

August
2007

Rally Day Round-Up 2007

The Lord said go to the land and I will show you the way.

(from Genesis 12)

Let's get "loaded up" for the journey all Northwest pilgrims. It's time to "round up" everyone and begin a new year of Sunday School. We plan to journey to a new land of spiritual growth and Biblical knowledge as we begin our travels into the 2007-08 year of Sunday School.

Think about some of the great journeys in the biblical stories. Abraham and Sara journeyed to a new place where God promised new land and many descendants. Moses and the Hebrew people journeyed from slavery in Egypt to a new land promised by God filled with "milk and honey." Paul journeyed from Jerusalem to Greece and Rome establishing new churches that are the foundation for the Christian church.

Think about some of the great journeys in history. Columbus journeyed across the great Atlantic to discover the "new world" of the Americas. Louis and Clark journeyed all the way across our great country to the Pacific and set the tone for the westward movement. American astronauts journeyed to the moon and back to explore the frontiers of space.

Our Christian Education wagon train journey begins with our big Rally Day round-up, Sunday, August 19. Hot breakfast chow will be served at 9AM. Music and storytelling will follow for everyone at 9:40 AM during Sunday School for all ages. We will also look down the trail at new studies during the upcoming months. Worship will be highlighted with our third graders receiving Bibles and an emphasis on the teaching ministry of the church. The lunch chow menu will be a cook-out consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs, beans, slaw, brownies and popsicles. (Please RSVP lunch reservations to the office by Tuesday, August 14.) Young buckaroos can play on the waterslide following chow time—bring your swimsuit and a towel. WOW what a round-up! Don't miss this wagon train and the opportunity God gives you to make Sunday School a regular part of your Christian journey.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS:

The friend of childhood; the inspiration of youth;

The strength of middle life; the comfort of declining years

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS:

God's day for its time; God's house for its place;

God's book for its text; God's glory for its aim.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Builds character; instructs the mind; warms the heart;

Encourages the fainthearted; shields the tempted;

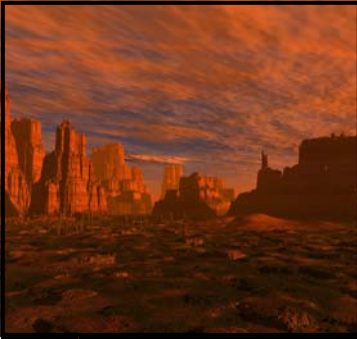
Points the way of life to all.

Sallie McDaniel
Director of Christian Education



NORTHWEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Northwest Passages



Pastor Nominating Committee Update



Our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has formed and has begun its work. The six committee members, Brad Miller, Chair; Susan Brown, Corresponding Secretary; Ellen Carrington, Recording Secretary; Jamie Milton, Dan Laney, and Jack Pinkerton have held three meetings and have begun working on their first order of business - completing the Church Information Form - which will be posted on the national Presbyterian Church website for potential candidates to access. At its second meeting on July 24th, the committee met with their Greater Atlanta Presbytery Committee on Ministry liaison, Mary Caroline Lindsay, and received an orientation session on PNC policies and procedures.

The PNC welcomes your input into our process. First, we invite any candidate recommendations you may have. If you know of a minister who you feel may be an ideal candidate, please feel free to contact any member of the team to pass along this information. We also welcome your answer to the following question: "Describe your ideal Senior Pastor." The committee would love to hear from you about the characteristics and qualities you feel should be present in our candidates. Please call any committee member to share your thoughts on this question. Your input will be greatly valued and appreciated. And, don't be surprised if a committee member approaches you for your answer to this important question!

The PNC process is a slow and steady one, but you can be assured that your committee members will commit to performing a thorough, thoughtful, and prayerful search for the next leader of our church. Please pray for our team and its mission often. And thank you for your patience and support as we quietly go about our work.

