



# The News of National City

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

– R.A. Long

February 2010

Issue X Vol. 2

## The Season of Lent at National City

### A Gentle Reminder

All of us have faith questions that linger in the quiet moments of our lives. Sometimes they get answered. Sometimes we never even ask the questions. What questions do you have about faith and life?

In January, I asked individuals in the worshipping congregations to write down questions of their life and faith that, if answered, could lead to a closer walk with God. I received a lot of responses and during the season of Lent, we will attempt to address some of these burning questions, like:

**Why Am I Tempted, Lord?**

**Luke 4:1-13**

**Where Can I Find Happiness?**

**Philippians 3:15-19**

**Why Me, Lord?**

**Luke 13:1-9**

**Can A Broken Relationship Be Healed?**

**2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

**Can A Painful Past Be Forgotten?**

**Isaiah 43:16-21**

**Why Did Jesus Have To Die?**

**Luke 22:14-23:56**

**Palm Sunday**

**What Happens When I Die?**

**John 20:1-18**

**Easter Sunday**

A questioning faith is a growing faith. Plan on worshipping each Sunday at National City Christian Church as we seek to grow closer to God by pondering some of the deepest questions of our lives. Invite a guest!

– Stephen Gentle

### Lenten Devotional Book:

#### Forty Days, Fifty Years

This is National City's 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the Lenten Devotional book. Quite a record! Lon Schreiber and John Hinant, the original producers of the book, share wonderful memories. John recalls, "Getting the mailing out to all our 3000 congregations was quite a chore. I personally licked the 4 ½ cent stamps for all of them. The United States Postal Service was experimenting with putting vitamins in stamp glue as a way of improving nutrition, and I was quite healthy so it must have been successful."

As you look ahead to receiving this special edition, think back to those National City members who fifty years ago had this idea and those (over 900) writers who have contributed to the succeeding editions.

Several dozen writers have been busy getting the Lenten Devotional booklet ready for your use in this forty days of intense prayer. You will be able to access this resource online at [www.nationalcitycc.org](http://www.nationalcitycc.org). There will also be a few printed editions available to use and share.

– Peter Morgan

### Inside This Issue:

<b>Envisioning Sessions</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>National City Online</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Hispanic Ministry</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Yada Happenings</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Music Happenings</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Something Moore</b>	<b>6</b>

## Help Write the Next Chapter in National City's Story

National City is at a crossroads. To help us navigate these waters faithfully and effectively, we would like to initiate a conversation to engage in a "visioning process" with the congregation whereby we can take a new look at our context and circumstances, and discern anew our calling for the decades ahead.

All members and participants who care about this unique institution and ministry are invited to participate in the first step of this process: "Envisioning Sessions." Envisioning Sessions will take place here on February 6 - 8. Sign up by using the insert in the bulletin on January 31, or by calling or stopping by the front desk. Information on the sessions is below.

They will be led by Richard Hamm, chair of National City Christian Church Foundation and former General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and James Powell, president of Church Extension and a member of the Foundation Board.

### Saturday, February 6

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Open Session

2:45 - 3:45 p.m. Open Session

4 - 5 p.m. Open Session

### Sunday, February 7

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Open Session

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Gospel Worship Session

1-2 p.m. Open Session

4-5 p.m. Open Session

5-6 p.m. GLBT Fellowship Session

### Monday, February 8

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Open Session

## Find National City Online!

Trying to find out about the latest news and happenings at National City Christian Church? Get regular updates online.

Visit our website at <http://nationalcitycc.org> (or simply Google "National City Christian Church"). Besides lots of updates about upcoming events, you can sign up for our weekly E-Newsletter "The Steps." In addition you can take a look and even print out church announcements and the upcoming bulletins for 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday worship services.

Did you miss a Sunday? No problem. You can download any sermon you missed right from our homepage. If you have an MP3 player you can listen at the gym, listen in the car – anytime, anyplace!

Are you on Facebook? So is National City Christian Church. Just search for us in Facebook or go to <http://www.facebook.com/nationalcitycc> – we'd love to have you as a fan.

– Eric Woodard

## ¿Que Pasa? (What's Happening?)



Cantata en Espanol – The Hispanic Congregation had its cantata on January 3. Elizabeth Nieves (left), Marisol Lendor, and Maria Fernanda Lendor were among the participants.

# Congratulations!

**Eric Woodard** started the New Year with good news: he was appointed to a position at the State Department. Eric would like to thank all the people at National City who offered him so many kind words, prayer, and support last year. He asks that if you know somebody out of work right now, please reach out and actively do what you can to help them with their job search – it truly makes all the difference in the world.

