

# National Avenue Christian Church

19 August 2011

Springfield, Missouri

## *Responding to Social Justice Issues*

### **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.

### **SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> SERVICE PROJECT...**

Plans are coming together for service projects the weekend of *September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>*. National Avenue has asked Brentwood Christian Church to partner with us and we are enlisting other faith communities to participate in community service projects Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and after worship services on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. We have identified a few sites for that weekend and *we are actively looking for additional sites*. If you know of facilities that need volunteer hours or if you would like to help with the overall planning for this event, please contact Matt Gallion, Jeremy Fuzy or Rachel Abdoler.

## *In and Around NACC*



### **IT'S A PICNIC!!**

On **Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**, 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 28<sup>th</sup>** 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.

## **CHURCH LEADERSHIP BOUNDARY TRAINING AND BACKGROUND CHECKS...**

In our community of faith, we carry deep ties to one another. We share our joys, we care for one another through the struggles of life, and we work together with God to co-create a better world for all people. Our leaders have a unique and important role in that community. It is our privilege to work diligently to care for the rest of congregation, eating with them and listening to their stories, serving communion and always offering a friendly face in times of need.

Over the past year, a group of dedicated individuals have worked on developing a "Safe Church Policy" for National Avenue. The policy has been adopted by the Board and is slowly being implemented. You may have noticed that we are now locking all doors except the Sanctuary Door at 10:00am on Sunday mornings – this helps to keep the children in the building safe and secure while worship is taking place. In this day and age, it is incredibly important for us to consider any and every way that we can keep our church a safe place, particularly with regard to the children. Children are our most precious gift, offering us endless laughter and youthful joy, vibrant energy and precocious curiosity.

As a second part of the implementation of this policy, we have asked leaders in our community of faith, to go through a boundaries training program. Even though many of our leaders will never work specifically with children and are therefore not required to participate, we believe that full participation and commitment to this program will increase awareness of our Safe Church policies and will raise the bar of expectation with regards to protecting our children and ourselves.

It is a sad reality that children are endangered far too often in churches. We, however, are making a commitment as a congregation that we will protect our own and will do everything in our power to keep our children safe. This commitment begins with the leaders of this church, and we appreciate the continued support and hard work of our leadership at National Avenue.

We are asking all church leadership to participate in the self-guided boundaries training course that is on-line. This is a service provided by our insurance carrier. If you are a leader in our community and have not already taken the boundaries training and completed the paperwork for your background check, please contact June McClean in our church office for information and to obtain a User ID and password for the system. We are asking each leader to also pay the \$5.00 fee that is required for the background check. Thanks again for all you do to make National Avenue a church home for so many.

## **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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 28<sup>th</sup>. And, we will also be scheduling a Sunday for baptism early this fall. There will be a Picnic on the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> to celebrate all our new members in 2011.

## ***A New Fall Schedule for Children and Youth...***

Beginning, Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup> our children and youth schedules will adapt to some new times and venues. In parent meetings over the past few weeks, we have decided to try adjusting our time frames to better accommodate families. If you have questions about this, or if you can volunteer to help with these activities, please contact Jennifer Klein [576-3423] or Lucinda Wadle [862-8754] regarding children and Matt or Pastor Laura at the church office regarding youth.

Children	Sunday Morning	Kid's Time	10:30 to 11:30am
Children	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Kids to Kids	5:30 to 7:00pm
Youth	Sunday Moring	Check In	11:00 to 11:30am
Youth	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Evening	Host Homes	5:30 to 7:00pm
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Evening	NACC	5:30 to 7:00pm
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Evening	NACC	5:30 to 7:00pm
	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Evening	Host Homes	5:30 to 7:00pm

Our Sunday morning Adult Classes will begin meeting again on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

## *A 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebration*



The Congregation of National Avenue, Friends and Family,  
are invited to the 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration  
of John and Myrna White

The Gallery at National Avenue  
Saturday, September 3, 2011  
2:00 to 4:00 pm

*No gifts, please ~ donations for the CROP Walk will be accepted!*

### ■ National Avenue Christian Church ■

417/869-9176 • [natlave@sbcglobal.net](mailto:natlave@sbcglobal.net) • [natlave.com](http://natlave.com) •

**Rev. Laura Fregin**, Senior Minister  
**Matthew Gallion**, Pastoral Resident  
**Kevin Williams**, Music Director

**Rev. Hubert Lines**, Minister of Visitation  
**Dr. John White**, Scholar in Residence  
**Wayland Schue**, Organist