

# The News of National City

## January 2019 Issue XIX Vol. 1

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

# e • piph • a • ny

*noun* 1: divine manifestation 2: revelation or insight

## National City - On the Road To Being "Extra Ordinary"

Sunday, January 6, is the date in the Christian liturgical calendar we call Epiphany. On this Sunday, we celebrate the arrival of wise men bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the infant Jesus. The story is much more than an allegory of the gifts we bring in worship and praise to our Savior. Epiphany in its boldest sense represents a new way of living after encountering this one called, "Emanuel, God with us!" After this encounter, "or epiphany," there is no going back to life before as symbolized in the wise men's journey by a different route to escape the dastardly deeds of King Herod.

January begins our epiphany moment at National City. After months of prayer, study, reflection, and days of dedicated work by staff and congregation leaders, our Epiphany Process Executive Summary has been released. (Copies can be found at our website [www.nationalcitycc.org](http://www.nationalcitycc.org), or in our Atrium.) It is a comprehensive, and indeed, a challenging summary of the thinking and visioning for the future of the life and ministries of our congregation.

As in the biblical story, we are confident that during the Advent and Christmas seasons we have prepared for the coming of the messiah and have brought our best in worship and praise. Now we MUST fulfill the promise by being and doing the work Jesus calls us

as his disciples – to be God's light to a darkened world. It is not an easy calling and journey!

Christians continue to live with an ever more skeptical and despondent public to organized religion. "Ordinary," not to be confused with "traditional," church no longer is the cornerstone of social and spiritual living. Church must become something extra ordinary, reaching the questioning and seekers of a deeper spirituality that seems to have been lost in these turbulent times. To this moment, leaders feel National City is uniquely positioned in our nation's capital to meet these needs both locally and as the "national church" of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

During January, we will have occasions prepared as a community to meet in conversation and intense listening in members' homes and at church. You can see the schedule below. This will be the beginning of making us the extra ordinary that so many of our neighbors living within just a few miles of our grand steps are searching for in their community. We hope you will join us in this epiphany, in spirit of the newborn king, to transform lives and be catalysts of peace in an extraordinary place called National City Christian Church.

- Steven Baines

**Sundays, January 6 & 13, 9:45 a.m.**

Christian Pathways Class, National City Christian Church

**Sunday Afternoons, January 13 & 20, 3 p.m. – TBD**

**Tuesdays, January 15 & 22, 7 p.m.**

Home of Stephen & Miriam Gentle, 1107 S Street NW, Washington, D.C.

**Wednesdays, January, 16 & 23, 7 p.m.**

Home of Emma King & Travaughn Lovick, 1615 North Portal Drive NW, Washington, D.C.

**Thursdays, January 17 & 24, 7 p.m.**

Home of Steven Baines & Rick Mohn, 921 N. Jacksonville Street, Arlington, Virginia

**Fridays, January 18 & 25, 7 p.m.**

Home of Aixa Diaz & Anthony Mague, 1301 M Street NW, Washington, D.C.

**Saturdays, January 19 & 26, 11 a.m.**

National City Christian Church, Large Atrium

## 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  
Tony Johnson

## February Birthdays

- 4 Sara Imhulse
- 5 Matt Cahill
- 6 Denise Ross  
Glen Gerada
- 7 Erin Hedlund
- 9 Paul Heffron
- 13 Dick Gesell
- 14 Robert Ross
- 16 Carolyn Gesell O'Sullivan  
Alia Waheed Ky
- 17 Bill Stewart  
Holly Ahlbin
- 20 Nett Brown
- 21 Ken Brooker-Langston
- 24 David Robeck
- 25 Melissa Wilson\*
- 26 Perry Ives
- 27 Lynne Morgan
- 28 Linda Sharp

\* Indicates a student

For additions or changes, contact Kathleen Swihart at [kswhart62@gmail.com](mailto:kswhart62@gmail.com)

### The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Services on January 13 and January 20

Join in a joyous sing-along at the D.C. area "MLK PEACE EXPO: Welcome to the Beloved Community" on Sunday, January 13, at 3 p.m. at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church at 1313 New York Avenue N.W. There is free parking next to the church at 1399 New York Avenue until 6:15 p.m. The McPherson Square Metro (orange line) and the Metro Center Metro (red line) are both just 1 1/2 blocks from the church.

