



CrossWord

THE NEWSLETTER OF NORCROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Table of Contents

SEPTEMBER 2006

Norcross, Georgia

Matt's Musings

Matt's Musings	Page 1	Witness & Evangelism	Page 5
Lionheart	Page 2	Birthdays	Page 6
NPC Men's Group	Page 3	Calendar	Page 7
Pumpkin Patch	Page 4		

The other day, I was talking with a Pastor friend of mine from Seminary. It had been a while since we talked, and we were catching up and checking in. How's your family? Tell me about your church. That kind of stuff.

"I've been at this church coming on 5 years," he said. "And they are a good group of people. It's a good place to raise kids, and we have no complaints." "Good for you," I said. Then there was a good long pause, so that it seemed clear that my friend was trying to figure out how to say what he had called to say.

"We're looking for a new church, and we'd love to come to your area. Do you know of any that are looking?" So we talked about that for a while. And then he said, "I suppose it won't be long until you are looking too. I mean, you've been there for a while now. Heck, I know of several that are looking, since I'm looking too."

And that hit me like a bag of hammers. "Well, I'm just having too much fun where I am, so I don't think I'll be looking soon." And then the real hit came. He paused, and then replied, "Wow, I don't think I've been able to say anything like that in my whole time here."

So I guess the point of that is this. I want to say a big thank you to you all. I am having fun here, and I do know that having fun in the church you serve is not always a given (either for the church or the Pastor). I count myself lucky to be able to be with you, to get to work with and among you. I think we are in the midst of a golden time here at Norcross Presbyterian Church, and I think we should all count ourselves lucky in that respect. Sometimes the planets align just right, and you get to really enjoy the ride. That is precisely what I am doing (and I hope you are too). And for that I am thankful.

As I am always,
Gratefully Yours in Christ,

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).



NORCROSS
Presbyterian Church

Special Event

On **Sunday, September 10 at 10:30**, we will have our annual **outdoor worship service** at Jones Bridge Park. It is always a favorite, so come with joy, dressed casually for the weather, bearing a side dish to share after worship at the hot dog and hamburger BBQ.

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
(includes beverage and dessert)
Payment must be in the form of cash or check at the door.

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 and Cultural Arts Center
10 Britt Avenue
Historic Downtown Norcross***

*For more information, see our website
www.lionhearttheatre.org
or call us at
(770) 806-0935*

NPC Men's Group

**By
Tim Rado**

Wow! A lot of great things are happening with the men's group. We had our 3rd quarter meeting on August 11th at the home of German Correa. We had some great BBQ and crowned yet another new Texas Hold Em champion. Our new champion is our very own pastor, Matt "Crazy 8's" Fry. (Please no more divine intervention.) Second place went to Van Badeaux and third place this quarter went to Rod Lewis. The most exciting part of this quarter's meeting was that by unanimous vote, the men's group has committed to funding \$1,000 to NPC's Vacation Bible School which in the past has been put on through volunteer donations. This is such a great program and outreach to the community and we hope all the men of the church will volunteer in one way or another when VBS rolls around again next summer.

Also, if you are not part of the small accountability group that meets every other Tuesday morning but would be interested in an evening group, I will be starting one on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm beginning September 13th. Please let me know if you would be interested in joining! Our next quarterly meeting will be held on Friday, November 10th at the home of Glen Helmstetter and I know we will be in for some great food and fellowship as well. I have been asked by Larry Fluehr if the men would be willing to help out with the pumpkin patch this year. The dates are as follows: Saturday, September 30th, 9:00am — set up the patch; Sunday afternoon, October 8th — unload pumpkins from the truck; and October 9th-31st — help work the patch. This is a great fundraising event for various programs and a lot of fun as well. I have only heard from three men to date so please try your best to help out in some way this year!

Finally, the men's group will be handling all of the preparations for this year's BBQ on October 21st. This includes an all night cookout on the 20th for any brave soul interested. Please plan to help out either with the cooking, chopping, serving or cleanup as we need a lot of volunteers to make this work! Thanks again to all those involved with the group and let's continue to show just how committed we are to God, NPC, and our community!

