NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

P.O. Box 288, Oak Creek, WI 53154-0288, 1-800-262-1620, Email: naccc@naccc.org www.naccc.org

NACCC News

JUNE/JULY 2011

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

FROM MY HEART TO YOURS

Dear Friends,

When was the last time you played the violin in a train station? Sometime last year I received a story from a lawyer friend in Greenwich, CT. He often sends me newspaper articles, jokes, tidbits of all sorts and varieties.

This particular email was about an article from the Washington Post (you may remember the article). Subsequently, the story hit national news. A musician entered the metro station in DC and began to play six beautiful Bach pieces on the violin, for 45 minutes on a cold January day. During that time few gave him even a nod. Only one person came over and threw a dollar bill in his open violin case. He counted six people who actually paused for a moment to listen. Among them was a young boy with his mother, who was trying to leave the station, dragging the young boy behind. The boy kept resisting, looking back at the musician transfixed by him and the music.

No one bothered to find out who this person was. He was Joshua Bell, one the world's great violinists. The Post conducted this experiment, and later concluded that there is something to the notion that our culture has lost its sense of wonder.

Do our churches create an atmosphere of wonder? Do we inspire our congregants to "play the violin" in the city and town squares where we live and worship? We do not need an evangelism program to do this. We don't need some elaborate outreach plan. We may not even need words to do this effectively. The only thing we need is a sense that God can do amazing, wonderful, inspirational things with our gifts.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Dr. Thomas Richard Executive Secretary



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The Annual Minister's Convocation was held at St. Mary's of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois May 2 – 5. Approximately 35 people attended the retreat for fellowship, spiritual refreshment and relaxation. Rev. Eric Britcher led the group in Bible Study focusing on the pastoral skills that are extolled in Philippians. Rev. Steve Schafer guided the group in a deepening of our fellowship though "clergy games", a creation of Steve's that allows pastors to explore how they handle ministry conundrums. Morning and evening worship services brought to the fore a variety of leadership styles and messages. Free time and evening social time added to sense of connection.



Rev. Steven Tucker and Rev. Karl Schimpf share a story together at the Minister's Convocation.

For more information about the Center and educational opportunities, contact Dr. Mauro at bmauro@naccc.org or 1-800-262-1620 x 12. Or visit our new website at www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org.

Blessings,

Betsey

CONGRATULATIONS!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND CHURCHES UPON ORDINATION:



REV. JEFFREY M. POTTER, MARCH 27, 2011 PEACHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, PEACHAM, VT

2012 Dates

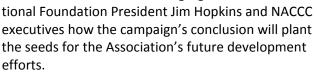
2012 Minister's Convocation, April 16-19, Mundelein, IL 2012 Annual Meeting, June 23-26, Bloomington, MN

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

CAMPAIGN CORNER

Branching Out in Scottsdale

The NACCC team is now preparing to transition the *Branching Out* campaign at the 2011 Annual Meeting in Scottsdale. At the opening presentation on Saturday afternoon, meeting attendees will learn from Congrega-



At 6:00 p.m. on Monday evening, meeting attendees are invited to the Congregational Foundation's Annual Reception. At this special gathering we will thank all our generous donors, and honor our Providence Fund and Richard Fund grant recipients. We will also welcome two recently appointed College Presidents as our special guests: Dr. Steven Corey, who joined Olivet College last December, and Dr. Danny P. Hollingsworth, successor to Dr. W. Ray Cleere who retired from Piedmont College in May after serving as President for 16 years.

Richard Fund Grant Awards

John Calvin Richard, brother of NACCC Executive Secretary Dr. Thomas Richard, was a talented singer, actor and director. After his passing in 2006, the Richard family established a memorial fund within the Congregational Foundation to honor his lifelong love of music and theater. The Richard Fund awards grants of up to \$500 to NACCC churches of 200 members or less to help defray costs for a special music or performing arts event in their church.

This year we received a record number of grant applications! Seventeen (17) churches applied, proposing a variety of creative events all worthy of funding. Since the number of requests greatly exceeded the limited amount available for distribution from this



fund, our Grant Awards Committee members were faced with very difficult choices. The Foundation's Board of Governors is pleased to announce that grants have been awarded to the following four (4) churches:

Church in the Cove, Beverly, Massachusetts Grant Award – \$200

Songs and Carols Concert, December 10, 2011 This event will benefit the church and its community by encouraging intergenerational relationships.

