

NACCC NEWS

DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 5



FROM MY HEART TO YOURS

Dear Friends,

“Music is our greatest opportunity to cultivate hospitality.” So writes Steve Thorngate in an article on music in churches, in a recent issue of Christian Century magazine (New Harmonies, Steve Thorngate, (CC/11/29/ pp 22-27).

Perhaps at no time during the Christian year is there more harmony or hospitality over the music being played, sung or performed than during Advent and Christmas. LeeAnne and I have our Christmas CD’s out already and marvel at the incredible number of ways carols and music of this Advent season are performed. From opera stars, to symphonies, to rock stars, or jazz ensembles, to piped-in carols in stores, to church worship services – we’re listening to all of them!

Sometimes, were it not for the words of the songs, musical interpretation would be disappointing or at least strange to our ears. Other times, the new interpretation of a particular carol/musical piece is refreshing.

In our churches we often hear that people do not like “new music,” which may be indicative of congregations disliking change all together. But Thorngate states, that with music it is most often a matter of congregations not being enabled to learn something new. As with new musical interpretations so it is with changes that new voices (and people) bring to expressions of faith. The issues of quality and inclusion can’t be separated.

Whatever your congregation’s particular style of singing carols, I hope that both the uplifting words of the familiar songs, as well as the new interpretations of them, create an atmosphere of hospitality to all who come to celebrate this blessed season with you. It is all about lifting our voices in praise of Emmanuel.

Have a Blessed Christmas,

Rev. Dr. Thomas Richard
Executive Secretary

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The Center for Congregational Leadership continues to develop its programs and services on behalf of our member churches. We are planning the next **CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITY INTENSIVE SEMINAR** for February 12-15, 2012. It will be held here at the Center on the campus of Olivet College. This seminar is ideal for ministers, lay people and all who wish to deepen their understanding of the Congregational Way.

Rev. Dr. Rick Hartley, Senior Minister of First Congregational Church, Mukwonago, WI and Rev. Charles Packer, Senior Minister of Rockwood First Congregational Church, Rockwood, MI will lead participants through the history and polity of the Congregational Way with special attention to how the history and polity informs our Congregational practice today.

On campus attendance is \$295 per participant for the complete program and meals.
Webinar attendance is \$225 per participant.

The registration form can be found on our websites: centerforcongregationalleadership.org or nacc.org.

For more information about the Center and educational opportunities, contact Dr. Mauro at bmauro@nacc.org or 1-800-262-1620 x 12. Visit our website at www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org to watch the latest seminar on Technology in Worship.

Blessings,

Betsy

CONGRATULATIONS!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND CHURCHES UPON ORDINATION:

REV. CYNTHIA PETRIE, OCTOBER 23, 2011
CAMPTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, CAMPTON, NH

REV. TERRY BOBZIEN, OCTOBER 28, 2011
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, PITTSFORD, MI

REV. MIKE HAEFNER, OCTOBER 30, 2011
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, GREENVILLE, MI



DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING

“IT’S THAT TIME OF YEAR ...”

To take stock of our fellowship together as a nation of Congregationalist churches. The annual Fair Share support letter should have reached you by now. For questions or more information on Fair Share, please contact us at (800) 262-1620.

Your prayerful consideration is most appreciated!!!

New NACCC Employee Assistant for Development and Marketing

Courtney Schultz is a recent graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee. Her bachelor’s degree is in Communicative Arts. She has worked in marketing, management, public relations, web design and photography.

Courtney’s most recent work experience is with the Wisconsin Lutheran development office for four years, where she trained and supervised students, preparing alumni events and entering donor information. She also worked for the American Cancer Society in Pewaukee in community relations.

In addition to serving as the assistant to our Development Director, Crissy Zitka, Courtney will help with some of the support-staff responsibilities. Courtney can be reached at: cschultz@naccc.org (800) 262-1620 ext 25

2012 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE . . .

One of the blessings of attending our Annual Meeting each year is the opportunity to go to different parts of the country and experience the hospitality and unique gifts of each of our hosting associations. That's one of the reasons why I strongly encouraged the MN Fellowship of Congregationalists to extend an invitation to host the 2012 Annual Meeting and Conference and why I am serving as co-chair of the Host Committee. Having experienced the generosity and hospitality of my sisters and brothers in the Way, I wanted to return the favor.

