

North Decatur Presbyterian Church
611 Medlock Road
Decatur, GA 30033-5510
404/636.1429 * www.ndpc.org

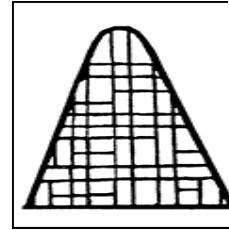
March 2, 2010

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dr. Joel Alvis, Interim Pastor
Albert C. Winn, Pastor Emeritus
Paul E. Osborne, Interim Director of Christian Education
Clinton T. Miller, Director of Music Ministry
Sara Dorrien, Seminary Intern
Maria Badre, Office Manager

Keep our homebound members in your prayers: **Marge Ware, Melba Murray.**

officendpc@bellsouth.net



North Decatur Communicator

March 2, 2010

Joel's Jottings

Are we there yet?

We've all heard the question – and my guess is that a lot of us have asked it too! Now that we are approaching the second Easter of my time as a transitional pastor, it seems like a good time to ask that question.

Let me be clear there are two parts to the answer. The first is that given by the Pastor Nominating Committee. Gordon French and the other members have been very clear that they are working diligently. Their reports say that there are a good number of qualified people open to a conversation of call with North Decatur Presbyterian Church. This is good news! At the same time there is not a way to put an exact time frame on this. So the congregation needs to practice patience, perseverance and the discipline of community life. This sounds like the task of Lent!

The other part of the transitions between installed leaders has to do with the flow of the congregation's life. Worship has continued each week. The choirs, balcony and children's, sing. Classes for children and youth continue. The youth led a wonderful worship last Sunday. Mission projects move forward. Issues are raised and discussed.

An additional part of church life during transition is the opportunity for reflection and consideration of options. While it is important and necessary to await the new pastor, it is also important to take stock of who the congregation is and what you think, believe and do.

One way to measure activity is by reviewing numbers. In the Session report you will see the statistical report from 2009. Membership is down from recent years. On the other hand, membership is still within a window of where it was as recently as 2000 when 308 individuals were recorded as members. The numbers can be seen on the PC(U.S.A.) website.

These numbers do not reveal all there is about this congregation. But they are a snapshot of where the church is at any given point. North Decatur is coming to the end of a five year hiatus in normal life. It was not intended or planned. What matters now is what you as the body of Christ choose to make of it. This is a Lenten task. Yet even in the wilderness of transition, we prepare for the Easter Day celebration of new life!

Worship in March:



March 7 Dr. Joel Alvis preaching
 March 14 Dr. Joel Alvis preaching
 March 21 Rev. Joanna Adams preaching
 March 28 Dr. Joel Alvis preaching
Palm Sunday



Extended Session March 7

Nursery : Pam Joyce

2-5 Yr Olds: Gabriel Ramirez & Family

March 7

WORD ABOUT WORSHIP

Jon Colgrove

LITURGIST

Rev. Bill Brown

USHERS

Head Usher: Burt Vardeman

Ushers: Betty Busbee, Mary Watt Balsley,

Kathleen Allen, Cathy Fincher

GREETER

Jaime Jones

ACOLYTE

Evan Cass

“Communicator”

Schedule

(1st & 3rd weeks of each month)

March 1, 15
 April 5, 19
 May 3, 17

March 14

WORD ABOUT WORSHIP

Mary Elizabeth Etheridge

LITURGIST

Jon Colgrove

USHERS

Head Usher: Burt Vardeman

Ushers: Bert Weaver, Cile Vardeman,

Martha Vardeman, John Upchurch

GREETER

Moe Miller

ACOLYTE

Ryan Cass

CHURCH

ATTENDANCE: 2/21/10 2/28/10

Sunday School: 86 112

Worship: 115 181

Visitors: 7 12



Extended Session March 14

Nursery : Jaime Jones

2-5 Yr Olds: Dowdle Family

Cares & Concerns



Prayer requests & celebrations may be shared with **Carol Tveit** by email or phone: carol.j.tveit@gmail.com or H:404-289-3868; C:404-617-7765.

Betty McDaniel, sister of Margaret Godfrey, has stage 4 bone cancer.

Roland McDaniel, brother-in-law of Margaret Godfrey, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease.

