

The News of National City

October 2019 Issue XIX Vol. 9

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Events To Uplift Our Hearts and Minds!

Sundays at National City Christian Church are something special and October is even more so. What a delight it is to see the attendance on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. For all of us to be together in one place to worship the one, Holy God of all. While the one worship cannot meet everyone's needs entirely, I am so grateful for the spirit of cooperation, the grace of flexibility, and patience that leaders and worshippers are extending as we learn and grow. God is doing a new thing at National City Christian Church, and look what is ahead for October!

October 6 - World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday of October is the Sunday when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the head of the Church. We remember that we are part of the whole body of believers. Whether communion is shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations. World Communion Sunday is a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith.



Women and Men Bible Study and Brown Bag Lunch at 11:30 a.m. Dr. Gentle will be leading this first 30-minute study from the excellent materials *Just Women* journal on "The Church in Mission." This study in Acts demonstrates that God is still leading the church into mission, and invites us to bear witness to God's leadership, empowering us through the Holy Spirit. Bring a brown bag lunch to enjoy as we gather in women's groups and men's group to have this dialogue.

October 12 - Global Ministries Sunday: From Colombia to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

10 a.m. Pulpit Guest: Michael Joseph, Mission Co-worker, serves with the Peace Commission of the Evangelical Council of Colombia. He works with Justapaz, the Mennonite Center for Justice, Peace and Nonviolent Action. Many different denominations come together to meet the needs of the communities they serve in the midst of violent conflict. Michael Joseph is the national coordinator of Cafepaz, which studies the intersection of Christianity, war, and peace-building in Colombia.



9 a.m. Christian Pathways and 11:30 a.m. Sunday Brunch: Reverend Dr. Francois-David ("Franck") Ekofo Bonyeku of the Community of Disciples of Christ in Congo will speak. Dr. Ekofo has over 30 years of ministry and New Testament teaching. Francois-David Ekofo has been described as courageous, prophetic, and pastoral — one who has committed his life to challenging structures that keep oppressed people on the margins, the most vulnerable in society.



Franck and Melanie Bonyeku were honored with an Award of Affirmation at the 2019 General Assembly International Dinner with Global Ministries.

More events!

Events To Uplift Our Hearts and Minds!



October 20 - Pulpit Guest Regional Minister Allen Harris

Reverend Allen V. Harris began as Regional Minister in the Capital Area in June of 2015. Previously Rev. Harris had served congregations in Cleveland, Ohio; New York, New York; and Grapevine, Texas. Leading the 40 member congregations in the Capital Area Region, from the District of Columbia, Maryland, Northern Virginia, Delaware, and one congregation in West Virginia, Rev. Harris brings an infectious joy and exuberant presence whenever he preaches and National City Christian Church looks forward to the message he will be sharing on Sunday, October 20.

October 27 - Love Is Love

Sunday brunch with the LGBTQ+ Community at 11:45 a.m. at Dupont Italian Kitchen at 1637 17th Street, N.W. On this Sunday, Dr. Gentle will be preaching a message from Luke 18:9-14 as National City Christian Church celebrates its welcome of persons of all gender expressions and sexual orientations to the table of Christ's communion and to the full life and leadership of the church.



New Exciting Ministry: Curbside Conversations

The grand goal of "Curbside Ministries" is to Share the Love of God with everyone who comes near the church. It's exciting to see the interest as several members and friends have stepped up in helping us move beyond the walls of the church. We have a message to share...that God loves them...and we do too!

How would you be interested in sharing God's love through our new Curbside Ministries this fall?

Activities on Sunday Morning

Curbside Clean-up at 9:15 a.m. Join a small crew of people to do a quick clean-up around the church property to make it ready for Sunday morning worship. This quick clean-up is needed outside and inside (to do pew clean-up as well).

Curbside Communion at 9:15 - 9:45 a.m. Work with a Pastor or Elder to offer outdoor communion to tourists and those who are unable to attend worship on that day.

Church Greeter at 9:40 a.m. – on "the steps" or at the Sanctuary doors – to provide a warm welcome to worshippers or hospitality to tourists interested in seeing the Sanctuary.

Support "Curbside Ministries" with my prayers and participation in Christian Pathways Adult Education at 9 a.m., or in morning choir rehearsal.

