



NDPC COMMUNICATOR

February 3, 2016

From the Staff

"We Welcome All." This weekend, 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 6:30pm** at NDPC for dinner and conversation with Paul Roberts, President of Johnson C. Smith Seminary. Then on **Saturday morning, February 6th, from 9-Noon**, 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. **Please RSVP to rsvp@ndpc.org and let us know if you plan oncoming Friday, Saturday, or both and if you will need childcare.**

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 at: surveymonkey.com/r/SnapshotNDPC.

This Sunday, Feb. 7, join us for a meet and greet in the Sanctuary after the 11am worship with NDPC's new communications consultant, Casie Yoder. Her hiring is part of the church's long-range plans for improved internal communications and marketing outreach. Casie will give a quick tutorial overview of the recently updated NDPC.org website. She can be reached at casie@ndpc.org

Worship

Ash Wednesday - February 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 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!

Sunday, February 7, 8:30 & 11am, David Lewicki preaching
Ash Wednesday, February 10, 5pm-meal/activity; 7pm-Worship
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).

Lenten Programming

Lenten Diversity Writing Group, February 9, 7pm, NDPC Library: For all who love writing with other people and sharing that writing, for all who have been surprised by what surfaces after that deep dive, or for all who have NEVER experienced these things but would like to try, please join us on Tuesday, February 9 at 7pm in the Library. Writing prompts will be provided that will help us to explore our experiences and ideas around diversity. If we want to continue meeting, we will discuss future dates at that time. -Kelly Craigmile, kcraigmile90@gmail.com

Lenten Reading Group - Wednesday Evenings, **7:30-9pm, in the Parlor (2/17, 3/2, 3/16)**, hosted by Jim Veal. In this group we will delve into shorter pieces by a variety of contemporary writers - notably Ta-Nehisi Coates - who have provocative things to say on diversity and human difference. In discussion we'll reflect on the implications of what we read for ourselves as Christians and for our church community.

Lenten 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?

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 3rd-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 (Parlor)

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 (Library)

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 Heimbuck

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!

Community Fellowship

Book Group meets **Thursday, February 4**. Jim Topple hosts "Being Mortal" by Atul Gawande. Contact Kip Duchon, gkduchon@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

Those living with ongoing physical or mental health issues, including caregivers, are **invited to gather in the Parlor on Monday, February 8, at 1 and Sunday, February 21, at 6pm**. Newcomers are welcome and will find a compassionate and wise circle of fellowship. Please contact Mary Anona (maryanona@ndpc.org) with questions.

Men's Breakfast will meet **Tuesday, February 9 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

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.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, March 5, 7PM: The Atlanta Church Group invites you to

reserve Saturday, March 5, 7pm for TASTE OF THE CARIBBEAN: A Celebration of the Haitian Eco Villages School at the Decatur Art House. Registration will open Friday, February 5th. If you want to help or learn more, contact beckyevans@mindspring.com

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
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

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

Upcoming New Member Sundays, 2/7 & 4/10. If you are feeling led to join North Decatur Presbyterian Church, we would love to have you. We will be receiving new members on February 7 and April 10. Please contact Pastor David Lewicki at david@ndpc.org or Heidi Gleason, Evangelism Chair, at heidikleason@gmail.com for more information.

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 Purtill, apurtill@hopewellpresby.com

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, February 7

8:30AM Worship

Head Usher: Cheryl Parlato

Usher: Dee Raeside

11:00AM Worship

Liturgist: Betsy Root Godfrey

WIW: Marie Schoeneberg

Acolytes: Kate Johnson, Tucker Schoeneberg

Head Usher: Cindy Hays

Ushers: Charles Cass, Angela Cass, Genia Cayce, Doug Clark

Sanctuary Flowers: Carol Tveit

Greeter: Martha Dewald

Extended Session

Nursery: Alice Cornett

Age 2-3: Tim Merritt, J.D. McCrary

Age 4-6: Ellen Gadberry, Heidi Gleason

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

TBD