Faithfully,

Your Pastor Nominating Committee

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Transforming Worship



What's happening in worship? One of the greatest challenges to mainline churches in the 21st century is create vital, exciting, and transforming worship that will help us shed the image of being the "frozen chosen" and offer an "experience of God" rather than simply a "reflection about God." Vibrant worship is one of the primary practices of growing mainline congregations. This does not mean we need to follow the model of mega-churches, but it does mean we could benefit from exploring some different ways of glorifying God.

If you've been in church this summer, you may have noticed changes in the order of Sunday worship. Some of you have told me you like the change; others have expressed concern. Let me explain the reason for this variation in our worship order. It begins with an article from *Northwest Passages* in 1997. In that newsletter, the previous NWPC Pastor Nominating Committee wrote about unexpected and surprising aspects of their search. It read, in part:

Surprise 3: Difference in orders of worship. We have found that of the various Presbyterian churches we have visited, many use a different order in the worship service. Probably the most common differences we have noted are that many ... take up the collection after the sermon."

This different order of worship is actually a very old order. It is very similar to the one used by John Calvin, the "father" of our Reformed faith, and it was re-discovered in the Presbyterian Church in the 1980s. This order is called the *Service for the Lord's Day*, and is printed on page 12 of *The Presbyterian Hymnal* in our pews.

As I discussed with the Session in June, I want to introduce you to this order of worship because it is the one taught in Presbyterian seminaries for the past 25 years, and therefore is likely the one with which your next pastor will be familiar. For example, the associate pastor at my previous church, who is under 30 years old and a lifelong Presbyterian, told me this *Service for the Lord's Day* is the only order he ever knew!

At one of our Wednesday Night Supper programs in September we will learn more about the theological basis for this order. There will be an opportunity then to discuss your ideas about Sunday worship, and think together about how we can weave together both old and new forms to create worship that is meaningful to this congregation.

Simply changing the order of worship will not produce vital, transforming worship. However, if we can risk some small changes – such as moving the Apostles' Creed and the offering so they will be part of our response to hearing the Good News – then we may be ready for some of the exciting innovations your next pastor may bring.

I look forward to worshipping with you Sunday!

Mary Jane

Rally Day is August 19th!

Breakfast Chow: 9:00 a.m.

Church School: 9:40 a.m.

Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Lunch chow: 12:00 p.m.



With a water slide for the kids!

Session Meeting Minutes—June 2007

At its June meeting, the Session approved the following items:

- Rev. Larry Owens, regional representative for Thornwell Home for Children, as supply pastor on Sunday, August 10
- Youth Director Jaime Brewington, M.Div., as supply pastor on Sunday, September 23
- Wedding of Christy Boyette and Brent Davis, son of Pat and Charles Davis, on Saturday, July 21
- Request from Alliance Children's Theater to use parking lot for their Christmas House, on various dates in November and December

In other business, the session made plans to review Northwest's mission and long-range plan at its retreat in August, in conjunction with the search for a new pastor. It also began planning for Rally Day on August 19th.



Presbyterian Women News

Come Hide and Go Seek Retreat Was a Gift!



This 4-day women's retreat was a wonderfully relaxing and spiritually recharging experience for the eight women from Northwest who attended in late July. Keynote speaker, Rev. Cynthia Hale from the Ray of Hope church in Decatur, GA challenged the group of over 200 women from churches around the country to become "Women of Influence" and to take time to "Come Hide and Go Seek" a deeper relationship with God. This conference, held at the Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, North Carolina, was the first of its kind sponsored by The Women's Connection. Plans are already underway for a second conference next summer. **Women, you'll want to mark your calendars now for August 3-7, 2008 for the next conference entitled "God's Troublemakers: How Women of Faith are Changing the World."**

Epworth by the Sea St. Simons Island, October 26th-28th

The Synod of the South Atlantic hosts this triennial gathering amongst the stately oaks of St Simons. This year's theme is "Here Am I, Lord. Send Me!" Choose from fifteen workshops, walk on the beach, eat seafood, worship in a wooden church on the bluffs of the Frederica River.... need I say more? Let Lynne Miller know if you are interested in attending this retreat (404-943-0279 or led.miller@comcast.net)



Presbyterian Homes to Hold Benefit Golf Tournament



On Sunday, November 4th a golf tournament will be held to benefit the Caring Hands Fund, which helps those living at Presbyterian Homes whose retirement resources have run out. PGA Tour pro, Davis Love III will offer a clinic prior to the tournament. Prizes will be offered! For more information, contact Jerry Dean Weber at 404-231-5738 or jdweber@phginc.org.