Activities During the Week

Curbside Communion on Wednesdays at 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. Offer outdoor communion and prayer to persons who live or work downtown for a mid-week spiritual pick-me-up!

Curbside Conversations for the Spiritually Curious on Thursdays at 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. A brief 20-minute conversation with persons who are interested in discussion and prayer. Led by a pastor, you would provide a warm welcome and hospitality.

10-minute Tour of the Sanctuary offered at the noon hour on days when a volunteer is available. Are you interested in receiving training and offering a tour as you are available during the week?

Share your interest, along with your name and email with sgentle@nationalcitycc.org and thank you.

October Birthdays November Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|-----------------------------------|
| 5 | Barbara Boward
Leah Craig
Jennifer Selde | 2 | Anastasia Parrish
(Staci)* |
| 6 | Carson Talbott* | 5 | Virginia Taylor
Chip Talbott |
| 11 | Taylor Tate | 7 | Mary Ellen Deardorff
Rick Mohn |
| 16 | Mona Corneiro | 9 | Sarah Birdsong
John Neal |
| 21 | Teresa Swihart | 10 | John Scott Williams |
| 22 | Loui Itoh | 13 | Nadine G. Bishop |
| 24 | Fredrickia Lloyd
Bill Ryan | 14 | David McKinney |
| 25 | Betty Jones
Angelina Ramirez
C.J. Rodriguez
Beverly Schacht
Wes Strotman | 16 | Lorraine Magnussen |
| 27 | Jessica Kelley
Marshall May* | 20 | Tim Schaefer |
| 31 | Miriam Gentle
Claudine Nichols | 22 | Laurese Dancy |
| | | 24 | Beverly Goines |
| | | 26 | Sylvia Snyder |
| | | 28 | Tom Beacham
Charles Covington |
| | | 30 | Lon Schreiber |

* Indicates a student or child
 For additions or changes, contact Kathleen Swihart at
 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.

Reconciliation Offering Will Be October 6

The second Special Mission Fund offering for the year will continue at National City on October 6.

This is the reconciliation offering and the funds collected are used in the pro-reconciliation/anti-racism work of the Church. Within the region some of these funds are used to sponsor camp and conferences for adults and youth for education from the cultural and historical experiences of each other.

- Barbara Kelley

“Yearning To Breathe Free” Immigration Discussion Featured in October

The Christian Pathways Adult Education Class presents “Yearning To Breathe Free,” a discussion on the immigration ban in our country. This very important discussion will be led by:

Sunday, October 6 and 13

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director
 Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries

Sunday, October 21

Rev. Allen V. Harris
 Regional Minister
 Capital Area
 Christian Church Disciples of Christ

Sunday, October 27

Rev. Steven C. Baines, Senior Strategist
 Outreach, Development and Spiritual Formation
 National City Christian Church Disciples of Christ

These discussions will focus on the challenges facing today’s immigrants seeking refuge and aid from our country. The discussions will also focus on what the Bible says about the immigration struggle and how we can assist them. This is an important issue in our country, and we must become aware of the challenges and the various solutions presented to us.

The Christian Pathways Adult Education Class begins at 9 a.m. Hoping to see you there.

- Loretta Tate
 Class Coordinator

Music at Midday Concerts for October

Concerts begin each Friday at 12:15 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. For more information, visit www.nationalcitycc.org or contact Rev. Dr. J. Michael McMahon at mmcmahon@nationalcitycc.org.

October 4: Baltimore Cathedral organist **Wm. Glenn Osborne** will perform a program of mostly religious works by a diverse group of composers, including Francisco Correa de Arauxo, Marcel Dupré, William D. Bradbury, William Bolcom, George Shearing, and Guy Bovet.

October 11: Arlington organist **Carol Feather Martin** will present a creative program entitled "Not Your Usual Sunday Fare," featuring words of Petr Eben, Olivier Messiaen, Jehan Alain, Charles Tournemire, and Dan Locklair.

October 18: Visiting French organist **Emmanuel Duperrey** will perform music to delight, some very familiar and some a bit less so, including works of Georg Friedrich Handel, John Williams, Hans-André Stamm, and Naji Hakim.

October 25: Washington native **David Brock** (Zephyr Springs, Nevada) returns to his home town to perform music of Jean Langlais, Scott Joplin, and Leo Sowerby.

