

December 9, 2009

VOLUME 61, NO. 23

Expecting the Unexpected ~ Advent 2009
National Avenue Christian Church



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

Share Your Gifts With A Family In Need This Christmas!

Can you imagine what it would be like Christmas morning if you couldn't provide gifts for your children? Crosslines will provide food baskets and gifts for thousands of families and children this holiday season. The Crosslines food pantry has seen increases all year in requests for help as the economy continues to take its toll on the most fragile in our community. Our age group this year for the **Toystore is the 11-13 year-olds**. Please bring the gifts unwrapped and with the tags still on for easier sorting for the volunteers.

One way you can help is by adopting a family or families through Crosslines. If your Sunday School class, your family, or any other group you belong to is looking for a way to share the love of Christ, this may be just the answer! For all the details, call Alice Dodd, Crosslines Adoption Coordinator, at 883-6378. So many of their "adopters" have shared how blessed they have been through this experience. The families they served also share how thankful they are for the help and contact with such caring, giving people.

Christmas at Stone Chapel: A Celebration in Song
Sunday, December 20th at 7:00 p.m.

This will be a benefit for the 40th anniversary of The Council of Churches. Music will be provided by Rev. Emily Bowen, Mezzo-Soprano; Edward Christiansen, Tenor; and Sarah Hover, Soprano. There will be combined adult and children's choirs from Brentwood Christian Church and National Avenue Christian Church. Accompaniment will be provided by professional musicians from the area conducted by our own Kevin Williams. There will also be featured readings by Dr. Phil Snider, Rev. Mark Struckoff, and NACC's pastor Rev. Laura Fregin. For more information, you can go to www.christmasatstone2009.com.



Fair Trade Items For Sale

On **Sunday, Dec. 13**, Karen Eagles from Anna Sophia's, will have a Fair Trade Gift Mart in Fellowship Hall. This will be an opportunity for you to purchase fair trade gifts - these items have all been made by artists or craft persons who were paid a fair price for their product, and they were made in safe environments that did not use child labor or sweat shop labor practices. In addition, 10% of all sales will be donated back to National Avenue to benefit our outreach programs. Come prepared on the 13th to do some of your Christmas shopping!



Mustard Seed Youth Group

On 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 Class Party

Wed., December 16 at 6:30 p.m.

At the home of John & Susan Mihalevich

Meat and drink will be provided and everyone is asked to bring a dish to complete the meal. Also everyone is asked to bring an unwrapped toy for any age to donate to the Missouri Hotel and Crosslines.

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

- 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).

ALL OF YOU WHO ARE ABLE TO DRIVE . . .

RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program) is an agency of the Council of Churches. The transportation program began as they saw seniors become unable to drive, but unwilling to give up their volunteer jobs. They have four 12-passenger vans and drive three routes each day, Monday through Friday. The mornings start about 7:00 a.m. and run about one to two hours. The afternoon routes are longer, starting about 10:30 a.m. and run as late as 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. There is a shortage of drivers for the month of December and urgently need your help. Driver qualifications: minimum of 25 years of age and have a good driving record. If you can help, call 862-3595 and speak with Beverly to sign up.

Report for Sunday, November 29, 2009

Worship Attendance.	165
Church School Attendance.	82
Homebound Served.	3
Weekly Receipts.	\$4,506

Report for Sunday, December 6, 2009

Worship Attendance.	200
Church School Attendance.	77
Homebound Served.	3
Weekly Pledge Receipts.	11,670

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Sunday, December 13

Chancel Choir
Christmas Cantata

Worship Leader. Annette Genung

Christmas Sunday, December 20

Sermon. Rev. Laura Fregin

Worship Leader. Conor Wadle



CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

To vote on the 2010 Church Budget
Sunday, December 20 After Each Worship Service

NACC BLOOD DRIVE
Sunday, January 17
In Fellowship Hall



Thank you to **Barbara Harpine** for sharing her artistic talent and time and energy to make our Christmas tree and Bonar window look so beautiful.



O Come ALL You Faithful. . .

The Gospel of Luke tells of the night that the shepherds' tedious routine was interrupted by an angelic announcement. There they were doing their hard work not expecting anything new. Suddenly everything changed as they heard the wonderful news of God's gift to the world in a newborn child. In response, they hurried to Bethlehem to discover for themselves what God had done.



Sometimes the mission and ministry of our local congregations seems like the work of the shepherds - hard, boring, exhausting, and sometimes hopeless. How exciting when God is revealed to us in new ways that take our breath away and the work we do for God suddenly has new hope and new vision.

Across the regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) such as our own Mid-America region, there are exciting stories of new congregations being established, existing congregations being renewed and transformed. In this holy season, let us reach out to those broken lives that feel no joy. Let us be a beacon of light that will lead them to God's gift of new life.

With your Christmas Offering, you support your region's ministry to enlist Disciples as members of a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. The special Christmas Offering will be received on Dec. 13 and Dec. 20.

TO ORDER POINSETTIA PLANTS...

Plants this year will be displayed on December 20th and at the Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary. Plants come in a 6" pot and will have 3-5 blooms. You may take your plant home or deliver it yourself to a shut-in after the Christmas Eve service. If plants are not picked up, they will be discarded after the holidays. Fill out the form below, detach and mail to the church office with your check. Plants cost \$10.00 each.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 14!

Name of donor(s): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

The **CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL** will begin at 12:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Worship services at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. The **CHRISTMAS CANTATA** will be presented at both worship services.

A **FAIR TRADE SALE** will be held in our Fellowship Hall from 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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

The **FREGINS' OPEN HOUSE** will take place from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., 1257 E. Delmar.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 (Continued)

Youth groups will meet from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The **GENERAL BOARD MEETING** will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

The **ELDERS MEETING** will start at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

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

The **DISCIPLES ON THE EDGE CLASS PARTY** will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the home of John & Susan Mihalevich, 5723 E. Eastmore.

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