First Congregational Church, East Bloomfield, New York Grant Award – \$250

10th Annual Choir Invitational, October 2011 This event will benefit churches in the Bloomfield community by reviving an annual program that stopped in 2007.

Forest Avenue Congregational Church, Bangor, Maine Grant Award – \$250

Youth Talent Show, August 20, 2011

This event will help the church raise funds to repair water and roof damage to its sanctuary caused by the severe winter.

Demorest Methodist Congregational Federated Church Demorest, Georgia

Grant Award - \$200

An Evening of Broadway, January 21-22, 2012 This event will benefit a local charity that helps persons in need within the community.

Congratulations to these NACCC churches! We look forward to meeting your delegates in Scottsdale.

If you would like more information about the above, please call me at 1-800-262-1620 x25 or email ddavid@naccc.org.

Diana David

Director of Development (Part-Time)

WE GET MAIL!!

Thanks so much Tom! I just got off the phone with Susan . . . You guys are great!! I'm looking forward to working with you all as we move forward with our pastor search.

God Bless!! Mike Ravera FCC, Clear Lake, IA

Rev Richard:

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How are things in Oak Creek? I just read your article in "The Congregationalist - Dec - 2010, Vol 16, No. 4", about the Alban Institute's Summer issue of Congregations, by Jill Hudson on the "Twelve Characteristics for Effective 21st Century Ministry". I also read her article and it was very interesting. Thank you for all you do.

-Winthrop Cong'l Church, Holbrook, MA

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THANK YOU!

The following churches became first-time contributors to the Shared Ministries Fund between January 1, 2011 and March 31, 2011:

University Congregational Church, Wichita, KS

Becket Federated Church, Becket, MA

Chiltonville Congregational Church, Plymouth, MA

Silver Lake Chapel, Plympton, MA

Forest Avenue Congregational Church, Bangor, ME

East Market Street United Church of Christ, Akron, OH

Second Congregational Church, Ashtabula, OH

Thank you for the blessing of joining in fellowship with other NACCC churches contributing to the Shared Ministries Fund!

News From the Field

FCC, Mansfield, during May they displayed art done by church members (paintings, sculpture, ceramics and quilts... FCC, Wauwatosa, May was Think Spring month for the Church. They had a work day to beautify the outside gardens, clean toys in the nursery, wash woodwork in the chapel, and wash windows... FCC, Frankfort, the church shares Maundy Thursday with their Methodist friends; they are planning their Holy Humor Sunday after Easter...Messiah, Los Angeles, future planning group is planning events to bring new and older members together; Spring Concert Series presents "A Historical Voyage of Music, by the Masters Consort Men's Choral Ensemble... FCC, Beloit, already planning for a great vacation bible school; they are developing an expanding worship assistant program... Warden Community, new members, food bank participation, eight confirmands, updated website, are just a few of the things they are celebrating during May...Plymouth, Minneapolis, Poet Michael Dennis will read from his "The Seven Last Voices" at their Good Friday Service; sponsoring their annual institute for Progressive Christianity, including young clergy throughout the country; Pulitzer winner Gary Snyder to speak as part of the Church's Literary Witnesses program... Pilgrim, **Taunton,** has several "Micro-Mission" groups that oversee projects like Cookie Bakers, Meal Makers, and Note Card writers; their minister will be installed on May 15th with representatives from the MACCC... FCC, Spencer, hosted a Lenten film night watching movies such as Toy Story 3, Secretariat, They Save a Life, Invictus, and others; each month they list two churches in the Iowa/Neb. Assoc and NACCC for which the congregation is invited to pray; Spencer area churches share worship during Lent. This year's theme - Passion Points... Peoples, Bayport, First Fridays of each month are a time for building faith and fellowship. The congregation has dinner together then studies one of the Gospels; They are starting to rally their membership as well as the Minnesota Fellowship for next year's NACCC Annual Meeting and Conference; their prayer shawl