The Christian Church Capital Area Martin Luther King Tribute and Action is Sunday, January 20, at 3 p.m., Michigan Park Christian Church, 1600 Taylor Street, N.E. The prolific Disciples author and ecumenical leader, the Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnemon, will be the main speaker.



**SM** We'll once again celebrate on Super Bowl Sunday **February 3** with a selection of take-home soups to benefit the food pantry.

Soup containers will be \$10 and feature Theresa Beaton's delicious soups.

### Sermons for January

January 6  
*Epiphany!*

Stephen Gentle  
Matthew 2:1-12

January 13

*When the Lord Calls*  
Stephen Gentle,  
Isaiah 43:1-7

January 20

*Bring the Good Stuff*  
John Von Almen  
John 2:1-11

January 27

*The Greatest Is Love*  
Stephen Gentle  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

### 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.

### Gospel Choir Rehearsals

The Gospel Choir will rehearse on January 8, 15, and 29 at 7 p.m. in the Music Suite. The Gospel Choir will discuss the February, March, and April rehearsals dates at their January 8 rehearsal.

To join the choir or for further information, contact Valeria Foster, director.

### Congregational Meeting To Be Held January 27

A congregational meeting and luncheon will be held Sunday, January 27, in the Howland Center following the 11 a.m. service. A full slate of elders, diaconate, and committee positions will be presented.

At the November congregational meeting, officers were elected: Alan Williams, moderator; Aixa Diaz, vice moderator; Chip Talbott, treasurer; and Richard Bahr, secretary.

### Time to Update the Membership Directory for 2019

A copy of the 2019 Church Directory is at the front desk. You are encouraged to check it for accuracy and update it at the desk or to call or email Kathleen Swihart - [kswhart62@gmail.com](mailto:kswhart62@gmail.com) - for any needed changes.

### Welcome to Ophelia Rose Denison

We welcomed **Ophelia Rose Denison** in a child dedication on December 23, celebrated with the congregation and Ophelia's family and godparents Kelley and Mike Gable.

Ophelia was born June 28, 2018. She is the daughter of **Amanda Sallee Denison and James Denison**, who were married at National City in August 2012. Mike Gable assisted Dr. Gentle in their marriage ceremony. Ophelia joins sister Elena, who is 5, and brother Levi, who is 3.



### Welcome to Adam Jordan Oettinger

We welcomed **Adam Jordan Oettinger** in a child dedication on January 6.

Adam was born August 14, 2018. His parents, **Rick Oettinger and Stephen Jordan**, were married at National City on September 15, 2012. Accompanying his parents and Adam were Adam's godparents Amy Mullica and Zach Miller.



### Congratulations Wesley and Amber Gentle

**Wesley and Amber Gentle** were married at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, a Christian retreat center, on Saturday, December 29, with close family gathered outdoors on a cold and snowy day!

Warm blankets and hot cocoa provided additional warmth, along with the warmth of family love surrounding them.

Wesley and Amber will make their home in Fort Worth, Texas, where Wesley is the Development Director for the Fort Worth Arts Council and Amber is continuing her studies to become a public school educator.

Wesley is the son of Dr. Gentle and Rev. Miriam Gentle. Dr. Gentle performed the wedding ceremony.



### Congratulations to Deloris Ruddock

Long-time member Deloris Ruddock had two special celebrations in 2018.

First, Sunday, September 16, was a special day for Deloris - the day she turned 95 years old. The day was celebrated by our church family with a cake and treats during coffee hour. It was a surprise to Deloris and she was truly delighted by the love shown by her church family. She works weekly with the Food Pantry passing out bags to those in need and she is also part of Disciples Women. We were happy to celebrate this special day with one of God's daughters.

