

Together we celebrate the work of God's Spirit among us through Christian fellowship and service throughout our community, practicing a welcoming spirit, honoring each person, and challenging one another to seek God's purpose in the world – with the promise of joy, renewal, and spiritual growth.

(Mission Statement, adopted 1996)

HYDE PARK UNION CHURCH

Chartered in 1874 in the Free Church Tradition
American Baptist/United Church of Christ
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January 2016

January Church Calendar

From the Interim Minister
Douglas R. Sharp

Regular Weekly Events:

Mondays - Yoga & Centering Prayer, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays - Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Thursdays (except for January 7) - Senior Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 3

Worship with Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour & Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 10

Worship with Remembrance of Chicago's Fallen Children and Youth, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour & Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.

Chili-making, 11:30 a.m.

Second Hour: Chatting with the Chaplain, 11:30 a.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday with Sacred Jazz, January 17

Combined Worship with University Church and Music by the Clif Wallace Quintet, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour and Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 24

Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour & Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.

Annual Financial Meeting, 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 31

Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour & Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.

Non-Random Thoughts

Happy New Year!

I think that's the way I should start a church newsletter article. It might seem odd to some if I didn't pronounce this greeting since the New Year is still only days old. For as long as I can remember, that is the greeting spoken and heard for the first few weeks of January as people offer well-wishes to one another. Every time it's expressed, it's like we are reminding ourselves that something truly unsullied is present, shaping our sense of one another and the world around us. There is a lightness of being and a different mode of consciousness for some, as though space and time have undergone a metaphysical alteration. For others, it's simply an elevated sense of excitement about the prospects that what life will deliver in the coming days, weeks, and months will be noticeably different and better. Somehow, the New Year's greeting is a symbol of anticipated change and the hope that looks for it.

We all know that this sense doesn't last very long. Change does indeed come, with time, but for the most part it is dissociated with the simple fact of turning the pages of the calendar. Rather, it comes either in association with intentionality and discipline, or it comes randomly as the outcome or effect of impulses and forces that do not admit of individual control. Such are the social or communal powers that animate human neighborhoods, communities, and societies, some for better and some for worse. We do not go too deep into a new year before the newness gives way to different senses and perspectives.

Though it consists of persons whose lives are lived in the larger sociocultural context, a spiritual community is not limited to being a reflection or extension of that context. On the contrary, a spiritual community is enlivened by the Divine Spirit, the Holy One, who intends to take up habitation in the community and among those whose relationships establish its health and vitality.

Because God is the life-giving Spirit, every day is something of a new creation, both a time and a place to express the new and transform the old. But I think we all know that living fully in the novelty and renewal of the gift of life bestowed by God requires intentionality and discipline. If we think our life is but the random effect of indifferent forces and choose merely to let it happen, we ultimately cheapen the gift and diminish the Giver. This is no less true of a spiritual community. If we wish to have life happen to us and to live as the effect of disinterested—and perhaps even *hostile*—forces, we can do that easy enough. All it takes is passivity and indolence.

I have never been one to make New Year's resolutions. I don't have anything against them or the people who make them. I simply don't couch short- and

long-term goals in the language of resolution. It is an act of will for me to get out of bed in the morning, and much of what I do during the day is done with purpose and anticipated outcomes.

Now it occurs to me that every January, Hyde Park Union Church makes a New Year's resolution. As a spiritual community in the context of the Hyde Park/Kenwood neighborhood, connected to both the American Baptist Churches and the United Church of Christ, this congregation resolves to do certain things for the next twelve months with the expectation that it will make a difference in the lives of those who make up the congregation and those whose lives are touched by its activity in the larger community. Each year, this *de facto* resolution takes the form of the congregational vote to adopt the annual budget, and embedded in that budget are the missional and program commitments that the congregation supposes will make a difference. And like most New Year's resolutions, this one anticipates change with the hope that the congregation's life will be different and better.

In a very real way, the "new year" at HPUC will coincide with the presentation and discussion regarding the budget for the calendar year. Some members and friends have "resolved" to give financially to support the budget, and the Budget and Finance Committee have worked to develop a spending plan that reflects both our resources and our intentions as a spiritual community. It is very important that all who count themselves as participants in this congregation gather for the congregational meeting after worship on January 24. This is a strategic opportunity to discuss who we are, what our purpose is, and what we are intending to accomplish in the months ahead. I look forward to seeing you there.

The Ministry of Music at HPUC - Second Hour, February 7

HPUC music ministry will put on a voice recital and "informance: presenting a historical timeline of musical styles for solo voice from Early Renaissance through the foundations of Musical Theatre. Featured performers include our children's choir director Dr. Franci Acosta and her husband Jose Luis Posada who are early music specialists, our choir section leaders, yours truly and voice students from the Merit School of Music. Alyssa Conde will be accompanying on piano. Invite your friends! It will be a fantastic concert of serenades, arias, and Broadway numbers!



From the Moderator

Dear friends,

I want to thank everyone for their support this past year. I want to thank our interim minister Douglas Sharp for his excellent leadership this past year and as we continue our search for a new pastor. The call committee is diligently working on finding a full time pastor for the church. I want to thank everyone who has volunteered this past year: signing up for coffee hour, taking up the offering, serving communion, answering the calls from the alarm company, etc. On January 24, 2016 we will be holding our annual financial meeting. I do hope everyone will stay for this meeting as we discuss our finances and budget for the coming year.

