

Messenger

AUGUST 2020



From Our Minister

Contact: Rev. Herschel Moore
164hem@gmail.com 713-459-0846

Dear Friends,

I am very encouraged by the interest you are already showing in the new Open Door Christian Church and our progressing relationship with Central Christian Church of Weatherford. (Texas. Not Oklahoma.) After twenty years or so of work, Central Christian has reached a degree of effective ministry that all congregations would like to emulate. And they are loving it! I believe they are actually experiencing the lightness of a yoke shared by Christ and their fellow members. I believe that, in our association with them, Open Door can find the same joy in worship and service that our sisters and brothers up there in almost-West Texas have.

This does not mean that Open Door will be a mirror image of Central; it means that we will find our own true voice in our community just as they have found theirs. It means that we can develop the authentic relationships with one another, with our neighbors, and with our Lord that will bring the peace, hope, love, and joy that all Christians are promised. It will be exciting to work with a bunch of people who actually love helping build strong churches. And Open Door and Central are not the only parties involved in this project. It is, in fact, God who has already led in the hearts and minds of both churches to bring them to this point, and I believe the Lord will continue what He has begun in these two churches.

Always praying for you, I am delighted to be your

Temp, Sub, Interim Minister,

Herschel

From Our Associate Minister

Contact: Carolyn Allen
nchornedfrog73@yahoo.com



Time moves strangely—especially during a pandemic. Since early March, some weeks have flown from Sunday to Sunday with barely the blink of an eye. But I am almost certain there have been at least a few weeks that have had more than one Wednesday in them!

However fast or slow, time does continue to move forward. And at last we are in our new worship space, with our new name. Of course, this move couldn't have taken place without a **lot** of hard work. I won't risk forgetting to name someone by listing all who helped. Still, all the efforts deserve to be acknowledged. Through this incredibly difficult pandemic time, I have been consistently amazed at how faithful and hard working you all are. I'm so very proud and grateful to serve God alongside you and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for Open Door Christian Church.

God is with us and God is Love!



Just a reminder that Paratus Classical Academy is leasing our Memorial Drive facility until the sale of the property closes in August, at which time they will take possession as the owner. Paratus, as our tenant, has full access to the premises during this period. For all intents and purposes we now have vacated the building.

Linda Thompson, Chair
Selling the Building Task Force



New Beginnings Steering Committee

Contact: Carol Neal, Chair
cneal9915@aol.com

This has been a long hard journey and we can finally see an end to this part of it. Now another journey begins. We need everyone to help in this next journey. Although we have moved into the new worship space our job is not complete yet. The Steering Committee/Admin. Council continues to meet every week to finalize details. We are so excited about the prospect of partnering with Danny Couch and Central Christian Church of Weatherford, Texas to help us move forward and find our mission. You should have been contacted by someone in the church and ask if you are interested in hearing more about this new and exciting adventure. If you said yes, Danny will contact you for a conversation to get to know you better and ask some question to gather as much knowledge about Open Door Christian Church as he can.

The Relocation task force has completed their task and I would like to thank them for all the hard work to find us a wonderful place to worship. If you still have keys please return them to Larry Neal or Linda Thompson. We do need help with moving some things from one storage unit to another and picking up a 4 drawer filing cabinet and taking it to one of the storage units. If you have a truck and would be willing to help please call Larry Neal at (713-467-0357).

The Selling of the Building task force has almost completed their task. We are still waiting on closing. Hopefully that will happen in August. Paratus has occupied the old building and is paying us a rental fee. (See Linda Thompson's article in this newsletter)

The Investment task force is waiting on the completion of the sale but has a plan for the use of the money.

The Worship/Youth task force is continuing to work to make sure our worship service and youth program are the best they can be now and when we can all meet together in person. (See Joyce Stones' article in this newsletter) I want to thank Carolyn, Hershel, John Lindley, David Duncan, and John Cavnar-Johnson for all the hard work they put in to put the worship service together on zoom each week. I know there are others that are working behind the scene to pick music and other things. Thanks, all of you!

I would like to thank all of you who worked on a task force and/or prayed for the ones working on them to make this transition happen. God has something special in store for Open Door Christian Church and I am excited to see what that is.

“Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass” (Psalm 37:5)

Open Door Includes Online Worship

Contact: John Cavnar-Johnson
President of the Congregation



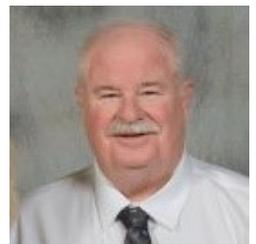
Dear Church Family,

We're all looking forward to being able to meet again as a congregation. Recently, someone asked me if we would continue online worship even after we're able to meet in person. Although we started online worship in reaction to the COVID-19 lockdown, online worship is a key part of our plans going forward with Open Door Christian Church. In fact, we're currently exploring alternatives to Zoom for streaming our worship services and other ways to increase our online presence. We believe being online gives us more ways to increase our online presence. We believe being online gives us more ways to fulfill our call to be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world and be witnesses "to the ends of the earth".

