

Norwood  
Presbyterian  
Church  
Newsletter

# The Highlands Piper

December 2011  
Dr. Patricia Brown

**Administrative Asst.**  
Vicki Gabbard  
**Music Director**  
Takako Hayase  
**Treasurer**  
Bob Werner

*From the Desk of Pastor Pat  
Advent, 2011*

They say that if you live to be 70 years old, you will already have spent 3 years of your life just waiting. We wait in lines at the store or seats in the doctor's office-- it doesn't matter which when you are just waiting. To quote the great philosopher, Dr. Seuss, there is a place where people just wait:

"Waiting for a train to go  
or a bus to come, or a plane to go  
or the mail to come, or the rain to go  
or the phone to ring, or the snow to snow  
or waiting around for a Yes or No  
Or waiting for their hair to grow.  
Everyone is just waiting."

Nobody particularly enjoys waiting, but for Christians, waiting is what the season of Advent is all about. We start off in life as wide eyed children who cannot wait. Then we become parents and wish we had more time to prepare. There is some credence to the point that the retail world of Black Friday at Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations immediately after the Halloween stuff comes down, does tend to pressure us to buy, buy, buy. After all, the Christmas sales do constitute 20% of annual sales, which creates jobs and more people able to buy even more.

There is no need to tell you how they have missed the point of the coming of Jesus which we call "Advent." True, we know the day, the place, and the time unlike early believers who did just wait. But they had the gift of joy and surprise that we can overlook when we get caught up in our secular holiday traditions. Somehow the phrase, "Jesus is the reason for the season" can seem a bit corny, but Jesus IS the reason that we wait for his birth, his dying for our sins, and his return.

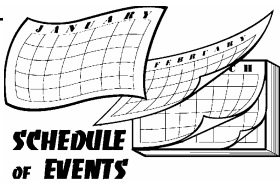
Instead of getting rattled by all the things to do and frustrated by the amount that does not get done in a timely fashion, this Advent let us wait by praying for those in places where being Christian is not safe. Let us pray for those who would inflict harm for what they claim to be a religious cause. Let us reach out to friends who mourn and strangers who have sacrificed life and limb to defend what this country stands for. Even loss and illness can mean dreading this season, let us share our joyful memories to get the people close to us through the tough times.

May you and yours have the most blessed experience of this sacred season,

*Pastor Patricia Brown*

Session	
Michael Douglas Kathi Hadley Mary Carol Parker	12
Sara Lehew Bob Werner	13
Sue Flory Christine Street	14
Deacons	
Eleanor Hayes Iva Ritner Anne Troy	12
Pat Bowman Bob Collier Joyce Rosskopf	13
Melissa Bates Dee Douglas Ruth Williamson	14

4400 Floral Avenue  
Norwood, Ohio 45212  
Phone: (513)531-1546  
Fax: (513)531-1568  
Website:  
norwoodpresbyterian.org  
Email:  
norwoodpres@fuse.net



**Upcoming Events: Also see the calendar for other regularly scheduled events.**

**December 2011**

**Dec 1** - GLAD at Buca Di Beppo in Rookwood at noon. All ladies are welcome!

**Dec 2** - Baby Bear open house from 10:30-1130 am.

**Dec 3** - Men's Breakfast and Bible Study at Frisch's in Norwood at 9 am.

**Dec 4** - 2nd Sunday of Advent; Theme: Bethlehem—Los Posados/Youth; Communion by Intinction

**Dec 11** - 3rd Sunday of Advent; Theme: Shepherds—Children's Shepherd Processional; City Gospel Mission dancers

**Dec 14** - 10 am Norwood Community Coalition meeting. 12 pm Norwood Ministerial Association Lunch; 7 pm Session meets in the church office.