**Sara Imhulse** was recently appointed Town Administrator for the Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland. Her new position has landed her knee-deep in budgeting, financial accounting, human resources, public safety, and economic development. Prior to this appointment, she spent five years as the assistant to the city manager for the City of College Park. Although she has been in the field of local government for 10 years, Sara welcomes any advice our members have to offer, especially on how to locate the proverbial money tree, or at least to forecast its return. Sara serves as a deaconess for NCCC and is actively involved in Yada.

Our congratulations go to **Kathy Burger-Gerada**, who recently volunteered for lay-off/buy-out from her employer. Since earning her MBA in France (INSEAD), Kathy has been employed by Eli Lilly, Bayer, and Schering Plough, first in Europe and then in the USA. She calls this new phase of her life, "non-paid employment." Her immediate focus will be serving as Finance Chair/Treasurer for American Guild of Organists national convention, to be held in D.C. in July. Over 2,000 pipe organists/musicians are expected to attend from throughout the world. She and Glen plan on continuing their travels in the USA and abroad for bird-watching. At our church, Kathy served most recently as Chair of Music and is now a Connector and of course will continue as a member of the Sanctuary Choir

# Best Wishes!

## February Birthdays

- |    |                           |
|----|---------------------------|
| 3  | Esther Poole              |
| 5  | Bill Howland              |
| 6  | Denise Ross               |
| 7  | Erin Hedlund*             |
|    | Doug Ward                 |
| 8  | Sidney Ruiz               |
| 9  | Paul Heffron              |
| 12 | Suzanne Farrington        |
| 13 | Dick Gesell               |
| 14 | Anita Drew                |
| 16 | Carolyn Gesell O'Sullivan |
|    | Alia Waheed               |
| 17 | Willietta Schley          |
|    | Bill Stewart              |
| 20 | Nett Brown                |
|    | John Ruiz                 |
| 21 | Bill Blackwell            |
|    | Ken Brooker Langston      |
| 23 | Leta Rose Rowland         |
| 25 | Melissa Wilson*           |
| 26 | Perry Ives                |
|    | Ryan Kinney               |
| 27 | Lynne Morgan              |
| 28 | Cheryl Gwathney           |
|    | Linda Sharp               |
| 29 | Wayne Upton               |

\*Indicates a child or a teen.

# YADA



**Lunch after Church, February 7,** meet after the 11 a.m. worship service for lunch (12:15 p.m.). This is a great time to invite friends or meet young adults you haven't had time to get to know.

**Movie Night! Saturday, February 20, 6 p.m.** Join us for a social night of pizza and a movie. Trevor and Kristi have invited us to the theater room of their new apartment building, which should make for a fun movie watching experience. Check the Web site for more details.

**D-SPACE:** Thursday nights, 7 p.m. in Hilda's Gift Shop, Take some time out of your week to develop spiritually. We get together for food, fellowship, worship, discussion, and prayer. All backgrounds and opinions are encouraged to join in. Our current study series is called **Joshua: a Journey of Faith**. It invites readers to explore the challenging book of Joshua. Themes include leadership, the promise of land, the concept of "holy war," and outsiders becoming insiders.

It's a great time to join us and check out what D-Space and Yada is all about - so come on! As always, dinner is provided!



**Natalie Johnston, Susan Baughman, Shana Pereira and Eva Moore take a break on a recent Yada ice skating trip.**

**SERVICE: Yada serves dinner** at Luther Place Night Shelter for Women, part of N-Street Village, on the first Monday of every month! It usually takes 3-4 people to cover the night. We meet at 6 p.m. in front of National City's 14th Street entrance and walk over (across the street!). We make dinner and serve it by 7 p.m.; it lasts until around 8 p.m. **Next Opportunity: Monday, February 1.** If you are interested in helping out some Monday night, please call Trevor at 202-340-5177.

**Saturday, February 6 – Capital Area Food Bank 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., lunch afterward.** The Capital Area Food Bank is the largest nonprofit hunger and nutrition education resource in the Washington Metropolitan area. Their mission is to feed those who suffer from hunger in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area by acquiring food and distributing it through our network of member agencies and to educate, empower, and enlighten the community about the issues of hunger and nutrition. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Trevor Dane at [trevordane@gmail.com](mailto:trevordane@gmail.com) or at 202-340-5177. If you want to carpool over, we will meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. You may also meet us at the warehouse at 645 Taylor Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. We hope to see you on the 6th!