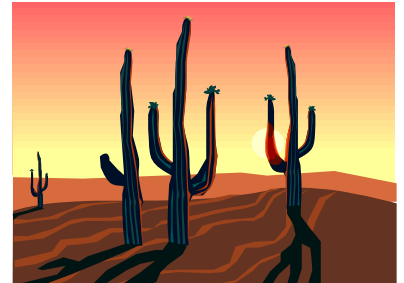
Presbyterian Foundation Seeking Development Officer

This position calls for a commitment to Jesus Christ through the church, an evident love for all people of varying views and personalities, a commitment to the governance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a responsible affirmation of personal stewardship, and a concern for the financial support of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Position Summary

The Development Officer is the primary source of fund development in the interest of mission causes related to congregations, presbyteries, synods, the General Assembly, and Presbyterian-related organizations and institutions. This is accomplished through various charitable and investment strategies, including wills emphasis, deferred giving, investment management and life income plans. This position also promotes the sale of mutual funds and trust services to interested prospects.

Nominations, referrals, and expressions of interest may be directed to: Paul H. Grier, Regional Vice-President, Presbyterian Foundation, 1026 Ponce de Leon Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30306, Atlanta Telephone (404) 876-1006, Facsimile (630) 982-4770, E-Mail: PHG@fdn.pcusa.org



Fellowship News

As Fall approaches the Fellowship Team is planning many exciting Wednesday Night Supper and Sunday Lunch Together events. The first event will be our **kick-off Sunday Lunch Together on Rally Day, August 19th**, immediately following the worship service. Make plans now to stay after church for a delicious meal of **cowboy-style chow with all the trimmings!** Kids should bring **bathing suits and towels for the annual water rodeo (water slide) after lunch!**

Our next event will be our **Fall Kick-Off Wednesday Night Supper**, which will be held on **September 12th at 6:00 p.m.** If you want to take a night off from cooking, be sure to mark your calendar and bring the whole family to our Wednesday evening dinners for some great food and wonderful fellowship around the tables!

Look for more details about all of our upcoming events in the September edition of the Northwest Passages!



Welcome to New Staff Member James Day

If you see a new face around the Northwest grounds, please extend a welcome to our new, part-time custodian, James Day. James will be helping out around the church for approximately 15 hours each week.

We would also like to recognize and thank Dick Walters, who will now be on call to help our church on an "as needed" basis.



Reverend Larry Owens to Preach on August 12th

On Sunday, August 12th, we will welcome Rev. Larry Owens as our guest preacher. Larry is well-known in Atlanta as a dynamic preacher who brings energy and insight into proclaiming God's Word.

An ordained Presbyterian minister, Larry Owens, is director of development in Georgia for Thornwell Home for Children, a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina since 1875. Thornwell provides a home "village" for children who have been displaced from their families.

During his professional career in corporate America, he identified himself as a "tent-maker" pastor of the Presbyterian Church (USA), serving three small but exuberant congregations successively in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta while working in the marketplace. His dual involvement in the workplace and the Church gave him a unique perspective on living the faith in a consumer-driven culture.

Prior to joining Thornwell, he was president of Hospitality International, Inc., an Atlanta-based hotel company advertised as "the best little hotel company in America" with over 300 franchised locations in 35 states as well as the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Costa Rica.

Larry holds undergraduate degrees in Accounting and in Christian Education, along with master degrees in Divinity and in Christian Education, and recent advanced studies in theology at Columbia Theological Seminary.

