

# National Avenue Christian Church

July 2011

Springfield, Missouri

## **Worship this Summer...**

Over the next few weeks in worship, we will be thinking about the idea of *Simple Living – Compassionate Life*. Worship each week will help us celebrate those things for which we are most grateful: friendships, community, family, the arts, good health, the beauty and mystery of creation. It will also encourage us to understand what life can be like when we see how lasting gifts such as these, enrich our lives in ways that the increased consumption of consumer goods simply cannot.

Recognizing that simplicity must not only be a path to personal growth but also a path leading to greater equity and justice, we will focus on how we can more fully develop as a community of support – celebrating life together and supporting each other in the expanded ways we see the world and live our lives as we put into action, “*loving the Lord our God with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and loving our neighbors as ourselves.*”

July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Listening to Our Lives	Genesis 32
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	Simplicity is Nothing New	Matthew 13
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	Theology in Support of Simplicity and Eco-Justice	Colossians 1
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	Theology for the Practice of Simplicity	1 Kings 19
August 14 <sup>th</sup>	The Politics of Simplicity	Genesis 45
August 21 <sup>st</sup>	Widening Our Circle of Community	Romans 12

Sign up to receive the NACC blog posts each week and follow the links to articles, essays, film clips and music that will encompass the ideas of simplicity and compassion each week: [www.nationalavenuecc.org](http://www.nationalavenuecc.org).

## **Summer Sunday Schedule for Kids...**

Our Summer Sunday School schedule through July 31<sup>st</sup> will be as follows:

Children 4 years old and under will be in the Nursery

Children 5 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will go to Sunday School at the top of the steps in the children’s area and will meet together for some fun activities and teaching.

As is our tradition, we will give all our teachers a break during the month of August and our normal Sunday morning schedule will resume in September. If you would like to help with the children on Sunday mornings this summer, either in Sunday School or in Kid’s Chapel, please contact Robyn Hagerman or Rebecca Hampton.

## **Parent Meetings...**

As we begin to make plans for fall programs at National Avenue, we would like to meet with parents of all children and youth. Two meetings are planned:

Middle School and High School Parents

Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> after worship in the Parlor

Preschool and Children Parents

Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> after worship in the Parlor

## **Congratulations to...**



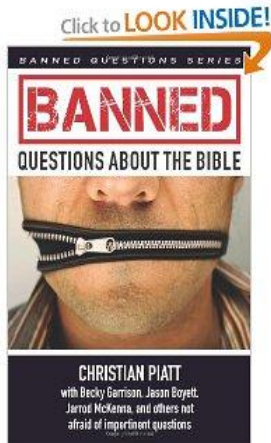
Ryan and Amanda Owen on the birth of their son, Andrew Davis Owen who was born on June 9<sup>th</sup>,

and to Frances and Larry Pitts on the birth of their granddaughter, Elizabeth Tamar Seggev, who was born on June 28<sup>th</sup>.



## ***Deacon and Elder Retreat – Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup> at 3pm...***

If you are a *current* deacon or elder who will continue serving in the new church year, or if you are a *new* deacon or elder, it will be necessary for you to attend this year's orientation and retreat. Even though some of you have been fulfilling these roles for years [and years!], there are a few changes that will help make your job easier this coming year and a few new exciting possibilities for serving the church community. So plan to be at the church by 3:00pm – dress casual – and come prepared to enjoy some time together. We will work in small groups for part of the time, actually practice some of our duties [such as preparing and serving communion], and then enjoy a wonderful BBQ dinner together. Please RSVP via the Evite you should have received and call the church office to register your children for that afternoon's activities.



## ***Banned Questions About the Bible...***

Brentwood Christian Church and National Avenue are joining together to host a discussion on Christian Piatt's book, *Banned Questions About the Bible*. There will be a panel discussion on Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Brentwood with Phil Snider and a panel of "experts" including our own Matt Gallion. The following Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, the author Christian Piatt will be in town to lead a conversation about the book and how powerfully it is being accepted by people who are asking hard questions about life and the Bible.

Plan to come to Brentwood for both those evenings and go to dinner with friends from National Avenue afterward. If you would like to purchase a copy of the book, just click onto the picture of it on the left and it will take you to Amazon where you can order it.

## ***Giving Statements are Available...***

Your giving statement for January 1 through June 30, 2011 is now available. Please pick it up from the table in the hallway. If you signed up to receive your statement via email, it was sent out on July 5. Please compare the statement with your giving record for accuracy. If you have any questions, please contact June at the office. Thank you for being faithful with your giving and your service to the church and the community here and abroad.

## ***Direct Payment is EASY!***

During the summer months, with so many of us traveling, it is easy to forget our pledge commitments to NACC so we are just beginning a new and much easier way for you to make certain your monthly gifts are received on time. If you would like to make your monthly gift to NACC by direct payment:

1. Complete the Direct Payment form with your checking (or savings) account information and turn it into NACC along with a cancelled check.
2. Your bank will take out the amount specified (your monthly pledge amount) from your checking (or savings) on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.

The direct payment will continue until you say stop (in writing) and you may change the amount anytime. The form is available on the table by the Sanctuary. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact June at the office.



## ***Helping You to be Green - Paper Recycling Now at NACC...***

You may have noticed a large green container on our parking lot. The container is for paper recycling. You may bring your newspapers, telephone books, magazines, shredded paper in a plastic bag (put it through a small opening on the side) and even hard cover books to recycle when you come to church and save yourself trips to the recycling center!