently works as Deputy Press Secretary of Human Rights Campaign. He is active in the GLBT group at NCCC.

Congratulations to **Mary Paradise**, a Nurse Practitioner, who has begun work as a Consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton. At NCCC, Mary is vice chair of deacons and chair of the GLBT group.

Congratulations to **Charlie Daniel** who retired from his position as Assistant Director of Tax Policy Administration at Government Accountability Office. Charlie's first priority is to catch up on his To Do Lists, then travel to Spain and South Africa. Charlie serves as Church Clerk at NCCC.

Connect Team Participates in Fushion Webinar

Members of the Connect (Evangelism) Team took part in a 2-hour webinar titled "Fusion: Turning First-Time Guests into Fully-Engaged Members of your Church," hosted by Nelson Searcy. The NCCC team is using Searcy's model to greet and follow-up with local visitors. If you are interested in learning more, contact Kathy Burger for a copy of the book Fusion.

Kathleen Burger attended Disciples Development Conference in San Diego this January. The three-day symposium included sessions on Strategic Planning, Trends in Stewardship, role of Social Media & Fund-Raising.

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Dr. D. Duane Cummins**, whose wife Suzi died on January 17. A memorial service will be held on February 25 at 11 a.m. at Bethany Memorial Church in Bethany, West Virginia.

Suzi Cummins had a loving ministry to the students of Bethany College through Bethany Memorial Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to the Suzi Cummins Scholarship Fund at Bethany Memorial Christian Church, Main Street, P.O. Box 149, Bethany, WV 26032.

Dr. D. Duane Cummins's address is 255 Sears Lane, Swanton, MD 21561.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with the **family of Tristan Evarts**, who died of injuries from a car accident on January 3. He was the son of Cindy and Bob Evarts and grandson of Hugh and Judy Erskine. The Erskines have been longtime members and friends of NCCC. Cindy was raised in our church and has maintained close ties with many in our congregation.

The address for Cindy and Bob Evarts is 12107 Back Creek Valley Road, Hedgesville, WV 25427; for Hugh and Judy Erskine – 1820 Tomahawk Run Road, Hedgesville, WV 25427-3147.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a scholarship fund being established at Hedgesville High School in Tristan's name. Checks, made payable to Hedgesville High School, with "Tristan Evarts Scholarship" written in the memo, may be mailed to Hedgesville High School, Attention of Don Dellinger, Principal, 109 Ridge Road North, Hedgesville, WV 25427.

The News of National City
is a monthly publication.

Please submit articles for the
March Newsletter by February 15
to Diana Morse at
morsediana@comcast.net
or to Colleen Walsh at
cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org

February Birthdays

3	Esther Poole	20	Nett Brown
5	William C. Howland, Jr.	21	Bill Blackwell
6	Denise Ross		Ken Brooker Langston
	Glen Gerada	23	Leta Rose Rowland
7	Erin Hedlund*	25	Melissa Wilson*
	Doug Ward	26	Perry Ives
9	Paul Heffron	27	Lynne Morgan
13	Dick Gesell	28	Cheryl Gwathney
14	Anita Drew		Linda Sharp
16	Carolyn Gesell O'Sullivan	29	Wayne Upton
	Alia Waheed		
17	Willietta Schley		* Indicates a child or a student
	Bill Stewart		

Yada D-Space Focuses on Immigration

Tuesday night Disciples Space returns with the topic of immigration. Each week a different young adult is leading the conversation. To sign up to lead a session or bring snacks, contact Ann Neeriemer at 828-712-6109. And if you are busy on Tuesdays, check out the small groups forming on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.

Yada is also gearing up for another Spring Retreat.

– Kathleen Simpson

National City To Host Girl Scout International Festival in Scott Hall

Troop 574 is hosting the entire Service Unit (twenty troops) for an International Festival on Saturday, February 19. Each troop is creating a booth for a country. The girls are learning all about our country, Yemen.

A few NCCC members have already helped us: Randa Kayyali is sharing her knowledge and goodies from her travels to Yemen. Erin Stewart, a professional EMT, will be our on-site First Aider. Bill Stewart, our resident Boy Scout leader, will be on hand doing many things.

If you would like to volunteer before, during, or after, just contact Kathleen Simpson at 615-424-6498.

Baptism Classes For Young Persons

The pastors of National City Christian Church will be teaching a Pastors' Class for young persons interested in learning about baptism and the Christian life. Classes will meet each Sunday in the 2nd Floor Conference Room, between 9:50 – 10:50 a.m., from February 6-27. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Kathleen Swihart at kswihart62@yahoo.com or 202.232.0323.

Week of Compassion 2011

Sharing Brings Joy to Us, to Others, and to God!

