

Gentle Reminder *Repeat the Sounding Joy!*

On the Sunday this newsletter is released, there are still 30 shopping days before Christmas. I've not heard what the holiday economic forecast is yet, but I suspect that this will be a bountiful year for the buying of Christmas gifts. Not that the economy is so stellar, but people are in the mood...to feel good again. And what makes people feel better than shopping!

But I hope that we all know that if our joy at Christmas is solely dependent on the giving and receiving of the right gifts, we only stand to be disappointed. Because our joy at Christmas runs deeper than that. Our joy runs deeper than figuring out things like: "Will I get the right gift? Will I get invited to the right parties? Will I be with the right people this Christmas?" When we allow our joy to hang on these things – and they aren't fulfilled – we are discouraged.

And yet, the One who created us has told us to expect joy. Expect joy this holiday season. Expect to **receive** joy. Expect to **give** joy. The One who has made us, tells us that joy is to be part of our everyday life. Indeed, Jesus said, "I want my joy to be in you, so that your joy may be complete." (John 15:11)

There may only be 30 shopping days before Christmas, but we have already received our gift. Let us repeat the sounding joy: "Joy to the World! The Lord is come!"

On behalf of the church staff and leadership of National City Christian Church, thank you for your support, your love, your care, and your commitment that has blessed our church community so abundantly in 2019. May you enjoy a meaningful Christmas and a truly stellar New Year 2020.

- Stephen Gentle



December 1

- **10 a.m. Worship** – Matthew 24:36-44: Jesus' speech begins with the predicting of the fall of the temple and moves on to describe the promise of the coming of the Son of man. In our reading, Jesus instructs the disciples to stay awake in expectation for that advent.
- **Brown Bag Bible discussion** at 11:30 a.m. – Dr. Gentle will lead a discussion on "I am with you always." (Matthew 28:16-20).

December 8

- **10 a.m. Worship** – Matthew 3:1-12: The Gospel lesson describes the ministry of John the Baptist, who preceded Jesus' ministry. In Matthew's version, we hear John calling the Pharisees and Sadducees to repent and be baptized as well as proclaiming to them that one is coming after him who will baptize with fire and the Holy Spirit.

December 15

- **10 a.m. Worship – Lessons and Carols**
- Enjoy the beautiful holiday gift of music as we are led by the Sanctuary Choir and the Gospel Choir.
- On Sunday afternoon, at 4 p.m., the Sanctuary Choir will be joining the choir at First Baptist church at 1328 16th Street, N.W., to share in **First Baptist's 62nd Candlelight Carols service**. All are invited to attend!

December 22

- **10 a.m. Worship** – As Advent draws to a close, the expectation of the coming of the Lord specifically focuses on preparing for the birth of the Christ child and the transition from "waiting for God to come to us in Christ" to the reception of "Christ as Emmanuel, God with us!" Join us for this special service of worship before Christmas.
- **Christmas lunch**, Howland Center, 11:30 a.m. Come and enjoy great food and sing-a-long with some of our Christmas favorites! Suggested donation \$15.

Christmas Eve, December 24

- **7 p.m.** – Festive Christmas Music
- **7:30 p.m.** – Candlelight Communion Service
- The Season of Christmas actually begins on Christmas Eve and proceeds to Epiphany (January 6). This is the season in which we celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. But it is more than that – celebrating the birth story leads the church to ponder the significance of the Incarnation, of Christ being fully human and fully divine – in other words, God-is-with-us.

December Birthdays

- 1 Carol Richardson
- 3 Steve Cook
Alta Mainer
- 6 Constance Jennings
Hella Meivers
Alan Williams
- 9 Will Aklin
Brittany Bolston
Mary Paradise
Cameron Tate
- 10 Will White
- 11 Dale Rowland
- 12 Greg Kubiak
- 13 Chrys Lemon
Paul Guequierre
- 16 Maury Mausbach
- 17 Bailey Childers
- 18 John Von Almen
- 20 Gina Medina
- 21 Jon Alhbin
Kevin Biggins
Ann Flowers
Dick Hamm
Narka Ryan
- 22 Selika Talbott
- 23 Tom Jewell
- 24 Samar Chaterjee
- 28 Sean Boyd
- 29 B.G. Wright