## **Souper Bowl Sunday on February 7**

Once again, we'll have delicious take-home soup on Super Bowl Sunday 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 donations will benefit Martha's Table, which continues to see that the number of people who come for emergency food is two to three times higher than in past years.



Monique Ashton buys some soup from Gary Lewis and Mary Paradise at Souper Bowl 2009.

## **Join the NCCC Sanctuary Choir**

Do you sing in the shower? On the Metro or the Beltway? In the rain? Then we'd like you to sing in the loft – the CHOIR LOFT!! NCCC's Sanctuary Choir is a wonderful ministry fellowship that helps lead our congregation in worship and beautifies worship with song. GREAT MUSIC GRATEFULLY OFFERED TO GOD is the foundation and focus of our ministry. Won't YOU consider blending your voice with ours? We'd love to welcome you or welcome you back!

There is no doing battle with rush hour traffic or late day fatigue or mid-week choir re-

hearsal! This is a once a week time commitment on Sunday mornings only. The choir has a Sunday morning rehearsal from 9 -10:40 a.m. and then sings for the traditional worship service at 11 a.m. The choir also sings for special worship services and concerts. In with the work are lots of fun social opportunities.

The ability to read music is helpful but NOT required. All we want are enthusiasm and love for singing. Please call Minister of Music Charles Miller in the music office at 202-797-0103. He'd be excited to hear from you. Please come and make a joyful noise to the Lord!!

## **Friday's "Magical, Mystical, Music Machine" Recital Series Resumes in February**

Our very popular noon recital and organ demonstration series comes back after a short winter break on Friday, February 5, at 12:15 p.m. Come join us to hear NCCC's magnificent and powerful pipe organ – the third largest in Washington, D.C. – for exciting music and the opportunity to learn how a pipe organ works and makes its sounds. The recitals are FREE! Performers this month:

**February 5 Charles Miller**

**February 12 David Christopher (Wilmington, Delaware)**

**February 19 Stephen Harouff (Baltimore, Maryland)**

**February 26 Charles Miller**

# Something Moore: Stewardship and Finance Updates

Despite the continuing difficult economic times, 2009 proved to be another generous year made possible by each of you. We received a total of \$556,450 in pledges, loose offerings, and undesignated gifts. We ended the year with an approximate surplus of \$28,000. You were also generous with giving to special over and above offerings.

Blanket Fund	\$3,100
Christmas Offering	\$1,700
Easter	\$1,878
Pentecost	\$1,862
Reconciliation	\$650
Thanksgiving	\$690
Tubman House/N Street	\$3,195

While our challenges continue, it is a good time to take a breath and say THANK YOU for a job well done, good and faithful servants.

## General Board Approves 2010 Budget

The General Board has recommended the 2010 draft budget to the congregation for approval at the January 31 congregational meeting.

The board met on January 20 and approved the budget of \$572,700. It also approved and recommended to the congregation additions from the nominating committee: John Scott Williams as chair of the worship committee; Dale Rowland, Bill Stewart, Julian High, Ron Moser, Alan Williams, and Steve Schacht as deacons; and Diana Morse as chair of the nominating committee with Ellen Crowder, Bill Knight, and Shana Pereira.

Steve Moore reported that, following the earthquake in Haiti, National City has received to date \$2,475 for the Week of Compassion

**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  
or cajwalsh@gmail.com**

## Sound System Update

On Wednesday, January 27, the sound technician arrived to once again tweak the sound system. Adjustments were made to the back speakers, the choir loft speakers, and microphone levels. There is a new microphone in the pulpit and all wireless microphones, hand-held microphones, and microphones behind the table were all tested and adjusted. We apologize for the inconvenience and embarrassment of the recent difficulties with our renovated sound system. Thank you for your patience.

– Steven Moore

## Staff of National City Christian Church

Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor  
Steven Moore, Associate Pastor  
Noemi Mena, Pastor, Hispanic Ministries  
Beverly Goines, Assistant Pastor  
Charles Miller, Minister of Music  
Morris Jackson, Building Superintendent  
Michael Dula, Maintenance Assistant  
Roy Hatton, Maintenance Assistant  
Janice Glover, Housekeeping  
Sana Kifafi, Children's' Ministry  
Peter Morgan, Historian in Residence  
Kathleen Swihart, Associate for Senior Adult Ministries  
Colleen Walsh, Program Assistant