



THE KIRK NEWS

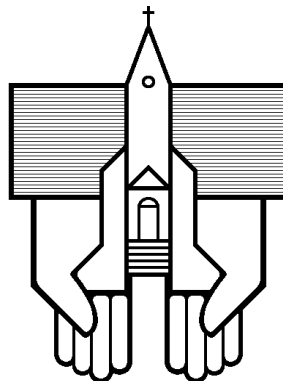
January 2010

Volume XXXII No.1

The Nor'kirk Presbyterian is the 2004 recipient of the Katharine Hawes Award for Effective Youth Ministry, given by Union Seminary in Richmond, Virginia

North Texas Celebration (NTC #9). Camp Gilmont, Gilmer, Texas January 16th – 18th, 2010

North Texas Celebration is a fun-filled spiritual development weekend; great music, exciting games, inspiring talks, and lots of cool people! A youth version of Presbyterian Cursillo. The staff is made up of youth who have attended prior weekends. They advertize a "COOL" Presbyterian spiritual advisor who will be present throughout the weekend. This time it's our own Dr. Parr. This is Bill's second time to be the spiritual advisor, having been there when Lauren Brown was the Moderator of a previous event. It's for Senior High youth 9th through 12 grade. Although sponsored by the Presbyterians, any youth from any church can come. Many of our youth have attended and staff the previous 8 camps. This events Moderator is Brad Davis from our Wednesday Shindig group. One of the best parts of the weekend are lots of big and little surprises that will help the young people understand how much God really loves us! For more information, and how to register, e-mail Brad at randomcuban@yahoo.com and get involved.



*Lord, you have been
our dwelling place
in all generations.*

Psalm 90:1

January Lectionary

January 3 – 2nd Sunday after Christmas – Communion Sunday

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20;
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18

January 10 – Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Isaiah 43:1-7; Palm 29; Acts 8:14-17;
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17 – 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10;
I Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 24 – 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19;
I Corinthians 12:12-31; Luke 4:14-21

January 31 – 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
I Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-31

Adult Sunday School Classes

"Being Christian" ~ Please plan on joining us each Sunday at 9:30 am in the last room on the right of the CE Wing for our newest adult Sunday School. "Being Christian" take the fundamentals of our faith and provides the opportunity to discuss the bible, our faith and our history. On December 13, we began our journey through the Gospel of Matthew. Please contact Tim McNutt at 214.215.4065 or tim.mcnutt@brightco.com if you have questions or need any additional information - Tim McNutt

Freewill, the fall from Grace, the first promises made by God to mankind of our salvation, and even the first records of international conflicts between nation-states: all of this can be found in the first book of the Pentateuch, the Book of Genesis, a 2500 year account from the creation to Israel's arrival in Egypt. The Adult Bible Study will embark on its journey through the Bible starting with this book that serves as the foundation for our beliefs. On December 28th, we started a 20 week in-depth study of this book. It's not too late to join us! All materials for the class will be provided; all that you need to bring is a copy of the Bible and an inquiring mind as we discuss the roots of the creation story, the covenant made by God to Abraham and his family, and the story behind Joseph and how the Israelites came to Egypt. - John Reas



This month I want to offer up a New Year's Prayer that I hope you will pray throughout the month.

O Lord, length of days does not profit me except the days are passed in thy presence in thy service, to thy glory.

Give me a grace that precedes, follows, guides, sustains, sanctifies, aids every hour, that I may not be one moment apart from thee, but may rely on thy Spirit to supply every thought, speak in every word, direct every step, prosper every work, build up every mote of faith, and give me a desire to show forth thy praise, testify thy love, advance thy kingdom.

I launch my bark on the unknown waters of this year, with thee, O Father, as my harbor, thee, O Son, at my helm, thee, O Holy Spirit, filling my sails.

Guide me to heaven with my loins girt, my lamp burning, my ear open to thy calls, my heart full of love, my soul free.

Give me thy grace to sanctify me, thy comforts to cheer, thy wisdom to teach, thy right hand to guide, thy counsel to instruct, thy law to judge, thy presence to stabilize. May thy fear be my awe, thy triumphs my joy. Amen.

