



NORTHSIDE
CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

NOVEMBER 2015 ISSUE
NEWSLETTER



THERE'S A
place
FOR
you
AT
NORTHSIDE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



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Northside Celebrates 65 Years
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TO
know THE LOVE
OF GOD

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Ongoing Preschool Registration

Friday, November 13

Preschool registration for the 2016–17 school year for all children who are not currently enrolled will be available online beginning Friday, November 13, at 8:00AM. All forms submitted between 8:00AM and 11:59PM on November 13 will be treated equally.

Please call Jean Trammell at 404-351-1107, ext. 2 with any questions.

Sharing the Spirit of Christmas

Poinsettia Deliverers Needed for the Week of December 7

You are invited to share Christmas joy with one of our Northside Connections members during this wonderful season. Pastoral Care will provide poinsettias for you to deliver the week of December 7 to one of our members. You may drop by the Pastoral Care office any time Sunday to Wednesday, December 6-9, to pick up a poinsettia, which will include a name and directions for drop off with the Northside Connections member.

If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please contact either Dr. Ann at DrAnn@NorthsideUMC.org, 678.298.6319 or Gayle at GayleB@NorthsideUMC.org.

MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

DR. GIL WATSON, SENIOR PASTOR



 @DrGilWatson

November is our month of Thanksgiving. It begins with All Saints, then our 65th Celebration, and it culminates in our joint Thanksgiving service at the Ahavath Achim Synagogue.

What a month! We remember on All Saints Sunday, November 1, all the

saints of the church and especially those who have out run us to the Father's House during this past year. Then Sunday, November 8, is our 65th Celebration and the Dedication of all our new buildings. While our last Capital Campaign is not quite over and our land and our improvement funds have not been met, the debt on all of our buildings is paid off. During these years while I have been your pastor we have been blessed with a new parsonage (565 West Wesley Road), a parking deck, a prayer chapel, a new preschool building, a new kitchen, the Faith & Arts Center for our Contemporary service, church meals, dramatic and musical performances, a memorial garden, a gallery and a reception center. These are all a testimony to your stewardship and your faith.

Being your pastor for these 22 years has been a blessing for me. Together we have launched new ministries, expanded Sports & Recreation to reach 3,000 children each year, made prayer the center of our power source, added to the membership and grown from a budget of just under a million dollars in 1994 to 6 million dollars in 2016. God is Good!

In the 2016 year, we will host a Family Conference for our Church and our community. At this conference we will seek to improve our witness in our families regardless of the size of our family. These conferences, our Marriage Conference two years ago and the Family Conference next year, place us in the forefront of reaching our Church members and our community in ways to heal our fractured families and meet the needs of our lives.

Northside is the smallest big Church in Atlanta. Hopefully we are poised to maintain our ministries and reach our community for Jesus Christ. As we come to our Thanksgiving tables, we can be thankful for what Northside Church has meant in our lives and in the lives of people in need in Atlanta and around the world. There is a place for you at Northside - Praise God from whom the blessings flow.

Blessings,



Community Thanksgiving Service

*Sunday, November 22 / 6:30PM / Ahavath Achim Synagogue / 600 Peachtree Battle
Offering given to Atlanta Community Food Bank*

All are invited to worship with us. Service celebrated in collaboration with Ahavath Achim Synagogue, New Hope AME, Northside Baptist, St. Anne's Episcopal, and Trinity Presbyterian.



