

National Avenue Christian Church

28 July 2011

Springfield, Missouri

Responding to Social Justice Issues

Harvest On Wheels & Greater Springfield Farmers' Market Second Annual



to benefit Ozarks Food Harvest
9 a.m. - noon Saturday, July 30, 2011
Battlefield Mall parking lot

OZARKS FOOD HARVEST BACKPACK PROGRAM

There are so many people in our area who are hurting – health problems and lost jobs are causing many families to struggle just to survive – unable to even put food on the table. The result is that thousands of children in 28 Southwest Missouri counties are secretly hungry. During the week while school is in session, many of these children are able to eat Monday through Friday with their school meal programs. But the weekends are much harder.



Ozark Food Harvest is reminding us that as the new school year begins, these hungry kids in our communities need help. Through their Weekend Backpack Program, children leave school on Fridays with a backpack full of wholesome food that will help them make it through the weekend. \$300 will provide a backpack for one child for one school year, \$1,200 will send 4 children home with food every weekend. Perhaps your Sunday School class, Book Club, or Office will want to support a child. If you decide to help, call Ozarks Food Harvest at [417]865-3411.

JOPLIN CHURCHES TO CLOSE DISTRIBUTION CENTER FOR TORNADO VICTIMS

Disciples in Joplin, Mo., who have been assisting those impacted by this spring's devastating tornado, will begin to wind down their operations. Steady progress is being made in rebuilding the community, where the May 22 tornado took 134 lives, injured hundreds more and damaged or destroyed more than 8,000 homes or apartments and 500 commercial properties, according to Fay Blevins, pastor of First Christian Church in Joplin. A number of Disciples families in the Joplin area lost homes and their possessions in the storm and the sanctuary and fellowship hall at South Joplin Christian Church was damaged.

First Christian and South Joplin Christian in Joplin will close the distribution center on July 31 where hundreds of donations for the tornado victims have been received. The churches, however, will continue to host volunteers from elsewhere to help with rebuilding that will help support the families of their congregations affected by the storm. "We have so enjoyed working with all of you and being a conduit through which the loving face of God is made known to so many hurting people," said Blevins. To read a statement from her, go to: www.disciples.org/DisciplesNewsService/tabid/58/itemId/1008/Disciples-to-close-tornado-relief-center.aspx

WEEK OF COMPASSION SEEKING SUPPORT FOR ITS RESPONSE TO AFRICAN DROUGHT AND FAMINE



Facing the lowest level of rainfall in more than half of a century, the continuing drought in the Eastern Horn of Africa is causing death, famine and suffering in areas of Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia as well as other countries in the region. Week of Compassion (WoC) is responding to this growing crisis through its partners Church World Service (CWS) and the ACT Alliance. CWS and the ACT Alliance are working on immediate relief and longer-term food security/nutrition and water initiatives.

Thousands of Somalis are fleeing the drought conditions to Kenya. Week of Compassion is focusing on contributing to the efforts in Somalia by fellow members of the ACT Alliance: Lutheran World Federation and Norwegian Church Aid. A famine is declared when acute rates of malnutrition exceed 30 percent among children; when more than two persons per 10,000 die daily; and when people are not able to access and sufficiently utilize food and other basics. The situation is extremely serious. WoC is calling for the courageous compassion of Disciples to support this critical relief effort. To find out more, visit www.weekofcompassion.org

INTERFAITH GROUPS URGE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO PROTECT MEDICAID AND MEDICARE

Faithful Reform in Health Care is among nearly 60 interfaith organizations urging the Obama administration and Congress to protect Medicaid and Medicare in their budget and debt-ceiling negotiations. Faith Reform in Health Care represents a coalition of faith groups, of which Disciples Justice Action Network is a member. Linda Hanna Walling, an ordained Disciples pastor is executive director. The joint statement has been endorsed by faith leaders representing millions of Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Unitarians, Muslims and Buddhist. It emphasizes that the two programs provide critical health-care for the most vulnerable in U.S. society. To read more visit: www.faithfulreform.org

In and Around NACC

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 scheduled this week and next – please plan on attending and adding your voice to the conversation.

Middle School and High School Parents
Preschool and Children Parents

Sunday, July 31st after worship in the Parlor
Sunday, August 7th after worship in the Parlor

Summer Sunday Schedule...

It is our tradition at National Avenue, to give all our teachers a break during the month of August. So, for the next five weeks [including September 4th], we will not have Sunday School. Worship will be at 10:00 am and the coffee fellowship will follow in the gallery. Our normal Sunday morning schedule will resume on September 11th.

Worship this Summer...

During the month of August, we will continue our discussion of *Simple Living – Compassionate Life*. 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.*”

August 7 th	A Theology for the Practice of Simplicity	1 Kings 19
August 14 th	The Politics of Simplicity	Genesis 45
August 21 st	Widening Our Circle of Community	Romans 12

Sign up to receive the NACC blog posts each week or follow us on Facebook throughout the summer – there will be links to articles, essays, film clips and music that will encompass the ideas of simplicity and compassion each week and prepare you for our Sunday discussions: www.nationalavenuecc.org.

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