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THE NEWSLETTER OF NORCROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2005

Norcross, Georgia

Table of Contents

Matt's Musings	Page 1
IgWNMMEBS&D	Page 2
Pumpkin Patch	Page 3
Outdoor Service & Lionheart News	Page 4
Childcare News	Page 5
Life & Nurture & BBQ/Bazaar News	Page 6
Birthdays	Page 7
Calendar	Page 8

Matt's Musings

I'd love to write an article like I normally do, but my brain is still recovering from all of my travels. Since 26 June, I have been out of town 4 out of 5 weeks. On 26 June through 2 July, we headed out for Montreat Music and Worship. From 10 July to 16 July, we were in Kentucky on the mission trip. The next day, the 17th of July, the Fry Family was in Pennsylvania for some vacation and to baptize our friend, Will Johnston, son of Kathryn (who has preached here before) and Paul, our best friends. We came home on the 24th. The following weekend, we were in Alabama to celebrate my mother-in-law's birthday. Here's some general thoughts on my late June / July, and all the travels therein.

- ✚ Singing with 500 people who are all professional musicians not only hides my voice, but is also a religious experience that cannot be described.
- ✚ Even if you are the best dancer in the history of humanity, and I am, you can still embarrass a group of Middle Schoolers if you show up at a social and groove.
- ✚ Mission work is not less than, but not wholly encompassed in, taking care of someone's soul. That is to say, mission work is partly about fixing a house, and partly about building relationships with the people that live there. Doing only one of those is not as satisfying to anyone involved.
- ✚ Dogs who howl at the moon all night continuously are only funny the first night.
- ✚ Context is very important. Within the context of a particular 10 mile radius, downtown can be a two way stop sign and two gas stations.
- ✚ Work is one of the best ways to put faith into action, especially when circumstances are difficult, one of the best things to help is to work.
- ✚ Rest can be the best thing for a soul, and for a community.
- ✚ Baptism is something that cannot fully be explained. Maybe that is why it is so powerful.
- ✚ I love our friend's church in the country. The manse is great, and on a ton of property. The commute (a walk across the parking lot) sure beats my fight against traffic on Peachtree Ind. Blvd. That understood, I wouldn't trade Norcross Presbyterian Church for 10 of any other church.
- ✚ The sound of nature in the morning over a cup of coffee has always been a religious experience for me. So, I look forward to the sound of waves crashing on the beach. The sound of heavy construction equipment while workers rebuild the beach after last year's hurricanes is not a religious experience, but is worth a laugh.

Two of my favorite things over the summer are a change of pace getting a chance to go to Montreat and



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Mission trips, and getting to know those who attend much better. I now know how Julia and Katie play cards, that Pam Bartlett can eat a whole sleeve of Starburst, and that Bob Norman will stick with Georgia's soft drink, thank you very much. Next year, we will go to Montreat Music and Worship from Sunday 18 June to Saturday 24 June. I hope that you will seriously consider joining for that trip. We are also looking at doing a mission trip in the summer of 2007. I hope you will join us on that trip as well.

As I am always, Yours in Christ,



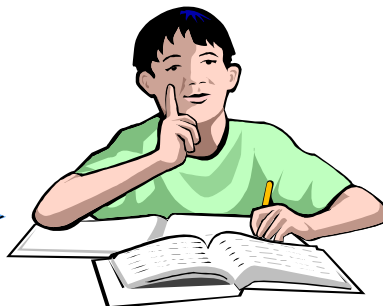
**Inter-generational
Wednesday Night
Multi-Media Event,
Bible Study and Discussion
or IgWNMMEBS&D for short**

Starting **Wednesday, the 7th of September**, we will be kicking back up to Wednesday night activities. This year, the Adult Bible Study, and the Youth activities will be combined to the Inter-generational Wednesday Night Multi-Media Event, Bible Study and Discussion or IgWNMMEBS&D for short. Which is to point out that we will be meeting all together. After dinner which begins at **5.45**, we'll start at **6.20** (note the time, NOT 6.30) and watch an episode of the first season of Joan of Arcadia, a three-time Emmy-nominated show that aired on CBS, 2003-2004. We'll then have Bible study and Discussion, using a guide written by Teresa Blythe, a spiritual director and published author who works at Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson, Arizona.

This promises to be a great experience for young and old alike. Come every

Wednesday, knowing that we'll watch a great show, and then have great Bible

study and discussion about the topics the show brings up.





Pumpkin Patch 2005 News

On Sunday, August 7, 2005, a Pumpkin Patch organizational meeting was held. Diane Lewis and Larry Fluehr, co-chairs of the 2005 Pumpkin Patch Committee led the meeting. Eighteen people were in attendance and many decisions were made for this year's patch.

The Patch has two mission objectives: the primary one is Outreach and Fellowship for the local preschools, neighbors, commuters, and church members. The secondary mission is fundraising.

Important dates to note:

Saturday, Oct. 1—Set Up Patch

Saturday, Oct 8—Decorate and complete patch set up

Sunday, Oct 9 12:30—PUMPKINS ARE DELIVERED

Sunday, Oct 10—Patch opens at 9:00 a.m.

Monday, Oct 31—Last day patch is open

11/1-11/7 CLEAN UP PATCH

Here are the people to contact if you can help:

PP Co-Chairs: Diane Lewis and Larry Fluehr

Publicity: Norma Badeaux and Sue Lithopoulos

Preschool Outreach (storytime): Johanne Valentine

Set Up & Unloading: Bill Brown

Decoration Committee—TBD

Financial Records (daily recording): Laura Lankford

Volunteer (shifts/staffing): Diane Lewis and Larry Fluehr

The sign up sheets are in place! Some look different this year as Diane and Larry created a form to turn in with your availability for the dates the Patch will be open. The goal is to reach sales of \$9,000 so that NPC retains 33% of that gross amount. Last year's sales exceeded \$7,000 and NPC kept 30%. Because we have new and repeat customers, this is a realistic goal.

