



NACCC News

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches: *The Messenger- November 10, 2017*

Doing Good At Christmas Time

Michael Chittum, Executive Director

Many of our NACCC congregations undertake special projects at Christmas time to help folks. These can be local community based or an international project sponsored by one of many organizations.

Let me suggest some of the ways you can further the ministry of the international or national missions of the NACCC.

- Through the Panamerican Institute in Mexico, your congregation can provide 2 weeks of needed food for one of the neediest families of a student for \$50.
- Through Seafarer's Friend, you can provide a "ditty bag" filled with much needed items by the seamen who come into port. There are instructions on what is needed and even on how to make the ditty bag online.
- Morgan Scott Project, TN works with other religious organizations in the area to provide Christmas gifts for the children.

[For these and other ideas, see page 4-5.](#)

As you do good at Christmas, may God richly bless you.



Cool Clicks

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[See page 8](#)

[Thanksgiving Proclamation](#)
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[Advent Devotionals are here!](#)
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The team of volunteers who assisted in packing up the water purifiers which were later sent to families in Puerto Rico.

Helping Hands

When Pastor Irv Gammon, Florence Congregational Church, Florence, MA, saw Puerto Rican children drinking brown, murky water from a river on the news in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, he had to do something. Pastor Gammon and Rabbi Riqi Kosovske, Beit Ahavah Synagogue, raised \$10,500 to purchase over 200 LifeStraw Family Water Purifiers for families in Puerto Rico. On October 18th, the two congregations packed up and sent the first 202 water filters to Puerto Rico.

Over \$83,467.00 has been donated to the NACCC in support of the many disasters over the past several months. A donation of \$8,000 from these funds went directly to support the ["Water Purifier project"](#)

Financial Support to the NACCC is Vital to Our Church's Success

Debby Fulton, Director of Development & Communications

As members of the NACCC, churches are encouraged to donate annually to the Shared Ministries Fund, which supports members through resources, services, and fellowship. Some congregations need assistance in finding a new minister, others are looking for resources for

[Visit our website to find copies of the recent mailing to all member churches](#)

Please forward this E-News to other church members, friends, and family.

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

[Read more about Missionary News and Needs-pg 4-5](#)

[Find out more about church Fair Share giving. Pg 6-7](#)



Send Me Your News

Submissions for the December issue are due by: November 20, 2017.
development@nacc.org

fundraising, youth ministry, leadership training or revitalization, and many look to the NACCC to provide research and evaluation of national and international missions.

Your church's membership gift at a Fair Share level (\$13-\$14.99 a member) or the Fair Share plus level (\$15.00 and above a member) will help to guarantee the continuation of invaluable educational programs, church resources, fellowship opportunities and administrative support. As the NACCC seeks to serve and nurture our congregations and advance our tradition it is our prayer that you will partner with us in our journey by making a generous contribution to the NACCC.

A special "THANK YOU" to the many churches who have already shown their support, through their membership gift to the NACCC.

[For more information see page 6 or contact Debby Fulton at \[dfulton@nacc.org\]\(mailto:dfulton@nacc.org\)](#)

National Association of
Congregational Christian
Churches
8473 South Howell Ave
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154
800-262-1620 ext. 1610
www.naccc.org

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Annual Meeting in Piedmont, GA

There was a good representation of Missions at the Annual Meeting this year at Piedmont College, GA.



The Castillo family at the Atlanta airport

Symphony John and his family from NACC – Philippines and Veranda Adkins, from Piney Woods School, MS, were our invited missionaries. Also attending were Jim and Sharon Powell, representing Happy Life Children's Home, Kenya, Juana Santos from Panamerican Institute, Mexico, Ida MacRae from Seafarer's Friend, MA, Charles Sagay from Mission School of Hope, Cameroon, Jim Owens of Love Worth Sharing, Haiti, Ella Smith and her assistant Crystal Thompkins from Morgan Scott Project, TN, Julio Santana and Tony Goldman from Bread of Life Mission, FL, and Richard Gossett of Indian Trails Mission, AZ. Amanda Becker of Hosanna Industries, PA

The NACCC delegates had a chance to meet and greet these missionaries throughout the conference and at the Missionary Reception.

Visit to Happy Life Children's Home (HLCH)

At the end of June, 10 people from NACCC churches went to visit HLCH, Kenya, for a week. Three from the Congregational Church of Soquel, CA, three from FCC Maywood, IL, and three from Heritage Congregational Church in Madison, WI, and Linda Miller from the NACCC Office.



HLCH staff and NACCC friends

There are 52 babies under two years old at the Nairobi site. Lots of volunteers are needed to care for these children. All the children want is to be held and loved. As soon as you walk into the room, their arms are raised up to be held. Also at the Nairobi site, they are building a clinic so the children can be close to health care. This clinic will be open to the public.



Group Holding Babies

Kenya will only let Kenyans adopt these children so adoptions are few. HLCH become their guardians. Once the child turns two, they are sent to their second site, Juja Farm about 10 miles out of the city. Here the children live in a family structure with a house mother. There are 52 children living here. They have a school on the property for the children and the neighborhood children as well. There are 150 children attending the school.

