

## Epiphany Update:

### 10 A.M. Worship Is Helping to Re-Energize National City

The surveys have come in -- all 62 of them! The Epiphany teams met on August 25 to review the surveys. Bottomline: 10 a.m. Worship will continue to the end of the year.

From the 62 persons responding to the survey, 82% said that if the 10 a.m. worship were to continue, their attendance would be "about the same" or "more frequent"! Writing about the worship services, people have enjoyed the variety of music, the dynamic leadership of the two choirs, and the larger worship attendance in one service. Many expressed the convenient time of day has been attractive as well as the more intimate, less formal worship service.

Also mentioned was the high quality of worship services, the unity of the congregation, and seeing new people. Several surveys noted that the coffee time moved to the narthex has strengthened the church's community and visibility. Also worth noting, worship attendance and financial giving have not decreased in these summer months, and we have noticed an increase in the number of summer tourists and visitors.

Shared in the survey are excellent suggestions, many of which will be incorporated into the Sunday morning celebration. We acknowledge that not all these changes have gone smoothly during the summer worship. We will continue to tweak the service to make it more excellent as we seek to honor God with our community worship. The congregation will have a meeting in the early fall to discuss many of these things.

The Epiphany teams acknowledge that not everyone who took the survey will be available for the 10 a.m. worship time. Because of other Sunday commitments, preferences of worship time or worship style, or other personal reasons, 12 persons noted that moving to the new worship time might result in their less frequent attendance. We are grateful for this honest sharing. Our prayers are that as we explore this new time of worship, we may all continue to approach this change with an openness to the Spirit of God who is doing a new thing at National City Christian Church.

As one surveyed individual affirmed: "The combined worship service has added a new enthusiasm to the services. God's Spirit is moving at National City. The Epiphany program has opened new possibilities for being the Church. We must be open to the new thing that God is doing in our midst."

- Stephen Gentle



### Spirit Sunday, September 8

Join us in worship at 10 a.m. for our Spirit Sunday. Dr. Gentle will be preaching the message, "I Will Do a New Thing in You" from Isaiah 43:19. News will be shared about the 9 a.m. Sunday School program for adults called Christian Pathways, our new monthly brunch after worship, and plans for new gatherings after worship for different groups in our church. God is doing a new thing at National City Christian Church. Come and see!

### September Sermons

#### September 1

Hymn Sing

#### September 8

*I Will Do a New Thing in You!*  
Isaiah 43:19

#### September 15

*Sharing God's Love with our Community*  
Luke 15:1-10

#### September 22

*Caring for God's Creation*  
Genesis 1

#### September 29

*Race and Reconciliation*  
2 Corinthians 5:18

# August Birthdays      September Birthdays

- 1 Wesley Gentle
- 2 Grace Swihart\*
- 3 Eddie Franklin
- 4 Steven Baines
- 6 Valeria Foster
- 7 Debbie Stewart
- 8 Lolita Neal
- 9 Esther Tyson
- 10 Monte 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 Anne-Michele Maher
- Robin Schacht
- 27 Kelsey Goodman
- 28 Addison Bolston\*
- 30 Colleen Walsh
- 31 Mia Skelly\*

- 2 Ben Moore
- 4 Noemi Mena
- Peggy Washington
- 5 Marcella Hill
- 6 Cyril Jones
- 8 Megan Dirickson
- 10 Sterling Washington
- 11 Katie Campbell-Morrison
- 13 Caitlin Malone Frye
- Casey Underwood
- Sadye Sanders
- 14 Moe Jackson
- 16 Marge Bennett
- Deloris Ruddock
- 17 Betty Crudup
- 18 Beth Kelley
- Marc Reber
- 19 Woodie Rea
- 21 Ellen Crowder
- Polly He
- 22 Roy Hatton
- John Sparkman
- 27 Rick Bahr
- 29 Noah Craig\*
- Faye Goodman

\* Indicates a student or child

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

## Call-In Prayer Time on Saturdays

If you would like to join our weekly prayer, you are invited to call in on Saturdays at 8 a.m. for community prayer. Call 712-775-7031 and use code 371015. If you have questions regarding the prayer line, contact Loretta Tate.

## Disciples Women Meeting

Disciples Women will meet on Tuesday, September 10, at 11 a.m. in the Music Suite at National City. The subject will be "I Am About To Do A New Thing," based on Isaiah 43:1-21, and led by Rev. Dr. Stephen Gentle.

