



NDPC COMMUNICATOR

December 2, 2015

From the Staff

Alternative Gift Market at NDPC, this Saturday, December 5, 10:00am – 3:00pm
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

Worship & Advent

Are you looking to deepen your experience of Advent for yourself and your family? On our website (under ‘resources’) you can find some wonderful [written Advent resources](#) to guide you through the season. These include a list of books, poetry, devotionals, and other material curated by NDPC's staff and elders. There's something for kids, youth, and adults. Identify one resource to use during Advent.

Advent at NDPC:

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
- Candlelight Communion Worship, 9pm

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: Dec 6, 13, 20

Facilitators: Carol Tveit and Kathleen Allen, and guest speakers.

Waiting Isn't Easy: An Advent Study of the Psalms (Parlor)

Dates: Dec 6, 13, 20

Facilitator: Rev. Lesley Brogan, Chaplain at Embracing Hospice

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: Dec 6, 13, 20

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

Course Descriptions for Spring Classes are due now. 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 104 people committing a total of \$504,290 toward the ongoing operations of NDPC in 2016. We are making progress toward our goal of \$622,000 in total pledges for the year. While next year's budget for most programs remains roughly the same from 2015, we have increased the annual addition to our property reserve, have initiated an annual contribution to create an "operating reserve" and have added a part-time administrative person to help Maria with our growing membership and activities.

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 **no later than December 20th** so that the Finance Committee can complete with the 2016 budget process before the end of the year.

Tax advantages: Remember to make your charitable contributions before the end of the calendar year for 2015 tax purposes. And you can always donate appreciated stock to NDPC. As a non-profit, the church does not pay capital gains taxes; but you will be able to deduct the full current value of the stock that has been donated. For more information on how to transfer your stock to the church, please contact Jim Topple, jtopple969@gmail.com.

New to pledging? We welcome your support! You might want to start small, to get used to this new commitment of your financial resources. And know that every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference in the work we do at NDPC.

Meeting your pledge: Thanks to technology, it has never been easier to meet your pledge. You may use the PayPal link on the NDPC website under "Donate". Or set up a

recurring payment through your bank's online bill pay feature. Of course, we will continue to welcome checks from those of you who like to "put something in the plate" on Sunday mornings.

Please remember to bring your Time & Talent sheet and pledge card to church next Sunday 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.

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

And thank you!

Community Fellowship

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.

A new ministry for those living with health issues is forming at NDPC. Those living with physical and mental illness and their caregivers may experience isolation, loss and uncertainty. A group at NDPC is forming to offer mutual support and fellowship to those experiencing these realities. Caregivers are also welcome, irrespective of whether those they care for are involved. In December the group will meet on **Monday, December 7, at 1pm and on Sunday, December 20, at 6pm**. Both gatherings will take place at NDPC in the Parlor. Please contact Mary Anona Stoops (maryanona@ndpc.org) if you have questions or interest.

Men's Breakfast will meet **Tuesday, December 8 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

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

NDPC's **next week to serve at Hagar's House is December 6-12**. We still have a few nights open for both cooks and servers. If you can offer to cook and deliver dinner to the shelter or come to the shelter to serve dinner and clean dishes after, please sign up at the link below or contact Jason Schoeneberg. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex after both services this Sunday.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b44aea723a64-hagars4>

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; Registration Deadline: December 12, 2015. 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: December 12, 2015. Contact beckyevans@mindspring.com or amanda@ndpc.org with questions.

NDPC is sharing worship and Christmas lunch with Mercy Church at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church on December 20 at 1pm. Opportunities abound for your involvement. We need food prep and servers, and will be assembling Christmas gift bags for the guests.

We will be serving smoked turkey provided by Community BBQ, Woody's biscuits, dressing, gravy, cranberry sauce, green beans, and Christmas dessert.

Lunch will be served at 1:00 PM instead of dinner at 5:00, for 60 guests. We will need to do some prep work on Saturday afternoon, 12/19, and then re-heat Sunday morning at NDPC. Servers need to be at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church by 12:30 PM. Please let us hear from you if you are willing to help.

DRUID HILLS CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS

When we serve the holiday meal on December 20 at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church, we will take each guest a gift bag. Please place the items below in a tall, white kitchen plastic garbage bag and tie it with a green or red ribbon. We will need 60 bags. Bring your bags to worship on December 6 or December 13 or December 20.

Contents:

1 lb. Box of Velveeta cheese

1 lb. Plastic jar of creamy peanut butter

1 lb. Box of saltine crackers

1 lb box of raisins

1 fresh orange

Some Christmas chocolate

1 pair of warm knit men's gloves

1 Christmas Card with your favorite scripture or your Seasons greetings

Contact person: Cheryl Parlato, clparlato@bellsouth.net, 404-983-0459

The Angel Tree: Opportunities to Share Love, Peace, Joy and Hope

A Christmas tree covered with cutout angels will be placed in the narthex. Each Angel represents one wish from a child or adult in the Initiative for Affordable Housing Program or specifies a donation of money for food or gift certificates. Pick an angel off the tree and replace it with a chrismon ornament from the basket. Bring your gifts to NDPC by **Sunday, December 20** and place them in the large box in the Narthex. Be sure the angel tag is securely attached to the gift. Don't wrap any items.

Cash or check donations may be made payable to NDPC, Attn: Initiative for Affordable Housing and be sent to the church or placed in the offering plate. Please feel free to contact Lisa Wise at [404-299-9979](tel:404-299-9979) if you have any questions. And thank you for your generosity!

(PLEASE NOTE: The Angels project for the Initiative for Affordable Housing, Inc. is designed to give them a happy Christmas while lending moral reinforcement to the social

services object of the Initiative—building self-discipline and responsible spending habits into the client families’ lifestyles. In this day of rampant commercialism and materialism, parents are under tremendous pressure to give their children “brand name” gifts and all the “hot” toys that they really cannot afford. The angel project removes this pressure from the parents’ shoulders while still letting the children have a Christmas season and receive gifts similar to their peers. That’s why this project is so special. Some of the gifts on our children’s “wish lists” are priced higher than others, but the per-child costs should all be within reasonable levels. Of course, it’s appropriate for families to share the cost of the gifts if it is beyond one family’s budget. –Lisa Wise, Director)

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.

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!

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

Session Minutes for October & November 2015 are attached to this email.

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.

Sign up now for Salt Shakers (a group of NDPC'ers who share a meal together during Jan., Feb., & March). All NDPC adults who enjoy good cuisine and good company are encouraged to sign up! Sign up sheets may be found on the Narthex table and on our website under [resources](#). **New Members are especially invited to sign up. Free childcare for all (if needed).** Please **return your reservation by December 22 to Jack Kittle**, jack@ndpc.org or 404.395.2789 or his box near the Session mail boxes in the lobby outside the Parlor.

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, December 6

8:30AM Worship

Head Usher: Roberta Goldbaugh

Usher: Debra Berry

11:00AM Worship

Liturgist: Peter Dickson, Todd Brawner

WIW: Janice Butt

Acolytes: Carmen Ramirez, Anna Dente

Head Usher: Marie Schoeneberg

Ushers: Jan Cribbs, Haywood Curry, Linda Curry, Susan Diffenderfer

Sanctuary Flowers: Worship Committee

Greeters: Marie Schoeneberg, Susan Constantine

Communion Preparation: Marie Schoeneberg

Extended Session

Nursery: Susan Fraysse

Age 2-3: Shannon Ball, Sallie Owens

Age 4-6: Anthony Scalese, Sara Walker

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

TBD