Family of Harry DeMille as they celebrate his life and mourn their loss. Harry died February 25th. Memorial service is at 4PM, Friday, March 5th.

NDPC Pastoral Nominating Committee: Gail Brown, Gordon French, Pam Joyce, Kathryn Sandifer and Jason Schoeneberg as they continue to search for a senior pastor.

Katie Condon who has bronchialitis.

President Obama and Congress as they work to lead us to address the critical issues of our nation during a time of unprecedented polarization.

Chile and its people as they work to recover from the devastation of a recent earthquake.

A safer world for women and girls, a world in which they will be free from the threat of violence and have access to medical care, education, and economic and political power.

A Nuclear Weapons Free World - prayers for public awareness and commitment to a world free from the threat of extinction of all of life.

Members of NDPC serving in the military:

- **William Gillespie** deployed in Iraq. His email is: william.w.gillespie@gmail.com
- **Sgt. Josh Hughes USMC** serving in the relief effort in Haiti.
- **Adam Erickson**
- **Peter Erickson**

Celebrations !

Claire and Walter Baldwin's presence in worship February 28th.

Karman Duchon, on a work/study program in Chile, was spared harm from the recent earthquake.

Thanksgiving for the leadership of our youth in worship on February 28th. We celebrate their energy, creativity, spirit, talent, music and message. Thanks too for those adult advisors who work with our youth.

EMPLOYMENT



JOB MATCH BOARD



The Employment Support Group has a Job Match Bulletin Board downstairs in the Sanctuary Building hallway outside of Sarah Humphrey's PATH office. All are invited to take a card and list the type of position they are looking for or a position they know is open, with basic contact information.

will meet **Tuesday, March 9 & 16** at 9:00AM in Room 2-A (Ed Bldg)

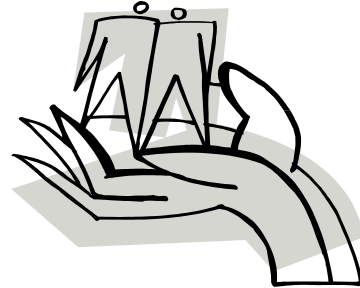
For more information, contact Nelda or John Hollender at jonelda@yahoo.com / 404-685-8717 OR Joel Alvis at joel@ndpc.org / 404-636-1429.

Exotic Vacation



Do you want to take an exotic vacation and do good works at the same time? Do you want to go to a place where the land is so beautiful that 200 years ago the original settlers named it Terrebonne, the Good Earth? Do you want to go to a place where you will hear English spoken, but you are more likely to hear Cajun French?

North Decatur will be going to Houma, Louisiana, on Sunday, March 14 and returning to Atlanta on Saturday, March 20 to work on homes damaged in 2005 by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. While we are staying in Houma, our work will probably be on a house on one of the canals. In Terrebonne Parish there is more water space than land space. (Did I mention that this will be in March? It could be cold and dreary in Atlanta, but the average temperature in



Houma is a sunny 69 degrees.)

Come and experience what your fellow North Decatur friends have experienced when we have helped a family rebuild their home and their lives. Come experience the Cajun culture, the good food, the French language. As the Houma Chamber of Commerce says, "Within a few days of spending time in our parish, you may find yourself saying things you never said before." Ca c'est bon and this is good.

Contact Anne Sayre (asayre@bellsouth.net or 404.371.1609) if you would like to go on this trip with us. Do not contact Carl Parlato – all he can talk about are the alligators he thinks we will see.

Libba Fairleigh

Youth Corner

March 7
6:30pm-Youth Groups

March 14
6:30pm-Youth Groups

March 21
6:30pm-Youth Groups

March 28
6:30pm-Youth Groups

April 4 (Easter Sunday)
No Youth Groups

April 11
No Youth Groups (Spring Break)

Book donations Requested for Clarke County Jail Library



Books are needed for the library of the Clarke County Jail. Currently the selection is slim and additional books would be a wonderful resource and blessing. Please donate used or new books (soft cover only) to the jail by placing them in the box outside the church office marked "Books for Clarke County Jail." This request comes from Laura Nieto who will pick up the books and deliver them on her weekly visits with her son William. Thank you!

