

The News of National City

January 2011

Issue XI Vol. 1

Inside This Issue:	
Gentle Reminder	2
Girl Scout News	2
Yada Happenings	2
Congregational News	3
Something Moore	4
Foundation News	4
Connectors Corner	4

The Thoughtful Christian

Every day we encounter issues that are not only controversial but that can divide friends, co-workers, congregations, and nations. Then there are times when we encounter a subject that we know so little about that we do not know how to talk about it with others.

Our faith has the potential to enrich both the content and civility of public conversations. Join the conversation in worship and small groups as we consider some of the important subjects in today's headlines. Signup for groups will begin on January 9 with groups beginning the week of January 17.

– Stephen Gentle

January 9

“In Defense of Civility”

Stephen Gentle, preaching

In the U.S. we have seen religious people at the heart of moral dialogue. Sometimes these conversations have led to great divisions. How can we be a part of the conversation that brings people together and heals division?

January 16

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Sunday

Rev. Jason Pearson, preaching

In 2010 our seminary intern was called to the great congregation of Covenant Christian Church in Memphis, Tennessee. We welcome Rev. Pearson back to National City's pulpit during the Sunday celebration of the ministry of Dr. King.

January 23

“Pro-Life, Pro-Choice”

Dr. Stephen Gentle, preaching

This conversation aims to assist advocates in curbing the tendency to caricature one another's positions and to assist them in fostering the ability to listen to one another respectfully.

January 30

“Separation of Church and State”

Dr. Stephen Gentle

and Rev. Steven Baines, preaching

Was the U.S. a Christian nation from its beginning? How did the principles of freedom of religion get incorporated in our government, and what do they mean?

February 6

“Why is it so difficult to talk about Racism?”

Dr. Stephen Gentle, preaching

No one can deny it exists yet talking frankly about it is one of the few remaining taboos of our society. Some feel like we've come a long way in regard to race relationship, but we still have much work to do.

Make each week a meaningful encounter with Christ and his Church and nurture your spirit, and join the people of God as we come together for worship and conversation as “thoughtful Christians.”

The staff of National City joins me in showing our appreciation for the generous gift at the end of the year. This was a completely unexpected gift, but one that we are so grateful for in light of the 2010 cuts. So our gratitude is extended to National City and the generous donors.

A special word of appreciation to Diana Morse and the Pastoral Liaison Committee for leading this gracious initiative for the full-time staff. Thank you!

– Stephen Gentle

NCCC Connector!

How well do you know your church family? The quiz today is: Which three members of National City have a connection to architecture?

Turn to page 4 for the answer.

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

Gentle Reminder

This is the Year of New Beginnings!

"The plans of the mind belong to mortals, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord." Proverbs 16:1

The beginning of the New Year is the time to not only take a personal account of where you have been, but also make plans for where you want to go in weeks and months ahead. The wisdom of the Proverbs writer affirms that while we make our plans, God has the last word.

At National City Christian Church, as we will begin to live into the New Beginnings, continue to pray for God's wisdom and leadership. It is in the context of prayer and reflection, we are moving into a New Year and the Strategic Implementation Team's work will be shared with church leadership, board, and congregation. Dates to keep on your calendar:

Saturday, January 8

Model of Ministry meeting for strategic implementation on New Beginnings
9 a.m. – 12 noon, Scott Hall

Sunday, January 23

General Board installation at 11 a.m. worship
General Board orientation at 12:30 p.m. in Scott Hall
Meet for strategic implementation of New Beginnings

Sunday, January 30

Congregational Luncheon and Annual Meeting
Receive the 2010 Annual Report
Meet for strategic implementation of New Beginnings
Scott Hall

If you are interested in working with task groups in the areas of discipleship, increasing the worship attendance, governance, or communications, let me know.

This is the year of New Beginnings. I am looking to the work of this congregation to make a profound difference in our community for the sake of Christ. Happy New Beginnings!

– Stephen Gentle



We've Got Our Vests and Diplomas

Girl Scout Troop 574, which is based at National City Christian Church/Community Academy – Butler Campus, sent eight Juniors and Brownies to Cookie College where they learned about marketing, safety, and most important, product testing! They earned the Cookie Connection badge and even a spotlight on the DC Cupcakes TV show filming on site.

