



THE KIRK NEWS

February 2010

Volume XXXII No.2

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

Deacons to Host New Member Luncheon

Are you new to The Nor'kirk - or relatively new? On February 21st, the Board of Deacons invites everyone who has become a member of the church on or after April 20th, 2009 to join us following the 10:45 service for a home cooked meal. The menu includes soup and chili and of course, one of Shari's famous homemade desserts.

Hungry yet?? We hope you plan to stick around, enjoy some good food, good conversation and take the opportunity to meet your assigned deacon. Contact Tiffany Wylie with questions at 972-418-0277.



February Lectionary

February 7 – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138;
I Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

February 14 – Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;
II Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36

February 17 – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17;
II Corinthians 5:20-6:10; Matthew 6:1-16, 16-21

February 21 – 1st Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;
Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

February 28 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

“Souper Bowl of Caring”

“Soup’s on!” That can be a very comforting phrase to hear on a cold day. However, It may be an empty phrase if there is limited (or no) food on your table.

The Nor'kirk knows the importance of providing a hot bowl of soup to the hungry. We do it every month at the Austin Street Centre. It is gratifying to see the impact even a simple meal of soup can provide. This month, we have another opportunity to fight hunger and poverty in our local community.

Our youth will coordinate the “Souper Bowl of Caring” on Sunday, February 7th. They will be in the Narthex after the worship services with soup pots. Please make a small cash donation to “fill our pots” for the Metrocrest Social Services Center. This nation-wide effort is the largest youth-led weekend of giving and sharing. It provides our youth with the opportunity to live the premise “Love God by loving our neighbors.” Add your dollar to the pot and see how we can make a difference when we work together.



It is estimated that perhaps as many as a third of believers have had significant spiritual encounters, glimpses of God's glory, which they often are hesitant to share with anyone, even their pastor, for fear of being thought odd. But in most cases these experiences provide a reservoir of spiritual power that keeps us going during the long walk of faith, which Lent reminds us may be a walk to the cross. Countless individuals have described near-death experiences as providing an encounter with the holy which often eradicates their fear of death.

What are we to make of such experiences? They are powerful but transitory, transformative but fleeting. They can happen in the dead of night, but they can happen in the light of day, and surely in the experience of worship. We dare not base all Christian pilgrimage on such experiences or even think they are essential to authentic faith, nor should they be minimized, for they can be moments of grace that alert us to the mystery of living with open eyes. They can provide the assurance, the power, the vision of God for the long haul.

What we can claim are those moments of transfiguration when we get a glimpse of the glory of God that keep us going when our energy wanes and may empower us to walk step-by-step in the pathway of Jesus who leads us to the cross and beyond.

God bless. Bill

Author/Nobel Winner Coming for Austin College

Austin College has a great speaker coming at the end of February, and I thought some people at the church might be interested in going.

Muhammad Yunus, a pioneer of microlending and socially conscious business, will be giving a public lecture Feb. 25, as he accepts the Posey Leadership award from Austin College. Dr. Yunus is a 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner and received a 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom for his efforts to open credit to the extremely impoverished and to eliminate poverty worldwide. He founded Grameen Bank, which provides small loans to predominantly poor women in rural Bangladesh. His successful program has been replicated worldwide, with the goal of eliminating extreme poverty worldwide by 2050.

Dr. Yunus will accept the award on Thursday, Feb. 25, as part of a public lecture given at the Eisemann Center in Richardson. Ticket prices for the event begin at \$50 and are available online at www.eisemanncenter.com.

Megan Kinkade

Preschool News

Our Preschool is registering for fall 2010. Toddlers, two year olds, 2 ½'s and just 3's attend two days per week, our 3 ½'s, just 4's attend 3 days and our Pre K 4 year olds and Pre K 5 year olds attend four days per week. Please call Diane 972-395-3707 or e-mail dianeh@thenorkirk.org and share our information with a friend.

During January we explored snow and ice using our new mobile table purchased from the fall auction funds. The children are all smiles on the new play yard slide which was also purchased from our auction funds. Other topics the children learned about were Artic animals, Martin Luther King and space.

During February, we will have an Olympics theme, wearing our red, white & blue and participating in physical activities. We will also be encouraging families to donate in support of Parkinsons' research and Kim Ready's Team Fox Marathon. February also brings the fun of Valentines and the opportunity for parent teacher conferences.

We are blessed with teachers dedicated to young children, register and have your child be a part of our fun!
Diane Haist

Davis Memorial

Pastor James (Jim) McKay Davis served as The Nor'kirk's pastor from 1983 through 1992. His outgoing nature and genuine love and concern for his congregation was a catalyst for growth for a nearly a decade. Many warmly recall his tenure as our second pastor.

After the death of his first wife, Anne, Jim felt called to a new start. He re-married and took a new pastorate in Louisiana. He and his second wife Carol later moved to another church in Florida. He was honorably retired from the Presbyterian Church.

