

The News of National City

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

– R.A. Long

November 2010

Issue X Vol. 11

Stewardship 2011

Our Hope for Years to Come!



Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Psalm 90 vs. 1

It was an exciting day when we sealed the ark on the occasion of our 80th anniversary. As we heard the whir of the electric screwdriver, I began to wonder, who will be present to open the ark on our 100th anniversary. Will people like baby Mia McCue (who will be a 20-something) unseal the ark? Will Fredrickia Lloyd remove the DC quarter she put in 20 years earlier?

I would hope that our homeless ministry would have ended, but I fear that we would have expanded our ministry. In 20 years, I wonder if James, our volunteer, will still be folding the bulletins every Friday. I hope that our Young Adult group will still be growing, but with new faces as the current young adults become the Middle-Aged Group. I hope that our worship services will be an even greater celebration and thanksgiving to God.

When we begin to put names and faces to our ministry, I find great hope for our future. We heard and celebrate the names of our past and we remember the gifts they gave so that we can continue to do ministry today. How will you, the members and friends of National City Christian Church, be celebrated in 20 years?

We are embarking on a new beginning and your gifts are vital to ensuring that our new beginning will have a solid start. Is this the year you make your first pledge to the church? Is this the year you will increase your giving by even 1%? Or is this the year you take the leap of faith and make a tithe?

Next week, you will receive a letter including a pledge card. Here are the steps to follow:

1. Prayerfully consider what gift you are willing to make for 2011.
2. Complete the pledge card!
3. Set aside some canned goods to bring to church.
4. Attend Worship on November 14th!!! We will bring our pledges and gifts of canned goods forward during worship that day!
5. Sign up for the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 21, 2010, following 11 a.m. worship,

Faithfully,

– Rev. Steve Moore

Special Insert!

80th Anniversary Celebration

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Gentle Reminder:

New Beginnings Follow-up

At the October 10 congregational meeting, the congregation affirmed the “Future Story” – the culmination of nearly six months of assessment, envisioning sessions, and small group work. Copies of these key documents are available on request: sgentle@nationalcitycc.org or call me at 202.232.0323.

Thank you to the nearly 100 persons who participated in this first phase. Your enthusiasm, passion, and love for National City Christian Church are totally amazing! And it is still amazing to me the hundreds of ideas that were generated in these small groups. Thank you. Thank you! The New Beginnings initiative is now entering its next critical phase during the months of November and December – which is strategic implementation.

When can we get started?

We have already begun! Strategic implementation team members continue work on November 7. Their objective is to have a plan in place before January 1, 2011, with monthly, quarterly, and/or annual objectives that are measurable and specific. More of this work will be shared in next month’s *The News*.

These team members are: Loretta Tate (Moderator), Steven Baines (Vice Moderator), Kathleen Burger-Gerada (Connect with Christ), Diana Morse (Grow as Disciples), Barbara Collins (Serve with Joy), William Knight (Elders), Trevor Dane (Yada), Alan Williams (Yada), Stephen Gentle (Staff), Steven Moore (Staff), and Kathleen Swihart (Staff).

Do we have to wait for 2011 before something will happen with this?

Exciting activity has already grown out of the New Beginning sessions, including:

- ✓ six-week small group discussion on discipleship – with special worship emphases;
- ✓ members sharing their “faith-stories” in worship around the 80th anniversary and the stewardship Sundays;
- ✓ rummage sale with over 50 volunteers helping us “clean house” and meet our neighbors who are interested in acquiring “our treasures!”;
- ✓ over a dozen front desk volunteers that give excellent hospitality to those who come to the Beasley Building, Monday through Friday;
- ✓ a monthly “pie with the pastors” inviting guests of National City Christian Church to consider membership;
- ✓ three worshipping congregations coming together for a “church family worship celebration” on our 80th anniversary.

In the next eight weeks there are other activities that will need your participation and volunteerism.

Speak with one of the pastors or Barbara Collins (Serve with Joy team leader) about the following opportunities that are organized around the three New Beginnings focal points:

National City as a “Station-along-the-way” to connect with others

- Support those who have lost loved ones with your participation and prayers at the Service of Healing and Remembrance in the Howland Center on Thursday, November 4, at 7 p.m.
- Caroling on the Circle on Sunday, December 5, at 12:30 p.m.
- Volunteer for decorating or serving for one of our annual church luncheons: Thanksgiving, November 21, and Christmas, December 12.
- Select an “Angel Tree” card on November 28 and give to a child with a parent who is incarcerated at Christmastime.
- Volunteer in Hilda’s Fair Trade Gift Shop..

