

The News of National City

August 2018 Issue XVIII Vol. 8

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A Fond Farewell

On July 18, National City shared the letter below from Rev. Dr. J. Michael McMahon

Dear Friends at National City Christian Church,

Beginning on September 1, I will be starting a new ministry as Executive Director of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. My last Sunday as Minister of Music at NCCC will be August 19. You may read about The Hymn Society's at www.thehymnsociety.org.

A broadly ecumenical organization, The Hymn Society has as its mission to "encourage, promote, and enliven congregational song." Its members include hymn writers, seminary and church music professors, church music directors, clergy, and many others who have an interest in congregational song. I am very enthusiastic about working with this community of people who believe "that the holy act of singing together shapes faith, heals brokenness, transforms lives, and renews peace."

It has been a privilege and a joy to serve as Minister of Music at National City Christian Church for nearly five years. I'm grateful for the support of Dr. Stephen Gentle and the many members and leaders of this congregation who are committed to serving the broader community and to caring for the life of this church, its worship, and its music. This church has been a great blessing in my life and has reaffirmed for me the call to serve God and God's people in ministry. The Hymn Society office will be located here in the Washington metropolitan area, so I hope to see you and worship with you often in the coming months and years.

I am thankful for our journey together over these past five years. As each of us continues on the path of faith, I commend to you this advice from fifth century bishop and theologian Augustine of Hippo: "You should sing as wayfarers do — sing, but continue your journey. Do not be lazy, but sing to make your journey more enjoyable. Sing, but keep going."

Grace and peace,

- J. Michael McMahon
Minister of Music



Grateful for the ministry of the Rev. Dr. J. Michael McMahon, seen here with his husband Ray Valido.

From Dr. Gentle: "While we are truly sad for all of us at National City Christian Church, our hearts rejoice for this wonderful opportunity for Dr. McMahon. We give thanks to God for the exceptional ministry that Mike has shared with us, and we surround Ray and him with our prayers and words of encouragement. Indeed, we look forward to a deepening relationship with The Hymn Society going forward!"

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 Kristi Dane
Warren Brooks
Shana Williams
- 17 Kathryn Farley
- 18 Roger Webb
- 19 Dominic Neal*
- 21 Jessica Max
- 22 Tamara Webb
Janice Glover
- 24 Trevor Dane
Cole Murphy
- 25 Lisa Arterberry
Sage Williams*
- 26 Robin Schacht
Anne-Michele Maher
- 28 Addison Bolston*
- 30 Colleen Walsh
- 31 Mia Skelly*

September Birthdays

- 2 Ben Moore
- 4 Noemi Mena
Peggy Washington
- 5 Marcella Hill
- 6 Cyril Jones
- 7 Susy Sanchez
- 8 Megan Dirickson
- 10 Sterling Washington
- 11 Katie Campbell-Morrison
- 13 Caitlin Malone
Casey Underwood
Sadye Sanders
- 14 Moe Jackson
- 16 Marge Bennett
Deloris Ruddock
- 17 Betty Crudup
- 18 Beth Kelley
Marc Reber
- 19 Woodie Rea
- 21 Ellen Crowder
Polly He
- 22 Roy Hatton
John Sparkman
- 27 Rick Bahr
- 29 Noah Craig*
- 30 Mike Dula

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

Sing an Old/New Song!

We are planning special services on August 5 and 12 at 11 a.m. that focus on hymns and songs of worship. The Sanctuary Choir is returning from its break just in time to lead and support us in singing. These two services will take the form of hymn festivals, with lots of congregational singing. Come to join in the praise and song!

Gospel Choir in August

The Gospel Choir will take two Sunday worship breaks in August: August 12 and 26.

On August 19 Alma Costello will be the guest pianist for the 8:30 a.m. service while Director Valeria Foster is away.

LGBTQ Ecumenical Bible Study

Our Bible study series on the Gospel of Mark continues on Wednesday, August 8, at 7 p.m. in the Music Suite.