After Carol's death, Jim returned to the Carrollton area and started his third career as a funeral director. Jim also served as pulpit supply for area Presbyterian churches. When his schedule permitted, Jim returned to worship at The Nor'kirk.

The Reverend Jim Davis died on December 9th. His memorial service was held at The Nor'kirk on December 17th. His family has requested that memorial donations be made to The Nor'kirk Presbyterian or the American Diabetes Association. In keeping with this request, The Nor'kirk has created a memorial fund for The Reverend Davis. Please support this lasting tribute to a very fine man

One Meal—Times Two!

Do you remember the bitter cold of January? For the many Nor'kirk volunteers that served the evening meal at the Austin Street Centre on January 4th, it was a night to remember.

We had a large group of volunteers travel to the shelter to serve the evening meal. We had two large pots filled to the brim with ham and bean soup. What didn't we have? Cups. In our haste to pack and load our gear in the cold, the 12 ounce cups were inadvertently left behind. We were on I-35 before the error was discovered. We called the shelter and asked if we could borrow their 8 ounce coffee cups to serve our soup. This substitution created a new opportunity.

Generally, we prepare food for 350 people. The evening meal includes a cup of soup, a hard boiled egg, a banana, crackers and a Starbucks pastry. Due to the cold night, our volunteers ladled and served 385 cups of soup. We were stretching our meal. Over the course of the evening, we ran out of brown paper bags, napkins and pastries. We found ways to make substitutions. But we didn't run out of soup! By substituting the smaller cups, we were able to serve 385 people a hot meal and we still had soup left over. The shelter staff asked if we could "save" the extra soup for lunch the next day. In a true example of God's provision, one meal was able to feed the homeless—twice!

Our Nor'kirk volunteers were able to witness and participate in a modern day "Loaves and fishes" lesson. Join us on Monday, February 1st for our next Austin Street Centre meal. You can touch the lives of many. Proverbs 22: ***"Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor."***

A CALL TO ALL CARNIVOROUS KIRK MEN!!

Come join all your brothers for the First BYOB of the New Year and the New Decade. Usher in the New Decade in fine Nor'kirk style on Saturday, February 20, 2010 at the palatial abode of Tim McNutt, 2715 Sir Lancelot Boulevard, Lewisville, TX 75056. The gathering will commence at 7:00 p.m., and last as long as the food and other sundries hold out (around 9:30). So, bring your meats, bring your favorite sides (if ya want), bring your favorite beverages – most important, bring yourselves!!

Rsvp asap John Bara at 214-724-3089 or jbara@sbcglobal.net. See ya at McNutt's!!

Save the Date—to Save a Life

Psalm 81 pledges: *"Open your mouth and I will fill it."*

On Friday, March 5th (evening) and Saturday, March 6th (all day), area volunteers from local churches will fulfill this promise by participating in a mobile food packing event for "Feed My Starving Children."

This international non-profit organization provides a "hands-on" opportunity for volunteers of all ages to pack food boxes for under-privileged children world-wide. This is an active opportunity to provide a Christian witness that can change a life. In 2009, "Feed My Starving Children" made, packed and delivered 20 million meals across the globe.

Mark your calendar for this volunteer opportunity. Check the website "www.FMSC.org" for more information on this food aid program. Detailed program information and a sign up sheet will be posted in the weeks ahead. See you on March 5th and/or 6th!

You'll be glad that you were able to "lend a helping hand." - Peg Kinkade

Thank you from the Hines Family-

For the past 8 months it was important to keep the dust and pet hair to a minimum to help prevent infection for Victoria. Vacuuming my house is not a small request but so many of you have helped out. Thank you Scott Cherry, Eric Haist, Shari Sobek, Eric Wyman, Susan Hopper, Valerie Hopper, Anne Thomas, Jessie Thomas, Bill Simonsen, Karen Davis and Jan Mattson, and Mimi Forsythe, Coordinator.

Jaymie (the dog) thanks you for visiting her, petting her, letting her out to go to the bathroom and any ball throwing that was done. She loved each and every one of you!

Victoria is officially through with her chemo and now there is a lot of follow up. Your prayers and support made a difference in our lives. Thank you!

Lynne, Craig, Victoria, Shannon and Jaymie Hines

The Moses Stick Story

If you have been worshipping with us for awhile you probably have been present to see the presentation of a Moses Stick to someone, either the recipient of a Founder's Award or a high school graduate.

Moses Sticks are the walking sticks carved by a former homeless man in Dallas, Roosevelt Wilkerson. He carves the Ten Commandments into each stick, and we use them as a special gift for our graduates and others being recognized for a special reason. Mr. Wilkerson's walking sticks have been presented to President George W. Bush, Carrollton Mayor Becky Miller, Roger Staubach, the Pope, and others.

If you have a Moses Stick and did not receive an accompanying news article about the stick and Mr. Wilkerson, please contact Nancy Pratt. She'll be sure to send you a copy of the news article, which will make your walking stick just a little more special.





