

Dear Friends,

We would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to this wonderful church for the generous bonuses that we each received from the church this year. Melissa and I feel grateful to be a part of this congregation all year. When you give us a bonus, it is icing on top of the cake that is being able to work here, worship with all of you caring people, and to call you family. Please accept our sincerest

Warmly,

Matt & Melissa Fry



Acolytes

You may notice soon that there is something new in our service. We now have Acolytes. The Acolyte brings in the light, uses it to light candles up front, and then carries the light out as we conclude worship.

The light symbolizes the presence of God. As we gather to worship, we note that God is present, and we note that God is the candle is yet another symbol of that. As we conclude our celebration of worship, we note that neither worship nor service to God is meant to happen only inside the church walls, or just once a week. We are to take the presence of God, the light of the world, with us into the world. We symbolize that when the Acolyte carries the light out as the service concludes. We hope you will enjoy this addition to our services. If you want to serve as an Acolyte, let Matt know. Thanks.



NEW MEMBER DISCOVERY CLASS

There will be a New Member Discovery Class, beginning on Sunday, 9 January, for anyone interested. The classes will be during the Sunday School time, from 9:15 to 10:15. On 9 January, the discussion will be about, “What does it mean to be a Christian?” On 16 January, we will look at “What does it mean to be a Presbyterian?” On the 23rd, we shall talk about “What does it mean to be a member of NPC?” And on the 30th, folks will have the opportunity to join, if they so desire. If your attendance at NPC has been a relatively new thing, you do not *have* to come to the class to keep attending. You are certainly welcome in any manner in which you want to come to NPC. We would encourage you, if you desire to learn more about us, to attend the Discovery classes. If you attend the Discovery classes, you do not *have* to join the church. You are welcome to attend and then decide about what you want to do with membership. You are always welcome in any manner in which you want to come to NPC.

Mission Trip Update 10-16 July 2005

As many of you know, we have a plan in place. We will be traveling to, and staying in, Hazel Green, Kentucky. We'll be doing some painting, house repair and work, light construction, and other various stuff. We are using Impact Missions as our contact. You can find all sorts of information about them at <http://www.impactmissions.com/index.html> The cost for the trip is \$365 per person for the first 3 members of your family. They give you a break for the fourth member and beyond, all the way down to \$330 (hey, every little bit helps). If the cost is in any way prohibiting you from joining us, talk to me. There is some scholarship money available, and neither Impact Missions nor I want to see you not go because of financial reasons. If you want further information, we have it all. Just contact Matt..



Angel Tree

Thank you to all who contributed gift cards for the Rainbow Village children's Christmas shopping excursion. A big pat on the back and thank you also to the youth and adults who helped out with the Target shopping on Sunday, December 19th. The gift cards donated beyond what was needed have been divided between Norcross Cooperative Ministries and Rainbow Village to assist their current programs.

Confirmation Class

It's time again for Confirmation Class. If you are a young person, or any person, who has not been confirmed as a member, this is your opportunity to learn more about the church, yourself, your world, and all sorts of other things. We will begin with sessions on

Wednesday evenings,
starting
12 January.

Eventually we will move to Sunday mornings, so that you may join the youth on Wednesday evenings.

We will study all sorts of things. You will be given homework and assignments. But mostly, you will have a good time, and grow in your understanding of church and your part in it. Please join us!

New Administrative Assistant

Good day! My name is Judy Miller and I am delighted to be the new administrative assistant for your congregation. I have been married for 31 years to my wonderful husband, Chuck, and we have four children and one granddaughter with another on the way! Deo gratias (as we Catholics would say!) I live in Peachtree Station now but was born and raised in the Queens section of New York City. I have lived in Norcross for the past 18 years and lived in Hawaii for 8 years prior to that. I can honestly say that I have never worked any place where I have been as warmly welcomed as I have been at your church. The hallmark of Christianity is hospitality and you people have truly shown me that you are serious about being disciples of Jesus and not just admirers of Him. Thank you, too, for your kindness and generosity to me by including me in the thoughtful Christmas gift. Please stop by sometime in order that I may meet you and thank you in person.

Witness & Evangelism By Sandra Murray

Tsunami Victims - World Vision reports that all US sponsored children have been reported safe. They will notify us directly if they find that the child we have sponsored for years has been hurt. Our sponsored child is Savitha Nagappa. She is being promoted to the 7th grade. As a church we have been sending \$26 each month for years to support Savitha. Your donations have provided her with food, clothing, shelter and schooling. If you would like to see how she's grown over the years check out the Witness and Evangelism bulletin board in the main hallway of the church. For privacy reasons our requests for permission to post her picture to our web site has been previously denied so we direct you the bulletin board to see her picture and letters to us. The website for World Vision is www.worldvision.org. Like many other organizations, World Vision is requesting financial donations so that they may purchase in bulk those items that are most needed to restore the affected communities. Beyond what we do monthly from first fruits - if you would like to make additional contributions to support Savitha and children like her you may do so by writing "for world vision" in the memo field on your check which should be made payable to Norcross Presbyterian Church. The committee thanks you for allowing us to support Savitha through World Vision.

Here is another way to donate to the Tsunami Relief Fund. This information came to us from the **Presbytery of Greater Atlanta**:

The Presbyterian Church (USA) joins with the world in expressing concerns for those devastated by the recent earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean region. Our denomination's **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** program is already committing \$100,000 for initial relief. It works through ecumenical networks around the world that have established procedures and trained personnel, and also works in cooperation with partner churches in the countries involved in the disaster. You and your church can help by sending additional contributions to the Presbytery office marked "Tsunami Response #DR000167" and they will be immediately forwarded to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to aid in relief.

