

From Memorial Drive Christian Church

11750 MEMORIAL DRIVE · HOUSTON, TEXAS · [www.mdccdoc.org](http://www.mdccdoc.org) 713-789-0060



## From Our Associate Minister

Contact: Carolyn Allen  
[nchornedfrog73@yahoo.com](mailto:nchornedfrog73@yahoo.com)

So much has been happening and changing, here at the church and out in the world.

The constant we have is God's love that we share with each other as we begin our new journey.

To that end, I'm pleased to share with you all that my title has changed to Associate Minister and my hours have increased to half time. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve God alongside you all!

A blessing for our move:

*For the things we carry, the logistics of change,*

*The help we need to migrate from one place to another.*

*God bless this space that has been home, tended for a time,*

*For the memories—delight, despair, and challenge were all here.*

*And God bless the space that will be next—  
 Square footage for love and safety to flourish,  
 For new chances, new traditions,  
 and a new path to you.*

*May you be known and transformed  
 with familiar love*

*In the movement from here to there.*

## From Our Pastor

Contact: Rev. Herschel Moore  
[164hem@gmail.com](mailto:164hem@gmail.com) 713-459-0846

This is likely the final issue of the *Messenger* from Memorial Drive Christian Church. At the same time, it is your pastor's first address to you, the members of the new Open Door Christian Church. The steps taken over the four months that I have been with you as well as the steps you all had taken months before I stepped onto the path have been with no guarantee but the assurance of faith: "The Lord is our Shepherd."

My status as a temp may have made our relationship seem sort of tentative, and the hindrances of being shut down by the plague have made it impossible to practice any personal pastoral care except by phone. Though we are grateful for Zoom and excited to think about how we might continue to use some kind of online service in perpetuity, it is not the same as gathering in person for the worship, study, and discussion that is so critical to Christian growth, is it?

We are still dealing with some uncertainty about the closing of the property sale, about when and how we can resume in-person worship, and about what our congregation will look like after the move. But a little uncertainty does not need to worry us anymore, because the Lord has not failed us yet. We can't see far ahead, but we don't need to. We are able to envision the service on the first Sunday in July originating from our Open Door at 1809 Hollister, whether in person or online.

I am very excited not only about the excellent facility to which we move but even more so about the mission opportunities afforded by the surrounding neighborhood. I feel that there is a great need and probably a great desire among families and children in that part of Spring Branch to build a foundation of faith for their lives. Having witnessed the dedication and abilities of our congregation, I believe we can reach those families as we follow the prompting of the Spirit of Christ. Guidance will come. Ideas will flow. You will see what you can offer. And an Open Door will have an impact, an eternal impact on people's lives.

Faith, Hope, Love,

Herschel



## New Beginnings Steering Committee

Contact: Carol Neal, Chair  
cneal9915@aol.com

The time of packing and cleaning is over. Now is the time to move and begin a new journey. A new place, The Korean American Community Center, a new name, Open Door Christian Church, and a new mission that will be determined. But the same dedicated people.

This is what the new worship space looks like with our chairs.



The closing date for the sale of the property has been delayed again due to complications resulting from Covid-19 and Bunker Hill's procedures. We now anticipate that closing will take place in mid to late August. The feasibility period will end on July 6.

We will leave the building at the end of June and begin worshipping in the Korean American Community Center either virtually or in-person in July. Paratus will lease the property from us from July 6 until closing. The rental fee will cover operating expenses (but not the mortgage) for that period.

If you have keys to the building, please turn them in to Teri Villoutreix or Larry Neal by the end of June.

Marilyn Duncan has been hired as a part-time Administrative Assistant beginning July 1. She will work remotely from home. Her responsibilities will include production of the monthly newsletter, maintaining the website, and other duties necessary to keep all connected and informed.

We intend to send fewer copies of the newsletter by mail and to rely more on email. If you are unable to receive it via email, please notify Linda Thompson (713-208-0086) or lindaluctathompson@gmail.com.

We have decided to keep the sanctuary piano in anticipation of using it whenever we are located in a more permanent situation. The KACC has a piano that we can use while we are worshipping there. If anyone would like to "foster" a grand piano in their home for an unknown period of time, please contact Linda Thompson (see contact information above.) Otherwise it will be moved to an appropriate piano storage facility.

We are in negotiations with someone who is interested in working with us in a consultant capacity during our transition to a mission driven church. He is a Disciples minister. More information will be forthcoming on that.

