

The News of National City July 2019 Issue XIX Vol. 7

Inside This Issue	
Upcoming Events	2-3
Congregational News	3-4



Epiphany Update

We are excited to give the congregation and friends of National City Christian Church an update on the Epiphany process as we transform into the second major phase of the strategic planning: the Implementation Teams.

As noted in our May newsletter, our moderator Alan Williams has appointed a Program/Ministry Implementation Team and a Building Implementation Team. These teams have been in an evaluation mode since their orientation sessions.

As you are now aware, their first joint proposal was to have one combined, inspirational service at 10 a.m during the summer months. These teams and ministerial staff are responding and recording comments and written/email suggestions while making minor adjustments and refinements as possible. From the many comments received already, the 10 a.m. worship service is proving to be an enormous success (with the understanding that a few elements of this worship can still be improved).

During the summer months, the two teams will begin the challenging work of comprehensive review of National City's ministries and programs with matching building/facilities needs. The combined teams met on June 29, to begin framing timelines and goals/objectives for the next three years. The general timeline accepted by the congregation in February is that major proposals would be presented at the congregation's annual meeting in January 2020. The design and suggested programming and facilities updates based on approval would begin in the summer and fall of 2020. By spring of 2021, all initiatives would be operating at 100% with ongoing evaluations and refinements made as necessary and an Epiphany/Revival Celebration Sunday to culminate in late fall.

There is much work to be done, and as the Scripture reminds us in Luke 10:2, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." We NEED all of our members, neighbors, lifelong friends, and first-time faces to join us in the fields around Thomas Circle. Eileen O'Gorman from Food For the Hungry has written about these words: "We need to be ready to be changed ourselves as we see the miraculous work of God in our midst. Hopefully this will lead us to greater trust in [God]. I hope you will be reminded of the Lord's grand work of **bringing physical and spiritual restoration** and also know that you - as a laborer - will be transformed in participating in [God's] work of salvation."

-- Steven Baines



Special Choral on Sunday, July 7

Come before worship - 9:45 a.m. - on July 7, to listen to the unique sounds of Crystal Children's Choir, cultural ambassadors of choral music, especially in the field of Chinese folk songs. Founded in the San Francisco Bay Area, the choir has toured Australia, Asia, Europe, performed at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, Taipei National Concert Hall, Carnegie Hall, and Beijing Concert Hall. See crystalchoir.org.



Rev. Carol Richardson to Preach on July 21

National City welcomes Rev. Carol E. Richardson back to the pulpit on Sunday, July 21. Rev. Richardson is an ordained clergyperson in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and an Elder at National City Christian Church. What not be as familiar is that Carol was born on the equator in what was then the Belgian Congo (Dem. Rep. of Congo) and grew up going back-and-forth between Africa and the U.S. from 1958 to 1977. Her parents both had Ivy League graduate degrees, yet chose to be missionaries to the Congo. Raised in this intellectual, multicultural, and religious milieu, Carol developed both an inquiring mind, and a deeply spiritual approach to life.

Widowed at the age of 28 when her 34-year-old husband died of a cerebral aneurysm, she raised a 7-month-old son and a 22-month-old daughter, completed a Master of Public Health degree in Houston, Texas, and then headed to Vanderbilt Divinity School to obtain a Master of Divinity degree. She served traditional churches for over 15 years. She then began an Eastern course of spiritual studies, with most of her training coming from a spiritual centre in England. She has practiced Raja Yoga meditation and Kriya Yoga for almost 20 years.

Presently, she is an intuitive life coach and expert healer in the Washington, D.C., area. She offers workshops on stress reduction, meditation, and a special program for children, teens, and young adults called "Mastermind Stars: Master Yourself & Your Life." She is available as an inspirational speaker, and has a motivational speech entitled "Why Are there Ants in My Salad?" for teens and preteens based on her international education during childhood. Her mission is to empower people to discover how amazing they are as part of the universe, to experience how incredible the universe is, and to enjoy the bliss of fulfilling their pure potential.