ministry continues to bless people with comfort and care; wellness classes meet during the week learning the benefits of yoga... FCC, Fall River, new members joined in April; they are producing a video about the church; they celebrate Blessing of the Animals in May; they participate in several energysaving and recycling programs, and most recently signed a contract with Terracycle, which provides free waste collection programs... North Shore, Fox Point, hints for health while on airlines was in their April newsletter; First Sundays are an adult education discussion time on a variety of topics; church is participating in the One Great Hour of Sharing through the NACCC for Japan relief; recent Wednesday evenings adult education time have included subjects like drumming circle and mystical spirituality... Cong'l Church, Mount Dora, FL, the last several mission months offerings have gone to local and world needs – Haven Lake and Sumter county shelters, assistance for the poor, and for adults and their children in abusive relationships; they also generously contributed to the Medical Mission project in Haiti... FCC, Portland, MI, celebrating the artistry of quilt making, members are to bring their homemade quilts to put on display at the church; congregation has begun an endowment program... FCC, St John's local restaurant partnered w/the church for mission. Every time a church member dines at the restaurant and brings a church bulletin, the church gets a contribution at the end of the month; a recent trip to Peru by a group from the church delivered 200 backpacks for children and saw 550 patients in a hospital there... Little Washington, Mansfield, two leaders from their church are resource persons for a church women's retreat at a bed and breakfast away from the church. "Pamper your mind, your body, and your spirit." Sounds very inviting.

RECENT EXECUTIVE & FRATERNAL VISITS

Rev. Dr. Tom Richard visited:
First Congregational Church, Peterson, IA
First Congregational Church, Clear Lake, IA
Peoples Church, Bayport, MN
North Shore Cong'l, Fox Point, WI
Faith Community Church, Franklin, WI
Seattle Cong'l, Pacific Northwest Assoc Cong'l CC
First Congregational Church, Warden, WA
Massachusetts Assoc Cong'l Christian Churches
Church in the Cove, Beverly, MA
Fox River Congregational. Pewaukee, WI
First Congregational Church, Mansfield, OH

Rev. John Carson visited:

Meadowbrook Congregational Church, Novi, MI

FCC, Clarkston, Clarkston, MI

FCC, Durand, MI

FCC, Ashland, NE

FCC, Wauwatosa, WI

Ozaukee Congregational Church, Grafton, WI
Faith Community Church, Franklin, WI
Pilgrim Congregational Church, Milwaukee, WI
Goshen Congregational Church, Goshen, MA
North Pownal Cong'l Church, North Pownal, VT
Berkshire Community Church, Pittsfield, MA
United Churches of Becket, Becket, MA

Rev. Dr. Betsey Mauro visited:

North Shore Congregational Church, Fox Point, WI Meadowbrook Congregational Church, Novi, MI Central Michigan Assoc. of Cong'l Christian Churches Southeastern MIAssoc. of Cong'l Christian Churches

Rev. Irv Gammon represented the Association in April when he visited and consulted with Second Congregational Church, Warren, ME

Bill Ahrens represented the NACCC at the 50th anniversary celebration of Pilgrim Congregational Church, Bloomfield, MI

Rev. Bobbie Chapman will represent the NACCC at the Service of Installation of Rev. Hector Mendes-Marquis, Stafford Springs Congregational Church on June 12th

Rev. Cathy Schuyler represented the NACCC at Rev. Peter Bagley's 40th ordination anniversary service at United Protestant Church of Morgan Park, Duluth, MN.

Rev. Jack Brown represented the NACCC at the 15th Annual Leadership Awards Banquet at Olivet College, at which Rev. Michael Fales (Director of Service Learning & Campus Ministries) was honored as a leader in individual and social responsibility.

School supplies are greatly needed for the Panamerican Institute, Bread of Life Missions, Rebecca Mackish Memorial Mission and the Morgan Scott Project. If you are interested in helping out, contact Linda Miller at lmiller@naccc.org or 800-262-1620 Ext. 13

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION'S CONGREGATIONAL FOUNDATION SEEKS DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING

The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC), through its Congregational Foundation, has formed a Search Committee to locate and hire a full-time Director of Development. We are notifying our Association's Churches in hopes of finding a person of faith, with knowledge of our Congregational Way. Although our preference would be to hire a person in the Midwest, this is not mandatory. If you are aware of potential candidates within your congregation with proven success in development and marketing, please direct them to our website www.naccc.org where they will find the job description and contact information. Email resumes to cdahm@naccc.org; subject line "Director of Development."

