



NDPC COMMUNICATOR

November 18, 2015

From the staff

The holiday season is upon us! A time of family gatherings, baking, busyness, sadness, joyfulness... all of these things. Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, is an invitation to slow down in the midst of the hustle and bustle and pay attention to our spiritual longings.

Join us this Advent as we journey together, slow down, and prepare our hearts and homes to welcome God's love.

Click the video to learn more about Advent at NDPC.



Reserve Your Advent Wreath - Make an Advent Wreath to light in your home as we count down the days until Christmas Eve. We will make Advent Wreaths during the Advent Festival on **November 29th, 9:30 - 10:30** in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to make a wreath, please RSVP to Amanda Osenga, so that we can be sure to have enough supplies. A small donation will be appreciated to help cover the cost of supplies (\$10).

Worship & Advent

Advent at NDPC:

Sunday, November 29 – 1st Sunday of Advent, David Lewicki preaching

- Advent Festival, 9:30-10:30am
- Christmas Carol Performance, 4pm

Saturday, December 5

- Advent Alternative Gift Market, 10am-3pm

Sunday, December 6 – 2nd Sunday of Advent, David Lewicki preaching

Saturday, December 12

- Initiative for Affordable Housing Christmas Party, 1pm-4pm

Sunday, December 13 – 3rd Sunday of Advent, Karl Heimback preaching

- Christmas Concert, 3pm

Sunday, December 20 – 4th Sunday of Advent, David Lewicki preaching

- Serving at Mercy Church Community Meal, 1pm

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

- Family Friendly Pageant and Worship, 5pm

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- Candlelight Communion Worship, 9pm

Contemplative Prayer meets Thursday nights at 7pm in the Library.

Christian Education

Quiet Please: The students of adult education request we observe silent space in the adult education wing from 9:30 to 10:30am Sundays. All conversations should take place in Fellowship Hall or Pastor's Study, not in the hallways.

Adult Classes:

The Idolatry of Violence (Large Classroom)

Dates: Nov 22; Dec 6, 13, 20

Facilitators: Carol Tveit and Kathleen Allen, and guest speakers. Guest speaker this Sunday, 11/22 is Che Johnson-Long, Program Director for Georgia WAND who will be leading us in a discussion on our federal spending and what it says about who we are and what our priorities are.

Family as Forming Center (Parlor)

Dates: Nov 22

Facilitator: Rev. Mary Anona Stoops and Ginny Bowen

What You Want to Know About the Bible But Are Afraid to Ask (High School Classroom, first classroom at top of blue stairway at entrance to Fellowship Hall building)

Dates: Nov 22; Dec 6, 13, 20

Facilitators: Tim Merritt, Paige Castle, Larry Mosley, Audra Grace

Course Descriptions for Spring Classes are due December 1st. Email adulted@ndpc.org with a paragraph to describe the course you are teaching.

Weekly Bible Study with Rev. Lewicki every Tuesday, 6-7pm. You are invited to sit with Rev. Lewicki and study the text for the following Sunday's sermon. Each week will begin with some teaching, followed by reflection, group discussion, and prayer. The point of this study is to bring the Bible's stories into your life. Attend every week or only the weeks that work for you. See you on Tuesday!

Season of Commitment 2015

We have received pledges from 80 people committing a total of \$425,770 toward the ongoing operations of NDPC in 2016. Thank you to all of you "early birds"! That is a strong start toward our goal of \$621,000 in total pledges for the year. We know that this annual campaign follows right on the heels of the capital campaign, but it is equally important and we need to hear from the rest of you during the month of November so that the Finance Committee can proceed with the budget process. Please remember to bring your Time & Talent sheet and pledge card to church on November 22 OR find both of them on our webpage ndpc.org under "Resources" OR, for your pledge for 2016 you may simply email Jack Kittle at jack@ndpc.org and let him know your intentions.

For information about donating appreciated stock to NDPC, please contact Jim Topple jtopple969@gmail.com.

Please direct any questions to Roberta Goldbaugh, rgoldbaugh@bellsouth.net.

And thank you!

Community Fellowship

Come join us at the next Thirsty Thursday Women's gathering on Thursday, November 19, 6:30 pm at the home of Linda Curry (The Artisan Condominium - 201 Ponce de Leon Ave, Unit 509). We will be showing the documentary *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Prices*. Come have some dinner and thoughtful conversation about our soon to be neighbor. Please RSVP to Linda at decaturcur@aol.com to get parking and other info.

Fourth Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Update - We now have co-hosts for Thanksgiving dinner! Peter Dickson and Todd Brawner will join Barbara Jung in inviting those of you who do not have family or friends to eat with on Thanksgiving to join them. Turkey will be provided and all you have to do is bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish. The time is 1:30pm with plans to eat about 2:00--there may even be music for desert (but you can still bring that favorite pie!). Please contact Barbara if you plan to attend or have questions: barbarajung@gmail.com or 404-286-7514.

