



# NDPC COMMUNICATOR

February 10, 2016

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## From the Co-Pastors, Beth & David

As co-pastors and co-parents, we would like to announce we are expecting our third child (a baby boy) this summer. We are excited to grow our family in the midst of the nurturing faith community of NDPC. We are happy to report that this pregnancy is shaping up to be healthy and routine and appreciate your on-going prayers. Our personnel committee chair, Annie Godfrey, and clerk of session, Fran Mohr, are already working on plans for pastoral coverage immediately following the birth (expected June 17<sup>th</sup>). We are fortunate to have a talented staff and a community of ministers willing to help in our midst. You can direct any questions regarding leave policy and plans to Annie and Fran or look for updated details as they are decided in the Communicator.

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## Worship

### Ash Wednesday – Tonight, Feb. 10

Dinner and Programming 5:00 - 6:45 PM; Worship 7:00 PM

"From *dirt* you came and to *dirt* you will return"

On Ash Wednesday come and *play in the dirt* as we enter this Lenten season of forgiveness, fasting, and sharing the feast with others. Ash Wednesday is the day of the Christian year that tells us that ashes - dust, dirt, earth - is the matter that we are made of, it's the stuff that we walk upon, that we want to sweep away and work to get rid of, and it's the stuff that we will return to.

As we enter into this Lenten season your invitation is to acknowledge, to get close, and even playful with the messiness and muck that finds its way into our lives. Pain and failure may be unavoidable parts of life, but it is when we are willing to acknowledge our brokenness and embrace our imperfections that we are able to create space for new life to bloom.

All ages and abilities are encouraged to come dressed to play in the dirt. Centers that will be stationed around Fellowship Hall:

- Play with the clay and create a pinch pot
- Plant a Lenten Garden
- Make a charcoal drawing
- Paint with mud
- Rejuvenate with a mud mask
- Receive the imposition of ashes (for those not staying for worship, 6:30 PM)

A simple dinner of soup and bread will be provided (5:00 - 6:30). Following dinner all who would like to stay for worship will be invited to the Sanctuary for worship. Our Ash Wednesday worship service (7:00 PM) and is 45 minutes in length and is filled with space to step out of our ordinary routines and into the intimate place of silence and centeredness. It marks the beginning of renewal as we are reminded that we belong to God, that we are unable to escape death, and of the hope that is found in God's grace and mercy.

If you have been marked by the dust of Ashes before, come hear the Word anew and

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afresh. If this is your first time, come find a place of cleansing and renewal. You are welcome to come for dinner, to play in the dirt, to worship. Come for the whole evening or come for just a part. You are welcome in this place!

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**Sunday, February 14, 8:30 & 11am**, David Lewicki preaching  
**Sunday, February 21, 8:30 & 11am**, David Lewicki preaching  
**Sunday, February 28, 8:30 & 11am**, Karl Heimbeck preaching

**Contemplative Prayer Group** meets **Thursdays at 7pm** in the Parlor (ground floor, Sanctuary building).

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## Lenten Programming

**Reading Group - Wednesday Evenings, 7:30-9pm, in the Parlor (February 17, March 2, March 16)**, hosted by Jim Veal. In this group we will not read a particular book but instead delve into shorter pieces by a variety of contemporary writers - notably Ta-Nehisi Coates - who have provocative things to say on diversity issues. In discussion we'll reflect on the implications of what we read for ourselves as Christians and for our church community. Readings for the reading group will be accessible from the church website in the next few days. Below are the Texts for our first session, Wednesday, Feb. 17:

Ta-Nehisi Coates' "[Letter to My Son](#)" (a long excerpt from his book *Between the World and Me* that appeared in *The Atlantic*).

These two essays in response to Coates' book:

Jonathan Orbell's "[Why We Need Coates](#)" (from *Sojourners*).

Daniel Jose Camacho's "[The Social Gospel of Ta-Nehisi Coates](#)" (from *The Christian Century*).

For further information, contact Jim at [bexjim@gmail.com](mailto:bexjim@gmail.com)

**History Walk - Saturday, March 12, 9-noon**, led by Rev. Lewicki. Issues of difference can only be understood in the light of history. In this morning walk, we will explore one local neighborhood, and examine the pressures that shaped the neighborhood's development. How was difference negotiated in the past? How did that shape the community in which we live today? How will the way we negotiate difference today shape the world our children inherit?

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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.