We will reflect on the place of home and family in the ministry of Jesus based on Mark 3:19b-21; 3:31-35; 6:1-6. Please come and

LGBTQ Brunch on August 12

We are planning for an LGBTQ Community brunch at a nearby restaurant on Sunday, August 12, at 1 p.m., at **Nage**, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, NW (in the Courtyard Marriott on Scott Circle). To sign up, please email Rev. Mike McMahon at mmcmahon@nationalcitycc.org. For more information, check the church website www.nationalcitycc.org and our Facebook page, LGBTQ Community at National City Christian Church.

The News of National City is a monthly publication. Please submit articles for the September Newsletter by August 15 to Diana Morse at morsediana@comcast.net and to Colleen Walsh at cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org

Capital Area Regional Assembly To Be Held October 12-13

Registration for the Regional Assembly is available online as well as with the regular paper/mail registrations for the event to be held October 12-13 at Largo Community Church, Mitchellville, Maryland.

The theme is "Together On Earth As It Is In Heaven."

To register online and for all Regional Assembly Information, go to: <http://www.cccadisciples.org/regional-assembly-2018>

The keynote speaker for Friday night's dinner will be the Rev. Sandhya Jha, pastor, author, founder and director of the Oakland Peace Center, and pro-reconciliation/anti-racism trainer with Reconciliation Ministry. The preacher for Saturday's worship will be the Rev. Yvonne Gilmore, pastor, poet and a spoken word artist, and associate dean of the Disciples Divinity House at the University of Chicago. Rev. Gilmore is also a trainer with Reconciliation Ministry.

Saturday Learning Center leaders are:

Ken Brooker Langston, Disciples Center for Public Witness

Beverly Goines, National City Christian Church

Sandhya Jha, Oakland Peace Center

Terrell McTyer, Hope Partnership

Darren Phelps, Bethel Christian Church DC

Hector Rodriguez, National Benevolent Association

Sharon Stanley-Rea, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministry

Shauna St. Clair-Fleming, Ph.D. Candidate, Emory University

Child care will be available and a special program for youth, including an overnight lock-in, is being planned.

For more information and to answer questions, contact the Rev. Ciara Simonson at ciara@springfieldchristianchurch.org.

Summertime...and Time for Regional Camps and Conferences

National City has been well represented at our regional camps and conferences this year with campers, counselors, friends, and directors. Gina, one of our first time counselors and campers had such a good time as a camper at CYF 1 at Bethany Beach that she wasted no time signing up for the CYF 2 when she got home!

Coming home from Chi Rho Camp Grace, who's way too young to be a camper there announced that, "More people need to come to camp so they can hear about Jesus." What a true statement and fortunately there are a few more opportunities this year to participate in either regional camp events or National City's very own retreat at Bethany Beach. Check the regional website for available camps and conferences and weekend retreats still to come in the fall.

- Teresa Swihart

With All Best Wishes...

After nearly seven years of worship and membership at National City, **Matthew Cahill** recently moved from his Falls Church, Virginia, home to Chicago, Illinois, where he will begin a JD-MBA program at Northwestern University in August.

Matthew is a lifelong Disciple from Pekin, Illinois, and a graduate of Eureka College. Matthew moved to the Washington region for work in 2011, thinking he knew no one in the area. On Matthew's first visit to National City, he was quite surprised to find one of his old college classmates, Beau Underwood, serving on the ministerial staff. Beau immediately got Matthew involved in YADA, where Matthew served several years as the chair of social programming. Matthew also participated in Teresa Swihart's Lenten study group in Falls Church, attended the regional Young Adult Camp at Bethany Beach, served on the Communications Committee, and created the Cooking for Compassion dinner series that benefitted Week of Compassion.

Matthew says, "I will deeply miss the people of National City, who have been the foundation of my social community here in Washington. I look forward to visiting often and to following from afar the vibrant witness and faithful service that all of you will continue to bring to the neighborhood and to the entire capital region. Thank you for blessing me with your encouragement, camaraderie, and friendship."

NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY!

Join Us for a Picnic and Donation Rally

SATURDAYS AUGUST 11 & 18

@ 10 AM

5 THOMAS CIRCLE, NW

We will provide Hot Dogs, Drinks, & Treats for the Picnic
You provide items for the Donation Rally!

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Canned Goods, Bottles of Water
- Non-Perishable Food
- Soap, Shampoo, Tooth Paste
- Wash Clothes, Towels, Tooth Brushes