

The News of National City

December 2018 Issue XVIII Vol. 12

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A Guest Gentle Reminder

The Regional Church...and Our New Regional Moderator

Did you know that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is divided into 32 regions in the United States and Canada?

National City Christian Church is in the Capital Area region. The Capital Area region includes over 170 clergy and over 44 congregations in Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, and part of West Virginia.

Regions throughout the denomination offer resources and services to help congregations live out their witness and ministry in their communities. Although the Capital Area region is a small region, we are a strong and diverse region with wonderful resources, such as two beautiful campgrounds, in Maryland and in Bethany Beach, Delaware.

I recently had the honor of being named Moderator for the Capital Area Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). My term as Moderator will begin in January 2019. For the past two years I have served on the regional board as Moderator-elect, a position that has prepared me to move into the role of Moderator. The Moderator works closely with the Regional Minister, presides at meetings, serves as a liaison with congregations, and helps to promote the ministry of the region.

I love the local church and the many ways it empowers persons to live their faith fully in the places they live and work. I also love the region because it helps resource the local church, providing leadership training for clergy and lay persons, offering retreats and other ways to explore and deepen our spiritual selves. While the work of the region is varied, some of its ministry includes: helping to establish new churches, advising churches during times of clergy transition, preparing new clergy for ordination, and offering resources to strengthen our Disciples identity. The regional minister is also the pastor to the pastor, offering clergy support as they do the heavy lifting of parish ministry.

In December, congregations across our denomination will be receiving a special Christmas offering that goes entirely to the region where the church is located.

I hope you will join me in remembering the Capital Area region with a generous gift that will support the work of the region and our regional minister, Rev. Allen Harris.

For more information about our region and to see photos of our recent regional assembly please go to www.cccadisciples.org.

Blessings!

- Rev. Miriam Gentle



Worship in December

December 2

Hope, *Jeremiah 33:14-16*, Dr. Gentle

December 9

Peace, *Malachi 3:1-4*, Dr. Gentle

December 16

Joy, Lessons and Carols, Music Minister Foster

December 23

Love, *Micah 5:2-5*, Dr. Gentle

December 30

Home Alone, *Luke 2:41-52*, Rev. Baines

Christmas Eve, December 24

7 p.m. Festive Music

7:30 p.m. Communion and Candlelight
Bring a friend!



Our National City family celebrated 175 years at the Welcome Table - more details inside!

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 Chrys Lemon
Paul Guequierre
- 16 Maury Mausbach
- 17 Bailey Childers
- 18 John Von Almen
- 21 Jon Alhbin
Ann Flowers
Dick Hamm
Narka Ryan
- 22 Bill Eldred
- 24 Samar Chaterjee
- 28 Sean Boyd
- 29 B.G. Wright

January Birthdays

- 5 Maury Lee
- 6 Fay Arrington
- 7 Richard Blackmore
Kelly Swanson
- 9 Conrad Bolston
Dorothy Davis
- 10 Darin Skelly
Will White
- 12 Nick Bullock
Beverly Williams
- 13 Kathy Mosley
- 16 Carol Gesell
Becky Kelley
- 22 Drusilla McCain
Erin & Kelsey Stewart
- 23 Joy Fulgham
- 25 Victor Vasquez
- 26 Sheridan Ruiz
- 29 Bob Mansker
- 30 Allen Harris

*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.

"A Different Kind of Christmas" - Class Starts November 18

Beginning Sunday, November 18, National City's Christian Pathways Sunday school class will be presenting a study entitled "A Different Kind of Christmas: Living and Giving Like Jesus."

The study consists of three components: (1) Mike Slaughter's book, "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday"; (2) a DVD with videos; and (3) a leader's guide. Participants will read one chapter of "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday" prior to each study session, and then meet for group study each week for five weeks.

During group study, participants will view a video presentation by Mike Slaughter and explore content from the book, video, and Bible, through discussion.

The book "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday" has been purchased by National City Christian Church's Education Department and will be given to prospective participants at the Sunday, November 11 class.

