

# The News of National City

## July 2018 Issue XVIII Vol. 7

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## Epiphany Update

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](http://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.

# July Birthdays

- 1 Shirley Kruse  
Sophia Neal\*  
Rev. Arnie Porter  
Brooke Talbott\*
- 2 Jefferson Beeker  
Barbara Collins  
Marian Huish  
Tony Frye
- 3 Carla Wilson
- 5 Challys Gretsinger  
Kathleen Walker
- 6 Logan Emmanuel Lund\*
- 7 Lauria Carey  
Natalie Carson  
Anthony Mague
- 8 Bill Rowland
- 10 Andy Ridgeway
- 11 Paula Engle  
Joe Mokodean
- 12 David Walker
- 13 Jim Kluckhohn
- 16 Kathleen Simpson
- 17 Quinn Malone
- 18 Cynthia Thomson
- 21 Theresa Beaton  
Connie Gentle  
John Thomson
- 26 Sarah Hedlund
- 27 June Chewning
- 30 Marsha Von Almen
- 31 Courtney Jones  
Laura Zasoski

# August Birthdays

- 1 Wesley Gentle  
Zachary O'Sullivan
- 2 Grace Swihart
- 3 Eddie Franklin
- 4 Steven Baines
- 7 Debbie Stewart
- 8 Lolita Neal
- 9 Esther Tyson
- 10 Monti 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
- 28 Addison Bolston\*
- 30 Colleen Walsh
- 31 Mia Skelly

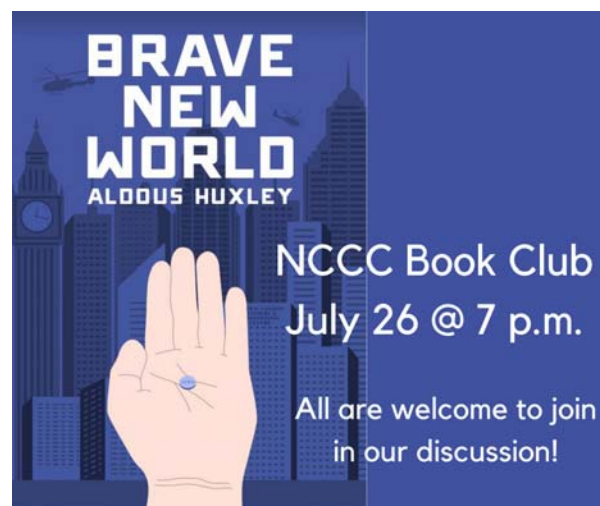
*\*Indicates a child or student*  
For additions or changes,  
contact Kathleen Swihart at  
kswihart62@gmail.com

## NCCC Offers Prayer Call on Monday Mornings

All are invited to join the weekly conference prayer line for National City at 6 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.



## 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

## 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](mailto: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.



**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



Building Superintendent Moe Jackson and the old emergency generator to be replaced, thanks to a \$50,000 grant from a family foundation.

**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](mailto:morsediana@comcast.net) and to Colleen Walsh at [cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org](mailto:cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org)

# We Are Proud!



## 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