

The News of National City

January 2020 Issue XX Vol. 1

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Epiphany's Beacon Shines on a New Decade

With great excitement and anticipation, National City Christian Church and its leadership begin the new roaring 20's decade. As we recall the celebrations of the roaring 1920's, we look to our God of new beginnings to continue the valiant work of our Epiphany teams and the bold new vision they have inspired in our congregational life. The 2019 Building Assessment work completed by OTJ Architects is now our launching pad for this new decade of outreach, development and spiritual growth we prayerfully committed ourselves to when we honored "175 Years at the Welcome Table."

The report (available in the church office) is a comprehensive look at our church facilities and equipment with recommendations for immediate repairs and replacements. Our Building and Ministry Implementation Teams will be working closely with OTJ Architects in January as together we construct the design elements of our congregational and community needs. We will be engaging many of you in in-depth conversations about future ministries as well as our tenant partners, community organizations, and our various performing arts groups to see how our church campus and facilities can further expand Christ's welcome and hospitality.

We will be sharing some of our immediate thinking and next step approaches at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26. As we enter this new decade with longing prayers and faithful giving, we do so realizing another milestone is quickly approaching: National City Christian Church's centennial celebration in 2030. May we use these coming months of preparation as Jesus did beginning his ministry heralding God's extravagant welcome to all the people – and remember Dr. Gentle's message from Christmas Eve – the angels brought good news of joy FOR ALL THE PEOPLE!

- Steven Baines

Sundays in January

Adult Sunday School Class

Christian Pathways will be discussing the book "Christ in Crisis" by Jim Wallis. Loretta Tate will be the discussion leader. The author has based his premise on the teachings of Christ to speak to the times in which we are living. Meaningful discussion is encouraged and all are welcomed to attend at 9 a.m. in the Atrium.

Sunday, January 5

9 a.m. Christian Pathways: "Christ in Crisis"

10 a.m. Sermon: "Birth of a King"
(John 1:1-5, 9)

with infant dedication of Layla Michelle Moore
(parents Sarah and Ben Moore)

11:45 a.m. Brown Bag Discussion, Howland Center: Dr. Gentle is teaching on forgiveness: The rule of love: not seven times, but seventy times seven (Matthew 18:15-22)

Sunday, January 12

9 a.m. Christian Pathways: "Christ in Crisis"

10 a.m. Sermon: To Be Baptized
(Matthew 3:13-20)

4:30 p.m. Epiphany Party for NCCC choirs

Sunday, January 19

9 a.m. Christian Pathways: "Christ in Crisis"

10 a.m. Sermon: "Dawning of a New Day"
(John 1:29-42)

3 p.m. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute at Henson Valley Christian Church
Ft. Washington, Maryland.
All are invited!

Sunday, January 26

9 a.m. Christian Pathways: "Christ in Crisis"

10 a.m. Sermon: Walking in the Light
(Matthew 4:12-23)

11:45 a.m. Annual Luncheon and Meeting
Howland Center

January Birthdays

5 Maury Lee
6 Fay Arrington
7 Richard Blackmore
Kelly Swanson
9 Conrad Bolston
Dorothy Davis
10 Garth Otto
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
28 Paul McCormick
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 Student*

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.

Annual Reports are Due

All NCCC clergy and leaders are asked to submit their annual report to Rev. Steven Baines by Wednesday, January 15. If you have any questions about what is needed please speak with Rev. Baines or Dr. Gentle. Thank you for your leadership in 2019.

Annual Meeting

All members and friends are invited to attend the Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Sunday, January 26, at 11:45 a.m., in the Howland Center. Business will include the election of officers, approving the 2020 budget, and receiving the 2019 Annual Report. Donation suggested for the meal is \$15.

Make Music with Us!

Music is a joyful part of our worship. Have you sung in a choir or played an instrument before? Have you been hiding your talent "under a bushel" when, with some refreshing practice you could help our faith community glorify our Lord through song? Well, there's no time like the present. It's a *new* year with undiscovered possibilities for the Lord to "do a new thing" with, to, and through us.

In less than two months, the Lenten season begins. We would be *delighted* to welcome new members to strengthen our choral and instrumental presence in worship. Both the Sanctuary Choir (Sunday rehearsal schedule) and the Gospel Choir (Tuesday evening rehearsal schedule) especially need more altos, tenors, and basses.

To find out more, please speak with Valeria Foster following worship service during our coffee and conversation time or contact her at (202) 797-0103 or vfoster@nationalcitycc.org. In the meantime, keep singing as a congregation, with your whole heart. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6 (NIV)

Music at Midday in February

Music at Midday will resume in February. Concerts are in the Sanctuary on Fridays from 12:15 to 1 p.m. and are free. Donations are accepted.

February 7: Organist James D. Hicks (Califon, New Jersey) will perform organ works of Danish composers Gottfred Matthison-Hansen, Christian Præstholm, and Benna Moe.

February 14: Chuyoung and Erik William Suter will present a Valentine's Day performance of the lovely romantic Piano Concerto No. 2 of Sergei Rachmaninoff with piano and organ.

February 21: Washington, D.C. pianist **Natalia Kazaryan** will perform works of Olivier Messiaen, Ludwig van Beethoven, and Maurice Ravel.

February 28: Samantha Scheff (Asbury Park, New Jersey) will perform a program of French organ music, featuring works of Marcel Dupré, César Franck, and Louis Vierne.