NCCC Food Pantry Needs Food

Just a reminder that donations in our neighborhood depend on us to supplement their food needs. We cannot do this without donations of food and money. It has been months since we have received donations beyond the usual generous donors. We get a lot of staples from the Capital Area Food Bank, but we have to pay the Food Bank for the food and delivery.

They do not have much ready-made food for people without resources to cook such as granola bars and apple sauce. Additional items we need include peanut butter crackers, packs of canned tuna or chicken, juice boxes, bottled water, packs of cereal, and other healthy alternatives. We also need plastic forks and spoons.

Scan your pantry, see if you have extra soup, pasta, mac & cheese, canned fruit and vegetables (nothing exotic or out of date). When you go to Costco, Sam's, or other warehouse stores, throw in one item to donate instead of an impulse buy.

It is urgent that the church as a whole community supports this mission.

We need your help!.

Leaping forward, Christmas is coming!

We will be collecting money and donations for our Christmas event. We give out socks, hats, scarves, personal size soaps, tissue, toothpaste, gloves, hoodies, hygiene bags, backpacks and tote bags. Please keep our neighbors in mind as you do your Christmas shopping.

Of course, money is always welcome. Make sure your checks are to NCCC, designated to either the Food Pantry or the Food Pantry Christmas event.

We will be having a meeting in early October to talk to people interested in volunteering regularly, monthly, or even once a month. Our beloved Tony is moving to North Carolina and we need people to continue his work with special listening and giving out hygiene bags as needed.



Breakfast With Santa A-Comin'

Ho, Ho, Ho, it's time to get ready to host the jolliest of elves for breakfast with children from our congregation and neighborhood. Our annual Breakfast with Santa will be Saturday, December 7.

Please contact Teresa Swihart if you are interested in helping with the event, leading an activity, serving breakfast, setting up, decorating, cleaning up, praying, advertising, greeting, reading the nativity story...the possibilities are endless.



Salt and Light Conference To Be Held October 19 at National City

“Lay Leadership in the 21st Century” is the theme for the conference sponsored by the Christian Church Capital Area at National City on October 19 from 8:30 am. to 4 p.m.

The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Doug Powe, author and professor at Wesley Theological Seminary. He will speak to “God’s Agents of Transformation.”

Cost is \$40 per person; \$25 per person for those under 30 years. Cost includes continental breakfast and box lunch. Registration may be made through the Christian Church Capital Area website (cccadisciples.org/salt-light), either online or through printing and mailing the registration form.

The purpose of the Salt and Light Conference is to help develop congregational leaders by providing practical information, inspiration, and encouragement. The conference seeks to strengthen and enliven regional congregations, improve/retain the church’s saltiness, and to let our light shine brightly (Matthew 5:13-16).

Every Disciple (leader or not) is invited to attend. The Salt and Light Conference is a great opportunity for everyone to learn, share, and network within the Region.

Schedule of Events, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

8:30 – 9:15 Registration/Networking/Continental Breakfast
9:30 – 10:30 Opening Gathering and Keynote
10:45 – 12:05 Workshop Session 1
(Choose from 6 Workshops)
12:05 - 12:25 Lunch
12:30 – 1:50 Workshop Session 2
2:05 – 3:25 Workshop Session 3
3:40 – 4:00 Communion and Send-off

Workshop Interest Areas are:

- Being a Welcoming Church as Community Diversity Increases
- Anti-Racism, Pro-Reconciliation Objectives
- Loving the “least of these”
- Church as a Dynamic Faith Community
- Leadership Development/Team Building
- Engaging the Congregation in the Community



The keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Doug Powe, author and professor at Wesley Theological Seminary.

Music at Midday Concerts Featured in Washington Post’s Weekend Magazine

“Hear a Concert in a Sacred Space” at National City was featured in the Washington Post’s Weekend Magazine on September 13.

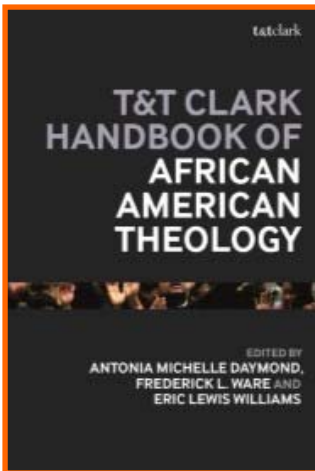
The “On the Town” section featured lunchtime ideas--away from your desk.

