

# The News of National City

## December 2017 Issue XVII Vol. 12

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## Gentle Reminder: *Holiday Joy*

The countdown of the shopping days before Christmas is before us. Holiday economic forecasts are predicting a banner year for the buying of Christmas gifts because people are in the mood...to feel good again. And what makes people feel better than shopping!

Be aware, however, if your joy at Christmas is dependent on the giving or receiving of the right gifts, you will be disappointed. Because the joy of Christmas runs deeper than that. Our joy runs deeper than figuring out things like: Will I get the right gift? Will I get invited to the right parties? Will I be with the right people this Christmas? When we allow our joy to hang on these hopes – and they aren't fulfilled – we can be disappointed.

And yet, the One who created us has told us to expect joy! Expect joy this Christmas season. Expect to receive joy. Expect to give joy. The One who loves us has said that joy is to be part of our everyday life.

Jesus said, "I want my *joy* to be in you, so that your *joy* may be complete." (John 15:11)

The countdown of the shopping days before Christmas has commenced. But we have already received our gift. "Joy to the world...the Lord is come!"

On behalf of the church staff and leadership of National City Christian Church, thank you for letting your light shine! Your support, your love, your care, and your commitment that has blessed our church life so abundantly in 2017. May you enjoy a meaningful Christmas and a truly stellar New Year 2018.

- Stephen Gentle

### *"In the Fullness of Time"* Sermons in Advent

**December 3**

*Waiting*  
(Mark 13:24-37)

**December 10**

*Coming*  
(Mark 1:18)

**December 17**

*Lessons and Carols*

**December 24**

*Rejoicing*  
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)

**December 31**

*Expecting*  
(Galatians 4:4-7)



## 2018 Church Revitalization

The church calendar may say that it's the season of Advent and Christmas, but we are really getting ready for Epiphany!

Epiphany is our emphasis for 2018 as we focus on "why" our church exists. National City Christian Church is not reaching its full potential in transforming lives and our community. Our church needs to be an agent of transformation and a guiding light for effective ministry and mission. The Epiphany service is designed to help our congregation imagine and then live into our future, becoming the transforming church and leaders that we are called to be.

To help us do this, Hope Partnership will be leading two very important retreats for our congregation. Soon the dates will be set and we want full participation of our leadership and congregation.

Read more about Epiphany on this website: <http://www.hopepmt.org/epiphany> as our congregation prays, prepares, and plans for the new ways that God is leading us into the future.

- Stephen Gentle

# December Birthdays

- 1 Carol Richardson
- 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 Ann Flowers  
Narka Ryan
- 22 Bill Eldred
- 24 Samar Chaterjee
- 29 Sean Boyd
- 29 B.G Wright

For additions or changes, contact Kathleen Swihart at [kswihart62@gmail.com](mailto:kswihart62@gmail.com)

## Gospel Choir Rehearsal Schedule for December

The Gospel Choir will rehearse at 7 p.m. in the Music Suite on Tuesdays, December 5, 12, and 19. If you'd like to know more about the Gospel Choir, contact Valeria Foster, director.

### Book Group Selection: *The Badass Librarians of Timbuktu*

National City's book group will meet on January 25 at 7 p.m. Miriam Gentle will lead the discussion. All are welcome.

## LGBTQ Events To Resume in January

Be sure to mark your calendar for our next Bible study on Wednesday, January 10, and for a happy hour on Thursday, January 18.

## Breakfast With Santa on December 2

Our annual Breakfast with Santa -- inviting children in the community -- will take place Saturday, December 2, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Join in this popular event by helping them on the big day, with a variety of "chores" -- greeters, decorators, craft and activity helpers, photographers, story readers in both English and Spanish, servers, and cleaner uppers. Questions or to volunteer to help, contact Teresa Swihart.

## Young Adult Christmas Party

YADA will be holding its annual Christmas party at the home of Alan and Shana Williams. We encourage all "young adult" (and young at heart) members of the National City Community to join us. We will have a potluck dinner and a white elephant gift exchange. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Matt Cahill at [Cahill.Matt@gmail.com](mailto:Cahill.Matt@gmail.com).

