



CrossWord

THE NEWSLETTER OF NORCROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2006

Norcross, Georgia

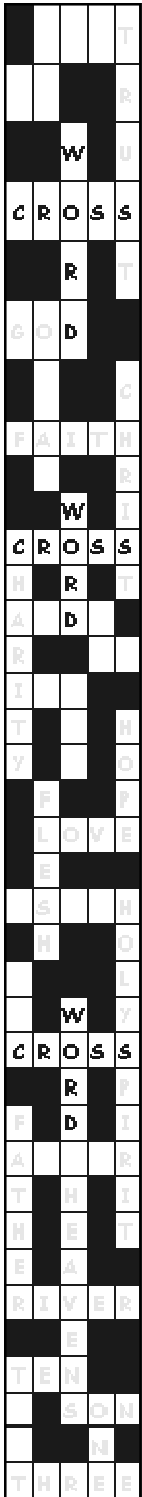


Table of Contents

Matt's Musings	Page 1	Witness & Evangelism/ Return of WND	Page 4
Lionheart	Page 2	Birthdays	Page 5
NPC Men's Group	Page 3	Calendar	Page 6

Matt's Musings

Though the heat index would say otherwise, it feels like summer is just about over. Granted, the 97 degree weather is not what makes me think of the turning season. Instead it is the school preparations.

Something new is happening in the Fry house. We are getting ready for school, as is August tradition. But for the first time, we are getting ready to send one away to school, not to bring with us to school. On Monday, 14 August, Kayla will begin kindergarten. It makes me well up a little bit just to type it. How can she possibly

be old enough? Our little girl is growing up, even though I've told her that she isn't allowed so to do. To which she replied, "Daddy, I can't help it. I have to grow up."

She's right too. Any organism has to either grow, or die. For several years now, when I go to a Presbyterian meeting, or a cluster gathering, or any sort of event where there are other pastors around, I get asked the same question, usually by pastors who I think "don't get it." The questioners may change, but the question is the same. "Are you growing in Norcross?" Until recently, I have always replied "Yes, but not in number." And then the pastors who really don't get it would give a puzzled look. Some of the others, who sort of get it, would say things like, "That's nice," or "Good for you." Recently, since we have added more members than we have lost this year I can say, "Yes, but not only in number."

Think about some of the growth at NPC. Some of it is measurable. We have several new members this year, and the year is only a little more than half over. We have a new, dynamic order of worship that we have sort of invented, and grown into. And we have just hired a Youth Director, just to name a few. And there is more on the horizon, as we continue to look for a Director of Music Ministries. But much of the growth is not measurable, and not definable. But I believe it is clear that we have grown and are continuing to grow.

Maybe it is easy to be uncomfortable with growth. I am simultaneously excited and terrified about Kayla moving to kindergarten. But it is a reality that should not be stopped, and will produce different and exhilarating experiences for our family.

Who knows what the future holds for NPC, what ways we will grow in the coming months and years. Surely it will produce the same kind of mixture of excitement and fear. And just as surely, there will be things that are growing pains, as well as things in which we will rejoice. I'm excited that we get to grow together, and hold each other through the growing pains at the same time as we multiply our joys. Let us continue to,



NORCROSS Presbyterian Church

Be Well,

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus.
- I Corinthians 1:4 (NRSV).

Lionheart Theatre Company
Presents
Anatomy of Gray

by Jim Leonard, Jr.
Directed by Joanie McElroy

Galen Gray is having a crisis of faith. A young doctor who doubts his own abilities to heal, Galen wanders the American heartland looking for purpose in his life. In a small town named Gray, he saves the life of a local teenage girl, who quickly becomes his protégé. But when a ferocious disease spreads through town, the locals blame Galen and turn on him, forcing him to take action. Set in the 1880's, *Anatomy of Gray* is a fable for all ages- a powerful reminder that sometimes in order to find yourself, you must first lose your way.

Tickets- \$15 Adults, \$12 for Seniors and Students

Performance Dates:

Friday, September 1 at 7:30pm

Saturday, September 2 at 2pm and 7:30pm

Thursday-Saturday, September 7-9 at 7:30pm

Performances will be held at the new Norcross Community Center
10 Britt Avenue, Norcross, GA

Don't Miss This **AUDITION** for the November production of
 The Miser, a Comedy by Moliere
 Directed by Tanya Carroll

The old skinflint Harpagon has decided it's time to marry off his children. He's found an old man who won't demand a dowry for his daughter, Élise, and a rich widow for his son, Cléante. But Élise is already in love with Harpagon's servant, Valère. And Cléante, who spends money as passionately as his father hoards it, is enamoured of the penniless Mariane. Harpagon, however, has already decided to take Mariane for his own wife. Convinced his children are plotting to rob him blind, he proceeds with his own arrangements until, to his horror, he discovers that the fortune he buried in his garden has been stolen.

