



# NDPC COMMUNICATOR

December 9, 2015

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## From the Staff

**Initiative for Affordable Housing Christmas Party, this 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](http://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](mailto:NTGathany@gmail.com)

**Hark! A Concert of Seasonal Favorites, this Sunday, Dec. 13, 3:00pm in the Sanctuary** 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.

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## 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 12

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

Sunday, December 13 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Karl Heimback preaching

- Christmas Concert, 3pm

Sunday, December 20 – 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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## 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

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Facilitators: Carol Tveit and Kathleen Allen, and guest speakers.  
*Please join us this Sunday at 9:30AM when Beth Corrie from the Candler School of Theology leads us in a discussion of the ways in which the violence that our culture idolizes affects our children.*

**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

**Inquirer's Classes:** January 10, 17, 24 at 9:30am, and March 12 at 10am.

**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!

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## Season of Commitment 2015

We have received pledges from 113 people committing a total of \$523,000 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 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 20<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto: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](http://ndpc.org) under "Resources" OR, for your pledge for 2016 you may simply email Jack Kittle at [jack@ndpc.org](mailto:jack@ndpc.org) and let him know your intentions.

Please direct any questions to Roberta Goldbaugh, [rgoldbaugh@bellsouth.net](mailto:rgoldbaugh@bellsouth.net).

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And thank you!

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## Community Fellowship

**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 **Sunday, December 20, at 6pm.** We will meet at NDPC in the Parlor. Please contact Mary Anona Stoops ([maryanona@ndpc.org](mailto:maryanona@ndpc.org)) if you have questions or interest.

**Sign up now for Salt Shakers** (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](mailto:jack@ndpc.org)** or 404.395.2789 or his box near the Session mail boxes in the lobby outside the Parlor or in the Sunday offering plate.

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## Service & Mission

**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](mailto:beckyevans@mindspring.com) or [amanda@ndpc.org](mailto: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.

**The members of Mercy Church have asked if some of the NDPC members would like to join them in worship at 11:15 that day, prior to the luncheon.** The servers and cooks from NDPC will be busy in the kitchen, but if there are other NDPC members who would like to attend this service - which will be their Lessons and Carols Sunday (lots of good music), please **contact Cheryl Parlato, [clparlato@bellsouth.net](mailto:clparlato@bellsouth.net), 404-984-0459 for more details.**

DRUID HILLS CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS

When we serve the holiday meal on December 20 at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church, we

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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

**The Angel Tree:** Thank you everyone! All the Angels have been selected from the tree. 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 again for your generosity!

**Thank you to our NDPC congregation for being faithful in donating quarters to the Homeless Laundry Ministry.** We begin our 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:lynne_repasky@yahoo.com)) to get better informed.

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.

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## For Your Information

**Holiday Reminders:** Maria will be taking vacation during the holiday. Please note that the Church Office will be closed 12/24/15-1/1/16. The co-pastors are in town and will be reachable by phone or email.

**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

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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 Heimbeck; 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.

**Current statements of giving are available.** Send an email to [jack@ndpc.org](mailto:jack@ndpc.org) if you would like a copy of yours.

**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](mailto:maria@ndpc.org))

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## This week's volunteers

### **Sunday, December 13**

#### 8:30AM Worship

Head Usher: Cheryl Parlato

Usher: Glenda Clay

#### 11:00AM Worship

Liturgist: John, Andrea & Cora Anne Morgan

WIW: Amanda Osenga

Acolytes: Bradley Towner, Janie Kate Mosley

Head Usher: Charlotte Stone Black

Ushers: Susan Diffenderfer, Linda Ellis, Mary Elizabeth Etheridge, Cathy Fincher

Sanctuary Flowers: Worship Committee

Greeters: Jan Cribbs, Susan Diffenderfer

#### Extended Session

Nursery: Jaime Jones

Age 2-3: Sara Walker, April Biagioni

Age 4-6: Betty Busbee, Charles Bonner

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

TBD

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