The list of items taken from the church has been submitted to Paratus. We have made our move of furniture and other items to the Korean American Community Center. It took three hired men and two trips in a big truck. Almost everything fit where it needed to go. We are working on getting the coffee machine hooked up. We will be working on the second move to the storage units next week. Hopefully by the time you read this it will be completed. We have a small office and a small storage room at KACC.

There are memorial plaques on the wall at the church. If anyone would like to have them please let Teri Villoutreix know. We have sent almost all of the history of the church to the Historical Society, but they will not take plaques.

In Carolyn's sermon Sunday she said:

*"A church doesn't feel like home because of the building. A church feels like home because of the love given and received.*

*And this is what we need to remember:  
Sharing God's love can be done by people of any age;*

*Sharing God's love does take energy, but it also renews us;*

*Sharing God's love will attract people to us, young and old.*

*With God's help we can beat those odds stacked against us and we can strive to become a church*

**New Beginnings Steering Committee, continued**

*that is, like those words in Isaiah, too crowded for it's inhabitants.*

*It will take more energy than we have.*

*It will take more faith than we have.*

*But it will not take more than what we can be when we truly rely on God's promises of abundance.*

*I know that God's love is with us and God will not forget us."*

The Steering Committee's job is almost complete. We were commissioned to get us relocated. That is happening at the end of the month. It is now the time everyone in the congregation begins God's work. We need to work together asking for God's help and listen for His direction. We need everyone to be willing to Serve God using your gifts and talents to fulfill His purpose for us. We need you to find your ministry; the place God needs you to be, so you can impact other people's lives. We need you to help us deepen our relationship with Christ and each other so that we can transform ourselves and others.

We need to work together with God to become the Church he needs to become. God will help us with energy, faith and love.

We need people to greet, serve, plan and implement activities/missions, mentor, and teach, lead small groups. We need people to set up and break down on Sundays, to help with worship, to teach Sunday school, visit the elderly and the sick, write cards, pray, and prepare communion. Where is God leading you to help? God NEEDS YOU!! We need you!

Let's discover together how we can make a difference in other people's lives.

Thank all of you for your support and help in the journey. I look forward to worshiping with you at Open Door Christian Church. The physical and mailing address for Open Door Christian Church is 1809 Hollister, Houston, Texas 77080. The telephone number will be the same.

**Investment Task Group Plans**

**Eric Wehner, Chair**

**June 17, 2020**

With new opportunities come new responsibilities. When we have finished the real estate closing process and received payment, we (the church) will have been given also an obligation to care for those funds, just as the ten servants were given by their master in the parable of Luke 19:11-26.

Our immediate obligations will be to pay the remaining mortgage balance, the realtor's commission and our portion of the closing costs. Those payments are typically made as part of the closing process. There will be some expenses for moving, storage and "set-up" at the Hollister location. The remaining amount of approximately \$3.8 million will be deposited in our bank account. As soon as is feasible, those proceeds will be invested in a portfolio of holdings similar to past investment of designated fund accounts. The basic objectives of managing those assets are as follows:

The portfolio of Investments will have low to medium risk.

Investment choices will be consistent with core principles of the Christian Church - Disciples of Christ.

Investment principle will not be used for operating expenses; only the income from investments can supplement pledges and offerings (if necessary) to cover expenses.

The target for potential growth of the initial principle invested will meet or exceed inflation.

Above all, we will strive to be good stewards of the assets that we are entrusted with, such that we will honor the charter members, past members, and current members of MDCC who, with God's help, have made a new beginning possible.

**You can easily make a one-time donation to Memorial Drive Christian Church from your debit/credit card. You can choose the fund, and your gift will be processed immediately.  
To make a gift now, go to**

**<https://mdcc.ccbchurch.com/goto/giving>**



## Treasurer's Report

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

### General Fund Income vs Expense

	May	YTD	YTD Budget
Pledged Income	14,273.33	71,647.43	128,333.34
Other Income	3,970.87	20,694.10	29,833.34
Expense	30,000.51	138,512.83	188,734.76
Balance	(11,756.31)	(46,171.30)	(30,568.08)
Txfer From DF	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00
Final Balance	38,243.69	3,828.70	(30,568.08)

The budget numbers are from the 2019 budget.