Looking forward to a lively discussion and sharing of your individual Christmas experiences. God Bless!

- Loretta Tate

Sounds of the Season and More at Music at Midday

Please join us on the first three Fridays of December at 12:15 p.m. for our free weekly Music at Midday concerts. This month features an awe-inspiring performance for piano and organ by the married couple of Chuyoung and Erik Suter, followed by two seasonal concerts that will inspire and charm you.

December 7: The organ and piano duo of Chuyoung Suter and Erik Wm. Suter will perform Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor, followed by the final two movements from Louis Vierne's Organ Symphony No. 3.

December 14: Organist Michael Britt will demonstrate both his classical and theater organ prowess in a concert of seasonal music, featuring works of Max Drischner, Purcell J. Mansfield, Pierre Cochereau, Sid Tepper, and Leroy Anderson, and including several of Michael's own arrangements.

December 21: Organist Kimberly Ann Hess will be joined by soprano Sarah Noone and a string ensemble to present "A Baroque Christmas," including two arias from Handel's *Messiah* and compositions by Arcangelo Corelli and Alessandro Scarlatti.

There will be no Music at Midday concerts on December 28 or during the month of January. Performances will resume on Friday, February 1, 2019.

If you would like to be kept up to date on upcoming concerts, please send your name and email address to mmcmahon@nationalcitycc.org to be added to our notification list.

Christmas Offering on December 16 and December 23

The Christmas Offering this year will be taken on December 16 and December 23.

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

Hope for Survivors of Sexual Assault - Support Meeting December 19

During the recent hearings that led to the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh as a Supreme Court Justice, I was riveted by the testimony of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford. With dignity, she recalled a sexual assault that occurred many years ago. I was shocked but not surprised by the emotional response of the man she accused. From the Access Hollywood tape to the resignation of public figures and celebrities under clouds of sexual assault allegations, I have watched while keeping silent. Then, I watched videos of other brave women who confronted senators and congress people and demanded that their stories of assault be heard. I asked God, is now the time? Do I need to step forward?

Many survivors of sexual assault live with the shame of what happened to them by keeping quiet and getting on with their lives. It has taken a long time for me to speak openly about what happened to me when I was a teenager. I have worked through so much in psychotherapy sessions over the years. I have put the experiences into a box in the corner of my mind and appreciate how far I have come. I still feel apprehensive about sharing my story, wondering what people will think of me if they know that terrible things happened to me when I was a teenager.

As I watched ordinary women who survived sexual assault demand that their voices be heard, I wondered what it would take for me to break my own silence. I wondered if there were others like me who survived sexual assault, recently or years ago, who feel strongly triggered by current events.

If you, a friend, or a loved one has survived sexual assault, please join us at this monthly women's support group. Our goal is to create a safe space where we can talk about what happened to us (or to our family member or friend) and move toward healing. We will only share what we are comfortable sharing. We may find that some are not ready to share, and that is also perfectly fine. The power of a support group is when we realize that we are not alone, that others have experienced trauma and have come out the other side to embrace the fullness of life. We will talk about the ways we have coped and share our hope. In addition to talking, there will be opportunities to express ourselves through art by making simple collages or paintings (no previous art experience is required).

If you would like to join us, please come to our next meeting on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. If you know a sexual assault survivor, tell her about our group and encourage her to come. Help us create a safe space where we can acknowledge that something terrible happened, and that God cries with us and can lead us to wholeness. Let's learn from each other and build resilience and hope.

With hope always,

- Marie Temple



YADA Christmas Party

The traditional YADA Christmas party will be at the home of Shana and Alan Williams on December 8 at 6:30 p.m. Come!! It will be a festive evening (kids, friends and everyone welcome!!). It will probably be a potluck - food and warming beverages - and of course it wouldn't be a YADA Christmas party without the white elephant gift exchange portion of the evening!

More information will be forthcoming after Thanksgiving.

- Shana and Alan Williams



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.