Your friends in Minnesota are hard at work, with the help of your representatives on the Annual Meeting and Conference Team, to make the 2012 meeting a memorable event. In Minnesota, you'll find an old-fashioned welcome in a setting that provides all of the best and most up-to-date amenities you could want. You'll find a full service venue (the Hilton) that will cheerfully and professionally serve you. You will find a first class airport and a transportation system that is easy to use and affordable (including free shuttle service between the airport and the Hilton and a light rail system that extends into downtown Minneapolis). We've got spectacular attractions throughout the area and a shopping experience second to none, with the nearby Mall of America accessible by hotel shuttle. During the meeting, you'll be treated to great music, moving and vibrant worship, a free picnic at historic and beautiful Minnehaha Park, dynamic speakers, interesting and engaging workshops, many opportunities for fellowship, and the friendliest hosts you'll find anywhere in the Association.

Come early or stay after the meeting to enjoy the many natural and human-made attractions that our state has to offer pilgrims of all ages. We look forward with joyful anticipation to welcoming you in June of 2012.

*Rev. Casey vanderBent
Co-chair, Host Committee
2012 NACCC Annual Meeting and Conference*

2012 Annual Meeting & Conference

June 23-26

Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Mall of America
Bloomington, MN

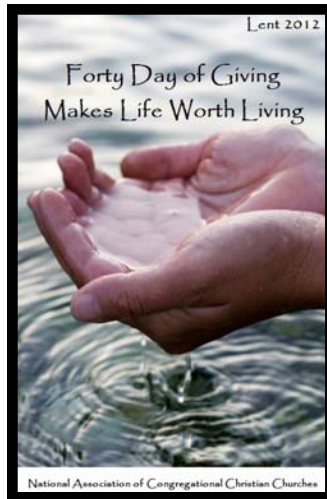
Call (952) 854-2100 to reserve your room

Room rates: \$109 plus tax

Or visit www.mspairport.hilton.com and use Group Code: NAC

2012 LENT DEVOTIONAL PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW

*Ash Wednesday
is February 22*



Please send _____ 2012 Lent Devotionals
Price: \$2.50 per copy – includes shipping & handling charges

Send Devotionals to: **(Please Print)**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Please send completed form to:

**NACCC
PO Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154-0288**

or

Email your request to: lmiller@naccc.org

Telephone: (800) 262-1620 ext. 13

Fax: (414) 764-0319



DEVOTIONAL WRITERS

Lent Theme: “Forty days of giving can make life worth living.”

**Deadline
December 26
For Lent**

Format for the Devotional

- 1) Scripture reference (NLT will be used unless otherwise specified)
- 2) Topic sentence
- 3) Devotion, meditation, illustration
- 4) Prayer
- 5) Your name, Church name, City, State, and e-mail address.
(give permission to print e-mail address)
- 6) A picture of you (optional)

*Total word count for ALL components is 320 words, maximum.
Longer submissions will not be used*

Daily Inspirational Readings

Please prayerfully consider how you might convey a message of the Season to your brothers and sisters in Christ. An Antiphon is a 3-part prayer that begins with “O”, then addresses Jesus through one of his many names, and finally brings a request. “O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel.” is an Antiphon. May the Holy Spirit inspire your writing for the glory of God.

Submission Instructions:

<p style="text-align: center;">Via Email:</p> <p>Lori Wiley— pastorucpnh@gmail.com - Fax 603-472-2799</p> <p>Leo Christian— congopastor@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Via Post Office</p> <p>Lori Wiley 599 New Boston Rd. Bedford NH 03110</p>
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Subject Line: Advent (or Lent) Devotional. A reply will be sent when your submission has been received.



National Association
of Congregational
Christian Churches



Please make copies of this flyer and post them in your church. Give a copy to each of your writers!

