



CrossWord

THE NEWSLETTER OF NORCROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2007

Norcross, Georgia

Table of Contents

Matt's Musings	Page 1	Witness & Evangelism	Page 5
Special Announcement/ Pres. Women	Page 2	Lionheart	Page 6
Presbyterian Women (cont.)	Page 3	Birthdays	Page 7
NPC Men's Group	Page 4	Calendar	Page 8

Matt's Musings

Can you believe that it is already Lent again? As I pulled down the palms from Palm Sunday 2006 to burn them to make ashes for this year's Ash Wednesday, it had me thinking that I couldn't believe it was time again already.

If you missed Ash Wednesday this year, you missed the usual discussion about the fact that this is a time of repentance, of

realizing that we need God's help to make us righteous, and of turning to God in thoughtful introspection.

As such, this is a time of year when I often think about what I am going to preach, and perhaps even craft a sermon series. I am focused on thinking about how one year's Palms become the next year's Ashes, about turning again to God for God's grace and help, and in thoughtful introspection. I have come up with something that I am really excited about. I am doing a series during Lent and culminating on Easter Sunday. The series has sermons each titled, "The Gospel of..." The first one, preached on February 25 has the title "The Gospel of Wasting Time." In March, I'll preach on "The Gospel of Absurdity," then "The Gospel of Silliness" and "The Gospel of Joy." This will take us to Palm Sunday, when we will again have a choir cantata for which much work and practice has taken place, and for which we all really look forward. Then, on Easter, I will preach "The Culmination of the Gospels."

As I have begun initial preparations on these sermons, I am overcome with a sense of excitement. These are already becoming sermons that are stretching me as I prepare them, and I am sure will stretch me more as I continue to prepare and deliver them. I hope you will find these sermons during Lent to be a manner in which we can all grow as individuals and as a community. I always hope folks will come to celebrations of worship, especially during specific times like Lent. Perhaps a way we can grow is to, with thoughtful introspection, come to worship as much as possible during Lent and Easter. I hope to see you there.

As I am always,
Yours in Christ,

Matt



NORCROSS
Presbyterian Church

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus.

- I Corinthians 1:4 (NRSV)

A Special Announcement

Grateful Thanks from the Birmingham Family

Tom and I and our extended family thank you for your many expressions of support for us. We Birminghams are a truly blessed lot, having so many dear friends holding us up in this time of both loss and gratitude. Elise passed away late Sunday night February 11 after a long battle with primary progressive MS in great peace which is a truly wondrous blessing.

There will be a memorial service Sunday afternoon March 25 at NPC celebrating Elise's life and impact on others.

In lieu of flowers, if you wish to make an offering in her memory, for now please send a check to Norcross Presbyterian Church and mark it "Tuition fund for Osim children". Blessing, whom many of you have met, was Elise's caregiver, a certified nurse's assistant, who spent every weekday with Elise for the last three years. Maryann Peterson is helping to set up a 529 tuition savings plan for her girls. Elise's entire family thinks this is a great idea and are thankful for Maryann's help.

Or, if you wish, please make a donation to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, any other charity of your choice, or to the church's general memorial fund.