This year we will receive the Week of Compassion Offering on Sundays February 13 and 21. Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Through your gifts, disciples, partners and friends are equipped to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and the promotion of mission opportunities.

Already in 2011, your gifts have gone for disaster relief due to flooding in Australia, Kentucky, and Sri Lanka. A grant was provided to a Disciples family in Missouri after their home burned and assistance was given to one of our partners in Nicaragua for food security.

In the days ahead, check out our website for updates on the ministry of Week of Compassion and reflect on how you have experienced joy when you give!



Something Moore:

About a week ago, I had a visit from one of my “street” friends. I had been keeping track of him since he began a training program in hopes of finding a job. He had told me he was about to graduate and when he stopped by I thought it was to tell me some good news. Instead, with the smell of alcohol filling the small Visitors’ Center, he told me he was back on the streets. He needed some “walking around” money so I gave him a few dollars knowing how the money was going to be used.

Since I’ve lived in DC I hope I’ve become fairly street savvy to those who ask for money. My friend had never asked for money from me before and I figured this once I would help him out. It brought me joy to give to my friend. He opened up and shared some of his story and

how he ended up on the street. I could see that he trusted me and he knows I value him as a human being.

I’ve received the same joy over and over again when I’ve given to Week of Compassion. I’ve seen the results of our gifts as homes are rebuilt in New Orleans. I’ve been able to deliver school kits and health kits to those in need. I’ve visited a community where a roto-tiller helps sustain and rebuild a war-torn community. As we approach the Week of Compassion offering, I hope you will consider the ways in your life giving has brought you joy - and how you have seen joy in others - remembering that when we give it brings joy to God.

Peace,
Steve

Parking Update

Complimentary parking is available at the Washington Plaza Hotel parking garage. Simply ask for a voucher at the church front desk at the 14th street entrance.

Street parking is available every Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the west ramp off Thomas Circle, which leads to Massachusetts Avenue. As you enter the circle heading south on 14th Street, take the second exit toward Massachusetts Avenue; street parking is on the right.

Serve With Joy

We Honor Our Community Service Volunteers on Valentine's Sunday February 13

Join us for a reception honoring our community service volunteers on Sunday, February 13. They will be recognized during the worship services and at a reception in the Atrium between services.

To put it another way:

We welcome all people to the hub of the arts,
Usher in music that fills their hearts.

Our N Street Ministries serves those who are able,
And on Wednesday pm we have Martha's Table.

The Angel Tree is Santa to many young fellows,
And Disciples Women provides Valentine hearts pillows.

World Outreach, blankets, we even do knitting,
Our community volunteers still aren't quitting.

YADA leads projects throughout the year,
And Capitol Pride completes their parade with a cheer.

We honor our volunteers both robust and coy,
They "Share the Love" and "Serve with Joy."

– Barbara Collins

Disciples Women Invites All to "Work Day" on Tuesday, February 1

Disciples Women invite all to join them on Tuesday, February 1, at 10 a.m. in the Music Suite, where they will be assembling cough pillows for the American Heart Association for recovering heart patients.

They'll be stuffing the pre-sewn pillows and then sewing them closed.

Feel free to bring a sandwich and stay for lunch afterwards. Circle 3 will be providing an added treat for lunch.

Opportunity to Help Out

Our long-time maintenance assistant Roy Hatton will be having shoulder surgery on February 11. Our thoughts and prayers go with Roy during his surgery and recovery time.

If you would like to pitch in while Roy is recovering, contact Mo Jackson, our building superintendent, to see how you can help out around the church.

Nursery Open House on February 6

Come meet our child care provider and preschool Sunday School teachers between services on Sunday, February 6.

Families with babies and preschoolers are especially invited to our Nursery Open House on from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Fellers Foyer. Coffee and age-appropriate refreshments will be served and a lesson for the preschoolers will be given.

– Teresa Swihart

Lay Leadership Development Program Underway

The "Serve with Joy" working group, consisting of Barbara Collins, Shirley Kruse, Gary Lewis, Bill Knight, Mary Paradise, and Dr. Stephen Gentle, met on Saturday, January 8, during the first 2011 NCCC Leadership Meeting. One of the goals of this working group is to create a Lay Leadership Development Program.

Our initial step is to begin a church-wide survey of gifts, skills, and interests of our members. In the coming weeks a survey will be developed. Members will be able to access the survey in one of three ways. You can request a hard copy of the survey in the mail, you can pick it up at the church, or access the on-line survey on the church website. Expect to see more information about the survey in the coming weeks.

Your participation is crucial to the continued success and growth of our missionary congregation. If you have any questions feel free to contact any of the working group members and if you would like to be part of the working group, please contact Mary Paradise at 202-525-1516 or m.a.paradise@comcast.net.