### Cash Assets & Debt

General Fund	
Checking	30,833.52
Liabilities & Amortized Inc, Exp	31,818.64
Savings (Charles Schwab)	2,478.84
Building Sale Proceeds	70,000.00
Undesignated Memorial Funds	179,345.22
Designated Funds	81,652.99
Total	396,129.21
Mortgage Balance	466,071.44

### Comments

"Pledge income" for May was up. Again this is very encouraging. Building income was up with some catch-up payments. Expenses were up a little due to some repairs. We have received \$70,000 of the earnest money and we have transferred \$50,000 from the Living Endowment Fund. We have plenty of cash on hand to deal with the COVID crisis and the transition to our new location. 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

## A Message from Your Elders

Contact: Jim Stones, Chair  
[jestones@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jestones@sbcglobal.net) 713-614-0868

Oh, woe is me! It is so easy to feel sorry for myself in these days. I have been stuck in my house for months. I can't go to church, can't eat out, can't get a haircut, can't work out at the gym, and must wear a face mask when I go through the pick up line or am forced to visit the drug store. Oh, woe is me!

These feelings are real and they are rampant. It is necessary for us, as Christians, to take a different view. The world at present is full of grief. There are people who are sick and families who have been diminished by death due to the Covid-19 pandemic. There are thousands of people who have lost jobs and are dealing with hunger and fear of eviction. The unemployment wave has added to the stress in households dealing with anger and abuse. Families of black heritage are overwhelmed with grief and anger over a justice system which is not equal for all. Political views are so divided that it is difficult to mention politics in normal conversation. The world is truly in a mess!

It is time for us to set aside our own difficulties and concentrate on the greater ones. It is time for prayer. It is time for encouragement. It is time to seek ways in which we may address the needs of the distressed. It is time to be Christian and to seek to follow the path Jesus would have taken in times like this. Let us unite and be better!

Jim Stones

## Community Joys and Concerns

Our condolences to Terrie Cardwell and her family and friends in the death of her mother, Charlene Cardwell, charter member of MDCC, who died May 31. A private funeral was held at MDCC, on June 5, officiated by Rev. John Malget.

Please welcome new member Kaylen Lena Wilkins, who joined the church by confession of faith in Christ and baptism, on May 31.



## We Have a New Name!

A special thank you goes out to all who helped during the naming process and to all those who participated in the voting for the final choice of this name.

As we look forward to our new beginning at the Korean American Community Center we will do so with a new name. That name is *Open Door Christian Church*. This name received 18 votes or 55% of the total of 33 votes cast. New Way Christian Church and Open Table Christian Church received eight and seven votes respectively. There were also six individuals who expressed that they did not wish to vote for any of the names proposed.

Since there was a majority shown for the Open Door Christian Church option, the second stage of ranked voting was not needed. A special thank you goes out to all who helped during the naming process and to all those who participated in the voting for the final choice of this name.

We are now completing the final steps for reservation of the name with the Secretary of State's office and acquisition of the domain name to be used. Once these steps are complete we can turn our attention to such tasks as design of a new logo, design of our signage and letterhead and development of a new website.

Please note that, just as with our current name—Memorial Drive Christian Church—the name adopted does not include “Disciples of Christ.” Thus we are not compelled to use it in conjunction with our name. We can use this descriptor just as we have in the past, that is, we are free to use it as we see fit.

Finally, be aware that the name selected will be the name under which we will operate and that which will be used for the public. It is an assumed name or dba (doing business as) name. Our legal name will remain Memorial Drive Christian Church.

As we move forward, let our actions reflect what is implied by this new name.

Dick Rybacki



## Member Development

Contact: Maudeen Eccles, Chair  
maudeenfecclles@gmail.com  
713-782-0866

We are all being as careful as possible this summer. We have had two joyful events to celebrate with the Ball and Wilkins families.

On Saturday May 2, 2020, Kenny Ball married Apryl Turley. Congratulations to the newlyweds!! On May 31, Kaylen Lena Wilkins was baptized by Rev. Carolyn Allen. Congratulations to our newest member plus parents Jay and Betsy Wilkins and grandparents Chuck and Linda Ball.

We continue to thank all who contribute to our Zoom Sunday worship and Wednesday prayer meetings. Gracious thanks to Rev. Moore and Rev. Allen who alternate preaching. We appreciate John Lindley's readings and music and technical help by John Cavnar-Johnson.

We are sincerely thankful to ALL who have been working on our move and working with our huge inventory and making hard decisions. Many members have been able to go to the church and take precious things to remember our building after we are all moved out.

By the time you read this we will have a new name!! May God bless this new church, our mission, and our future.