Food Pantry volunteers filling gift bags for our neighbors in need.



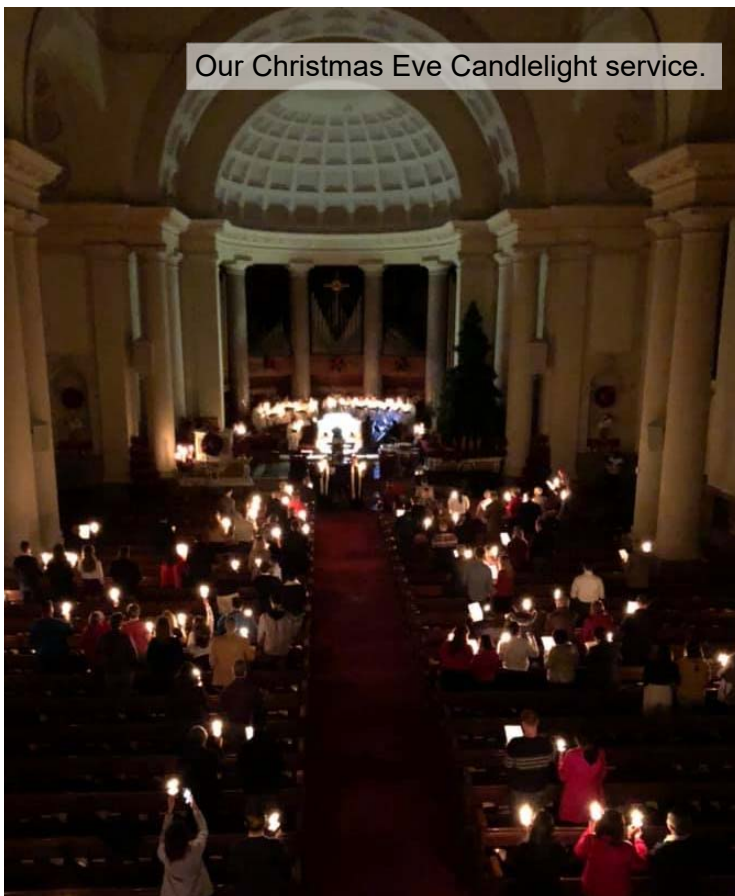
The Crudup sisters enjoying Breakfast with Santa.



The Sanctuary Choir and The Wind Quintet performing our Lessons & Carols service.



Two Christmas Elves and Dr. Gentle helping at Breakfast with Santa.



Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service.



Reading of the Nativity at our Breakfast with Santa.

Welcome!



On November 22, we welcomed **Robin Nicole Hamilton** into the membership of National City.

She is a journalist, writer, television host, and principal at ARoundRobin Production Company. She has worked as a broadcast journalist in Florida, New York, Boston, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C.

She is a graduate of Duke University with a master's in broadcast journalism from New York University and an M.A. from Harvard's John F Kennedy School of Government in public administration with focus on policy and media. She has written and produced several movies.



We welcomed **Abby Kaericher** into the membership of National City on December 8.

She is an attorney for Hall and Render Law firm that does law regarding health care on K Street. She attends Music at Midday. Her father (who lives in St. Louis) was baptized at National City.

She is transferring her membership from: Eden United Church of Christ, St. Louis, Missouri. She lives in Washington, D.C.

Thank You From the Morgans

Little did we know what we were getting ourselves into that October 2nd, fifteen years ago when we drove up behind the church. We hoped for a lot. We even expected a lot! Adventures in the city. A wonderful church to attend. A reunion with friends whom we had known briefly as travel companions. Lots of history being made in our nation's capital. We expected a lot, but we had no idea...

What we got ourselves into was the gift of your welcome; the gift of your friendship; the gift of your receiving our gifts as historian, archivist, and interim pastor. Who could have known that we would receive even the grace gift of you, our dear friends, becoming our extended family.

We are now sad to leave as we say "Thank You" and "Goodbye." Yet you have taught us that, by grace, maybe, just maybe, wonderful things await us in our relocation to Indianapolis.

Thank you and goodbye and may God bless you as richly as you have blessed us.

Peter and Lynne Morgan, 5639 Eagle Oaks Lane, Zionsville, IN 46077
(after April 1)

In Sympathy

Long-time member **Marjorie Bennett** died on December 18 in Ohio where she had moved to be closer to her family.

Marge had been a member of National City Christian Church since the 1940s. She was active in the deaconesses, Christian Women's Fellowship, the Hearthstone Class, and, early on, the Young Adult Fellowship.

Survivors include her nephew Dr. David C. Bennett of Leipsic, Ohio.

Extended performances of Porgy and Bess at the Met

After nearly 30 years, the opera "Porgy and Bess" has returned to The Metropolitan Opera in New York City. It was scheduled to run from September 23 through February 1. Our own member, Ali Waheed Ky, is in the production's chorus and has a solo part. On November 24, she also participated in the Met's special tribute to the late American opera singer Jessye Norman. We are so proud of Alia!

Due to overwhelming public demand for the "Porgy and Bess" production, three additional performances have been added: February 4, 12, and 15, 2020. If you would like to see the opera without traveling to NYC, several area movie theaters will be showing "Porgy and Bess" on Saturday, February 1, and Wednesday, February 5. For more information about locations near you and show times, go to [fandango.com/movies-coming-soon](https://www.fandango.com/movies-coming-soon).