

THE  
**Messenger**  
From Memorial Drive Christian Church

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During this time of being quarantined, I have had a lot of time to think. It seems like Church among other things, enters my mind a lot. At first I worried about where we would go, God provided the Korean Center. I worried about where we were going to store things, God provided a storage unit right across the street from the Korean Center. I worried about how we were going to get everything done, God provided a book for me to read "Your Calling as a Christian" by Timothy Carson and it occurred to me that I don't have to worry about everything. This is what he says"

"If there is one way that we simultaneously identify our unique purpose as a Christian and edify the body of the Church, it is in the identifying our God-appointed gifts and then using them. If the community of Christian believers is like a body with each member serving in a particular capacity, then no part of the body is dispensable. We all have unique gifts of service to offer, and this diversity of gifts creates the faithful congregation. No person of faith possess all of the gifts; they are apportioned individually by the Sprit for the up building of the whole church. You have been given some gift or gifts for building up the body of Christ."

We need your gifts to start this "new" church. We need your gifts to move this "new" church. Please search your hearts and see how you can use your gifts to build up this "new" church. Volunteer your gifts as we move forward to do God's will.

The committee has been working in spite of social distancing. We have a Zoom meeting every week.

We have secured two storage units, very close the Korean American Association and Community Center of Houston. We are still working with Paratus, and the closing is still scheduled for July 6. We are working on a time schedule to begin meeting at the Korean Center. A lot depends on the Corona Virus.

Dick Rybacki is going to head up getting a new name for the church. Look for his article in this newsletter.

We are in the process of deciding what is essential for us to take with us. An outline of the storage units is on the floor

### New Beginnings Steering Committee

Contact: Carol Neal, Chair  
[cneal9915@aol.com](mailto:cneal9915@aol.com)



in the in fellowship hall. We have placed some items in the two outlined storage areas. If there is a particular item that has special significance or usefulness or an item that can be used at the K C more than once or twice per year, place it in one of the outlined storage areas. Remember, although the storage units are climate controlled, some items may not be suitable for long term storage. There is very limited storage at the KC and it will be used to store small items that will be used on a weekly basis. When the outlined storage units are full, that is all the room we have, and we will have to make some decisions.

We have obtained appraisals on the value of the piano and organ in the sanctuary. A couple of churches have expressed interest in purchasing them. We are pursuing those churches to see if they are still interested in purchasing them.

The Thomas Kinkaid pictures will be offered to Jane Russell, since her brother Steve Rockwell, was the person who gave them to the church. The pictures given by The Oates family will be offered to John and Stephanie Oates.

If your family gave something to the church, and you would like to have it back, or if there is something of remembrance from the church that you would like to have, the church will be open Monday through Thursday June 1 – 4 and June 8- 11 from 10:00am-12:00noon and 1:00-3:00pm to search the church for those items and take them with you. Please sign for the items taken in the office so we will have a record of where things went. The peace bells will be available for you to take one. Please sign that you got one. Feel free to look in the library and see if there are any books that you would like to have in your library at home. If you need kitchen items, feel free to take what you need. Whatever is left will be sold or donated.

This is a sad, but exciting time. The building will be missed, but we as a people remain God's People and family.

Carol Neal

**Herschel Moore, Minister**  
**Contact: 164hem@gmail.com**  
**or 713-459-0846**

The first thing I remember wanting to be was, of course, a cowboy. Then an Indian. When I was six, I had a leg up on being a pirate because I had to wear a patch over one eye, anyway. Eye surgery. By junior high, I had become more realistic and dreamed of being a professional running back. In high school, a forest ranger.

As graduation loomed, I began to feel the weight of the decision concerning my future. I prayed and thought of what was needed in the world. Nations and individuals were destroying one another, motivated by arrogance, selfishness, and an unwillingness to forgive. "If Jesus has forgiven me," I reasoned, "how can I not forgive Ricky." He was the kid that tormented me in grade school. Ricky was forgiven that day whether he ever knew it or not.

In the summer after graduation, I stood while driving my big, red Farmall tractor and preached forgiveness to the dry stubble I was plowing under as well as to a couple of cows across the fence and to huge imaginary crowds in a stadium. After conversations with my pastor, my brother, and my parents, I was set on the path of ministry that has led me to this day.

