For three days in April and months prior in preparation, congregational leaders met with leaders of Hope Partnership Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to worship, pray, ponder, and create new ministry possibilities at National City Christian Church. Rev. Rick Morse and Rev. Roger McKinney joined us for dynamic days of team building and leadership exercises with the goal of developing and living into a future story of vibrant and relevant ministry for our congregation. Forty-nine members gathered to share personal stories of spiritual transformation that had occurred in their lives while at National City and think about ways for transformational ministry to continue for future generations.

Now Epiphany writers have met to do the work of putting together a possible “Future Story” for our ministry together. I am grateful to the writers: Aixa Diaz, Sadye Sanders, Chip Talbott, Shana Williams, Jane Campbell, Steven Baines, and Rick Morse. The next step is the creation of the Building Capacity Report by Rick Morse. With this report, we will consider the questions: What adaptive changes do we need to make? What technical skills do we need to have as a congregation? What kind of leadership -- staff and lay leadership -- do we need to make these transitions? What will it cost? How do we do it?

By the end of the summer, a full report will be presented to the Congregational Board and then presented to the congregation. Rev. Rick Morse will continue to work with our congregation as our coach for a year as we begin the Epiphany process.

My continued prayer -- one that I hope you will pray with me -- is that as we journey together, we will fully realize our potential as a transformational congregation and be a witness of transformed lives in Christ to our community and our world.

- Stephen Gentle
Senior Pastor

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): End Family Separation Now

The Disciples website (disciples.org) states: “In this crucial moment, we must put our faith into action, responding to the cries of our neighbors. Foremost must be advocacy to put an end to the policies that lead to family separation. Here are some things you can do right now:

- Learn about how current policies are affecting our immigrant neighbors, and connect with immigrant communities in your area.
- Call and visit your elected representatives to oppose policies of family separation and support legislation that will keep families together. (Information and resources are available through Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries and Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel)
- Add your signature to this letter (see below) to show your support. Invite members of your congregation to sign on, too.
- Continue to pray, learn, and speak out!
- Donate to Week of Compassion with the designation “Keep Families and Children Together.”

“These children and families are deserving of human dignity and love. Let’s stand together as followers of Christ to live out Jesus’ commandment to love.

“With the love of Christ…”

You can read the entire article online, signed by our General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens and thousands of Disciples leadership and members. Copies are also available at the church and were provided at the June 24 service.
**Sundays in July**

**July 1**
*Eyes of Faith* (Mark 5:21-43)
Dr. Gentle preaching

**July 8**
*Freedom and Hospitality* (Mark 5)
Dr. Gentle preaching

**July 15**
*Conflicted*
(A Study of Herod in Mark 6)
Dr. Gentle preaching

**July 22**
*Before You Come Apart* (Mark 6:30-34, 53-56)
Dr. Gentle preaching

**July 29**
*John 6:1-21*
Rev. Baines preaching

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**Hymns and Songs That Matter to You**

We are planning some special services in August that focus on hymns and songs of worship. To help us plan well, we want to know about hymns and songs that matter to you. Please note, we’re not asking for your *favorite* hymns, but for songs that have a special meaning for you, that have nurtured your faith, helped you to deal with an issue in your life, or is associated with an important person or event.

Here’s how you can help. Choose up to five hymns or songs that matter to you and send titles and other information by email to mmcmahon@nationalcitycc.org or by postal mail to Rev. Dr. J. Michael McMahon, National City Christian Church, 5 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005. If possible, tell us a little about why a particular hymn or song has special meaning for you. All submissions must be signed and include an email address or phone number. All responses must be received by Friday, July 13.

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**August Birthdays**

1. Shirley Kruse
2. Brooke Talbott*
3. Carla Wilson
4. Challlys Gretsinger
5. Logan Emmanuel Lund*
6. Laurie Carey
7. Paula Engle
8. Bill Rowland
9. Andy Ridgeway
10. Paula Engle
11. Carla Wilson
12. Bill Rowland
13. Logan Emmanuel Lund*
14. Laurie Carey
15. Challlys Gretsinger
16. Logan Emmanuel Lund*
17. Paula Engle
18. Bill Rowland
19. Andy Ridgeway
20. Paula Engle
21. Carla Wilson
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199. Andy Ridgeway
200. Paula Engle

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**NCCC Offers Prayer Call on Monday Mornings**

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.

**LGBTQ Ecumenical Bible Study**

Our Bible study series on the Gospel of Mark continues on Wednesday, July 11, at 7 p.m. in the Music Suite. We will reflect on some parables about planting and growing found in Mark 4:1-32. Please come and join us. All are welcome.
Welcome to New Member
We welcome Sheridan Ruiz, who joined National City on June 24. Sheridan is from Fort Worth, Texas, and has a master’s degree in ethics, peace, and global affairs from American University. She is program assistant at Public Religion Research Institute.

In Sympathy
Our thoughts and prayers are with staff member Betty Crudup and her family on the death of her brother Donnell Crudup on June 11. A memorial service was held June 29 at Henry S. Washington Funeral Home in Washington, D.C.

Special Offerings
On April 29, $1,417 was collected for Blanket Sunday to give support, warmth, and encouragement to those in need.

On May 20 and 27, $758 was collected for Pentecost to support and grow Disciples of Christ churches.

Thank you for your generous offerings!
- Gentry Alexander
Treasurer

Old Emergency Generator To Be Replaced
Thanks to a $50,000 Grant
The National City Christian Church Foundation has been awarded a $50,000 grant from a family foundation to replace the emergency generator which serves as backup for electrical service to the Sanctuary and Beasley Buildings.

In the case of a power failure, e.g., key services, such as the elevator, will continue to function.

A functioning emergency generator is required by D.C. law. As you can see from the photo, which was taken on the rooftop of the Beasley Building, the old emergency generator was in very poor condition.

We celebrate this important improvement in the functioning of mechanical systems of our church, so that our work of vital missions can continue unabated.

- Kathleen Burger
Head of Philanthropic Giving
NCCC Foundation

The News of National City is a monthly publication.
Please submit articles for the August Newsletter by July 15 to Diana Morse at morsediana@comcast.net and to Colleen Walsh at cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org
Food Pantry Update
The Food Pantry team would like to remind all young people who need volunteer hours for school that they are very welcome to help in the Food Pantry any Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. All volunteers are welcome to this rewarding ministry.

The Food Pantry mission has been greatly enhanced by the addition of Tony Johnson and his personal ministry. By merging the resources of National City with the activities of other churches in the downtown cluster, along with new projects of his own making, Tony has added a new dimension to our Food Pantry. He has expanded our food donations to include personal hygiene bags during the Wednesday hours and out on the street throughout the Ward.

Food Pantry depends on the support of members and friends of National City Christian Church to continue this important mission. We always need items such as: Shelf-stable products such as canned or packaged soups, canned fruits or vegetables, canned protein (tuna, chicken, ravioli, spam), pasta, spaghetti sauce, crackers and granola bars, juice boxes, bottled water, applesauce, and fruit cups.

Good personal hygiene is essential for restoring personal dignity, so donations of items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, dental floss, soap, shampoo, wet wipes, washcloths, socks, zip lock bags, combs, razors, deodorant, lotion, nail clippers, and lip balm are appreciated. If you are more comfortable making a financial contribution, that is always appreciated. Just make a note on the check that it is to be directed to the NCCC Food Pantry.

If you have any questions about donations or volunteering, please reach out to any of our group, as well as Tony Johnson or Steven Baines. We would love to give anyone a tour of our space on Sundays.

- Lorraine Magnussen