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## 2012 Picnic

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Fun, food and fellowship were in abundance at the September 16 picnic in Rock Creek Park. Under sunny skies and a perfect fall day, NWCC adults and children alike enjoyed an afternoon of games, recreation and friendship. Thanks to everyone who contributed food, supplies and labor to make this event so successful.

The high level of participation this year leads us to we believe we need to start planning for 2013!



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## Focus on Values: Functional Structure

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I encounter a lot of other churches in my role working with our local church district. One of the givens is that when a church is in decline it is almost always way over structured. One Pastor told me he had 38 committee positions and only 35 members! On the other hand, the new church plants that I am familiar with hardly have any structure but they are growing by leaps and bounds. At NWCC, we have had the motto "ministry over meetings." Instead of having countless hours of committee meetings, we take those precious hours and funnel the effort into doing ministry. Right now I meet with our team leaders every other month and our oversight board meets quarterly. For this stage of our ministry, this seems to be working well.

This structure however requires some foundational pieces to be in place. First, it means that we have to have leaders in place that are trustworthy and committed. Second, it means that our leaders all understand and have a common vision in sync with the Pastor and oversight board. And third, it means that communication has to be honest and open.

As the end of our fiscal year approaches, all of our members will have the chance to be a part of our structure as we vote together on our leadership and budget. But as we do, remember that the structure of our church serves our mission to help our nation's capital encounter the life-changing love of Jesus Christ. -Pastor Dan

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## Small Groups

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We have had a few small groups over the last few years but we are now tying small groups in with our integration of newcomers. People come to NWCC looking for friends, and this is the avenue to really get to know others. We hope to truly move the relational culture of NWCC from good to great. We envision our small groups as the primary place where NWCC will care for the relational, discipleship and sometimes even the physical needs of our members. And, its done not through a program but through relationships. We come to worship to be inspired and to hear from God, but we live that out in our small groups.

We were so excited by the response that we had at our very first "CONNECT" event. Twenty-five people got connected to one of our new groups that formed in Takoma Park, Adelphi and Petworth! Adding that number to our existing two groups, we now have about half of our regular adult members in a group.



Not Pictured: Existing Women's Group and Existing Crestwood Group

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## Compassionate Ministry

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Dear Refuge Supporters,

As the cool autumn weather turns from refreshing to downright cold, please consider contributing to The Refuge homeless ministry. You can help by donating men's winter clothing, food, toiletries or funds, by praying, and by volunteering. Volunteers help in a wide variety of ways, from setting up the space, to cooking, distributing donations, and fellowshiping with our guests. Our next two events are October 20th and November 17th from 12-7. How will you support this ministry? Share your thoughts with Krista at [kkartson@aol.com](mailto:kkartson@aol.com).

See below for Warren Vinsen's account of his volunteer experience during our last event in September:

*I've been entreated to write a note on The Refuge. I like the sound of that, The Refuge. God has much concern for the poor. He has promised to give us the desires of our heart. Even though that encompasses much, the closer we walk with Him, the more our hearts becomes like His. How much easier it is to accommodate such a heart.*

*There was conversation, movies for some, games & reading for others. There were smiles, contagious smiles, and not just a few. David Harness gave the message. I sat in the midst and was blessed as well. There were hot meals served by friendly faces to welcoming tummies. I, too, was one of those tummies; Praise God! Donations procured by The Refuge staff were put to good use. The fellows were able to shower & get fresh clothes. No small convenience from their point of view.*

*"Where is this Jesus?", some might ask. Well, I caught Him hanging out at The Refuge. I decided (since I am here) to really check Him out. I heard He's pretty boring & strict. Well, I saw Him [through the volunteers] serving folk selflessly, creating fun & having fun. I found Him to be thoughtful, kind, considerate. The coolest square you'd ever want to pal around with. Though easy to approach, I sensed great dignity.*

*The body of Christ (AKA The Church), what a wonderful family to have been adopted into! Let's extend the invitation. God loves a big family. The Refuge organizers are determined to get "you" blessed & to have you be a blessing to others. Glory to Jesus, the same yesterday, today & forever. Let it be so!*

## Summer Outreach Update



We are so proud of our 15 volunteers that served so faithfully during our end of summer outreach blitz. Combining the Adams Morgan Festival and Columbia Heights Festival we served over 3200 people a cup of water or lemonade. In addition, we handed out hundreds of small prizes to the kids and treats for the dogs.