Bring a sandwich and enjoy fellowship time after the meeting.

## Disciples Women's Regional Meeting

Disciples Women will hold a regional meeting on September 21 at Rockville Christian Church.

Dr. Virginia LeBlanc will be the speaker on "Bloom Where You Are Planted." Virginia used to sing in our Sanctuary Choir and is a member of National City.

Teresa Swihart has leadership for the meeting.

## Vocal Workshop

Would you like to improve your singing voice? Why not participate in our Vocal Workshop? Join us on Saturday, September 21 at 9:30 a.m. in the Music Suite. This workshop is for anyone who would like to sing with more confidence! For more information, contact Valeria Foster, our Interim Minister of Music [vfoster@nationalcitycc.org](mailto:vfoster@nationalcitycc.org) 202-797-0103

## Dazzling Music for a New Season of Concerts

A new year of Music at Midday will begin on Friday, September 6, with Czech organist Ondřej Horňas performing music by two famous Czech composers. That's just the start to a year of glorious music on the magnificent organs of National City Christian Church. These free concerts are held each Friday at 12:15 p.m., so mark your calendar now. You may also visit [www.nationalcitycc.org](http://www.nationalcitycc.org) and click on "Music" to view upcoming performances for the next several months.

Check out these wonderful recital planned for September:

**September 6:** Organist Ondřej Horňas (Prague, Czechia) will open the new season of midday concerts with a symphonic poem by Bedřich Smetana and the final movement from Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 "From the New World."

**September 13:** John Nothhaft, an exciting young performer from McLean, Virginia, will perform organ works of Leo Sowerby, J. S. Bach, William Grant Still, and Charles Tournemire.

**September 20:** Internationally acclaimed pianist Solomon Eichner (Raleigh, North Carolina) will perform works of Debussy, Fauré, Paderewski, and Chopin.

**September 27:** Inspiring young organist Tyler Canonico (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) will perform works of Joseph Bonnet, Horatio Parker, and Calvin Hampton.

## October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Many of us aren't aware of it, but Pastor Appreciation Month (originally called Clergy Appreciation Month) was established in 1992 by a group of pastors and church leaders to honor those who serve in ministry.

They grounded the celebration in Paul's words to Timothy: "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching" (1 Tim. 5:17). It is not an official holiday, but it is nationally recognized

Pastor Appreciation Day, sometimes called Clergy Appreciation Day, is celebrated annually on the second Sunday in October (October 13) to celebrate the contributions of priests, pastors, reverends and ministers.

In my Google search, I came across an article by J. R. Briggs in Christianity Today International dated October 18, 2018. He is founder of Kairos Partnerships and served for 10 years as pastor of The Renew Community in the greater Philadelphia area:

"Pastors have told me they wept tears of joy when they read an out-of-the-blue note of encouragement. Whatever you do - a sincere Facebook shout out, a two-minute word of affirmation during the Sunday announcements, a heart-felt email, a handwritten note, or an arm around your pastor in the hallway between services - know it carries more weight than you may realize."

- Diana Morse

### Salt and Light Conference in October

The Christian Church Capital Area will host its semi-annual Salt and Light Conference at National City Christian Church on Saturday, October 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Clergy, experienced lay-leaders as well as lay-leaders-in-training are invited from the 40 member churches in the Capital Area Region.

Titled "Lay Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," the Salt and Light Conference seeks to help develop congregational leaders by providing practical information, inspiration, and encouragement. "In this way we hope to strengthen and enliven regional congregations, improve/retain our saltiness, and to let our light shine brightly (see Mt 5:13-16)," notes the region leadership.

The Rev. Dr. Doug Powe will be the keynote speaker at the opening session. He is the Director, Lewis Center for Church Leadership, James C. Logan Professor of Evangelism (an E. Stanley Jones Professorship) and Professor of Urban Ministry at the Wesley Theological Seminary. His recent publication "Not Safe for Church: The Ten Commandments for Reaching New Generations" identifies some challenges and opportunities today and in our future.

A major part of this conference are the workshop sessions. There are three 80-minute sessions planned, and potentially six simultaneous workshops in different rooms, for a total of at most 18 different workshops to be offered. The conference is seeking workshop proposals in six specified areas.

