



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.

Jon & Janet Bell
 Reidar Bjornard
 Gerry Humphries

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

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

January Birthdays

Chelsea Clarke-1
 Armand Kramedjian-2
 Barbara Schroeder-2
 Len Shelton-2
 Gary Clark-3
 Jon Bell-4
 Kennedy Molina-5
 Katherine Bryson-6
 William High-7
 Ruth Kramedjian-7
 Joyce Wilson-7
 Jerry Smith-8
 Cynthia Tunon-9
 Pam Wamberg-9
 Charlton Roberts-14
 Libby Martin-15
 Sebastian Almeida-Hall-15
 Jeanne Hill-16
 Jane Jerden-16
 Anne Ledbetter-16
 Ryan King-16
 Fabio Molina-16
 Lewis Bozard-17
 Donna McLarty-17
 Vanita Morgan-17
 Annie Molina-19
 Gail Hermance-22
 Harry Mathis-22
 Nancy Hall-23
 Levi Milligan-24
 Will Egan-25
 Stephanie Jones-25
 Jackson Singleton-25
 Michael Dyson-26
 Michael Hermance-26
 Lanier Meeks Yi-28
 Riley Isakson-31

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 jolaniermeeks@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.

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

Church in Conference
January 25, 2018
6:45 PM.



Northside Drive Baptist Church
 3100 Northside Drive NW
 Atlanta, GA 30305
 Phone: 404-237-8621

The PINNACLE



Northside Drive
 BAPTIST CHURCH

December 21, 2017

Volume 61—Issue 33

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 Hidlay
 Business Manager
 Will Mathews
 Administrative Manager
 Joleen Neel
 Preschool Director
 Gregory Colson
 Director Emeritus of Music Ministries

Sunday Morning
 Worship
 Lectionary Text

December 24
 Luke 2:1-7
 Luke 2:8-14
 Luke 2:15-20

December 31
 Isaiah 61:10-62:3
 Galatians 4:4-7
 Matthew 2:1-12



We're On the Web!

www.northsidedrive.org



Northside Drive Baptist Church Advent Season 2017

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. Daniel Headrick



"Rejoice Always"

As we approach the third week of Advent, we light the candle of joy. Each week, we do something counter-cultural and from the perspective of those outside the church, perhaps absurd. We light candles week by week. One for hope, one for peace, next week for joy, then for love...and then the center candle: the Christ candle. Hope, peace, joy, love...these are increasingly in rare supply.

At our house we watched the Muppets' version of Dickens' Christmas Carol this past weekend and had a lot of good laughs. There is a deep seriousness to Dickens' tale, namely that the cynicism and greed which tighten their grip on our hearts can eclipse the meaning of Christmas. Christ is not exactly center stage, but human avarice and ill-motive are in steady supply. As Ebenezer Scrooge is shown the smallness of his vision through his past and present, he sees how his obsession with money and self has done damage to his neighbor, his community, and his own self. He had forgotten how to hope and to rejoice. He had no peace or love in his heart. The years of counting money had left no time for counting his blessings.

Paul in his first letter to the Thessalonians writes *Rejoice always...for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* (1 Thess. 5:16-18). This is a tall order, doing God's will. We are used to turning on the news and seeing that a terrorist has claimed that it was God's will to blow up a mosque or a church or a synagogue. But the God who became flesh in Jesus Christ apparently wills us to *rejoice always.*

Cast a glance back at 2017 before it fades into oblivion. There were plenty of moments that brought tears to our eyes. [There were 406 mass shootings so far in America.](#) A [record number of hurricanes](#) wreaked billions of dollars in property damage and resulted in the death of many human beings. [The Syrian civil war](#), which has displaced over 5 million Syrians and killed over 220,000 people continued to rage. The [Rohingya people](#) of Myanmar --Muslims in a Buddhist majority country--are facing genocide. The pain wrought by sexual abuse and harassment was made vividly real by the "silence breakers," those brave women who told [the stories of their abuse and broke their silence](#), often facing threats of civil litigation and outright denials from their abusers.