From this seven-tiered summit, that path manifests all the twists and turns and bumps that could not be seen from the start. There were many shifting dreams and expectations that evaporated along the way, and the stadium crowds have yet to materialize. Yet none of those expectations match the gratitude I have for the way Christian discipleship, much less, professional ministry, has shaped my life.

I share all this to say that, though building castles in the air might be inevitable, it must not distract us as a church from following Jesus step by step. Following requires looking ahead but only as far as to our Shepherd. It requires looking outside ourselves rather than studying our own church navel. We should not spend too much time asking, "Who are we?" We are Christians; not the only Christians, but Christians only. We do not need to spend time trying to decide whether we are better suited for piracy or the NFL. Instead, we need to lift up our eyes and "look unto the fields that are white unto harvest (John 4:35)." We will only share Christ with our neighbors when we see that our neighbors, just as ourselves, need Christ.

Grateful to be walking a few steps with you on the path,  
 Herschel

## Outreach Ministries

Contact: Judy or Frank Conner, Co-Chairs  
 fwconner@sbcglobal.net

Just a reminder that as we enter the Pentecost season for the church, there is a Pentecost special offering that is collected. Everyone is invited to give a little extra this year. The pandemic is a world-wide problem.

Since we are not gathering at the church building on Sundays, you may be out of the habit of providing food donations to the East Spring Branch Food Pantry. They are still in need of those donations. Donations are accepted at the Food Pantry at 7901 Westview Drive -- food or cash. Email [info@springbranchfoodpantry.com](mailto:info@springbranchfoodpantry.com) for further details (open schedule, ways to donate).

## Teaching Haiti

The board of Teaching Haiti has agreed to disband as of May 31, 2020. Your support has been invaluable! We feel like we accomplished a lot for the people in Haiti in the four years we were together. Haiti will always need our help and Bertin Bail will continue to help his people. If you ever have anything to donate or any love offering Bertin will be glad to help use everything for the people. Once again thank you for all of your support.

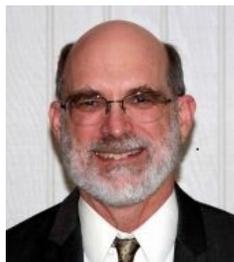
## Ministry Gifts

Please remember to send your offerings to our office at Memorial Drive Christian Church, 11750 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024, or go to our website at:

[MDCCDOC.org](http://MDCCDOC.org)

and click the "Give" tab.

Your gifts are appreciated.



## Treasurer's Report

Contact: John E. Lindley, Treasurer  
[treasurer.mdcc@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.mdcc@gmail.com)

### General Fund Income vs Expense

|                | April       | YTD         | YTD Budget  |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Pledged Income | 12,943.33   | 57,374.10   | 102,666.67  |
| Other Income   | 1,906.32    | 16,723.23   | 23,866.67   |
| Expense        | 28,335.35   | 108,512.32  | 151,421.71  |
| Balance        | (13,485.70) | (34,414.99) | (24,888.37) |
| Txfer From DF  | 0.00        | 0.00        | 0.00        |
| Final Balance  | (13,485.70) | (34,414.99) | (24,888.37) |

The budget numbers are from the 2019 budget.

### Cash Assets & Debt

|                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| General Fund                     |                  |
| Checking                         | (4,371.19)       |
| Liabilities & Amortized Inc, Exp | 31,486.88        |
| Savings (Charles Schwab)         | 2,478.82         |
| Building Sale Proceeds           | 35,000.00        |
| Undesignated Memorial Funds      | 212,172.92       |
| Designated Funds                 | <u>77,270.02</u> |
| Total                            | 354,037.45       |
| Mortgage Balance                 | 469,752.29       |

### Comments

“Pledge income” for April was almost the same as March which is very encouraging. Expenses were almost the same as well (though one roofing repair expense will show up in May.) The main difference in income & expense is that building income was down significantly as expected. The other impact during the month is the stock market drop has affected our CCF funds by about 10%. We have received \$35,000 of the earnest money in April which I show above as “Building Sale Proceeds”. We should receive \$50,000 from the Living Endowment Fund and another \$35,000 in the earnest money in early May. We will then have plenty of cash on hand to weather this current crisis for the next two to three months. If you have any questions, please ask me at church or send an email to [treasurer.mdcc@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.mdcc@gmail.com).  
 John E. Lindley, Treasurer. 5/3/2020