Gentle Reminder: Continued

Hospitality for people of faith from across the U.S. visiting Washington, D.C.

- ❑ Provide hospitality for guests from across the United States for the Interfaith Service for Freedom of Conscience in the sanctuary on Thursday, November 11, at 7 p.m. The Reverend Dr. James Forbes is preaching.
- ❑ Greet the Trinity Overnighters coming to the Bunkhouse Ministry on Friday, November 19.

Music and the Arts

- ❑ Decorate the sanctuary for the NEW Hanging of the Greens at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, November 28.
- ❑ Sing in the Choir for the special worship, Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 12.
- ❑ Volunteer and welcome guests attending the noontime Organ recital each Friday at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- ❑ Volunteer for Music and the Arts events like the Washington Sinonietta and Thomas Circle Singers during their seasonal concerts.

What else can I do?

I need **YOU** to:

1. **Pray** daily for National City Christian Church and **worship** weekly at 8:30 or 11 a.m. (One important way to “Connect with Christ”)
2. **Participate** in a fellowship group, i.e. Disciples Women, Yada, Christian Pathways Sunday School, or small group (One important way to “Grow as a Disciple”)
3. **Give** cheerfully of your financial resources and make a financial commitment for 2011. (One important way to “Serve with Joy”)
4. **Participate in doing good works** for someone as an outgrowth of the 80th Anniversary celebration. (One important way to “Share God’s Love”)

Thank you for all you do to make National City Christian Church a witness for Christ on Thomas Circle and beyond. Together we are making a difference for the cause of Christ in the nation’s capital. See you in church!

– Dr. Stephen Gentle

Volunteer Opportunities

Serve With Joy

We’re looking for deacons to serve National City Christian Church. If you are interested, we would love to have you. This will be a great way to participate in the morning worship services, as well as serving the church in other activities throughout the year. Please let Nick Bullock know by email at nicholasbullock@hotmail.com.

New and Ongoing Opportunities

To volunteer or receive information about a specific opportunity, please contact the person listed below:

Church School teachers and Nursery assistants

Teresa Swihart tisatcamp@yahoo.com

Children’s Time (11:15 Sunday morning)

Beverly Schacht bev-schacht@starpower.net

YADA (Young Adults Disciples in Action)

Community Service

Trevor Dane trevordane@gmail.com

Serve dinner at Martha’s Table

2nd Wednesday each month

Gary Lewis garylewis51@hotmail.com

202-667-6283

Serve breakfast at N Street

2nd Saturday each month

Judy Lotz jllotz@verizon.net

Sanctuary Choir

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

Gospel Choir

Singing at the 8:30 a.m. service on Sunday
Valeria Foster valeriefoster@msn.com

Hilda’s Gift Shop

for volunteers to work in the shop
Miriam Gentle gentleharp@earthlink.net

Atrium Desk

for volunteers to answer the phone
at the desk during the week
Barbara Collins barbarafcollins@hotmail.com

Property

for volunteers to assist with projects
around the building

Rick Mohn rickenarlva@aol.com

Parking Changes at Washington Plaza

For those who park at Washington Plaza during the Sunday service, the procedure has changed. The hotel has a new company to manage the parking garage and valet service. It will cost us \$9 per car to park at the Washington Plaza. The Foundation will pre-pay for a number of vouchers at \$9 up front from the Towne Park Company. Members and guests who park at the Plaza will need to get a voucher from our Atrium Desk and show it to the attendant and will pay nothing. We ask that folks using these vouchers donate \$4 to \$9 to National City to help defray the parking costs.



Welcome to New Members

We welcome Dennis Simmons (left) and Richard Waite (center), who joined National City on October 17. Mr. Simmons is placing his membership from the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Durant, Oklahoma. He is a designer/realtor. Mr. Waite has roots in both Baptist and Episcopal church traditions and transfers his membership into National City. They reside on Rhode Island Avenue with their dog Georgia and blessed National City with their presence for the first time at our last dog blessing.

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with:

- Laurese Dancy and her family upon the death of her father Julius Dancy on Wednesday, September 29. Mr. Dancy lived in Deanwood in Washington, D.C.
- Emma King and her family upon the death of Emma's younger brother Nathaniel Lovick on Wednesday, September 29. Mr. Lovick lived in Washington, North Carolina.
- The family and friends of long-time member Polly Young, who died on October 19 in Sylva, North Carolina, where she had lived for 20 years. Interment was on October 23 at George Washington Cemetery in Adelphi, Maryland.