Other than staffing the Patch, help is still needed on the Decoration Committee (someone to be in charge of the many people who want to help decorate), the Preschool Outreach (calling the preschools to remind them of their dates, beginning 9/8), and with Publicity (spreading flyers and articles in local, free newsletters such as Homeowners Assoc.).

As we expand the scope of the Pumpkin Patch to benefit community missions as well as internal needs, it is the hope that more people will participate in the fun and fulfillment that come with working in the Patch. Look for more news in the narthex, upcoming bulletins, and next month's newsletter. Please contact any committee chair with questions.



SEMI-ANNUAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE

Just a reminder that our Fall Outdoor Worship Service will be held on Sunday, September 11th at Jones Bridge Park. This is a day in which we enjoy worshipping God in His awesome cathedral of nature. The canopy of trees above and the carpet of grass beneath our feet, remind us of our Creator God. As we gather at the river, we are reminded of the life-giving water of baptism. As a gentle breeze caresses us, we are reminded of ruah, the breath of God. So, it seems truly right to give Him thanks and praise in such a setting.

Not only is it good for us to bring our worship outside occasionally but it is a definite witness and evangelization to others to see us joyfully gathering together in prayer.

So, plan now to attend. Don't forget to bring a chair and a side dish to accompany the fellowship meal that will follow. Hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks will be provided.

DRAMA



Lionheart Theatre Company has two productions this August:

Stone Soup

by Ann McGovern

August 13 at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm at Thrasher Park

August 20 at 11:00 am at the Hudgens
Center

Check the website, www.lionhearttheatre.org or call us at 770-806-0935, for any changes or added performances.



SCHOOL IS STARTING AUGUST 15TH!

We are very excited about the upcoming school year. We have some new teachers and some old ones returning. We cannot wait to see the children's smiling faces as they walk through the door!

I will be going to WalMart or Target this week to do the registering of the DVDs. We would really appreciate anything you could contribute. We are looking for DVDs that are for exercising (for toddlers, of course), movement, and rainy day shows (Blues Clues, Dora, Teletubbies— or something for the really little ones—, etc.).

Thank you for all of your love and support for the preschool program.

Melissa

Melissa Fry, Director
(770.448.2836)

Thank You

To My Church,

Thank you, thank you! I am blessed to be a part of this great Church and thankful to call you family. The church was lovely with flowers and each of you came with good wishes. I had a grand 100th birthday.

Through your loving spirit, prayers and concern, I am given strength for each day.

Again, thank you, Pastor Fry, and the many who helped make my day special.

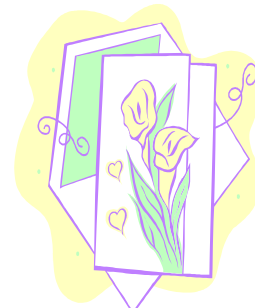
I love you. Leonia Langley & family

AN INVITATION FROM MONTREAT COLLEGE!

Montreat College invites all 10th-12th graders and their parents to a Prospective Students/Alumni Luncheon Event to be held on **September 10**, 2005 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Peachtree Presbyterian Church, St. Andrew's Room-#2209, 3434 Roswell Rd., NW, Atlanta, GA 30305.

Dr. Dan Struble, President, and some of his staff will give an update on the College and to talk with those who are interested in a Christ-centered, student-focused and service-driven college education.

Please call Mrs. Carole Carlson at 1-800-849-3347 by **August 31st** to make reservations for the luncheon (no charge) and event.



LIFE & NURTURE

There will be a Life & Nurture meeting on Sunday, August 28 at 1:00. This meeting will address the needs of Congregational Care Committee, the Shepherd List, and Wednesday night dinner teams.

These committees have not been meeting. Many folks do caring acts for each other in the congregation all the time, on their own. In order to make sure no one is overlooked, please come to this meeting so that there can be some organization of our efforts.

Congregational Care includes everything from dropping a card in the mail to that new college freshman, to hospital visits and preparing food for church members when needed. If you feel called to help, please plan to come to this meeting on Aug. 28, or contact Norma, Larry, or Linda, if you want to help but cannot attend.

BBQ/Bazaar SAVE THE DATE



The 2005 BBQ/Bazaar will be held on **Saturday, October 22**. Start saving your donations now. As in the past few years, the Bazaar will coincide with Pumpkin Patch activities.

Marc Karasek has secured a cooker, so, men of the church, plan to cook the night of October 21st! Choppers and serves needed! Jill Swenson will be making and canning her awesome BBQ sauce to sell.

If YOU have something you would like to sell, apart from typical Bazaar fare, please contact Norma Badeaux to reserve a booth.

Please come to a planning meeting on Sunday, September 11 at 4:00p.m. to help with this year's event!



**BEST WISHES TO OUR
AUGUST & SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS**

Here are two months of birthdays, so you won't miss those at the beginning of the next month!

AUGUST

6 Charlene Villalobos

7 Chico Villalobos

10 Vanessa Currier

17 Van Badeaux

21 Kerrie Bernardo

21 Christina Peterson

21 Jeff Putnam

31 Melissa Steele

SEPTEMBER

2 Laura Lankford

3 Lisa Jemmings

4 Daniel Karasek

7 Becca Rado

16 Melissa Fry

19 Elise Birmingham

19 Melanie Linder

24 Kathy Smith

25 Carla Johnstone

25 Pae Norman

26 Emily Duncan

30 Tim Rado