

The News of National City

October 2017 Issue XVII Vol. 10

Inside This Issue	
Upcoming Events	2-3
Salt & Light Information	3
Christmas Planning	3
Congregational News	4

Gentle Reminder *How Will Your Light Shine?*

Bill Knight's light shined brightly at National City Christian Church.

For a number of weeks, Bill Knight pondered how to light the church's tower. All the solutions that had previously been considered were far too expensive. Then one night, that proverbial light bulb came on in Bill's mind. The next day he pitched his brilliant and economical idea to Carlos Queiros -- our extraordinary stone worker from Select Stone Works who helped refurbish a lot of our building's limestone. Within a couple of days, Carlos Queiros and Moe Jackson had the light shining again in the tower of National City Christian Church for all to see and enjoy.

Bill Knight's light shined brightly in many ways at National City Christian Church. His legacy will continue to be enjoyed whenever we meet and worship in these hallowed halls of National City. As our facilities and operations administrator, Bill sought many ways for our church to "shine brightly," whether it was through the refurbishing efforts of repainting, recarpeting, and refreshing our rooms, or opening our doors to our neighbors with warm hospitality.

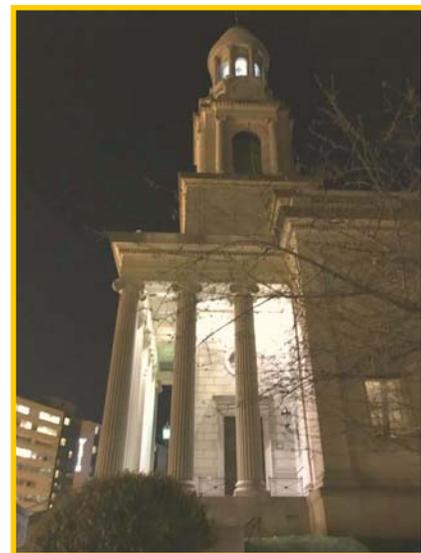
On Sunday, September 17, Bill Knight passed away, surrounded by the love of his partner Nick, and his brother Walter and sister-in-law Patricia. As our faith teaches us, Bill's light continues to shine in a brighter and fairer land, as now Bill resides with his Creator.

The question remains, while we remain here, in this church that Bill deeply loved: **How will you let your light shine** at National City Christian Church?

Beginning on **Sunday, October 15**, you and I will have an opportunity to make a financial estimate of giving for the work of our congregation in 2018. While our tithes and offerings are not the only way, it is one very important way that we can let our light shine. Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to share of your financial resources in this next year. To add to our special Sunday, **Rev. Miriam Gentle** will be preaching about her recent trip observing the mission work and relief efforts of our church in **Indonesia**. Please plan to join us on this special commitment Sunday, October 15.

In the words of our Lord Jesus Christ -- whom our beloved Bill Knight loved and served -- "**Let your light shine before others**, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your God in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Amen!

- Stephen Gentle



Sundays in October

- October 1** - World Communion Sunday, Dr. Gentle, preaching
- October 8** - 15th Anniversary of the Gospel Service, Dr. Gentle, preaching
- October 15** - Rev. Miriam Gentle, Our Mission Work in Indonesia
- October 22** - In Whose Image? Dr. Gentle, preaching
- October 29** - Reformation Sunday - 500 Years - Sing-Inspiration Sunday!

October Birthdays

- 5 Barbara Boward
Leah Craig
Jennifer Selde
- 6 Diane Ives
Carson Talbott*
- 11 Taylor Tate
- 16 Mona Corneiro
- 21 Teresa Swihart
- 22 Loui Itoh
- 23 James Owens
- 24 Fredrickia Lloyd
Bill Ryan
- 25 Betty Jones
CJ Rodriguez
Beverly Schacht
Wes Strotman
- 27 Jessica Kelley
Marshall May*
- 31 Miriam Gentle
Claudine Nichols

*Indicates child or student
For additions or changes,
contact Kathleen Swihart at
kswihart62@gmail.com

On Monday Mornings, NCCC Offers Prayer Call

All are invited to join the weekly conference prayer line for National City. Simply dial 712-775-7031 and enter access code 371015. For more information contact Loretta Tate at 202-489-2020.

