

# The News of National City

## August 2017 Issue XVII Vol. 8

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## Gentle Reminder *2017 General Assembly*

In July more than 4,000 Disciples traveled to the convention center in Indianapolis, Indiana, for the biennial General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada. National City Christian Church had a presence in the Assembly with a popular booth in the exhibit hall, displaying the three U.S. presidents connected to our denomination. In addition, I assisted in the leadership of a workshop sponsored by Christian Church Foundation.

Among the highlights of the General Assembly:

**Rev. Teresa Hord Owens** was elected as General Minister and President. She is the first African American to hold this post and the second woman to lead the denomination. Rev. Owens is a “champion of academic excellence, social justice, and Christian unity.” Rev. Owens was previously the dean of students at the University of Chicago Divinity School and a pastor of a congregation in the Chicago area. On November 5, Rev. Owens will be preaching at National City Christian Church.

**One hundredth anniversary of the National Convocation** (originally the National Christian Missionary Convention), a group of African American churches brought together by Rev. Preston Taylor in 1917. The history of the National Convocation is an important reminder that the earliest congregations of the Stone-Campbell Movement (in Kentucky and Pennsylvania) included both European American and African American members. On November 4-5, National City Christian Church will dedicate a special exhibit recognizing the significant contributions of the National Convocation and its leadership through the years.

**An Emergency Resolution concerning refugees seeking safety** in the U.S. was adopted to encourage members and congregations to pray for refugees, learn more about the resettlement process, participate in advocacy efforts on local, state, and national levels, and connect with nearby resettlement agencies in partnership with refugee communities. A number of Capital Area pastors sponsored this

emergency resolution including Miriam and me, and Dr. Bob Perry and his wife Deb.

“**Green**” Resolution was adopted calling on individuals, congregations, and ministries to achieve neutrality by the year 2030, and pull carbon out of the atmosphere by 2035. The historic resolution can be read online at: <http://ga.disciples.org/resolutions/2017/ga-1724/>

**Disciples Home Missions called the Reverend Sotello Long** as its next president. Rev. Long served as the regional minister of the Christian Church in South Carolina from 2003 until 2014 when he became the pastor of First Christian Church in Aiken, South Carolina. Previously, he was the minister of evangelism at Home Missions from 1995 to 2003.

Finally, our former Assistant Pastor **Beau Underwood** was elected to First Vice Moderator, along with new Moderator Belva Brown Jordan and Second Vice Moderator Timothy Lee. These three volunteer moderators will lead the new General Board and provide significant leadership to the **2019 General Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa, July 20-14, 2019**. Put these dates in your personal calendar and plan to attend!

For more information on all of the exciting worship services, workshops and important business resolutions, visit <http://ga.disciples.org/>

- Dr. Stephen Gentle



Please see page 4 for a spotlight on our new General Minister and President, Rev. Teresa Hord Owens.

# August Birthdays

- 1 Wesley Gentle  
Zachary O'Sullivan
- 2 Grace Swihart\*
- 3 Eddie Franklin
- 4 Steven Baines
- 6 Valeria Foster
- 7 Debbie Stewart
- 8 Lolita Neal
- 9 Esther Tyson
- 10 Monte Hillis
- 13 Sharon Stanley-Rea
- 14 Warren Brooks  
Shana Williams
- 17 Kathryn Farley
- 18 Roger Webb
- 19 Dominic Neal\*
- 21 Jessica Max
- 22 Tamara Webb  
Janice Glover
- 24 Cole Murphy
- 25 Lisa Arterberry  
Sage Williams\*
- 26 Robin Schacht
- 28 Addison Bolston\*
- 30 Colleen Walsh
- 31 Mia Skelly\*

\*Indicates child or student

For additions or changes,  
contact Kathleen Swihart at  
kswihart62@yahoo.com

## Christmas in August

It may seem early to begin thinking of Christmas but while you travel for business or pleasure this summer remember our Christmas Gift Bags we give out to our homeless neighbors. Bring those mini-shampoos, soaps, mouthwash, toothbrushes, and tooth paste back to donate to the cause.