**Dec 15** - Book Club will be at the Rusty Bucket in Rookwood at 5:30 pm. Everyone is welcome!

**Dec 18** - 4th Sunday of Advent; Theme: Angels—Blue Christmas/Remembrances; Lighting Candles;

**Dec 24** - Christmas Eve service at 9 pm. Theme: Christ—Lessons & Carols; Denise Revely, soloist

**Dec 25** - Nativity of Jesus Christ/Christmas Day; Theme: Love & Community; A Come As You Are Birthday Celebration

**Dec 31** - Have a safe and happy New Year's Eve

**November Wednesdays** - Movers & Shakers 10:00 am Ages 1-4. Preschool Storytime at 11:30 am Ages 3-6  
Taking place at the Norwood library.

**LOOKING AHEAD: (details will follow, not every event listed)**

**Jan 1** - First Sunday after Christmas; Theme: Peace; Songs of Korea

**Jan 5** - GLAD will meet at noon. Location to be determined.

**Jan 6** - Epiphany of the Lord. Baby Bear open house from 10:30-11:30 am.

**Jan 7** - Men's Breakfast and Bible Study at Frisch's in Norwood at 9 am.

**Jan 8** - Epiphany & Baptism of the Lord; Theme: Worship with Communion; Los Peces En El Rio 'Three Kings Day'

**Jan 11** - 10 am Norwood Community Coalition meeting. 12 pm Norwood Ministerial Association Lunch; 7 pm Session meets in the church office.

**Jan 18** - First Evening Baby Bear open house 6:30-7:30 pm. See Cathy Donohoue or Melissa Bates for more details.

NPC's church office is open  
Tuesday-Friday from  
9 am-1 pm.

Pastor Pat is in the office  
Tuesday, Wednesday &  
Thursday from 10 am-4 pm



**Norwood Ministerial Association (NMA)**

Several pastors and representatives from local Norwood churches meet once a month on the 2nd Wednesday to share what God is doing through our congregations.





# THANK YOU!!!

If we missed your name, please accept our sincere apologies. We DO appreciate you!



Thank You to...  
~Jim Nefos for fixing the rails in the staircase.  
~all who signed up to help with the evening Baby Bear open house.

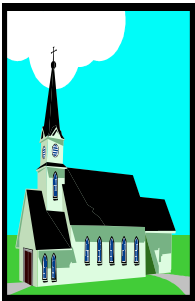
## 2011 NPC Stewardship Status 11/20/2011

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged for our Norwood Presbyterian Church mission for 2012.

We currently have received a total of 23 pledges in the amount of \$41,764 for 2012. We are making progress toward our budget goal of \$48,000. If you haven't made your pledge for 2012 it is not too late. Just mail to the church or drop in the offering plate on Sunday.

Thank you to all who have helped during the campaign with follow-ups, writing letters and standing up in church telling us about themselves. We learned something new each week from these experiences.

Bob Werner—Treasurer



### Saints Serving The Church

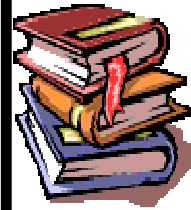
Thank you to all those who served as liturgist, usher, hosted gatherings, participated in special readings or otherwise volunteered during the month of November: Bill Bowman, Eleanor Hayes, Carol Malott, Sue Mellinger, Iva Ritner, Joyce Rosskopf, Kay Shafer, Chris Stevens, Bob & Sue Werner and Ruth Williamson.

#### November 2011 volunteers to include:

- |                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 11/6 – Sue Werner/liturgist     | Bill Bowman & Chris Stevens/ushers    |
| 11/13 - Chris Stevens/liturgist | Iva Ritner & Ruth Williamson/ushers   |
| 11/20 - Eleanor Hayes/liturgist | Carol Malott & Kay Shafer/ushers      |
| 11/27 - Bob Werner/liturgist    | Eleanor Hayes & Joyce Rosskopf/ushers |
| 10/30 - Dee Douglas/liturgist   | Carol Malott & Kay Shafer/ushers      |

# Congratulations!

If you have a congratulations announcement, please contact the church office.