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE

•		D C 1	I 7 1070
Paul Bennehoff	June 1, 1946	Dave Spahn	June 7, 1970
Clyde Kauffman	June 1, 1947	Thomas Johnson Mary Koch	June 7, 1990 June 7, 1992
Charles Harlow	June 1, 1953	Tonna Parsons	June 7, 1992
J. Williams	June 1, 1957	Linda Anderson	June 8, 2003
Richard Mapplebeckpalmer	June 1, 1958		•
Gabe Campbell	June 1, 1961	Amanda Ladegard	June 8, 2008
James Hart	June 1, 1961	Robert Countess Vincent Carroll	June 9, 1965
David Gray	June 1, 1962		June 9, 1968
Earl Alger	June 1, 1963	Douglas Drown Robert Hellam	June 9, 1979
Richard Adair	June 1, 1970		June 9, 2000
Milton White	June 1, 1973	Angela Buchauer	June 9, 2002
David Claassen	June 1, 1975	Gary Schwerin	June 9, 2002
David Root	June 1, 1975	Robert Gault	June 10, 1973
John Westfall	June 1, 1977	James Keough	June 10, 1973
Richard Haferman	June 1, 1979	Shelli Poe-Messner David Carmen	June 10, 2007
Richard Irving	June 1, 1980		June 11, 1957
Odus Eubanks	June 1, 1983	Martha Hodgson David Getreu	June 11, 1977
John Jerving	June 1, 1984		June 11, 1994
Robert Joy	June 1, 1991	Richard Schruba	June 11, 1995
Richard Corning	June 1, 1992	Linda Bishop	June 11, 2004
Ronald Kline	June 1, 1995	John Pearson	June 12, 1974
Amy Hair	June 1, 1997	William Rafuse Sandra Reed	June 12, 1981
Michael Coffee	June 1, 2002		June 12, 1983
Steve Burt	June 2, 1982	Martha Swanson	June 12, 1988
Henry Belcher	June 2, 1985	Jennifer Henderson	June 12, 2005
Catherine Schuyler	June 2, 1990	Donald Sinclair	June 13, 1962
Adrienne Eggleston	June 2, 2002	Leonard Capobianco	June 13, 1985
Roger Olsen	June 3, 1983	Martin Hall	June 13, 1999
Alice Murphy	June 3, 1984	Marilyn Glavin	June 13, 2004
Thomas Van Tassell	June 3, 1990	Donald Ray	June 13, 2004
Earl Crutchfield	June 4, 1963	Eric Britcher Richard Buchman	June 14, 1954
David Kimberly	June 4, 1978		June 14, 1959
Patrick Shelley	June 4, 1978	Chester Axline	June 14, 1963
Joyce Acree	June 4, 1983	Joy Baumgartner	June 14, 1987
Karl Ostberg	June 4, 1984	Jean Miller	June 14, 1992
Robert Christian	June 4, 1989	Frank Dunbar	June 14, 1997
John Cahill	June 5, 1977	Virginia Pomeroy	June 14, 1998
Samuel Graham	June 5, 1977	David Stasiak	June 14, 2009
Lonnie Richardson	June 5, 1981	William Beagle	June 15, 1979
Christopher Rygh	June 5, 1999	Robert Ripley	June 15, 1954
Robert Summers	June 6, 1982	Margaret Lewis	June 15, 1980
Kevin Roach	June 6, 1983	Susan Wyman	June 15, 1980
J. Bentley	June 6, 1993	Donald Mayberry	June 15, 1997
Michael McBride	June 7, 1969	Seth Jones	June 15, 2008
	J ,	Peter Barclay	June 16, 2002

