



CrossWord

THE NEWSLETTER OF NORCROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2007

Norcross, Georgia

Matt's Musings



Know what I love about Norcross Presbyterian Church? Many, Many things. The first is obvious, you people. You are a terrific, generous, "how can I help", fun-spirited, inclusive minded, family community. And each one of you is a great, salt of the earth person.

But what I also love is the general fun-spirited nature of the church as a whole. I don't know of many churches that would try to pull a fast one on the Pastor by getting over half of the congregation to wear pajamas to church, as you did on Christmas Morning 2005.

And I don't know any church that would let the Pastor pull a fast one on the congregation by waiting a year to wear his pajamas in church the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day in 2006. How many churches would be okay with the Pastor giving the Benediction looking like this?

Many times over the past year I have told folks about our church by saying something similar to this, "We are a group of people who take our relationship with God very seriously, and our relationship with each other as community is an important way in which we live out our relationship with God, so we take community seriously. We don't, however, in any way, take our religion seriously." I like that, and am glad to be a part of it here.

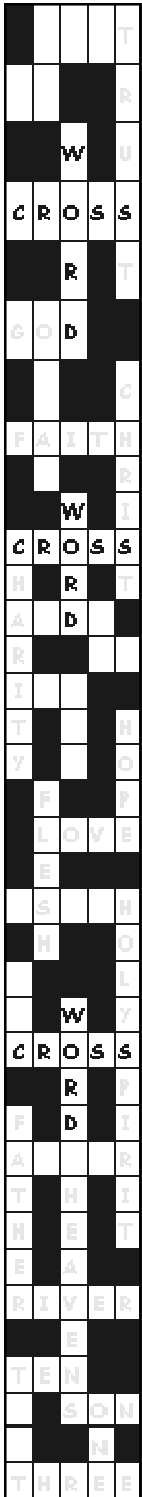
I'm looking forward to 2007, while we continue to travel through as a terrific, generous, "how can I help", fun-spirited, inclusive minded, family community.

May we always,

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).



NORCROSS Presbyterian Church

Table of Contents

Matt's Musings	Page 1	An Advent Thank you	Page 5
Staff Thank you/ NPC Childcare	Page 2	Birthdays	Page 6
NPC Men's Group	Page 3	Calendar	Page 7
NPC Ringers/ Music Dept.	Page 4		

Thank you from the NPC Staff...

On behalf of the entire staff at Norcross Presbyterian Church, we want to send our sincerest thanks to you for the staff gift that we were given this year. You give to us all year, by letting us be a part of this congregation. When you give us a generous staff bonus, it is an overabundant show of how wonderful you are, and how lucky we are to be able to work here and to call you our family.

Once again, thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Matt, Melissa, Beth, Chris, and Lisa



Dear Friends of NPC,

The teachers and I would like to thank you for the staff bonus we received this year at Christmastime! We were very touched by your generosity! And we are always very touched at the outpouring of love and support that you give the preschool day in and day out! Thank you!

All the staff of NPC Preschool

NPC Men's Group

By
Tim Rado

What an amazing year 2006 turned out to be for the NPC Men's Group. What started as an idea in February has turned into a group currently with 25 members that has pledged its support to NPC's Vacation Bible School both financially and with volunteer help throughout the week of VBS. We now have 3 small accountability groups that meet at various times for bible study and fellowship and we have adopted the following mission statement: **Through the joy of service, the fun of fellowship, and the accountability to each other, to grow in the abundant life of God into the men we are called to be!** We have also formed a Men's Group committee that includes myself, Rod Lewis, Jason Bernardo, Chip Plyler, Walter Cochran and Glen Helmstetter which with God's help will take the group to even greater heights in 2007!

Our next monthly meeting will be held at the home of Doug Fuller and will be the first of six Texas Hold 'Em championships scheduled for 2007. If you plan to attend, please let me know ASAP so Doug can plan properly for the amount of food which I have been told will be Dreamland BBQ. Who will be the first to hold the title in 2007? I have been informed that our current champion, Walter Cochran, plans on retaining the belt and will not go down without a fight! We will also be assisting Glen Helmstetter with the Hosea Feed the Hungry program on Sunday, January 14th. Please let me know if you would like to help out loading the trucks at the warehouse in preparation for the next day's meal on Martin Luther King's birthday. I know they could use our help and it is an excellent way for our group to reach out and serve the greater Atlanta community. We will probably meet and leave right after church. We are also always in need of volunteers to help prepare and serve a meal on the first Saturday of the month at the Clifton Men's Shelter. If you are interested in serving here, please contact Marc Karasek who has been heading this up for many years!

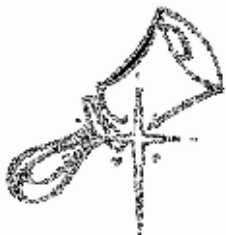
Once again, I would like to invite any man in the church to join and grow with us as we do God's work here on Earth. You can join in whatever capacity you choose and I assure you that your spiritual growth will soar!! I would also like to thank all of those men who participated in our group in 2006 and look forward to your continued support in the coming years!

In His service,
Tim Rado

The New NPC Ringers Page

January 2007

Ring
Out!



The New NPC Ringers are ringing away! We consist of youth and adult ringers. We participate in services on a regular basis!

Thanks to all those who added so much to worship with their playing.

If you are interested in ringing we are considering starting a handbell workshop open to 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.** If there is enough interest we may begin a second choir or extend the range of the current one.

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

Notes from the Choir Loft...



Thank you to everyone here at Norcross Presbyterian for welcoming me and my son into your family. I appreciate so much the caring and support we have received as a part of this fellowship over the past few months.

