



# CrossWord

THE NEWSLETTER OF NORCROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2005

Norcross, Georgia

## Matt's Musings

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The socks on the bottom of my gym bag that have yet to find their way into the wash even after a week. Fish that someone forgot to put in the fridge after getting home from the store, and then stays out for way too long. These are pretty foul smelling things. But I bet if I took that old fish, and wrapped it in those gym bag socks, and put it up against a budding Bradford Pear Tree, I'm not sure which would smell worse.

Don't get me wrong, I love Bradford Pear Trees. I

love them because they signify the beginning of spring. I love them because they bring the first signs of color to the landscape. The brilliant white that comes out against the colorless winter that still hangs on. But the smell. That smell is something else.

There are those who would find a negative lesson there. "How much are we like the Bradford Pear," they would say. "We worry so much about our outward appearance and give little to no attention to the fact that what is inside of us can often stink." But I don't think that is the best lesson of the Bradford Pear.

We live in a world and in a society that is so self conscious. "Don't ever let them see you sweat." That seems to be the motto of the day. "Only let them see your good side." "Make sure to be careful what people see from you, lest they get the wrong idea." "We can't have the neighbors thinking that, now can we."

Maybe the lesson of the Bradford Pear could be this; even if you have a flaw, especially one that society doesn't care for or makes fun of, you can still be who you are, and still be what you were created to be, especially if what you were created to be is a sign of the good life that is to come. Maybe the Bradford Pear shows how we can be who we are, warts (or smells) and all, without fear, knowing that we live planted firmly within the good creation by the loving Creator. Maybe the Bradford Pear shows that even the most beautiful thing, like all things, isn't completely perfect, and wasn't meant to be. Maybe the Bradford Pear shows how it can give the world something beautiful, even though it has this flaw.

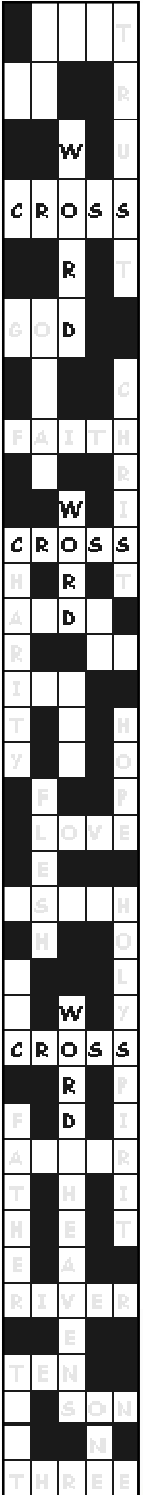
I love spring because that means barbeques are coming. I get to warm up my grill, and cook some good burgers. We get to clean off the porch, and prepare for relaxing meals outside on a regular basis. Playing in the backyard is one of my favorite things, as is watching Kayla, and one day Murphy, running around chasing butterflies and lightning bugs. Even amidst the smell of Bradford Pear, I know that May is coming, and honeysuckle will be out, and I will drive with my windows down and take in the smell that will take me back to being nine years old. The Bradford Pear, with its smell, is for me the beginning of spring. Maybe we can take some lessons from the Bradford Pear.

Could we, with all of our flaws, still be a sign of the kingdom of God? Could we, warts and all, live without fear knowing that we are planted firmly within the good creation by the loving Creator? Could we

find beauty in ourselves, even in, no, especially in, our imperfection? Can we give the world something beautiful, even though we have flaws?

I sure hope so. May you all,

Be Well,



NORCROSS  
Presbyterian Church

## DRAMA



Theatre for young actors and young audiences!!!

**Lionheart Theatre Company** is planning an exciting summer for the kids.

Auditions for **You're A Good Man Charlie Brown** will be held  
April 15 at 7:00 pm and April 16 at 2:00 pm at Norcross Presbyterian Church  
3324 Medlock Bridge Rd, Norcross, GA 30092. Actors ages 5-18 needed.

Performance dates: July 15 and 16 at Norcross Presbyterian Church  
July 22 and 23 at the Jacqueline Casey Hudgens Children's Museum  
(There will be both a matinee and an evening performance on July 16th & 23rd.)

