

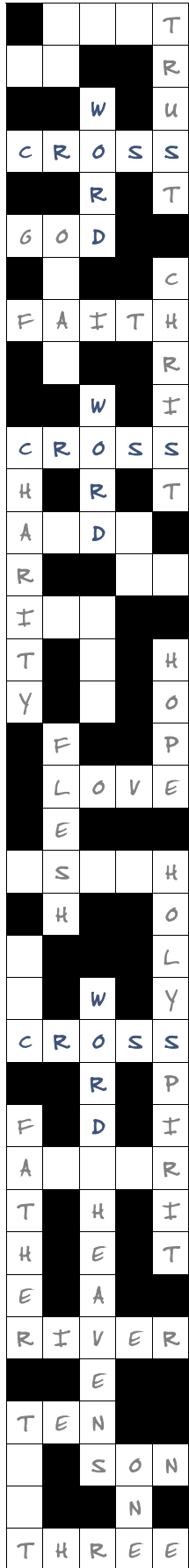


# THE Cross Word

THE NEWSLETTER OF NORCROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2004

Norcross, Georgia



## Matt's Musings BY MATT FRY

*In less than a month ...* in about three weeks, beginning on Saturday, February 21, we will do our version of the Purpose Driven Church, 40 Days of Purpose. Not that this is new to you. This is about the fortieth time you have probably heard of it. You may be asking, why 40 Days? Well, the Bible is very clear that God considers 40 days to be a spiritually significant time period. In fact, in the Bible, any time God wanted to prepare people for his purposes, God took 40 days. For instance:

- Noah's life was transformed by 40 days of rain
- Moses' life was transformed by 40 days on Mount Sinai
- The spies were transformed by 40 days in the Promise Land
- David was transformed by Goliath's 40-day challenge
- The city of Nineveh was transformed in 40 days
- Jesus was empowered for ministry by spending 40 days in the desert
- and the disciples were transformed by 40 days with Jesus after the resurrection.

We are going to look at five purposes God has for life, five manners in which we experience God's wonderful gift of life: Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, and Evangelism. The campaign is built around our experience of and deepening our experience of those five purposes. To those who haven't done so before, it is an eye-opening, wonderful invitation to be the person you were created to be. To those who have experience and are even extensively practiced and well-versed in Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, and Evangelism, we can always benefit from further encounters and understanding in these wonderful five purposes.

To that end, we are asking you to join a small group that will meet weekly to discuss issues brought up in the book, in sermons, in worship, and in Sunday School by the campaign. We encourage you to bring any friends you have who do not attend church but would like to, to both a small group and to worship. Don't just invite them, bring them (obviously not against their will; don't squeal up in their driveway, open the trunk and throw them in), but if you invite folks, follow through. Offer to pick them up on your way to small group or worship. Plan to go out for lunch after service, or out for coffee after group. If you tell them you'll pick up the tab, they are more likely to come. It's surprising to note, but most folks will do all sorts of stuff for a free meal. People will listen to hours of sales talk just to get a free weekend vacation. What you invite them to won't take near as long, and worship and small groups will be fun, to boot.

God has great things in store for this church in the next couple of months. I encourage you to participate and invite you to encourage others too. As I am always,

Yours in Christ,

*Matt*



NORCROSS  
Presbyterian Church



# Forty Days of Purpose

DEB BAIN, COORDINATING TEAM CHAIR

On February 21, we will begin an awesome journey as a church family with our "40 Days of Purpose" program. One of the most powerful elements of the program is the small group connection. In small groups, you will have an opportunity to study scripture related to the current week's theme; you'll be able to share what God is laying on your heart through prayer and the daily devotionals; and you will give and receive support from others who are committed to living out God's purpose for their lives. The size of each group will be 5-10 people.

There are already groups that will meet Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour, as well as groups that choose to meet on Wednesday evenings. There is also a group that will meet twice a week (Sunday morning and Wednesday evening). You can choose to be a part of any of those group times or choose another time that is more convenient. The Valentines are trying to get a group together for Thursday mid-morning.