Thanks for all the blankets, new stuffed animals, hand rolls, and rice packs donated to Odyssey Hospice Care. Blankets are given as gifts for various reasons. They have kept people warm on busses during hurricane evacuations, or a patient is cold, or it is a special occasion. All meet the Hospice criteria. The stuffed animals are used for grief counseling and given to children who are losing a family member. Large adult bibs are just that, and hand rolls help support the hands as the body deteriorates. All the donations are appreciated.

- Lynne Hines

All Officers' Retreat

On January 9, 2010, Nor'kirk deacons, elders and trustees will meet with Bill Parr and Nancy Pratt at the All Officer's Retreat. The group will spend the day prayerfully considering what is best for the Nor'kirk, how to best lead the spiritual growth of our congregation and serve our community.

Along with worshiping together, the agenda will also include:

- Outgoing elders meeting with incoming elders to discuss handoff of duties, pertinent issues and upcoming 2010 events
- Incoming and outgoing deacons will meet with Bill & Nancy to discuss pertinent issues and upcoming 2010 events
- We will discuss the Nor'kirk's strengths and weaknesses, and how to maximize those strengths and improve on weaknesses, and develop action items, both long and short term.
- Discuss events, traditional and new, and how to best coordinate events to maximize effectiveness.
- Establish rough schedule for all 2010 Nor'kirk events

Please keep the 2010 officers in your prayers as we prepare for another spiritually fulfilling year at the Nor'kirk.

Scott Cherry, Clerk of Session

Thanks for Thanksgiving

I want to thank the Fellowship committee for all their help in making the Thanksgiving Dinner a big success. Over 140 folks were served. All of the food was great and a special thanks to those who cooked the turkeys and hams. Also, a big thank you to Tim and Pam McNutt who prepared a thousand gallons of mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, gravy and even had time to carve the final turkeys. Hope everyone had a good time and we look forward to our next big event in January for the Congregational Dinner.

Jack Martin , Fellowship Elder

What Being a Deacon Means to Me

When I was first approached to become a Nor Kirk Deacon, I really wasn't aware of what I'd be doing. I made a couple of phone calls to Debbie Bianco who was finishing her term at the time and she gave me some great insight (thank you Debbie). I mostly wanted to figure out if I had enough time in my already busy schedule - I was a Sunday School teacher, work a full-time demanding job, have two very active little girls and I try to find a little bit of time in there to spend with Scott (my guitar-playing, golfing-enthusiast husband).

What I learned from Debbie seemed doable - and she said it was a rewarding experience for her. And, so, I took a leap of faith and accepted the role.

As it has turned out, it's been one of the best things I could have done.

Being a Deacon has offered me the opportunity of getting to know some people who I wouldn't have otherwise. And it's been a great way to get involved and feel connected to this wonderful church family. Growing up in rural Missouri, I attended a small country church where everyone knew everybody else.

You were involved — because you had to be. There weren't that many bodies to choose from! But here at the Nor Kirk, even though it still has a small-town feel, it's large enough to certainly not know everyone. I still don't. So, the personal connections have been great.

But my favorite thing about being a Deacon is what it has brought to our daughters - Katie and Andie. They love being "Deacons-in-Training" and helping in any capacity they can. One of their all-time favorite activities is helping with our Speedsters Lunches (aka Seniors lunches). They always want to make sure that those lunches are scheduled at times they can help. They serve, clear, clean, visit and play games with the attendees. And Katie has even said the blessing a couple of times. I always know after one of those special lunches, either Katie or Andie (or both) will come to me with tear-filled eyes to say, "I love my church family." And that is priceless.

A few weeks ago Ryan Kinkade spoke a bit in church about what this church has meant to him. He talked about how it's a family. He spoke from his heart. When he was done, Katie turned to me and said, "That's exactly how I feel." That was pretty cool.

So, have I helped my church family by being a Deacon? I sure hope so.

But the biggest gift of being a Deacon has been the gift given to me and my family. I love you, Nor Kirk family.