Bible Study on Tuesday, October 3 at 11 a.m.

On Tuesday, October 3, Rev. Steven Baines will speak on his faith at a Bible study meeting in the Music Suite at 11 a.m. **ALL are invited.** Bring a sandwich and stay for fellowship.

- Kathleen Swihart

Church Cleanup Scheduled for Saturday, October 7

A church cleanup -- outside and inside -- is scheduled for Saturday, October 7, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. All are welcome to volunteer.

Gospel Choir Celebrates 15 Years With Concert on October 8

We are invited to a special concert on Sunday, October 8, to join in a celebration of the Gospel Choir's fifteenth anniversary. Several former choir members will join in the concert, along with featured guests Alia Waheed Ky and saxophonist Lenair Williams.

If you have a favorite song in the Gospel Choir's repertoire, let them know. "Yours might make the list as we travel down memory lane," said Gospel Choir Director Valeria Foster.

Since its inception in 2002, the Gospel Choir has been directed by Valeria Foster. She is a graduate of Morgan State University and has a master's degree in Christian Leadership from The John Leland Center for Theological Studies.

Valeria is a composer, arranger, and associate editor of the African American Heritage Hymnal. She has served as state chair of Music in Worship for the Maryland/DC Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association and as director of the University of Maryland (College Park) Gospel Choir (15 years) where she produced their first two recordings. She has been a lecturer for the Smithsonian Institution (master class in early gospel music for its "Wade in the Water" series) and the World Council of Church's Ecumenical Institute (Switzerland). She has served as a clinician for several churches and faith-based organizations in the U.S. and Krakow, Poland. Annually, she conducts vocal workshops at the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses, Inc.

LGBTQ Ecumenical Bible Study on October 11

Come and join us on Wednesday, October 11, at 7 p.m. for the third session in our Bible Study series on LGBTQ persons and the Bible. We will focus our study this month on New Testament passages that are frequently interpreted as having an anti-LGBTQ meaning. Come to explore what the Bible *really* says as we learn and discuss together.

All are welcome on the second Wednesday of each month to these sessions that explore faith and scripture from the perspective of LGBTQ persons who are also followers of Jesus.

Friday Music at Midday Begins a New Season

As you enjoy the beauty of the glorious fall season, come and experience the beauty of sublime organ music during our Music at Midday concerts, held each Friday at 12:15 p.m. These wonderful concert performances are offered to the community for free, so please help us spread the word! We have four fine organists performing outstanding programs during October:

October 6

Piedmont College President **James F. Mellichamp** will present a recital of beautiful organ works by Ernest Tomlinson, Gabriel Pierné, Joseph Bonnet, Craig Phillips, and Louis Vierne.

October 13

Milwaukee cathedral organist **Michael Batcho** will perform works of Felix Mendelssohn, Louis Vierne, Theophane Hytrek, Richard Proulx, and Henri Mulet.

October 20

John Walker, former President of the American Guild of Organists, will perform organ works of substance by Louis Vierne, Pierre Cochereau (transcription), Chelsea Chen, and John Knowles Paine.

October 27

Nicholas Will (Steubenville, Ohio) will perform works of Nicolaus Bruhns, Richard Purvis, Marcel Dupré, Gabriel Fauré, and Charles-Marie Widor.

LGBTQ Happy Hour to Benefit Center Global

We invite LGBTQ persons and friends to our monthly happy hour on Thursday, October 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Uproar Lounge and Restaurant, located at 639 Florida Avenue, N.W., just two blocks from the Shaw/Howard University Metro station (Green/Yellow Lines).