A Cherry Log Christmas Carol, November 29, 4pm in Fellowship Hall:

When Charles Dickens created his popular holiday classic, he was known for giving solo readings to the delight of his audiences. Actor Clark Taylor presents a unique version of this beloved holiday tale in his one-man adaptation that blends elements of Appalachian storytelling with Dickens' brilliant original. Experience the unforgettable characters Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Jacob Marley and more in this performance that captures the true spirit and magic of the holiday season. Join us for this special performance on Sunday, November 29th, 4:00pm.

December Sages Meeting - The NDPC Sages will meet on **Tuesday, December 1**, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Badda Bing promises another delicious lunch for \$8.00 as we gather for continuing fun and fellowship with each other.

Program: The Sages Summer Camp Players will present an afternoon of Readers Theatre, consisting of dramatic readings of a narrative poem by Robert W. Service, a one-act play by Dorothy Parker which you don't want to miss (it's hysterical), and readings from the Just-So Stories of Kipling as well as Dr. Seuss to begin the Christmas season.

Reservations: Please watch for an e-mail from Jim Goodspeed if you are a regular attendee. Otherwise, contact Jim for a reservation for lunch or just for the program at goodspeedjimcar@bellsouth.net or 770-934-2008. Deadline for reservations is Sunday, Nov. 29.

Book Group meets **Thursday, December 3, 7pm**. Carl Parlato hosts "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel Day Brown. Contact Kip Duchon, gkduchon@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

Hark! A Concert of Seasonal Favorites

December 13, 3:00pm

Come join the Balcony Choir of North Decatur Presbyterian Church and the Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra in a musical celebration of the sounds of the season. Selections from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, Handel's *Messiah*, a *Sleigh Ride*, and an audience sing-a-long of traditional favorites. Join us for hot cocoa and cookies following the concert. Amy Wilson and Clinton Miller, conductors. This is a free event open to the public.

Service & Mission

The Congregational Care committee is looking for a few good drivers! We need help transporting Claire Baldwin and Eleanor Moylan to and from church on Sundays. Please contact Susan Castle at scastle6@bellsouth.net or 404-388-2449 if you are willing and able. Thank you in advance!

Thank you to our NDPC congregation for being faithful in donating quarters to the Homeless Laundry Ministry. We begin our 3rd year in October, we have made good friends with our Memorial Drive PC partners, spread goodwill and kept a clean closet filled with clothing for Mercy Church street folks in the process.

We continue to invite drop in volunteers. Come for fellowship, bring a reflection to share and provide a work of mercy. Our seasons are as follows:

1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month from 6-8pm @ the Medlock Laundry (across from

NDPC)

OCT 7 - DEC 16 2015 (FALL)

JAN 6 - MAR 16 2016 (WINTER)

APR 6 - JUN 15 2016 (SPRING)

JUL 6 - SEPT 21 2016 (SUMMER)

If you would like to be added to the volunteer list, the following roles will gladly be of assistance:

--Leading in a devotion that you wish to share

--Bringing the envelope of quarters and detergents collected from the previous week.

--Sending out the reminder e-mail to the group the weekend before Week 1 & 3 monthly.

Please contact Lynne Repasky [404 680-9816](tel:404-680-9816) (lynne_repasky@yahoo.com) to get better informed.

Alternative Gift Market at North Decatur Presbyterian Church

Saturday, December 5, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm – Updated 10/30/2015

Please invite your friends and families to our annual, not to be missed, Alternative Gift Market, Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 am to 3 pm. Children's Craft Corner provided to engage the youngsters while you shop! Shop for fair trade*, environmentally sustainable and reasonably priced holiday gifts, including many new items this year. Gifts for sale include olive oil and beautiful carvings from Palestine; hats, scarves, clothing and gifts from Latin America; delicious soup and cookie mixes made in the U.S. supporting people in transition; rugs and other gifts from local refugee and affordable housing initiatives; and fair trade coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate. Holiday Gift Cards benefiting the Casa Materna Ana Sayre Birthing Center in Guatemala and the Seeds of Hope Eco Village School in Haiti will also be sold. NDPC is at 611 Medlock Road at the intersection of Medlock, N. Decatur Rd. and Scott Blvd. **Credit Cards, Checks and Cash accepted.**

Make a difference in the world, one gift at a time!

****What is Fair Trade?*** (text credit: Fair Trade Federation)

Fair Trade is an economic partnership based on dialogue, transparency, and respect. Fair trade is not about charity. It is a holistic approach to trade and development that aims to alter the ways in which commerce is conducted, so that trade can empower the poorest of the poor. Fair Trade Organizations seek to create sustainable and positive change in developing and developed countries.