Northside's First Family Dinner



Northside's First Sanctuary, Now the Chapel



Building the Boy Scout Lodge, 1996



Elizabeth Bickerstaff
Acolyte, 2000



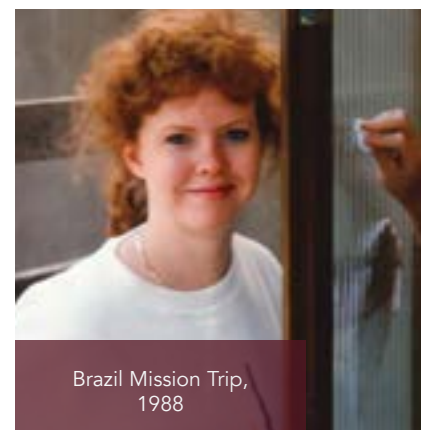
Belize Mission Trip, 2007



Dr. Gil's Thursday Night Bible Study, 2000



Mike Moffitt and Choir



Brazil Mission Trip,
1988



You are cordially invited to

The 65th Celebration of Northside Church



A PLACE TO KNOW, GROW AND GO

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2015

9:45AM Contemporary Worship Service in the Faith & Arts Center

11:00AM Traditional Worship Service in the Sanctuary

12:15PM Reception and Dedication in the Faith & Arts Center



Over 65 years, Legos and blocks have created memories and built dreams for our children in Northside's nurseries and Preschool. Supported by a firm foundation of love and grace, thousands of God's children of all ages have learned about and accepted Jesus Christ as their cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20) as they've grown in wisdom and knowledge. We, the living church, have become disciples dedicated to the formative

words of the Gospel and are compelled to "Go into world to serve others."

Rev. Dr. Eugene Drinkard inspired a vision to build Northside Church brick by brick and person by person. In the early 1950s, more than one hundred Founding members committed to giving an initial \$50 to make a dream a reality. ►



We seek to enter into relationship with God and provide a place for everyone who is a part of Northside Church to encounter the truth of gospel and experience that knowledge through worship and fellowship.



Rev. Dr. Reynolds Greene, 1978

Building a Legacy Requires Many Dedicated Laborers

Each child faithfully gave a dime, which represented—and became—the bricks that formed, not only the Fellowship Hall, but a new community at the corner of Northside and Kingswood that would ultimately transform the world for Jesus Christ. Our church sought to be and has become a place where Christ would want to worship.

Over the years, we've added new bricks to create more places to Know, Grow, and Go. More importantly, we've added new people—including you. Together we've worshiped, laughed, loved, learned, served, played, mourned, prayed, and celebrated as a family. We are no longer the only church between downtown Atlanta and the Chattahoochee River and west of Peachtree Road. Yet, for many persons throughout this city and into the world, we may be the only church a person encounters that is living and loving God as

I celebrate Northside because of the way I am greeted and treated by our Clergy, Staff, and Congregation. And of course I celebrate the reasons I am there: faith, prayer, learning, inspiration, fellowship, and yes, fun and entertainment. And finally I celebrate being at Northside more than 50 years, more than half my life. NUMC is a wonderful blessing to me.

—Jim Murphy



shown through our words, actions and character. Dr. Gil proclaims: "We are all living bricks in the church of God. Look where we have grown because you have given the money to make it a reality."

Now, we celebrate and rejoice together. Betty Harrison exclaims, "I am grateful for the presence of Northside Methodist Church in our community. Four generations of our family have worshiped together here as we found a dynamic spiritual home. We have been encouraged to grow in our faith, found comfort in difficult times and been inspired to share God's love, and that of His Son, Jesus Christ, with the world." We want to hear your words of gratitude to God for this place and her people. Join us as we give thanks to God, celebrate, and prepare for the next 65 years of ministry on Sunday, November 8.



Honduras Mission Trip with Dr. Gil, 1998



Northside Methodist Preschool



MYF Youth Event
2000

Know THE LOVE OF GOD THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Kids Musical Theater Showcase

Friday, November 6 / 7:00PM / Faith & Arts Center

Join us for a Kid's Musical Showcase featuring very talented elementary and youth aged kids singing songs from your favorite musicals like "Wicked," "Annie," "Sound of Music," and more! Directed by Rev. Taylor Pafford and music directed by Ms. Hollie Shaver. There is no cost for this performance, just a suggested donation which will go towards one of our Northside mission partners. See you at the show!

30th Annual Holiday Gift Show

*Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14
9:00AM–4:00PM*

Northside Methodist Preschool will hold its annual Holiday Gift Show on Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14 from 9:00AM to 4:00PM, with a special Ladies Preview Night on Thursday, November 12, from 5:30 to 8:00PM. The show will be held in the Fellowship Hall and the Gymnasium. Admission is \$5 for ages 14 and up, and will benefit the Northside Methodist Preschool Scholarship Fund. The gift show is the largest annual fundraiser for the school and features over 75 vendors, including: local artists, designers, and talented gift makers. **For more information, please visit our website at GiftShow.NorthsideUMC.org or our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/NMPgiftshow](https://www.facebook.com/NMPgiftshow).**

Impact League Bowling Event

Sunday, November 15 / 2:00–4:00PM

Cost: \$12 per child

All 4th and 5th graders are invited to join us for bowling at Brunswick's on Delk Road. Adults are responsible for dropping off and picking up children at Brunswick's.

