

Messenger

SEPTEMBER 2020



And we are off...

Contact: Danny Couch
Transitional Minister
drcouch65@gmail.com 817-613-6228

First, I want to say how excited I am to be among you! I think of all the things God has prepared me for, **this** is it! What is **this**? Transitioning a church to the next stage where God needs her to be in the world!

This congregation has done an amazing job of representing Christ to the community for decades! I know, because I was a youth who benefited from this ministry in the late 70's and early 80's. The respect this church was given by all people in this area was second to none. What you did was remarkable! What you are going through is what over 90% of all churches are going through! But what makes you different is this: You are choosing to evolve and adapt while 8,000 churches this year alone, will choose to die!

The reality of life is that all things change. The church is no different. However, I believe that the church is not so much about changing as we are about evolving into a People God needs in order to create God's Kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven". It may look and feel different, but our strong theology and values of unity, inclusiveness, acceptance, perseverance, grace, and a willingness for all people to be led to new heights by the Spirit of Christ will NEVER change. You are participating in something historically significant for the life of the church! It does NOT get any more exciting than this!

Meanwhile, during this Pandemic, I ask everyone to

1. Be patient and take this opportunity to connect in new ways. Yes, it is strange to Zoom or FaceTime, but thank God we have these technologies.
2. Be patient with me. I need to come face to face with all of you who decided to take this new journey. Seeing ALL of you takes time. But I am determined to know you and understand where you are coming from.
3. Connect with me so I can know who you are. I won't take a lot of your time, but I would love to take some of it.
4. Be very prayerful every day to remember your church and the new and exciting journey we are about to embark upon.
5. Circle the date: Sunday, October 4! Something big will happen! More later!

Every week I plan to update you and answer some of your questions. So, if you have any questions call, text or email them to me and I'll address it. 817-613-6228 and drcouch62@gmail.com

Thank you for letting me be a part of your next steps.

Danny

Next article: Where is the church going?



From Our Minister

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

Dear Friends,

At the moment of this writing, I have just come off a week's vacation. However, I did attend yesterday's service (August 16) by Zoom and was delighted to hear Danny Couch introduce himself and tell what Christ has meant to him and how the church played a part in that. His message was one of hope and promise – a prophetic message much needed by the wider church as well as by our own in these days.

One week ago, today, the first vacation day, I tripped in the kitchen and fell flat on my face! Nothing serious, but a bruised chest and a beautiful purple hen egg on my forehead supported by two black eyes. Just a warning for Wednesday's Prayer Meeting and Sunday's Worship Zoom: The images you are about to see may be disturbing!

Until we meet again, we live by

Faith, Hope, and Love.

Herschel

A Message from Your Elders

Contact: Jim Stones, Chair
jestones@sbcglobal.net 713-614-0868



I have often heard that absence makes the heart grow fonder. I know that it is true as regards the church. I find myself missing many things as we remain physically apart. The zoom worship and meetings are appreciated, but it isn't quite the same.

I miss watching Willie Rich take care of the coffee. I miss Sunday School where we can sit together and catch up on each other's lives before studying the lessons of Christian living. I miss watching the children as they light the candles. I miss the music and the singing even though my singing lacks quality. I miss the sharing of communion in person with the congregation. I even miss standing around after the service for Joyce to finish talking to everyone so that we can leave. I miss the fellowship of the Men's Group where we share each other's stories.

I also find myself anxious to move ahead with finding the mission for our new Open Door church. I want to get to know the people who run the Korean Community Center and the people they serve. I really want to start planning how best to use our gifts in a new setting and that will be much easier when we can sit together and share ideas.

Memorial Drive Christian was a vibrant part of my life and I can hardly wait to be able to say the same for Open Door Christian. I feel strongly that good times and meaningful Christian mission await us!

From Our Associate Minister

Contact: Carolyn Allen
nchornedfrog73@yahoo.com



Growing up, my mom would almost always cry at the beginning of the school year. I think it was a mixture joyful tears of excitement for the new year and bittersweet tears of regret that the summer was coming to an end and, with it, uninterrupted time with her kiddos.

My experience of my children starting a new school year is somewhat different. I love getting the extra time and more relaxed schedule, but I crave routine. And I'll use any excuse to buy new office supplies while the kids pick out their backpacks and notebooks. Also, as much as I love my kids, I like a quiet house and more time to read!

This year will require a lot more flexibility as my kids are starting school online. Already we have had to be more patient, waiting for details of how it all will work, delayed schedules and a general feeling of chaos and uncertainty. But still there is the excitement of what they will learn—especially the required reading lists. I like to read along with them and/or reminisce about reading the same titles when I was a student.