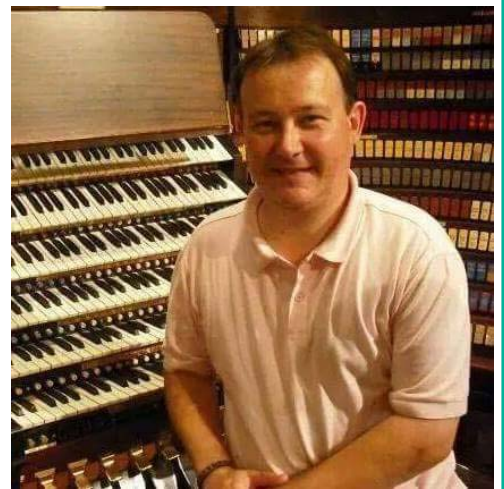
## English Organists Entertain! Tuesday, August 8

Mark your calendar for a special Music at Midday concert that will take place on **Tuesday, August 8, at 12:15 p.m.** English organists **Keith Ellison** and **Daniel Bishop** will perform a 45-minute recital of popular works for the organ.

Keith is currently working as an International Music Examiner and freelance organist. He was formerly the Cathedral Organist of Portsmouth Cathedral and Director of the internationally acclaimed St John's Boys Choir. Daniel is currently Associate Organist at Liverpool Cathedral. Alongside the daily pattern of regular worship in which he accompanies or conducts the choir, he also plays for special services, recordings, broadcasts, and recitals on the Cathedral's magnificent Willis Organ.



Daniel Bishop



Keith Ellison

## Upcoming LGBTQ Community Events

The **monthly happy hour** will be held on Thursday, August 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Uproar Lounge and Restaurant, 639 Florida Ave., N.W. The event is to enjoy one another's company and to support the work of SMYAL (Supporting and Mentoring Youth Advocates and Leaders), an organization that supports and empowers LGBTQ youth in the Washington, DC, metropolitan region. Suggested minimum donation: \$10.

A **brunch** will be held on Sunday, August 20, following the 11 a.m. worship service. All are invited. The brunch will be at Nage Restaurant, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue. Reservations are required. Send a message to [mmcmahon@nationalcitycc.org](mailto:mmcmahon@nationalcitycc.org) to join in the fun and fellowship!

## Annual Corn Roast on August 19

The Christian Church Capital Area will have its annual corn roast at Camp Mary Mac on Saturday, August 19, in Sharpsburg, Maryland. All-you-can-eat corn is free. If you'd like to purchase a chicken dinner, purchase your ticket from Kathleen Swihart.

### **Rev. Noemi Mena Is Retiring**

Rev. Noemi Mena has announced her retirement, and we'll have an opportunity to celebrate her ministry on Sunday, September 17.

The Hispanic Congregation will be led by Rev. C. J. Rodriguez beginning in October.



### **Disciples Women To Meet September 12**

"Freedom: Promise and Struggle in the Bible" is the theme for the programs of Disciples Women for the coming year. The first meeting will be Tuesday, September 12, at 11 a.m. in the Music Suite. All are invited and encouraged to bring a sandwich and stay for fellowship after the meeting.

### **Gospel Choir To Resume Rehearsals September 12**

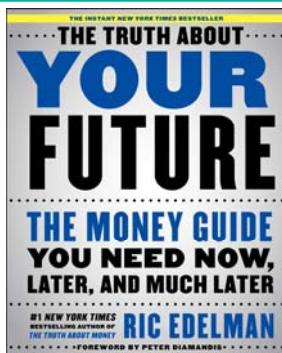
Our Gospel Choir will take a break from Tuesday evening rehearsals during August and will resume Tuesday rehearsals at 7 p.m. in the Music Suite on September 12, 19, and 26, with no rehearsal on September 5. If you have questions and/or would like to join the Gospel Choir, see Pastor Valeria Foster, director.

### **National City Gospel Choir's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert To Be in October**

Celebrate with us the Gospel Choir's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a concert on Sunday, October 8, at 3 p.m. Former choir members are invited back to sing with us for the event. Come to the concert, along with friends and family, as we rejoice and give thanks for the blessings received through the early service worship, congregation, and music ministry.

The first early service with music primarily from the gospel tradition took place in the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 8, 2002—an idea birthed by the Senior Pastor Dr. Alvin Jackson. After a few weeks of preparation, the Gospel Choir made its debut on Sunday, October 6, 2002, and has been providing the music every Sunday since then.