Register at Children.NorthsideUMC.org by Sunday, November 8.

Thanksgiving Sunday

Sunday, November 29 / 9:45AM and 11:00AM

On Sunday, November 29, Elementary Impact Zones will all be combined in Room 35 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Joyous Toys Christmas Shopping

Sunday, November 29 / 6:30–8:30PM

'Tis the season to share the Love of God! Join Student Ministries in the spirit of giving as we buy toys and gifts for those in need in support of the Joyous Toys foundation. **Please bring at least \$10 to spend on toys. Dinner will be provided at no extra cost.**

White Christmas

Sunday, December 6 / 9:45AM

The Children's Choirs invite you to celebrate the Christmas season and Northside's tradition of White Christmas! This month, pick a name from the giving tree and purchase a gift for a Murphy-Harpst child. On Sunday, December 6, bring that gift to the Faith & Arts Center at 9:45AM and join in the celebration as the children present, "All I Want For Christmas." Together, let us celebrate the most incredible gift God gave to us that first Christmas Day – his own Son, Jesus! **There will be no Elementary Impact Zones at 9:45AM as we encourage children to attend the White Christmas Celebration with their families.**

Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 13 / 8:30 and 11:00AM

The Festival of Lessons and Carols will be presented by our Festival Choir and Orchestra on December 13 at the 8:30 and 11:00AM services. Please join us as the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings.

SURVIVING GRIEF AT THE HOLIDAYS



No matter how long it has been since your loved one died, grief can make the holidays a painful time. There is hope. Join us for an encouraging seminar that will help you survive the holidays and discover new reasons to enjoy them again.

Wednesday, November 18
6:30–8:30PM / Church Parlor

Questions:

Contact Betsy Walker at 678-298-5033; Option 1
or BetsyW@NorthsideUMC.org





Living GOD'S WAY

But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

– Galatians 5:22-23 (MSG)

When we read Galatians 5:22-23, it paints the picture of what we, as a ministry of Northside Church, strive to be about. A fun, safe place where kids can be kids and adults can be adults, playing together for God!

With the fall season now underway, and over 1,000 participants and their families in sports and classes, there are a myriad of ways that one can see the impact and reach of the Sports Ministry at Northside Church.

In watching the Green Machines play the Firebolts on one field, and the Pink Elephants playing the Purple Tigers on the next, with dozens of parents, siblings, and relatives nearby enjoying the fellowship of the games, surely there is great joy and happiness in Jesus' heart, watching over it all.

On any given day in our hallway, there are 3 year old ballerinas in tutus walking to ballet class, 5 year olds putting their self-portraits from art class in the hall to dry, and a group of women from the Northside community praying together after a fitness class. All of these groups paint a beautiful and powerful picture of the amazing depth and impact of the Sports & Recreation ministry at Northside Church.

It is truly a place, where you can Play Together for God, and grow in faith, love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness and self-control. Isn't that what good sportsmanship is all about? Doesn't that seem like living God's way?

We look forward to seeing you at church and on the sports field soon!

Kelley Stonis, Director of Sports & Rec, KelleyS@NorthsideUMC.org

KNOW | GROW | GO

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

**Hot, fresh, comfort food
cooked in our kitchen.**

Adult \$7, Child \$5

November 4

Adults:

Chicken Pot Pie, Dinner Roll,
Salad Bar/Fruit, Sheet Cake

Children:

Grilled Cheese and Fruit

November 11

Adults:

Beef Stew, Corn Bread,
Salad Bar/Fruit, Sheet Cake

Children:

Hot Dog and Fries

November 18

Adults:

Turkey, Cranberry Sauce,
Dressing, Greens, Mashed
Potatoes, Dinner Roll,
Salad Bar/Fruit, Sweet Potato Pie

Children:

Mac and Cheese

November 25

Thanksgiving Holiday

You will find the registration form on our website www.NorthsideUMC.org/dinner. Reservations are due online by 12PM each Monday. If you would like to serve, please contact Ernest Coleman at ErnestC@NorthsideUMC.org. We look forward to seeing you!

