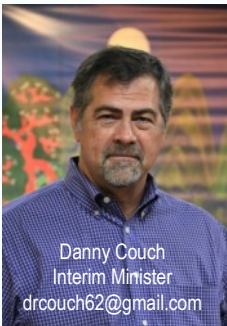


OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Messenger

MARCH 2022

ASH WEDNESDAY: THE DOOR OPENING TO LENT AND THE JOURNEY TO NEW LIFE: EASTER



Yes, the Lenten Season is upon us! To kick off this very significant season, I will hold an Ash Wednesday prayer service on March 2 at 6:30 on zoom. I want to invite all of you to be a part of this time of self-reflection, confession, forgiveness, and finally, empowerment to represent God's Grace in the world!

The Season of Lent is the season we address the obstacles that hold us back from being Christ's body in the world. We will seek God's mercy and strength to bring us together as one body so we may move down the path God needs us to go.

May our souls be prepared for the inward journey of Lent that moves us outward in our shared ministry, together! See you March 2nd.

Topic: Ash Wednesday
Time: Mar 2, 2022 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82745852651?
pwd=a2tySWVJR3Bib2pTOFNHbWQweDRLUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82745852651?pwd=a2tySWVJR3Bib2pTOFNHbWQweDRLUT09)

Meeting ID: 827 4585 2651

Passcode: 080467

One tap mobile

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 827 4585 2651

Passcode: 080467

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kFPyYcdB9>



Danny

Carolyn's Musings

Contact: Carolyn Allen
nchornedfrog73@yahoo.com



It's almost Lent! The year is flying by and we are quickly approaching the season that is often about looking inward and repenting as individuals. But we must be cautious to not focus on ourselves too much. Our faith is communal. We are each on our own journey to Jerusalem, but we walk collectively, repenting personally and as a part of the greater body of Christ.

As we journey through Lent together, let us be mindful of the ways we put ourselves first. And let us turn to God, asking for help to repent and move forward with our brothers and sisters in Christ, seeking ways to bring your kingdom closer and closer still.

Shared Reflections Book Club

This month our book club is reading *Circe* by Madeline Miller. We'd love for you to join us on zoom for a lively discussion about the book. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 11 am. Contact Carolyn for more information.

Tuesday Night Book Study

Please join us as we read and discuss from *Lies My Preacher Told Me* by Brent Strawn. All are welcome! Please join us Tuesday nights (except the 2nd Tuesday of the month) on zoom at 7 pm.

From Your President

Contact: Carol Neal
cneal9915@aol.com



I would first like to thank you for your participation in the congregational meeting on Jan 31 and your confidence in me to be President of ODCC. I would also like to thank the others that were elected to the board.

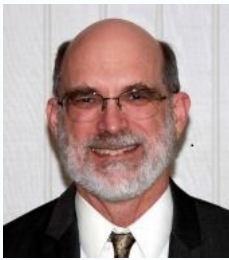
- John Cavnar Johnson—Vice President
- Sally Foster—Secretary
- John Lindley—Treasurer
- Jim Stones—Chair of Elders
- Linda Ball—at large
- Chris Smith—at large

We also now have new By-Laws, if you have not been able to read them, contact me and I will send you a copy.

I am so excited about this year. On Sunday Jan. 23 Chain Reaction was at KCC with 12-15 young adults from Memorial High School repairing bicycles. On Tuesday, Feb.1 we took 700 lbs. of food to East Spring Branch Food pantry. Thanks to people from KCC and ODCC. On Sunday Feb. 6 we had 30 people in worship, 13 people in Sunday school, where we are studying "The Sermon on the Mount". We had a new sitter with 2 children with her. On Feb. 17, we had intercessory prayer group and the Men's group at KCC starting at 9:30.

As you can see we are moving forward with small groups, Outreach, and Worship. I can feel the Lords' hand in the rebuilding of this church at Hollister and Long Point. We are learning that we are all Disciples, what that means and what is expected of us. We all are needed, we are all called, and we are all loved by God.

What an exciting time! I hope you will come and join us in person. I look forward to working hand to hand and side by side with each of you as we continue God's ministry.



Treasurer's Report

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

January 2022

General Fund Income vs Expense

	January	YTD	YTD Budget
Giving Income	6,445.00	6,445.00	10,000.00
Other Income	66.55	66.55	65.00
Expense	17,727.99	17,727.99	19,654.43
Balance	(11,216.44)	(11,216.44)	(9,589.43)
Txfer From DF	15,000.00	15,000.00	10,000.00
Final Balance	3,783.56	3,783.56	410.57

Cash Assets & Debt

General Fund	
Checking	11,233.51
Liabilities & Amortized Inc, Exp	1,422.31
Savings (Charles Schwab)	2,479.24
Church Revitalization Reserve	350,000.00
Undesignated Memorial Funds	188,589.55
Designated Funds	500,288.02
New Beginnings Fund	3,555,081.54
Total	4,609,094.17

Comments

Our giving income in January was way down. The same happened last year, so hopefully this will not continue. Our expenses were actually less than budgeted but we still ran a higher deficit than planned. I expect to be drawing from our reserve fund every month this year. If you have any questions, please send an email to treasurer.mdcc@gmail.com.
John E. Lindley, Treasurer. 2/13/2022

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: Frank Conner
fconner100@yahoo.com



700 pounds of food! Yes, that was the amount of food gathered recently during the January Mountain of Food program. Open Door and the Korean Community Center joined to gather this food. The Stones delivered the food on February 1, to a very appreciative East Spring Branch Food Pantry. Thanks to everyone that participated in this very successful effort.