-Ken Birmingham

Presbyterian Women

By

Carol MacGregor

Annual Gathering

Sunday, March 18, 2007

2:30-4:30 pm

Peachtree Presbyterian Church

Kellett Chapel

3434 Roswell Road NW

Atlanta, Ga 30305

Complimentary light lunch at 1:30 pm

Worship, Leader Installation, and Business Meeting at 2:30 pm

Meditation given by Rev. Sue Westfall, Assoc. Executive Presbyter for Ministry

Carpool will leave NPC at 1:15 pm

Contact Carol MacGregor to participate

Presbyterian Women Retreat Opportunities

***Come! Join the Northeast Georgia
Presbyterian Women
for their
Annual Rock Eagle
Spring Retreat***

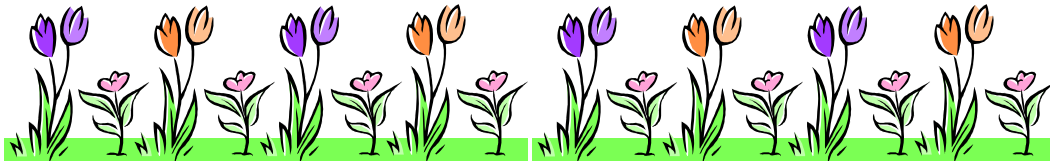
April 13-15, 2007

*It is More Blessed to Receive Than to Give
(Genesis 49:25-26)*

Spiritual Leader
Martha Starnes

Music Leader
Betsy Burmeister

Flyers with details are posted on the PW bulletin board.



Presbyterian Women Presbytery of Greater Atlanta 2007 Spiritual Spring Retreat

at beautiful **Callaway Gardens**

Saturday, April 28-Sunday, April 29

Registration Fee: \$80.00

Includes retreat Saturday/Sunday, workshops and three meals.

*Full information/registration forms are displayed on the
Presbyterian Women bulletin board.*

NPC Men's Group

By
Tim Rado

The NPC Men's Group is gaining momentum and quickly becoming one of the most talked about ministries at NPC. Due to the growth of this ministry, we recently accepted nominations and voted to establish a steering committee (in true Presbyterian fashion) to coordinate the many aspects that our group wants to be involved in. The committee members will serve a two year term with the first committee serving through the end of 2008. It is our hope that all men of the church will serve on one of the following committees as the Men's Group continues to grow and serve the Lord at NPC:

1. Coordinate the Men's Group involvement with VBS, Coordinate annual retreat, Monthly newsletter, Historian- Tim Rado
2. Coordinate fellowship events: Texas Hold Em, Golf outings, Braves game, etc.- Jason Bernardo
3. Coordinate service projects at NPC: Annual fish fry, Annual BBQ, Pumpkin Patch involvement, workdays, etc.- Chip Plyler
4. Coordinate service projects in Norcross: Norcross Cooperative Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, etc. and handle budget responsibilities- Rod Lewis
5. Coordinate service projects in Atlanta area: Clifton Men's Shelter, Hosea Feed the Hungry, etc. and coordinate Men's Group/Youth Group activities- Glen Helmstetter
6. Coordinate marketing, membership and web page updates- Walter Cochran

Our next group meeting will be the 2nd Texas Hold Em championship of 2007. It will be held on March 23rd at the home of German Correa with Larry Fluehr handling the dinner arrangements. You may arrive anytime after 6:00pm with the meeting beginning around 6:45. Please let Jason know as soon as possible if you plan to attend so he can coordinate dinner plans with Larry. Remember that all of the proceeds from our championships go to our support of Vacation Bible School and to the NPC general fund as well as various other causes throughout the year!

Once again, we thank God for getting us this far and pray that He continues to bless this ministry and that it continues to grow and accomplish things that we cannot even see or understand right now. We would also like to issue a challenge to the women of the church to consider the formation of a Women's Group in addition to Presbyterian Women for the purpose of fellowship, service and prayer. You will be amazed at how wonderful this will make you feel as you continue to grow in your walk with God!

In His Service,

Tim Rado

Witness & Evangelism

One Great Hour of Sharing

The season of Lent is also the season for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). This special offering opportunity helps us to see who our neighbors really are - neighbors near and distant.

Self-Development of People (SDOP), funded by OGHS, is funding programs in the Dominican Republic from 2007 through 2009. A group of handicapped people in the Dominican Republic were able to start a craft enterprise, funded by SDOP, in order to earn a living.

When many people from Riobamba Canton, Ecuador were forced to move to urban areas seeking job opportunities and food supplies, a grant from SDOP helped these displaced people start an association and community center to improve their educational and business opportunities.

A group of women in Inglewood, California joined to form the Butterfly Network of Lupus Patients, who are now educating their community about this devastating medical condition. This is another example of self-empowerment that SDOP funding encourages and supports.

These are just a few examples of how our contributions are used by one OGHS program to help our neighbors in need. In conjunction with SDOP, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program form a synergy of three programs that witness powerfully to the healing love of Jesus Christ for our neighbors in need around the world.