Thank you,
Christine D. Bailey

At Year's End: Moving Forward From Here *Rev. Erma Y. Croom, Director of Gilead Ministry*

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 3:13 and 14 NRV5)

It is New Year's Eve as I write this article for the newsletter. The year 2015 has been a year of changes and challenges for people and communities throughout this nation. Jackson Park Hospital has also experienced its share of challenges as it endeavors to meet the health care needs of patients and families in the South Shore community in spite of being under-resourced and understaffed. The end of another year marks a time for self-evaluation, reflection, prayer and planning for the year ahead. As I pause to reflect on Gilead Ministry and our effort to continue to provide a quality spiritual care program to Jackson Park Hospital my heart overflows with gratitude for the continuous support Gilead Ministry has received from my colleagues in Ministry, Gilead Auxiliary and Hyde Park Union Church. We are also grateful for our collaboration with our partnering seminaries, Chicago Theological Seminary, McCormick Theological Seminary and the University of Chicago Divinity School. The staff and I have reviewed 2015 goals and have considered possibilities for continuing to provide compassionate, patient-centered pastoral care to the patients and family members. During the month of January Gilead Ministry will roll out a new brochure describing our program and services to the hospital. We also plan to implement new initiatives that will allow us to expand our services to hospital staff and to oncology patients. We look forward to the 2016 with great expectation and appreciation for the opportunity to continue to serve the patients, family and staff of Jackson Park Hospital.

Joining Forces: New Year's Connections

Jade Maze, Music Director

As we ring in the New Year, we also are ringing in an opportunity to form and solidify relationships old and new in the Hyde Park spiritual community. Our first event will be a joint service with University Church on King's Sunday, January 17th. We had such a good time in their house when they hosted us last year that we've been eagerly looking for the next opportunity to unite; and we found it! We host them in a joint Sacred Jazz Service, featuring the Clif Wallace Quintet, combined choirs from University Church and HPUC, and Charles Thomas Hayes on the organ.

Hayes has been with us recently during our Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service and he played for Carol Browning's memorial service. It is always wonderful to have his presence in our house. Clif Wallace has played a couple of our Sacred Jazz services drumming for guest artists Chuck Webb and Fareed Haque. This time around he will be leading his own recently formed quintet.

Clif Wallace, born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, began serious studies in Jazz at North Carolina Central University where he received both a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Performance. He played drums on John Brown's "Merry Christmas, Baby", that broke top 40 in the Billboard charts in 2008. Clif has worked with jazz greats: Jimmy Heath, Joe Chambers, Gerald Wilson, and Jimmy Cobb. He also participated in Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead artist Residency Program in Washington, DC, as well as the Ravinia/Steans Institute Artist Residency Program. His Quintet will help us mark King's Sunday with dignity and joy.

Clif Wallace Quintet: Justin Copeland-trumpet, Brent Griffin Jr.-saxophone, Julius Tucker-piano, Christian Dillingham-bass, Clif Wallace Drums

FYI-You will be seeing a charming young man at the organ helm starting Sunday, January 10th. Mr. Elikem Fiase is a recent college graduate from Coe College where he earned his certificate of performance in organ (December 2014), as well as a BA in business administration. Originally from Ghana, Mr. Fiase recently moved to Chicago to settle here with his fiancé. His playing will speak for itself. As always, may the music be a blessing!

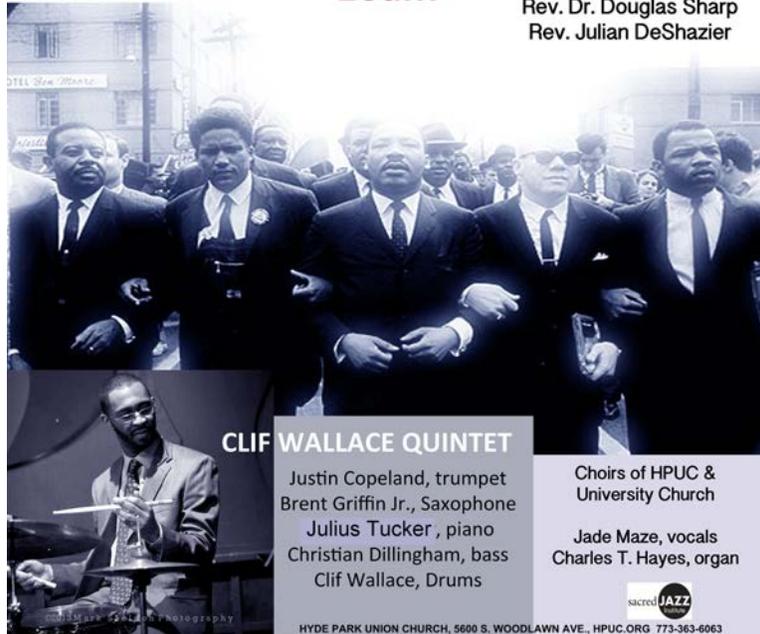


Sacred Jazz Service

Sunday, January 17th

10am

Rev. Dr. Douglas Sharp
Rev. Julian DeShazier



CLIF WALLACE QUINTET
Justin Copeland, trumpet
Brent Griffin Jr., Saxophone
Julius Tucker, piano
Christian Dillingham, bass
Clif Wallace, Drums

Choirs of HPUC &
University Church

Jade Maze, vocals
Charles T. Hayes, organ

sacred JAZZ

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