If you have friends or family who want to explore the question "What on earth am I here for?" you can invite them to join a small group at the church or host a small group at your home. If hosting a small group sounds like something you want to do, please see me and we can work it out.

Small groups are not limited to adults. Children and youth will also have small group studies available to them, or they can join and make a group intergenerational.

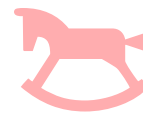
If you have not already signed up for a small group, please prayerfully consider signing up to join or host a small group. You can sign up at the table in the narthex before/after worship on Sunday, or Wednesday evening, or contact me at debbain@bellsouth.net or 770-447-9644.

Get ready to let God bless and change your life, the life of our church and the life of our community.

## *So I've Joined a Small Group ... Now What?*

As you are hopefully aware, our kickoff for the Purpose Driven Church begins on Saturday, February 21, at 10:00 a.m. There will be doughnuts, bagels, coffee, and juice, so feel free to come a little early. We will watch a video that kicks off the program; the video lasts about an hour and 45 minutes. Afterward, those who are going to be in small groups, as well as those who are interested in

hearing about small groups to see if they might perhaps want to join one, will be invited to stay for a short, less than 20 minute (I promise) presentation, *So I've Joined a Small Group, Now What?* We'll talk about what to do in your small groups, when you should start reading the book (Sunday, February 22), and have time for questions and answers. For those who still feel like they need some answers, this will be a great time to gain some knowledge.



## NPC Childcare

MELISSA FRY, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Norcross Presbyterian Church,

There are so many people to thank that I just don't know where to begin. Going way back to the apple tree, I would like to thank everyone again who donated something to the preschool. We have used the money given (for the Christmas program), the rodent ball (Thomas and Bob love to exercise in there), the puppets (the 4-year-olds use these quite a bit and have so much fun with them), the pillows (the 3's and 4's love to lounge on them and read a book), and everything else that was donated! We continue to use them all and are so appreciative of the gifts! Thank you!

I would like to thank Carol MacGregor for making all of the cookies for the Preschool Christmas program! They were yummy! I would also like to thank Deb Bain and Alicia Villalobos for helping out with whatever we needed done those two days! We could definitely not get through those days without the help from the church!

Now on to the painting ... first of all, thank you to Jason Bernardo for heading up the painting project and for being here almost every day during the holidays to paint! I would also like to thank his painting helpers: Tracy and Deb Bain, Matt Fry, Chip, Sandy and Melissa Plyler, Charlene Villalobos, Katie Badeaux, Mitchell Bernardo, Bill Brown, Jill Swenson, Bob Norman, and Heather Peterson. Thank you to everyone who helped; the parents love that it looks fresh, new, clean, and bright!

*Blessings,  
Melissa*





**Open registration for the 2004-2005 school year has begun! Please spread the word to anyone you know looking for a small, but very good preschool environment. Thank you!**



# February 2004

at Norcross Presbyterian Church

3324 Medlock Bridge Road, Norcross, GA 30092 | 770.448.7744

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> "Souper" Bowl Sunday  Youth Sub Sandwich Fundraiser	<b>2</b>  7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #648 Meeting	<b>3</b>  7:00 p.m. Troop #648 District Meeting	<b>4</b>  Regular Activities  6:00 PM - Youth volunteer at NCM	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00 a.m. Destination Imagination Training  5:00 p.m. Youth to Clifton Night Shelter
<b>8</b>  Scout Sunday  6:00 p.m. Christian Nurture Meeting	<b>9</b>  7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #648 Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  Regular Activities	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Church Kitchen, Sanctuary, and Covenant Room reserved to prepare for PW Banquet Luau	<b>14</b>   7:00 p.m. PW Valentine's Banquet Luau
<b>15</b>  Youth Sunday  4:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting	<b>16</b>  7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #648 Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Regular Activities  6:00 PM - Youth volunteer at NCM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  10:00 a.m. 40 Days of Purpose Kickoff
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #648 Meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>    Ash Wednesday	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>    World Vision 30-Hour Famine	<b>28</b>  9:00 to 3:00 Destination Imagination Training
<b>29</b>  