



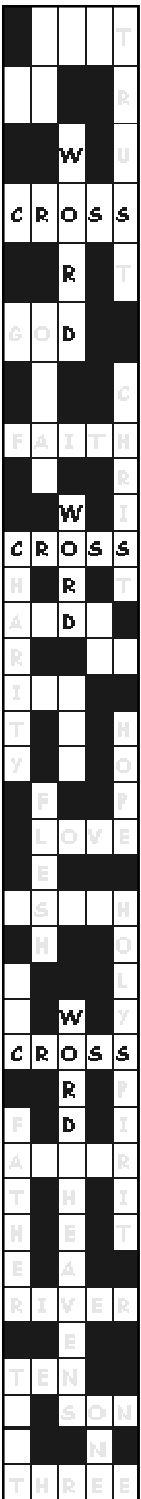
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THE NEWSLETTER OF NORCROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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MARCH 2005

Norcross, Georgia



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Matt's Musings

Lent is underway. This means we are on the journey toward Palm Sunday, toward the Passion, toward Holy Week, toward the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday and toward Golgotha on Good Friday. It is a journey of darkness and distress. It is a journey of destruction, and ultimately of death. Why would we take such a journey? Why would

we willingly do things that would bring us closer to depression, that would remind us of the negative states of our situation, or that would remind us of our finitude? Obviously because we know that the journey does not end on Good Friday, it takes us to Easter. We take this journey because we know that life and resurrection wait on the other side. We know that love will triumph, and that our hope will not be in vain. Our sacrifices will not be for nothing. The one who stated, "I am the resurrection and the life," in John 11.25 holds the fate of the world, and our individual fates, in his hands.

But we can't get to Easter without the journey of Lent. We can't get from Palm Sunday to Easter without going through Holy Week, through the Passion, through the Upper Room and through the hill. So, in order to get to the victory, we pass through the sacrifice, through the hardship, through the suffering. We know that the good on the other side will be well worth our while. But I don't think that is why we go through the suffering. We do so, I think, to participate in the experiences of Christ and the first disciples. By coming closer to those experiences, we share in the life of Christ, in the life of God. Being a Christian isn't always Easter hams and Christmas day parades. Sometimes it is suffering and sacrifice.

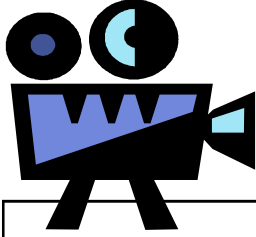
In the same way in our lives we are aware of this. If we want to grow in our relationship with God, there will be sacrifice and suffering. If we want to experience eternal hope that will not let us down, we know that we must travel down the road of denial and death. In some senses, we must die to our selves, to our own selfish desires and nature, to be risen again with Christ, and participate in the life of God.



May we all find strength for the journeys of Lent, both during this season, and throughout all the seasons of our lives. With the hope that will not be in vain, I hope that you will

Be Well,

NORCROSS Presbyterian Church



WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
ADULT BIBLE STUDY
PRESENTS:
DINNER AND A MOVIE

On February 2 a new adult Bible study using the movie *The Gospel of John* directed by Philip Saville got underway. The movie is described as “both insightful and faithful to the text (from The Good News translation), capturing the drama, depth and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.” We have been watching consecutive segments of the movie and then having a discussion using Max Lucado’s study guide. This study will last 10—12 weeks.

Babysitting is provided and there are planned activities on Wednesday nights for children K-12. Middle and high school youth can join us in this Bible study as well.

It’s not too late to participate in this Lenten season Dinner and a Movie on Wednesday evenings at NPC. As always, dinner is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children (\$15 cap). If you can’t make it for dinner, but would like to participate in the Bible study, we will start the movie at 6:30 p.m. Popcorn provided free of charge!



DRAMA



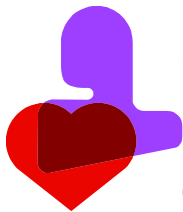
The Lionheart Theatre Company
presents:

No Time for Sergeants by Ira Levin

When the man from the draft board arrives to take country bumpkin, Will Stockdale, to Callville for induction into the army, Will’s Pa tries to chase him off. But even a double barrel shotgun cannot prevent Uncle Sam from claiming his draftee, and soon Will is on a bus to Fort Thompson, Georgia.

From his psychiatric interview to war games to receiving two posthumously awarded medals while he is very much alive, the irrepressible Will Stockdale is a character one does not soon forget. From beginning to end, his misadventures will give audiences one laugh after another! Plan on attending this hilarious comedy here at NPC on one of the following nights: March 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19. All performances are at 7:30 p.m. and tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students. A delicious dessert and beverage is included in the price. For more information or to purchase tickets, access the Lionheart website at www.Lionhearttheatre.org or call 770-806-0935.