A minimum donation of \$10 per person is requested to support the work of Center Global, a network sponsored by The DC Center for the LGBT Community. Center Global describes its mission as follows: "Due to the oppressive anti-LGBTI laws and social cultures in almost 80 countries around the world, the U.S. is a frequent destination for LGBTI individuals seeking a new and safer life. We as members of the LGBTI community in the U.S. have a duty to help provide safe passage for our brothers and sisters from other parts of the globe. It is to this end that Center Global has been formed."

Gala Celebration of Disciples African-American History on November 4-5

On November 4, Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter will deliver the Kirkpatrick Lecture at 7 p.m., followed by a reception, in celebration of Disciples African-American History.

On November 5, at All Saints Worship at 10 a.m., Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will preach.

The worship service will be followed by the dedication of the Oscar Haynes Exhibit of Disciples African-American History at 11:30 a.m., followed by a brunch.

The celebration is presented by the Disciples of Christ Historical Society and National City Christian Church Foundation.

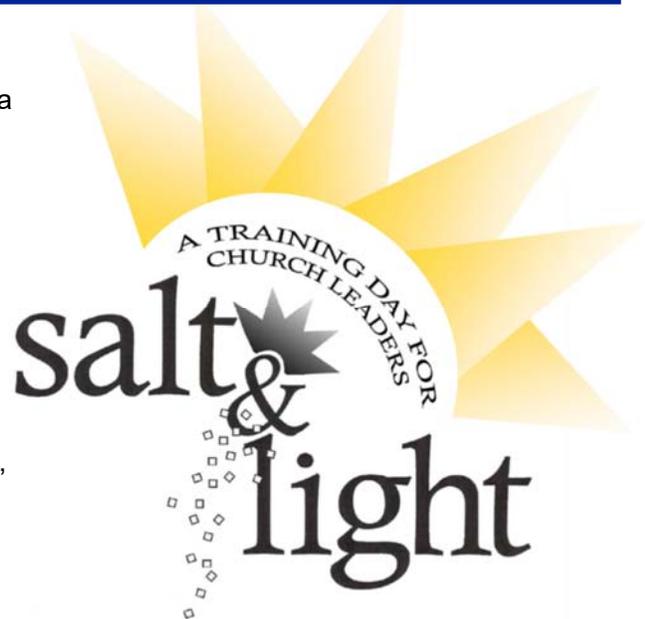
Regional Salt and Light Leadership Training To Be at National City October 14

Salt and Light Leadership Training for the Christian Church Capital Area will be held at National City from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 14.

Its purpose is to help develop congregational leaders by providing practical information, inspiration, and encouragement. For more information, including online credit card registration, go to the CCCA website: <http://www.ccadisciples.org/salt-light>. Registration forms are available in the Atrium. Cost is \$40 (including a continental breakfast and box lunch snack) and \$25 for people under the age of 30.

Nineteen different workshops will be offered and attendees may select three. Workshops include social witness, racial justice, mission/outreach, peacemaking and bridge building, multi-generational ministry, and church administration. Descriptions on website.

Salt and Light is a program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Capital Area Commission for Congregational Life.



Breakfast With Santa Is Coming December 2 - It's time to Help With Planning, Preparations

Breakfast with Santa is coming!! We need lots of help decorating our new space, getting the word out, and inviting the neighborhood to join us.

The day of -- December 2 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. -- we need setter uppers, decorators, activity and craft helpers, greeters, photographers, cleaner uppers, story readers in both English and Spanish, and servers. Please consider joining us, hearing the stories of our guests and providing hospitality. Questions or to volunteer to help, contact Teresa Swihart.

Sing for Christmas!

The Sanctuary Choir will soon be starting rehearsals for our annual celebration of Lessons and Carols and for the beautiful Christmas Eve worship service. Do you have a musical gift to share with the community of National City Christian Church? We welcome singers of all ages and vocal ranges to participate! We also would welcome people who play an instrument or might be able to help with handbells on an occasional basis.

