

The News of National City

November 2018 Issue XVIII Vol. 11

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Celebrating 175 Years at the Welcome Table

Plan to join us for **one** worship service at **10 a.m.** on **Sunday, November 4**, in the **Sanctuary** as we remember the seven Disciples of Christ that first gathered in Washington, D.C., 175 years ago! Not only will we celebrate in worship this historic milestone, but members and friends of National City Christian Church will have an opportunity to make an “estimate of giving” for 2019.

Looking back to that first gathering in 1843, Hilda Koontz and Peter Morgan chronicle this historic moment in their book, *Miracles in the Cathedral*:

“National City Christian Church is also a parish church, tied intimately to the lives of individuals who live in or near the national capital city and to the life of this city and the church’s immediate neighborhood. When the first group gathered in Dr. James Barclay’s home in 1843, Washington was many decades from being the magnet of the world. It was a crude city with the magnificence of Pierre L’Enfant’s design still only on paper... National City and Washington City grew up together” (page 2).

And grew up together we did. National City Christian Church is now referred to as “the jewel of Thomas Circle,” and Washington, D.C., is a far cry from the city that Charles Dickens described in 1842 as “spacious avenues that begin in nothing and lead to nowhere.”

While history has its place to remind us of where we have been as people of God, the future inspires us to go, to share, and to make disciples in Jesus’ name. Alexander Campbell, James Barclay, and Frederick Power were visionaries charting new beginnings for us Disciples in a strange land, knowing that with God all things are possible, even a national church for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

As we celebrate 175 years in the nation’s capital, let us dare to dream again, to give again, and to live anew the promise of our ancestors. With every dollar pledged and every cent given in the coming year, may the “great cause we plead” be the everlasting fire for generations to come.



Yes, the month of stewardship emphasis is about money and the giving of our monies, but collectively, it is so much more. It is about the smile of a child, a bag of food for the homeless, a shoulder of support in loss, a hug of congratulations in marriage, and a friendly welcome to all who enter. Stewardship emphasis at National City is truly about recommitting ourselves to being Jesus’ disciples and sharing the love of God for all God’s beloved.

In November, we will have several occasions to pledge our support for the mission and ministry of National City Christian Church. On Anniversary Sunday, November 4, at 10 a.m., we can bring a 2019 “estimate of giving” as a celebration of this momentous ministry and a witness of the Gospel for nearly two centuries. Or some church members might spend the first part of November in study and prayer asking God what might be their sacrificial gift this Thanksgiving. Or perhaps, our 2019 “estimate of giving” will be the “first” Christmas gifts to the infant child by declaring our love and commitment for Jesus the Savior.

Whatever our pledges and gifts to God are this time of year, we will certainly come to our church – our home – with thankful hearts and joyful praise.

- Rev. Steven Baines
- Rev. Stephen Gentle

November Birthdays

- 2 Anastasia Parrish (Staci)*
- 5 Virginia Taylor
- 7 Mary Ellen Deardorff
Rick Mohn
- 9 Sarah Birdsong
- 10 John Scott Williams
- 13 Nadine G. Bishop
- 14 David McKinney
- 16 Lorraine Magnussen
- 20 Eva Moore
Tim Schaefer
- 22 Laurese Dancy
- 24 Beverly Goines
- 26 Sylvia Snyder
- 28 Tom Beacham
Charles Covington
- 30 Lon Schreiber

December Birthdays

- 3 Steve Cook
Alta Mainer
- 6 Constance Jennings
Hella Meivers
Alan Williams
- 9 Will Aklin
Brittany Bolston
Mary Paradise
Cameron Tate
- 10 Will White
- 11 Dale Rowland
- 12 Greg Kubiak
- 13 Katie Campbell Morrison
Chrys Lemon
Paul Guequierre
- 16 Maury Mausbach
- 17 Bailey Childers
- 21 Jon Alhbin
Ann Flowers
Narka Ryan
- 22 Bill Eldred
- 24 Samar Chaterjee
- 28 Sean Boyd

*Indicates child or student

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

NCCC Offers Prayer Call on Monday Mornings

All are invited to join the weekly conference prayer line for National City at 6:30 a.m. on Mondays. Simply dial 712-775-7031 and enter access code 371015. For more information contact Loretta Tate at 202-489-2020.

Gospel Choir Rehearsals for November

The Gospel Choir will rehearse on Tuesdays, November 6, 20, and 27 in the Music Suite at 7 p.m. If you would like to join the choir or ask for more information, contact Valeria Foster, Gospel Choir Director.