February-March Adult Classes:

**Striving for Justice: Haiti and Beyond** (Large Classroom)

"Striving for Justice: Haiti and Beyond" will provide us an opportunity to deepen our understanding of and our part in justice work. Dovetailing with the "We Welcome All" workshop about how we experience difference on February 5th and 6th, the central question for us is, "What does it mean to be an ally to the struggles we witness?" As we identify the particular lenses we wear -- race, class, culture, and place -- we want to learn from people whose location in relation to all these things might be very different from our own. Through the perspective of our mission partnership in Haiti with MPP (*Mouvman Peyizan Papay*, the Papaye Peasant Movement), we will explore topical reading materials and learn to cultivate a simple spiritual practice, developing qualities of self-awareness, patience, and compassion.

**Dates:** February 7-28; March 6-20; (April 3<sup>rd</sup>-no class), April 10-24

**Facilitators:** Becky Evans, Kara Morrison, Rick Neale, Gordon French and others from Global Mission Committee

**Reading the Bible Thematically: Focus on Water** (Library)

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Water is the vital element needed for life. Come examine how our Biblical images of water inform our faith journey. Each of the weekly sessions will focus on particular biblical texts and the elements of our faith journey they bring to mind. We will reflect together as we share what these texts have meant, and may continue to mean, in our lives. This series will provide learners an opportunity to engage in creative, critical reflection of Biblical texts, discover how, through the power of the Spirit, the texts continue to speak into our contemporary setting, and apply the lessons learned as we seek to be faithful disciples of our Triune God. The study will be based on the 2015-16 Horizons Bible Study, "Come to the Waters." The study guide will be available for purchase (approx. \$12) for those who would like to prepare each week, but not a necessary requirement for being in this study. An open mind, and willingness to read Scripture, reflect and journey together are the key requirements.

**Dates:** February 7, 14, 21, 28; March 6, 13, 20

**Facilitators:** Marion Reeves, Rev. Dr. Sarah Erickson

#### **Introduction to Centering Prayer (Parlor)**

Jesus' gospel taught radical openness and compassion. How do we carry out the teachings of Jesus without hypocrisy or burnout? In this class we will explore Centering Prayer not just as a practice that clears the mind but also one that brings the mind "into the heart" giving us the opportunity to cultivate openness and compassion. We will explore Thomas Keating's gift of a meditation process that helps us to access the traditional wisdom of the Christian inner path. Come ready to explore that silent still voice. We will focus on the how, but also explore the why of this practice, including theological aspects of this rediscovered tradition from the Benedictine monks. This class will coincide with Lent and may be a daily practice you would like to explore.

**Dates:** February 7, 14, 21, 28

**Facilitators:** Lisa Whittle, Rev. Carol Gilbert

#### **Inclusive Language Working Group (Connector Classroom)**

NDPC has a long practice of using inclusive language. After exploring this history, we are now moving forward in discussion about our own policy: what does it mean to have inclusive language around God? around people? You are invited to join us for this two-week working group as we consider these questions and how we might faithfully create space with our words where all are welcome.

**Dates:** February 7, 14

**Facilitator:** Karl Heimback

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**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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## **Community Fellowship**

**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

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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. 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](mailto:aatowner@comcast.net)) or Dee Raeside ([deeraeside@gmail.com](mailto:deeraeside@gmail.com)) if you're able to help, or if you should have any questions. We look forward to seeing you in Montreat!

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## Service & Mission

**Mercy Laundry Ministry has changed to the 1st & 3rd MONDAYS of each month - we need male volunteers** to collect clothes from Mercy Church and deliver to Medlock Laundry (Opposite NDPC) on MONDAYS. The laundry has agreed to hold the bags until the 6pm wash, which means drop off can happen at YOUR convenience BEFORE 6pm on the 1st & 3rd MONDAY of every month. This is the Winter season for the bimonthly mercy laundry reflection ministry. Please consider signing up one time or partnering with someone on a monthly basis for a season as an opportunity of deepening our relationships with each other. May God's holy spirit work in and amongst us and through this service especially. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list please contact Lynne Repasky: 404-680-9816 or [lynne\\_repasky@yahoo.com](mailto:lynne_repasky@yahoo.com)

**ABLE:** Meeting nights have changed from Thursday to Tuesday. **Next meeting, Tuesday, February 16, 7-8:30pm** (Council of Leaders meeting: 6-7pm) **at NDPC**. For more info, contact [Leon Clymore](#).