This uncertainty mixed with excitement parallels our journey into the disciple model and our collaboration with Central Christian and Danny Couch. We are trying something that is, not only new to us, but unlike anything I have ever heard of a church doing. I'm ready to learn and grow and it's been so much fun to reconnect with my mentor and friend. But I admit that excitement is tempered with anxiety and some insecurity.

What I find most helpful is remembering that I am not alone. If I take the time to reflect on the faithful leaders and members who encourage and trust me, if I spend time with God in prayer and meditation, if I read and study scripture and other books that enrich my faith, I find calm and purpose and my anxiety is eased.

I hope you share my excitement as we move forward together. I believe we are ready to try something new, seeking to be faithful followers of Jesus. I continue to pray for each one of you and our church going forward. I encourage us always to remember:

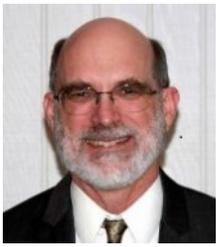
God is with us and God is Love!

Prayer Concerns

Sally Cook has moved to Katy. She absolutely can not have visitors, but if you wish to call her the phone number is 903-465-1191. She may not be up for an extended conversation.

Sally just celebrated her 99th birthday! If you wish to send her a card, the address is

Veranda House 5129 E. 5th Street Katy, 77493



Treasurer's Report

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

July 2020

General Fund Income vs Expense

| | July | YTD | YTD Budget |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Pledged Income | 9,911.32 | 93,402.09 | 179,666.67 |
| Other Income | 16,006.85 | 37,518.97 | 41,766.67 |
| Expense | 25,854.22 | 207,115.17 | 267,639.36 |
| Balance | 63.95 | (76,194.11) | (46,206.02) |
| Txfer From DF | 0.00 | 50,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Final Balance | 63.95 | (26,194.11) | (46,206.02) |

The budget numbers are from the 2019 budget.

Cash Assets & Debt

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| General Fund | |
| Checking | 3,849.63 |
| Liabilities & Amortized Inc, Exp | 22,512.77 |
| Savings (Charles Schwab) | 2,478.88 |
| Building Sale Proceeds | 76,389.33 |
| Undesignated Memorial Funds | 189,338.62 |
| Designated Funds | <u>84,958.48</u> |
| Total | 379,527.71 |
| Mortgage Balance | 458,726.76 |

Comments

"Pledge income" for July was down a fair amount. However we received the \$16,000 building rent from Paratus which helped cover our expenses for the month. We have also received the last of the earnest money which has been included in "Building Sales Proceeds". However, while I have been taking moving & setup costs from the Building Sale Proceeds account I do not want to use those for ongoing operating expenses until we have a formal plan to do so. And I do expect fairly high expenses in August. I have therefore initiated taking an additional 50,000 from the Living Endowment Fund which should hold us until we can formulate a financial plan for use of the building sale proceeds. If you have any questions, please send an email to treasurer.mdcc@gmail.com.

John E. Lindley, Treasurer. 8/16/2020

Outreach Ministries

Contact: Judy or Frank Conner
fwconner@sbcglobal.net



Here is an update on the status of Hope House during the Covid-19 pandemic. I hope you will find this interesting. If anyone would like to be our congregation's representative to Hope House, please let Judy or Frank Conner know.

New Home, New Partners



As many of you know, we lost our lease last summer. God graciously provided us with temporary sites to host our After School Program at Kashmere Gardens Multipurpose Center, and our worship Service at Light of Victory Church. While we are grateful for the use of these facilities, we are hampered in our ability to serve the community as we have in the past.

Over the past year we have developed a partnership with Light of Victory Church. Through generous donations, Light of Victory and Hope House Houston have been able to begin restoration to an existing building on their property. Once this restoration is complete, the Community Center will become our base of operations.

The work has just begun and we are believing God to provide the resources to complete it before our busy Fall schedule gets into full swing.

Stay tuned for developments!



Serving Our Students Through Covid 19

Covid 19 has changed all of our lives. It has brought uncertainty and change to everyone. Many of us who were gainfully employed 6 months are now struggling to get by. Those of us who are working or are students are working at home and wondering when this constant uncertainty will end.

One of the things that has not changed is the need for our students to continue their education. The young men pictured above will need a stable environment in which they can do their online learning.

For the past 4 years, Hope House Houston has provided a safe place for kids to go after school and get individualized tutoring. We realize that the local school system is having to adapt to this new reality, and that plans made today may need to be changed tomorrow.



With that in mind, we are prayerfully making plans for supporting neighborhood kids who are receiving their education online or in the classroom. Our online model would

involve a computer lab where kids could sit in a safe, quiet environment and do their work on laptops. Our other model would look much like what we have done in past years-tutoring after school.

Please keep us in your prayers as we work with the students, their parents, and local schools to continue serving these urban students

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

You'll have the opportunity to leave a message in one of five different mailboxes, so don't hang up until you're finished!

Zoom Information

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

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: 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