The section on our Music at Midday concerts that start at 12:15 p.m. on Fridays mentioned we have one of the largest pipe organs in Washington, that the church has hosted the recitals since 1981, that the rows of pews each contain a cushion with a different state seal, that the building was designed by John Russell Pope, and that a small exhibition shows how pipe organs work.

And Rev. Dr. J. Michael McMahon, artistic director of Music at Midday, mentions the concerts usually contain multiple selections, so “it’s like two concerts.”

Essay by Rev. Dr. Goines Published in New Handbook of African American Theology

An article by Rev. Dr. Beverly Goines has been published in the newly released *T&T Clark Handbook of African American Theology*.

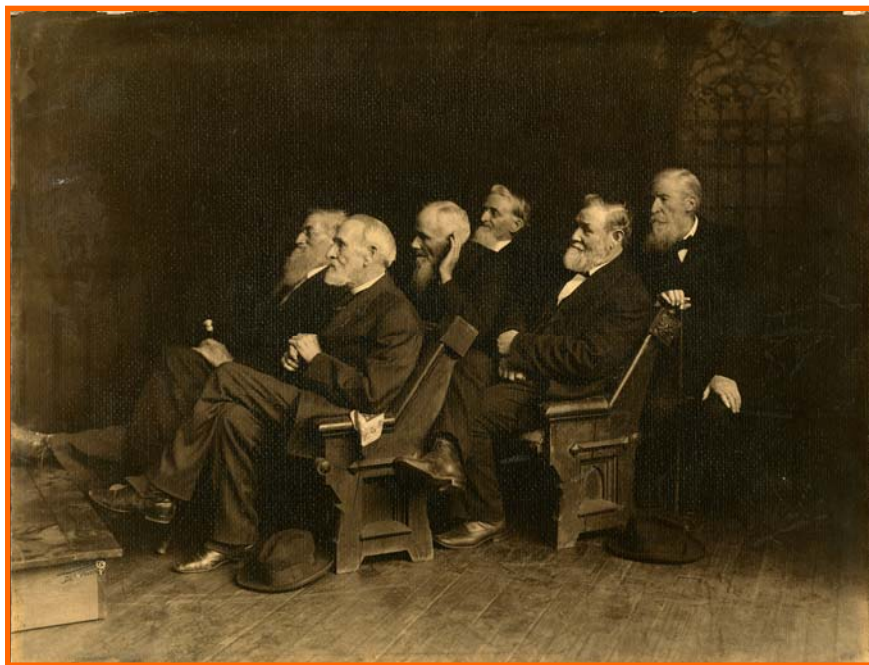


The book is a collection of essays which provide a concise guide and informative introduction to the history, methodology, doctrinal and thematic issues, and ethical imperatives of African American theology.

Dr. Goines's essay, entitled "Black Ecumenism and the Ecumenical Movement: Four Perspectives," examines the ways in which the nature and scope of black ecumenism can be enlarged for new alignments and greater contributions to the larger ecumenical movement.

With established and emerging scholars engaging Christian faith from various disciplinary approaches and from different contexts of black experience, this collection is to enable better understanding of the diversity of Christianity and Christian theology.

Sympathetic but critical, confessional but intellectually rigorous, based in thorough research and sound interpretation, this volume will show the expanse of African American theology across the theological curriculum and its practical applications in a number of social situations. (Bloomsbury Press, 2019)



National City Family Scrapbook: *Who in heaven's name are they?*

The church archives yielded a nineteenth-century photographic gem as we cleaned out the attic of the Campbell Building a few years ago. It does not offer a single clue as to the names and stories of these six saintly looking patriarchs. One appears a bit deaf. The man in the back looks stern enough to be thinking, "Speak up, Dr. Power!"

We needed Hilda Koontz, our historian for fifty years, to fill us in. But, like looking at our personal family scrapbook, sometimes we can only gaze at our pictures and wish a favorite aunt who kept up with the family history were still here.

We can no longer know the names and stories of the vast majority of our church family from 150 years ago. Yet, there is beauty in seeing images of those who went before us. There is beauty in asking, "Who in heaven's name are these saints?" And in answering, "They are now heavenly members of our church family."

The newsletter will publish other photographs in the next two issues. These pictures have a chance of getting your answers to, "Who in heaven's name are they?"

- Peter and Lynne Morgan