Her most recent book, Truth and Illusion: The Politics of Spirituality and How One Person's Lie Is Another One's Truth, was the winner of the Silver Medal in the 2018 Independent Publisher Book Awards in the category Religion (Eastern/Western)!

Join us in welcoming Rev. Carol Richardson to the pulpit of National City Christian Church.

July Birthdays

- 1 Shirley Kruse
Sophia Neal*
Arnie Porter
Brooke Talbott*
- 2 Jefferson Beeker
Barbara Collins
Marian Huish
Idia Rodriguez
- 3 Carla Wilson
- 5 Challys Gretsinger
Kathleen Walker
- 7 Lauria Carey
Natalie Carson
Anthony Mague
- 8 Bill Rowland
- 10 Andy Ridgeway
- 11 Paula Engle
Joe Mokodean
- 12 David Walker
- 13 Jim Kluckhohn
- 15 Connie Mausbach
- 16 Kathleen Simpson
- 17 Quinn Malone
- 21 Theresa Beaton
Connie Gentle
- 26 Sarah Hedlund
- 27 June Chewning
- 31 Courtney Jones
Laura Zasoski

August Birthdays

- 1 Wesley Gentle
- 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 Anne-Michele Maher
Robin Schacht
- 27 Kelsey Goodman
- 28 Addison Bolston*
- 30 Colleen Walsh
- 31 Mia Skelly*

* Indicates a student or child

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

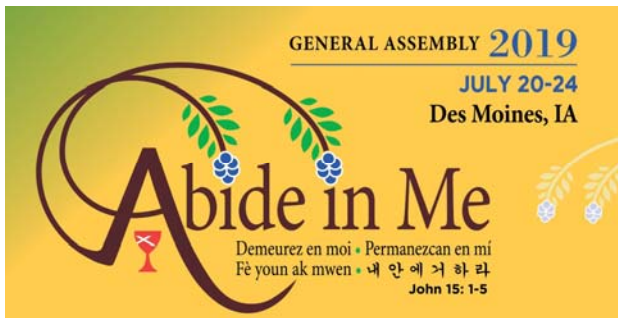
Call-In Prayer Time on Saturdays

If you would like to join our weekly prayer, you are invited to call in on Saturdays at 8 a.m. for community prayer. Call 712-775-7031 and use code 371015. If you have questions regarding the prayer line, contact Loretta Tate.

Gospel Choir Rehearsals for July

The Gospel Choir will rehearse on Tuesday, July 16, and Tuesday, July 30, at 7 p.m. in the Music Suite.

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



National City To Have Booth at the General Assembly

Our booth, featuring the three Disciples-related Presidents, will be at the General Assembly July 20-24. National City Foundation members have been invited to stop by the booth and greet attendees. Our ministerial staff will be there, along with about a dozen National City members.

Kenneth Lowenberg Announces His Retirement

National City Christian Church is so blessed with our ministry of music, and for nearly five years our 11 a.m. worship has been enriched with Kenneth Lowenberg's magnificent organ music. As Ken approaches the completion of five years at National City, he has shared with the Personnel Committee chairperson and me his time of retirement. As he approaches his retirement date of August 31, we will schedule a time to celebrate and give thanks to Ken for his many years of excellent service.

I echo the words from our Interim Minister of Music Valeria Foster, "While my months working in partnership with Ken has been a small portion of his time here, I, like you, appreciate his skill, attention to detail, and the many hours he spends in preparation for enhancing our worship experiences... Join me in thanking Ken and wishing for him God's very best blessings."

Here is a portion of Kenneth Lowenberg's retirement letter:

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1.

I believe that it is time for me to retire from my position as Organist at National City Christian Church. There are many reasons for my making this decision; among them are the following:

-- I was officially contracted to begin my service to NCCC on August 31, 2014; in just a couple of months, I will have reached the five-year anniversary. So August 31, 2019, would seem a natural time to conclude this chapter of my life.

