



February 17, 2010

**NATIONAL AVE-NEWS**  
*National Avenue Christian Church*  
(Disciples of Christ)

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**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](http://www.weekofcompassion.org).

**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		

*Thank you very much for all the wonderful cards, e-mails and kind words following the death of Vera Stillwell. Your thoughtful expressions of sympathy are greatly appreciated by our entire family. **Mark & Tina Stillwell***

**Want to Take a CPR Class?**

If you didn't get in on the February CPR class being taught by our own Jean White, you have another chance. Jean said she would be willing to hold another CPR class for those wishing to learn for the first time or those who need a refresher course if there were enough people interested. She would like to limit the class to six people and hold it some time in March. If you are interested in taking this class, contact the church office (869-9176).

**NACC Work Day**

**We Need Your Help!**

**Saturday, April 3**, will be the next NACC work day. We will start at 9:00 a.m. and work until 12:00 noon. There will be bagels in the morning for volunteers. Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to help which will in turn help with our planning the different tasks that will need to be performed.



## Lenten Reflections...

As we enter this season of Lent, I have been thinking a great deal about how this is, in many ways, another aspect of our new beginnings at National Avenue. For the first time, we enter this season of reflection together, but we bring with us the memories of experiences from our past stories.

Sometimes we have wonderful memories associated with this season -- memoirs of times when we were able to allow the flow of the Spirit to breathe into our lives in new and decisive ways. Perhaps though, this season is associated with memories that are not as pleasant. It may have been that we were in settings that stressed our sins and failings without offering the grace and mercy of God.

At our Ash Wednesday service this week, before we came to the table, we reflected on the practice of letting go. It may be that we need to let go of our constructs surrounding the elements of this time. It also may be important for us to open our hearts and minds to allow God to help us *reimagine* what the practice of this ancient season may hold for each of us.

This week we look at the narrative of Jesus in the wilderness as told in the Gospel of Luke. Frederick Buechner says that Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question of what it meant to be Jesus. Buechner suggests there may be some questions we could ask ourselves during our forty days of Lent, as we try to discern what it means to be ourselves.

So as we enter this season of Lent, we will reflect together on one of Buechner's questions each week. Let's just say it's your Lenten homework...

Week One: When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore?

Just one disclaimer: I didn't say these would be easy questions! But as you ask yourself this question, keep these words from Buechner in mind. "To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become." Fortunately, he goes on to remind us, "It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sack-cloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end." [Listening to Your Life: Daily Meditations with Frederick Buechner, HarperSanFrancisco, 1992]

See you Sunday,  
Pastor Laura

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

Worship services at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Chancel Choir rehearsal at 10:15 a.m. in the Music Room.

**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.

Youth groups meet from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.



### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

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

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

### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

The worship meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. in Rev. Fregin's office.

The Chancel Bells rehearse at 6:00 p.m. in Room 207.

The Chancel Choir rehearses at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room.