So many of you have expressed how the Lessons and Carols, Handbell Choir, Ken's Offertory, and other seasonal music added to your Christmas joy. Believe it or not, preparations for Easter have already begun. This year's Easter presentation, *The Resurrection and The Life*, will be a powerful message portraying the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Right now is the perfect time to join the Chancel "in the loft" or maybe participation in the Cantata alone. Anyone and everyone are welcome as you feel the call for music ministry. We will need the following members for the production: 12 disciples, crowd people, children, guards, Sanhedrin, Pilate as well as tech crew, make up, set builders, and those who can sew costumes.

Please let me know if you are interested in helping us in any way. You may have an idea for service that is not listed here. If God is moving you to be involved there is a place for you.

The Cantata will be Sunday morning, April 1st. Chancel Choir meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. and we will be practicing the Cantata music first for those who are only singing during the Cantata. Acting rehearsals will be limited (3-4 rehearsals). Dress rehearsals are Thursday, March 29th and Saturday, March 31st.

Beth Bowen

Wasn't Advent Fantastic?

*a special thank you
from Tanya Carroll*

What a fantastic Advent we have had. The traditions that we at Norcross Presbyterian have established throughout the years have become events that everyone looks forward to and have come to expect. As fun and inspiring as they are they are often a lot of work to prepare and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those folks who always seem to step up and get the job done. I know this is a dangerous thing to do because I am bound to leave someone out but there are a few folks that are always there and they deserve a pat on the back from all of us.

First, Bob Norman, for coordinating and sweating through the Hanging and un-hanging of the Greens. It's a tough job but someone has to see that it gets done!

Maryann Peterson for her supervision of the "Cookie Bake" for the shut-ins. They looked delicious with the fruit baskets.

Diane Lewis for coordinating the route and her Carolers for taking the time to go visit our shut-in's and bring them some Christmas Cheer. Letting them know that they are always in our thoughts and prayers.

A big thank you to Carol MacGregor and Paula Smith, the PW, and our shopping helpers for making sure the children from Rainbow Village have the presents they need for their families and enjoy fellowship together at the Pizza Party.

Beth's leadership and the voices of our incredible choir filled the sanctuary at Lessons and Carols and Alan Lankford's reading of the word was very moving. I especially enjoyed Beth's choice of programs this year because it allowed the congregation to feel that we were a part of the choir as well and not just spectators.

And, of course, I want to thank the actors in this year's Christmas Drama. It was neat to see the multi-generational cast. The younger kids like Madison, Kayla and Matthew reading and memorizing their parts was inspiring for us older actors to see!

Thanks to Chris and the youth for babysitting our children so we could shop and to the families that opened their homes and fed our youth during the Progressive Dinner so they could spend some time together during this hectic time of year.

A great big Thank you goes to everyone who pitched in and brought food, set up tables and stayed to clean up our fabulous Christmas Luncheon . What a wonderful feast and fellowship.

As you pass these folks in the hall or sit next to them in the pews remember to thank them, and the folks that worked with them, for making this Advent Season such a special time for all of us.

Tanya Carroll
Elder of Music and Worship
Class of 2006

**BEST WISHES TO OUR
JANUARY
BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS**



- 9 Seung Jun Jemmings
- 9 Larry Fluehr
- 10 Sheryl Murphy
- 13 Jack Crymes
- 15 Walter Cochran
- 16 Jonathan Bartlett
- 18 Lee Smith
- 23 Julie Kaul
- 25 Dan Herron
- 28 Elizabeth Currier
- 30 Allie Carroll
- 30 Jim Martin
- 31 Pam Fox

January 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 6:30 Boy Scouts	<i>2</i> 7-9:30 District BSA Commissioners Meeting	<i>3</i> School resumes 5:45 Dinner—Helmstetter team 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Adult Choir 8:30 KYC Worship	<i>4</i> 10:00 Mom's Club of Duluth	<i>5</i> 7:00 Boy Scout campout 9:00 KYC Prayer Meeting	<i>6</i> 7:00am-9:30pm Boy Scout campout 9:00am-noon Session Retreat
<i>7</i> 7:00 Boy Scout campout 9:15 SS/NPC 10:30 Worship NPC 11:30 SS/KYC 1:00 Worship KYC 2:00 KYC Fellowship 3:30 Bell Choir 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Group	<i>8</i> 6:30 Boy Scouts	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 5:45 Dinner—Plyler/Youth team 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Adult Choir 8:30 KYC Worship	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 9:00 KYC Prayer Meeting	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 9:15 SS/NPC 10:30 Worship NPC 11:30 SS/KYC 1:00 Worship KYC 2:00 KYC Fellowship 3:30 Bell Choir 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Group	<i>15</i> Martin Luther King Day — Preschool and Office closed	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 5:45 Dinner—Fry team 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Adult Choir 8:30 KYC Worship	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 9:00 KYC Prayer Meeting	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 9:15 SS/NPC 9:15 Discovery class 10:30 Worship NPC 11:30 SS/KYC 1:00 Worship KYC 2:00 KYC Fellowship 3:00 Session Mtg. 3:30 Bell Choir 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Group	<i>22</i> 6:30 Boy Scouts	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> <i>Deadline for Feb. newsletter</i> 5:45 Dinner—Karasek team 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Adult Choir 8:30 KYC Worship	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> 9:00 KYC Prayer Meeting	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 9:15 SS/NPC 9:15 Discovery class 10:30 Worship NPC 11:30 SS/KYC 1:00 Worship KYC 2:00 KYC Fellowship 3:30 Bell Choir 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Group	<i>29</i> 6:30 Boy Scouts	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 5:45 Dinner—Plyler/Bartlett team 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Adult Choir 8:30 KYC Worship			