Classes Continue on "Should Care for the Environment Be A Major Priority for People of Faith?"

National City Christian Church's Christian Pathways Adult Sunday School class will have two more speakers this month focusing on the question "Should care for the environment be a major priority for people of faith?" The speakers will be presenting from different perspectives. They are:

- Sunday November 4, at 9 a.m., **Dr. Richard Hamm** has written and spoken extensively about church renewal and transformation.
- Sunday November 11, at 9:45 a.m., **Dr. Beverly J. Goines** will speak on the topic "There is a doomsday clock and we cannot go back."

We, as citizens of this earth have the right to health and a healthy environment. All over the world, there are devastating conditions facing us today. Whether it is because what some believe is our neglect of the environment in which we live or it is simply changing weather patterns; or thousands dying due to hunger and lack of medical care; or those in leadership allowing our precious soil to be stripped creating unhealthy environments; or our waterways becoming a dumping ground for dangerous chemicals, we must question what our responsibility (if any) as Christians should be.

Women's Support Group

All women survivors of sexual assault are invited to a support group led by Ms. Marie Temple and resourced by Rev. Dr. Beverly Goines. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 13, at 6 p.m.. Email Rev. Goines at bgoines@nationalcitycc.org for details.

Apple Cider for the Soul: Music at Midday

As we move into the heart of the fall season, come and soothe your spirit at one or more of our free weekly Music at Midday concerts, held each Friday at 12:15 p.m.

November 2: Organist Stefan Donner is traveling from Vienna, Austria, to perform a program of great works by J. S. Bach, Charles-Marie Widor, and Louis Vierne.

November 9: Baltimore organist Christopher Schroeder will present a program of works by J. S. Bach and the great French composers Théodore Dubois, Louis Vierne, and Marcel Dupré.

November 16: The organ and piano duo of Carol Feather Martin and Gary Garletts will perform modern works in a variety of styles, including jazz and ragtime, by composers Carson Cooman, Ad Wammes, Joe Utterback, Charles Callahan, and Stephen Paulus.

November 23: No concert (Thanksgiving weekend)

November 30: Organist Jackson Borges (Rehoboth Beach, Delaware) will perform compositions of Leo Sowerby and Robert Elmore along with works of three women composers: Florence Beatrice Price, Nadia Boulanger, and Pamela Decker.

Thanksgiving Offerings To Be Made November 11 and November 18

This offering goes directly for the support of Disciples universities, colleges, and theological institutions. There are fourteen colleges or universities, three seminaries and four seminary foundations and/or divinity houses that this offering is shared among. These gifts help in continuing the tradition of developing leaders for the Disciples churches and community.

Service of Remembrance and Healing

Grief comes to all of us, and the holidays can be especially difficult when mourning the loss of a loved one. Yet God is found even in the midst of our grief. Join in a Service of Remembrance and Healing to be encouraged and to perceive God's presence and direction even through your pain.

The service will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 28, in Howland Center.

Everyone is welcome to attend, whether your loss is recent or occurred long ago.



Celebrate Crèches from Around The World! Bring in by November 18

Please join members of our National City family as we enjoy the Advent Season with your favorite crèches and nativity scenes. Maybe there is that one that has held special meaning, has been handed down through generations, handmade by a child or grandchild, purchased in a foreign land, or just has beauty rich to share with others.

We will place all borrowed nativity sets in the Historical Collection Showcase in the church foyer for the first two weeks of Advent, highlighting them for church and community-wide programs hosted at National City in early December.

We need to have your crèche or sets delivered to Rev. Steven Baines by Sunday, November 18, before or after the worship services. Crèches of all designs and sizes are needed for a truly diverse and inspirational experience.

For more information, please contact Rev. Baines or Teresa Swihart.

Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus!

Ho, ho, ho! Who wouldn't know? Santa Claus is on his way! He and Mrs. Claus have once again accepted the invitation to join us for breakfast at the beginning of Advent.

Plan to join the education department on Saturday December 1, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. as we welcome Santa and our young friends from the neighborhood and beyond.

The nativity story will be presented in both English and Spanish, children will squeal with delight, crafts will be created, fun will be had, and pictures taken! Please invite your neighbors to join you for this kickoff to Christmas.

