



NDPC COMMUNICATOR

November 4, 2015

**From the pastors,
David & Beth**

This coming Sunday is the final day of celebration of NDPC's 60th birthday. We are delighted to welcome back to our pulpit **the Rev. Dr. Agnes Norfleet**, pastor of NDPC from 1992-2005; Agnes is now pastor of the historic 2500+ member Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. She is funny, wise, and a powerful preacher. You will enjoy worship with her.

Also, **this Sunday, we dedicate our stewardship gifts during worship.** Prayerfully complete your **pledge cards and time and talent sheets** and bring them with you to church. We offer them to God during 8:30 and 11am worship. You, our members, always stand up and support your church. We pray that you believe NDPC's current direction is both faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and is making a difference in your life and the life of our community. Thank you for your generosity.

Last but not least, you will see **news about Advent** in this week's Communicator. The staff and session have been hard at work planning the season that is now close at hand. We are pleased to share with you a season full of drama, music, meaningful service, and worship. Advent begins on November 29th with a special afternoon performance of Clark Taylor's Appalachian "Christmas Carol." The biggest change this year is on Christmas Eve, when the "late" service moves from 11pm to 9pm. We don't make any changes on Christmas lightly; we expect this time change will allow more of us to worship together on that special night.

Worship & Advent

This Sunday, November 8 - 8:30 & 11am; Agnes Norfleet, former NDPC pastor, preaching

Advent:

Sunday, November 29 – 1st Sunday of Advent; Advent Festival, 9:30-10:30am; Worship, David Lewicki preaching; Christmas Carol Performance, 4pm

Saturday, December 5 – Advent Alternative Gift Market, 10am-3pm

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

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

Sunday, December 13 – 3rd Sunday of Advent; Worship, Karl Heimback preaching; Christmas Concert, 3pm

Sunday, December 20 – 4th Sunday of Advent; Worship, David Lewicki preaching; Serving at Mercy Church Community Meal, 1pm

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve; Family Friendly Pageant and Worship, 5pm; 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.

Location Change: This week, the course about the Bible will change locations from the Sanctuary to the High School Classroom. Adult Education continues to look for appropriate space to accommodate classes over 30 people in learning atmospheres that combine audio/visual, group discussion and movement. Our attempts to use the fellowship hall in September were difficult due to traffic flow and acoustic quality. Last week's class in the sanctuary also had problems with acoustics and flexible seating to hear participants. We are excited to offer new learning opportunities and to encourage intergenerational and large group classes and look forward to new solutions and improvements with the capital campaign funds. Hang with us and keep coming!

Adult Classes:

The Idolatry of Violence (Large Classroom)

Violence manifests in our personal, communal, corporate, and global relationships. This seven-week class will explore the ways in which violence is idolized and visited upon all of us. With the contributions of speakers and course materials, we will discern and pray together over the question: "What are the subtle and not so subtle ways in which violence permeates public policies, our private lives, our choice of entertainment and our vision of the future?"

Dates: Nov 8, 15, 22; Dec 6, 13, 20

Facilitators: Carol Tveit and Kathleen Allen, and guest speakers

Family as Forming Center (Parlor)

The primary place where most children learn about God is the family. This series will explore the role of primary caregivers, whether they are parents, grandparents or other family members in the faith formation of children. We will explore how to deepen spirituality in the home. Participants will learn about the role of family in the faith formation of children and be encouraged to nurture their spiritual lives through specific practices in the home.

Dates: Nov 8, 15, 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)

Engage your imagination as we explore the Bible as literature and life-giving guide. In each session, the group watches a short video featuring a leading voice from the Christian faith, spends time in guided reflection, and shares ideas with the group. The curriculum was developed by the same team behind last year's popular "Animate: Faith," an introductory class to Christianity. Like that class, each session delves into a particular theme: canon, history, genre, two testaments, gospels, interpretation, and application. The course is designed for an intergenerational audience. All are encouraged to participate and to develop their understanding of the Bible.

Dates: Nov 8, 15, 22; Dec 6, 13, 20

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

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

On the heels of your very generous support of the Capital Campaign, you will notice a low key annual Stewardship Campaign this year and a proposed budget for 2016 that reflects modest increases.

Our annual letter, which includes the Time & Talents sheet along with your pledge card, has been mailed. If you currently make an annual pledge, we hope that you will be able to maintain your pledge. If you have never pledged, we ask you to start modestly. We will receive your pledges of time, energies, and financial support on **Dedication Sunday, November 8.**

We are so very fortunate to have a growing, thriving church. With your support NDPC will continue to reach out in ministry and mission and to follow God's call to new places not yet imagined.

With gratitude,
Roberta Goldbaugh, Stewardship Committee Chair

Community Fellowship

YOUTH FUNDRAISER - RSVP today for the Oyster Roast & Low Country Boil, this Saturday, Nov. 7, 4:00 - 7:00PM: Support youth missions while enjoying a backyard Oyster Roast and Low Country Boil at the Brogan/Ellis family house. Tickets are \$25, for all you can eat Oysters, shrimp and sides. If it rains we'll move the festivities indoors. The money raised will go to support youth missions. Please RSVP today at lindaellis37@yahoo.com. Please indicate whether you will be eating oysters, shrimp, hot dogs or any combination of the above.