– Mary Paradise

Souper Bowl Sunday – Soup Available Sunday, February 6, in the Atrium

Once again, we'll have delicious take-home soup on Super Bowl Sunday – February 6 – after the 8:30 and 11 o'clock services.

Theresa Beaton is making the super soup and we are asking for a donation of \$10. Your donation will benefit our food pantry, which continues to see the number of people who come for food on Wednesdays on the increase.

"Recover" Together: A Fun February Project

We are going to recover the 80 metal chairs in our Atrium, Music Suite, and Sanctuary. The upholstery fabric has arrived and was cut by a Serve With Joy team in January.

We'll need all the help we can get – along with electric screwdrivers and 1/4" staple guns. If 40 people each recover 2 chairs the job will be complete.

Our workdays are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday the second and third week of February. As we get closer, work times will be posted and e-mailed.

– Barbara Collins

Music in February

Friday Noon Recitals Resume

The “Magical, Mystical, Musical Machine” Friday Noon Recital and Demonstration Series returns this month with four exciting artists from the mid-Atlantic region:

February 4

Charles Miller, organist,
with Jacqueline Pollauff, harpist from Baltimore

February 11

David Christopher, organist from Wilmington, Delaware

February 18

Todd Davis, organist from York, Pennsylvania

February 25

Jeffrey Alban, organist from Front Royal, Virginia

These half-hour-long recitals begin each Friday at 12:15 p.m. and are FREE. Bring your friends and anyone who loves the thrill and the rumble of the pipe organ!

February 2011 is simply PACKED with God’s gifts of music. Please come join us for these exciting and edifying concert events!

The Fessenden Chamber Ensemble Performs Mozart on February 16

Washington D.C.’s finest chamber music ensembles, led by founder Emil George, will perform an exciting concert of the music of ever-popular composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart on Wednesday, February 16, at 7:30 p.m., including the Horn concerto No. 3 and the Clarinet Quintet.

The Washington Post reviewers use words like “stylish,” “polished,” and “satisfying” to describe this group made up of players from the National Symphony, Washington Opera Orchestra, and military ensembles. Tickets for this event are \$30 for adults. Children under 18 enter for free.

Charles Miller To Perform Organ Concerto With the Washington Sinfonietta on Saturday, February 26

Minister of Music Charles Miller will join forces with the Washington Sinfonietta on Saturday, February 26, at 7 p.m. in a concert featuring three works for pipe organ and orchestra: the *Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani* by French composer Francis Poulenc; *Sospiri* by British composer Edward Elgar; and the *Epistle Sonata in C Major* by Mozart.

The orchestra will also perform Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 2 in D Major*. Joel Lazar, Principal Conductor of the Washington Sinfonietta, will conduct the concert.

General admission tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students (with student ID) and free for children ages 18 and under. NCCC members’ ticket price is \$10 per person.

A gala reception will follow the concert and all are cordially invited to hear these rarely performed works in the glorious acoustics of the NCCC sanctuary.

Organ Recital on February 7 by Internationally Celebrated Organist Todd Wilson

To celebrate the life of Donald Gillett, who was largely responsible for the design and overall sounds of our organ, the District of Columbia chapter of the American Guild of Organists will host a recital by internationally acclaimed concert organist Todd Wilson here at NCCC on Monday, February 7, at 7:30 p.m.

The NCCC pipe organ was installed by the M.P. Möller Company of Hagerstown, Maryland, in 1976. Mr. Gillett, who died at the age of 91 in April 2010, was the vice president and tonal director of the Möller Company and was largely responsible for the design and overall sounds of the organ, for which we are ever grateful. Mr. Gillett was a nationally revered and heralded pipe organ voicer. He is reported by many to have said that the NCCC organ was one of his most favorite which he built.

Todd Wilson, who is head of the Organ Department at The Cleveland Institute of Music, Curator of the E.M. Skinner pipe organ at Severance Hall in Cleveland, Ohio, and Artist-in-Residence at Cleveland’s Trinity Cathedral, was one of the first concert organists to make a recording upon the organ in the early 1990s. Dr. Wilson will perform a thrilling and virtuosic performance of works by Sigfrid Karg-Elert, Johann Sebastian Bach, Georges Bizet, César Franck, Maurice Duruflé, and Charles-Marie Widor upon the 7,100 pipes of this instrument.

Tickets for the general public will be sold at the door on the evening of the event. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for all NCCC members, seniors, and students (with student ID), and free for children ages 18 and under. For more information about this recital, contact Charles Miller at cmiller@nationalcitycc.org or 202-797-0103.

– Charles Miller