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Arthur Wright	June 16, 2007		Timothy Miller	June 30, 1968
Joseph Hughes	June 17, 1979		Randall Hase	June 30, 1974
Giovan King	June 17, 1984			
Donald Bentley	June 17, 1998		JULY	. 1
Marilyn Danielson	June 17, 1998		George Blair	July 1, 1990
Barry Szymanski	June 17, 2006		Steven Nickles	July 1, 1999
Lowell Linden	June 18, 1973		Jeff Patton	July 1, 2004
Ronald Hutson	June 18, 1978		John Navarre	July 2, 1983
Charles Stanley	June 18, 1981		Jack Carmichael	July 7, 1952
Thomas W. Healey	June 18, 1995		Robert Bentley	July 7, 1965
Arthur Rouner, Jr	June 19, 1954		Eva Salmons	July 8, 1990
William Genda	June 19, 1977		Arnold Crocker	July 9, 1963
Arvel M. Steece	June 20, 1947		Fred Cheney	July 9, 1989
Lyle Schossow	June 20, 1952		Dean Echols	July 10, 1952
Norman Rust	June 20, 1965		William Trump	July 10, 1983
Steven Bailey	June 20, 1976		Thom Christian	July 10, 1994
Robert Fleming	June 20, 1980		Hillary H.V. Bowser	July 10, 2005
William Clark, Jr	June 20, 1982		Robert Coates	July 11, 1987
Craig Walker	June 20, 1989		Carol Ahrens	July 11, 1999
Clyde Parrish	June 20, 1993		D. Elizabeth Mauro	July 12, 1987
William Rodefer	June 21, 1953		David Fox	July 12, 2009
Stu Merkel	June 21, 1987		John Mabry	July 13, 1991
Robert Haldane	June 22, 1953		Archie Pennington	July 13, 2003
Joseph Parshall	June 22, 1963		Casey vanderBent	July 15, 2000
Suzanne Wood	June 22, 2000		Edith Winter	July 17, 1989
Franklin (Sandy) Pierson	June 23, 1973		Lottie Jones Hood	July 17, 1993
Miriam Resch	June 23, 1978		Barry Holmes	July 21, 2002
David Hart	June 23, 1985		Louis Gerhardt	July 22, 1955
Peter Smith	June 23, 1985		Phil Jackson	July 23, 1978
Richard Rodgers	June 23, 1996		Daniel Clark	July 23, 1993
Rebecca Ver Straten-McSparra	•	•	Vance Jordan	July 23, 2000
Karl Schimpf	June 25, 1967		Leo Christian	July 24, 1976
Gene deJongh	June 26, 1993		Arthur Rudman	July 25, 1993
Raymond Nyquist	June 27, 1965		Rick Brown	July 27, 1994
Steven Blackburn	June 27, 1982		Christopher Melrose	July 27, 2008
Thomas Miller	June 28, 1975		Norman Christopherson	- ,
A. Ray Appelquist	June 29, 1943		Donald Keepers	July 29, 1956
Leslie Shultz II	June 29, 1963		Douglas Lobb	July 29, 1956
Bill Ashley	June 29, 1975		James Holl	July 29, 1973
Gary Stevens	June 29, 1997		Nancy White	July 29, 2007
Jonathan Noble	June 29, 2003		Kenneth Beres	July 31, 1968
Lloyd Hall, Jr	June 30, 1968		John Curtis	July 31, 1977
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PROFILES IN LAY MINISTRY

The Lay Ministry Training Program supports the Congregational value of a learned laity. It provides basic training for people who desire to serve the church more fully, either as a lay minister or as a lay leader. The program assists in the spiritual development of individuals and enhances knowledge in areas of biblical knowledge, theology, worship, Congregational history and polity, mission, and others. Students work with a mentor and proceed at their own pace.

Pauline Chase was admitted to the LMTP in 2007. Pauline was baptized and became a member of the Litchfield Plains Baptist Church, Litchfield Maine, at the age of 11. As a young adult, she attended the Assembly of God Church with her first husband, Rev. Granholm who was a missionary to the deaf of New England. Since 2005 Pauline has held leadership roles in Imani Tabernacle Congregational church. She is actively involved as a Sunday School teacher, office assistant, Vacation Bible school teacher and has served on numerous committees. She has also been a leader in Pioneer Clubs and 4-H.

Pauline is currently employed with Maine-ly Elder Care. She has 4 adult children, one adopted, four granddaughters and has hosted 20 exchange students over the years. She has been widowed twice.