**Book Club**  
Dec 15- at 5:30 pm  
at Rusty's in Blue Ash  
for a Christmas Celebration.

*Book Club is open to anyone who likes to read, so mark your calendars and invite a friend or two!*

## Thank you NPC & Kroger



Fundraising is made easier for NPC using the Kroger Neighborhood Reward Program.

If you have questions or need a card see Bob Werner. All you need to do is put money on the card and use the card for purchases.

Kroger has now made fundraising easier for NPC. All you do is purchase a card from Bob (\$5) and reload the card with additional money when you shop at Kroger. When NPC reaches \$5,000 or more in reloads, within Kroger's 4 week cycle, we will receive a rebate check for 4% of the total amount. If we don't reach \$5,000 in a cycle, our funds carry over into the next cycle. We will post program status on bulletin board in the hallway.

The more you reload your card the more money NPC can earn! Cards are also accepted at area fuel centers.



Christian  
Education 9:30 am  
Classes

"Let's Chat" (adults) - Meets in Church office  
Christian Education Class - Meets upstairs

### Due dates:

- ~Items for the bulletin must be received by Thursday.
- ~Items for the Piper must be received by the 15th of the month.



"Let's Chat" will be studying  
"Advent" as their next series.

Join us in the church office at  
9:30 am on Sundays.

All are welcome!

### ***Gentle requests & reminders!***

- ~ Please be sure to take your dishes (and any left-over food) with you after our potlucks so that our refrigerator doesn't get cluttered.
- ~ Please do not leave your bulletins in the pews after worship service. If you would like to recycle them, drop them off in the church office. We'll see that they get mailed to one of our "at home" friends to enjoy!

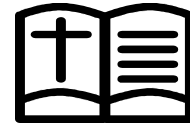




“GLAD”: Gals Lunch Away Day is the first Thursday of every month at noon. We will meet on December 1 at Buca Di Beppo. Please call the church office if you plan to attend. Come join us for fun, food and fellowship!



*Men's Breakfast and Bible Study  
on December 3 at 9 am at  
Frisch's.*



*The Rev. Ed McNulty is a career movie critic, retired to the Cincinnati area.*

*Here are some of his reviews.*



### The Descendants Rated R Matthew 18:21; Psalm 24:1-2

George Clooney's Matt King, a real estate lawyer in Hawaii has his hands full dealing with serious problems. His wife lies in a comatose state in a hospital; he has become estranged from his teen-aged daughter and her younger sister; he is being pressured by his large clan to agree to sell the family inheritance, a beautiful track of land that resort developers want to build on—and he learns from his older daughter that his wife has been cheating on him. The latter is ironic in that he begins the film's narration by acknowledging that he must talk with his wife because the two have drifted apart because of his absorption in business affairs. This is one of the best films of the year with its themes of family, land heritage and forgiveness.

### J. Edgar Rated R Jeremiah 17:9-10

Clint Eastwood shows no sign of slowing down in his director's career. This warts and all view of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover is a fascinating, if episodic, story of a man lusting for power also doing some good for our nation. The periods of the 1920's and its Red Scare and the rise of notorious gangsters and of the 1930's when the Lindbergh kidnapping case dominated the headlines are wonderfully evoked. Hoover's relationship with his domineering mother and his special assistant Clyde Tolson are delved into, and much more, including his struggle with the Kennedy's to retain his power. That he held on so long is explained by his keeping of special files concerning the indiscretions of virtually everyone in Washington (and those who led the Civil Rights movement such as MLK, Jr.) That such a flawed man whose jealousy and ill will hurt so many others could also accomplish so much good will remind believers that God does indeed move in mysterious ways.

Those who have despised him might learn to appreciate some of his accomplishments through this film, and those who admired him as an American saint combating the evils of the time might acquire a more rounded picture of his character - though none will ever fully understand its cryptic nature.

