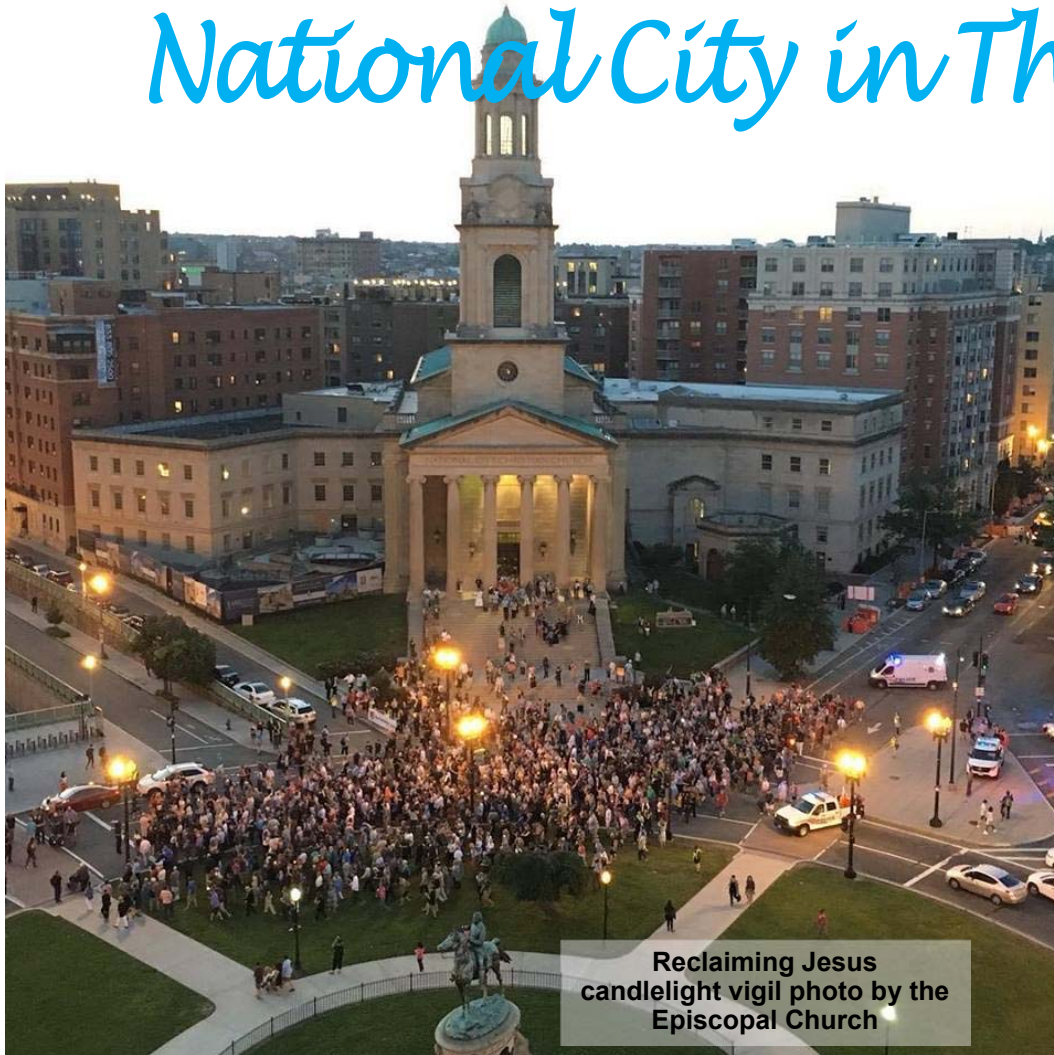


The News of National City

June 2018 Issue XVIII Vol. 6

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National City in The News



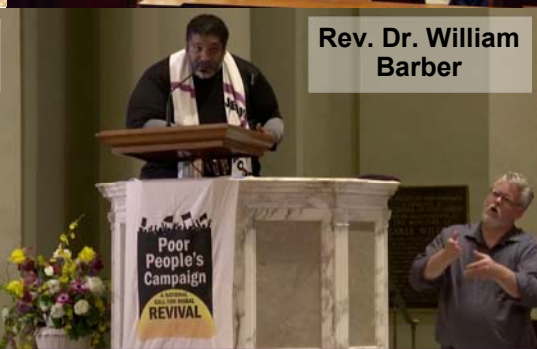
Reclaiming Jesus
candlelight vigil photo by the
Episcopal Church