We look forward to Larry's message for us on the 12th.



Fall Volunteer Opportunities

The Witness Team looks forward to working alongside our Northwest Church family to live our faith through community and global outreach programs. Volunteers are now needed on a monthly basis to prepare and deliver a noon meal to **Common Ground**. This program, sponsored by the Atlanta Interfaith Aids Network, helps to provide a daily spiritual, emotional and practical support group for those suffering from AIDS.

Also, for Northwest members who appreciate the cool nip of autumn air, the smell of fresh popcorn and hay, the sight of orange pumpkins and children smiling and running about, we invite you to help us plan our **Third Annual Fall Festival** which is open to our members and the surrounding community alike.

To volunteer for either of these opportunities, email or call Catherine Ealick-Anderson. Stay tuned for more information!



Catherine Ealick-Anderson (mce@jmalawfirm.com or 404 983 5946), Bob Meier & Jim Caldwell

Call, Write, or Visit

Please remember the following members and friends of the church who are unable to attend on a regular basis:

Mr. Robert Carter, 445 Forest Valley Road, Atlanta, GA 30340, Phone # 404-255-8189

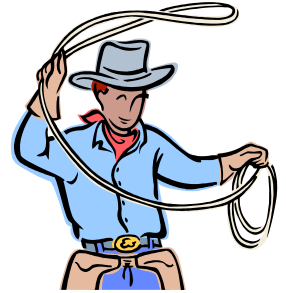
Ms. Leedel Prince, Brighton Gardens of Vinings, 2401 Cumberland Parkway, Room 260, Atlanta, GA 30339

Ms. Mary Ann Hagewood, 3088 Lenox Road, #335, Atlanta, GA 30324, Phone # 404-949-0143

Ms. Louise Flemister, 1000 Maplewood Drive, Apt. 167, Roswell, GA 30076, Phone # 770-641-7045

Mr. Bob Phelps, 680 Willow Creek Drive, Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Ms. Vivian McClendon, 2401 Cumberland Parkway, #265, Atlanta, GA 30339



The pastoral staff welcomes the opportunity to serve the Lord's Supper to anyone who is unable to attend worship on a regular basis. Please contact the church office to make these arrangements. If you or a loved one would like to be placed on this Call, Write, or Visit list, please contact the church office at 404-237-5539.

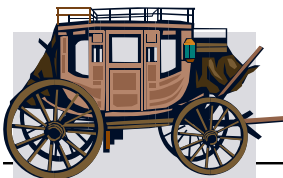
Dates to Remember in August

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Sunday, August 19th: | Rally Day & Lunch |
| Return to breakfast, church school and 11:00 worship | |
| Friday-Saturday, Aug. 24-25: | Session Retreat |
| Sunday, August 26th: | Youth kick-off |

Financial Highlights — June 30, 2007

| | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | Previous Year |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Revenue | \$354,069 | \$380,000 | \$371,807 |
| Expenses | <u>(386,007)</u> | <u>(380,000)</u> | <u>(375,798)</u> |
| | (\$31,938) | \$ 0 | (\$3,990) |
| Pledge/Contr. | \$327,736 | \$ 347,999 | \$306,319 |
| > Total Operating Cash | | | (\$25,531) |

Please get those summer "catch-up" pledges in to help get us back in the black! Thanks!



Northwest Presbyterian Church
4300 Northside Drive
Atlanta, GA 30327
www.nwpcatlanta.org
404-237-5539

Northwest Youth!!



Wild, Wild (north)West Party!

Join us on August 26th from 6-8pm in the Youth Lodge for our Kick-Off Party! New 6th graders are especially invited to join us for this event. Please invite & bring friends for this night of food, fun, friends, door prizes, a costume contest, and a photo slide show from the past year. It won't be the same without everyone there!

Please call (404.237.5539) or email (jaime@nwpcatlanta.org) Jaime to RSVP for Northwest youth and their