You can add several things to this list of woes. Our increasing global awareness brings the plight of human sorrow to our doorsteps and smartphone screens. So what do we have to rejoice in? Paul, despite his multiple incarcerations, shipwrecks, beatings and travails always rejoiced in the work that God was doing in the *ekklesia*, the body of believers we call the Church. He told the church at Philippi "I thank my God every time I remember you." To the church at Corinth he wrote, "Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you." He always found a way to rejoice in other people.

The local *ekklesia* is just one of the places where we can rejoice in what God has done, what God is doing, and what God will do. We rejoice, too, when we meet the stranger. Outside the walls of the *ekklesia*, after the hymns have faded, the scents of Advent candles dissipated, we meet the stranger. As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks has taught me in his marvelous book *The Dignity of Difference*, the "Hebrew Bible in one verse commands, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself', but in no fewer than 36 places commands us to 'love the stranger'" (p. 58). Let us rejoice in the church, and let us rejoice in the love God gives us which overflows to the stranger.

Lately as we pray with the children at bedtime, I ask them *for whom shall we pray?* As of late, the prayer is for "the refugees." Mary and Joseph and little baby Jesus were once refugees, once strangers. They had much of which they could have been fearful. But one day Mary burst out into song "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit **rejoices** in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47). There is much in which we can rejoice. There is One who invites us to rejoice always. May we hear the words of Scripture this Advent first as permission, then as command, *to rejoice always. For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

A WORD ABOUT BAD WEATHER

AND THE CHURCH

As a rule of thumb, we will not cancel worship services on Sunday morning except under the most extreme weather conditions. Members are urged to use their own good judgment as to whether they should attempt to make the trip. Should inclement winter weather cause the cancellation of a service, here is the plan:



- 1)The ministers and the moderator will make the decision.
- 2)The ministers and the moderator will notify the deacons.
- 3)The ministers will email all those on the church's email list, and place a notification on the church's voice mail (if electricity and phone service are available).
- 4)The deacons will call members who need to be notified, but do not have email.

NDBC has a



Website

Same address—www.northsidedrive.org



it out.

Gaudete Sunday 2017

A Celebration of the Gift of Children

On December 17, 2017, we joyfully thanked God for the children born this year into the extended community of NDBC.

A partial list included:

Clayton Ryan McClure
Norah Sterling Mudd
Bennett Madison Stearns
Josephine Legerton High
Sebastien von Herberstein
Charles Andrew Hardin, Jr.
Elliott Theron McLarty

In addition to this printed list, we also include:

Cedar James Inman
Jacob Archer Farris
Savannah Jo Oppel
Quinn Lanier Yi

We rejoice with all of the NDBC families with new babies this year. If there are additional names to include, please notify the Church Office.



Triple E

January—NO Meeting

February 6—NOTE THE

DATE CHANGE—This will be the annual Valentine's Luncheon with music from the 40's & 50's with Mr. Hal Meeks.

NDBC BOOK CLUB

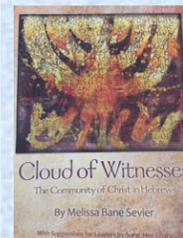
Will not meet in December.

See you again on January 17, 2018.

The Art & Soul Class

January 7: **Hartwell Dew** | presents: *In Community with the Hope of the Future, Lesson 7 in Hebrews study.*

January 14: **Hartwell Dew** presents: *In Community with All the Saints, lesson 9 in Hebrews study.*



NDBC Youth

—Jeffery Dunkerley

A group of Bereans ventured to a local bowling alley to share in some friendly competition. We had a great time and got to know each other a little better outside of Sunday school. Immediately following bowling, we made our way to Chik-Fil-A to enjoy some delicious food and tasty milkshakes. We look forward to more events like this in the new year, as we continue to build relationships with each other.



Gaudete Sunday with the Celestial Choir

Thank you to the children of the Celestial Choir who sang in last week's Gaudete Sunday Service. Their anthem, *How Far is it to Bethlehem?*, was based on a 16th century English melody (STOWEY) and was arranged for Choristers Guild by David W. Music. The anthem was especially meaningful to 10-year-old NDBC Celestial Choir member, Mary Frances Headrick, in that this arrangement was written in 2014 and dedicated to the choristers of Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, and to her former children's choir director, Paul Hoover. Mary Frances and her family worshipped at Seventh and James Baptist when they lived in Texas.