### The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 Rated PG-13

I am no fan of either the vampire or werewolf genres, so I went to this film out of a sense of duty rather than desire. Still, I found it an entertaining (though very overblown) reworking of the Romeo and Juliet plot. It is vampire Edward and the human Bella's wedding and honeymoon that is the focus of this story. Werewolf Jacob, who also loves her, worries that she will be killed if she has sex with her husband before she is transformed into a vampire by him. What transpires when she becomes pregnant before her transformation generates lots of suspense, and will no doubt please the multitude of fans of the series.

## NPC Website Calendar

Our new NPC calendar is hosted by My Church Events. It is an easy to use tool and we hope an addition to our website. The calendar is accessible on the first page of the website. It also provides flexibility in setting up events and also capability to send out email reminders and invite friends to upcoming events.

The calendar can be updated by Pastor Pat, Vicki and session members.

You can send yourself email reminders or you can email invite a friend to an event NPC is hosting. Click on an event, and you will be presented with two boxes to the left of the screen. You can invite a friend or send a reminder for this event.

If you have any questions concerning this material, see Cathy Donohoue or Bob Werner.

## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is already responding to the need for help in the United States. OGH S & PDA funds are already at work in at least 11 presbyteries around the country. You can help by giving to PDA through our local presbytery. Please mark your offering envelope PDA and we will make sure that your donation goes to help those in need. If you would like to give by phone, you can at 1-800-872-3283 - please use acct #DR000015 to help with the disasters in the United States. You can also help by praying for the people that have been displaced by the storms or lost loved ones.



## ***Hold your event at NPC!***



Have you thought about using the church for a future meeting or social event? How about a wedding? Do you know someone looking for a place to meet or hold an important family event?

We believe it is important to serve our community and one way to do that is by making our NPC building available to everyone in our community. Many groups are currently sponsored by NPC and use the church for regular meetings. This provides benefits for everyone involved.

If you or someone you know would like to use the NPC church building please check the building policy and building request form on the website [www.norwoodpresbyterian.org](http://www.norwoodpresbyterian.org) You can also check the calendar for availability.

Please call the church secretary or Pastor Pat with questions regarding building usage and availability. If you have questions about using the website please call Cathy Donohoue or Bob Werner.



# MISSION: IT'S NOT ABOUT CROSSING THE SEA. IT'S ABOUT SEEING THE CROSS.

## NPC LOCAL MISSION EFFORTS INCLUDE:

**NSL - Food Closet** - Non-perishable canned goods and personal care items are always welcomed—especially those items not allowed when using food stamps: laundry soap, toilet paper, paper towels, etc. There is a bin in the main hallway for your contributions. If you'd like to make a monetary donation, please mark your offering "Food Closet". Also, if you'd like to volunteer distributing the food, see Kathi Hadley or Carol Malott.

**Baby Bear** - If you know someone who needs help with baby items, have them come to NPC on the 1st Friday of the month or call the church office. *Baby Bear "open houses" are held the 1st Friday of the month; 10:30-11:30 am. See Cathy Donohoue or Melissa Bates for details or to volunteer!*

**On January 18 from 6:30-7:30 will be our first evening open house. See Cathy or Melissa if you would like to be a part of this mission outreach.**

### Back to School Bash

It's never too soon to start collecting school supplies...watch for sales and bring them in for next year!



## PC(USA) SPONSORED EFFORTS:

**FIVE FOR FIVE:** We at NPC are considered a "five for five" congregation because we support four annual church-wide special offerings AND donate to the PC(USA) "general" mission efforts. The four offerings recognized by the PC(USA) are: Christmas Joy, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), Pentecost, and Peacemaking.

**PDA**—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
The theme for the PDA is "Out of Chaos, Hope." If you would like to give towards the PDA's efforts, please clearly mark your donation!



If you have another mission effort you would like for NPC to consider, please see Kathi Hadley or Sue Flory!