NDPC November SAGES Meeting, 11/9:

DATE: Monday, November 9 - 12:00 noon (Please note date change due to use of the Fellowship Hall as a polling precinct on November 3)

COST: \$8.00 for a great lunch provided by Badda Bing

PROGRAM: David Evans will reflect on his visit to Israel/Palestine in May with the Interfaith Peace-Builders group. He will discuss questions such as why more Americans are not outraged by the Occupation; the Wall is not on the border but snakes around everywhere; why are Americans not more critical of Israeli injustices, etc. David will also share a video from the trip.

REMINDER: It's "Invite a Senior to Sages" day!

RESERVATIONS: Please respond to Jim Goodspeed for a reservation at: goodspeedjimcar@bellsouth.net or 770-934-2008. Deadline for reservations is Friday, November 6.

SPECIAL INVITATION: You do not have to be in the Sages group to come and hear David's presentation--it is open to anyone interested in this ongoing problem. It is requested that you make a reservation whether for lunch or just the program with Jim Goodspeed so adequate seating will be available.

Men's Breakfast will meet **Tuesday, November 10 from 7-8am in the church Fellowship Hall.** The cost is \$2 and gets you a hearty breakfast and bottomless coffee. Questions? Contact Jack Kittle, jack@ndpc.org

Book Group meets **Thursday, November 12.** Carl Parlato hosts "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel Day Brown. Carl's address: 431 Kirk Rd, Decatur; 404-432-5142. Contact Kip Duchon, gkduchon@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

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 decatcur@aol.com to get parking and other info.

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.

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

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.

Presbyterians for a Better Georgia invites you to our 2015 Public Policy Forum, Thursday, November 5 7:30–9:30am, First Presbyterian Church-Atlanta, 1328 Peachtree Street, Atlanta GA 30309. Breakfast will be provided. Meet with key members of the State House and Senate to discuss Georgia’s critical issues: Come to learn more about how we as Presbyterians can work towards fair access to healthcare in Georgia and find workable solutions that reduce gun violence in our communities. We will also touch on religious freedom, sex trafficking, education funding, hate crimes, and the proposed tax on groceries. (Legislative Panelists: Sen. Bill Cowsert, Rep. Virgil Fludd, Rep. Stacey Evans, Sen. Chuck Hufstetler) Register now - www.p4bg.org

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

Are you interested in joining NDPC? There will be an inquirer’s gathering **this Saturday, November 7, 9-11am** at the church. RSVP to david@ndpc.org. We welcome new members in worship on November 22.

Join Wendy Farley on a Yoga and Meditation retreat in Sewanee, TN this weekend, November 6-8. For details click [here](#), or go to the NDPC website and click on ‘Resources’ and ‘Retreat Flyer’.

New! Weekly one-hour Yoga class, Thursdays, 5:30-6:30pm, Columbia Presbyterian Church. Join us on Thursdays to stretch, work, breathe and release the stress from your week. Launch or support your personal path to self-care with this class for all levels. For more info, contact Teresa Owen, 415-713-7961, teresa@innersmile yoga.org, www.innersmile yoga.org or Karen Webster, 470-228-1682, thehshc@gmail.com, www.healthyseminarians-healthychurch.org

The Long Range Plan for NDPC calls for the church to increase our diversity as a congregation. The Diversity Committee, tasked by the Session with implementing this objective, has been meeting and studying for several months. In order to make plans as we move ahead this committee needs some information about how diverse we currently are. We are asking members to complete a survey to help us understand the current

composition of our congregation. The survey is short and simple; it will provide a snapshot of our current state. We need as many responses as possible. Please take a few minutes to fill in the survey as soon as we have the link ready to make available to you. The survey link will be available in a future edition of the Communicator and a paper copy will be available in the Narthex.

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 8

8:30AM Worship

Head Usher: Carol Tveit

Usher: Steve Hendry

11:00AM Worship

Liturgist: Carol Tveit

Word In Worship: Amanda Osenga

Acolytes: Bailey Buchanan

Head Usher: Cindy Hays

Ushers: John Upchurch, Sherrill Terry, Cile Vardeman, Sheryl Parlato

Sanctuary Flowers: Doug Clark

Greeters: David Evans, Cathy Fincher

Extended Session

Nursery: Betty Busbee

Age 2-3: Marie Schoeneberg, Heidi Gleason

Age 4-6: Jason Schoeneberg, J.D. McCrary

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

TBD

Calendar Highlights

Sunday, November 8 – Grounded in the past, growing toward the future; Rev. Agnes Norfleet, preaching

Sunday, November 29 – Advent begins; Advent Festival at 9:30am-10:30am; David Lewicki preaching

Saturday, December 5 – Advent Alternative Gift Market, 10am-3pm

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