Contact: Becky Evans, beckyevans@mindspring.com, 404 378-5288

Initiative for Affordable Housing Christmas Party, Saturday, December 12, 1-4pm,

Fellowship Hall. Come share Christmas joy with arts and crafts, games, bouncy house, snacks, fellowship and a visit with Santa at the Initiative for Affordable Housing Christmas Party. Volunteers of all ages needed to bring snacks, set-up, clean-up, and take part in the fun. The party is at NDPC Fellowship Hall. To volunteer, go to www.affordablehousingatl.org and select IAH Christmas Party. For more information, contact Nancy Gathany, [404-274-2448](tel:404-274-2448) or NTGathany@gmail.com

April Trip to Haiti Organizing Now

The Seeds of Hope Atlanta Church Group invites adults and youth 16 and older to participate in a Cross Cultural Engagement Interfaith Trip to Haiti from April 2 – 9, 2016. We will go under the leadership of the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice (UUCSJ) and be hosted by our Haitian Partner, (MPP), the Peasant Movement Papaye, near Hinche, Haiti.

On this journey, we will focus on learning from MPP about the critical issues of food sovereignty and climate justice. We will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on work alongside our Haitian partners in the Eco Villages and the school, as well as other "agro ecology" projects. We will approach our experiences as "pilgrims," ready to be

present, ready to listen and notice where, how, and with whom God is working. Please join us on this transformative journey!

For full details about the trip, costs, and preparation, please click [this link](#) to go to our Resources page, and select the document "Haiti Trip Details".

Registration deadline for youth: November 20, 2015; for adults: December 12, 2015.

Questions? Contact beckyevans@mindspring.com or amanda@ndpc.org

Continue to bring your **DEAM cereal donations**. Leave your cereal donations in the narthex each week when you come to church. Thanks for your participation in this important ministry.

For Your Information

A huge thank you to the people who served on the Capital Campaign Committee, and tirelessly met each Tuesday night this past year: David Evans, Kent Haythorn, Bob Way, with significant help from Earl Tveit, Genia Cayce and Jean Are. With gratitude from co-chairs Susan Constantine and Roberta Goldbaugh.

The International Rescue Committee in Atlanta cordially invites you to their 14th Annual Thanksgiving Feast, November 21, 12-2pm, Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, 5140 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain 30083. Attendees will enjoy traditional foods from different countries, cultural performances, as well as, activities for children – all within an environment dedicated to inclusivity, sharing, gratitude and fun. Hope to see you there!

You are invited to contribute to the display of greenery and poinsettias in our Sanctuary this Advent and Christmas. Your contribution of \$20.00 to North Decatur Presbyterian Church may be made in honor or memory of a loved one, or in celebration of an event. Order forms are found on our [website](#), and will also be available in the Narthex on Sundays. **Please return the completed form and payment to the church office by Monday, December 7.**

Staff Gifts: We express our gratitude and support for our wonderful NDPC Staff members by way of a generous monetary gift, rather than giving individual "presents". We cordially invite and encourage you to make a check or cash contribution to the NDPC Staff Christmas Gift Fund and mark it "Staff Gift". Place your contribution in the offering plates, hand to either Fran Mohr or Annie Godfrey, or mail to or drop off at the church office, no later than **Sunday, December 13, 2015!** Through these gifts, we will be expressing thanks to: our Co-Pastors, David Lewicki and Beth Waltemath; our Pastor for Adult Formation, Mary Anona Stoops; our Director of Music, Clint Miller; our Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, Amanda Osenga; our seminary intern, Karl Heimback; and our Office Manager, Maria Badre. We also express our gratitude to Freddy Alvarez and Javier Sanchez, Maintenance & Custodial Associate, and Amy Smith, our Nursery Caregiver. We give thanks to God for all these wonderful individuals who serve God through our church.

If you are wondering how you are doing on your 2015 pledge, you will be pleased to know that statements of giving through September 30 are available upon request to jack@ndpc.org

Parking Considerations: All NDPCers..... If you can, please help us reserve the spaces around Retreat Nail Studio in Medlock Plaza for their customers and staff on Sundays. Thank you.

If you would like to meet at the church, weekday or weekend, please remember to reserve a room with Maria in the Church office (maria@ndpc.org)

This week's volunteers

Sunday, November 22

8:30AM Worship

Head Usher: Barbara Gifford

Usher: Earl Tveit

11:00AM Worship

Liturgist: Eric Shavkin

Baptism: Ariel Hart

Acolytes: Joe Pittman

Head Usher: Jack Kittle

Ushers: Angela Cass, Chuck Cass, Doug Clark, Virginia Legener

Sanctuary Flowers: Cindy Hays

Greeters: Carl Parlato, Bill Castle

Extended Session

Nursery: Alice Cornett

Age 2-3: Debby Miller, Deedee Murphy

Age 4-6: Moe Miller, Pat Murphy

Sunday, 10:30am, Coffee Fellowship Host(s):

TBD