### Chalice Fellowship Receives Inaugural Gift

National City Christian Church acknowledges with great appreciation the first gracious givers of the Chalice Fellowship: Roland and Kitty Huff. Roland and Kitty were associate members of National City Christian Church, living in Vermont.

The Rev. Dr. Roland Huff had served the denomination in its many manifestations as congregational pastor in Kansas and Oklahoma, and on General staff as President of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. He also developed materials in stewardship and spoke around the country on behalf of Church World Service and Week of Compassion.

His loving wife of 74 years, Kathryn "Kitty" Huff directed activities for the Indianapolis Red Cross, managed the Bethany Bookstore at the Missions Building, and was a research librarian of the Historical Society.

Both Roland and Kitty believed strongly in the future of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and gave generously of their time, skill, and finances. National City Christian Church has been one of the recipients of their generosity in their end of life plans. Roland passed away on September 4, 2014, and Kitty passed away on June 23, 2018. Both are inurned in the Columbarium of National City Christian Church.

If you have included National City in your bequest, we would be honored if you would share that information with us. National City is collecting a list of people who will be acknowledged in a November worship service as participants of the Chalice Fellowship (those who are remembering our church in their end of life plans). Please contact Rev. Steven Baines with any question about including National City Christian Church in your bequest.



### Welcome to the National City Family!

We welcome **Layla Michelle Moore**, who weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces, on August 9 at 11:42 p.m. She is the daughter of **Sarah and Ben Moore**.

We welcome **Agnes Díaz Mague**, who was born on Monday, August 19, at George Washington Hospital at 3:08 p.m. weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces. She is the daughter of **Aixa Diaz and Anthony Mague**.

We welcomed **Abigail Gonzales** who came forward on July 28 to make a reaffirmation of her faith.



Layla Michelle  
Moore



Agnes Díaz  
Mague

### With Sympathy to Rev. Dr. Beverly Goines and her Family

Rev. Dr. Beverly Goines's grandmother Thelma Smallwood Freeman Boyd died on August 14 at the age of 101. She was born on July 17, 1918.

We asked Bjae to share some of the life of this treasured grandmother:

"A native of Washington, DC, she graduated from Armstrong High School (now Dunbar High School). She was a member of Lane Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church all of her life where she loved teaching Sunday School, being the "Church Mother," and serving on many committees throughout the years. Her childhood home used to be where the church's education building stands today.

"She was a wonderful mother of four children, three of whom preceded her in death. She began her career as a domestic worker in Bethesda, Maryland, then worked many years as a baker at the Woodward & Lothrop department store in D.C.

"She was always beautifully dressed, a prolific writer, and a persuasive public speaker and communicator. She also loved to travel and she was a great cook, hosting many holidays and family celebrations in her home.

"Thelma transitioned into her eternal rest on August 14, 2019. She leaves to cherish her memory one son, nine grandchildren, eleven great-grand, two great-great-grand, and two great-great-great-grand.

"We give God all of the glory for blessing us with her and for a life well lived."



### Bill Rowland Featured in Riderwood Reporter in August

Long-time member **Bill Rowland** was featured in the August issue of Riderwood Reporter. He has lived at Riderwood Village longer than any other resident, moving there with his wife Leta Rose in May 2000.

Bill joined National City in 1948 and served as Junior Deacon, Deacon, and r54Elder. He and his wife met at National City and were married there.

Bill was born in the President's House at Eureka College in Illinois, where his grandfather was the college president. His sister Mona also resides at Riderwood.

Bill was stationed with the Army in 1947 in Japan, and later took advantage of the GI Bill to attend the University of Maryland where he earned an electrical engineering degree. He married Leta Rose Marlowe a day after graduation. They had three children and enjoyed 62 years together until her death in 2013.

Bill had a 35-year career with Vitro Corp. in Silver Spring. He was awarded a "Transistor Protection Circuit" patent for one of his ideas.

He has operated the audiovisual equipment for movies and church services at Riderwood, is in the Genealogy Club, Woodworkers, and Computer Club. He was a chief election judge for Montgomery County in 2006 when Riderwood became a polling place.



*Editor's note: With many thanks to Riderwood for permission to adapt this article by resident writer Almeda Girod for our church newsletter and to Bill Rowland for additional information. The full Riderwood article received honorable mention in print at Riderwood.*