## Bible Study on December 5 To Feature Psalm 146

Rev. Dr. Michael McMahon will lead discussion On the Promise and Struggle of God's Justice, based on Psalm 146, at the Tuesday morning Bible Study at 11 a.m. in the Music Suite. All are invited and to bring a sandwich and stay for lunch and fellowship afterwards.

## Music at Midday: Features Music of the Season

As we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, come and enjoy organ music of the season and more at our free Music at Midday concerts on Fridays at 12:15 p.m.

**December 1:** Organist **Chuyoung Suter** (Gaithersburg, Maryland) will perform works of Felix Mendelssohn, César Franck, and Petr Eben.

**December 8:** **Tyler Canonico** (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) will include seasonal works in a concert of organ music by Andrew Carter, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and David Briggs.

**December 15:** Organist **Neil Weston** (Washington, DC) will include the sounds of Christmas in a program of works by Roland Erisman, Harvey Gaul, Pietro Yon, and Paul Halley.



## Special Services To Celebrate Advent and Christmas

### A Service of Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 17, 11 a.m.

Come and prepare for Christmas at our annual Service of Lessons and Carols, including scripture readings, congregational carols, and a richly varied program of choral music by the Sanctuary Choir, to the accompaniment of organ, harp, and percussion. In addition to choral works by European composers Felix Mendelssohn and Max Reger, the program will include music from African American and West Indian traditions. **Don't miss this opportunity to prepare for Christmas in word, prayer, and song!**

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Prelude at 7 p.m., Worship Service at 7:30 p.m.

The Christmas Eve worship service will be preceded by a thirty-minute prelude of music for congregation, choir, soloists, organ, harp, and percussion. Come to hear and celebrate the good news of the Christ's birth!

## Christmas for Our Homeless Neighbors

As you do your Christmas shopping, remember NCCC's homeless neighbors. For several years, we have been giving out personal hygiene kits the Wednesday before Christmas.

We need your help. We need toothbrushes, toothpaste, small sizes of shampoo, soaps, deodorant, lotions, nail clippers, emery boards, etc. You may have picked up some of these in your travels.

We also need warm gloves, knit caps, tube socks, hooded sweatshirts, backpacks, and tote bags.

**The following items are always needed and can be donated throughout the year:** Juice boxes, Granola bars/cookie packs, Snack crackers, Individual tuna pouches/pop top cans, Vienna sausages, Utensil packs, Snack chips, Cans of spaghetti and meatballs,

beef stew, chili, soup, vegetables, chicken, tuna, and ham

You can bring your donations to the Food Pantry, the Atrium desk, or to any member of the Food Pantry team by December 20. If you do not have time or do not like to shop, we will be happy to do that for you. You can put your donations with your offering. Make sure you designate it for Christmas for Food Pantry. You may also give cash to any member of the Food Pantry team.

We will also need volunteers to help assemble the gift bags between services on December 17. If you have questions, contact Barbara Boward, Laurese Dancy, Lorraine Magnussen, or Deloris Ruddock.

- Lorraine Magnussen

## Annual Reports Due December 18

The Annual Report is our official historical document which tells the story of our congregation and its accomplishments and struggles for the year. Every ministry and/or committee is asked to send their report to be included in the Annual Report.

We request that the reports be submitted to the Annual Report Committee by December 18. Please send the report to [lorettaw@aol.com](mailto:lorettaw@aol.com). Thank you for your cooperation concerning this important matter.

## Theme for 2018 Lenten Devotional: Passion and Promise

If you'd like to write a 250-word meditation for our 2018 Lenten Devotional, we hope you had the opportunity to sign up during November meetings, including the Thanksgiving luncheon. Our first deadline is December 15. For those who prefer a later deadline, we ask for the devotional no later than January 9. This is the final deadline.

You can email your devotional to Diana Morse, [morsediana@comcast.net](mailto:morsediana@comcast.net). We can also accept written copy. Questions? Contact Dr. Gentle or Diana.



**Summertime Wedding** - Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell and Rev. Dr. Albert M. Pennybacker were married at Chautauqua Institution this summer, with family and friends celebrating, including Dr. Campbell's daughter, our moderator Jane Campbell, and National City member Katie Campbell-Morrison, Jane's daughter and Dr. Campbell's granddaughter. Dr. Campbell had previously served as director of religion at the Chautauqua Institution and was a guest preacher at National City in 2014.