January Birthdays

- 5 Maury Lee
- 6 Fay Arrington
- 7 Richard Blackmore
Kelly Swanson
- 9 Conrad Bolston
Dorothy Davis
- 10 Darin Skelly
Garth Otto
Will White
- 12 Nick Bullock
Beverly Williams
- 13 Kathy Mosley
- 16 Carol Gesell
Becky Kelley
- 22 Drusilla McCain
Erin & Kelsey Stewart
- 23 Joy Fulgham
- 25 Victor Vasquez
- 26 Sheridan Ruiz
- 28 Paul McCormick
- 29 Bob Mansker
- 30 Allen Harris
Tony Johnson

For additions or changes, contact Kathleen Swihart at kswihart62@gmail.com

Call-In Prayer Time on Saturdays

If you would like to join our weekly prayer, you are invited to call in on Saturdays at 8 a.m. for community prayer. Call 712-775-7031 and use code 371015. If you have questions regarding the prayer line, contact Loretta Tate.

After-Church Bible Study

The subject will be "I am with you always: Lessons on Discipleship." The scripture is Matthew 28:16-20 and First Thessalonians 5:12-23. Rev. Dr. Stephen Gentle will lead the session.

All are welcome. The study will begin at 11:30 in the Howland Center. Bring a sandwich or salad to enjoy lunch during the session.

YADA Christmas Party

The traditional YADA Christmas party will be at the home of Shana and Alan Williams on December 14 at 6:30 p.m. **It will be a festive evening - kids - friends - everyone is welcome!!** Please bring food and warming beverages to share. And of course it wouldn't be a YADA Christmas party without the white elephant gift exchange portion of the evening!

For more information please email Shana at shanita77@gmail.com.

- Shana and Alan Williams



That Joyous Sound

Join in Music at Midday on Fridays in December in the Sanctuary. The free concerts start at 12:15. Donations are welcome.

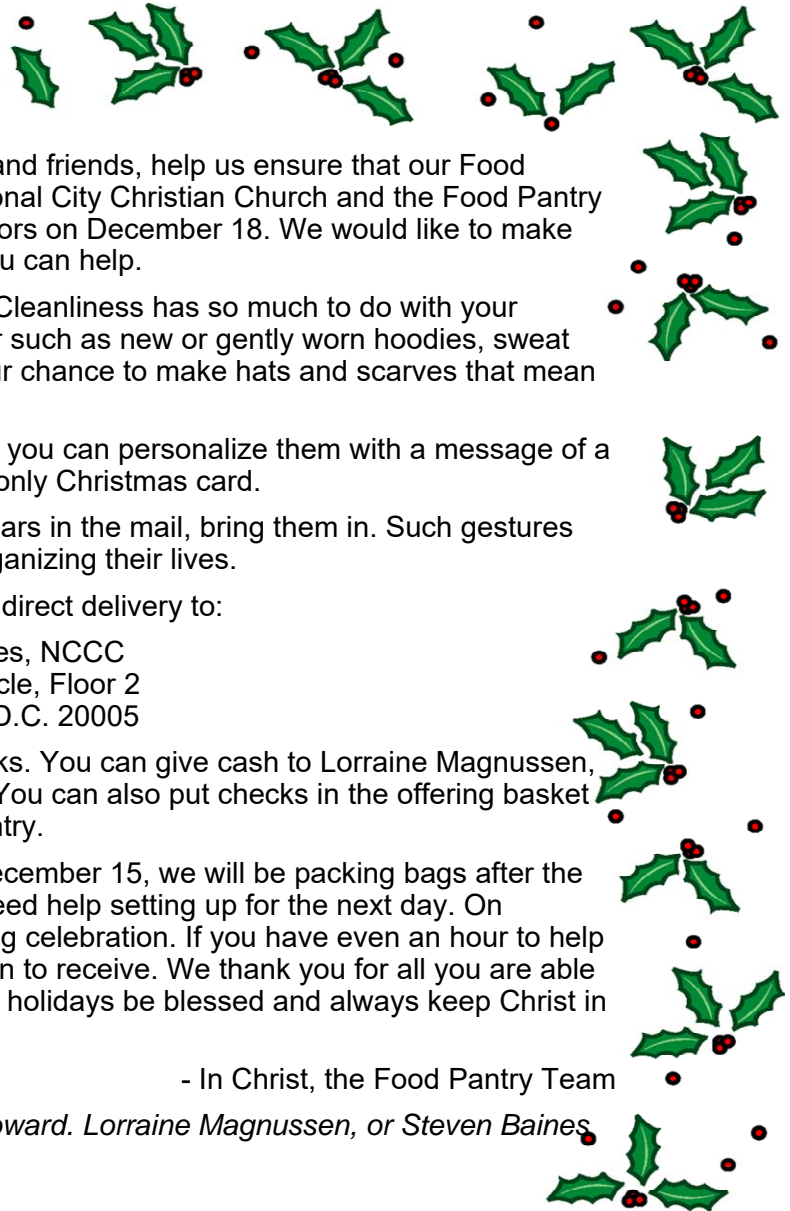
December 6: Organist Kimberly Ann Hess and friends will present "A Baroque Christmas," including music for organ, strings, and voice by J. S. Bach, Arcangelo Corelli, and Alessandro Scarlatti.