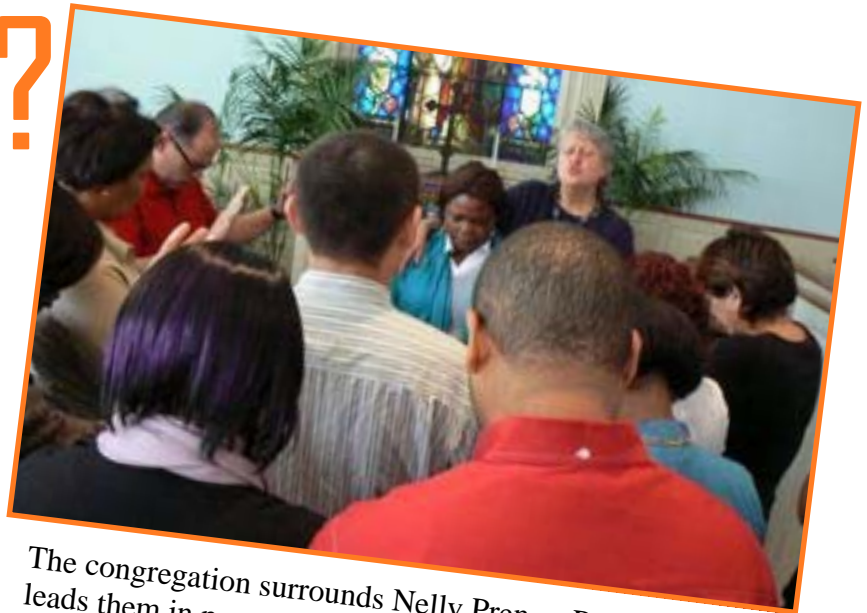
November Birthdays

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | John W. Arterberry |
| 5 | Virginia Taylor |
| 6 | Becky Brock |
| 7 | Mary Ellen Deardorff
Keri Woodard |
| 9 | Sarah Birdsong |
| 10 | Ruth Lee
John Scott Williams |
| 13 | Nadine G. Bishop
Howard Sears |
| 14 | David McKinney
Betty Warner |
| 15 | Larry D. Thompson
Al Weaver |
| 16 | Mary Ann Brown
Lorraine Magnussen |
| 20 | Tim Schaefer |
| 22 | Laurese Dancy |
| 24 | Beverly Goines |
| 26 | Ann Haines
Sylvia Snyder |
| 27 | Tom Pederson |
| 28 | Tom Beacham |
| 30 | Larry Groves
Phyllis Allen
Lon Schreiber |

¿Que Pasa?



Rev. Mena with Dr. Sharon Watkins at our recent Regional Assembly



The congregation surrounds Nelly Pren as Rev. Mena leads them in prayer celebrating her American citizenship.

Johan Rivera and Alex Santos, who are visiting from Puerto Rico, graciously contribute to our music ministry.



Hymn Story: Now Thank We All Our God

It is difficult to imagine that during times of war that hymns of praise could be written. But such was the case with the very well-known and popular hymn, Now Thank We All Our God, a hymn so closely associated with and heard during Thanksgiving. German hymn writer Martin Rinkhart penned the hymn text in 1636, during the height of the 30 Years' War in Europe, in the city of Eilenberg, Germany, where he was a pastor. That walled city became a refugee camp for political and military fugitives and was often a place of invasions, overcrowding, and famine. Through all the strife, Rinkhart was able to keep his congregation, and their faith, intact. For the blessings received after an invasion by Swedish troops whereby Rinkhart's fellow Christians were spared hardship, Rinkhart composed this hymn of gratitude

for God's "countless gifts of love." Two different historical documents list both Psalm 147 and Ecclesiasticus (from the *Apocrypha*) as Rinkhart's inspiration. Translated into English by 19th century hymn writer Catherine Winkworth, given a tune by Johann Crüger, and harmony by Felix Mendelssohn, this hymn has become a song of overwhelming joy as well as a plea to God to "guide us when perplexed" and lost, and to "free us from all ills." The final verse of the hymn is a chorus of praise to the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) for all the blessings received.

– Charles Miller

Based on information found in the *Chalice Hymnal Worship Leader's Companion* and "101 Hymn Stories" by Kenneth W. Osbeck

Upcoming Events

Disciples Women Meet on November 2

Rev. Noemi Mena will be the speaker Tuesday, November 2, at the monthly meeting of Disciples Women. The meeting will be at 11 a.m. in the Music Suite. All are welcome. Bring a sandwich and stay for lunch.



By EARLY Sunday, November 7, be sure your clocks have been turned back one hour. Daylight saving time officially ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday

Magical Mystical Musical Machine Free Noon Recitals Fridays at 12:15 p.m.