Use the form on the next page for your submission

Devotional Entry

TITLE:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: (book, chapter, verse(s), translation)

TOPIC SENTENCE/TITLE: What is the essence of your entry? What is the Big Idea? What words should the reader carry in mind and heart throughout the day? Does your Big Idea relate to the theme of the Lenton Season? Does your Big Idea relate to the theme for this year? (Lent 2012: Forty days of giving make life worth living)

MESSAGE: Devotion, meditation, illustration, quote

Prayer: Write a short prayer related to the Topic sentence.

Name of writer: _____
 Name of church: _____ City and State of Church: _____
 E-mail address: _____ May your e-mail address be included? _____
 Address of writer: _____ Telephone #: _____
 Do you text? ___ Best times to call: _____ Time zone: _____
 Send a picture: ___ yes ___ no

Total word count for ALL components is 320 words, maximum. The Chicago Manual of Style will be used by the copyeditor who reserves the right to correct grammar and spelling.

Send your entry to Lori Wiley (pastorucpnh@gmail.com, 599 New Boston Road Bedford NH 03110, phone and **fax**: 603-472-2799 or Leo Christian (congopastor@gmail.com, 508-863-0031 PO Box 98 Rochester, MA. 02770). If you do not receive a Reply via e-mail, call to ensure that your entry was received.

News From the Field

North Cong'l, hosted the Fall gathering of the Michigan Conference featuring a speaker from WISDOM (Women's Interfaith Solutions for Dialogue and Outreach); collected boxes of needed items for Indian Trails Missions in Mexico, New Mexico, and Arizona... *Duluth Cong'l*, holiday dinner and choral concert, gave their old pilgrim hymnals to a local new church start; taking offering for the Ministerial Assistance fund of the NA; celebrating new pledges to this year's stewardship program... *FCC, Mansfield*, have an annual giving tree where the needs of children in the area are put on Christmas tags to which people can contribute... *FCC, Marshalltown*, bulletins and newsletter contained quotes of our pilgrim ancestry for their November "Heritage Month"; in December, an all church musical entitled "Carriers of the Light,"... *FCC, Marshfield*, contributed to the collection of 50,000 meals for the homeless for area's food pantry; moving toward having their worship services broadcast on the local television network... *North Shore Cong'l*, December is a month of giving – a giving tree for the Next Door Foundation, Christmas Cookie Sale for Missions Outreach Funds, bag lunches for the homeless via Repairers of the Breach mission, fleece scarves and hats for the homeless... *FCC, Naples*, celebrated September 11th Remembrance Service, Disabilities Awareness Sunday, Marriage and the Family Sunday, Mission Sunday with Charles Sagay; took two offerings during October, for Golden Gate Middle School children and East Africa Relief (through the NA)... *FCC, Hanson*, organized a new Tuesday night prayer group; recruiting new technology helpers for both of their worship services; recent outpouring of books for the Church's library, and a reference to Amazon.com for

Kindle e-copies of books members want to keep...

Church of the Messiah, LA, the choir and handbell choir are in concert during December; a Christmas sing-a-long is scheduled for the 18th; recent newsletter lifted up the blessed work of volunteers who carry our regular "Behind The Scenes" tasks which bless the life of the Church's ministry. (Wonderful Idea!)... *FCC, Rockwood*, Charles Packer's message in the November issue of their "Genesis" newsletter was excellent. He describes the Way of being Christians in a Congregational Way as challenging, and states "We are up to the challenge;" their ecumenical prayer breakfast featured author lecturer, story-teller, Jennie Dimkoff (call FCC for her contact info); the Methodist Church's 6.5 acre corn maze is an annual adventure walk for the ecumenical community; celebrated Give God Your All day at the church...

Pilgrim, Taunton, food pantry donations during November, meals to shut-ins, collecting returnables for Relay for Life'; held a flea market with bulk of items being from the estate of two of their members; weekly men's breakfast needs a chairperson; annual "God Rocks" celebration included local bands, gospel groups performing new and familiar Christian music... *FCC, Spencer, Iowa*, planning an international mission trip this next year; contributed toward the local Feed Our Children efforts, collecting 99 packets of meals and snacks for local children who have inadequate food supplies; recent newsletter had a summary of people's responses to the question, "What are the best things about our Church?" WOW! A good note to end this issue of From the Fields. Check it out on their website!

