

The News of National City

January 2018 Issue XVIII Vol. 1

Inside This Issue	
Upcoming Events	2
Congregational News	3-4

Gentle Reminder: 1843

Eighteen hundred and forty-three is our year. Seven persons who were baptized as Disciples of Christ gathered in "Washington City" in 1843, around the kitchen table of Dr. and Mrs. James Barclay. They gathered for scripture reading, prayer, and celebrating the Lord's Supper. Those Christians decided to begin meeting regularly for worship and the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

That small group of worshipers grew into the congregation that became the spiritual home of U.S. President James Garfield, and from that congregation, National City Christian Church was born. Yes, 2018 is our year to celebrate 175 years!

A number of festive celebrations are being planned at the end of this year, between October 19 (the celebration of our dedication as National City Christian Church) and December 4 (the first meeting of those Christians in the Barclay home).

However, we are not going to wait until next fall to start the party! National City Christian Church will host many significant events -- denominational, interfaith, and international -- all year long. On Wednesday, January 10, the Rumi Forum will meet for an interfaith dialogue, "Responding to Hate and Extremism: Solutions from Faith Traditions." On January 31, the Disciples Leadership Conference of Senior Pastors will be held at our church at the invitation of the Christian Church Foundation. Later on, during the week of May 21, the annual Festival of Homiletics will be held at National City Christian Church and Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church, with thousands of preachers coming to our historic sanctuaries for this international event.

Speaking of exceptional preachers, the Reverend Chris Dorsey, president of Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, will return as our pulpit guest on Sunday, January 14, for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. Later that afternoon, members are encouraged to travel to the United Christian Parish in Reston, Virginia, to hear the new General Minister and President Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, who preached at National City Christian Church last November 5. (See this event information printed elsewhere in the newsletter.)

We are going to party like it's 1843. Giving thanks for God's faithfulness in leadership for 175 years, and answering God's call as our congregation lives into the new ways God is calling us to be church, even into the 22nd century.

To quote former U.N. Secretary Dag Hammarskjöld, "For all that has been, Thanks. To all that shall be, Yes!"

- Stephen Gentle
Senior Pastor



Rev. Chris Dorsey, pulpit guest on January 14 at 8:30 and 11 a.m.



Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, will preach at United Christian Parish on January 14 at 2 p.m.

January Birthdays

- 3 Maury Lee
- 6 Fay Arrington
- 7 Richard Blackmore
Kelly Swanson
- 9 Conrad Bolston
Dorothy Davis
Mark Masdin
- 10 Darin Skelly
- 12 Nick Bullock
Beverly Williams
- 13 Kathy Mosley
- 16 Carol Gesell
Becky Kelley
- 22 Drusilla McCain
Erin & Kelsey Stewart
- 23 Joy Fulgham
- 25 Victor Vasquez
- 29 Bob Mansker
- 30 Allen Harris

For additions or changes, contact Kathleen Swihart at kswhart62@gmail.com



Once again, we'll have the opportunity to buy a variety of wonderful soups made by Theresa Beaton and available on "Souper" Sunday -- in time to enjoy during the Super Bowl on February 4. The soup is \$10 and benefits our food pantry.

Happy Hour on January 18 To Benefit NCCC LGBTQ Ministry

Join us on Thursday, January 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Uproar Lounge and Restaurant, 639 Florida Ave., NW, for a happy hour to benefit our church's own ministry to the community, and especially to enable our participation in the Capital Pride Festival this coming spring. Join friends new and old to welcome a new year of life and grace!

Prayer Call Every Monday Morning

All are invited to join the weekly conference prayer line for National City at 6 a.m. on Mondays. Simply dial 712-775-7031 and enter access code 371015. For more information contact Loretta Tate at 202-489-2020.

Bible Study To Feature "Mary's Song of Praise and Protest"

Join the Bible study on Tuesday, January 9, in the Music Suite at 11 o'clock. "Mary's Song of Praise and Protest" (Luke 1:39-56) will be the topic, led by Rev. Steven Baines. Bring a sandwich and join the fellowship for lunch.