Then, she found out that she, along with other members of her military unit, would be remembered on a monument and would be attending the ceremony in the fall of 2018. She was part of the 6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only African American WAC unit involved with the directing of mail to soldiers in the European Theater during World War II. They were assigned to Birmingham, England; Rouen, France; and Paris, France during World War II. Dedication of the 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion Monument was held at the Buffalo Soldiers Monument Park at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.



### Lenten Devotional Writers Needed

Writers interested in contributing to the 2019 Lenten Devotional are encouraged to sign up at the Atrium front desk. The writer's deadline is February 1. If you are interested in more information, please contact [sgentle@nationalcitycc.org](mailto:sgentle@nationalcitycc.org).

This year's theme is "MOVEMENTS: Travels and Teachings of Jesus."



## Breakfast with Santa 2018

December marked the sixth anniversary of Breakfast with Santa at National City with about 30 children in attendance! The children came in size small and tiny, speaking several different languages with different connections to our church but all eager to spend time with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Their attention was soon turned to crafts, making ooey goey slime, reindeer, Christmas stockings, and coloring pictures of Jesus in the manger.

Everyone paused around the manger to hear the good news of the birth of Jesus in both English and Spanish and to receive their very own manger scene in stickers to take with them!

Many thanks to all who helped make magical moments for the children with Santa!

Everyone will look forward to Santa's magical visit next year.

- Teresa Swihart



## Update on Campbell Building Site

Pictured above is the Campbell Building after construction as proposed by the developer, Rock Creek. The proposed redo certainly looks great. We are hopeful that approval from D.C. permit offices is early in 2019. With so much construction activity taking place in D.C., approval times are a long process, but everything seems to be in order for approval.

The initial phase for the "decoupling" of the Campbell Building from the rest of the NCCC facility has taken place. This has closed all church activity in that building. This was to determine if our blueprints and the actual building itself match up. Once D.C. approval is received, more extensive removal of the interior will occur before the main construction can take place. Since the initial phase began, most NCCC ministries have been affected to some degree.

NCCC and the Foundation will be determining how to accommodate the various ministries that were provided in the Campbell Building. These include: (1) a place for the Hispanic Ministry (worshipping in the Community Room); (2) an area for the Bunkhouse Ministry; (3) a Nursery Room (now in the Beasley Building second level); (4) a commercial-style kitchen; (5) depending on discussion with Rock Creek Properties, an emergency exit and A/C for Howland Center; (6) new lighting for the Hastings stained-glass window (the window up front near the Pulpit), and (7) an exterior floor placed in the Beasley Building fourth floor stairway in order to access the cooling tower.

- Wes Strotman

## One Year with Tony Johnson and "My Neighbor Ministries!"

It's been one year since we joined with Tony Johnson in starting "My Neighbor Ministries," an outreach ministry with our working poor and homeless neighbors. Together with the DC Cluster of Congregations and homeless ministries of several other downtown churches, including First Trinity Lutheran and Foundry United Methodist, National City and Tony have helped expand and deepen the direct contact with this vulnerable population. During the year, Tony has been serving in two food pantries twice a week, clothing closets, and greeting persons on the streets of DC. His goal is to build relationships with over 200 people in the community who are homeless, poor, and/or living marginal lives with little means of survival.

Meeting with these people on the streets, listening and offering spiritual support, and providing resource information and assistance, Tony has invigorated National City's existing Food Pantry program and encouraged us to think more compassionately of our neighbors we encounter. National City members' in-kind donations of socks, gloves, coats, hygiene and food bags, and most importantly, engaging in conversations with the homeless have enabled Tony to build trust and understanding of people in the wide-range communities we serve.

Tony adds, "This ministry would not have been possible without National City Christian Church's support. As I continue to live out my call this year, our mission is to build greater local partnerships, recruit dozens more volunteers, and expand "My Neighbor Ministries" to the wider DC community."

Please consider making a donation in 2019 to support Tony Johnson and our work together by making your check out to National City Christian Church with "My Neighbor Ministries" in the memo line.

Congratulations, Tony!

- Steven Baines