I would call your attention to a special offering for the next few weeks for the Week of Compassion. The emphasis is now, but funding will be accepted throughout the year. The funds will be used for families to alleviate suffering (tornadoes in Kentucky and Tennessee or forest fires in the West) both here and in the World. If you wish to donate, you may donate online or write Compassion on a check and leave it at the church. As you can imagine, the need is great.

A Message from Your Elders

Contact: Jim Stones, Chair
jestones@sbcglobal.net



I have spent a lot of time recently watching the winter Olympics. It is fascinating to observe the skill level of men and women in so many different events. It has occurred to me that we have a lot to learn from these games.

Firstly, it is clear that excellence in performance is preceded by extensive work. This applies to our own goal of becoming better disciples. It takes dedicated study and practice to become the kind of Christians we want to become.

The Olympics also show the value of diversity. People of all nationalities, races, and backgrounds compete together. We need to welcome diversity as we progress as a congregation.

It is refreshing to see competitors who are friends with athletes from other countries. They celebrate successful performances, even when it means that their own positions might be affected. Personal goals are great, but team goals and good sportsmanship take priority. We must always remember that our personal enjoyment of Open Door Christian Church is secondary to the furthering of God's work.

2022 Budget

In January the Admin Council approved the following budget for 2022. Some notes and comments about this budget:

- The Giving income is a guess on my part; I assume it will be less than last year but I don't know how much less. This number may be optimistic.
- The budget shows the planned withdrawals from our Reserve fund at a rate that would give us 3 more years, i.e. 1/3 of the remaining Reserve as of the beginning of the year.
- Our relationship with Central Christian Church has ended and we are now paying Rev Couch directly as a consultant to our revitalization.
- Unsurprisingly our biggest expenses are for personnel and the consulting contract amounting to almost 70% of our budgeted expenses.
- Even with the planned withdrawals from our Reserve funds the budget doesn't balance, but we usually don't spend as much as is budgeted.
- 2021 Budget and Actual are included for comparison.

If there are any questions or comments please contact me at treasurer.mdcc@gmail.com.

John E Lindley, Treasurer 2/17/2022

	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
Income			
Giving	134,058.05	151,200.00	120,000.00
Reimbursements	6,001.96	0.00	0.00
From Revitalization Reserve	35,000.00	0.00	120,000.00
Loose offerings	4.00	0.00	0.00
Interest Income	2,525.56	1,200.00	780.00
Total Income	177,589.57	152,400.00	240,780.00
Expense			
Personnel			
Total Compensation	67,430.00	61,536.00	97,480.00
Payroll taxes	5,246.37	4,259.52	7,457.22
Workmans Compensation	661.42	720.00	396.00
Search Committee	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll Expenses	164.24	96.00	270.00
Total Personnel	73,502.03	66,611.52	105,603.22
Property			

Rent	32,460.00	31,200.00	34,840.00
Storage Units	7,348.00	6,904.00	7,887.50
Utilities	655.02	600.00	700.00
Insurance	3,059.33	3,000.00	4,155.90
Maintenance & Repair	457.75	1,200.00	1,200.00
Total Property	43,980.10	42,904.00	48,783.40
Admin & Office			
Office Supplies	419.41	1,200.00	600.00
Computers & Software	929.53	1,200.00	1,200.00
Online Services	1,500.20	2,400.00	1,800.00
BluePay	1,249.29	1,440.00	1,300.00
Bank Charges	20.00	60.00	60.00
Total Admin & Office	4,118.43	6,300.00	4,960.00
Programs	13,279.89	6,000.00	6,000.00
Outreach	7,900.00	8,400.00	8,400.00
New Church Start			
Consulting	50,400.00	50,400.00	66,000.00
Church Revitalization	0.00	30,000.00	10,000.00
Total New Church Start	50,400.00	80,400.00	76,000.00
Total Expense	193,180.45	210,615.52	249,746.62
Net Income (excluding From Reserve)	(50,590.88)	(58,215.52)	(128,966.62)
Net Income	(15,590.88)	(58,215.52)	(8,966.62)

March Preaching Schedule

3/6	Carolyn	Isaiah 58:1-12
3/13	Danny	Matthew 28: 16-20
3/20	Danny	John 13: 12-20, 34-35
3/27	Michael	Romans 12: 1-8

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so you'll know when we go live!

<https://www.facebook.com/odcchouston>

Or Join the Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82094663021?
pwd=bzJ6MldHZ2lqVEIFTjRtSXR5UFArQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82094663021?pwd=bzJ6MldHZ2lqVEIFTjRtSXR5UFArQT09)

Open Door Christian Church
1809 Hollister Street
Houston, Texas 77080

RETURN ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Open Door Christian Church

How to reach us:

Website: odcchouston.com

Email: contact@odcchouston.com

Phone: 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!*

Mail: Open Door Christian Church
1809 Hollister Street
Houston, TX 77080