Bishop Michael Curry
and Jim Wallis



Rev. Jesse
Jackson



Rev. Dr. William
Barber

Part of the legacy and history of National City Christian Church was Alexander Campbell's dream of a church in the nation's capital that would be a large meetinghouse for Disciples of Christ that would proclaim to world leaders, kings, and earth's nobility the unknown Gospel. For such a dream National City has been in the news recently: CNN, BBC, Fox, NBC, and so many more. As the host for the Poor People's Campaign mass meetings, Festival of Homiletics, and Sojourner's steller Reclaiming Jesus Candlelight Vigil, National City has been that meeting house proclaiming the Gospel. Gracing our sanctuary in May have been preachers such as Rev. Jesse Jackson, Bishop Michael Curry, Dr. James Forbes, Dr. Walter Brueggemann, Bishop Yvette Flunder, Rev. Tony Campolo, Rev. Jim Wallis, Rev. Cynthia Hale, Disciples General Ministers Dr. Sharon Watkins, Dr. Dick Hamm, and Rev Teresa Hord Owens.

Continuing in this impressive array of preachers is the Rev. Dr. William Barber, co-convenor of the Poor People's Campaign. Bishop Barber will preach on Sunday, June 10, at 11 a.m.

- Stephen Gentle

June Birthdays

- 1 Tyler Bond
- 4 Mike McMahon
James Ferguson
Barbara Kelley
- 5 Hedrick Mitchell
- 8 Richard Fogle
- 9 Sara Ketchum
Annice Majette
Brenda Thompson
- 10 Helen Gray
- 11 Terri Malone
Alexis Taylor
- 12 Patrick Malone
- 13 Evan Zasoski
- 14 Greshaun Fulgham
- 16 Stephen Gentle
Chuck Lund
Liz Ragland
- 19 Mary Helen Blackwell
Lauren He
- 22 Ann Neeriemer
Travaughn Lovick
- 23 Ray Valido
- 26 Gentry Alexander
Kathleen Swihart
- 29 Ana-Elisa Gentle
- 30 Doug Cook
Elizabeth Ayers

For additions or changes,
contact Kathleen Swihart at
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The News of National City
is a monthly publication.
Please submit articles for the
July Newsletter by June 15
to Diana Morse
at morsediana@comcast.net
and to Colleen Walsh at
cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org

Gospel Choir Rehearsals

The Gospel Choir will rehearse
on Tuesdays on June 5, 12, and
26 at 7 p.m. in the Music Suite.
There will be no rehearsal on
June 19. If you are interested in
joining the choir, contact Valeria
Foster, director of the choir.

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.

June Is Bustin' Out: Friday Music at Midday

Now that bright sunshine, long days, and warm weather have settled in
for the summer, come and enjoy powerful, colorful, and majestic music
at our June midday concerts on Fridays at 12:15 p.m. Admission is free,
but donations are gratefully accepted.

June 1: Christopher Betts (Houston, Texas) will perform works of
great organ composers Johann Sebastian Bach, John Cook, Louis
Vierne, Percy Whitlock, and Leo Sowerby.

June 8: Organist David K. Houston (College Park, Maryland) will
perform the church's annual Pride Recital.

June 15: Juilliard doctoral candidate Colin MacKnight (New York
City) will perform a "fantastic" program of organ works featuring
fantasies by C. Hubert H. Parry, Percy Whitlock, and David Goode.

June 22: Lynn Trapp (Cockeysville, Maryland) will perform a
colorful program of organ works by Nadia Boulanger, Niels Gade, and
Albert Alain.

June 29: Organist John Nothaft (Vienna, Virginia) closes our
concert season with works of J. S. Bach, Louis Vierne, William Bolcom,
and Marcel Dupré.



Works of African-American Women Composers Featured in June 10 Concert

The Heritage Signature Chorale will perform *Women's Works: Songs of
African-American Women Composers* at National City Christian Church
on Sunday, June 10, at 4 p.m. There will also be a pre-concert lecture in
the Community Room at 3 p.m. by composer Dr. Rosephanye Powell,
which is free for all concert ticket holders. For more information or to
order tickets, visit www.heritagesignaturechorale.org.

The Heritage Signature Chorale is committed to preserving, at the
highest possible level, the performance tradition of African-American
choral music, especially the Negro Spiritual; to elevating the African-
American singer and composer in all musical genres; and to bringing a
unique interpretation of classical music from America, Europe and other
regions of the world. Founded in 2000 by Artistic Director Stanley J.
Thurston, Heritage Signature Chorale seeks to enhance opportunities
for a new generation of listeners to understand and appreciate the
historical legacy of this music through education and performance.



