



CrossWord

THE NEWSLETTER OF NORCROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2005

Norcross, Georgia

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Matt's Musings

I want to tell you about something that has me really excited.

No, it's not the thought of the Yankees and their 200 million dollar payroll missing the playoffs (though, that has me excited too).

It's our new Sunday Schedule, especially relating to Sunday School.

Beginning on September 18, our Sunday School schedule will look a little different. Instead of classes beginning at 9.30, they will begin at 9.15. This is a move toward our tradition of starting classes at

9.15 as we used to do as recently as two years ago. Classes will start at 9.15, with a Preschool class and an Elementary class downstairs. There is also nursery available for folks who aren't quite ready for Preschool. There will be a combined Jr. and Sr. High class, and the adult class offerings which include Kerygma and Adult Logos. Classes will continue until around 10.00 a.m., and then we will adjourn our classes and enjoy some fellowship time, which I am calling "Second Cup" (not sure if it will catch on or not, just trying it out right now) with coffee and treats until our celebration of worship begins.

Let me tell you why this excites me. Our choir members have been saying that they can't come to Sunday School. They would get to class around 9.35, and have to leave at 10.00 to go to choir. Less than half an hour of Sunday School is hardly worth it, they would report. Now, they can come to class, get the whole class, and still make it to choir rehearsal by 10.00. Also, we have many folks who don't go to Sunday School and sit out in the Narthex for a much needed time of fellowship. Perhaps they will feel inclined to now join a class, and know that they will still get plenty of fellowship time during "Second Cup." And lastly, and this may excite me most, having a time of fellowship into which people can join is a great thing. We will grow as a tight-knit community. It also sends a message to any incoming visitor. When folks walk in at 10.15 or 10.20, and see us enjoying coffee and fellowship, when they are greeted and welcomed, offered a muffin and a hot cup of coffee, when they are welcomed into a conversation, they will feel extremely welcomed, more comfortable, and will get a real sense of who we are. This will provide something that may have been missing. When folks have come in at 10.15 or 10.20 and found many of us in Sunday School rooms, and coffee in the kitchen only, it may have felt somewhat disconcerting. Now, they will come in and see people, instead of just walls and bulletin boards.

So, plan on coming to Sunday School. There will be more about "Rally Day" later in the Newsletter. But come on the 18th and find a great class, and then stay for a "Second Cup." Coffee always excites me. That is why I drink it. So come and join in.

As I am always,

Yours in Christ,



NORCROSS

Presbyterian Church

LIFE & NURTURE

The **Youth Group** will have its 18 de Septiembre Fiesta to coincide with the Sunday School Kickoff scheduled for the same day. The 18th of September is a little known Mexican holiday celebrating the Kickoff of Youth Group at Norcross Presbyterian Church. It is second only to Cinco de Mayo as an official holiday celebration. There will be food, fellowship and fun. Volunteers to help with cooking and event planning are welcome. If you have a recipe for arroz con pollo, tacos, or empanadas, this will be the time to test it out. Contact George Tatro at 404-784-0382 if you would like to help with the cooking or events.



Our full **Wednesday night schedule of activities** begins September 7 with dinner at 5:45pm. Volunteers provide a nutritious and delicious meal for a suggested donation of \$4 for adults and youth, \$2 for children. Feel free to join us any Wednesday, no reservation necessary.

If you think you may be interested in providing a Wednesday night dinner in October (on a one-time basis, no further commitment required), please contact Laura Lankford. We have a team of experienced cooks willing to advise and help.

Calling all kindergartners through 5th graders . .

Praise Kids

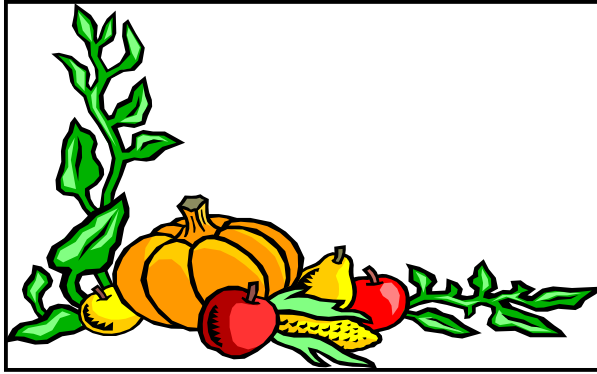
choir will meet Sundays from 4:00pm to 5:00pm, beginning Sunday, September 11, led by Laura Lankford and Sandra Murray. Come join us as we praise God through music, prayer, story-telling, crafts, games, and any other "joyful noise" we can create.



Thank you to everyone that has donated DVDs to the preschool. I am always so touched about how giving you all are when people need something. It really means a lot to the preschool children, parents and staff that Norcross Presbyterian Church is always there for us. There are still a few more DVDs and CDs on the list.....so if you are ever at Target, we'd appreciate it! THANK YOU!!! *Melissa*

Wednesday Night Dinner Teams and menus for the month of September are as follows:

- Sept. 7—Lankford team/grilled chicken
- Sept. 14-Plyler/Bartlett team/Mexican food
- Sept. 21-Melissa Plyler team/lasagna
- Sept. 28-Fry team/chicken & grits, creole style



Pumpkin Patch 2005 News

As mentioned last month, 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.).

We have a list of items we could use help procuring this year and you can find out what they are by checking the "Pumpkin Patch Wish List" display in the narthex.

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.