The group homes at Juja Farm only have regular washing machines. So the group from the Soquel church, CA challenged the Madison, WI group to see who could raise half the money for an industrial washing machine, first. Together both churches came up with over \$3,000 total. Madison got their donation to the office first! Soquel exceeded the goal by several hundred dollars. The children and staff at Juja Farm are the big winners. They get a commercial washing machine!



If your church would like to challenge another church, that would be terrific. We can post it in the News & Needs and Congregationalist Magazine. This mission needs at least two more industrial washers.

NACCC One Great Hour of Sharing Program

There have been many natural disasters recently. The Mission and Outreach Ministry Council is collecting funds for Hurricane Harvey and Irma relief. The Mission Council collects funds for any major disaster. You can send funds to the NACCC office with the disaster you want to support, listed in the memo line. The funds will go directly to an appropriate organization (one of our churches or missions, etc.) to help in relief efforts.

Morgan Scott Project

Morgan Scott Project, TN, received a \$101,000 Senior Living Grant this year. It is for home repairs for seniors. It also included funds for staffing and office equipment. Forty homes were made safer and warmer from this grant.



Before



After

Morgan Scott was able to host a one day clinic for RAM (Remote Area Medical). RAM provides medical services, dental care and vision. In one day, they helped 97 people with vision and dental care. Next year they plan on hosting two days, one in March and another in October.

Ella Smith, director of Morgan Scott, will be a guest speaker at the Midwest Association of Congregational Christian Churches, in Tinley Park, IL

If any of your Regional Associations want a missionary to speak to your group, there are a few that would love to join you. Contact Linda at the NACCC Office.

Seafarer's Sunday

Ida MacRae of *Seafarer's Friend, MA*, is putting together a program for the NACCC churches, called Seafarers Sunday. They will be introducing the materials shortly so that your church can have a Seafarer's Sunday. This program allows you to celebrate Seafarer's Sunday anytime of the year that best suits your church programs and activities. You can also choose to hold it as many times a year as you see fit. There is something for all age groups to do on that Sunday or leading up to it. For more information, please email: director@seafarersfriend.org.

New Initiatives at Piney Woods School

Piney Woods School, MS, is partnering with the FoodCorps Mississippi and the National Center for Appropriate Technology. With two AmeriCorps volunteers, they are revising their farm, field to table and composting programs. This will give students a hands on experience in raising crops and using the food they raise in their dining room.

The ninth and tenth graders have received Chromebooks, which will enable students to access curriculum and projects on line. The 11th and 12th graders use their personal laptops. Piney Woods has moved away from traditional text books and are going towards a project based curriculum. This will help students develop their critical thinking skills.

Other Updates

Panamerican Institute, Mexico, has two new Board of Director members: Emily Miller-Todd from the First Congregational Church of Anaheim, CA and Mary Prendergast of Pilgrim Congregational Church of Pomona, CA.



It is time to start thinking of Christmas in our mission fields. *Panamerican Institute, Mexico*, gives out Christmas baskets; *Morgan Scott Project, TN*, and *Bread of Life Mission, FL*, gives out toys for kids; our missions in the Philippines, Honduras, and Mexico give out an extra month's salary to their pastors.

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For more information on any of these missions, or to make a donation to any of the above projects, please contact Linda Miller at the NACCC Office, 800-262-1620, extension 1618 or lmiller@naccc.org.

**The Mission and Outreach Ministry Council,
NACCC
PO Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154**

For a complete listing of NACCC Mission Projects, please go to the website: www.naccc.org and click on "Missions."

Church Fair Share Giving

Why Contribute?

- As an organization, our vitality is directly tied to the support our member churches provide. The NACCC exists to serve our churches and relies on financial contributions to carry out our various programs and services.
- While every congregation is unique, we strive to be valuable and relevant to all our member churches, regardless of size and needs of the church.
- Whether you see value in being a part of a national organization, utilize our networking opportunities, take advantage of our leadership resources, or rely on us to find a pastor, we ask you to contribute your Fair Share to ensure we are able to help all of our congregations for years to come.

What is Fair Share?

- The NACCC requires each of our member churches to make an annual contribution to our Shared Ministries Fund, which directly supports our programs and services.
- FAIR SHARE refers to our suggested contribution. We do not require a membership fee, but we do expect that each church support the organization through a gift. Currently, the Fair Share we ask our churches to contribute is \$13 a member.
- Consider joining other member churches who give their "Fair Share Plus," which is a contribution of \$15 or more a member. This level of giving has a significant impact on the ability of the NACCC to help churches.

How does the NACCC support our churches?