Bertin Bail has informed us that in the last two weeks, ten people in Les Palmes have died from Covid-19. Bertin is requesting donations of funds to buy more sanitizer bottles and more face masks for the village. Bertin indicated that the supplies are available in the capitol. All collected funds will be sent via a money-gram. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

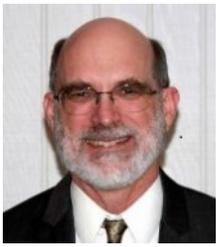
Property Committee

Contact: Larry Neal, Chair
lneal9915@aol.com



We have moved!

We have moved all the items that we intended to move to the Korean Community Center (KCC) and to the two storage units we have rented. We have a small office and storage area on the first floor of the KCC for our use during the week and for moving and storing items used for Sunday services. A big thank you to Fred Ellis for hooking up our Bunn coffee maker. Everyone be safe. Hopefully we will be able to meet in person in the not too distant future.



Treasurer's Report

Contact: John E. Lindley, Treasurer
treasurer.mdcc@gmail.com

June 2020

General Fund Income vs Expense

	June	YTD	YTD Budget
Pledged Income	11,843.34	83,490.77	154,000.00
Other Income	818.02	21,512.12	35,800.00
Expense	39,709.16	181,260.95	230,197.81
Balance	(27,047.80)	(76,258.06)	(40,397.81)
Txfer From DF	0.00	50,000.00	0.00
Final Balance	(27,047.80)	(26,258.06)	(40,397.81)

The budget numbers are from the 2019 budget.

Cash Assets & Debt

General Fund	
Checking	3,785.70
Liabilities & Amortized Inc, Exp	24,170.43
Savings (Charles Schwab)	2,478.86
Building Sale Proceeds	48,844.66
Undesignated Memorial Funds	189,298.62
Designated Funds	84,933.38
Total	353,511.65
Mortgage Balance	462,435.05

Comments

"Pledge income" for June was down but not by much and still close to what was pledged. Building income was down as was expected. With the new agreement with Paratus we will be getting additional building income in July and August. Expenses were high in June with rental payments and severance payments. Since we are paying both mortgage & rent for a couple months, expenses will be higher for a time. (Note the May expense numbers were incorrect as rent was not included.) Moving & setup costs have been taken from the Building Sale proceeds. If you have any questions, please ask me at church or send an email to treasurer.mdcc@gmail.com.

John E. Lindley, Treasurer. 7/12/2020

You can easily make a one-time or repeating donation to Open Door 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>

Outreach Ministries

Contact: Judy or Frank Conner
fwconner@sbcglobal.net



Each year MAM conducts a drive to help pay for school uniforms for needy kids. Last year over a thousand kids in Houston ISD, Aldine ISD and Spring Branch ISD were provided \$50 vouchers for school uniforms (shirt and pants/skirt).

This year's start of the school year is still being worked out, but East Spring Branch has just announced that they will open on schedule this year with a combination of in-school and remote classes.

This year many more vulnerable families will be struggling to pay for school clothes, due to COVID-related layoffs. So, MAM anticipates school uniform vouchers will be needed this year in all three districts and has started a campaign among the participating churches to raise voucher funds... including ODCC.

Everyone is invited to contribute as you are able. A \$50 donation can be forwarded to the church (earmarked for school uniforms) or directly to MAM, if that is more convenient.

And.... Thanks in advance to all the donors, as we begin our Outreach in our new setting.

Worship / Hospitality sub-committee

Contact: Joyce Stones, Chair
jastones@sbcglobal.net
713-614-203



The worship/Hospitality Sub Committee: John Callison, Jo Ann McDuffie, Kitty Russell, Betsy Wilkins, Carolyn Allen, Pam Ellis, Jan Wolf and Barbara Larick

Items of Discussion

- Items discussed that are affected by Corona Virus in consultation with our resident expert, David Duncan.
 - Seating arrangements
 - Use of things to be handled (music, bulletins, Bibles, communion, attendance, masks, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, trash cans)
 - Water will be served in plastic bottles that can be recycled.
 - Coffee will be served as usual.
- We are working on a plan for greeting in a spirit of welcome.
- We are looking at signs that can go up and come down each week
- We are planning for a spirit of welcome in our sanctuary including artificial flowers with a concern for those among us who have allergies. Members might also want to be aware of the negative affect of fragrances in general because of our members and visitors who have allergic reactions to them.
- As we choose a logo for our congregation, we are talking about business cards and magnets with information that is handy for our members and visitors.

Our new address:

Open Door Christian Church
1809 Hollister Street
Houston, TX 77080

Our phone number:

Our phone number is the same:

713-789-0060

Zoom Information

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

Sunday Worship at 11am:

Meeting ID: 981 148 527
Password: 049412
Dial-in: 1 (346) 248-7799

Wednesday Prayer Service at 4pm:

Meeting ID: 850 1292 6580
Password: 671979
Dial-in: 1 (346) 248-7799

Sunday School at 9:30am:

Meeting ID: 934 5263 6490
Password: 228202
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

Open Door Christian Church
1809 Hollister Street
Houston, Texas 77080

RETURN ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED