

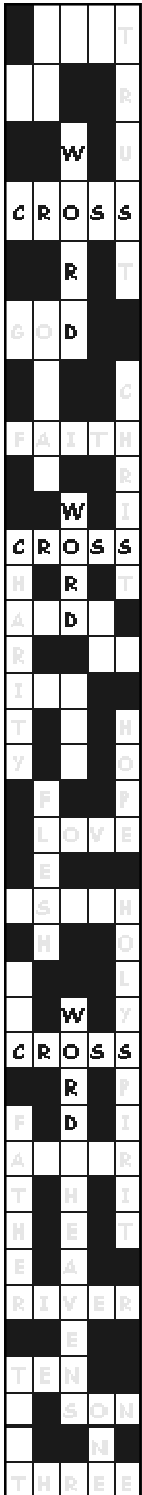


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THE NEWSLETTER OF NORCROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2006

Norcross, Georgia



Matt's Musings

That was a dozen of us a little over a year ago. We were on a mission trip to Hazel Green Kentucky, which wasn't even the middle of nowhere. The middle of nowhere was a good 10 mile drive from Hazel Green. We lived in conditions that were less than ideal, to say the least. The abandoned school in which we stayed had no A/C, what I presume was a good share of asbestos, and a dog next door

that howled all night, every night. All of that understood, it was somehow a trip that I hold close to my heart. It was a holy thing, working with and for the people we helped.

While we were on the trip, we talked about future mission trips, and how to get more people to join us in this sacred adventure. We came up with the idea of doing something closer to home. Calvin Center, a campground owned and operated by our Presbytery, offers Mission Work Camps. At Calvin, they are very organized, and offer nice facilities (including A/C). However, they haven't sprung for a howling dog. (I'll make up for that by howling all night for anyone who needs that.) They have a detailed schedule (they have been doing this for years) which includes morning contemporary worship (the leader promised lots of singing as the way to wake us up), breakfast, work, lunch, more work, clean up, dinner, and then nightly play before devotions. (Nightly play is swimming or ropes course, or something else they have at the camp).



So, we're looking at doing another Mission trip, possibly in July. The cost for the week would be \$400. If that is an issue, or would in any way slow you from going on this trip, talk to me, we will find some way to make this work. It promises to be a memorable, and even holy, time. Last time, many folks went as a family. This is again an option, and would make for a great family trip.

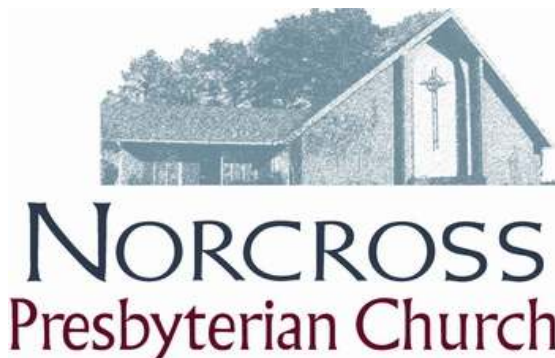


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People can attend as young as they want to be, or as old as they don't want to admit to being. I promise you this: you will come back simultaneously tired (physically) and energized (emotionally and spiritually). Please consider joining on an all ages mission trip Summer 2007.

Let's have an interest meeting on Sunday 22 October right after church. By coming to the meeting, you aren't signing up, just gathering information. Come find out how we can help people, and live out God's call for us.



As I am Always,
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).



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I just wanted to thank everyone again that helped get the new classroom together. It is so exciting that the preschool is growing and that we were able to get another classroom ready! The children love it! You all, the members of Norcross Presbyterian Church, are WONDERFUL! As always, the preschool is so fortunate to have the love and support of this congregation! THANK YOU!

Love - Melissa



CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS

Just a reminder that we are collecting Campbell's Soup Labels for the preschool. There is a collection bin in the narthex and a list of the labels that we can collect. If you have any questions, please ask Laura Harris (our label coordinator).

Thanks! Melissa

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

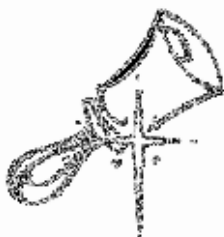
As we expand the scope of the Pumpkin Patch to benefit community missions as well as internal needs, it is the hope that more people will participate in the fun and fulfillment that come with working in the Patch. Look for more news in the narthex, upcoming bulletins, and next month's newsletter. Please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

Ever Been Accused of Being a *Ringer*?

Are you hiding your musical talent
under a soundproof basket?

The New NPC Ringers need *you!*

Ring
Out!



The New NPC Ringers are forming up now. We consist of youth and adult ringers. We have at least three slots still open and *you can fill one of them!*

We are looking for middle school and older people who can read a bit of music. By that we mean if you have ever played an instrument, or sung in a chorus, for at least a year — **you can do it.**

Our current ringers will help you get started. Ringing handbells is a community effort, and we are all in it together.

Details:

We rehearse every Sunday afternoon from 3:30 to 4:30, so it is convenient for those who are singing in the Youth Choir. It's a lot fun, and the sound is heavenly.

We participate in the worship service and in other events, learning about once piece a month. And did I already say the sound is heavenly, and it's a lot of fun?



A handbell choir is like one big instrument, and the ringers play it together. Talk to any of the NPC ringers to find out what it's like.

Give it a go. Contact Ken Birmingham or Beth Bowen with your questions.

-Ken



NPC Men's Group

**By
Tim Rado**

Autumn is in the air, the leaves are about to change and it is time to look back at what we have accomplished so far this year. As we started 2006, a men's group at NPC did not even exist, but in 9 short months we are flourishing. We now have 24 men involved in one way or another with the group. We have 3 small accountability groups that meet at various times — one in the early morning, one at lunchtime, and one in the evening — and the men's group as a whole currently meets once every quarter. We have approved funding in the amount of \$1,000.00 for Vacation Bible School next year; we have assumed responsibility for our annual BBQ; we are involved in a number of service projects including the Norcross Coop, the Clifton Men's Shelter, and the NPC Pumpkin Patch; and we always try to help out with workdays at the church. God is truly working with us to make our group an incredible ministry for NPC to reach out to the community. If you are currently involved, THANK YOU!! If you would like to get involved in any way, please get in touch with me as we would love for this ministry to continue to expand to greater heights!

Please keep in mind the following dates:

1. Unloading of pumpkins: Sunday, October 8th @ 12:30pm
2. NPC Pumpkin Patch: Monday, October 9th-Tuesday, October 31st
3. NPC Annual BBQ: cooking on Friday, October 20th, and BBQ/Bazaar on Saturday, October 21st
4. 4th Quarter Texas Hold 'Em Championship: Friday, November 10th @ the home of Glen Helmstetter

In His service,
Tim Rado

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.

NPC Players

ACTORS NEEDED for Christmas Drama!

If you are interested in participating in this year’s Christmas Drama- "Christmas Letters" please see Tanya!

Parts for 8 kids/youth and 6 Youth/Adults with little to NO memorization. A great opportunity for entire families to act together.

Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings beginning November 8th.

**BEST WISHES TO OUR
OCTOBER
BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS**



- 3 Lindsey 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