

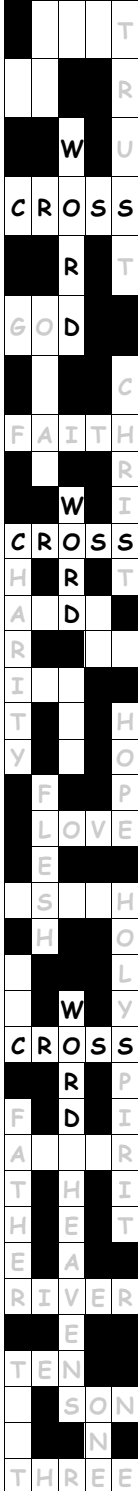


CrossWord

THE NEWSLETTER OF NORCROSS PRESBYTERIAN

May 1, 2004

Norcross, Georgia



Matt's Musings

By Matt Fry

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims. And a groan went across the land. That joke used to be in a book I had when I was about 8. It was a book of jokes for kids. Want to know another? Well, here it is anyway. Which is properly correct to say, 9 and 7 *is* 15, or 9 and 7 *are* 15. Answer, neither. 9 and 7 isn't 15, it's 16.

Anyway. Back to the first bad joke. April showers do bring may flowers. If only we could get some April showers around here. I recently heard on the radio that since we haven't had much rain from October to April, they have declared that we are officially back in the drought that we had come out of last year because of all the rain back then. So, what else is new? Five years of drought, one year of rain, then back to drought. Seems about right, I guess.

As a new home-owner, I have found a new respect for rain. When it comes, my grass can look almost respectable. When it doesn't, well, I know there is supposed to be grass, but when the rain doesn't come, I can't see it there, I just have to *believe* it is. I have come to see rain as a real blessing. The sky opens up, and showers wonderful, life giving substance on the earth. It's really pretty neat.

How's about April at Norcross Presbyterian Church? Pretty soggy with blessings, I'd say. Obviously, we just had the fish fry and crawfish boil. And there were quite a few guests. I think its wonderful

that we felt empowered to invite people, and that we have such a wonderful event at which to invite them. No less than 15 guests were numbered among our 70 or so participants. That's us taking serious the great commission.

There was a wonderful Easter Service on April 11. It will be a long time before I forget the flowers. The lillies on the cross, and the flowers on the ladder made into a cross were both very nice touches. Of course, NPC did its own version of "Send in the Clowns" too. I think we'll all remember that. And I always love communion on Easter. Not to mention the communion type feel when we all come together and share a meal, as we did with our annual breakfast. I'm already thinking about what to make for next year. Yum.

Think about some of the other things we did. We wrapped up 40 D.o.P. We had a lively discussion about the movie, The Passion. We began to get back into normal rhythms, with Bible Study on Wednesday evenings and Sunday School on Sunday mornings. All of these were great April blessings.

So, as we turn to May, literally, what will the blessings of April bring us? How



NORCROSS
Presbyterian Church

will we flower? Time will tell, but I do know this, flowers will come. If we know God at all we know that God blesses and creates growth in the church. Its just wonderful to be a part of it. Even if we have to endure the pastor's bad jokes.

As I am always,
Yours in Christ,

Matt

Mission Trip



As mentioned in the April 4 Sermon, NPC is planning on taking a mission trip next summer, 2005. It is for the entire church, anyone who is 6 years old and above can participate. Anyone who is under 6 is also invited, but will need to be supervised. There is literature in the Narthex about the organization we will be working with, Appalachia Service Project. They have a website, <http://www.asphome.org>, and you can find all sorts of info about them there.

What we'd like to do is hear from you about how many of you want to go. Obviously, your ability to go will depend on many factors, so we aren't asking for you to sign in blood that you definitely will go. At this point, we just want to know if you are interested, and if the factors go right, you'll join.

What we do know is that per participant, the trip will be right at (or possibly even under) \$300. This will include lodging, food, transportation, and materials. This won't include fast food on the way there or back. Everything else though, is included.

We also know that if the schedule stays

the same (and it probably will) that we will go on a Sunday after church (and will have to make good time) and get back the next Saturday late afternoon. Don't know the dates yet, but if you let us know what yours looks like, we can do a little work around people's schedules. There are generally 8 weeks to choose from. We will be signing up in August, and will need a rough estimate of how many people plan on going by then.

This promises to be a life-changing encounter. I know it will be a great experience, both for us as individuals, and for us corporately as a church. I do hope you'll pray about it, and see if you can join us on this mission trip.

Small Group Sign-Up Sheets

One of the great things that happened in our 40 Days of Purpose campaign was that so many of us participated in the Small Group Atmosphere. The response has come back that we would like to continue those small group opportunities. So, we have some sign-up sheets in the Narthex. We'd love for you to let us know what kind of group you'd like, so that we can get folks who are interested in the same thing together.

There are sheets for those who want to do more intense study of the Purpose Driven Life material and for those who want to do something like the Christian Education & Development Committee recommended curriculum, Faith weavers. There are sheets for those who'd like to be in a small group, those who would like to discuss in the media, Passion or the Bible study and for those who would like Christianity like The television show, Joan of Arcadia. There are sheets for those who would like to join a Sunday School type group, and even a sheet for you to tell us



what kind of group you'd like to join or start. Please sign up, so we can continue one of the things we all reported was a very positive experience.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be held June 14th -18th from 6:00-8:30 each evening. The curriculum this year is from Cokesbury and is entitled **Hero Quest: Powered by Faith**. The children will be meeting biblical heroes of faith, experiencing the power of faith in God, coming to know Jesus as the ultimate hero, and discovering the faith heroes inside themselves. We welcome all children ages preschool through 5th grade to come on this adventure with us.

NOTE: Help is still needed so sign up in the Narthex if you can assist.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MISSION PROJECT

The Presbyterian Women invite everyone to share in our world wide mission project during May. Stop at the table in the Narthex to pick up information on the Home Based Care Kit that we are putting together and what we need to gather. The Kit supplies we contribute will be part of a ministry of Presbyterians in Malawi, Africa to people with Aids. Please contact Carol MacGregor, 770-840-9250 for more information, if you can help locate items, or if you would like to contribute money so the Presbyterian Women can shop on your behalf.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATING SENIORS

The **NPC** church family is proud to congratulate members of our congregation that will be graduating this month. Below is the list of Graduating Seniors, where they are graduating from and their future college plans.

Jessie Brown-NHS

Jessie will be attending **Georgia State University** majoring in Business.

Lindsay Badeaux-DHS

After Graduating with Honors, Lindsay will be attending the **University of Georgia** majoring in Music Education or Communications.

Jeffery Putnam-Woodward

Jeff will be graduating cum laude and has not decided where he will attend college at this time. He will attend **University of Georgia or the University of Alabama** where he will major in Communications/Journalism.

Steven Bohn-NHS

Steve will be attending **Auburn University** majoring in Business Management.



**Hey, Where Did These Things Come From????
(Or, the Discoveries of a new Elder)**

Ever wonder how we managed to finance the new hymnals? The wireless microphones? The new choir robes? How about that beautiful piano and moisture control system to keep it in tip-top shape? The curriculum for various children's programs? Where did the money come from for the daily devotional books available free to all of us? Ever seem strange to you that new things would appear when the numbers in the bulletin continue to be in the red?

You may find the answer by looking at your neighbor (or in the mirror). Norcross Presbyterian Church has been truly blessed by gifts from many different members. I have not begun to list it all, but basically everything purchased over the past several years have been donations given above and beyond the giver's annual tithing pledge. As a new elder, I have witnessed people coming forward to supply needs that are not in the budget and it is **awesome**. The tithes taken up in the collection plate every Sunday go into the general fund and are used to:

- 10% "first fruits" to the various charities/social programs we support,
- Pay staff,
- Keep the utilities on,
- Maintain the building,
- Etc.

Are you thinking (like I am), wow, I wish I would have known; I would have helped out a little. Well, you guessed it! There is a pressing need in the church and I am going to ask for donations above and beyond your

annual tithing pledge! The computers at NPC are truly on their last legs. After listening to a couple of folks discussing the office computer,



I took a look myself and was shocked! We have to help these people out – no one can be productive without the right tools. Over the past couple of weeks, a specification of what hardware and soft-

ware should be bought has been compiled. The cost has been estimated at \$2500 to replace both staff computers. Someone has offered to donate up to \$600 on a matching (dollar for dollar) basis. If any of you feel so moved, please contribute so we can take advantage of the matching funds. Checks should be made out to Norcross Presbyterian Church with "computers" written in the memo field. Thanks!



Life & Nurture

by Norma Badeaux

The Website

www.norcrosspresbyterian.org is where you should go to look up information about current and past events at NPC. You may see roving photographers at many of our events; they are usually taking pictures for the website. Visit and see if you have been captured having too much fun at church! If you have submissions, please email them to the webmaster, Ken Birmingham. Tell your friends to visit the website and help get the word out. People seeking a new church home in the Norcross/Duluth area can learn much about who we are by visiting our new website.

The 2004 Fish Fry

Many thanks to all who helped with this year's Fish Fry. The weather cooperated and much fish, crawfish, red beans and rice, hush puppies, and all the other food was enjoyed by our members, and quite a few guests. One correction: this was our 12th Annual Fish Fry, not the 21st, but by the time the 21st one rolls around, it will still be a great time of fellowship and relaxation. Check out the article on the website (to be posted soon) about the history of the Fish Fry and how it came to be as it is now.



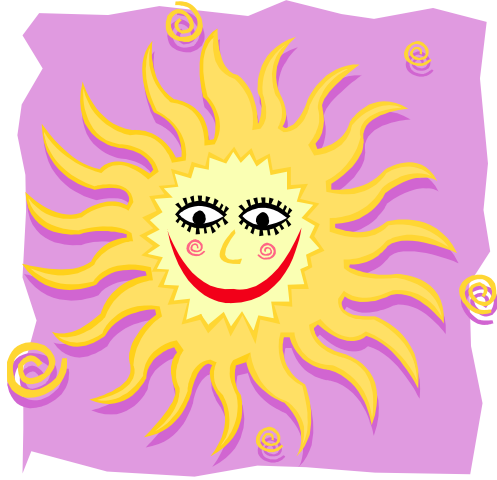
Summer Fellowship Plans

As is our usual custom at NPC, the Fellowship Dinners do not follow a strict calendar (every 4th Sunday) during the summer months. Please watch the bulletin, the website, and future newsletters for dates and times. There will be no Fellowship Dinner on May 23rd. Plans are in the works for picnics and BBQs during the summer months. Please consider joining the planning committee as we seek new ways to connect with each other through Fellowship. Contact Norma Badeaux or Larry Fluehr for more information.

What is RTC? / Why are there 26 Norcross High School Students in our Church everyday?

Beginning in August, our church will be the site of something really neat in the Gwinnett County School system. The Release Time Center for Christian Education (www.rtcenter.org) has asked our Session for approval to use our facility to teach an elective class on the Bible. Session asked some questions, and unanimously approved. Beginning at 7.30 in the morning there will be a class full of students and two teachers in our church during school days. The students will be taught accredited courses on topics such as Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey, & World Religions. Because this is an elective course, and because it is off campus, this is legal. If you have any questions, I would encourage you to look up their website, www.rtcenter.org or contact Sid Webb or Mandi McClure at 770.312.3451. We look forward to a great relationship with RTC, and are glad to be a part of Christian education for the students in our community.





Possible Fundraiser!

By Melissa Fry

We received some information regarding a Free Fundraising Program. All I have to do is call up and they will deliver a Free Collection Stand. What are they collecting? **Empty Inkjet Cartridges!!** They will pay us up to \$3.00 for each inkjet recycled. By the end of the month, I should have the collection bin; so, please start saving all of your empty inkjet cartridges. If the businesses you work for don't recycle them already, please bring them in from your business! It's not just a fundraising program.....it's a chance to do something good for Mother Earth! Thanks!
Melissa

PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

By Melissa Fry

Wow! I cannot believe that the year is coming to an end! This year has been a WONDERFUL year! I love the children, the parents are great, the teachers are absolutely wonderful.....bottom line, I LOVE MY JOB! I want to thank all of you, NPC Members and Friends, for the opportunity to work with such a wonderful preschool program. I also want to thank everyone for your help and support – I could not do this without you! A special thanks to Carol MacGregor for coming and planting with the Alphabet Pals on several occasions. They felt so important knowing that they were planting something that was going to grow! Thank you! I have heard many parents comment “I just don't know what I would do without this Preschool”! This says a lot for our school!!

Our closing programs are on Thursday, May 20th and Friday, May 21st at 11:30am. The Graduation will be on Friday, May 21st. We invite everyone to come. It will be a happy time, but also a sad time as we say goodbye to our Alphabet Pals.

Special Thanks

From Matt Fry

A Special Word of thanks to all who helped this year with the Fish-Fry and Crawfish Boil. As many of you know, our friend Andy Gregori came all the way from Pennsylvania to attend. When asked if it was worth the trip he replied, "Without doubt and then some." In my mind, this is one of the things that really defines who we are as a community and church. To all the cooks, the cleaners, the prep-ers (and the preppies), to all who helped order and obtain fish, potatoes, corn, red beans, cole slaw, drinks, to all who brought deserts, and to anyone who helped we say **THANKS**. That's a big thanks. What a great day!



**SUMMER CAMP 2004 &
FALL 2004!!**

Please spread the word! I have some information sheets and registration forms if anyone wants them to pass around to friends! Thanks!

We also still have some openings for the Fall 2004-2005 school year. All of the teachers are in place for next year and we are ready to go! We are all very excited. Please spread the word around. We have some brochures downstairs outside of the office. Pick one up and pass it on! Thank you!



CELEBRATING MAY BIRTHDAYS

May

- 2** Theresa Herron
- 4** Norma Badeaux
- 5** Luke Harris
- 8** Katie Reilley
- 10** John campbell
- 12** Dick Harris
- 16** Nancy Moses
- 19** Jane Brown
- 24** Pam Bartlett
- 25** Larry Steele
- 26** Melissa Lankford
Dot Reilley
- 27** Suzanne Anderson
Ken Hixson
- 28** Bill Lowery
- 29** Ken Birmingham

Newsletter Articles

News articles may be submitted to the church office prior to May 24 for publication in the May **CrossWord**. Calendar updates will be made on the website as they are provided.