*The Community Coalition continues in its efforts to help our Norwood youths through the “40 Assets” all kids need in order to succeed. Below is information on the current asset being emphasized.*

### **“Planning and Decision Making”**

**ASSET #32 - Kids know how to plan ahead and make choices. 29% of the youth surveyed have this asset in their lives.**

#### **In the congregation:**

- ~Give young people an active role in planning the youth program.
- ~Include youth in decisions that affect the congregation as a whole.
- ~Invite kids to plan special events. Even young children can do this with adult supervision & guidance.
- ~When appropriate, point out to youth how their faith informs their decisions.

#### **In the community:**

- ~Have youth identify something in the community they’d like to change, then develop a plan for changing it. Take their plan seriously.
- ~Reserve room on a local cable channel for a calendar of youth activities and events.
- ~Offer workshops for community members on planning and decision making skills.
- ~Permit young people to participate in decisions about community programs and special projects.
- ~Invite motivational speakers to talk to kids about important choices they have made.
- ~Train adult leaders to help kids through the decisions making process.

*Watch for more assets and suggestions!*

**The following October information is provided by the Stewardship and Finance Committee:**

**Income:**

From offerings	\$ 4,789.00
From savings to cover costs	\$ 1,044.86
From other	\$ <u>360.00</u>
	\$ 6,193.86
Expenses	\$ <u>6,670.09</u>
Difference (over)/under	\$ (476.23)

*Thank you for your continued financial support of NPC. Please note that we are continuing to have to “dip into” our savings to cover our costs. Any additional donations you can make will be greatly appreciated and put to good use!*

**Attendance**

	<u>Christian Ed.</u>	<u>Worship</u>
10/2	8	35
10/9	9	33
10/16	13	38
10/23	12	38
10/30	12	38

**Special Giving Opportunities**

For those of you using church envelopes to place your donation in the collection plate, you will notice an “extra” envelope for “initial offering” and “per capita”. Please prayerfully consider giving “extra” to this good cause, keeping in mind Hebrews 13:16: *Do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.* If you are not currently using envelopes, you are invited to use the envelopes in the pews. If you would like to start using envelopes on an ongoing basis, please contact Bob Werner or the church office. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



# Norwood Presbyterian Church Prayer List

Take a moment to pray for someone on our lists

## Prayer List

- ★ Jackie Aronhalt
- ★ Randy Bedell
- ★ Lois Bittikofer
- ★ Jared Boyd
- ★ David Braden
- ★ Nancy Braden
- ★ Kadence Butler
- ★ Terry Carmack
- ★ Dorothy Clark
- ★ Violet Cook
- ★ Jeff Douglas
- ★ Ron Dyer
- ★ Hal Hall
- ★ Marilyn Hall
- ★ Linda Hill
- ★ Roger Hinkle
- ★ Karen Lane
- ★ Becky Limerick
- ★ Jerry Lucas
- ★ Don Lyons
- ★ Donna McConnell
- ★ David Ruebusch
- ★ Corny Sanders
- ★ Lara Sekula
- ★ Sherry Spurlock
- ★ Brenda Stevens
- ★ Julie Volle
- ★ Dorothy Weber
- ★ Len Woelfle
- ★ Holly Woodrum

## Retirement & Nursing Homes

- Ralph Erlick  
(Amber Park Care Center)
- Kathryn Gray  
(Amber Park Care Center)
- Betty Kamp  
(Twin Towers)
- Mel Pemberton  
(West Chester Health Care Ctr.)
- Helen Salt  
(Fairfield Pavilion)



- Remember to keep Brett Angi, Nicholas Bates, Leonard Clark, Jr., Richard Clark, Matthew & Tom (Hughie) Farris, Brian Mastin, & Scott Schwankhaus in your thoughts and prayers as they serve our country through their participation in the military.