Witness & Evangelism



ONE GREAT HOUR of SHARING: The Lenten offering shared by all Presbyterians is our mission emphasis during the Sundays in March. Bulletin inserts will tell some stories connected with OGHS. Offering envelopes will be found in the chair back pockets.

NEWS FROM THE CALVIN CENTER

Summer Camp Programs Offer a Variety of Experiences: Whether you are a youth in the first grade, a senior high student, or a family with young children, Calvin Center summer programs have something for you. This summer Calvin Center is offering 48 different sessions. Programs include opportunities for senior highs in leadership camps, pioneer camps each week, and new combination events for adventure camps. Open enrollment has begun so you and your friends can register without being placed on a waiting list. If you have not taken time to look at the summer programs, pick up a brochure today. This will be another great summer at Calvin Center filled with fun, new friends, and spiritual growth.

Send in your registration today. Don't be late, camps fill up fast! Brochures with application forms are available in the church office. You may also call the Calvin Center summer camp office at 770-946-4276, email us at calvincenter@aol.com or visit the website for online registration or to download forms at www.calvincenter.org.

Montreat Music and Worship

The time is now to start thinking about attending Montreat Music and Worship. We have a house; it will fit as many as last year, and cost about the same. You can find pictures of it on our website, at <http://www.norcrosspresbyterian.org/MontrMWC2K5/Housing/montreat2005housing.html>. The way to register is to first register with Montreat. You can go to their main page at <http://www.montreat.org/>, or straight to the Music and Worship Conference page, http://www.montreat.org/Worship_and_Music.htm. We are going the second week, June 26 to July 2. Classes fill up fast, so when you know you are going to go, signing up as soon as possible is a good thing. Keep us informed when you sign up as well, so we can make sure there is a bed for you. We look forward to another great experience, and can't wait for the trip.



Website: We now have a guestbook on the website and it will be interesting to see how many different people leave us a message. This is a form of electronic evangelization!

LIFE & NURTURE

Annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held Easter Morning following worship!

Please start bringing donated candy to stuff the Easter Eggs as soon as possible. There will be a marked box in the Narthex for the candy. Please remember to bring individually wrapped, non-chocolate candy.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be in the front yard on Easter morning after worship service. Kids: toddlers through 5th grade, remember to bring your Easter basket with you to church on Easter Sunday morning!

On Wednesday, March 23, we will stuff the eggs.

Youth and adults alike always enjoy this activity, so please come and help get the eggs ready for the big hunt.

Easter Morning Brunch

We will gather to celebrate our Risen Lord on Sunday, March 27 and have our annual Easter Brunch. Please bring your favorite breakfast specialty to share. Food will be served beginning at 9:15 and continuing until it is time to worship at 10:30. Come early, come in between, come late—just come! Bring your pot luck breakfast dish anytime during the morning hour. The Life and Nurture committee will provide coffee and juice. Please remember to take home your dish afterwards.

NPC Annual Fish Fry Saturday, April 23, 2005

NEW THIS YEAR! Introducing our own live Dixieland Band, aptly named:

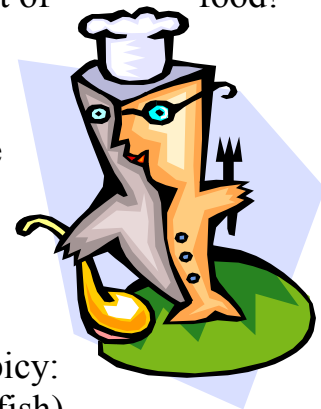
NPFFPB

(Norcross Presbyterian Fish Fry Preservation Band)

All you need to know is at

www.norcrosspresbyterian.org ! But we'll spell it out for you here, too. Tickets go on sale the first Sunday in April, **or you can make your reservation online** and pay at the church during ticket times on Sundays and Wednesdays. Please get your reservations in early so that the cooks can order the right amount of food!

Menu: Fried Catfish
Boiled Crawfish
Fried Chicken (please indicate when buying ticket)
Hush Puppies
Red Beans and Rice
Potatoes and Corn (spicy: cooked with the crawfish)
Cole Slaw
Dessert
Cold Drinks, Water, Lemonade



Outdoor games begin at 4:00 while the food is cooking! Eating begins at 5:00.

Tickets: \$8 per adult, \$5 per child (under 12), \$30 family cap. Ask anyone who has ever been—that's a deal that can't be beat!

Presbyterian Women

by
Carol MacGregor



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study circle will meet on Tuesday, March 8 at 10 a.m. They will listen to the voices of Martha and Mary (Lesson 7 in the study guide). Ladies, do you recall what they said? All women are invited to come meet with the circle and learn from these sisters who were among Jesus' closest friends.