NDPC Church Information Form

A copy of the NDPC Church Information Form (CIF) is available for viewing on the NDPC website. The CIF describes our church and outlines the position description for our next pastor as determined by the Pastor Nominating Committee, with Session approval. Candidates for the position have access to this document on the Church Leadership Connection (CLC), a site maintained by PCUSA.

To access the Church Information Form, go to the NDPC website at: <http://ndpc.org>, select "About Our Church", then select "Church Information Form".

Sunday, April 4, Easter Sunday, we can make a generous, even sacrificial gift to ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING. Together our gifts bring life necessities to disaster survivors throughout the world, help refugees build new futures, and aid impoverished communities to develop dependable livelihoods and secure sources of food and water.

By sharing your resources through ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, you can change lives!



Excerpts of Monthly Session Meeting February 21, 2010:

- The Global Mission trip to Nicaragua is fully signed up with 12 participants. Part of the mission will be fulfilling a request from the community to provide a biodigester to create from waste the gas to be used for cooking by community residents. The cost for this item is \$1,500, of which \$500 will come from the Global Mission budget. Session approved a fund-raiser for the other \$1,000. It will be held after Easter and before the group departs at the end of June. More details will follow later.
- At the request of the Creation Care committee, Session approved designating the four Sundays in September as the "Season of Care". For that reason, Rally Day will be moved into August, closer to the time that school actually starts.
- By moving around to various locations in the buildings, members of Session considered what visitors see when they come to NDPC. The Evangelism and Administrative Committees will work together to develop recommendations for Session to consider on new approaches to welcoming, informative, and visitor-friendly bulletin boards and signs.
- Consideration was also given to the need to review and re-consider the strategic vision of the church. However, there was a general feeling that this should be deferred, so that the input of the new Pastor could be incorporated. Important in the process will be recognizing that NDPC is a "destination" church for many members, not simply a neighborhood church, but awareness and understanding of the demographics of the current community are still a significant factor.
- The Wednesday Night Supper on March 3 will be the last one for this year, because the first week of April is Spring vacation and May is a busy month. While no decision has yet been reached, there was discussion of whether or not to continue the suppers next year, especially when they are not associated with a program, or perhaps to look for other opportunities to foster fellowship, such as occasional Sunday lunches.
- During elections which must be held annually, appreciation for past service was expressed by the members of Session to Cathy Fincher who was elected to continue serving as Church Treasurer for another one-year term and to Nancy Shober who will continue to act as Clerk of Session also for another one-year term.
- Based on a summary of the 2009 Annual Report numbers submitted to the Presbytery, currently there are 328 Active NDPC members. At the start of 2009, there were 358 on the Active rolls to which were added a total of 14 new members including the confirmands. However, there were 6 who transferred, 5 who requested that they be removed from NDPC rolls and, after a thorough review, 33 people who were moved from Active to Inactive status. This was based on the fact that, over a number of years, 27 of these had moved out-of-state and 6 had joined other churches.

(continued)

(Session Excerpts of February 21 continued)

- In an effort to clarify responsibilities for ordering supplies used by several groups, the Community Fellowship Committee and Interim Pastor will work with the Church Secretary to create lists of items needed as well as ordering procedures and intervals.
- Pastor Nominating Committee reported that to date they have reviewed 124 Pastor Information Forms. The PNC has begun phone screening interviews with prospective pastors and is ready to start reference checks of candidates that they want to look at more closely. The PNC is still accepting names and profiles from members of the congregation, friends of NDPC, and directly from candidates.

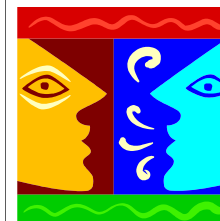
Please feel welcome to contact any Session member if you have questions and especially if you have input on any of the topics under consideration.

Nancy Shober, Clerk of Session

Brian Cayce
Doug Clark
Linda Davis
Susan Diffenderfer
Elizabeth Duffield
David Evans
Joel Alvis, Interim Pastor

Cindy Hays
John Hollender
Jack Kittle
Bob Leslie
Carol Morgan
Deedee Murphy

Virginia Pribbenow
Doug Reynics
Marty Tomlinson
Carol Tveit
Tammy Weiser



Attention Senior Adults

Please join us for our next Senior Luncheon on **April 6th at Noon** in the Fellowship Hall.