If you are able to help a neighbor in the U.S. or a distant neighbor, please consider contributing to One Great Hour of Sharing throughout the season of Lent. Our NPC contribution goal for 2007 is \$500.00. Checks may be made out to NPC with special designation for OGHS.

**Lionheart Theatre Company
Presents**

Quiet in the Land

by Anne Chislett Directed by Scott King

Essentially a morality play, *Quiet in the Land* is a finely drawn portrait of an Old-Order Amish community held together and yet set apart by its strict beliefs and traditions. When a non-Amish friend is wounded in the war, Yock must decide if he will reject his heritage, his family, his community, and even the girl he loves, in order to enlist in the army and defend his country. Infused with warmth and wonderful characters, this play explores the great human dilemma of how to understand the meaning and demands of love and faith in a world torn apart by hatred.

*****This show stars NPC's Jill Swenson, Bill Brown
and Glory Hanna.*****

Performances:

Friday & Saturday Nights

March 9&10, 16&17, 23&24 at 7:30 pm

Sunday Matinees

March 11,18, 25 at 2:00 pm

Tickets- Adults \$15 Seniors and Students \$12

Ticket price includes a dessert and beverage

**Norcross Community and Cultural Arts Center
10 Britt Avenue
Norcross, GA 30071**

For additional information , see our website www.lionhearttheatre.org or call us at
770-806-0935.

**BEST WISHES TO OUR
MARCH
BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS**



- 1 Justin Smith
- 2 Carli Bernardo
- 4 Johanne Valentine
- 6 Bob Peterson
- 7 Diane Lewis
- 8 Ruth Martin
- 10 Madison Ferraiolo
- 15 Rod Lewis
- 16 Elizabeth Price
- 20 Jan Singletary
- 24 Mitch Bernardo
- 27 Henry Singletary
- 28 Bill Brown
- 28 Jake Harris
- 31 Gene Reilley

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 10:00 Mom's Club of Duluth 12:00 Pastor's Lunch	<i>2</i> 9:00 KYC Prayer Meeting	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> 9:15 SS/NPC 10:30 Worship NPC 11:30 SS/KYC 1:00 Worship KYC 2:00 KYC Fellowship 3:30 Bell Choir 4:00 CE Meeting 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Group	<i>5</i> 6:00 Praise Team 6:30 Boy Scouts	<i>6</i> 7-9:30 BSA District Meeting	<i>7</i> 5:45 Wed. Night dinner — Plyler/Bartlett 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Adult Choir 8:30 KYC Worship	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 9:00 KYC Prayer Meeting	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> 9:15 SS/NPC 10:30 Worship NPC 11:30 SS/KYC 12:30 Life & Nurture 1:00 Worship KYC 2:00 KYC Fellowship 3:00 Session Mtg. 3:30 Bell Choir 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Group	<i>12</i> 6:00 Praise Team 6:30 Boy Scouts	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 5:45 Wed. Night dinner—Lankford 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Adult Choir 8:30 KYC Worship	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 9:00 KYC Prayer Meeting	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> 9:15 SS/NPC 10:30 Worship NPC 11:30 SS/KYC 1:00 Worship KYC 2:00 KYC Fellowship 3:30 Bell Choir 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Group	<i>19</i> <i>Gwinnett Co. Holiday-Preschool Closed</i> 6:00 Praise Team	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> <i>Newsletter deadline</i> 5:45 Wed. Night dinner—Karasek 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Adult Choir 8:30 KYC Worship	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 6:00 Men's Group Texas Hold 'Em (at Correa's) 9:00 KYC Prayer Meeting	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> 9:15 SS/NPC 10:30 Worship NPC 11:30 SS/KYC 1:00 Worship KYC 2:00 KYC Fellowship <i>Elise Birmingham Memorial Service</i> 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Group	<i>26</i> 6:00 Praise Team 6:30 Boy Scouts	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 5:45 Wed. Night dinner—Fry 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Adult Choir 8:30 KYC Worship	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 9:00 KYC Prayer Meeting	<i>31</i>