August 11th at 7pm and 12th at 2pm, Norcross Presbyterian Church

NPC Men's Group

By
Tim Rado

Just a reminder that our 3rd quarter Texas Hold Em championship will be hosted by German Correa on Friday, August 11th beginning at 6:00pm. This will be a very important meeting as we will be discussing and voting on whether or not to make NPC's Vacation Bible School our ongoing mission project since VBS currently receives no funding and is such a vital part of NPC's ministry to the community. Please plan to attend to be part of this discussion or just to enjoy some BBQ, an evening of fun and fellowship, and to see who will take the championship belt from "Poker" Chip Plyler! Please let me know ASAP if you will be attending so we can make appropriate dinner plans. The cost is \$20.00 per person which will cover your dinner and buy in to Texas Hold Em. As always, 10% of the profits will be donated to the NPC general fund with the remainder going into the Men's Group budget for future projects.

Five of us were able to get together on July 22nd for breakfast and a day of golf. We played a best ball format and had so much fun that we are going to try and plan another day this year. Please let me know if you would be interested in joining us. This is a day for all skill levels including those who have never played. I guarantee you will have fun especially if you end up on a team with Craig Harris or Glen Helmstetter (the official NPC pros).

We will also be looking to form more small accountability groups as summer winds down so there are many opportunities for all of the men of the church to participate in one way or another. Please contact me at (770)339-8499 (home), (678)414-3378 (cell) or email me at timrado@charter.net if you would like more information.

Finally, I would like us all to pray for our brother Bill Brown and his family as they struggle with the health of his mother and all they have endured in moving his parents from Texas to Georgia in order to be close and provide better care for them in their senior years. We might all learn a lesson from Bill and his family that even though we expect our parent to always be there for us, the day will come that we will need to be there for them. Thanks for the inspiration!

In His service,
Tim Rado

Witness & Evangelism

Presbyterian Homes of Georgia

proudly announces that its Board of Trustees recently approved moving forward with a new continuing care retirement community, or CCRC, in Oconee County near Athens. The retirement community, called Presbyterian Village Athens, will be the first in the area to provide residential living cottages, cluster homes, apartments, as well as assisted living and skilled nursing services all in one neighborhood. The \$80 million to \$100 million CCRC project will serve 200 to 400 residents. Presbyterian Homes thanks Presbyterians in the Northeast Georgia and Atlanta area for the support shown the project. If Presbyterian Homes may be of service to you, your family or friends, please call them at (800) 808-3309 or visit phgainc.org.

MISSION CONNECTIONS

Expand your summer reading selections by visiting the PC(USA) website. Transport yourself to the frontline of Christian witness and share the lives of those we have sent out to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and the love of God. Monthly letters written by Presbyterian church related mission workers are posted to be shared with us in local churches. To locate these letters enter www.pcusa.org/missionconnections into your pc's search engine. Then, click on the various choices on the page to locate individual letters.

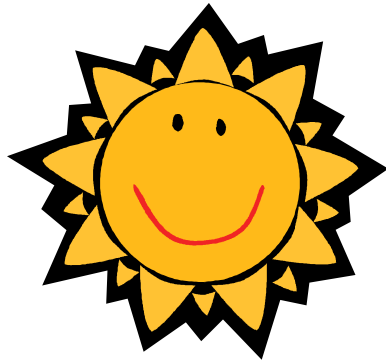
Wednesday Night Dinners Returning soon!

Wednesday night dinners will resume this fall on September 6th at 5:45 pm. Come join in the fellowship, and enjoy the cuisine of this year's cooking teams: Sandy Plyler/Pam Bartlett, The Lankfords, Melissa Plyler & Youth, The Frys, The Helmstetters, and The Karaseks. There may even be a return of taco night!

If you'd like to help out in any way or would be interested in being on our sub list, please let Matt know.

An intergenerational bible study, hosted by Matt and our new Director of Youth Ministries, Chris McCurdy, will follow at 6:30. Look for more information in the bulletin!

**BEST WISHES TO OUR
AUGUST
BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS**



- 6 Charlene Villalobos
- 7 Chico Villalobos
- 7 Lisa Knowles
- 10 Vanessa Currier
- 17 Van Badeaux
- 21 Kerrie Bernardo
- 21 Christina Peterson
- 21 Jeff Putnam
- 24 Doug Fuller
- 31 Mary Greenway
- 31 Melissa Steele