**NPC Summer Camp
Registration BEGINS
MARCH 14TH!!!**

Summer is right around the corner! Registration for Summer Camp will begin **March 14th!** You can either stop by and fill out the registration form or do it on-line (and mail in your registration payment - \$25). The website is www.norcrosspresbyterian.org (link: childcare). The dates of summer camp are weeks of:

June 6-9 **Silly Science**
June 20-23 **A Day at the Circus**
July 5-8 **Water, Water Everywhere!**

If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call or send me an e-mail (melissafry@bellsouth.net).

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone this summer,

Melissa Fry, Director
(770.448.2836)

And God Smiled...

*(Discovering humor in
scripture and its meaning for God's
people then ... and now)*

April 22—24

Celebrate 36 years at Rock Eagle with the women of N.E. Georgia and Greater Atlanta Presbyteries at their Annual Spring Retreat.

Brochures with plans for the weekend have arrived and are posted on the Presbyterian Women bulletin board. If you have questions, call Carol MacGregor at 770-840-9250.

Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta is coming up on Sunday afternoon March 20. Host church is Loyd Presbyterian in LaGrange. Please call Carol MacGregor at the number listed above if you'd like more information.

YOUTH NEWS

by Marc Karasek

Welcome to another exciting year at NPC! There are many activities in the works for 2005. Below is a short list of some of them. As more dates/plans become available, look for updates on the Youth Bulletin Board at church, as well as, on the website.

Wednesday night activities will be changing due to the changes at the Nor-cross Co-op. Starting in March, the late night will be on Tuesdays instead of Wednesdays. This will not mean we will be stopping our visits to the Co-op. The Co-op has contacted Pam Bartlett and has asked us to come once a month. This will be an NPC-only night and they will have specific things planned for us to do.

We are interested in your input. Join us in March for the next Christian Nurture & Development committee meeting. Check the announcements for the date.

Upcoming Events include:

Camping Retreat Spring Panther Creek
Backpacking (2-3 miles) theme and date TBA

Backyard Camping Retreat Fall NPC
Camping in our own backyard

30 Hours of Famine April 29-30 NPC

We will be inviting our Taiwanese, Korean and Indian friends to join us!

You can get sponsor packets from the Youth Bulletin Board at church. If they are all gone, please come and find me and I will make sure you get one.

Sex and Sexuality Spring/Summer NPC
Weekend retreat/seminar



**BEST WISHES TO OUR
MARCH
BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS**



- 1 Drew Bain
- 1 Justin Smith
- 2 Carli Bernardo
- 4 Johanne Valentine
- 6 Bob Peterson
- 7 Diane Lewis
- 8 Jim Fox
- 8 Ruth Martin
- 10 Madison Ferraiolo
- 15 Rod Lewis
- 16 Elizabeth Price
- 20 Eloise Burns
- 20 Jan Singletary
- 24 Mitchell Bernardo
- 27 Henry Singletary
- 28 Bill Brown
- 28 Jake Harris
- 30 Claudia Orr
- 31 Gene Reilley

March 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 Lionheart Rehearsal 7-9:30 p.m.—Button Gwinnett District BSA Commissioners' Meeting	2 Wednesday Night Dinner—Smith team 6:30—Youth 6:30—Praise Kids 6:30—Adult Bible Study/Movie 7:30—Adult Choir	3 7:00 Lionheart Rehearsal	4	5
6 9:15 SS 9:15 Confirmation Class 10:30 Worship Service 3:00 Adult Bells 4:00 Youth Bells 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Group	7 7:00 Lionheart Run through	8 10:00 PW Bible Study 7:00 Lionheart Run through	9 Wednesday Night Dinner—Bain team 6:30—Youth-Co-op 6:30—Praise Kids 6:30—Adult Bible Study/Movie 7:30—Adult Choir	10 7:30 Lionheart Performance No Time for Sergeants	11 7:30 Lionheart Performance No Time for Sergeants	12 7:30 Lionheart Performance No Time for Sergeants
13 9:15 SS 9:15 Confirmation Class 10:30 Worship Svc. 3:00 Adult Bells 4:00 Youth Bells 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Group	14 7:00 Boy Scouts	15	16 Wednesday Night Dinner—Badeaux Team 6:30—Youth 6:30—Praise Kids 6:30—Adult Bible Study/Movie 7:30—Adult choir	17 7:30 Lionheart Performance No Time for Sergeants	18 7:30 Lionheart Performance No Time for Sergeants	19 7:30 Lionheart Performance No Time for Sergeants
20 Palm Sunday 9:15 SS 9:15 Confirmation Class 10:30 Worship Service 3:00 Session Mtg. 3:00 Adult Bells 4:00 Youth Bells 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Group	21 7:00 Boy Scouts Court of Honor	22	23 Wednesday Night Dinner—Lankford Team 6:00—Youth 6:30—Praise Kids 6:30—Adult Bible Study/Movie 7:30—Adult choir	24 Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. Service	25 Good Friday 7:00 p.m. Service	26
27 Easter  10:30 Worship Easter Brunch begins at 9:15	28 Church Office Closed 7:00 Boy Scouts				28	29