Remember: cookie ordering starts December 20 and booths will start in February. The girls and parents also participated in their first ceremony on Friday, December 10. Each girl received her sash and badges she earned this fall. You can support girl scouting financially (money for supplies and uniforms adds up fast) or with your time and talent – just contact Kathleen Simpson at 615-424-6498.

Next month, you'll hear about the area International Festival the church and the troop are hosting in February. Each girl will have a passport and get stamps from countries around the world – all in Scott Hall.

– Kathleen Simpson



Yada Celebrates Advent on Tuesdays and Christmas All Year Long

The Young Adults closed out the year with an Advent study and are headed to Happy (Hour) Holidays until D-Space resumes January 11. Our closing lesson discussed how, as Christians, we should be sharing God's love all year long.

Yada also celebrated Christmas in fine style with the annual Christmas party. A fun twist this year was the "spend no money" White Elephant game. All are encouraged to donate funds to worthy causes and exchange silly things lying around the house: bow ties, wedding veils, and framed pictures of last year's gifts. To see more, check us out on Facebook.

– Kathleen Simpson

The News of National City is a monthly publication.

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

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Kevin Biggins, Jr.**, and his family upon the death of his grandmother Mrs. Sylvia Biggins on December 17.

The funeral service will be on Wednesday, January 5, at 11 a.m. at National City Christian Church with interment to follow at Fort Lincoln Cemetery.

Mrs. Biggins, who was born on May 16, 1937, worked in communications with the DC Metro Police Department and was an active member of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

Kevin, a member of National City Christian Church, is a former organ student of Dr. Lon Schreiber.

We also extend our sympathy to **Tamara and Roger Webb** on the death of Roger's mother, Alice Webb Wills, on December 5 in Lebanon, Ohio. She was 95.

She was born in 1915 in Cortland, New York. Survivors include her children – Frank, Burke, Roger, and Michael Webb and Beth Webb Stewart, and their families.

She graduated from Cortland Normal College and taught school in New York State before marrying Wheaton Phillips Webb, a Methodist minister, in 1935. They lived and served in churches in New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. They retired to Oxford, Ohio, in 1978. After her husband's death in 1983, she worked for five years as a parish visitor of the Oxford Methodist Church.

She moved to the Otterbein Retirement Community in Lebanon, Ohio, in 1992. She married a fellow school teacher, Wayne Wills, in 1994 and they had 13 joyful years together until his death in 2007.

She volunteered in the Edison school in Van Wert, Ohio, and in other public and church schools through the years. She and her husband also volunteered with Hospice at Otterbein. Her greatest interests involved people, especially children.

A memorial service will be held at Otterbein Lebanon Retirement Community Chapel on Saturday, January 22, at 2 p.m. to celebrate her life. A graveside service will be held at a later date at Marathon Cemetery in New York State.

January Birthdays

4	Don Arthur	13	Kathy Mosley
	Hilton Vaughn	14	Steve Schacht
5	Maurice Lee	16	Carol Gesell
6	Fay Arrington		Becky Kelley
	Marian Smither	18	Josie Grinner
7	Tom Allen	19	James Green
	Kelly Swanson	22	Drusilla McCain
9	Dorothy Davis		Erin & Kelsey Stewart*
10	Charles Deardorff	23	Joy Fulgham
11	Bill Travis	29	Bob Mansker
12	Nicholas Bullock	31	Rick Casey
	Darin Skelly		
	Beverly Williams		* Indicates a student

Contact Kathleen Swihart at kswhart@nationalcitycc.org to be added to the birthday list.

Board of Deacons Elect Officers for 2011

Gary Lewis will serve as chair of the Board of Deacons for 2011. Vice chair is Mary Paradise and Alan Williams is secretary/recorder, elected at the December 19 meeting. A serving schedule for the deacons for 2011 will be provided shortly.

Roman Chariot Riders and Disciples Women: An Interesting Combination

Did you know that the novel (and movie) Ben Hur has connections to Disciples? Come, cozy up to a good book and learn a bit of our history. Peter Morgan will present the program for Disciples Women and anyone else who is interested on Tuesday, January 4, at 11 a.m. in the Music Suite.

