

Expecting the Unexpected ~ Advent 2009
National Avenue Christian Church



We wait. This Advent season, we wait expectantly - much like Mary might have waited - hopeful, anxious, wondering what her child would bring to the world. Unlike Mary, however, we already know much of what the child brought: hope, peace, joy, and love.

Yet still we wait for more...and perhaps the child waits for us as well.

Will we bring joy to the world? Do we work for peace? Are we showing God's love to all creation? What does the world hope for from us? What does the child hope for from us? How long will we wait? What is God's hope for people who wait?

As we journey through this season of Advent, consider these questions and the invitations that come from the worship services each Sunday. May we open our hearts to God's work in and around us in this season. May we be inspired to consider our own stories and the ways we create life together with God, and with each other, in our waiting.

First Sunday of Advent	Nov. 29	8:15 & 10:45am 6:00pm	Expecting Hope Hanging of the Greens
Second Sunday of Advent	Dec. 6	8:15 & 10:45am 2:00pm	Expecting Peace Service of Remembrance
Third Sunday of Advent	Dec. 13	8:15 & 10:45 am	Expecting Joy Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata
Fourth Sunday of Advent	Dec. 20	8:15 & 10:45 am 7:00pm	Expecting Love Christmas at Stone Chapel
Christmas Eve	Dec. 24	7:00 pm 11:00pm	Traditional Service Candlelight Communion Service



Hanging of the Greens Service & Reception

Sunday, **November 29**, will be the first Sunday of Advent and we will hold our Hanging of the Greens service in the sanctuary at **6:00 p.m.** There will be carols and scripture, our youth will participate in the Nativity scene, and our "Three Kings" will share their talents as well. After the service, there will be a reception in Fellowship Hall. **Members**

are asked to bring a finger food to share with others at the reception. You can leave your items in the kitchen before the service. Please join us for this special service as we usher in the holiday season.



Expressions of love and sympathy are extended to **Helen Woosley and Bob Woosley** and their family in the passing on November 11 of Helen's son and Bob's brother, **Rick Woosley**.

A service was held for him on November 17 at Gorman-Scharpf.

In the month of November, the **Mustard Seeds** have been studying gratefulness. We have created a "Gratefulness Graffiti Wall", made care packages for firefighters, made Thanksgiving cards for members of our community who are in the hospital or have trouble leaving their homes, and written a letter welcoming new church members into our church family. On Dec. 6 and Dec. 13, we will be joining the kids from Brentwood Christian Church to form a Christmas Choir. We will perform on Dec. 20 at Stone Chapel on the Drury University Campus.



Disciples on the Edge Adult Sunday School Class Spirituality Series Has Begun

November 29	Conservative and Progressive Views of Spirituality
December 6	Women's and Men's Experiences of Spirituality
December 13	African-American Spiritual Traditions
December 20	The Catholic Contemplative Spiritual Tradition
December 27	Spiritual Transformation at National Avenue Christian Church

All are welcome to this class which meets in the parlor every Sunday from 9:40 - 10:30 a.m. Peter Browning normally facilitates the discussion.

The Memorial Fund Distribution: The Deadline is December 15

So that the NACC board may vote on distributions from the Unitrust Memorial Fund in early January, **the deadline for requests has been set for December 15, 2009**. Proposals should be directed to the Unitrust Committee in care of Chad Young and may be turned in to the church office. Requests may come from board members, church committees, or any NACC member. In keeping with the wishes of the donors to the various memorial funds that have been subsumed by the new Unitrust Memorial Fund (e.g., Virginia Starr, Clifford & Anise Dalton), the Unitrust Committee will give preference to proposals which fund:

- seminary scholarships
- worship and witness to the community (special programs, speakers, music, materials, etc.)
- "capital improvement" proposals (physical needs not covered in the normal church budget).

