

# National Avenue Christian Church

10 November 2011

Springfield, Missouri

## Cultivating Justice

### ***Ozarks Food Harvest – this Saturday...***



This Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> is National Avenue's day to work at Ozarks Food Harvest. If you haven't volunteered before, this month is the perfect time to begin. As we express thanks for the food we are able to prepare for our friends and families, we need to also remember the people in our community who are constantly worried about where their 'daily bread', will come from.

Every week, Ozarks Food Harvest volunteers sort and repack between 8,000 and 10,000 pounds of donated product in the Volunteer Center. This tremendous amount of work is not possible without the dedication of volunteers like us. The second Saturday of each month is our designated time to help, but if you are unable to help on the weekend, volunteers are needed in the afternoons Monday through Friday between 1 & 4pm.

And, if you cannot help in person any of these times, please take advantage of the opportunity to give to Ozarks Food Harvest in your grocers' check-out aisle. When you are purchasing groceries for yourself or for your family, you can add a \$1 tax free donation each time you shop at Dillions, Harter House, Price Cutter, or Smillie's from November 15<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Ozarks Food Harvest is located at 2810 N. Cedarbrook Ave. in Springfield. Please contact Chad Young at [cyoung@cameron-insurance.com](mailto:cyoung@cameron-insurance.com) or 823-4804 to let him know you will meet him at the warehouse this Saturday at 9:00am. [You may go [toozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer.html](http://toozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer.html) to volunteer for weekday hours]

### ***Youth Sleepout – November 18<sup>th</sup> ...***

On November 18, our youth will be participating in the 3rd Annual Springfield Sleepout, which brings together hundreds of concerned individuals to raise community awareness and funds to address Youth Homelessness during National Homeless Youth Awareness Month. This will certainly be a great opportunity for our youth to support a good cause and have some crazy-awesome fun. Here's a link explaining the plan and where you can sign up to help our youth raise money for this important event. <http://goo.gl/vqBiv>

### ***Thanksgiving Offering of Blankets...***

Last year, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, in addition to our usual tithes and gifts, we brought an *Offering of Coats* for the men and women we serve at Bill's Place each week. They were wonderful gifts and very appreciated. This year, we are asking you to bring an offering of blankets. The blankets can be new or gently used – our hope is that we will be able to collect at least 100 blankets on that Sunday to share once again, with the men and women who join us for lunch every Tuesday at Bill's Place.

### ***Save the Date – Alternative Gift Market – December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>...***

## **Cultivating Spirituality**

**Deacons and Elders Meeting 5:30pm this Sunday [a light supper will be served]**

**Board Meeting 7:00pm**

## **Cultivating Generosity - Stewardship Emphasis for 2012...**

Those who call National Avenue home are a very generous people. Individually and collectively, we continue to be deeply committed to the many opportunities given to us in our church, our community, and our world. Many of us give from a deep sense of gratitude for this community of faith that has given so much to us. Through the years, many people have given generously to this community of faith. They believed in the future and understood that they were planting trees they might never see grow to full fruition – the same may be true for us, but it is also true that what we give is making a difference in the present. We are giving part of our lives and our resources to ensure that:



- All people have a place to worship where who they are, is celebrated, not tolerated.
- We are giving so that children will grow up hearing stories of a God whose love and grace is not only present, but active.
- We are giving so that when we reach our senior years, we will be not only be loved and supported, but also respected and included.

And, we are giving because we know, from past and present experience, that the resources we give:

- feed hungry children,
- build houses for those without homes,
- give opportunities for education,
- and give hope to those whose present and future is unsure.

This is truly an exciting time to be a part of this faith community. Your generous financial support of National Avenue will help us continue to cultivate the spirituality, community, and justice that are part of our DNA as a community of faith. If you have not had an opportunity to turn in your pledge card, you may place it in the offering plate this Sunday or bring it back the church office this week. Please remember that *every pledge amount is needed* and, if we all give generously, we *can* make a difference in our time and place.

## **Spiritual Formation Series on Wednesday Evenings...**

Tom Boone is leading a series on Spiritual Formation on Wednesday evenings. The title for the series is, ***Focus on Formation: A Relational Approach***. While it is not necessary to buy the book, you may want to purchase “A Spiritual Formation Workbook” by James Bryan Smith and Lynda Graybeal. Tom will be looking at the three values of NACC – spirituality, justice, and community and will be using a format that is similar to group spiritual direction.

We are fortunate to have Tom, who is a certified Spiritual Director, as part of National Avenue. He joins Peter Browning and John White in offering Sunday morning and Wednesday evening formation classes and groups for adults. This series will begin at 6:00pm each Wednesday in the Parlor and will run through November 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **Bible Study at 9:00am on Sundays...**

The Yo-Mo-Co Class would love to have you join them on Sunday mornings at 9:00am. Rev. Hubert Lines teaches this class each week and they will be studying Matthew 5 & 6 through the end of November. The members of the class will be working together to collect an offering for the Crosslines Christmas Baskets in December. Come to the Gallery before 9:00am to get some coffee and refreshments and then come to the classroom that is the last room on the first floor of the Education wing – Room 103.

## **Cultivating Community**

### ***November Dates...***

November 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	NACC at Ozark Food Harvest
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm	Deacon & Elder Meeting and Dinner
	7:00pm	Board Meeting
November 18 <sup>th</sup>		Youth Sleep Out
November 20 <sup>th</sup>	11:30am	Thanksgiving Dinner at NACC
	6:00pm	Third Sunday Service – Gallery

### ***Thanksgiving Dinner at National Avenue...***

You are invited to stay after church next Sunday for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. This year we are asking you to bring your favorite dishes from your own recipe file. If your name begins with: A-J, please bring a salad; K-R, please bring a vegetable and stuffing *or* dressing [depending on where you came from!]; and S-Z, please bring dessert. Fellowship will prepare the turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and rolls. This is a wonderful event in the life of church as we gather around the tables and share this meal and our gratitude, with our church family.

### ***Congregational Meeting to vote on 2012 Budget next Sunday at the end of worship***

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