Stay safe,

Maudeen



## **The New Beginnings Worship Task Force**

**Contact: Joyce Stones, Chair**  
**jastones@sbcglobal.net 713-614-9203**

Chaired by Joyce Stones, this task force was divided into three separate areas. Music chaired by Judy Conner, Worship/Hospitality by Pam Ellis, and Youth and Children by Joyce Stones. We also have some members of this committee that are helping transfer and learn about the technology aspects of this move.

Others serving on this committee are: Carolyn Allen, Linda Ball, Laura Bledsoe, Sharon Bledsoe, Barbi Bryant, Laura Callison, John Callison, Judy Conner, Marilyn Duncan, Marci Hendry, Barbara Larick, Jo Ann McDuffie, Erin McNemar, Kitty Russell, Cliff Wolf, Jan Wolf, Chris Smith, Donna Smith, Sherry Smith, and Betsy Wilkins.

The Music Subcommittee oversight for “A New Church in a New Place”

1. All bells, associated instruments, and music have been sorted and packed for the storage units. Thank you Deb Busch! She has graciously agreed to keep a set of 12 bells for possible use when we get into the building.
2. The ongoing saga of the two pianos and the organ is still being planned. The piano in the fellowship hall and the organ are not going.
3. All of the Chalice hymnals are packed and ready to move. Thank you to the Conners!
4. At the new church, there will be no choir robes.
5. The copyright licenses we need for singing, reproducing, and streaming music are taken care of.

Suggestions from the committee: The majority would like a blend of music styles adapted, when appropriate, to the seasons and changes in worship format. The recommendation is for music with a director leading a service in which the people participate more fully, as in calling ourselves to worship through songs of praise.

The Children and Youth Subcommittee oversight for “A New Church in a New Place”

1. YAC will not be meeting this summer except for any special fellowship gatherings as it becomes safe to do so.
2. There will be two adults supervising children at all times.

The Subcommittee recommends:

Try having Worship and Wonder in the same room as the regular worship service in the Korean American Community Center.

- a. We recommend praise music/Worship and Wonder music be used as opening music, singing ourselves to worship. We can possibly use some of the same songs of worship and praise for inclusion of children as well as adults.
- b. We recommend having the children’s moment be a part of the adult worship experience, and led by the person in charge of Worship and Wonder on any particular Sunday. That will be the story being used in W & W each week.
- c. Nursery at the Korean American Community Center: Guidelines for nursery – we will have two pack-and-play beds ready as well as a changing “table.” Everything will be wiped down so the play room as well as the children’s bathroom will be as free of illness causing bacteria as possible.

Recommendations: There is so much more concerning Sunday School, YAC, and outings that we want to implement, but until we get past social distancing, that part of our desire for programing is on hold.

FYI: It is too difficult to move the mailboxes for children, but they may have their mailboxes. Thank God for this ministry, and thanks to Patrick Gibbons who so creatively and expertly made the boxes as well as the Worship and Wonder worship table that we will be using at the Korean American Community Center as our worship table in the sanctuary.

The Worship/Hospitality Subcommittee for creating a sense of “Welcome” in our “New Church in a New Place”

1. All of the pew Bibles have been packed for storage.
2. All communion supplies and banners have been packed. Thanks to Pam Ellis’s committee.
3. With the pandemic and not knowing when or what date or format our future worship together will be, this committee has been on hold. Most of their work will be done when we have more information.

The Technology Subcommittee has not met because of all the unknown factors involved so far. The worship leaders have had a dry run of equipment for the upcoming first telecast at the Korean American Community Center. FYI: the technology in the sound room will be staying at the present building for use by the next owner.

### Zoom Ministry 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:

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

---

### Shared Reflections Book Group

Zoom Meetings are being held monthly. Our 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.





*Dear MDCC Family,*

*It is with a full heart and so much gratitude I say, "Goodbye and Godspeed." You all have been a big part of our family's life for many, many years. You offered me a safe workplace when I was in a divorce transition. You helped me transition to a time of rest, and later to remarriage. Andre and I express our appreciation for all you have done to make us feel taken care of. May God give you all His blessings in your transition, as you share with people, near and far.*

*In Christ,*

*Teri Villoutreix*



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>



### Find MDCC on Facebook

Our church has an active Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, please like our page, Memorial Drive Christian Church, and interact with our posts. We provide updates on upcoming events and post pictures from recent church events.

Memorial Drive Christian Church  
11750 Memorial Drive  
Houston, Texas 77024

**RETURN ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**