2012 Dates

2012 Congregational History & Polity Seminar—Feb. 12-15,
Olivet, MI

2012 Minister's Convocation—April 16-19,
Mundelein, IL

2012 Annual Meeting & Conference, June 23-26,
Bloomington, MN

RECENT EXECUTIVE & FRATERNAL VISITS*Rev. Dr. Tom Richard visited:*

First Congregational Church, Petersham, MA
 First Congregational Church, Anchorage, AK
 Community Church, Morton Grove, IL
 Church in the Gardens, Forest Hills, NY
 Plymouth Congregational Church, Lansing, MI
 East Orrington Cong'l Church, East Orrington, ME

Rev. John Carson visited:

Fellowship of Connecticut Cong'l Christian Churches
 Westchester Congregational Church, Colchester, CT
 Third Congregational Church, Middletown, CT
 United Congregational Church, Norwich, Ct
 Mohegan Congregational Church, Goshen, CT
 Maine Sea Cost Mission, Bar Harbor, ME
 Congregational Christian Council of Maine
 First Congregational Church, Searsport, ME
 Seafarer's Friend Mission, Boston, MA
 Church in the Cove, Beverly, MA
 Bread of Life Mission, Plant City, FL
 Florida Assoc. of Cong'l Churches & Ministers
 Thomas Edison Cong'l Church, Ft. Myers, FL
 Pilgrim Congregational Church, Pomona Park, FL
 First Congregational Church, Maywood, IL
 Asociacion Civil Cristiana Congregational, Argentina

Rev. Dr. Betsey Mauro visited:

Tinley Park Comm. Cong'l Church, Tinley Park, IL
 Breckenridge Cong'l Church of Breckenridge, MI
 Oneonta Cong'l Church, South Pasadena, CA
 First Congregational Church of Laingsburg, MI
 First Congregational Church of Pittsford, MI
 First Congregational Church of Wayne, MI
 Midwest Assoc. of Cong'l Christian Churches
 Cal-West Assoc.

Representing the Association

Revs. Tom & Wendy VanTassell brought greetings to Rev. Steve DiGangi's Service of Installation in Peterson, Iowa, November 5th

Rev. Rob Brink brought fraternal greetings at the Service of Installation of Rev. Garry Fisher in Grand Junction, MI on November 13th.

Lee Fournier and Rev. Dr. Lowell Linden represented the Association at the Service of Installation of Rev. Allan Morrow, at Desert Congregational Church of Twenty-Nine Palms, CA on November 13th.

Church Bell For Sale

The First Congregational Church of Beardstown, IL is selling their church bell (1500 lbs) and their handbells.

After a storm in 1939 the bell was removed from the tower and placed in the church foyer.

For more information contact

Mr. George Bell

georgebell6746@att.net

5 Circle Drive, Beardstown, IL 62618

(217) 323-2056

Pilgrim Hymnals Available

The Pilgrim Congregational Church, Bloomfield Hills, MI has about 150 copies of the Pilgrim Hymnal available. They are in a wide range of conditions.

Please contact:

Kerry Price, Music Director

(248) 642-2290 or

pilconch@sbcglobal.net

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER

Harvey Cutting	Dec. 2, 1955
Ron Lynn	Dec. 2, 2000
Fred Neal	Dec. 5, 1965
James Eaton	Dec. 7, 1975
Daniel Vellinga	Dec. 7, 1986
Dinah Haag	Dec. 7, 1997
Warren Griffin	Dec. 7, 2008
Gregory Ellcey	Dec. 9, 1962
Elizabeth Bingham	Dec. 10, 1979
Gard Rowe	Dec. 13, 1945
Ried Martin	Dec. 13, 1998
Harold Brown	Dec. 15, 1958
Joseph Clarke	Dec. 27, 1984
Robert Weiter	Dec. 27, 2001
Fred Towne	Dec. 29, 1940