December 13: Appalachian State University Organ Professor Joby Bell will perform music of the season by Norman Cocker, Alexandre Guilmant, George Frederick Handel, César Franck, and Keith Chapman.

December 20: Organist Jackson Borges (Rehoboth Beach, Delaware) will perform music for Advent and Christmas by J. S. Bach, Jeanne Demessieux, Robert Hall Elmore, and Garth Edmundson, and his own Meditation on "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly."

Christmas Offering

The Christmas offering this year will be taken on December 15 and December 22. The Christmas offering supports the Regional Ministries of the Church. Regional Ministries sponsor camps and conferences which are key to the leadership and development of church leaders. Regional Ministries assist in supporting the work required to call a new minister. There are 32 regions across the U.S. and Canada that are helped with this offering.



Christmas for Our Hunger Ministry

As you get ready for the holidays with your family and friends, help us ensure that our Food Pantry folks have a taste of Christmas cheer. National City Christian Church and the Food Pantry team will be celebrating Christmas with our neighbors on December 18. We would like to make this an all-church project. There are many ways you can help.

We can use donations of personal hygiene items. Cleanliness has so much to do with your self-esteem. We need all kinds of warm outer wear such as new or gently worn hoodies, sweat pants, caps, gloves and socks. Crafters, this is your chance to make hats and scarves that mean so much to our friends.

If you have Christmas cards that you will not need, you can personalize them with a message of a warm Christmas wish. For many this may be their only Christmas card.

If you have received an abundance of 2020 calendars in the mail, bring them in. Such gestures mean so much to people who have a hard time organizing their lives.

If you want to order from Amazon or other website direct delivery to:

Steven Baines, NCCC
5 Thomas Circle, Floor 2
Washington, D.C. 20005

If you still don't know how to help, money also works. You can give cash to Lorraine Magnussen, Laurese Dancy, Barbara Boward, Steven Baines. You can also put checks in the offering basket with clear notations for Christmas for the Food Pantry.

Lastly, we need volunteers to help. On Sunday, December 15, we will be packing bags after the 10 a.m. service. On Tuesday, December 17, we need help setting up for the next day. On December 18 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. is the big celebration. If you have even an hour to help you will find that it is really a greater gift to give than to receive. We thank you for all you are able to do to help this very important ministry. May your holidays be blessed and always keep Christ in Christmas.

- In Christ, the Food Pantry Team

For questions, contact Laurese Dancy, Barbara Boward, Lorraine Magnussen, or Steven Baines.

Join ... and Help ... With Breakfast with Santa Saturday, December 7

On Saturday, December 7, once again, Santa Claus is coming to town and having breakfast at National City.

It's a day we look forward to each year as children with happy voices can't wait to have their turn sitting on Santa's or Mrs. Claus's lap to discuss the possibilities of what may come their way on Christmas morning.