175 Years at the Welcome Table



National City Celebrates 175th Anniversary of Disciples in D.C.

"The work in Washington City dates back to 1843, when a half dozen persons met at the residence of Dr. James T. Barclay, near the Navy Yard, to 'break bread.'"

So begins some of National City's history, which was celebrated at the Sunday morning service on November 4.

In addition to presentations from Rev. Dr. Martha Brown on behalf of the Christian Church Capital Area and Rev. Dr. Dick Hamm on behalf of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), staff was recognized, with a special tribute to Young "Roy" Hatton and his family. Roy has been maintenance assistant for 30 years. We also celebrated Valeria Foster's first Sunday as interim minister of music.

The celebration concluded with a photograph on the steps...and brunch!





Welcome to New Member
Bob Bark from Florida joined on Sunday, November 4. He is originally from New Jersey and was baptized and raised in the Episcopal Church. He lives near Gallaudet University.

In Honor of Our Veterans
 At the 11 o'clock hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month 100 years ago, World War I ended. So noted Dr. Gentle at the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, November 11, recognizing veterans and their families. Veterans standing with Dr. Gentle at the 11 a.m. service were Richard Bahr, Wes Strotman, Deloris Ruddock, Charles Hickman, Norman Kruse, and David Walker, III.



Miriam Gentle's Reflection: Women to Women Disciples Trip to Cuba

Cuba is a country of contrasts. Lush green foliage and rich red dirt. Colorful vintage cars with tail fins and horse drawn carts on four lane highways. Beachfront hotels full of European (and some American) tourists and Cuban citizens unable to get visas to travel outside the island. Wages and prices set in Cuban pesos (CUP), and a budding tourist economy operating with convertible pesos (CUC).

In a word, Cuba is complicated!

I was one of ten Disciples women selected to travel to Cuba with the Women to Women program during the last two weeks of October. The Women to Women program is not a mission trip. Instead, it offers Disciples women a way to connect with our sisters around the world and witness our common struggle for justice and peace. On this trip, our group

visited Global Ministries partners such as the Cuban Council of Churches, the Martin Luther King Center, the ecumenical seminary in Matanzas and several local churches.

At each location, we learned about the way religious communities live out their faith in a secular country. I was enveloped in hospitality, fueled by good Cuban food, fresh tropical fruits, and many, many small cups of strong Cuban coffee. (I am a first generation Cuban American so I was raised on this wonderful dark, sweet drink!)

As I visited and spoke with Cuban women, I heard stories of living in a country with few resources. We met with entrepreneur women, survivors of domestic abuse, who learned to knit and sew, and were now selling their crafts to make a better life for themselves.

Our group was often asked if we could help lift the blockade the U.S. government has imposed on Cuba. (This topic came up so often, the Disciples women's group is working on a resolution addressing this subject to bring before the Christian Church General Assembly next summer).

Ultimately, I learned that we are all God's children, regardless of our opposing governments, and that as children of God, we live our lives knowing that the one who created us, wants us to create peace and find commonalities.

This was my first trip to Cuba, the home of my ancestors, and I know it won't be my last.

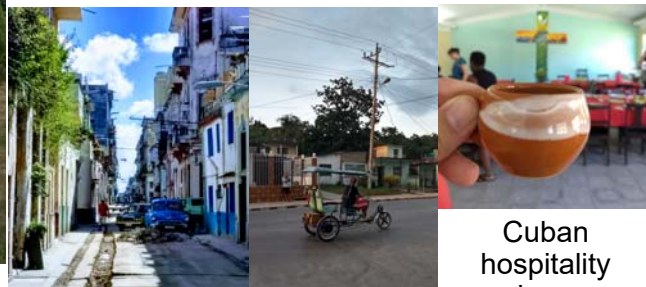
- Rev. Miriam Gentle



Welcome sign in the ecumenical seminary in Matanzas. Miriam's mother was a graduate of the seminary in 1954.



The collective farm in Artemisa province.



Street scene and classic cars in Habana.

Cuban hospitality always includes coffee!