**Presbyterians for a Better Georgia:** NDPC is a member congregation of Presbyterians for a Better Georgia. PBG helps congregations have a voice in the halls of public decision-making through our ministry of public policy advocacy. Our purpose is to speak up for vulnerable populations in our community – children, seniors, people with disabilities, low income individuals and families, and those whose voice otherwise might not be heard. Together with Central Outreach and Advocacy Center we employ Elizabeth J. Appley, Esq. as our public policy advocate. Currently Elizabeth is monitoring bills related to homelessness, food stamp fairness, access to healthcare, gun violence, and religious freedom. PBG meets the third Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:30. During the Legislative Session we meet at Central PC; the remainder of the year we meet at Druid Hills PC. **On Thursday, February 25** you can advocate in person to help make Georgians safer, healthier, and more secure. We will meet at Central PC at 8:30 for coffee, networking, and a legislative update and then go across to the Capitol to meet with legislators. Go to [www.p4bg.org](http://www.p4bg.org) or our [website](#) (or see PBG alert attached to this email) to learn more about PBG and to register for *A Day At the Capitol*. To be added to NDPC's Action Alert email list and if you are interested in attending a PBG meeting, please contact Kathleen Allen at [mkathleen44@yahoo.com](mailto:mkathleen44@yahoo.com)

### **TASTE OF THE CARIBBEAN – MARCH 5, 7-10pm – PLEASE JOIN US!**

You are invited to **TASTE OF THE CARIBBEAN: A Celebration of the Haitian Eco Villages School** on Saturday, March 5, 7 to 10pm at Decatur Art House. All are welcome who have a heart for service and education. You can support our Haitian brothers and sisters striving for self-sufficiency, the flourishing of the eco-villages, and the thriving of the eco-village school - and have a little fun too! \$25 per person. Please register by Feb. 26 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/taste-of-the-caribbean-a-fundraiser-for-the-haitian-eco-villages-school-tickets-21134983304>

Learn more about the school, the Eco Villages, and the "Seeds of Hope" Atlanta Church Partnership at [www.haitiecovillageschool.org](http://www.haitiecovillageschool.org)

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**Step up! Stop Hunger!** Support the Atlanta Community Food Bank and join our 5K Walk team **Sunday, March 13**. We will carpool to MARTA or meet at Turner Field/Green Lot after worship for the 2:00pm event. Registration is \$25 via website, or simply donate: [http://engage.acfb.org/site/TR?fr\\_id=1734&pg=entry](http://engage.acfb.org/site/TR?fr_id=1734&pg=entry)  
Join either team, "NDPC- Youth" or "NDPC/MDPC/Mercy Church" teams under Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. We will all walk together! Thank you! Questions? [deeraeside@gmail.com](mailto:deeraeside@gmail.com)

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

**We welcome our new members** who joined NDPC 2/7/16: *Jon & Sue Blouin; Liz Monyelle & Thom Schreck and children, Peyton, Lily, & Zach; Eddie Verdin.*

The [January 2016 Session Minutes](#) and [Congregational Meeting Minutes](#) can be found on the NDPC website under 'Resources'. (also attached to this email)

**You still have an opportunity** to contribute to the vision of diversity at NDPC. Respond online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SnapshotNDPC> or use the forms available in the narthex.

**Upcoming New Member Sunday, April 10.** If you are feeling led to join North Decatur Presbyterian Church, we would love to have you. We will be receiving new members on April 10. Please contact Pastor David Lewicki at [david@ndpc.org](mailto:david@ndpc.org) or Heidi Gleason, Evangelism Chair, at [heidikgleason@gmail.com](mailto:heidikgleason@gmail.com) for more information.

**Childspring International** is looking for a host family to house a 19 yr-old girl (Mohbonu) from Tajikistan who will be receiving medical treatment in Atlanta. For details, please contact Annie Gauf: 404-201-6445 or [annie@childspringintl.org](mailto:annie@childspringintl.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](mailto:maria@ndpc.org))

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## This week's volunteers

### **Sunday, February 14**

8:30AM Worship

Head Usher: Carol Tveit

Usher: Bob Way

11:00AM Worship

Liturgist: David Evans

WIW: Amanda Osenga

Acolytes: Janie Kate Mosley, Carmen Ramirez

Head Usher: Cheryl Parlato

Ushers: Susan Constantine, Marie Schoeneberg, Haywood Curry, Linda Curry

Sanctuary Flowers: Worship Committee

Greeter: Susan Diffenderfer

Extended Session

Nursery: Mary Elizabeth Etheridge

Age 2-3: Steve Hendry, Jason Schoeneberg

Age 4-6: Roberta Goldbaugh, Clarke Hair

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

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