**"Lionheart is in the Park"** will be happening again this summer, with even more exciting opportunities.

We will be performing at Thrasher Park in Norcross, as well as, The Jacqueline Casey Hudgens Children's Museum, located next door to the Gwinnett Civic Center.  
Auditions for these shows will be April 22 at 7:00 pm and April 23 at 2:00 pm at Norcross Presbyterian Church, 3324 Medlock Bridge Rd, Norcross, GA 30092.  
**ACTORS OF ALL AGES NEEDED!**

Performance dates:

**The Three Little Wolves and The Big Bad Pig**

by Eugene Trivizas and Helen Oxenbury

June 11 at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm at Thrasher Park  
June 18 at 11:00 am at the Hudgens Center

**The Wemmicks** by Max Lucado

July 3 at 10:30 am at Norcross Presbyterian Church  
(This performance will take the place of the sermon)  
July 3 at the "3<sup>rd</sup> of July celebration" in Thrasher Park (TENTATIVE)  
July 9 at 11:00 am at the Hudgens Center

**Stone Soup** by Ann McGovern

August 13 at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm Thrasher Park  
August 20 at 11:00 am at the Hudgens Center

Check the website, [www.lionhearttheatre.org](http://www.lionhearttheatre.org) or call us at 770-806-0935, for any changes or added performances.

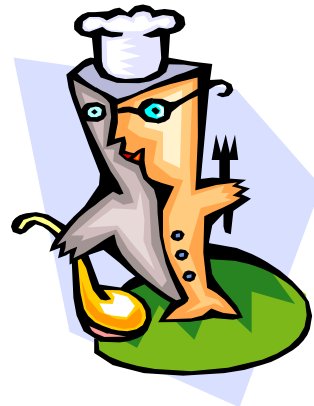
# LIFE & NURTURE

## **NPC Annual Fish Fry Saturday, April 23, 2005**

NEW THIS YEAR! Introducing our own live Dixieland Band, aptly named:  
NPFPPB  
(Norcross Presbyterian Fish Fry Preservation Band)

All you need to know is at [www.norcrosspresbyterian.org](http://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!

There will be a planning meeting on Thursday, April 7th at 7:30 p.m. at the church. If you would like to help with this big event, please contact Norma or Van Badeaux, especially if you plan on being one of the cooks this year! Thank you!

# Presbyterian Women

by  
Carol MacGregor

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study circle will meet on Tuesday, April 12 at 10 a.m. All women are invited to explore with them "What She Said" from the lips of Mary Magdalene, Chapter 8 in the study guide.



## 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.



### NPC Summer Camp Registration is underway!

Summer is right around the corner! Registration for Summer Camp began **March 14th!** It's still not too late to register! 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.norcross-presbyterian.org](http://www.norcross-presbyterian.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](mailto:melissafry@bellsouth.net)).

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone this summer,

**Melissa Fry, Director**  
(770.448.2836)

**BEST WISHES TO OUR  
APRIL  
BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS**



- 3 Amanda Helmstetter
- 3 Alicia Villalobos
- 4 Tanya Carroll
- 6 Nancy Hogan
- 8 Helen Harris
- 12 Martha Correa
- 15 Kelly Bartlett
- 16 Jessica Lankford
- 16 Grace Helmstetter
- 18 Stephanie Currier
- 20 Nathan Smith
- 28 Melissa Plyler
- 29 Matt Fry

# April 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3  9:15 SS 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Adult Bells No Youth Bells No Youth Choir No Youth Group	4	5  7-9:30—Button Gwinnett Dist. BSA Committee Mtg.	6	7  7:30 Fish Fry Planning Mtg.	8	9
10  9:15 SS 9:15 Confirmation Class 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Adult Bells No Youth Bells No Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Group	11  7:00 Boy Scouts	12  10:00 PW Bible Study	13  12:00 Session packets due  Wednesday Night Dinner—Fry team 6:30—Youth 6:30—Praise Kids 6:30—Adult Bible Study/Movie 7:30—Adult Choir	14	15  7:00 Auditions for Lionheart Production of <i>You're A Good Man Charlie Brown</i>	16  2:00 Auditions for Lionheart Production of <i>You're A Good Man Charlie Brown</i>
17  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	18  7:00 Boy Scouts	19  6:30 Rehearsal for Lionheart Production of <i>You're A Good Man Charlie Brown</i>	20  Wednesday Night Dinner—Bartlett/Plyler team 6:30—Youth 6:30—Praise Kids 6:30—Adult Bible Study/Movie 7:30—Adult Choir	21  6:30 Rehearsal for Lionheart Production of <i>You're A Good Man Charlie Brown</i>	22  7:00 Auditions for Lionheart In the Park productions	23  2:00 Auditions for Lionheart In the Park Productions  <i>Fish Fry</i> 4 pm—Games 5 pm—Dinner
24  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	25  7:00 Boy Scouts	26  6:30 Rehearsal for Lionheart Production of <i>You're A Good Man Charlie Brown</i>	27  Wednesday Night Dinner—Bain team 6:30—Youth—Co-op 6:30—Praise Kids 6:30—Adult Bible Study/Movie 7:30—Adult Choir	28  6:30 Rehearsal for Lionheart Production of <i>You're A Good Man Charlie Brown</i>  7:00 Troop 648 Committee Meeting		