A new study concludes that 20% of Americans do not practice a religion. We know that the percentage is much higher in our community. It is so important that our culture still see the church active and engaged in its community. Our hope is that our community catches a small glimpse of the body of Christ that gives expecting nothing in return. Thanks to all who served!

## Prayer Ministry

We are entering into a season of intentional national thanksgiving. Make giving thanks to God a consistent part of your personal prayer time. Look around at all of the marvelous works of our Lord (nature, jobs, provisions, family and unique giftings).

We can't repay God, but we can celebrate his greatness through our attitude of thanks. In Luke 17:11-19 one leper came back to thank Jesus for the healing. We want to emulate him.

We can talk to our Father and acknowledge his divine hand in turning our situations around and praise him for giving us strength and endurance through the challenge. He is able!

Our prayer team members are always ready to serve before and after worship. We are committed to covering our church, city and world through intense, focused and bible based prayer throughout the week. Gather in faith with us on 2nd Sundays for prayer renewal and restoration in Jesus name. All are welcome!

-NW Community Church Prayer Team

## Stewardship Update

This Summer we noticed that the attendance and giving at NWCC was much more consistent than in previous years. We also put plans in place to prepare for the Summer dip that typically occurs. With both things in place, we are happy to report that the church is experiencing good stability in its finances. The Advisory Council will be working towards a new budget in the coming months. As a reminder, our fiscal year now ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### August Stats (4 Sundays)

Attendance	Offering Total	Offering Avg
76 (avg) (+2% from 2011)	\$10,212 (+18% from 2011)	\$2,553 /wk

### September Stats (5 Sundays)

Attendance	Offering Total	Offering Avg
83 (avg) (+24% from 2011)	\$10,966 (-13% from 2011)	\$2,193 /wk

### Year to Date

Attendance	Other Income + Offerings = Total Income	2012 Budget	9 Mo. Budget	Expenses	Checking	Savings
84 (avg)	\$39,111 + \$97,074 = \$136,185	\$148,478	\$111,359	\$ 112,281	\$2,569	\$18,350

Oct-Nov  
2012

**THE  
NAVIGATOR**  
The latest news from Northwest Community Church

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## From the Pastor

This week we are still in the thick of this political season. The polls are changing every other day and you can hear the collective oohs and aahs with every turn of this virtual roller coaster. It seems like a good time to be reminded of something just in case we are tempted to put too much hope in this political process. That Jesus is the hope for the world...not politicians.

When Jesus walked on this earth, he encountered a political landscape not unlike the one that we face today. Here's a snapshot of the political parties of Jesus' day. The **Zealots** wanted to change their country by any means necessary even if it meant desperate measures. The **Essenes** thought their world was so corrupt that they withdrew from it completely. The **Pharisees** wanted to legislate morality thinking that with enough rules their country would be righteous. The **Saducees** didn't believe in an afterlife, so they were interested in creating a utopia here on earth with everyone cared for.

You can easily see reflections of our politics today in those groups. And the question of the day was which side Jesus would choose. Would he side with the Pharisees, Saducees...Democrats or Republicans?

And yet Jesus didn't pick sides. He was on **his own side**. He said "my kingdom is not of this world." In fact, his followers even tried to force him to lead their nation, but he literally ran away (John 6:15). I understand that there is even a campaign to make Jesus a write-in candidate in 2012. I don't think he wants to be demoted from being King of Kings to President!

First, please understand that I am not suggesting that Believers opt out of our political process. Jesus called on us to be salt and light in our world. In a democracy such as ours, it is essential that we carry that salt and light into a voting booth.

But, here is what I want you to understand. Our political process is not the most effective way of bringing about societal change. If you are looking for a politician to be your Savior, please know that this position is already taken. In fact, the Church has had a long history of living out the presence of Christ regardless of what was happening in the society. The Church has been caring for the poor, providing for widows and orphans, providing medical care, and providing education for centuries. As the presence of Christ, we carry hope to the world.

I think we all agree that we are living in a very difficult time. But the solutions to our problems aren't found in policies and laws. The solutions are found in hearts and lives being changed by the love of Jesus Christ. If that sounds naïve to you, then compare it to the alternative - the promises of change from our politicians. I'll take Jesus over another political ad any day!

Politicians will come and go, but Jesus will still be working in and through his people to bring about his Kingdom. So our hope is in heaven and not in the White House and the Capital building. Please be in prayer for our country, and please vote!

-Pastor Dan

Thanks to a Sermon by Kyle Idleman for stirring these thoughts.