**The Nor'kirk Orchestra celebrates 10 years!
Save the date! April 11, 2010
Kirk Orchestra Concert**

As we enter a new decade this year, our orchestra celebrates our 10th season! The orchestra will bring back some of our favorites for our April concert. Let us know if you have a favorite piece that we have performed during the last 10 years and we will try to put it in our program.

The Kirk Orchestra is an inter-generational full orchestra, comprised of string, woodwind, brass and percussionists ranging in age from 7th grade thru adult, and is not limited to church members. The orchestra is open to all instrumentalists in the community. Adults who have not played since high school or college have an opportunity to rediscover your love of music. Assistance with locating an instrument or repair facility is available. Students from several area middle and high schools are members, as this is a wonderful opportunity for students to expand their playing skills and earn community service. The only requirements to join are a minimum of one year of study on an orchestral instrument and a willingness to share your God-given talents with others.

Rehearsals are held weekly from **6-7 p.m.** in the Nor'kirk Presbyterian Church sanctuary at 3915 N. Josey Ln. The orchestra rehearses on **Wednesday nights, January 20- April 7.** No audition is required; simply contact the director so that a music folder may be prepared for you.

Contact Charlotte Moellering, director, at orchmo1@verizon.net or 214-796-4086.

"Youth Celebration(S)"

If you are a high school student, we hope you will consider one of two special weeks of fun, fellowship, and mission this summer.

Mo Ranch, located in the Texas Hill Country near Kerrville, offers a program for high school students called "Youth Celebration" from June 27 through July 2. You'll live in dorm-type housing, spend a lot of time in and on the water, sing, dance, play games, listen to key note addresses (the theme is GODS PLAN IS NOWHERE), and spend time alone, thinking about your spiritual journey. It's a life-changing, fun week. The cost will be about \$400 per person – we'll know more once we receive the brochures from Mo Ranch. If we have a group of Nor'kirk youth interested, we'll find an adult sponsor. Start thinking about it now.

Synod Youth Connection (SYC) is held each year at the University of Tulsa. Dates this summer are most likely July 12-17 (the Synod is waiting for confirmation of the dates from the school). SYC is a week much like that at Mo Ranch, but on a college campus instead of a river! You'll stay in dorm rooms at University of Tulsa, meet throughout the week in small groups, spend one day doing mission work somewhere in Tulsa, and enjoy music, energizers, and key note meetings. The cost will be about the same as Mo Ranch. Again, if a group of Nor'kirk youth are interested in attending, we'll find an adult sponsor.

We encourage you to attend, and we'll have more information to you as soon as it becomes available to us!

Special thanks

During the Christmas season, Angi and I are blessed by all the special gifts given to us by our congregation friends. We want each of you to know how much we appreciate being a part of The Nor'kirk family.

Thank you for remembering us this year.

Bill and Angi Parr

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas bonus that I received from the congregation! And thanks for all the gifts, cards and goodies that I would find on my desk each day. Your support and friendship is very much appreciated!

I am very blessed to work with such wonderful people and I truly cherish this church family.

Mimi Forsythe

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the generous Christmas bonus I received over the holidays! This was the first Christmas Eve in many years that I did not have the chance to worship with you – I was home with pneumonia. My mother and I watched the First United Methodist 11pm Christmas Eve service on television, and although their service was very similar to ours, the faces weren't the same and I missed my church family! I'm glad now to be back among you, almost over the pneumonia and the cough. Your gift will help me greatly with all of the medical and RX bills, many of them just now arriving. I thank you for that!

Happy (and healthy) 2010 to all,

Nancy Pratt

Dear Nor'kirk Family,

Thank you so much for the Christmas bonus! It is my honor and pleasure to work for, and worship with, my Nor'kirk Family. I'm looking forward to another year of doing both! Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Nancy Harper

Office Assistant

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



IT'S TIME FOR REJUVENATION!!

Hey, are you feeling like you need a spiritual "pick-me-up" in these tough times we are all facing? Are you craving an oasis in the hustle-bustle and chaos that life presents? Most important, do you need to add some tools you can use in your every-day life to help answer the question: "Hello? Is Anybody There"?

Then, come join your Nor'kirk brother and sisters on a SPIRITUAL RETREAT at Tanglewood Resort on beautiful Lake Texoma starting Friday evening, February 26, 2010 around 7:30 (or as soon as you can arrive), and ending around 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 27, 2010. All youth and adults are invited to this fun-filled and enlightening journey, from Bible veterans to total "newbies".

The Kirk will provide child care on-site; for those who are interested in this service, let us know. Cost for your room and your share of the meeting room is \$132.47 (meals not included). Please make checks payable to The Nor'kirk Presbyterian. Sign up asap in the Narthex, or contact Nancy Pratt at the Kirk or John Bara (214-724-3089 or jbara@sbcglobal.net) to confirm a "yes" or to ask any questions you may have.

See ya at Tanglewood!