After our lunch, our program will be "Getting to Know You." Please share with the group something that tells us about you - a talent, an old or new picture, something you treasure, etc.

If you do not normally attend and would like to come for this program, please call Pat Camp at (404) 634 7267 for a reservation.

Hagar's House

Our week to serve is coming up Sunday, March 21st.

We need both cooks and servers. Please be sure to sign up on the poster board in the Narthex.

Contact:
Roberta Goldbaugh
at
770-617-7002
rgoldbaugh@bellsouth.net

Thank you!



Honoring Martha Hobson



Mark your calendars for

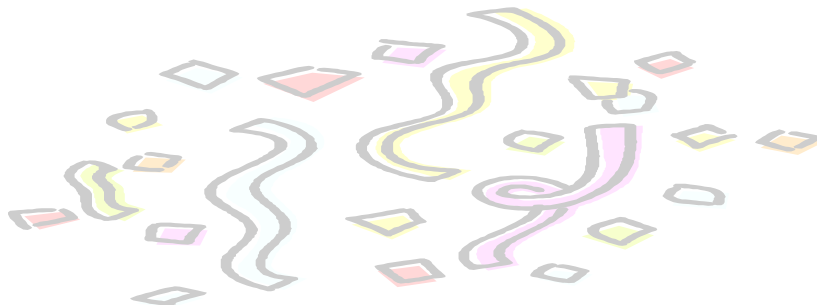
**SUNDAY,
March 7th**

**-during and after worship-
(Reception in the Fellowship Hall)**

*Martha Hobson is retiring after 18 years of tenderly
caring for our little ones.*

COME CELEBRATE
*the ministry of Martha Hobson with
finger-food reception, gifts,
words of appreciation and more!*

You may bring finger-foods to the reception.
Community Fellowship Committee will provide drinks & cake.



Adult Education Early Spring Quarter



The 7-part series runs February 14th through March 28th

"Get to know all your classmates in this term's Adult Education Series! Name tags will be available in the Fellowship Hall--please pick yours up there prior to proceeding to your class in the Den, Parlor or AA Room. Coffee will also be available in the Fellowship Hall at that time."

- **Building a Nuclear Weapons-Free World through Hard Work and Imagination**
Leader: **Bobbie Wrenn Banks** Location: **Parlor**

SEE NEXT PAGE for details.

- **Spirituality and Film**
Leader: **Tim Merritt** Location: **Den**

Each week in class we'll watch a short film - drama, comedy, documentary - that reflects on contemporary life. Tim Merritt will lead a class discussion of how these films comment on the challenge of leading a spiritual life in modern times.

- **Bible Study**
Leaders: **Anne Sayre and Martha Osborne** Location: **AA Room**

Join an informal bible discussion group led by experienced discussion leaders. The discussions will follow the lectionary reading for the week, with an emphasis on the text to be used in worship if possible. Various practices of reading will be presented. All are welcome to this enriching education opportunity.

Save the Dates!

March 3: 6PM, Wednesday
Night Supper (*Fellowship Hall*)

June 7-11, 2010: VBS

(Contact Paul Osborne,
paul@ndpc.org or Linda Davis
lkd123@comcast.net for further
details.)

DEAM Food Drive

Next Collection:

March 7

Please support the ministry of DEAM by bringing in
food items on the first Sunday of each month.

You can drop off your donations outside the church
office or in the narthex before worship.



Building a Nuclear Weapons-Free World Through Hard Work and Imagination

March 7 – Nuclear Weapons Issues Overview

Leader: John Duffield, NDPC member and professor of political science at GA State University

March 14 – Ten Top Tips for Changing the World

Leader: Georgia Women's Action for New Directions (WAND)

March 21 – Hot Topics Talk Show

Leaders: John Duffield, NDPC member and GSU professor; Carol Tveit, NDPC member and actress; and Bobbie Paul, Central Presbyterian member and Georgia WAND executive director

March 28 – You, the people, will lead the final class. After all, we are the ones we've been waiting for.

EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

HEALING THE SPLIT: GETTING BEYOND DUALISTIC THINKING/REACTING

March 4, 7-9 PM * 114 New Street, Suite F; Decatur 30030

Space limited to 20 * Registration due February 22nd * \$10

Co-Sponsors: Georgia WAND & the People's Movement for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World

March 29th – 2010 Sam Nunn Bank of America Policy Forum

Path Toward a World Free of Nuclear Weapons: The Euro-Atlantic Challenge

Quarterly "Disarmament Dinners" are being planned. Stay tuned!