In Pauline's words, "I was inspired to do the lay ministry training program because as a Christian, the Holy Spirit had inspired me in many areas of service, even in taking over for our minister sometimes. One week it had been impressed upon me that's what I should do. The next Sunday the pastor asked if I would like to take the training and responsibility when he was away. A confirmation of the Spirit's guidance. I've learned much since that point and can say God has led me through each step. Through this training I hope to be prepared for any ministry or service God has planned for me. He knows me and the gifts He gave me."

Keep Pauline and the other lay ministry students in your prayers as they continue their studies. The Lay Ministry program is administered by the Center for Congregational Leadership. More information about the program can be found on the Center's web site www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.

- Martin Luther, German reformer & theologian

A MOMENT IN HISTORY

"Growth or Conquest: Horace Bushnell's Revolution in Christian Education"

Throughout its history, Christian faith has appeared in two distinct varieties. One darker, the other more sunny. One pessimistic, the other optimistic. One highlighting obstacles, the other potentials. John the Baptist on one side, Jesus on the other. The Gospel of Mark contrasted with the Gospel of Luke. Paul versus his enthusiastic opponents. Augustine, the theologian of original sin set against Origen, the theologian of the indwelling image of God. The philosopher William James characterized these strands as the religions of the "Sick Soul" and the "Healthy Mind".

Need it be said that early Calvinistic Congregationalism came down pretty heavily on the darker side? Self-conscious repentance, renunciation of one's former life, and throwing oneself on Christ's mercy were all required for church membership. Great premium was put on taming one's impulses, avoiding frivolity, and not allowing one's hands to be idle. Seriousness of purpose and severity are the words that come to mind. Pointing this out is not to disparage the original ethos – the Puritan period was one of the most creative in American history.

A blind spot, however, was in the practical and theoretical attitude toward children. Lost little souls, destined for perdition unless converted, constantly in danger of imperiling themselves further, not really among God's elect. Is that all there is to childhood from the perspective of faith? In 1847, Horace Bushnell, a Congregational minister in Detroit, published a revolutionary and controversial little tract, "Christian Nurture", gradually expanded into a book, outlining a very different perspective on childhood and faith.



Horace Bushnell. Wikipedia.org

Early childhood is not just a faith wasteland or minefield. On the contrary, the early years, which he characterized as "the age of impressions", are the time when a person's basic, and permanent, attitudes toward life and, by extension, its Creator are formed. Christian parents "should seek to teach a feeling rather than a doctrine; to bathe the child in their own feeling of love to God. . . ." If a child is cared for, loved, nurtured, he/she will become trusting, grateful, full of goodwill. If, on the other hand, a child is neglected, abused, and treated harshly or disrespectfully, he/she will grow up to be anxious, suspicious, filled with the ill-will that was received.

The well-loved child will be filled with the love of God from its birth. Bushnell put most emphasis on the pious mother — her loving nurture has effects even in the womb. But the church also plays a role. First, it is to be a nurturing place itself. A corollary is that it avoid the harsh attitudes and treatment he associated with revivalism: "We have been expecting to thrive too much by conquest, and too little by growth". Second is that it view the well-loved child as "presumptively" possessing full Christian faith even though he/she is not fully aware of it. Third, that the church work with the family gradually to bring the love of God to conscious awareness. His hope was that by these changes "The school of John the Baptist will be succeeded by the school of Christ, as a dew comes after a fire."

These views hardly seem revolutionary today, but they were, and a major Congregational contribution to American religious life.

Reference: Bushnell, Horace. Christian Nurture, Pilgrim Press, ISBN 0-8298-1000-5.

Rev. Arlin Larson, Historian, NACCC, First Congregational Church, Searsport, ME



SEND ME YOUR NEWS

Submissions for the Aug/Sept edition are due by July 15, 2011.

Marie Steele, Editor

msteele@naccc.org

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

8473 S. Howell Avenue P.O. Box 288 Oak Creek, WI 53154-0288 Phone: 800-262-1620 Fax: 414-764-0319

Email: naccc@naccc.org
Website: www.naccc.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.naccc.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 Diana David ddavid@naccc.org for more information.