The children outdo themselves with the crafts and other activities such as making slime, creating paper stockings, pinning the nose on the snow person, decorations but most importantly all who come have the opportunity to hear the Christmas story and see the pictures that help to tell the story.

Each year the volunteers hear from our visitors: those staying across the street at a hotel who are relieved to have an activity for their children on a blustery Saturday morning in December, the woman who is excited to be able to eat a Christmas meal with her children and grandchildren because it's been offered, friends from the community who are curious about what goes on in the big stone building on the circle or want a warm place to gather with other families, or the woman who wants to help us clean up afterwards because she's now warm, has had plenty of coffee, and is safe from one who has abused her and wants to give back.

What will the stories be this year? Will you be there to hear the stories for yourself? Will you sit down and enjoy breakfast with someone you do not know? Someone who may be hurting? Someone who is bubbling over with gratitude? Help a child create the perfect decoration for the refrigerator or tree? But most importantly will you be there to share Jesus with those who enter our doors?

Welcome!



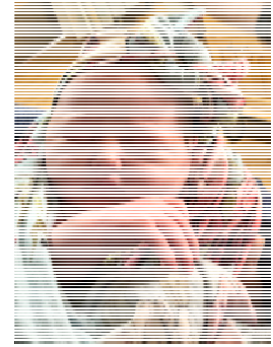
Welcome to New Member

On November 3, we welcomed into membership **Lorraine Budd**, a resident of the James Apartments.



A Child Dedication to Welcome Agnes Diaz Mague

On November 10 we celebrated a child dedication for **Agnes Diaz Mague**, daughter of **Aixa Diaz** and **Anthony Mague**.



Welcome to Riley Jeanne Frye

Riley Jeanne Frye was born in Seattle on November 11. She is the daughter of **Caitlin and Cale Frye** and the granddaughter of **Terri Malone** and **Patrick Malone**. Terri sends thanks to everyone for their prayers.

Family Scrapbook: Green Hackworth National City Ambassador



Judge Green Hackworth was not only an eyewitness to history, he made history. The phone in the office of Secretary of State Cordell Hull rang on Sunday at 1:30 in the afternoon, December 7, 1941. It was the President of the United States, Franklin Roosevelt, calling to inform him that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor.

The President's call had interrupted Secretary Hull's conference with Green Hackworth in which, ironically, they were preparing for a meeting with Japanese ambassadors Kichisaboro Nomura and Soburu Kuruusu. Secretary Hull and Hackworth went ahead and met with the Japanese ambassadors and promptly dismissed them. Hackworth was an eyewitness to history.

Green Hackworth (1883-1973) was a prominent leader of National City Christian Church. He was a member of Vermont Avenue Christian Church, the predecessor congregation which became National City. He served as chair of the Official Board from 1924 to 1934, thus making him the first chair of the Board of National City. His leadership was called upon in the initial planning

for the creation of National City. His duties included presiding at one of the dedication services for the newly built sanctuary in October 1930. He received with honors the resignation of founding pastor Earle Wilfley. He spoke at the banquet during the festivities of installation for our new pastor Rafael Miller in 1934. His leadership at National City was interrupted only by his appointment by Roosevelt as a jurist to the International Court at The Hague.

Green Hackworth, this faithful church leader, not only observed history, he made history. He was the first U.S. judge on the International Court of Justice at The Hague. He became president of that court. Today he is recognized as the longest running legal advisor in the history of the United States Department of State (1925-1946).

The Dunbarton Oaks Conference laid the groundwork for the creation of the United Nations. Judge Hackworth chaired one of the three major committees in preparation for that historic conference. His committee was charged with studying arrangements for the peaceful settlements of international disputes and the development of the World Court. He observed history: he made history.

In the bias and in the pride of our congregation for one of our own, we may be forgiven for claiming Justice Green Hackworth as National City's special ambassador to the world for peace and justice.

Now, why are we telling you this? We have a picture of the Court in The Hague in our archives. How did it get there? Where did it come from? Is Justice Hackworth one of the jurists? Another fascinating mystery in the archives worth exploring. Can you help?

- Peter and Lynne Morgan