Everyone is invited to join us for this interesting program and to bring a sandwich for lunch. Circle 2 will be the hostesses.

Where to Park at National City

Complimentary parking is now available at the Washington Plaza Hotel Parking Garage. Simply ask for a voucher at the front desk of the 14th Street entrance of the church.

Street parking is available on Massachusetts Avenue just off of Thomas Circle. As you enter the circle heading south on 14th St. take the 2nd exit (Massachusetts Ave.) and Sunday parking is available.

The church parking garage is located off of N St N.W. Head north on 15th St. NW then turn right on N St. N.W. Proceed down N St. and turn right into an alley just before reaching the light at N and 14th St. The garage will be on your left. Pull into the garage and buzz the front desk and someone will let you into the garage.

Something Moore:

It's hard to imagine that 2011 is upon us! Have you made any resolutions? I'm actually horrible at making New Year's resolutions. My list is usually the same: lose weight; exercise more often (okay exercise at all); spend additional time with friends; attend more movies and theater productions.

As I was thinking about resolutions, the words to the song "Day by Day" from the musical *Godspell* kept coming to mind. The song is actually based on a prayer by the 13th century Bishop Richard of Chichester. According to the Church of England, Richard was Bishop of Chichester for eight years in the mid-13th century and was well acquainted with both hard work and suffering. Though a gifted scholar and lawyer, he did not flinch from physical labor; and as Bishop he found himself a homeless outcast in his own diocese, until King Henry III finally accepted his appointment by the Pope. His prayer reflects the commitment and 'stickability' needed by anyone who seeks to be a true follower of Jesus.

Instead of making a list, I've decided that saying and living the prayer of St. Richard will be my resolution for 2011. I pray that all of us may know, love and follow Christ more clearly, dearly and nearly.

Prayer of St. Richard Bishop of Chichester

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits which you have given us,
for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.
Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day.
Amen.

– Steven Moore

2010 Giving Statements

Each year Annual Giving Statements are issued. The IRS requires that these forms be mailed by January 30, 2011, and only for gift amounts above \$250. Giving Statements will be mailed during the week of January 17, 2011. If you gave gifts to the Foundation you will receive a separate statement.

Foundation Update

The Community Academy Public Charter School has officially signed a lease for the expanded space they requested, including Miller Hall and Wells Parlor. The additional monthly rent will be close to \$6,188. The school will also be paying a monthly parking fee.

The trial for former CFO, Mr. Reynolds, was originally scheduled to begin on January 18, 2011. A motion was passed for him to receive a new attorney, and the trial has been postponed. A new date will be scheduled soon.

NCCC Connector Quiz: The Answer

David McKinney, Ann Neeriemer, & Kathleen Simpson



David McKinney showing Peter Morgan 1913 Thomas Circle.

David McKinney, who was raised in Danville, Virginia, received his PhD in Architectural History from the University of Virginia, with a specialty in 18th century English architecture. He came to NC3 for the first time to see the interior of our building designed by John Russell Pope and has been a faithful member ever since. David serves as an elder and is a member of the GLBT group.



Ann Neeriemer is a native of Asheville, North Carolina, and graduated from the University of Maryland School of Architecture with Bachelor of Science and Masters Degree in Architecture. She also has a certificate in urban design. She currently works for Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn, which designs schools, libraries, and community centers. Ann's grandfather was a Disciples minister. She stumbled across NCCC one Sunday and decided to come back. Ann serves NCCC as an elder as well as D-Space (Yada) leader and serves on the Washington Interfaith Network.



Kathleen Simpson attended Auburn University's School of Architecture (home of the famous Rural Studio, www.ruralstudio.com) and now works for the American Institute of Architects, the non-profit association for architects. At AIA she manages specialty member groups (school designers, healthcare architecture, facility managers, architects focused on use of technology, green design, professional best practices.) Kathleen came to NCCC the first time with a friend. On that first Sunday, Kathy Burger welcomed them with complimentary tickets to a performance of the Washington Sinfonietta chamber orchestra. Kathleen then made a connection with D-space (Yada), and now is in active service as leader of a Girl Scout troop based at National City, Welcome Wagon for Yada, and the Connect Team. Kathleen's hometown is Nashville, Tennessee.