### Jim Stones, Chair of Elders

Contact: 713-614-0868

### Message from Your Elders

In times of crisis, the emphasis is often on the negative. I would like to mention that there are positive aspects of our current condition. A group of Elders and other volunteers have volunteered to regularly contact a group of congregation members to stay in touch. One positive sign is that it is now much easier to catch people at home than it was in the past.

Many people have used the quiet schedule to contact and talk with people with whom they have not recently visited. These opportunities frequently yield new information and a chance to talk to people important in your life.

The Covid pandemic has provided us with humor as well. I saw on Facebook a sign at a Baptist church whose sign read “No Toilet Paper – the Roll has been called up Yonder.” People have been creative in ways to celebrate birthdays, graduations, Mother’s Day, marriages, and other events.

It has been exciting to see the way Herschel, Carolyn, John, and the other John have been effective in providing us with worship opportunities on Sundays and for Prayer Wednesdays. Even though we cannot meet in person, we cherish the opportunities to be a congregation at heart.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Stones

### Community Joys and Concerns

Our congratulations to Kaylen Wilkins, in her confession of faith in Christ and baptism, on May 31. Rev. Carolyn Allen will officiate.

Our condolences to Carol and Larry Neal in the death of Carol’s cousin.

## Seeking A New Name

As we move forward toward our relocation, it is clear that our current name of Memorial Drive Christian Church no longer will represent who we are and what we will be in the future. With this in mind members of the New Beginnings Steering Committee and the Administrative Council have been exploring options for renaming our community of faith. This is a very important step toward our new beginning and one in which the New Beginnings Steering Committee would like for all in our community to be involved.

To get this process started the members of the Steering Committee and Council have put together a list of potential names for use in stimulating thought about other names we can consider going forward. Here they are.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Open Arms Christian Church                  | Abiding Faith Disciples of Christ Church |
| Open Arms Christian Fellowship              | Life Springs Christian Church            |
| Open Arms Community of Faith                | Shining Light Christian Church           |
| Serenity Christian Church                   | Alleluia Christian Church                |
| West Side Christian Church                  | West Side Christian Church (DOC)         |
| Sojourners Christian Church                 | New Covenant Christian Church            |
| New Beginnings Community Church             | New Beginnings Christian Church          |
| Spring Branch Christian Church (DOC)        | Memorial Christian Church                |
| Community Christian Church                  | Grace Christian                          |
| Community Christian Church (no DOC on sign) | Spring Branch Christian Church (DOC)     |
| Good Samaritan Christian Church             | Disciples Christian Church               |
| Serendipity Church                          | The Welcoming Church                     |
| The Wandering Church                        | The Seeking Church                       |
| New Way Church                              | Pandemic of Love Christian Church        |
| Disciples Without Borders Christian Church  | The Open Door-A Christian Church         |

These names are just a starting point. Please give some prayerful consideration to other names that you would suggest. There is an open slate. No decisions have been made. We want your suggestions and input. Please pass your thoughts along to either Carol Neal [cneal9915@aol.com](mailto:cneal9915@aol.com) or to me at [rybacki@comcast.net](mailto:rybacki@comcast.net) To keep this process moving please submit your suggestions by the end of the day on **Saturday, May 30th**.

To help you in your work, on May 6<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Allen sent a communication to all containing some guidance that Carol Neal put together concerning the important elements of selecting a name for an organization. See the article on the next page. We hope you will find this helpful as you deliberate on your suggestions. Please take a look.

There also are some other challenges we face in making a final determination of the name to be used. First, we are a not-for-profit organization in the State of Texas. As such our legal name is and any assumed name we may wish to operate under must be registered with the Secretary of State's office. Thus, once we have a list of preferred candidate names our first step will be to check with the Secretary of State's office to determine if those names are available for use. If a name we are considering is already reserved or in use by another entity we may need to "tweak" the name we are interested in using to differentiate it from the one already in use or move on to another choice. An example of what I refer to as "tweaking" is shown in the first three candidate names in the list.