Dora Hilburn

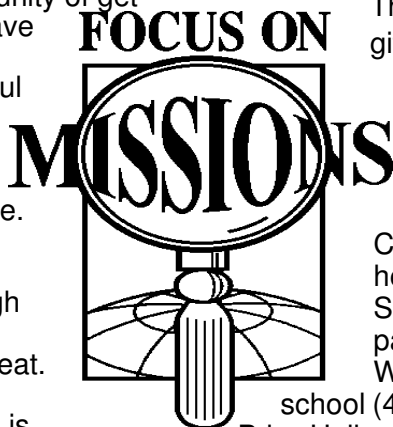
Blood Drive Tally

The Dallas-Ft. Worth area had a need for blood and the NorKirk responded! Thank you to the many people that rolled up their sleeves during the busy holiday season and gave blood. Only one blood drive participant was not able to give in December.

We collected 19 whole blood units and 12 "double red" units for the Carter Blood Center.

Whole blood donations may be made every eight weeks. "Double red" donations may be made every sixteen weeks. During the "double red" or aphaeresis process (from the Greek "to take away"), platelets, plasma, red cells and infection fighting white cells are collected. One donation can produce as many platelets as five whole blood donations. This type of donation is especially helpful to bone marrow transplant recipients, cancer and leukemia patients as it greatly reduces the chance of an immune system response because the blood products come from a single donor.

Thank you for sharing this very personal gift with another one of God's children.



The Confirmation Class of 2010 sends a big thank you to EVERY ONE for your support of Operation Christmas Child, affectionately known here at The Nor'kirk as "Operation Shoebox"! Our goal was 186 shoeboxes, packed and ready by November 22nd. We had help from The Nor'kirk Pre

school (48 boxes), from the LISD students who use Price Hall on some weekdays, a gift from an anonymous donor, and packing help from Jack and Lore Martin, Shari and Derek Sobek, Andie Hilburn, and Walter and Sandi Haltom. We also had help from our "Crocodile Dock" VBS participants, who brought shoebox items as their mission project this summer. So when we gathered on Sunday, Nov. 22nd to finalize our packing (thanks to the help of our high school Sunday School class and Mrs. Alexander!), we were astounded to find that our shoebox total had surpassed 186, then it surpassed 200, then 225, then 250....until our official counter Kevin Ewart walked into the sanctuary during 10:45 a.m. worship and told us we had 329 shoeboxes!

Thanks to Walter and Sandi Haltom for driving the shoeboxes to Prestonwood, and to Mackenzie and Allison Young who helped load the cars! When we pulled up to the Prestonwood shoebox area they were amazed at all of our shoeboxes, asking "Where are you people from??" and "How did you collect so many boxes?"

So thank you for participating. By now your shoeboxes are winging their way to children all around the world, being delivered by boat, by train, by camel, and by foot. You have blessed many children. And we thank you for making our project successful.

Confirmation 2010: Andrew, Austin, Katie, Mackenzie, Rachel, and Samantha

THE DEMISE OF THE COOKIE LADY

For about ten years now, I've been known by the folks working for the Carrollton branch of the Post Office as "the cookie lady." That's because I show up at regular intervals with coffee cans filled with cookies for our college students, who attend school all over the country. Our cookies have been mailed to Boston, to Pennsylvania, to Missouri, to Georgia, and to schools all over Oklahoma and Texas. I generally cause quite a stir in the post office when I mail the cookies, as the line grows lengthy while the employee lucky enough to help me stamps and weighs 30-40 coffee cans. People behind me in line start out impatient, wondering "what does she have in those cans?" until we begin a conversation and they tell me about the programs their church has for college students (typically not a lot) or about the packages they enjoyed receiving when they were in school.

Well, sad to say, but the cookie lady is no more. Beginning in 2010 we just don't have the budget money to continue to send cookies to our college students. We instead hope that the Barnabas program will pick up this slack and that those of you who have signed up to be a Barnabas make sure that your college student receives regular mail from his or her church home.

The college cookie program may have retired, but if you find yourself in a cookie-baking mood, please call the church office and we can put you in touch with a Barnabas, who will surely be happy to send cookies for you!

Thank you for your support of this program over the years. And sign up to be a Barnabas – it's a fun way to show our college youth that they are remembered and loved!

- Nancy Pratt -



The quality of the December 13th Kirk Christmas Concert with Merry Miller (harpist) was inspiring, exciting, and such a thrill to be a part of; and it didn't matter whether you participated with your voice, your instrument, or your ears! Each perspective had its own advantages and sense of fulfillment.