- Pastor Valeria Foster



### **National City Book Club To Read Money Guide for Changing Times**

The book chosen for the September Book Club meeting is Ric Edelman's "The Truth About Your Future: The Money Guide You Need Now, Later, and Much Later." Due to exponential changes in society, technology, medical care, etc., our futures will be quite unlike our past. Reviewers have used words like "essential," "timely," "eye-opening," "brilliant," and "fun to read." The next meeting of the Book Club is Thursday, September 28.

### **EcuMENTors -- Regional Men's Retreat To Be Held September 29-October 1**

Rev. Greg Ott and Ray Gryder have formed a new group called "EcuMENTors" for men's ministry in the Christian Church Capital Area. Their first big event is a fall retreat to be held at our Christian Church Conference Center at Bethany Beach. It will be September 29 through October 1 and the Rev. Jack Sullivan will be its keynote speaker and leader.

"I see this retreat as a chance for us to gather and pray and discuss what God might be calling this Region to in regards to the future of ministry with men," said Christian Church Capital Area Regional Minister Allen Harris.



# Spotlight on Our Church General Minister and President



At the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly in Indianapolis last month, Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens was elected General Minister and President of the denomination.

She is the first African-American woman to head a mainline denomination

"We need to stop demonizing differences as deficiencies," Hord Owens said. "We should seek to understand, to work through our differences in priorities, opinions, methods, and goals. This will not be easy, but imagine what an example this will be for the world if we can bridge the gaps in politics, identity, geography and theology."

Hord Owens's resume includes more than 20 years in corporate America leading diverse teams in data management before she entered seminary. For the last 15 years, she has been the dean of students at the University of Chicago Divinity School, shepherding a

varied student body in both background and theology. She is currently pastor of a predominately white congregation in the Chicago area.

The election of Hord Owens follows the 12-year tenure of the Rev. Sharon E. Watkins, who was the first female to lead a mainline denomination in the United States upon her election in 2005. Hord Owens's term is six years with an option for re-election in 2023 for an additional six-year term.

For further information on the General Assembly and the denomination, please visit [disciples.org](http://disciples.org).



## At the General Assembly

National City's booth at the General Assembly was a popular one, with the familiar presence of Rev. Dr. Stephen Gentle, Rev. Miriam Gentle, Rev. Dr. Michael McMahon, and Ray Valido.

### **Let's Celebrate Dr. Gentle's service to National City Christian Church**

As many of you know I come from Cleveland. As a public official I visited many of our churches, often to celebrate the anniversaries of a Pastor's service. Especially in the African American churches a 10-year anniversary was a cause for celebration. I took over as moderator just at Dr. Gentle's 10-year mark and honestly I did not get a proper celebration organized. So we will be different and celebrate his 11-and-a-half-year anniversary.

I've arranged for Dr. Stephen and Rev. Miriam Gentle to be the chaplains at the Disciple House on the grounds of the Chautauqua Institution – a place where they have always wanted to go. I am contributing to cover the cost of their lodging

but I would love to give them a gift from the congregation and friends of NCCC to allow them to eat out, see a play, or do whatever is enjoyable for them. Gentry Alexander, our treasurer, has established an account at the church for this purpose so contributions can be made to the church. I would like to present the gift to the Gentles at church on August 12. They will be in residence at Chautauqua from August 19-28 (allowing an extra day to celebrate my mom's wedding).

Please join me in showing our appreciation for the good work of our Pastor and Miriam as well. Thanks to Rev. Mike McMahan and Pastor C. J. Rodriguez for preaching while the Gentles are gone.

- Jane Campbell



### **Friends from Waco, Texas, Help Our Food Pantry**

On July 12, the NCCC Food Pantry was privileged to be helped by a youth group, led by Kristin Jacks, from Central Christian Church of Waco, Texas.

This was a group of 18 youths and 5 adults. They filled our regular food bags, served our clients, stocked shelves, and helped the maintenance staff. They also gave us a head start on our Christmas by filling hygiene bags and signing Christmas cards. They were true servants of God and took time during our workday to have a group prayer for our church and ministry. We truly appreciate their service and ask that you keep them in your prayers.