November 5

Edward Landin
undergraduate organ student
Westminster Choir College
New Jersey

November 12

Carol Feather Martin
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Arlington, Virginia

November 19

Charles Miller

November 26

Thanksgiving Holiday
No Recital

Service of Remembrance and Healing on Thursday, November 4

A service of remembrance and healing will be held at 7 p.m. in the Howland Center on Thursday, November 4. Everyone is welcome to attend, whether your loss is recent or occurred long ago. Contact Rev. Beverly J. Goines to confirm your participation at 202-232-0323 or bgoines@nationalitycc.org.

General Board Meeting on November 17

National City's general board will meet on Wednesday, November 17, at 7 p.m. in the Howland Center. Business includes reviewing the 2011 budget and the report of the nominating committee for the 2011 slate of officers, chairs, and members for the board of elders, deacons, deaconesses, and local trustees.

Thomas Circle Singers Concert Sunday, November 7

Led by conductor James Kreger, the 32-voice Thomas Circle Singers will perform a concert entitled "Music, She Wrote: The Artistry of Women Composers" on Sunday, November 7, at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. Music by numerous American female composers will be featured. Tickets are \$25 per person at the door on the day of the concert. A large part of the proceeds from this concert will go to Friendship Terrace Retirement Community. For additional information visit www.thomascirclesingers.org.

Washington Sinfonietta Concert Saturday, November 13

NCCC's resident chamber orchestra will perform a concert in the Sanctuary on Saturday, November 13, at 7 p.m. Under the baton of maestro Joel Lazar, the Sinfonietta will perform Samuel Barber's very popular and supremely beautiful *Adagio for Strings*, Beethoven's *Concerto for Violin*, and Schubert's *Fifth Symphony*. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, and will be sold at the door on the day of the concert. This will be a magical program that should not be missed!

Congregational Luncheon and Meeting on Sunday, November 21

Our Thanksgiving congregational luncheon and meeting will be on Sunday, November 21, at 12:30 p.m. in Scott Hall. At the meeting, the congregation will receive the recommendation of the general board for the 2011 budget and 2011 slate of officers, chairs, and members of the board of elders, deacons, deaconesses, and local trustees.

Christmas Season Is Upon Us

Looking Ahead to Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 5

For the past four Christmas seasons, the NCCC Sanctuary Choir and members of the congregation have gathered to go caroling around Thomas Circle – something which has always been very enjoyable and welcomed by those who have heard us. If you would like to join us for caroling this year, please hold the date of Sunday, December 5, from 1-3:30 p.m. We will have a light lunch in the music suite, sing at a home in Logan Circle as part of the Logan Circle Christmas House Tour, and entertain the kind folks at Thomas Circle Residences. Get your sleigh bells polished in advance and be sure to join us for this FUN holiday event!

Christmas Sing-Along With Disciples Women

Come along, bring along, members, friends, some shut-ins who enjoy singing to the Disciples Women meeting on Tuesday, December 7, at 11 a.m. in the Howland Center.

Features:

- Songs, hymns, scriptures, and favorite carols of the season
- Soloists, instruments, rhythmic experiences
- Participants young and “older”!
- Song sheets for all to take home
- Christmas cookies to take home
- Wearing favorite Christmas outfits (sweaters, hats, socks, etc.)

– Kathy Swihart, Disciples Women president
– Dorothy J. Davis, music program chair



Hanging of the Green

Our traditional hanging of the green to decorate the church for the Christmas season will be held Sunday, November 28, beginning at 12:30 p.m. All are invited. A light lunch will be available.



Yada Plans Christmas Party for December 4

Pete Miranti, Gentry Alexander, and Kathryn Farley enjoy the Yada Christmas party a year ago and look forward to this year's party on December 4.

Yada meets on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in Hilda's Gift Shop for Bible study and fellowship.

The News of National City is a monthly publication.