Merry, our featured musician for the evening, was so charming and such a delight! She had the crowd of over 200 mesmerized as she played numerous holiday selections that she had arranged herself. And after the concert, she graciously allowed any who so desired to come get a close-up look at her gold Lyon & Healy harp, which resides in Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall for the duration of the New York Philharmonic's season and will also have a short stay in Carnegie Hall in January! Merry so enjoyed our church family and musical groups that she has promised to come back to play with, and for, us again!

The Children were precious – Thank you, Kim Ready, for working so diligently (and patiently) with the little ones during the Sunday School hour every week. The Kirk Orchestra was inspiring with their energetic performance of both secular and sacred holiday selections- Thank you Charlotte for your 10 years of dedicated musical leadership. The Chancel Choir beautifully presented their message of Christmas Joy in such a delightful way – Many Thanks to Lane Paschal, our new Choir/Music Director for his excitement and enthusiasm, it's contagious! And as always, thank you Susan Terry for your great talent and loving spirit – you continue to touch us deeply with your musical presentations and we appreciate you so much.

As we reflect upon all the gifts, musical and otherwise, that we have received this Christmas Season, let's not forget from whom they all came. Give back to Him, and each other, by sharing your gifts with your church family. Please come join any of our musical groups: Children's Choir – Kim Ready (rehearsals during Sunday School @ 9:40AM); Kirk Orchestra – Charlotte Moellering (rehearsals on Wednesdays @ 6pm); Chancel Choir – Lane Paschal (rehearsals on Wednesdays @ 7:30pm).

New Officers for the New Year

The NorKirk Presbyterian will welcome a new slate of officers in the new year. Officers are elected by the congregation to serve the church during a three year term. Officers fill three different positions within the church- Church Deacons, Church Elders and Church Trustees.

Incoming Deacons for the Class of 2012 will be:

- *David Clinesmith
- *Ruth Doocy
- *Angi Parr
- *Derek Sobek-Youth Deacon

Incoming Elders for the Class of 2012 will be:

- *Building & Grounds-John O'Connell
- *Finance-Pam McNutt
- *Ministry with Adults-John Bara
- *Outreach & Evangelism-Kristina Robertson (class of 2011)
- *World Missions-Paul Barnett
- *Worship & Music-Neal Harper

Incoming Trustee for the Class of 2012 will be:

- *Joel Maust, MD

Please lift these church members in prayer as they serve the Lord, our church and our congregation in the months ahead. Consider offering your support by volunteering to serve on their committees.

It is a new year, answer your call to service.



Kirk Christmas Concert

The Nor'kirk Presbyterian
3915 N. Josey Lane
CARROLLTON TX 75007

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The *Kirk News* is published by
The Nor'kirk Presbyterian
3915 N. Josey Lane
Carrollton, TX 75007

We invite you to worship with us
each Sunday Morning at
8:30 and 10:45 for Worship and
9:30 for Sunday School.
Pastor: Dr. Bill Parr
Church Office :972-492-1578

www.norkirkpresbyterian.org

Church Officers

Elders:

Building & Grounds - John O'Connell
Clerk - Scott Cherry
Coordinating/Personnel - Teresa Alexander
Fellowship - Jack Martin
Finance & Stewardship - Pam McNutt
Ministry with Adults - John Bara
Ministry with Children - Anne Thomas
Ministry with Youth - David Miller
Missions, Local - Peg Kinkade
Missions, World - Paul Barnett
Outreach & Evangelism - Kristina Robertson
Worship & Music - Neal Harper

Deacons:

Tiffany Wylie, Shari Sobek,
Dora Hillburn, Walter Haltom, John Reas,
Mike Reeves, Angi Parr, Ruth Doocy,
and David Clinesmith

Derek Sobek - Youth Deacon

Trustees:

Bob Brown, Craig Courson,
Joel Maust

Nor'kirk Spiritual Retreat Hold the Date!

Mark your calendars for Friday night
and Saturday, **February 5 & 6**, for the
annual Nor'kirk Spiritual Retreat!

More details to follow next month!
Tim McNutt