



February 10, 2010

NATIONAL AVE-NEWS

National Avenue Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

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Please join us for a reflective service of communion and the imposition of ashes as we begin the Lenten Season on Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m.



The Season of Lent

If you grew up as I did, Lent was a mysterious time understood only by the few and fortunate children who were being raised Catholic. My mother said I asked every year during this time if I could become a Catholic – it was solely because Catholic kids could miss school on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and I wanted those days off too!

It was quite a few years before I realized there was more to Lent than just missing school. And it does seem that in the past few years Lent has expanded – it is not solely observed in just Catholic communities of faith, but numerous Protestant churches now embrace this pre-Easter season known for its time of reflection and repentance. My particular journey with Lent began several years ago when I began learning about the Spiritual Disciplines through the writings of the Quaker Theologian, Richard Foster. And they were greatly enhanced when I discovered Frederick Buechner, the Presbyterian minister, theologian, and author.

I will admit that the idea of giving something up for Lent, made little sense to me. Did it really matter if I stopped eating meat on Friday or gave up chocolate or horror of all horrors – coffee? What was that teaching me about my walk with God? But somewhere along the way, in reading Buechner, I found a way of Lenten living that did make sense and it helped me tremendously.

Buechner talks about Lent being a time when we think more deeply about whom God has created us to be – and then, we let go of those things that are making us *less* of that person and add those things that will help us become *more* of that person. One year Fred and I gave up watching television and read all the books that had been stacking up on our bedside tables. Another year, we gave up reading the paper and used that time each morning to read more of the Bible. Some would argue that adding something distracts from the empty feeling we receive by giving up or letting go of something that is important to us, during Lent. I will admit that there can be great value in allowing ourselves to feel that emptiness over these weeks.

I don't know how you will choose to spend these weeks or even if you will decide to embrace this season, but I do hope that you will be open to exploring what God may want to teach you during this time. You may well be surprised at how much these ancient practices can mean to our lives today – I know I certainly have.

Hoping you will join me on the journey this season, Pastor Laura



FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Come and eat your fill of pancakes, sausage and fruit on the day before Lent begins. Our Fat Tuesday Pancake supper will begin at 6:00 p.m. Suggested donation is \$5.00 per adult and children 12 and under eat free. Any profits from this supper will go to the Week of Compassion special offering. Call the church if you plan to attend.



CWF Bake Sale

Feb. 13, Sat.: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. AND Feb. 14, Sun.: 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Please bring your items to Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 13, by 11:00 a.m. or bring them marked for CWF to the parlor prior to that time. Also help during the sale is needed. If you have any questions, please call Linda Bossi at 890-1079. We hope to see you at the sale buying your Valentine sweets on this Valentine weekend! **Linda Bossi**

Our Response for Haiti

Since the earthquake in Haiti our congregation has been working with the Week of Compassion and the Festival of Sharing to collect money and prepare hygiene kits and baby kits for those in need in Haiti. January 24 several individuals stayed after the second worship service to put the kits together with items that had been donated. It is not too late to help. We still need items for the kits as well as money for shipping the supplies. If you would like to learn more about these ongoing efforts through the Week of Compassion and Church World Service you may go online to churchworldservice.org and weekofcompassion.org. Thanks for your response to this great need!

Week of Compassion Offering: Feed My Sheep

February 21 and 28



The devastating Haiti earthquake has brought forth an amazing outpouring of gifts! From cash donations to health and baby kits, the NACC church family has responded with great generosity. Additional kits may be brought to the church at any time (please include \$2.00 processing fee per kit). Cash gifts to Week of Compassion that are designated for Haiti earthquake relief are used 100% for that purpose.

We all know that the Haitian crisis is but one of many disasters and relief efforts taking place around the world. Through our annual Week of Compassion offering we empower Disciples' relief, refugee and development fund, meet basic needs in Christ's name throughout the world, and share resources that strengthen people to improve their own lives and communities. In doing so, we change lives - including our own. When you give to the special offering that will be collected February 21 and 28, you will be helping this ongoing work. Look for your WOC offering envelope in the bulletins in the upcoming Sunday services. For more information about how your gifts are used, visit www.weekofcompassion.org.

Crosslines Report

The average number of families served each day has risen from 45 to 55 or 60. Our volunteers were Kim Zimmerman, Kay Haun, Mac McCullah, Wally Kinzel, Hubert Lines, Joan Young, Emogene Cassy, Katie Squires, Norene Rinker, Don & Twajana Chasteen, and John & Myrna White. Our next service day will be March 5. To restock our pantry, we need: saltine crackers, jelly, peanut butter, pudding & gelatin mixes, bath soap, toilet tissue, and canned pork & beans, fruit, tuna, soup, peas, green beans and brown paper grocery sacks. Thanks to all of our volunteers and you who contribute money and food items to aid those in our community who are going through some difficult times. **Joan Young**

Thank you to my church family for your kind cards, calls, and visits during my recent surgery. **Nancy Davis**

Expressions of love and sympathy are extended to former NACC staff member **Juli Nelson** and her family in the passing of her brother, **David Howes**, on February 3 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A service was held for him on February 8.

Lent at National Avenue Christian Church

Feb. 28	Second Sunday of Lent - Challenged 8:15 & 10:45 am Worship	Mar. 28	Palm Sunday - Hosanna 8:15 & 10:45 am Worship
Mar. 7	Third Sunday of Lent - Free to Rejoice 8:15 & 10:45 am Worship	Apr. 1	Maundy Thursday Dinner and Communion 6:30 pm
Mar. 14	Fourth Sunday of Lent - Welcome Home 8:15 & 10:45 am Worship	Apr. 2	Good Friday - Stations of the Cross 12 noon to 12 midnight
Mar. 21	Fifth Sunday of Lent - Jesus or the Poor? 8:15 & 10:45 am Worship		

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

The **CWF BAKE SALE** will be held in Fellowship Hall from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

The **CWF BAKE SALE** will continue in Fellowship Hall from 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

YOUTH GROUPS resume (5:30 - 7:30 p.m.)

A **NURSERY/PARENTS MEETING** will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the parlor.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY, 16

The **FINANCE COMMITTEE** will meet in Room 107 at 2:45 p.m.

The **FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER** will be held in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

The **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** will be held at 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

CPR TRAINING will take place in the parlor today from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

The **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** will meet in Room 107 at 5:30 p.m.

The **SAFE CHURCH TASK GROUP** will meet in Room 107 at 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

The **CWF GENERAL MEETING** will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor.

The **ELDERS MEETING** will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor.