



# CrossWord

THE NEWSLETTER OF NORCROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JUNE 2007

Norcross, Georgia

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## Matt's Musings

Summer break. The screams of excitement emanating from the High School can almost be heard at the church from the release of being free for the summer. No more teachers, no more books, no more studying, no more homework...freedom. Vacations are planned; time seeing family or friends, or just time away is scheduled. Time spent doing nothing is in the near future.

How many of your favorite childhood memories involve summer break? I can immediately think of several. That one year we took our camper, hitched it to our station-wagon, and drove 3 days to see my Grandmother in Minnesota. The countless hours my friends and I spent playing wiffle ball. His yard had some ivy in it, so his was Wrigley Field. Mine had a tall section of trees in left field, so mine was Fenway. Or playing in the creek until mom would come out and yell "It's 6:00, time for dinner." Riding our bikes all over the neighborhood and the surrounding areas. And saving enough money to walk to the Baptist Church and buy a coke for a quarter (and being told by my dad over and over again how he remembered cokes going from a nickel to six cents).

But we are older now. Times have changed and all that. I don't play wiffle ball anymore (though I'll take any challengers). I don't play in the creek much. Making dams or having soda can races just doesn't have the same appeal. I do ride my bike some, but now it is for exercise. And cokes don't cost a quarter anywhere, and now I find I have a hard time drinking them because they leave me bloated all day (isn't getting older fun?).

Here's my goal over the summer. I am hoping to try to create more memories not only for my children, but for my wife and me. I am hoping to find some time where the responsibilities go from deadlines and details to being able to answer the question, "What next?" with "I don't know, nothing I guess." I may try to listen to more music and sit on my back porch. I may try to play more and work less. I hope to relax more and stress less. I may try not to over-schedule myself, especially when it comes to relax time, and just see what opportunities come next. That's my plan, and I hope to stick to it.

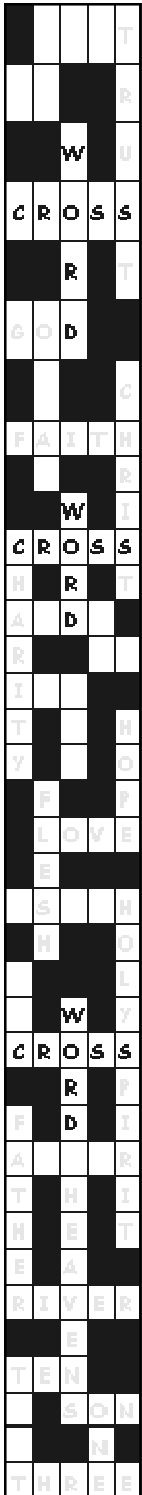
How do you plan to enjoy your summer?

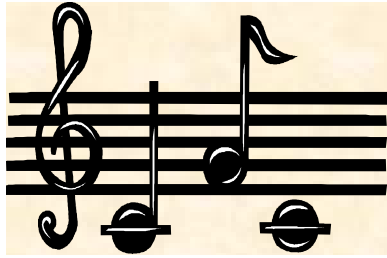
Be Well,



# NORCROSS Presbyterian Church

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)





## Notes from the Choir Loft

Dear NPC Family,

Thank you so much for all of your love and support this past year. Serving in ministry with you has been a blessing and I have learned so much both spiritually and musically as your Director of Music Ministries. A special thank you to Ken and Laura who have shepherded me through Praise Band and to Rodney and Diane for their fabulous technical support. Everyone in the choir has done so much in stepping outside their comfort zone to sing solos, prepare new anthems, and participate in drama. A HUGE thank you to all of you for singing in the loft every Sunday with the right attitude of praise and service.

I do feel this is the right path for my family although I am sad to leave you. I am very confident that God will send the right person to lead you on in your journey of worship through music. Please continue to pray for me just as I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers. You can always reach me at chorusmom@hotmail.com or 404-786-6227.

Beth Bowen



Well, our school year has come and gone and what a great year it has been! One of the reasons it has been a great year is because of the love and support we get from you all!! We would not be who and what we are without the church! So, thank you for all of your encouragement, love and support!

I also wanted to thank many people that helped at our end of the year program on Friday, May 18th! Bill Brown and Rodney Lewis grilled the hot dogs, Rodney and Matt helped with technical issues (sound, slideshow, etc.), Chris was the "herder" of children and helped with the program, and Sandy Plyler and Lisa Knowles pretty much did the rest - got the food table set up, made lemonade, brought out the food as it was ready, and even during all of this chaos, they also helped "herd" the children into the sanctuary, and helped the Alphabet Pals get their caps and gowns on! So, as you can see, I could not do the end of the year program without your help! So, from our hearts to yours, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!!!!

One more thank you - thank you so much for the flowers and gift card that was given to me on Sunday! I was very surprised and very touched! You know in your heart when you are in a good job situation and I certainly do since I am surrounded by the love of the church - and for this I am truly thankful!

Much love and appreciation - Melissa



## *Vacation Bible School*

*Sunday, July 15- Thursday, July 19th*

*6:00 Dinner for kids and families*

*6:30-8:30 VBS Program*

**This year's VBS is called "Son Force Kids ". The children will be "Special Agents". We will be studying the Old Testament stories about Moses, Esther, Daniel, Jeremiah and Joshua. Volunteers will be needed to cover a variety of activities.**

**If you are interested in helping with VBS or Summer Sunday School, please contact Amanda Helmstetter or Linda Smith, this year's VBS directors.**

*Look for registration forms in the narthex or online at  
[www.norcrossprebyterian.org](http://www.norcrossprebyterian.org)*

# **NPC Men's Group**

**By  
Tim Rado**

Wow!! It is already June and so much is happening with the Men's Group, it is truly unbelievable. I really want to thank everyone that is involved with the group and encourage every man at NPC to become a part of this growing ministry . We are involved in service projects, prayer groups, small group study, vacation bible school and the pumpkin patch as well as our bi-monthly fellowship get together otherwise known as our Texas Hold Em, trash talking and bragging rights championship (Also our main source of generating revenue for some very worthwhile projects)! Speaking of that, we held our third championship of the year at the new home of Pastor Matt Fry. Matt and Glen Helmstetter prepared a wonderful low country boil with shrimp, sausage, potatoes and corn along with some pasta and chicken wings and other delicacies. This time around, Chip Plyler took third place honors. Mr. Consistency, Rod Lewis, moved up a notch to second place (I see a belt in your future) and our new champion and first second time winner is Matt Fry (I am not sure, but I think he had mirrors installed in his new home in just the right spots). Congratulations Matt! We also crowned another two time winner?? in George Tatro who won our very first championship and is now the proud owner of the dreaded rabbit!! George, we could not ask for a better person to possess this sacred treasure except maybe Chris McCurdy!

All fun aside, we also discussed and voted on some future projects that I hope all the men will get involved in. First, in addition to setting up the pumpkin patch, unloading pumpkins, working the patch and running the annual BBQ, the Men's Group has voted to take on the responsibility of handling all the publicity this year. We hope to make this the best patch ever and look forward to surpassing our past sales. This is always a huge undertaking, so please plan to help out as much as possible. Keep in mind that not only is this a great outreach to the community, but the funds we raise support mission trips, summer camps and usually a couple of other worthwhile projects! Second, the group has voted to have a Breakfast with Santa Claus this year as an outreach to the community. In addition to breakfast, there will be Christmas music and the children can have their picture taken with Santa. We are just in the planning stages of this so stay tuned for more details.

As always, I want to thank everyone who is involved in one way or another with the Men's Group and truly look forward to our group growing and this ministry reaching out even more to the community at large and being the light to others to grow closer in their walk with God!

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Rado

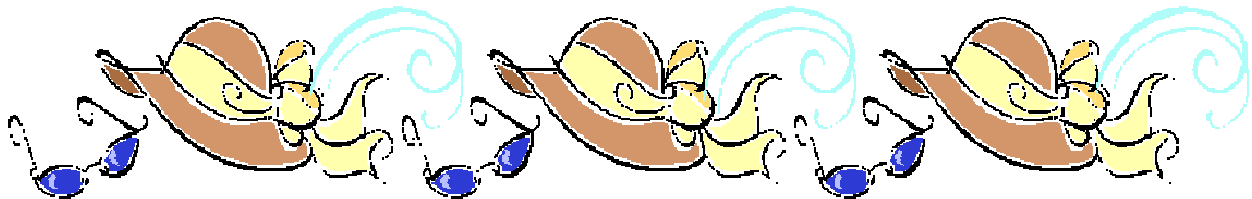
# Presbyterian Women: Opportunities in the Coming Months

By Carol MacGregor

“Above and Beyond” is the title of a new **Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study** that focuses on hearing God’s call in Jonah and Ruth. Columbia Theological Seminary is offering four summer choices of courses that use this study to offer women (and men as well) an opportunity to explore these two biblical texts. Check out the poster on the church bulletin board for the June and August dates, and look for brochures on the Presbyterian Women bulletin board. Or online, go to [www.ctsnet.edu](http://www.ctsnet.edu), click on ‘Lifelong Learning’, then ‘Courses & Events.’

**Montreat Women’s Conference** will take place July 28th to August 1st. There, women will participate in bible study, music, recreation, fellowship, and conversation, all in the beautiful setting of the Montreat Conference Center. This year’s theme is “Come Hide and Go Seek: The Connection” (see Joshua 2:16). Questions can be phoned to Montreat (828-669-2911) or online at [www.montreat.org](http://www.montreat.org).

**2007 Gathering for Presbyterian Women of the Synod of South Atlantic** will be held October 26 to 28 at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simon’s Island, Georgia. Its theme is “Here Am I, Lord” using the words of Isaiah 6:8. Information about this triennial gathering is on the Presbyterian Women bulletin board.



## Witness and Evangelism Committee Supports:

Norcross Presbyterian Church is proud and supportive of our own membership's mission-activists who will be making trips this year.

Currently Alicia Villalobos is heading to the JH Ranch in California for a summer of volunteer staffing at Christian teen camps. Please support her in prayer and in help for her living expenses.

In July Duck Ae Karasek will be joining Helping Hands Foreign Missions for a trip to Mongolia, and will minister to children in arts and crafts and music (including harmonicas). She has offered her artwork for sale in our area, and is willing to sell to NPC members for near-cost pricing to raise funds. Please contact her at 770-418-9089 for more information and offer your support.

In August Bobby Akines, a new UGA graduate, will join the English Language Institute/China (ELIC) as a teacher of English language in China. He will be living there for a year, and witnessing quietly for Christ; he needs much support, especially by prayer warriors. Please let him know you want to sign up for his calendar of prayer support, as well as for financial support.

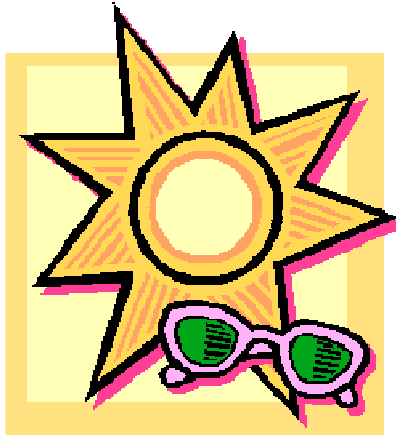
In September, Pam Fox will make a return trip to Uganda with Helping Hands Foreign Missions, and take her son Zachary Duncan with her, to do further medical work and support the village and orphanage there.

We are very proud that our relatively small church has produced so many mission-takers; and although not all of us can physically "go ye into all the world," we can join in spreading the message of God's love through our dedicated prayers and financial support.

**Below is a compilation of information for helping you send your financial support to our mission-makers (please include their name on your check):**

- **BOBBY AKINES**  
Make check to ELIC and mail to:  
English Language Institute/China  
P.O. Box 265  
San Dimas, CA 91773
- **PAM FOX and son ZACHARY DUNCAN**  
Make check to Helping Hands Foreign Missions Inc. and mail to Pam at:  
3821 Meeting Street  
Duluth, GA 30096
- **DUCK AE KARASEK**  
Make check payable to Helping Hands Foreign Missions Inc. and mail to:  
Helping Hands Foreign Missions  
1715 Cleveland Highway  
Gainesville, GA 30501
- **ALICIA VILLALOBOS**  
Make check to Alicia Villalobos and mail to:  
2355 Edge Court  
Duluth, GA 30096

**BEST WISHES TO OUR  
JUNE  
BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS**



- 1 Tom Ferraiolo
- 5 Linda Smith
- 6 Laura Harris
- 10 Duck Ae Karasek
- 10 Andy Greenway
- 14 Paula Smith
- 19 Cynthia Correa
- 21 Zach Duncan
- 24 Sarah Brown
- 28 Chris McCurdy