NCCC at the Capital Pride Festival, June 10

National City Christian Church, an open and affirming community of faith, will have a booth at the Capital Pride Festival on Sunday, June 10 from 12 noon until 7 p.m. We still need volunteers for set up, staffing, and tearing down. If you can help, please contact Rev. Michael McMahon at mmcmahon@nationalcitycc.org.

LGBTQ Community Activities for June

Bible Study on Wednesday, June 13

Jesus shocked and angered religious leaders of his own time by not adhering strictly to the "rules." How do Jesus' actions and teaching on this question affect us? Come and join us as we reflect on Mark 2:23–3:6 during the next installment in our series of Bible studies based on Mark, the shortest of the Gospels, which we (along with churches of many denominations) are reading during worship on most Sundays of this year. Our session be held in the Music Suite on Wednesday, June 13, from 7 to 8 p.m., and will be led by Rev. Steven Baines. Haven't attended previous sessions? No worries. You'll be able to join right in and are most welcome!

Happy Hour on June 21 To Benefit SMYAL

Join friends old and new for a happy hour on Thursday, June 21, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Uproar Lounge and Restaurant, 639 Florida Avenue, NW, located just two blocks from the Shaw Metro station (Green Line). A minimum donation of \$10 is requested to benefit SMYAL (Supporting and Mentoring Youth Advocates and Leaders), an organization that supports and empowers LGBTQ youth in the Washington, DC, metropolitan region. For more information, please contact Rev. Michael McMahon at mmcmahon@nationalcitycc.org.



Choir from Lincoln, Nebraska, To Sing at 11 a.m. Service on Sunday, June 17

We are delighted to be welcoming the Plymouth Choir from First-Plymouth Congregational Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, to sing at our 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 17. The Plymouth Choir, under the direction of Minister of Music Tom Trenney, sings weekly for worship and also participates in many community concerts in partnership with the Abendmusik concert series. In 2016, the Plymouth Choir was the only church choir selected to perform at the North Central Convention of the American Choral Directors Association. The ensemble's newest CD recording, *Hymns from First-Plymouth* (volume 2), will be released this fall.



Welcome to New Member Challys Gretsinger

We welcome **Challys Gretsinger**, who joined National City on May 6 during the 8:30 a.m. worship service. She is transferring her membership from Trinity Lutheran Church in Chestertown, Maryland.

Challys has been running our sound system during services for about a year and a half. She started running the sound board during her freshman year at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. She graduated in 2009 with a B.A. in drama and received honors on her senior directing thesis.

She works for Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission at the Prince George's County Publick Playhouse as a box office sales associate. She is an artist, with a focus in both visual and performing arts.

She and her husband Alex were married on September 2, 2017. They live near the National Arboretum, which has become her favorite place in DC. She and Alex met at a large SCA event in 2011. Challys has been an archery line marshal for target archery for SCA, which is an international medieval reenacting organization that has been around since the 1960s.

Challys grew up in Kent County, Maryland, on the upper Eastern Shore. Her mother's side of the family has been in that area for six generations, and Challys has a great love for Kent County's cornfields, cows, trees, and waterways and tends to visit her family there often.



Chaplain John M. Von Almen was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force, at ceremonies on April 27 at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling.

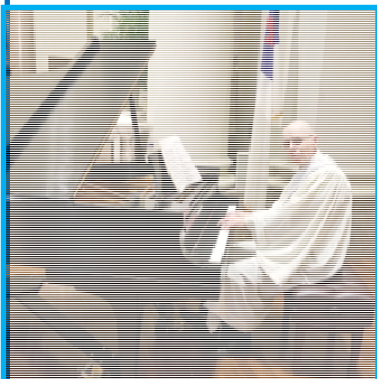
Rev. Dr. Stephen Gentle represented the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Capital Area of the Christian Church at the promotion. Chaplain Von Almen is an ordained Disciples of Christ minister who has been serving on Active Duty with the Air Force since July 2001.

Currently he is stationed at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C. He and his wife, the Rev. Marsha Von Almen, are members of National City Christian Church.

Mother's Day 2018



Our youngest Sanctuary Choir member, Gina Ramirez, presented roses to the mothers of the choir with whom she sings each week. Pictured here: Chieko Cook, Teresa Swihart, Sylvia Snyder, and Gina Ramirez.



Sanctuary Choir member Paul Heffron played the prelude for the 11 a.m. worship service, captivating us all with a beautiful performance of Edvard Grieg's "Morning" from "Peer Gynt Suite No. 1."