**In Sympathy** - Our prayers are with the family of long-time member and church leader Sue Frost, who passed away on Monday, October 30. Sue and her husband, John (Jack) Frost III, settled in Springfield, Virginia, following Jack's retirement from active duty in the Navy in 1979. They were active members of National City and enjoyed serving in various roles. She organized the deaconess group, created Sunday School programs for the children, volunteered at N Street Village, and was a member of the Christian Women's Fellowship. Her memorial service was held in the Sanctuary on Monday, November 13.

Sue and Jack had four children: John IV, Scott, Becky, and Mary Kay, and parented Ryson Sanderlin after Sue's brother died. Grandchildren are Emily Margaret, Kathryn, Maryn Ann Kara, Lesley, and Collin, and great-grandchildren Chase, Ellie, and Harper.

Contributions may be made in her memory to National City Christian Church Food Pantry or N Street Village.

## In Appreciation

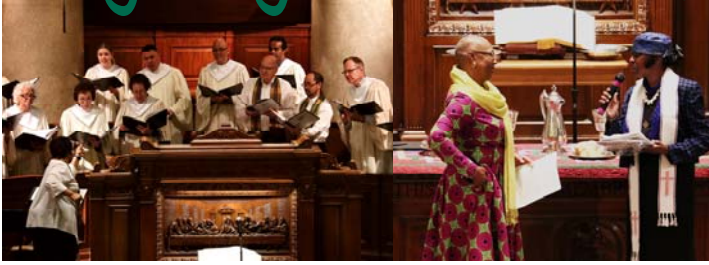
To my National City Christian Church Family, I would like to say Thank You for all your words of comfort, support, well-wishes, cards, and of course prayers for myself and to The Knight Family during our time of mourning. We are truly grateful and let us honor Bill's memory and many others who were a part of the congregation to continue to be the witness of God's Love in Our Nation's Capital and beyond.

- Nicholas Bullock

## Christmas Offering 2017

The Christmas Offering this year will be taken on December 10 and December 17. The Christmas Offering supports the Regional Ministries of the Church. Regional Ministries sponsor camps and conferences which are key to the leadership and development of church leaders. Regional Ministries assist in supporting the work required to call a new minister. There are 32 regions across the U.S. and Canada that are helped with this offering.

# Highlights From Gala Weekend



Opening ceremonies for the dedication of the Oscar Haynes Exhibit on November 5 followed the 10 a.m. special worship service. The exhibit features a rotating display of artifacts and memorabilia of the African American movement within the Christian Church.

Among the speakers at the dedication was Joan Bell-Haynes, who shared stories of her husband. Oscar was the first layman to become president of the National Convocation and served on the board of directors of the Historical Society, National City Christian Church Foundation, Disciples Home Missions, Christian Church Foundation, and countless other regional and general ministries. In addition, he was the past editor of The Old Timers' Grapevine newsletter. Oscar Haynes passed away in July 2014 but his legacy and memory will live on through the lives he touched and the institutions that he cared for. The Disciples of Christ Historical Society is pleased to establish this exhibit on permanent loan to National City Christian Church.

At the worship service, our guest preacher was Rev. Terri Hord Owens, recently installed as General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In addition, Rev. Dr. Rick Lowery

was installed as the new president of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society.

Also participating in the worship service were Dr. Timothy James, Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm, chair of the National City Christian Church Foundation; Rev. Allen Harris, Regional Minister, Christian Church Capital Area; Rev. Dr. Peter Morgan, president emeritus of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society (DCHS); John Imbler, interim executive director, DCHS; Dr. Rosetta Robinson, Commission for Congregational Life and MLK Task Force; and Patricia Penelton, president of the board of the National Convocation. Also recognized during the celebration was Shelly Jacobs, archivist for DCHS, and who developed the exhibit.

On Saturday evening November 4, the Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter spoke on the life and work of the Rev. Carnella Jamison Barnes and her ministry with the National Christian Missionary Convention. The lecture was sponsored by the Disciples of Christ Historical Society.



photos by Cameron Tate