Please submit articles for the
December Newsletter
by November 12

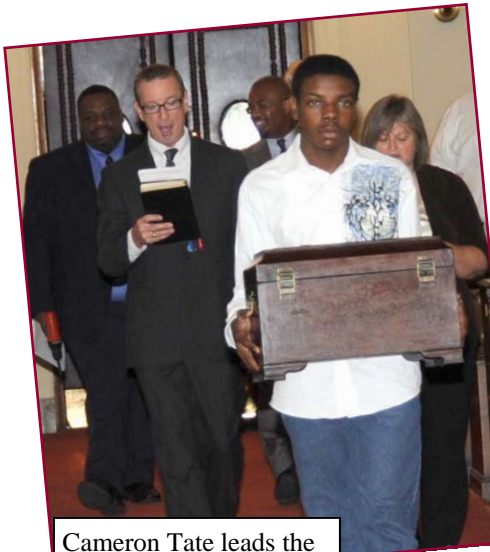
to Diana Morse at morsediana@comcast.net

or to Colleen Walsh at cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org

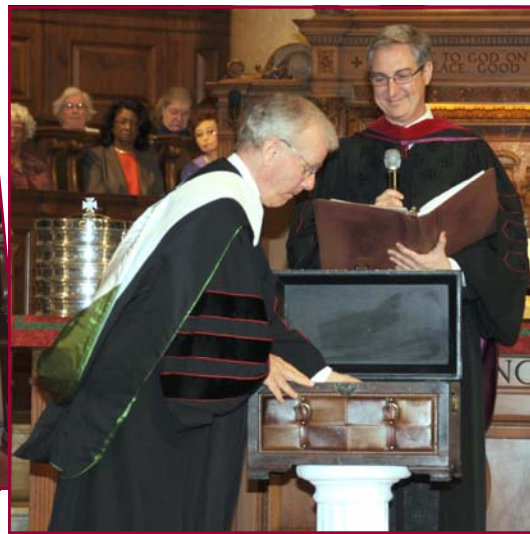
Celebrating Our First 80 Years!



The Gospel Choir starts the celebration with a moving spiritual prelude.



Cameron Tate leads the procession with the ark.



Dr. Peter Morgan places items in the ark.



Morris Jackson seals the ark with some help from Barbara Boward.

The joy of having an anniversary celebration is sharing experiences with old friends while meeting new ones.



In the Ark...

Among the many remembrances put in the ark in celebration of the 80th anniversary and to be opened at our 100th anniversary celebration are letters to National City members and friends from the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the regional minister of the Christian Church Capital Area. They were read during the service on October 17.

As your General Minister and President I am honored to bring you greetings as you celebrate your anniversary. Congratulations! Eighty years of outstanding ministry that has brought God's love not only to those in Washington, D.C., and its surrounding areas but to people in many other parts of the country and around the world. Thanks be to God. National City's leadership in our nation's capital has been a beacon for so many of us in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your powerful advocacy for the least of these in your surrounding community and for issues of peace and justice around the world has sent such a fine example for the rest of us. You are a congregation that inspires each of us to take more seriously God's calling to be faithful witnesses. What a wonderful achievement in ministry. The welcome table is extended to all who enter National City Christian Church. Thousands of people have learned about God's grace through your

faithfulness and unity. Over the past eighty years National City has grown to be a spiritually connected congregation that fills the hearts of many. You have helped unite people in marriage, blessed babies, baptized new Christians and have walked alongside blessed loved ones as they have transitioned from this life to life eternal. National City Christian Church, as you celebrate your past and look forward to your future, Disciples across the United States and Canada wish you continued blessings. As you move into the next twenty years leading to your centennial celebration in ministry and beyond, may you be part of a great movement for wholeness. God bless you.

- Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins
General Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

I am happy to write to congratulate you on this special occasion as you celebrate eighty years of ministry in this beautiful facility on Thomas Circle...I also write to remind those who read these documents in the future of the wealth of tradition of faithfulness, ministry and mission. You have continued that which was envisioned by Alexander Campbell. You have continued what began on Vermont Avenue. You have set a wonderful example of excellent worship.

In these times of economic difficulty, you have done even more! The ongoing ministry of this congregation in behalf of the whole Church has been an essential lifeline to the community that surrounds this sanctuary. In these times of political divisiveness, Washington, D.C., and the entire nation need the Disciples of Christ witness for wholeness in the brokenness of our times. You have kept the faith in trying times and continue to demonstrate the love of God for all of the Creation.

I also want thank you for the ongoing support of the whole of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

through your contributions to the Disciples Mission Fund as well as our special offerings. I want to thank you for your financial support of the Christian Church Capital Area and especially to thank you for the ways in which you have been a partner to the Region. I want to thank you for your generosity both of money and time. A number of your members have served the Region. Members have served on our Board, participated in Camps and Conferences as counselors and learners. Your members have directed Commissions and served on them. They have helped manage and care for our campgrounds.

So thank you for all you do for your own members, for the Region, for the Church at large and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am proud of you and your commitment to the Lord. I give thanks every time I remember you. May the next 150 years be your best years yet.

- Rev. Lari R. Grubbs
Regional Minister
Christian Church Capital Area