Grow AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST

NEW @ NORTHSIDE!

Discipleship is an essential element of our walk of faith. On Sundays we gather to hear the Word and worship together, yet in order to GROW as disciples of Jesus Christ, we must combine that experience with the study of scripture and learning about our faith, as well as seek to understand how to live a Christian life in our ever-changing world.

Northside Church provides a bevy of different discipleship offerings, all designed with this essential need in mind. I want to take a moment to highlight just a few of the upcoming classes and encourage you to come join us!

Star Wars and the Gospel

November 11–December 16 / Wednesdays 6:30PM / Chapel

May the Force be with you as we explore the various and multi-faceted religious and Christian themes found in the Star Wars movies. From the Force in which we live and have our being, to the power that small groups of people can have for change in the world, Star Wars serves as a great metaphor for our life in the faith. Each week we will dive into a different element of the Star Wars universe, putting it into conversation with the universe we find in Scripture. Embrace the Light of the world and turn from the Dark Side! Come join us as we lead up to a group outing to see Episode VII: The Force Awakens, Friday, December 18.

Advent Series: The Trouble the Truth

November 29–December 20 / Sundays 10:00AM / Chapel

Pilate asked Jesus: “What is Truth?”—a question we continue to ask today. During the Sundays of Advent, Dr. George Yacoubian will lead us in an exploration of the idea of Truth, with a special focus on the relative nature Truth tends to have within our society and what that means for us as Christians. Dr. Yacoubian is a fantastic educator and we invite all individuals and Sunday School classes to join us!

Christ and Culture This Week!

Sundays 9:00AM or 11:00AM / The Board Room

Each week this class will meet for 30 to 45 minutes to discuss whatever the BIG NEWS of the week in our American culture might be—whether it’s controversial or entertaining—and put it into conversation with Scripture. These are the issues and topics you’ll be talking about during the week with your friends and co-workers. Come prepare yourself and discuss what a Christian response might look like!

For more information contact James Johnson, Director of Adult Discipleship: JamesJ@NorthsideUMC.org, 404.367.2378

A LOOK BACK



Parent Confirmation Class

This is our second year of the Parent Confirmation Class, and it has been an overwhelming success! As our seventh grade students spend a full year participating in the Confirmation process, their parents join a five-week class that overviews the course curriculum. They hear from all four Confirmation teachers, Herbert Short, Todd McGarrity, Robbie Jackson, and Anne Kramer, and spend time getting to know each other.

"This class is valuable for so many reasons," says Anne Kramer, our Middle School Associate. "Parents have the opportunity to build community within Northside, while meeting with teachers who can help them understand the deep spiritual impact this class will have on their children."

There will be a second cycle of the Parent Confirmation class in Spring 2016. Look out for more details, as the class will be open to Confirmation parents and Congregates alike!

Corn Maze

Student Ministries and Youth Choir took a trip to Buford Corn Maze, and the outing was a great event! Middle and high school students spent time getting lost in the maze, bravely facing their fears in the Haunted Maze, eating fried Oreos, riding the hay ride, and feeding the various farm animals. We are already excited for the trip next year!

High School Fall Retreat

Our second annual High School Fall Retreat was an amazing experience. Eighteen students participated in a weekend of white water rafting and paint ball, while diving deeper into their faith. A highlight from the weekend was our prayer stations on Saturday night. Our students were able to pray for themselves, their friends and family, and Christians around the world. It was a weekend of incredible fun, and our high schoolers came home with a deeper sense of community within their church family.



CHRISTMAS IN THE ARK

Saturday, December 12 / 9:00AM–2:00PM

Children's Ministry Rooms, Birth–5th Grade

Let your children join our Weekday staff as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Activities will include Christmas art projects, bouncy castle, music, movement, and more. Reservations required and can be made by emailing Weekdays@NorthsideUMC.org beginning November 13. *Please include your child's name, current age, and grade if applicable.