JANUARY

Raymond Bennett	Jan. 1, 1952
Charles Goldsmith	Jan. 1, 1952
Ruth Bartos	Jan. 1, 1957
Marjorie Doriani	Jan. 1, 1957
Terry Smith	Jan. 1, 1958
Thomas Gossett	Jan. 1, 1959
Robert Henderson	Jan. 1, 1959
Dellis Hudson	Jan. 1, 1959
Robert Trump	Jan. 1, 1959
Clifford Schutjer	Jan. 1, 1962
Phyllis Patten	Jan. 1, 1964
Franklin Shannon	Jan. 1, 1965
James Martin	Jan. 1, 1966
Donald Sweitzer	Jan. 1, 1966
Barry Johnson	Jan. 1, 1968
Michael Halsey	Jan. 1, 1969
James Henry	Jan. 1, 1970
Robert Clark	Jan. 1, 1971
Richard Dunn	Jan. 1, 1972
Richard C. Hammond	Jan. 1, 1973
David Hawk	Jan. 1, 1975



Valyn Sutter	Jan. 1, 1977
Deborah Kaiser-Cross	Jan. 1, 1980
James McKenzie	Jan. 1, 1981
David Kaiser-Cross	Jan. 1, 1983
Chris Bryan	Jan. 1, 1985
David Benson	Jan. 1, 1986
Marty Miller Maddox	Jan. 1, 1990
Philip Spottswood	Jan. 1, 1991
Ronald Folkersma	Jan. 1, 1992
John Metcalf	Jan. 1, 1994
John Moore	Jan. 1, 1998
Bruce Williams	Jan. 1, 1998
Robert Warner	Jan. 1, 2001
Henry 'Jack' Brown	Jan. 4, 1974
Daniel Schowalter	Jan. 6, 1985
Lynda Johnson	Jan. 6, 2002
Al Stewart	Jan. 7, 1989
Jane Milaschewski	Jan. 8, 2011
Patricia Haaheim	Jan. 11, 1981
William Gentry II	Jan. 14, 1996
Robert Harrell	Jan. 15, 1977
Sharon Wozencraft	Jan. 15, 1984
Matthew Webster	Jan. 16, 2010
William Hillman	Jan. 17, 1954
Lara Morris Archibald	Jan. 17, 2010
John Carson	Jan. 18, 1982
A.J. Harrell	Jan. 19, 2003
Pamela Haug	Jan. 19, 2003
Brian McGookey	Jan. 19, 2003
George Woodward	Jan. 20, 1966
Cynthia Bacon	Jan. 20, 2001
Russell Petrie	Jan. 22, 1962
Susan LeFeber	Jan. 22, 2005
Maryann Palmetier	Jan. 22, 2005
Merlyn Bilhorn	Jan. 23, 1953
Robin Honaker	Jan. 24, 1993
Gary Howell	Jan. 24, 2003
Richard Campbell	Jan. 27, 1963
Walter Boring	Jan. 28, 1949
Mitchell Taylor	Jan. 28, 2006
Richard Nease	Jan. 29, 2000
Lucas Miller	Jan. 30, 2011

NAPF – HOPE
South Dakota
2012



BadLands Good Hands

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

June 24 – 30, 2012

Arrive SUNDAY afternoon – Depart Saturday morning

\$695.00

Registration deadline – March 1, 2012

After March 1, 2012, registration fee will be \$795.00

NO registrations will be accepted after May 21, 2011

Scholarship information is now available on the NACCC website at NACCC.org

Partnering with Mission Discovery in Rapid City, South Dakota, NAPF and HOPE will also include aspects of worship, speakers, small group time, service, leadership and FUN! Rapid City is home to thousands of Lakota Indians who have moved from the Pine Ridge Reservation in search of a better life. You will serve forgotten and overlooked residents by repairing and painting run-down homes, hosting children's bible school, and sharing God's love with children and adults who need to experience hope. You will also have the opportunity to do some touring in the incredible area of the Black Hills, the Badlands and Mt. Rushmore.

**SEND ME YOUR NEWS**

Submissions for the Feb./March edition are due by Jan. 15, 2012.

Marie Steele, Editor

msteele@nacc.org

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF
CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**

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Website: www.nacc.org

Bringing together Congregational Christian Churches for mutual care and outreach to our world in the name of Jesus Christ.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.nacc.org

**The Congregational Foundation**

Want to create something of lasting value? You can be confident your legacy gift will make the difference you're seeking to create. Contact the Congregational Foundation at: (800) 262-1620 or foundation@nacc.org