The Sanctuary Choir sings for worship each Sunday at 11 a.m., with rehearsal before the service beginning at 9 a.m. In addition, there will be special Saturday morning rehearsals in preparation for Christmas on four Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. Those rehearsals will be held on October 28, November 18, December 2, and December 16. For more information, contact Dr. Michael McMahon at mmcmahon@nationalcitycc.org or (202) 797-0103.

A Note from Eva Moore

Long-time member Eva Moore and Michael Barnett are pleased to announce their marriage on August 28 in Hagerstown, Maryland. Eva and Michael now reside at 1608 Hoffmaster Road, Knoxville, Maryland 21758.



An Update from Robin Schacht

Robin Schacht sends us an email from London to say she was “finally, finally, FINALLY done with chemo” on June 22.

“I ended up being admitted to the hospital 5 out of the 8 cycles for 3 days each time. Unpleasant side effects “have decreased the quality of my life severely for the last six months.

“However, the end of treatment MRI showed that my tumor has shrunk to 15mm (it had started at 54mm!) so this is of course good news, and I am remaining hopeful that I will never have to go through this again,” Robin wrote.

She was scheduled for surgery and immediate reconstruction on August 2 with overall recovery time expected to be 6-8 weeks. “I unfortunately will not be able to pick Joseph up during this time or do any other lifting (e.g. laundry), so again, lots will be falling on Sarah... My Wellesley friend Kelly is also coming over from Boston to help us in the middle of August, and we are really looking forward to seeing her.

“Following surgery, I will be having radiation, but I don't have a date for this yet - perhaps around October. I'm also on a targeted therapy injection every 3 weeks until next April, but this fortunately doesn't have the debilitating side effects that chemo does.

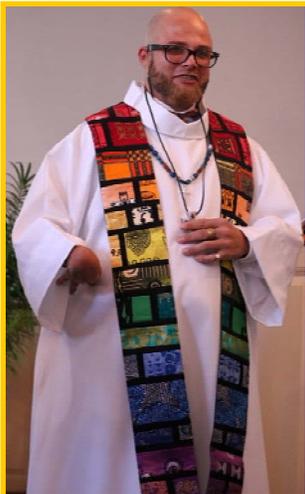
“Joseph continues to seem fairly unfazed by all of this. He's walking like a pro and talking a bit (his favorite word is "MORE!"). He loves blueberries, pasta, waving bye bye, keys, bubbles, going for bike rides, reading books, and generally being silly.

“Thanks again for all of your messages checking in, and sorry once again for my generally lousy response time. Having cancer treatment is like a full-time job - it all sounded simple when they first outlined it to me, but they don't mention all the other little things that stack up alongside it - heart scans, hematology appointments about blood clots, surgery assessments, MRIs, oncology reviews, etc etc etc.

“Take care, and lots of love, Robin”

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with Nick Bullock and the extended family of **Bill Knight**, who passed away on September 17 with his loved ones by his side. Bill shared many blessings with National City as a long-time member, church leader, and as our Facilities and Operations Administrator. Nick and Bill's extended family are planning a Memorial Service at National City on October 28. Visitation at 2 p.m., Service at 3 p.m.. Please reach out to Nick with your love and encouragement. Nick is a precious soul, and his love for Bill and his faith in God have been inspirational.



The Ordination of Rev. CJ Rodriguez Held September 17 in Phillips Chapel

The ordination of Rev. CJ Rodriguez into the Christian Ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was held on Sunday afternoon, September 17, in Phillips Chapel.

Participants in the ordination service included Rev. Allen Harris, regional minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Rev. Lori Tapia, National Hispanic Pastor; Rev. Noemi Mena; Dr. Beverly Mitchell of Wesley Theological Seminary; Rev. Cheryl Tatham; Rev. Miriam Gentle; Rev. Dr. Stephen Gentle; Dorothy Arache; Maria Teresa Guevara; Catherine Gordon; Rev. Yaki Santos; Aura Matias; and Rev. Audrey Price.

Rev. Rodriguez begins on October 1 as the pastor for the Hispanic Ministry, succeeding Rev. Noemi Mena, who has retired.