***** NEW OFFERING: Elementary age children are invited to join us for Christmas in the Ark as well, with specialized events and activities for K-5th led by Rev. Taylor and Ms. Jess! Please register by emailing Weekdays@NorthsideUMC.org.**



MEN'S MISSION TRIP

**HELPING PROVIDE NEW FLOORS FOR A WOMAN
IN NEED IN CHAVIES, KY**

In September, the men of Northside Church made their annual mission trip to serve the Appalachia Service Project in rural Chavies, KY. The team repaired flooring for a woman whose home was damaged in a mud slide this past spring. She was also in the midst of battling cancer. She was very excited and grateful to be receiving help from our team and thanks to their work and other ASP teams. Her home is warmer, safer, and drier as winter approaches. Thank you to our men's mission trip team. In last October, our Women's Ministry also sent a team to serve ASP and we will highlight their trip in a future newsletter. To find out how to get involved in this or other mission trips contact Lynette Brown at LynetteB@NorthsideUMC.org

Winter Metro Atlanta Project | November 21 and 22 | Grades 6-Adult, \$20 per person (includes lunch)

It is not too late to register for Winter MAP! Adult and student volunteers will be making repairs at the United Methodist Children's Home. Families are encouraged to serve together in this time of Thanksgiving. More information on our website. Register online at www.MetroAtlantaProject.org.

Serving Others

by Giving Back This Holiday Season

Holiday Missions Opportunities

Sunday, November 15–Sunday, November 22

Select a gift requested by a youth living at Murphy-Harpst Children's Center, a Ministry of the United Methodist Church providing an emotional, spiritual, and physical safe haven for Georgia's most severely abused children.

Monday, November 22–Wednesday, December 9

Select a gift for homeless youth living at Covenant House or children served by the Atlanta Dream Center's weekly in-home visitations to break the cycle of hopelessness.

November–December

Donate to Dr. Gil's "Shepherds Fund" for the women working at the OK Café who have been out of work most of this year and others in need in our community. Place donations in the offering plate designated for the "Shepherds Fund."

Woman's Christmas Communion Service & Lunch

Tuesday, December 8 | 10:00AM | Chapel

*Sponsored by the **United Methodist Women***

You are cordially invited to take time out from the holiday preparations to focus on the love of Christ and His call to us as we Go into the world to serve others. Speaker: Allison Ashe, Executive Director at Covenant House Georgia. Catered Lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Registration required. Complimentary nursery is available with registration.

Register: www.Women.NorthsideUMC.org, deadline for reservations is December 2. For more information contact Melissa Marsh, MarshMelissa79@gmail.com.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Dedication

Sunday, November 15 | 9:45AM and 11:00AM Services

Each year, Northside Church dedicates shoeboxes packed with gifts to be sent to children all around the world. Please bring your packed shoeboxes to church on Sunday, November 15, so that we can dedicate and bless the boxes before they are shipped overseas. Looking for suggestions on how to pack a shoebox? Check out www.SamaritansPurse.org and click "Operation Christmas Child" under the "What We Do" menu, then select "Pack a Shoebox." Shoeboxes and instructions are also currently available outside the Missions office.





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SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

www.NorthsideUMC.org

   @NorthsideATL

- 11/1 **Communion Sunday & All Saints**
"Thanks Be to God Who Swallowed Up Death."
Isaiah 25:7-9, Dr. Gil Watson
- 11/8 **65th Celebration of Northside Church**
9:45AM Contemporary Worship | Faith & Arts Center
11:00AM Traditional Worship | Sanctuary
Bishop B. Michael Watson, Preaching
12:15PM Dedication & Reception | Faith & Arts Center
- 11/15 **"Thanks Be to God Whose Love Never Fails."**
Psalm 16:5-8, Dr. Gil Watson (8:30AM & 11:00AM)
& Rev. Catherine Boothe (9:45AM)
- 11/22 **"Thanks Be to God Our Future Is Assured."**
Daniel 7:13-14, Dr. Gil Watson
Thanksgiving Service
6:30PM | Ahavath Achim Synagogue
- 11/29 **First Sunday of Advent**
"Love Came Down at Christmas: The Truth Promised."
Jeremiah 33:14-16, Rev. Geoff Grubbs

8:30AM & 11:00AM Traditional Worship | Sanctuary
9:45AM Contemporary Worship | Faith & Arts Center

I keep *my eyes*
always *on the Lord.*
With him at my right hand,
I will not *be shaken.*
– Psalm 16:8

