



Northside Drive Baptist Church

3100 Northside Drive NW

Atlanta, GA 30305



### Tender Loving Prayer List

The TLP is a Diaconate ministry. Each week's list contains the rotating names of three or four NDBC senior adults.

Jack & Joey Guynn  
Nelle Holbrook  
Muriel Hardy  
Helen White

If you would like your name placed on our rotating TLP list, please give the church office a call.



### Pastor's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Meets weekly from 10:30-11:30 AM, in the church's Conference Room.

We study the texts selected in the Revised Common Lectionary for the next Sunday. Large print editions are available each week and for the upcoming Sunday. Discussion is deep and wide and lively. All are invited.



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Every 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:00 PM

In the Church Parlor

If you are not sure how to knit or crochet, no problem, there will be plenty of people to help you get started. This group is open to anyone who would like to join! For more information call Susan Harlan at 770-377-3869.

### December Birthdays

Dr. Steven Sheeley-2  
Alison Jerden-4  
Mary Lester-5  
Susan Richards-5  
Hans-Luca Davis-6  
Syd Janney-7  
Laura Butts-7  
Victoria Tunon-7  
Andrew Hardin-9  
Jack Guynn-10  
Ava Cook-10  
Dr. Elaine Eassa-13  
Rev. Clay Manley-17  
Clayton McClure-18  
Charlotte Dalke-20  
Jenn Knight-23  
Joan McIntyre-24  
Audrey von Herbenstein-24  
Juliette von Herbenstein-24  
Melissa Johnson Keeley-25  
Emma Chandler-27  
Joseph Cassata-27  
Ruth Trager-28  
Bill Jones-28  
Muriel Hardy-29  
Jeanne Goodwill-30

If you should change your phone number, email, or mailing address, Please contact the church office to let us know. Thank you.



Below are the Church Office Holiday Closings

December 22—at Noon  
December 25—All Day  
December 26—All Day

### CHURCH WEEK December 10-23 2017 ADVENT SEASON

**SUNDAY, December 10 - Advent 2**  
8:30 AM - Handbell Rehearsal  
9:30 AM - Church School  
10:25 AM - Children's Choir Rehearsal  
11:00 AM - Morning Worship  
12:15 PM - Young Adult Committee Meeting  
**TUESDAY, December 12**  
10:00 AM - Staff Meeting  
11:00 AM - Triple E  
7:30 PM - Choral Guild Concert—Chapel  
**WEDNESDAY, December 13**  
10:30 AM - Pastor's Morning Bible Study  
**THURSDAY, December 14**  
7:30 PM - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
**SATURDAY, December 16**  
9:00 AM - Sanctuary Choir & Orchestral Rehearsal

**SUNDAY, December 17 - Gaudete Sunday**  
9:30 AM - Church School  
10:25 AM - Children's Choir Rehearsal  
11:00 AM - Morning Worship  
**TUESDAY, December 19**  
10:00 AM - Staff Meeting  
11:00 AM - Worship Planning  
12:00 PM - ROMEOS  
**THURSDAY, December 21**  
7:00 PM - Prayer Shawl Ministry  
7:30 PM - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

NDBC Bylaws Review—Moderator, Hartwell Dew, has convened a task force to review NDBC's bylaws and make recommendations for any amendments. If you have suggestions or proposals please email Jo Meeks (Chair) at [janiermeeks@gmail.com](mailto:janiermeeks@gmail.com). In addition, committee members are David Cook, Brian Knight, George Taylor, and Dave Wooten. The committee will meet on Sunday, January 21, 2018.



Northside Drive Baptist Church

3100 Northside Drive NW

Atlanta, GA 30305

Phone: 404-237-8621



December 7, 2017

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#### NORTHSIDE DRIVE STAFF

**Rev. Dr. James Lamkin**  
Pastor  
**Rev. Daniel Headrick**  
Associate Pastor  
**Dr. Keith H. Walker**  
Director of Music Ministries  
**Anna Kate Stephenson**  
Director of Children's Ministries  
**Jeffrey Dunkerley**  
Director of Youth & Young Adults  
**Rose Hiday**  
Business Manager  
**Will Mathews**  
Administrative Manager  
**Joleen Neel**  
Preschool Director  
**Gregory Colson**  
Director Emeritus of Music Ministries

Sunday Morning  
Worship  
Lectionary Text

**December 10**  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

**December 17**  
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7  
Luke 2:8-14



We're On the Web!

[www.northsidedrive.org](http://www.northsidedrive.org)

## Northside Drive Baptist Church Advent Season 2017

### December 10—Advent 2

Church School 9:30 AM

Pre-Service Music—Steve Sheeley 10:50 AM

Worship 11:00 AM

### December 17—Advent 3—Gaudete Sunday

Church School—9:30 AM

Pre-Service Music—Joel Stouffer 10:50 AM

Oratorio de Noël, op. 12

by Camille Saint-Saëns —11:00 AM

### December 24—Advent 4—Christmas Eve

Worship 11:00 AM

No Church School

Family Vespers 4:00 PM

Lessons, Carols, and Communion 10:30 PM

### December 31—Epiphany of the Lord Sunday

No Church School

Worship 11:00 AM



# Pastoral Reflections

By Rev. James Lamkin



## “Mary, Christmas, and Merry Christmas”

By James Lamkin

I am fascinated by the drama around saying or not saying, “Merry Christmas.” Who knew it would become a line in the sand or a platform plank. Obviously, it is a touchy subject.

While pondering Christmas scriptures this week, I wondered, “WWMD...What would Mary Do?”