You're invited to the two upcoming events described herein!

Sisters in Christ of Snellville Christian Church invite women to a conference entitled **Find Us Faithful** on Friday evening, September 23 and Saturday, September 24 at their church at 2485 Scenic Highway-South. Main speaker will be Jeannette Clift George; other programming includes music and drama/comedy skits focusing on the many seasons of a woman's life and how our faith in God sees us through the different seasons. Registration forms are available at www.snellvillechristian.net. Questions may be directed to Lori Trivelli at 678-938-7945.

The Thornwell Home and School is entering its **130th year of ministry to children** and we welcome the opportunity to share with you this monumental accomplishment.

On October 1 and 2 we will be hosting a Founder's Day event, recognizing the beginnings of this wonderful ministry to children. Plans include an historical reflection, drama presentation, games, hayrides, food, tours and much more, culminating in a worship on Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

The Saturday schedule is as follows:

10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Registration
11 a.m.	Service of Remembrance
Noon	BBQ Lunch
12:30 p.m.—2:45 p.m.	Games
1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.	Hayride/Bus Tours
3:00 p.m.	“Voices of Our Heritage”
Until 5:00 p.m.	Walking Tours

Please check your calendars and make plans to attend this event. What a wonderful feat this could be to have a representative from each church in the Synod come to Clinton, SC!

Charity Book Fair

You can feed
your mind and
help feed the
needy all at the
same time!



Norcross Cooperative Ministry invites you, your friends and family to their 3rd Annual Charity Book Fair at Barnes & Noble at the Forum on Peachtree Parkway in Norcross. This year's fair will run from Sunday, November 13, 2005 through Saturday, November 19, 2005. The Norcross Co-Op will receive a percentage of qualifying sales during the week-long event. Proceeds from this event will support NCM's 2005-2006 school supply and ESOL programs.

Purchases only benefit NCM if you present an NCM/Barnes & Noble book fair voucher. To obtain a supply of free vouchers contact a member of our Mission Committee, our church's NCM board member, or the NCM office at 770-263-0013.

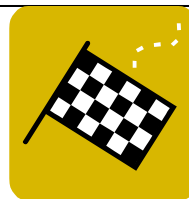
As a special treat on Saturday evening, November 19th, the Norcross Co-Op will set up an information booth at the front of the store and guest readers will entertain children, youth and customers beginning at 6:30PM by sharing special readings in the children's section of the store.

Please remember that the Co-op is always in need of non-perishable items such as: canned meats (tuna, chicken, ham, spaghetti & meatballs, ravioli); canned fruit, canned vegetables (carrots, peas, potatoes), macaroni & cheese, peanut butter & jelly, spaghetti sauce & pasta, noodles, personal care items for men and women, i.e., soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet tissue, feminine products and laundry detergent).



School has begun and we are very excited about the new year! There are a lot of new faces, so we are excited to welcome them into the NPC Pre-school family. A lot of old ones returning, too, and as always I enjoy seeing every child's smiling face as they walk through the door in the morning. If you ever have any questions or suggestions for the preschool, my door is always open. Again, thank you for all that you do for the preschool. We couldn't do it without your prayers and offerings!

Melissa



RALLY DAY/KICKOFF
FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL
AND YOUTH GROUP
SEPTEMBER 18!

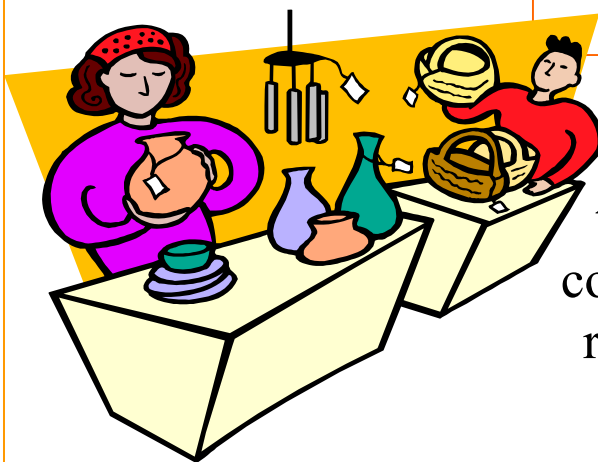
Beginning at 9:15 a.m. we will make Sunday School assignments and dismiss everyone to their respective class at 9:30. At 10:00 we will all come back to the narthex for coffee and donuts, a.k.a. Second Cup (see Matt's Musings on page 1). At 6 p.m. we will have a Fiesta Dinner and Fun Evening to start off this year's Youth program and go over the calendar for the fall (see George's article on page 2).

BBQ/Bazaar REMINDER



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
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS**



SEPTEMBER

- 2 Laura Lankford
- 3 Lisa Jemmings
- 4 Daniel Karasek
- 7 Becca Rado
- 16 Melissa Fry
- 19 Elise Birmingham
- 24 Kathy Smith
- 25 Carla Johnstone
- 25 Pae Norman
- 26 Emily Duncan
- 28 Murphy Fry
- 30 Tim Rado

OCTOBER

- 3 Lindsay Badeaux
- 3 Tom Birmingham
- 3 Joseph Crymes
- 4 David Bartlett
- 5 Cassie Smith
- 17 B.J. Steele
- 19 Matthew Helmstetter
- 19 Jan Putnam
- 24 Maryann Peterson
- 26 Skip Putnam
- 27 Sandra Murray
- 29 Craig Harris