Similarly, a search also will need to be conducted to determine if a suitable domain name is available for each of the names being considered.

Once we have received your input, the NBSC will work to narrow down the list to the best candidates, vet them for availability and present those that are viable to the congregation for final selection. When we have approval of the name by the congregation we can then proceed to register the chosen name and acquire the domain name.

We eagerly look forward to hearing from you!

In service,

Dick Rybacki



## From Our Associate

Rev. Carolyn Allen, Associate Minister

Contact: 919-649-3180

### Living in the Present

When I first heard of the stay at home orders, I found it incredibly difficult to imagine only leaving home to go to the grocery store or the doctor's office. Stay at home is not in my vocabulary! When the kids were little and I didn't work outside the home, my friends joked that I should have been called a "never-at-home mom!"

I have adjusted to this new reality of being at home more and more. Just the other day I was out most of the afternoon running some frustrating medical errands. When I got home, annoyed and tired, I exclaimed to the kids, "I don't ever want quarantine to ever end!" I had anxiety about being stuck at home and now I have anxiety about leaving home!

\_\_\_ The antidote to all this anxiety is to live in the present. Matthew 6:34 reminds us, *"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."* It seems so hard to do. But living in the present is really our only option. So let's try our best to do it well, paying attention to what gifts and challenges we are given for today and knowing God's love surrounds us and will help us through whatever might be in our future!



The chalice symbolizes the central place of communion in worship for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The X-shaped cross of the disciple Andrew is a reminder of the ministry of each person and the importance of evangelism.

To read the story of the Chalice, go to

<https://disciples.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/TheStoryoftheChaliceLogo-2015.pdf>

## Choosing a New Church Name

Choosing a new church name can be difficult. Picking a great name isn't the main factor that will determine the growth and health of a church. What people want isn't a cool name, but a place where they can get to know Christians who love Jesus and can welcome them into a loving community, with friendly, caring, accepting people, and where they start to learn about God at their own pace.

Things we need to consider:

1. The name is the first impression they will get of your church, and they way the perceive you.
2. How internet friendly is your church name? When people search Google how likely is your name to show up?
3. Choose a name that is simple.
4. Choose a name that is memorable.
5. Choose a name with meaning. Choose something that will give your people and your community something to think about when they come across the name.
6. Choose a name that is reverent. The "church" is not the building it is the gathering of God's people who meet to worship, pray, fellowship, and learn about God. Put the focus on God not on how cool the name is.
7. Check churches around where we are going to see what names they have so we don't pick a name that is already close.
8. Do we need to use (Disciples of Christ)? If your target is unchurched people, you attract them by who you are, not by your name.



### Zoom Information

Here are the meeting IDs, passwords, and dial in phone numbers to access Zoom for our reoccurring gatherings.

#### Sunday School at 9:30am:

Meeting ID: 934 5263 6490

Password: 228202

Dial-in: 1 (346) 248-7799

This Sunday School class is studying of the book, *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: a Spirituality For Real Life*, by James Martin, SJ.

#### Sunday Worship at 11:00am, until June 28:

Meeting ID: 981 148 527

Password: 049412

Dial-in: 1 (346) 248-7799

#### Wednesday Prayer Service at 4:00pm:

Meeting ID: 754 486 502

Password: 018425

Dial-in: 1 (346) 248-7799

I hope having all this information in one place makes it easier for everyone to join us. I will still send out the email reminders before each meeting. I truly miss meeting with you all in person, but I'm grateful for these opportunities to connect virtually!

Peace and love,

Carolyn Allen

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### Shared Reflections Book Group

Zoom Meetings are being held monthly. Our book for June is *That Churchill Woman*, by Stephanie Barron. Carolyn Allen will lead the discussion. The book for July is Sue Monk Kidd's newest book, *The Book of Longings*. Pick up a book and join us! Contact Carolyn Allen for the Zoom information.

Memorial Drive Christian Church  
11750 Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX 77024

**RETURN ADDRESS  
SERVICE REQUESTED**