Mailing address: Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
 c/o Tsunami Response #DR000167
 1024 Ponce de Leon Avenue
 Atlanta, GA 30306

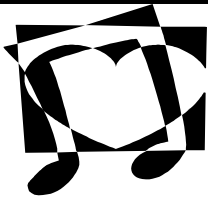
Please feel free to donate anything. You may mail it directly to the Presbytery office, or may deposit it in the collection plate and mark it Tsunami relief. Thank you! Matt

Norcross Cooperative Ministry – NCM needs volunteers to serve the more than 1,000 families who visit the Co-Op each month. If you have any time available during weekdays, please contact Shirley Cabe at the Norcross Co-Op. She'd love to give you a tour of the facility, answer any questions that you might have, and sign you up for training alongside a seasoned volunteer. The Co-op needs volunteers from 9:30 a.m. to noon and from noon to 2:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays of every week.. Working at NCM is a wonderful opportunity to re-invest time in the community. Please consider serving the community in this way.

Presbyterian Women

By
Carol MacGregor

Presbyterian Women **Bible Study** will continue on Tuesday, January 4th at 10 a.m. in the Covenant Room. This month we will look at what Hannah said in 1 Samuel and visit with the Ramah Mamas' Sewing Circle. You are invited to join in.



With a
Thankful Song
in His Heart!

Dear Members of NPC,

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift. The gift was very generous and I appreciate you thinking of me during the Christmas season. I wish you all every blessing in the year 2005!

Jeremy

Childcare

By
Melissa Fry

CANDLES, CANDLES, CANDLES!

The Preschool is selling candles as our fundraiser again this year. There are many of the same yummy flavors as last year and some especially yummy new ones. They are \$12 a candle and they make a wonderful birthday gift or just an every day gift for yourself. The candles can be found in the narthex. Please feel free to ask me about them before or after church! Thank you for your support!

Blessings - Melissa

Newsletter Articles

News articles may be submitted to the church office prior to January 21 for publication in the February **CrossWord**. Calendar updates will be made on the website as they are provided.

**BELATED BEST WISHES TO
THOSE WHO
CELEBRATED BIRTHDAYS
IN DECEMBER**

1	Kathy Fluehr & Joshua Pekelder
3	Tracy Bain & Kathryn Lowery
4	Marc Karasek
10	Steve Bain
12	Duncan MacGregor
14	Julia Villalobos
15	Glen Helmstetter
18	Alicia Ward
19	Ben Currier & Chip Plyler
25	Jay Howell
26	Sandy Plyler
30	Margaret Murphy
31	Katie Badeaux



**BEST WISHES TO OUR
JANUARY
BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS**

6	Casey Brown
9	Larry Fluehr
10	Sheryl Murphy
13	Jack Crymes
15	Walter Cochran
16	Jonathan Bartlett
18	Lee Smith
25	Gabriel Choukri & Dan Herron
28	Elizabeth Currier
30	Allie Carroll & Jim Martin

January 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2 9:15 SS 10:30 Worship Service 3:00 Adult Bells 4:00—Youth Bells 5:00—Youth Choir 6:30—Youth Group	3 7:00 Boy Scouts	4 10:00 PW Bible Study 7:00 LionHeart Rehearsal	5 Wednesday Night Dinner—Fry's Team 6:30—Youth-Co-op 6:30—Praise Kids 7:30—Chancel choir	6 7:00 LionHeart Rehearsal	7 7:00-9:00 Combined Youth Group Game Night	8
9 9:15 SS 9:15 New Member Discovery Class 10:30 Worship Service Congregational Mtg. 3:00 Adult Bells 4:00—Youth Bells 5:00—Youth Choir 6:30—Youth Group	10 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 10:00 PW Bible Study 7:00 LionHeart Rehearsal	12 Wednesday Night Dinner—Bartlett/Plyler Team 6:30—Youth 6:30—Praise Kids 6:30—Confirmation Class 7:30—Chancel choir	13 7:00 LionHeart Rehearsal	14	15
16 9:15 SS 9:15 New Member Discovery Class 10:30 Worship Service 3:00 Adult Bells 4:00—Youth Bells 5:00—Youth Choir 6:30—Youth Group	17	18 10:00 PW Bible Study 7:00 LionHeart Rehearsal	19 Wednesday Night Dinner—Smith Team 6:00—Youth-Co-op 6:30—Praise Kids 6:30—Confirmation Class 7:30—Chancel choir	20 7:00 LionHeart Rehearsal	21	22
23 9:15 SS 9:15 New Member Discovery Class 10:30 Worship Service 3:00 Adult Bells 4:00—Youth Bells 5:00—Youth Choir 6:30—Youth Group	24 7:00 Boy Scouts	25 10:00 PW Bible Study 7:00 LionHeart Rehearsal	26 Wednesday Night Dinner—Bain Team 6:30—Youth 6:30—Praise Kids 6:30—Confirmation Class 7:30—Chancel choir	27 7:00 LionHeart Rehearsal 7:00-9:30 Troop 648 Committee Mtg. Covenant Room	28	29
30 9:15 SS 9:15 New Member Welcome 10:30 Worship Service 3:00 Adult Bells 4:00—Youth Bells 5:00—Youth Choir 6:30—Youth Group	31 7:00 Boy Scouts					