



NDPC COMMUNICATOR

January 13, 2016

Save the Date

"We Welcome All." You are invited to participate in the beginning of a spiritual journey to explore the role of human difference in your life, the life of our church, and the life of the world. Join us **Friday evening, February 5th** at NDPC for dinner and conversation with Paul Roberts, President of Johnson C. Smith Seminary. Then on **Saturday morning, February 6th**, we meet in small groups to learn about difference within our community and explore how we experience difference. This is an all-church, all-ages event that grows out of our long-range plan's direction to the congregation of NDPC to reflect intentionally on our own diversity.

The first step in this process is to gather information on how NDPC is diverse today. You are **invited to participate in a survey** that will give us some information on who you are and how you view our congregational life. All responses are anonymous. Members from high school age on are asked to respond. Electronically you can respond at: surveymonkey.com/r/SnapshotNDPC. If you prefer a paper response these will be available at worship in the narthex for the next few weeks. The committee looks forward to hearing from all of you.

NDPC Diversity Working Group Members: Joanne Nurss, Sam Darko, Alice Hickcox, Dee Raeside, Darryl Payne, John Brogan Ellis.

Worship

Sunday, January 17, 8:30 & 11am, David Lewicki preaching
Sunday, January 24, 8:30 & 11am, David Lewicki preaching
Sunday, January 31, 8:30 & 11am, David Lewicki preaching

Contemplative Prayer will resume on Thursday, January 14 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.

January Adult Classes:

Awakening to True Self

If we are lucky, we have had moments when we feel deeply connected to our life, those around us, and a sense of beauty larger than ourselves. By contrast we all have experienced moments of disconnect, when we feel detached, compulsive, unworthy or self-absorbed. Thomas Merton introduced the language of "true self" and "false self" to describe these qualities of human experience. What does this language mean? How do we find our true self? Does it matter? What does it have to do with the Christian journey? This series will explore these questions and invite participants to reflect on their own experiences of living authentically. The role of practices such as presence, centering prayer, non-judgment, and curiosity in encountering our true selves will be explored. Whether these questions are new to you, or you have been chewing on them

for a while, you are welcome to the conversation. While not essential for participation in the series, Richard Rohr's *Immortal Diamond* is recommended for those wanting to read on the subject.

Dates: January 10-31

Facilitator: Mary Anona Stoops

Location: Parlor

Inclusive Language

NDPC has long had a practice of using inclusive language. In this class, we will discuss the history of what inclusive language has meant to our congregation and its members, investigate historical theological understandings of the image of God and the witness of the Trinity, and discuss what inclusivity in our speech and witness means for human flourishing in 2016.

Dates: January 10-31

Facilitators: Karl Heimbeck, Beth Waltemath

Location: Large Classroom

Inquirer's Class

Consider becoming a member of NDPC and learn more about what makes this church unique. This class will provide participants the opportunity to explore the benefits and responsibilities at NDPC, learn about the PCUSA and the wider church, listen to other's faith stories and nurture friendships with other new members.

Dates: January 10, 17, 24. (Saturday 9-11 in April, TBD)

Facilitators: Evangelism Committee and Rev. David Lewicki

Location: Library

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

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who pledged to both the Capital Campaign and the Stewardship Season. We know that many people made financial sacrifices this year in support of this community and we are grateful.

To date we have received \$565,000 in pledges to support our 2016 goal of \$622,000 in pledge revenue. The original 2016 overall budget goal contained a 3% pay increase for staff and an additional administrative member, with all other categories held flat over 2015. The shortfall from our pledge goal for 2016 simply means that we will not be able to add administrative staff as hoped, and the Finance Committee had to make cuts to several programs to reach a balanced budget for this year.

How you can help: If you are able to make a new pledge or increase your existing pledge, please contact Jack Kittle at jack@ndpc.org

The 2016 budget will be presented to Session on January 24 and to the congregation on January 31, 2016.

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

And thank you!

Community Fellowship

A **support group** for those living with health issues has formed and will meet next this **Sunday, January 17, at 6pm in the Parlor.** Caregivers and those living with mental or physical issues are invited to attend. Contact Mary Anona for more information (maryanona@ndpc.org).

The Congregational Care Committee will be collecting donations in the narthex after church on Jan. 17 for our Valentine's Day fund. The funds will be used to send valentines to our NDPC members in college, in the military, those in mission and those who are homebound. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

Sages Seeker's, a gathering of adults to share experiences, wisdom and insights on aging, **will meet on January 19 in the Parlor at 10am.** NDPC member Carol Goodspeed will open the group in conversation about the impact of retirement and aging on relationships, including family, friends, self and God. All are welcome to join in conversation. Contact Mary Anona (maryanonaa@ndpc.org) if you have questions.

Salt Shakers (our communal dinners in members' homes JAN-FEB-MAR) **meal assignments** were emailed out Monday evening. If you signed up and did not get an assignment, please send a note to Jack Kittle (jack@ndpc.org) so that he can track down the problem. If you forgot to sign up, there are spaces for four Mystery Guests on January 23 and one on March 19. Send Jack a note if you would like to participate as one of these special guests.