Gospel Choir Rehearsal Dates for January

The Gospel Choir will rehearse at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Music Suite on January 9, 23, and 30. If you'd like more information about the choir or joining, contact Valeria Foster, director of the choir.

LGBTQ Community Bible Study

Instead of our regular group Bible study, we invite members and friends to attend the Rumi Institute's interfaith dialogue, "Responding to Hate and Extremism: Solutions from Faith Traditions."

Faith Traditions Forum To Be Held on January 10

"Responding to Hatred and Extremism: Solutions from Faith Traditions" will be the topic at a Rumi Forum at National City on Wednesday, January 10, with a reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by a panel discussion from 7 to 8 p.m. The aim of the program is to respond to hatred and extremism by examining solutions used through the different faith traditions.

Panel members are Rev. Dr. Beverly Goines of National City, Rabbi M. Bruce Lustig, senior Rabbi at Washington Hebrew Congregation, and Emre Celik, originally from Sydney, Australia, and who has been president of the Rumi Forum for eight years and has been involved in interfaith issues for more than 25 years.

Rumi Forum was founded in 1999 with the mission to foster intercultural dialogue, stimulate thinking and exchange of opinions on supporting and fostering democracy and peace and to provide a common platform for education and information exchange.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemoration

Sponsored by the Christian Church Capital Area's Commission for Congregational Life, its annual Martin Luther King, Jr., tribute will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 14, at United Christian Parish, Reston, Virginia. The guest preacher will be the Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The theme, "Inspired by a dream: Where do we go from here?" has a special focus with a youth and young adult discussion panel and an essay/art contest. For more information: www.cccadisciples.org/mlk-jr-celebration/

Church Book Group To Meet January 25

The book group will meet to discuss the book "The Badass Librarians of Timbuktu" by Joshua Hammer at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, in the second floor conference room. The discussion will be led by Miriam Gentle. All are invited.

2018 Church Leadership Elected

At our Thanksgiving luncheon and congregational meeting on November 19, we elected the following to the Congregational Board for 2018:

Moderator: Jane Campbell
Vice Moderator: Alan Williams
Secretary: Richard Bahr
Treasurer: Gentry Alexander
At Large: Terri Malone
At Large: Kathleen Swihart
Resource the Ministry: Loretta Tate
Nominating Chair: Loretta Franklin
Local Trustees: Tom Kelley
Senior Pastor (ex officio): Stephen Gentle
Elders' Chair, Diaconate Co-Chairs (determined by the Elder Board and Deacon and Deaconess Boards.)

An Update on Tristan Nowicki

Catherine Nowicki writes that her son -- and our member -- **Tristan Nowicki** is doing well in Russia, loves his classes and is busy learning Russian and also teaching English classes. She said Tristan's life on campus is spartan: "No cafeteria, so he and his roommate, a 20-year old student from Brazil, have to buy groceries and cook in one pot on a hot plate every day for every meal"

"He would love to hear from NCCC folk," Catherine writes. His email is tristan.nowicki@gmail.com

His Russian address is:

Tristan Nowicki
ul. Holzunova, 40a
bosh. 7, kom. 331
g. Varonezh
394068
Russian Federation

Catherine says it takes a global stamp (\$1.15) and about 2 weeks plus to get there. They haven't been able to get a package to him, so they don't encourage anyone to send anything until they can find out what's wrong. "He HAS received our letters! He welcomes those!"

Winter Break for Friday Music at Midday

There will be no midday concerts at National City Christian Church on the Fridays of January, but mark your calendar for February 2, when Music at Midday returns with a delightful performance by Craig Williams, organist at the West Point Cadet Chapel. Beginning in February and continuing through the end of June, we have a wondrous roster of performers lined up who will amaze and uplift you. For more information, visit the concert web page at <http://nationalcitycc.org/friday-music-at-mid-day>

Welcome to New Members

We welcomed two new members who joined National City on Sunday, November 26.