If you are interested in helping the food pantry, we are always open for volunteers and donations. Donations can be monetary or any of the following items: Snack packs of crackers, cookies, chips, juice boxes, snack-size tuna or sausages, bottled water, canned soup, stews, corn beef hash, chili, or any items you think may help our neighbors in need. All donations welcome. If you have any questions contact Lorraine Magnussen, Barbara Boward, or Laurese Dancy.

- Laurese Dancy





### Best wishes to Jenni and Steve Selde

YADA members **Jenni Scheaffer** and **Steve Selde** were married on July 15 in Akron, Ohio. They were married by Jenni's grandfather John DeMund in a church that is part of Hale Farm & Village, a living history museum in Ohio.

Jenni and Steve both work in the U.S. Senate, but they met during trivia night at the Star and Shamrock. Jenni is from Akron, Ohio, and Steve is from Omaha, Nebraska. They both are avid football fans and they enjoy cooking together. They hope to travel together in their new future as newlyweds.

### Welcome to New Baby Logan

**Susy Sanchez** and **Chuck Lund** share the good news of their baby boy, Logan Emmanuel Lund, born on July 6. Logan weighed 8 lb., 11 oz, and was 19 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches.

### Congratulations to Lauren He

Congratulations to **Lauren He**, daughter of **Polly He**, and a ninth grader at BASIS DC charter school. Lauren took four Advanced Placement (AP) tests in May and scored 5 in her AP Calculus, AP Microeconomics, and AP Macroeconomics. She also scored 4 in her US Government and Politics. She will be awarded as AP Scholar with Distinction. Last year she took AP computer science and AP world history, and has now taken six APs.

In annual rankings released by the D.C. Public Charter Board in November 2016, BASIS Washington DC was the District's top-performing charter school.

### Update From Robin Schacht in London

On July 20, Robin Schacht emailed National City to thank the congregation for its best wishes and for its continual checking in during her continued cancer treatment. She reports she is FINALLY done with chemo, which has impacted her immune system and required a number of hospital visits after treatments. The MRI shows significant shrinkage of the tumor.

She will have surgery on August 2, which will require

a hospital stay and 6-8 weeks recovery time. Following surgery she will be having radiation, perhaps around October. She gives a tribute to her spouse Sarah and the joy of their son Joseph who is "walking like a pro and talking a bit (his favorite word is "MORE!). He loves blueberries, pasta, waving bye bye, keys, bubbles, going for bike rides, reading books and generally being silly."

Take care and lots of love - Robin

### In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Norman Kruse** and his family on the death of Norman's brother Douglas C. Kruse on June 19, at his home in Anaheim, California. He was 81 years old

The celebration of his life was held July 22 at his shop at 4701 E Hunter Blvd, Anaheim. He never married, but his siblings Karen Anderson and Norman Kruse attended, as well as their children, Astrid Bear, Douglas L. Kruse, and Glen Kruse. His dream, a streamliner that he hoped would set a new diesel world's record, unfinished, will be there.

Over the years, he had been inventor, designer, architect, and entrepreneur. In his career, he had built over a hundred streamlined race cars, many of which set local or world records. He built portions of the present holders of the world's sea level propeller driven aircraft, for Red Barron Aviation, and also their sea level record holding jet plane.

He invented and patented improved fuel injection technology that is found in all diesel engines that meet current EPA standards. He built prototype parts for several Boeing aircraft, and production parts for the Boeing 767 computerized preventive maintenance system.

He attended the University of Maryland after high school and later took several courses in California that he needed for his occupation. In recent years, he participated in University of Maryland online courses and received a Bachelor's Degree. He was the oldest in his graduating class.

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Steven Baines** and his whole family on the death of his father James Baines, 84, on July 17. The funeral service was held on July 21 at First Baptist Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

Mr. Baines is survived by Jane Baines, his wife of 55 years, their two sons James Baines and Steven Baines, a granddaughter, and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Baines was a U. S. Air Force veteran, a former co-pilot with Eastern Airlines, and an air traffic controller with the Federal Aviation Agency for 35 years. He was active in his church and a volunteer at Roper Hospital for 10 years. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association SC Chapter, 2090 Executive Hall Road, Suite 130 Charleston, SC.

Steven welcomes telephone calls and cards at his home.