

National Avenue Christian Church

August 2011

Springfield, Missouri

Responding to Social Justice Issues

HELP FOR JOPLIN!!!

We need your help. On Aug 10th Bright Futures and the Youth Providers Network is hosting a huge back to school event called *I Am Joplin*. It will be held from 6:30-10:00 pm at MSSU's athletic fields and football stadium. We are expecting approximately 10,000 people to attend this event. In order to provide a fun and safe event of this size we need hundreds of volunteers. We are asking congregations to help meet this request. To volunteer please go to the following link to sign up: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/iamjoplin/1270257 A background check will be required, the form is also on this website. We are very excited about offering such a great event for our staff, students and their families, please join us. You can forward this information to friends by going to: I Am Joplin, It's like Facebook only in a field, or I Am Joplin, an event for all Joplin school aged kids and families, or I Am Joplin, Aug 10th 6:30-10:00 at MSSU.

Rev. Jill Cameron Michel
South Joplin Christian Church
www.southjoplindisciples.org

A group from National Avenue will be helping – if you would like to be part of this great event there will be a meeting in Pastor Laura's office immediately after church on Sunday – or you may email kmac71@yahoo.com

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.

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

FROM THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK – WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WE NEED YOUR IDEAS AND FEEDBACK!

WHO:

The Brown School of Social Work at Washington University is committed to improving the lives of all Missourians.

WHAT:

We are currently looking for volunteers to share their opinion about informational videos about Missouri. Help us make better videos for Missouri! Participants will be asked to view a short video and complete two short computer surveys and a few questions on paper that will take about 25 – 35 minutes total.

WILL I GET PAID FOR MY TIME?

Participants who complete the surveys will be given a \$20 Amazon.com gift card for their time and travel.

WHEN AND WHERE:

Thursday, August 4, 2011 from 10:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Springfield-Greene County Library Station, Story Hour Room (within the children's section)
2535 North Kansas Expressway, Springfield, MO
Friday, August 5, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Springfield-Greene County Library Center, Meeting Room A (first room on left when you enter)
4653 South Campbell, Springfield, MO

For questions or to participate, contact **(314) 935-3886** –

Please ask about the Comparing Informational Videos about Missouri Study

In and Around NACC

PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY PARENT MEETING...

We had a great meeting last Sunday with Youth parents and are excited about the plans for fall. This week, we are asking parents of Preschool and Elementary children to join us this Sunday, August 7th, for a conversation about their activities. Please grab coffee or a latte right after church and meet in the parlor.

AUGUST DEPARTMENT AND CABINET MEETINGS...

On Sunday evening, August 14th, all National Avenue Department Teams will meet at 5:30pm in the Gallery. A light dinner will be served. This is an important meeting as we plan for the fall at NACC. A meeting for the church Cabinet will follow the department meetings at 7:00 pm.

SUMMER SCHEDULE...

It is our tradition at National Avenue, to give all our teachers a break during the month of August. So, for the next four 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.

SEPTEMBER 11TH SERVICE PROJECT...

We are in the beginning stage of planning a service project the weekend of September 11th. National Avenue has asked Brentwood Christian Church to partner with us to do a joint project either Saturday, September 10th or after worship services on Sunday, September 11th. If you would like to help with the planning for this event, please contact Matt or Pastor Laura.

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.nationalavenueecc.org.

JOINING SUNDAY...

While the invitation is open every week for individuals to become members of National Avenue Christian Church, we find it easier sometimes to throw a *Joining Sunday*. We have scheduled a Joining Sunday for the last Sunday in August, which is the 28th. If you are interested in officially becoming a member of National Avenue, please call the church office and arrange a time to meet with Pastor Laura prior to the 28th. And, we will also be scheduling a Sunday for baptism early this fall. There will be a Picnic on the evening of the 28th to celebrate all our new members in 2011.



IT'S A PICNIC!!

On **Sunday, August 28th**, we will be celebrating several things:

Back to School

New Leadership at National Avenue

New Members at National Avenue

So plan on coming at **5:30pm on Sunday the 28th** for a church picnic. We will provide the drinks, hamburgers and hot dogs and you can bring side dishes: salads, vegetables and/or desserts. If the hot weather is over by then, we will plan on being outside at least part of the time, so bring lawn chairs and outdoor games.

National Avenue Christian Church 1515 South National Avenue Springfield, Missouri 65804