- Pastoral Searches
 - Aiding member churches and clergy in pastoral searches through a pastoral search process
- Financial Opportunities
 - Granting funds to churches facing challenges through the Hurting Churches Fund
 - Providing professional management for church endowments through the Congregational Investment Trust (CIT)
 - Loaning funds to member churches through the Building & Loan Fund
 - Subsidizing the cost of attendance at the Annual Meeting & Conference through the Providence Fund
 - Funding fine arts programs at member churches through the Richard Fund
- Fellowship
 - Hosting the Annual Meeting & Conference

- Facilitating regional retreats
- Ministers' Convocation
- Preparing tomorrow's leaders through National Association of Pilgrim Fellowship (NAPF) and Heritage of Pilgrim Endeavor (HOPE) programs
- Education
 - Training lay ministers through our Lay Ministry Training Program
 - Providing seminary education and financial support through the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies (CFTS)
 - Hosting Congregational History and Polity Seminars online and in person
 - Printing, editing and distributing the *Congregationalist* Magazine
- Vetting and Supporting Missions
 - Vet and support 27 national and international missions
 - Provide financial support to 5 national and 11 international missions
 - 100% of all donations to specific missions goes directly to the mission.
- Providing Advisors for:
 - Church growth and vitality
 - Assessing your organizational structure and practices
 - Managing conflict
 - Evaluating clergy and other church staff, lay leaders, and volunteers
 - Creating a culture of stewardship in your church
 - Strategic planning

“Our church gives at this level because we are grateful for all the NACCC has done to help our church. We realize the budget for the NA is not extravagant, and providing services to the local churches costs money. We have certainly benefited from the organization.”

-Fair Share Plus contributing church

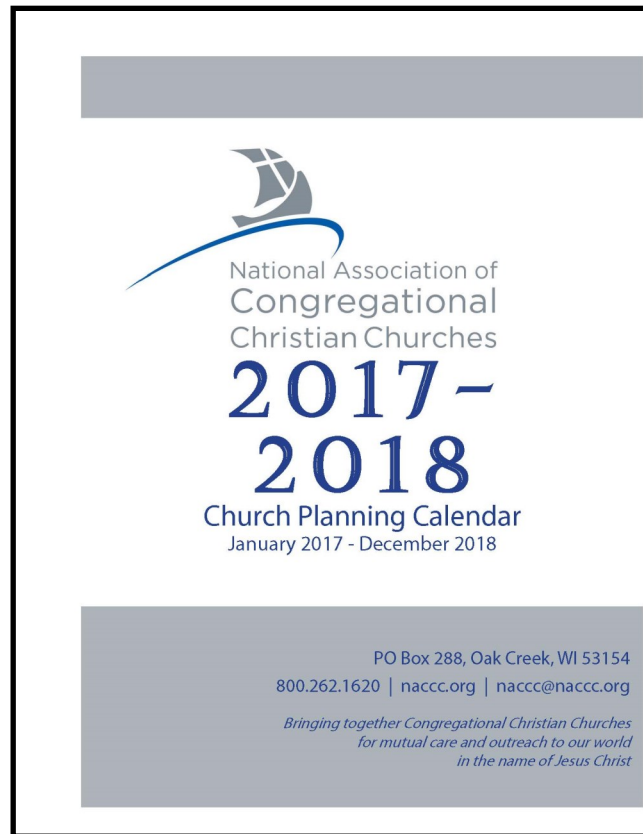
Mission

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

For more information on Fair Share Giving contact:

- Debby Fulton, Director of Development and Communications
dfulton@naccc.org or 414.856.1610
- Tracy Bernhardt, Development and Communications Assistant
tbernhardt@naccc.org or 414.856.1615
- Dan Drea, Chief Financial Officer
ddrea@naccc.org or 414.856.1616

2017 - 2018 NACCC Planning Calendar Order Form



Please send _____ Two Year (2017-18) Calendars
Price: \$10.00 per copy – Plus shipping & handling charges

(Please Print Clearly) Send Calendars to:

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. 1618

Fax: (414) 764-0319

THANKSGIVING DAY - 2017

Many of our churches have a service of worship on Thanksgiving Day. Most of our churches are familiar with and regularly use the works of Isaac Watts in our worship services, particularly on Thanksgiving Day.

I share with you this translation of Psalm 100 by Isaac Watts in the hope that you may use this in your services associated with Thanksgiving.

Psalm 100 by Isaac Watts

A plain translation. Praise to our Creator.

Ye nations round the earth, rejoice
Before the Lord, your sovereign King;
Serve him with cheerful heart and voice,
With all your tongues his glory sing.

The Lord is God; 'tis he alone
Doth life, and breath, and being give;
We are his work, and not our own,
The sheep that on his pastures live.

Enter his gates with songs of joy,
With praises to his courts repair;
And make it your divine employ
To pay your thanks and honors there.

The Lord is good, the Lord is kind,
Great is his grace, his mercy sure;
And the whole race of man shall find
His truth from age to age endure.

With our prayers for a blessed Thanksgiving for you, your family, and your church.
From: *The Staff of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches*

Devotionals

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Advent 2017 and/or Lent 2018

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**Ash Wednesday
is February 14,
2018**

Please send completed form to:

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