NDPC Women's Retreat 2016 — Montreat, NC; Friday evening, February 26 - Sunday morning, February 28. This year's retreat will be led by **Melissa Tidwell and Ellen Gadberry**, and our retreat theme is *Metaphors, Imagination and the Art of Our Stories*. We will remember stories from our experiences that offer a way to discern the themes of grace hidden and revealed that appear and reappear throughout our lives. Our time together will include personal reflection, group sharing, and creative expression to help us mine our stories for the patterns of blessing and challenge, giving and receiving, shadow and light that speak to us of the divine presence in the midst of our days.

Please register now! ([Retreat registration form](#))

The cost of the retreat is \$130.00, which includes lodging for Friday and Saturday evenings and the following meals: Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner and Sunday breakfast. You can stay at the Evans' or Browns' homes (thank you Gail and Becky!), cabin-style (bring your pillow and sleeping bag) or at The Assembly Inn.

If you'd like to stay at The Assembly Inn, you will pay \$75 for the retreat (food and programming) + the cost of your room (shared or otherwise) at the Inn.

Space is limited. Your deposit of \$75.00 and registration form are due by **Sunday, February 7.** Your check should state 'Women's Retreat' in the memo section; place it in the offering plate, or in the church office.

If you would like to help with the retreat this year, we would love someone to organize carpools! Please contact Angela Towner (aatowner@comcast.net) or Dee Raeside (deeraeside@gmail.com) if you're able to help, or if you should have any questions. We look forward to seeing you in Montreat!

Service & Mission

Mercy Laundry Ministry continues with the following cycle -

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

JAN 6 - MAR 16 2016 (WINTER)

APR 6 - JUN 15 2016 (SPRING)

JUL 6 - SEPT 21 2016 (SUMMER)

OCT 5 - DEC 21 2016 (FALL)

We appreciate the donation of Quarters for the Laundry machines and your volunteered time. For information contact lynne_repasky@yahoo.com

MERCY CHURCH will be serving lunches to the DRUID HILLS shelter community and NDPC continues its involvement there.

2016 Legislative Advocacy Kickoff, Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 6:00-8:30pm, Central Presbyterian Church, 201 Washington Street SW, Atlanta GA. An inspirational, educational (and free!) event hosted by Central Outreach & Advocacy Center and Presbyterians for a Better Georgia. Free parking at the Georgia Department of Public Safety garage, 180 Central Avenue. Soup & Salad dinner provided. To register, go to <http://www.p4bg.org/>

For further information please contact Cheryl Parlato: clparlato@bellsouth.net
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

Children's Choir Rehearsals: Any child in grades 1-5 are welcome to join. Rehearsals are Sunday evenings 6:30-7:30pm with meal together at 6:00pm. (The meal is optional.) The kids rehearse and will sing January into early May. Don't let them be cooped up at home all weekend this winter—bring them to choir! For more information contact Clint at clint@ndpc.org

Session will meet January 24 at 1pm in the Parlor. Session meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.

The future of the PCUSA is coming to Atlanta. The NEXT Conference is a gathering of church leaders from across the country who are leading the process of change in congregations and in the denomination. You are invited to attend part or all of the conference from February 22-24 at First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta. Information and registration are found at <http://nextchurch.net/2016-national-gathering/theme/#.Vpa1WFLeOUg>

The NEXT Conference is looking for people to host individuals from Scotland who are traveling Feb. 19-26 to attend the conference. If you are interested in offering a guest room and/or transportation for these Scots attending this conference, please contact Rev. Allan Purtil, apurtil@hopewellpresby.com

Stock (or other marketable security) gifts to NDPC are always welcome! Contact Jim Topple (jtopple969@gmail.com) for details on how to transfer your securities to our brokerage account. After you have initiated a transfer, please send a note to Jim Topple and Jack Kittle (jack@ndpc.org) describing your gift and how it should be credited to your giving account.

Tax Savvy ways to make your charitable contributions

Are you over 70 ½? Do you have an IRA? Do you make charitable contributions? Then you may benefit from the IRA Charitable Rollover Provision which was made permanent in December 2015 with the PATH Act of 2015.

The law permits individuals who are 70½ or older to transfer funds directly from their traditional IRA to eligible charitable organizations. The provision has a cap of \$100,000 for charitable distributions from individual IRAs each year. Individuals may exclude the amount distributed directly to an eligible charity from their gross income. And the amount transferred will count toward your required IRA withdrawal for the year. Who will benefit from this provision? 1) Donors who itemize deductions and whose charitable contributions are reduced by the percentage of income limitation, 2) individuals who do not usually itemize their deductions, and 3) individuals in states where the operation of state income tax law would offer greater benefits as a result of a direct charitable contribution.

For more information, please contact Jack Kittle (jack@ndpc.org) or Roberta Goldbaugh (rgoldbaugh@bellsouth.net)

Current statements of giving are available. Send an email to 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)

This week's volunteers

Sunday, January 17

8:30AM Worship

Head Usher: Roberta Goldbaugh

Usher: Carol Tveit

11:00AM Worship

Liturgist: Youth

WIW: Janice Butt

Acolytes: Ben Markham, James Lewicki

Head Usher: Ben Green

Ushers: Anne Sayre, Jan Cribbs, Sherrill Terry, Cile Vardeman

Sanctuary Flowers: Briana Patterson

Greeter: Claudia Brogan

Extended Session

Nursery: Jean Are

Age 2-3: Brian Cayce, Charlie Cromwell

Age 4-6: Genia Cayce, Wendy Cromwell

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

TBD