Luke 1 heralds the virgin Mary as a “favored one.” Gabriel, the angel, says God abides with her. Then, when Gabriel leaves, Mary says, “Here I am, the servant of the Lord.”

In both the church’s scriptures and in the church’s stories, Mary is the epitome of humility. She is modest, we assume. Unpretentious. The opposite of arrogant. Above all else, a “servant of the Lord.”

As a White American Christian, I rather enjoy my built-in privileged life. I am so used to it, I don’t even notice it. It is as natural and as invisible as breath. I will say what I want, to whom I want. Amen.

But, Mary would not. She counterweights my haughty assumptions. She would not manipulate an encounter at a Kroger’s cash register willfully asserting anything. She was not born on third base with culture on her side.

If she weighed in on this issue, I wouldn’t be surprised if she said, “Be careful with *Merry Christmas*. It can come across as unchristian.”

That was a shocking thought. But it got worse as I researched the Pilgrims. The founding fathers of our American faith. The spiritual mothers of the Mayflower Compact. These religious, pious, Christian Pilgrims did not wish anyone a “Merry Christmas.” Admittedly, they weren’t *merry* in general; but, they believed the celebration of Christmas was one of the commercialized sins of the Anglican Church from whom they separated. Governor William Bradford insisted that Christmas Day 1621 be entirely a work day in Plymouth! (Though he did allow a few complainers to take some of the day off, “until they were better informed.”)

All this to say, I myself will be saying *Merry Christmas* frequently. I will say it in the Narthex and say it in the sanctuary. I will say it to every NDBC member I meet. I will say it to everyone who first says it to me.

And I will say it to strangers...but with strangers, *I will rarely use words*.

Have you heard that quotation from an early church father: “Peach the Gospel. Preach the Gospel. Preach the Gospel. *And if necessary, use words.*”

I will try to do that this season. While thinking, *Merry Christmas*, I will try to be gracious with a smile. I will try to be respectful. I will try not to impose or be rude or presumptive. I will try to be kind; maybe even loving.

And I will think of Mother Mary who did not use her “favored” status to leverage any situation. Her lofty goal was to be lowly servant of the Lord.

WWMD? She’d say, “Be humble...especially during the Holy Seasons...and the message will come across.”

## Triple E

**December 12**—The Dickens Singers featuring Dr. Keith H. Walker

**January**—NO Meeting

**February 9**—NOTE THE DATE CHANGE—This will be the annual Valentine’s Luncheon with music from the 40’s & 50’s with Mr. Hall Meeks.

*Triple E* will meet at 11:00 AM in the fellowship hall.

## NDBC BOOK CLUB

Will not meet in December.  
See you again  
on January 17, 2018.



**New Thoughts on Newtown:**  
In Remembrance of the  
*Sandy Hook Shooting*

OUTCRY Interfaith voices against gun violence

A prayer vigil, followed by a call for Georgia’s people of faith to create a state and a nation with safer gun laws.

December 14, 2017  
7:30 PM

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
3003 Hugh Howell Road  
Atlanta, GA 30327

To RSVP:  
[www.outcrygeorgia.org/newtown](http://www.outcrygeorgia.org/newtown)

NDBC has a



Same address—[www.northsidedrive.org](http://www.northsidedrive.org)  
it out.



## CHRISTMAS GIVING AT NORTHSIDE DRIVE

Thank you for the generous donations for the children and youth at the Andrew P. Stewart Center and Morningstar Children and Family Services and for the adults at The Extension. Your gifts will make the season brighter for many, many people.

All gifts should be returned UNWRAPPED by December 10. If you have any questions or are running a day or so late (not a problem), please contact Barbara Atchley 770-436-0709.

## The Art & Soul Class

January 7: **Hartwell Dew** presents: *In Community with All the Saints*, lesson 9 in Hebrews study.

## THANK YOU!

We are so grateful for your support and gift of this wonderful food. The wonderful fruits and veggies made this Thanksgiving extra special for our co-op members and helps make food security a reality!

Jeremy Lewis  
Executive Director Urban Recipe



## Christmas Poinsettias



It has long been our tradition here at Northside Drive Baptist Church to give poinsettias each Christmas in honor/memory/thankfulness for our friends and family. This year our annual poinsettia display will be in place on **Sunday, December 17**. After the 11:00 AM *or* the 10:30 PM service on December 24, you will be able to take your memorial poinsettia home. Each poinsettia plant is only \$20. Order envelopes are available in the Narthex for your use. Simply fill it out and drop it in the offering plate, or call Rose Hiday at 404-237-8621 with the number of poinsettias you wish to give, and the memorial details. Then mail your check to the church office or drop it in the offering plate.

**The deadline for orders is Wednesday, December 13.**

*\*U.S. regulations do not allow us to offer contribution credit for Easter & Christmas plants because the plants*



The Sanctuary Choir presents

*Oratorio de Noël, op. 12*

by Camille Saint-Saëns

As we celebrate the Joy of the Advent season,

The Sanctuary Choir will present

*Oratorio de Noël, op. 12*

by Camille Saint-Saëns on

Advent III, December 17, 2017 during the 11:00 AM

service. The choir, under the direction of

Dr. Keith H. Walker, Director of Music Ministries, will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra and

will feature Katherine Carey, Jenna Gould, Shantá Johnson, Joe Pardue, and Evan Drew

as soloists. Under the direction of

Mary Lou Swan, Director of Children’s Choirs, and accompanied by Joel Stouffer, the Cherub Choir and the Celestial Choir will share their Joy of the Season.



**Church in Conference**

**January 25, 2018**

**6:45 PM.**