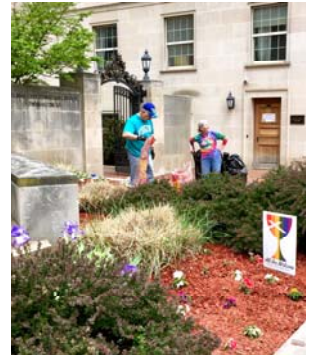
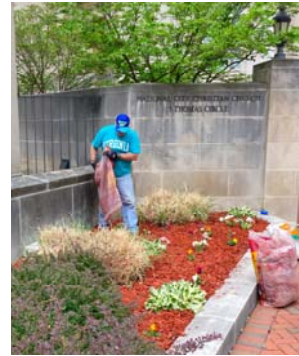
Welcome to Baby Miles Carson

We welcome **Miles Duncan Carson**, son of **Natalie and Kevin Carson**. Miles was born May 4 and weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces. Natalie reports the baby and family are doing well and that Miles has been busy meeting extended family and looks forward to meeting his church family soon.

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Travaughn Lovick**, on the death of his mother on May 6 in North Carolina. She was the sister-in-law of **Emma King**.

Mrs. Cynthia Lovick taught in the Beaufort County School System for 44 years as a social studies and reading teacher. She was a mother of three and married to Granver Reginald Lovick Jr. for over 40 years. She was a dedicated and devoted Christian serving as the church secretary at her father-in-law's church, Queen Chapel in Terra Ceia, North Carolina, for a number of years. Travaughn notes "You could always find her in someone's church on a Sunday. She loved her family and knew every single one of them. Whenever there was something positive going on like a wedding, graduation, cookout, or even a funeral you could count on Cynthia to be there to support you and make you feel like the most important person in the world."



Spring...and We're Ready!

Many thanks to all who participated in and supported the yard work on Saturday morning, May 5. Loretta Tate did lots of behind-the-scenes organizing so we had water, coffee, snacks and lots of colorful petunias, begonias, and marigolds to plant, with appreciation to those who contributed funds. Tom Kelley organized a massive cleanup, with loads of trash going to the dumpsters, and brought seemingly tons of mulch he was spread throughout our grounds and courtyard.

Barbara Boward brought many plants from home, including azaleas, phlox, and pansies. Evan Zasoski did a great deal of pruning and pitched in with planting. Barbara Kelley, Loretta, and Diana Morse put in plants, as well as did Cameron Tate, our photographer!

Something New, Something Old: Hymns for Worship

Have you ever noticed that several of the psalms begin with the words, "Sing a new song," but none of them encourages the singing of old songs? As far back as we know, both Jews and Christians have actually drawn on a combination of old and new in singing their worship of God.

Why the old songs? Often people will sing most robustly the songs that are most familiar. Think of "Happy Birthday to You" or "Silent Night." These songs are so familiar that most of us know them by heart. Familiarity is a great boon to congregational song.

Another dimension of "old" songs is their connection to people who have gone before us, to generations of believers who have expressed their faith in song. Sometimes we join in hymns that we know were sung by our parents, our grandparents, and others who have helped to shape our lives and our faith. These songs often evoke memories of earlier times in our lives and help us to experience the continuity of God's love that remains with us through our lives.

As it happens, someone else's "old" songs may be new to us. Most of us grew up in different churches where we were exposed to different hymns and songs; so one person's beloved old hymn is another person's new song. By embracing hymns and songs from many parts of the church, we have an opportunity to enrich and enlarge our own faith expression.

Whether new or old, hymns connect us to others beyond our families, our local church, our denomination, our country, our language, and our

culture. Many if not most of the hymns, songs, and psalms we sing, including the songs of the *Chalice Hymnal*, come from a variety of Christian traditions, including Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Reformed, Charismatic, Baptist, Methodist, and others. Thanks to the ecumenical movement of the past fifty years, there has been enormous sharing of music among various traditions and denominations. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a movement whose early leaders abhorred denominationalism. Inspired by their example, and energized by the spirit of ecumenism, we are enriched by the contributions of various Christian churches to the music of worship.

Singing a "new song" is an important dimension of our worship, not only because the Psalms enjoin us to do so, but because it pulls us out of our familiar and time-worn ways to experience the new thing that God is constantly calling us to experience. We sing African American spirituals, Mexican folk songs (in Spanish), German chorales, Latin chants, South African choruses, and more, because God and the church are both way larger than we are. While the old hymns allow us to join together with ease, the "new song" sometimes makes us uncomfortable and may even force us to work. In this way, singing is like faith, sometimes putting us at ease as we relax in God's care, while at other times calling us to new and unfamiliar territory.

So, let's sing the old songs even as we welcome the new ones. To God be the glory – and let the people sing!

- J. Michael McMahon



Annual Dog Blessing
May 20, 2018