Children and Youth Choir Spring Schedule 2010



Rehearsal are Sundays 5:30-6:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars with the following dates for rehearsals and Sundays we will participate in Worship.

Sunday, March 7 – Sing in Worship – 10:30 a.m. Rehearsal

Sunday, March 14 - Rehearsal - 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 21 - Rehearsal - 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 28 – Sing in Worship (Palm Sunday) – 10:30 a.m. Rehearsal

Sunday, April 11 - Rehearsal - 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 18 - Rehearsal - 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 25 – Sing in Worship (Creation Care) – 10:30 a.m. Rehearsal

Clint Miller (clint@ndpc.org)

VBS—The Living Waters of the World. June 7-11
9:00 am to 12 noon



Registration Form for VBS 2010

Name Of Child _____ Age in June _____

Contact information:

Address _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Please place this form in Paul Osborne's mail box by April 1, 2010. You will receive a confirmation of your registration if you meet the registration deadline.

Directors: Linda Davis and Paul Osborne

NDPC CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 2

- 12:00 p.m. Senior Lunch (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 p.m. Woody's Watercolor Group (Den)
- 6:30 p.m. Handbells (Choir Room)
- 7:00 p.m. Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 p.m. Support Group (Ed Bldg)

Wednesday, March 3

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 p.m. Taizé Worship (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 p.m. PNC Meeting (Parlor)
- 7:30 p.m. Balcony Choir (Choir Room)
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Thursday, March 4

- 9:00 a.m. Prayers for Peace (Wesley Woods)
- 10:00 a.m. Knit Wits (Parlor)
- 4:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Harry DeMille & Reception (Sanctuary, Parlor)

Friday, March 5

- Church Office Closed
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Saturday, March 6

- No Meetings Scheduled

Sunday, March 7

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Break & Fellowship
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 12:00 p.m. Reception for Martha Hobson (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:00 p.m. Adult Education Committee (Parlor)
- 5:00 p.m. Children & Youth Committee (Library)
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Groups (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, March 8

- 4:45 p.m. Girl Scout Troop-Ruby Hollender (Ed. Bldg)
- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop-Ruth Corbett (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 p.m. WIGS (Parlor)
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Tuesday, March 9

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
- 9:00 a.m. Employment Support Group (2-A)
- 6:30 p.m. Woody's Watercolor Group (Den)
- 6:30 p.m. Handbells (Choir Room)
- 7:00 p.m. Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra Rehearsal (Sanctuary, 2-A)
- 7:00 p.m. Support Group (Ed Bldg)

NDPC CALENDAR (continued)

Wednesday, March 10

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Creation Care Committee (Library)
- 7:00 p.m. PNC Meeting (Parlor)
- 7:30 p.m. Balcony Choir (Choir Room)
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Thursday, March 11

- 9:00 a.m. Prayers for Peace (Wesley Woods)
- 10:00 a.m. Knit Wits (Parlor)

Friday, March 12

- Church Office Closed
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Saturday, March 13

- 10:00 a.m. Guatemala Committee (Parlor)
- 10:00 a.m. Piano Recital (Sanctuary)

Sunday, March 14

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Break & Fellowship
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Children/Youth Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Groups (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, March 15

- 7:00 p.m. Peace & Justice Committee (Parlor)
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Tuesday, March 16

- Special Elections All Day (Fellowship Hall)
- 9:00 a.m. Employment Support Group (2-A)
- 6:30 p.m. La Leche League (2-B)
- 6:30 p.m. Woody's Watercolor Group (Den)
- 6:30 p.m. Handbells (Choir Room)
- 7:00 p.m. Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 p.m. Support Group (Ed Bldg)

Wednesday, March 17

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. PNC Meeting (Parlor)
- 7:30 p.m. Balcony Choir (Choir Room)
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Thursday, March 18

- 9:00 a.m. Prayers for Peace (Wesley Woods)
- 10:00 a.m. Knit Wits (Parlor)
- 12:00 p.m. Joining Hands Committee (Parlor)
- 7:00 p.m. Storytelling Cluster Group (Parlor)