In His service,
Tim Rado

PUMPKIN PATCH 2006

Planning for the 2006 NPC Pumpkin Patch is underway. This will be our fifth year for the patch! We celebrate the completion of construction on Medlock Bridge Road and look forward to a return to the patch visitor levels of 2003 and 2004.

The primary purpose of the Pumpkin Patch is **outreach** and **fellowship**. This is our chance to reach out to local preschools; to meet our neighbors; to visit with commuters; and to spend some time with and get to know other church members a little bit better during quiet times in the patch.

The secondary mission is fundraising. Last year we moved in a new direction with an increased focus on local mission. The Session has approved the following allocation for 2006:

- **Norcross Cooperative Ministry** 40%
- **Conference/Camps/Youth Programs** 60%
 - Conference and Camp Scholarships/Expenses 25%
 - Montreat Music & Worship Conference 25%
 - Youth Programs 10%

Please mark your calendar with the following Important dates:

Saturday, September 30 th	Set Up Patch (9:00 a.m. til ???)
Saturday, October 7 th	Decorate and complete patch set up
Sunday, October 8 th	UNLOAD PUMPKINS (12:30 – 4:00)
Monday, October 9 th	Patch opens at 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, October 21 st	Barbeque and Bazaar
Tuesday, October 31 st	Last day patch is open
November 1 st – 7 th	PATCH CLEANUP

Our thanks goes out to the following groups and individuals who have already made a commitment to the 2006 Pumpkin Patch:

- the Men's Group has agreed to support the Patch Set Up day on Saturday 9/30.
- Johanne Valentine is already busy calling preschools and Carol MacGregor has also offered to help with the preschool visits.
- Jason Bernardo has agreed to take Pete the Pumpkin on the road this year – bringing the patch to preschools that do not go off campus for field trips.
- Laura Lankford will continue to handle the financial records (daily reporting).

We still need people to staff the patch, storytellers for morning preschool visits, and committee chairs/members for Publicity and Decorating. Shift availability forms and committee sign up sheets will be available in the narthex beginning Sunday, 9/3. Here is a brief description of the publicity and decoration committee roles:

- Publicity - the publicity committee may choose to: place articles in local papers and free newsletters (Homeowners Assoc.); prepare and distribute publicity flyers for local businesses, malls, and bulletin boards; post signs/banners; prepare 'media kits' for newspapers, radio and TV stations;
- Decorations - the purpose of this committee is to make The Pumpkin Patch an attractive and entertaining place for families to bring their children and to plan and implement new ways to increase patch appeal.

Here are the people to contact if you can help or would like more information:

PP Co-Chairs: Diane Lewis and Larry Fluehr
 Publicity: TBD
 Preschool Outreach (storytime): Johanne Valentine and Diane Lewis
 Set Up & Unloading: Tim Rado and Bill Brown
 Decoration Committee: TBD
 Financial Records (daily recording): Laura Lankford
 Volunteer (shifts/staffing): Diane Lewis and Larry Fluehr

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 Diane Lewis or Larry Fluehr with questions or for more information.

Witness & Evangelism

Second Annual Rainbow Village Gala

“THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE HOME”

You will not want to miss this year’s Gala, a signature fundraising event benefiting Rainbow Village, our Gwinnett County transitional housing program for homeless families.

This year’s event will be Saturday, November 11th, at the Gwinnett Place Marriott. The evening will include dinner, a silent and live auction, and dancing to the music of “Ready or Not.” Something for everyone’s taste will be found in the silent auction: home accessories, gift baskets, seasonal items, sporting goods, art works, and more. The live auction will feature vacations to island beach resorts and other specialty items.

More important than the fun of this gala are the families who will be touched by the programs and services that the money raised will help provide. Make plans now to attend!

Tickets will be on sale within the next month, or by visiting www.rainbowvillage.org to make a reservation.

A Special Message-

African Mission Trip

Thank you all for your prayers and support for my mission trip to Uganda in September. I would ask for your continued prayers for both myself and the whole team. Pray especially for the health of the team as we will be traveling in an area known for malaria.

I am very excited that God has provided me this opportunity to be a blessing to our brothers and sisters in Uganda.

*Yours in Christ,
Duck Ae Karasek*

**BEST WISHES TO OUR
SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS**



- 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
- 28 Murphy Fry
- 30 Tim Rado