Pastor Valeria Foster, who has directed our Gospel Choir since its inception in 2002. She 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; director of the University of Maryland (College Park) Gospel Choir (15 years) where she produced their first two recordings; 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); and 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.

We welcomed **Dr. Tonyelle J. Rothchild** at the 11 a.m. worship service. She is a physician with the International Medical Naturopathic Association at 1250 Connecticut Ave., N.W.

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Sarah Hedlund** on the death of her mother **Jane Davis Lollis** of Louisville, Kentucky, on December 5. Jane was the daughter of the late Rev. Harry M. Davis and Kathleen Trover Davis. She was a life-long member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and was a member of National City Christian Church when living in DC where she worked for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She has served on the Board of Church Extension, the Pension Fund, and the National City Christian Church Foundation.

Later, she was the Director of Housing for the City of Louisville prior to entering a private law practice there, specializing in urban development. Throughout her life, she was known for her commitment to honesty and integrity in both her work and everyday life. Her survivors include her daughter, Sarah and grandchildren Erin and Justin Hedlund, all members of National City Christian Church, and her daughter Carol D. Lollis-Taylor, who with husband Sam have three sons.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with longtime member **Helen Gray** on the death of her brother Carl Holmes of Oklahoma City on November 4 at the age of 90.

Mr. Holmes was a legend in the Oklahoma community and recognized nationally for his leadership and innovation in the fire industry. He was the first of 12 African American firefighters hired in the city in 1951. After he retired as assistant fire chief in 1981, he founded the Carl Holmes Executive Development Institute for management training of fire officers from around the country, helping black firefighters rise through the ranks. The institute is at Dillard University in New Orleans. In 2016, he received an award for his leadership and innovation at the National Fire and Emergency Services meeting in Washington, D.C.

Capital Area Food Bank Provides Financial Grant to National City

National City Christian Church has been selected to receive a financial grant of \$500 from the Capital Area Food Bank.

"The grant was developed to support our partners who expressed through the Capacity Assessment that they were facing financial burdens in running their programming. A variety of factors were reviewed in selecting partners for this grant including populations served, community needs, and an agency's capacity and needs. We hope that this grant will help you in the work you do each day to distribute nourishing food to your neighbors experiencing food insecurity," wrote Chelsea Foster, Head of DC Region Capital Area Food Bank.

A follow-up survey will be sent in April at the end of the grant period to ask about the impact of the funds to our program, any changes in the type or nutrition of food offered, and what one thing the Capital Area Food Bank can do to better support our work.



Gifts for Food Pantry

Andover House residents brought contributions to our food pantry in their food drive for Thanksgiving.



Caroling in the Circles

Singers from the Sanctuary Choir and others from our congregation went out into the neighborhood on the afternoon of Sunday, December 3, for "Caroling in the Circles." The group sang carols at various homes and buildings in the area of Logan and Thomas Circles in conjunction with the annual Logan Circle House Tour. It was fun to sing the good news of Christ's coming and to let the voice of National City be heard in the streets of Washington, D.C., on a lovely December day.



Breakfast With Santa

Ho, ho, ho! National City's fifth Breakfast with Santa went off without a hitch as the reindeer had to stay home. Fifty-two children showed up to greet Santa and Mrs. Claus, hear the Nativity story, have pictures taken, eat a yummy breakfast, play games, make slime, and create Christmas decorations for their homes. The children came from near and not too far away. Some are neighbors of the church and included both families from the playgroup that meets on Wednesday mornings and families that receive assistance from our food bank.

Volunteers and church staff worked hard all week to get set up. The volunteers ranged from 4-year-old Grace who loves to take care of Baby Jesus all the way to Deloris who in her 90s continues to come and help serve breakfast. The most popular new feature this year was the inclusion of a "Slime" table! It's all the rage with children; they can't seem to get enough of the sticky, gooey, pliable, stretchable stuff! The volunteers went away with new friends from the congregation, appreciation of unknown skills and talents of fellow congregants, and a greater appreciation of what we can accomplish when we work together to further the Kingdom of God.

Donations to cover the cost of the event are always welcome!

- Teresa Swihart