Report for Sunday, November 15, 2009

Worship Attendance.	193
Church School Attendance.	80
Homebound Served.	4
Weekly Receipts.	\$4,699

Report for Sunday, November 22, 2009

Worship Attendance.	216
Church School Attendance.	80
Homebound Served.	3
Weekly Pledge Receipts.	
. Info not available at time of printing	

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Sunday, November 29

Sermon. Rev. Laura Fregin

Worship Leader. Louise Jackson

Sunday, December 6

Sermon. Rev. Laura Fregin

Worship Leader. Conor Wadle

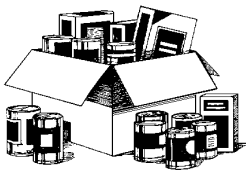
Thank you for the great support of the CWF Craft and Bake Sale which was held on November 7-8. We appreciate your donations of items and purchases. We cleared \$1,211.39 with your support of this event. This money will be of great value as we meet our outreach, departmental and local church concerns. Have a great Thanksgiving Holiday and know that we are thankful for your gracious giving. **Linda Bossi**



J.B. Long will be formally awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor **Sunday, November 29** at 1st and Calvary Presbyterian Church 820 E. Cherry. The ceremony begins at 2:00 pm. He would like to thank his church family for their support and invite them to attend.

Video Recording Ministry Still Needed?

We are attempting to determine whether there is a need to continue with the video and CD recording of our Sunday morning 10:45 service. If you have thoughts or concerns on this matter please direct them to Ken Reese at kreese311@gmail.com or by phone at 417-831-0776.



Check out kidsagainsthunger.org. Last year, the organization distributed 40 million pre-packaged meals worldwide. The satellite location in Springfield is 2006 E. Phelps, which is a few blocks east of Glenstone and off Chestnut Expressway. On Saturday, 100 volunteers from Schweitzer United Methodist spent two hours packaging meals at the satellite location. As they were leaving, another 100 volunteers from another church replaced them. To learn more about this worthy ministry, go to the web site mentioned above.

Shop for Fair Trade Items Sunday, December 13

Don't get all your Christmas shopping done early this year! Karen Eagles, from Anna Sophia's, will have tables set up in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, December 13**. She will be selling an assortment of fair trade items, which means that the artist or craftsperson was paid a fair price for the product and that they worked in a safe environment (no sweat shops, child labor, etc.). There will be the following types of items available for sale: Nativities & ornaments, jackets, scarves, knit hats and mittens, home decor items, jewelry, coffee, chocolate, tea, purses, messenger bags, coin/cosmetic bags, etc. So, please remember this opportunity to shop for unique and beautiful gifts while putting your dollars towards fair trade. Also, 10% of the sales will be donated back to NACC and go to our outreach funds.



We like to recycle everything we can, but the best way to be green is not to print anything you don't have to, so we are asking you to help us be conscious of our paper use. If enough people will register to read online or access it by email, we will return to a weekly format. Please tell us how you would like to receive our newsletter:

- By email By US Mail
 I do not wish to receive one. I prefer to read it on NACC's web site

Name _____ Email address _____

Comment _____

Please return this to Kathleen in the church office.

NATIONAL AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
1515 South National Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65804
(417) 869-9176 ■ (417) 869-7256 FAX
Web Page: www.natlave.com
E-Mail: natlave@sbcglobal.net

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1615
Springfield, Missouri 65804

PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY

Newsletter Deadline: Noon on the 2nd & 4th Mondays

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Thanksgiving Day - Church Office
Closed

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Church Office Closed

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship services at 8:15 a.m. and
10:45 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:30
a.m.

The Chancel Choir meets in the Music Room
at 10:15 a.m. to rehearse before worship.

HANGING OF THE GREENS service will be
held at 6:00 p.m. and a reception will follow
in Fellowship Hall.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

The **CFW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** will be
held at the Tower Club at 11:30 a.m.

The **ALL DEPARTMENTS DINNER & MEETINGS**
will begin with dinner at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship
Hall and the meetings following at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

Chancel Bells rehearse at 6:00 p.m. in Room 207.

Chancel Choir meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Music
Room.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

A **SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE** will be held at
2:00 p.m. in our chapel.