-- At that time I will have completed 63 years in the Music Ministry, so this can be a time of celebration for a long career as a professional, dedicated church musician, rather than a time of sadness at departing.

-- I would like to be more active in my home church, Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, where I am an ordained Deacon and a member of the Flower Committee. While it is wonderful being a part of two church families, overlapping schedules sometimes make for difficult choices!

-- I will be having my 80th birthday in November, and I would truly like to do a lot more traveling, while I am still able bodied! God has blessed me with good physical health thus far, and I would like to take the fullest advantage of it to travel to places which have long been on my "bucket list" while I still have the ability to move about freely, and without having guilt over not playing organ for Sunday services at my primary job.

-- I feel a need to simplify my life and my daily and weekly schedules. Although "just" a part-time job at National City, every week I am putting in many hours selecting music to coordinate with the liturgical theme of the day and service, giving the congregation and choir a well-rounded sampling of fine church music over time, and spending hours registering and practicing each week's organ solos, hymn treatments, and anthem accompaniments, to feel thoroughly prepared each Sunday morning and to glorify God.

I feel honored beyond words to have followed in the awesome and noble steps of my highly skilled predecessors -- a "Who's Who" of the finest all-around highly skilled Organists, including Lon Schreiber, Ed Moore, Marvin Mills, and Charles Miller. They have left a noble legacy, which has inspired me to try my best to perpetuate their high standards.

In Christian love and sincerity,

- Kenneth Lowenberg





Welcome to New Member

We welcomed **Garth Otto** into membership on June 16. He has been a DC resident for 13 years and has worked for 10 years in the energy efficiency sector for a DC-based nonprofit. He graduated from Pratt Institute in New York with a bachelor degree in fine arts and is exploring his interest in Wesley Theological Seminary.



A Celebration of the Life of Rev. Dr. William Christopher Hobgood

In memory of William Christopher ("Chris") Hobgood, Disciples church leaders participated in a service on June 24 at National City Christian Church.

Chris was the son of Disciples missionaries and was born and raised in the Congo. He had served the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) throughout his ministry. He began at First Christian Church in Charleston, Indiana, in 1959 and in 1965 accepted a call to the First Christian Church in Alexandria, Virginia. After twenty years of service in Alexandria, in 1985 he accepted a call to become Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Arkansas. In 1993, the Christian Church (Capital Area) called him to be their Regional Minister, and he moved back home to the D.C. area where so much of his work had been centered. He served for a decade in this position, during which time he helped to transform the camp and conference program and properties. He also worked vigorously on anti-racism initiatives in the church through Reconciliation Ministries and became deeply involved in working with social justice based faith initiatives and the federal government. He helped to train dozens of anti-racism advocates and workshop leaders.

After retiring from the position of Regional Minister, he was called to serve as the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from 2003-2005. He also served for a short period as the interim minister at Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City.

In 2005 Chris and his wife Cary Meade moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland to be close to their son and soon-to-arrive grandchild. There, he accepted a position as the pastor of Bethany Beach Christian Church, a position he held until 2017.

He is survived by his wife Cary Meade, his daughters Cary Lou and Laura Helen and her partner Jimmy Smith, his grandsons Waylon and Johnny and their mother Stephanie McQuilkin, as well as a large extended family. He was pre-deceased by his son Benjamin, and all of his siblings.

Participating in the June 24 service were Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes, Rev. Linda Ann Farley, Ms. Valeria Foster, Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Gentle, Rev. Dr. Charisse Gillette, Rev. Dr. Dick Hamm, Rev. Allen V. Harris, Rev. Dr. Laura Hobgood, Rev. April Johnson, Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker Langston, Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers, Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, Dr. Lawrence P. Schreiber, Mrs. Alia Waheed-Ky, and Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins. Rev. Dr. Alvin O'Neal Jackson delivered the sermon.

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with John and Lolita Neal and their family on the death of John's mother Gloran P. Neal on June 17. Services were held on June 28 at Ascension Catholic Church, Landover, Maryland.