There's lots to be done in preparation. First and foremost, of course, is prayer. Prayer for the event, for children to attend with their families, for the well-being of all involved, and for the true message of Christmas to be heard and recognized.

We need folks to help set up the space in the days leading up to the first, folks to host, serve, greet, clean up, and return the space to its setup for worship on Sunday morning.

Donations of juice boxes and funds to cover the cost of the event are greatly appreciated! Please direct questions to Teresa Swihart.



Holiday Family Movie Night!

Join us Friday evening, December 14, at 6 p.m. as we invite our neighbors in to watch Disney's telling of the Nativity story, "The Star."

You won't want to miss Boaz, also known as Bo, Ruth, Naomi, Mary, and Joseph along with a cast of Biblical figures and animals as they journey to Bethlehem to experience the birth of Jesus.

To volunteer to help out, contact Teresa Swihart.

Valeria Foster is Called to Full-time Music Ministry at National City

National City Christian Church congregational board and Senior Pastor Stephen Gentle are excited to welcome Valeria A. Foster to the position of interim Minister of Music. In addition to overseeing the expansive music ministry of National City Christian Church, she will be involved in the planning of the worship services, the directing of the Sanctuary Choir with the assistance of Organist Kenneth Lowenberg, and continuing the direction of the Gospel Choir at the 8:30 Gospel Worship Service.

Valeria Foster is a graduate of Morgan State University and The John Leland Center for Theological Studies. A composer, arranger, and associate editor of the African American Heritage Hymnal (GIA Publications), Valeria has served as state chair of Music in Worship for the Maryland/DC Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association; a board member of the DC Chapter of the American Guild of Organists; director of the University of Maryland (College Park) Gospel Choir (15 years); lecturer for the National Museum of American History exhibition, "Wade in the Water: African American Sacred Music Traditions" and the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Institute (Switzerland). She arranged "We Are One in the Spirit" for mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves and the 250-voice Papal Mass Choir and the 175-voice Children's Choir for the Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI at Nationals Park. For more than 16



years, she has been directing the Sanctuary Choir at First Baptist Church of Silver Spring, Maryland.

At a recent board meeting, the Congregational Board discussed Valeria Foster's impressive resume qualifications and recommendations from Moderator Jane Campbell, former Minister of Music Mike McMahon, new Sanctuary Choir President Anne-Michele Maher, new Sanctuary Choir Vice President Kent Woods, and choir member and church leader Kathleen Burger Gerada. The Board then voted unanimously to recommend Valeria Foster to the position of Minister of Music for an interim term of one year beginning on or about October 29, 2018, with the option to call her to the ongoing position as determined by the Congregational Board in August, 2019.

Welcome Minister Valeria Foster on her first Sunday in leadership at the one service of worship at 10 a.m., on November 4, when National City Christian Church commemorates 175 years of Disciples of Christ worshipping in Washington, D.C., and looks to our future together with joy and excitement.



Welcome to New Member!

We welcomed **Dr. Leonard Green II** to membership on October 14. He is from Texarkana, Texas, and is transferring from St. Paul Baptist Church.

2018 Annual Report Items Due January 4

Now is the time for all department heads and committee chairpersons to begin to put together your thoughts on the year 2018.

We all think about the "what if's," but how about turning that around and think on the goodness of Jesus and the things we did accomplish this year. That is what makes National City Christian Church's Annual Report worthwhile. The report tells the story of a magnificent congregation and staff that withstood all challenges and succeeded to give honor and praise to our savior.

This year the reports should be two or three paragraphs long. They are due January 4, 2019. The deadline appears to be a long time away, but as those of us who write know, it's just around the corner. Please send your reports to lorettawas@aol.com.

Thank you!

- Loretta Tate

Love Thy Neighbor

As part of our homeless/hunger ministry, we are again putting together Christmas packages for our neighbors living on the streets and doorways of our community. The types of items we are asking for are:

♦toothbrushes and/or toothbrush holders♦
toothpaste♦razors♦travel size soaps, shaving
creams, and deodorant♦pocket tissues/hand
wipes♦nail clippers♦combs♦knit hats♦winter
gloves♦socks♦reusable shopping bags♦gently
used or new backpacks♦

We will also take cash donations to balance out shortages of particular items.

We will be announcing the dates for those who want to help assemble the gift bags and the date that we will be handing out the bags for those who want to help.

Remember, when the weather is changing that the comforts we take for granted are essential to those carrying everything they own between shelters.

- Barbara Boward
- Lorraine Magnussen