## At Home

- Katy Henderson
- Debbie Powers
- Marie Withrow

*Please keep NPC's college students in your prayers:*

- Katie Clark
- Allison Douglas
- Kelsey Douglas
- Sean Douglas
- Wesley Parker
- Emma Werner

*Responsible stewardship means keeping our eyes open to the gifts of God all around us and in us. God asks us to work so that these gifts grow, they are shared, and they become blessings to others. It's a matter of seeking, seeing, and serving what God has so abundantly already given.*

*Aimee Buchanan*

This was the theme of the devotionals that I read from our NPC website. It really struck me as the perfect example of Baby Bear's birth. We sponsor this very active mission in our community because of the stewardship of this congregation.

We have been so blessed this year by our NPC members and friends. So blessed, that we are again thinking of new ways that we can share those blessings with our community. On January 18th, from 6:30-7:30 we will hold our first evening Open House. We have the potential to reach an entirely new segment of our population - folks that go to work every day and still are having trouble putting a warm outfit on their child.

I am asking, as I have so many times before, for your continued support. I need your time to show up and help to be that face of NPC in the community. I need donations of GENTLY used clothes (something you would be happy to see your own child wear) in 2T-6T. I need new outfits, toys, diapers and toiletries. And money is always appreciated - we are very frugal shoppers!

Our children and grandchildren will never really know what it is to be hungry or in need of a pair of shoes. They may not always have what they want - but they will always have what they truly need. Please help our neighbors be able to say the same thing.

Call me or Melissa Bates and we can tell you more. Or contact the church office for ways that you can be involved. You can always make a donation with Baby Bear in the subject line of a check.

I don't know how far our evenings will go. But I do know that our monthly Open Houses are always a success and much appreciated by our clients. I wish you could all get one of those very special hugs or see the looks in their eyes.

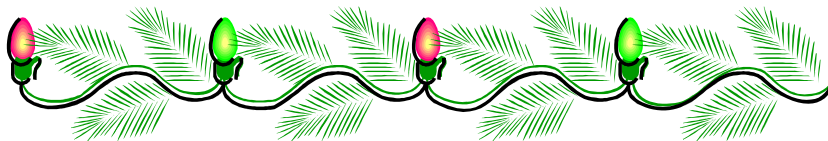
Cathy Donohou & Melissa Bates



# It's "Praise God Party" Time!

## December Birthdays

5	Tom Donohoue
7	Pat Brown
9	Sara Nicholls
11	Bill Bowman
18	Jack Rosskopf
19	Matthew Mattingly, Jr.
25	Mary Carol Parker
31	Melissa Bates



## December Wedding Anniversaries

31	Eric & Suzanne Adkins
----	-----------------------



**Here's to another year of YOU!**

(And if we've missed your special day,  
please contact the church office!)

# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Christian Education</i>  9:30 <i>Sunday</i>	<i>Worship</i>  10:45 <i>Sunday</i>	<i>Fellowship</i>  12:00 <i>Sunday</i>		1 GLAD at Buca Di Beppo at Noon  1-6 Counsel  8 pm AA	2 10:30 Baby Bear open house	3 9 am Men's Bkfst at Frisch's
4 9:30 10:45 12:00  7 pm GA	5  6:30 Scouts	6  8 pm AA	7 9-5 Counsel	8 1-6 Counsel  8 pm AA	9	10
11 9:30 10:45 12:00  7 pm GA	12  6:30 Scouts	13  8 pm AA	14 9-5 Counsel	15 1-6 Counsel  5:30 Book Club  8 pm AA	16	17
18 9:30 10:45 12:00  7 pm GA	19  6:30 Scouts	20  8 pm AA	21 9-5 Counsel	22 1-6 Counsel  8 pm AA	23	24 Christmas Eve service in Sanctuary at 9 pm 
25 9:30 10:45 12:00 <i>Merry Christmas</i> 7 pm GA 	26  6:30 Scouts	27  8 pm AA	28 9-5 Counsel	29 1-6 Counsel  8 pm AA	30	31

NORWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
4400 FLORAL AVENUE  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45212-3221

Merry  
Christmas



NPC Mission Statement

We worship, work and play together, seeking to serve  
God through Jesus Christ as we live our lives,  
individually and as a congregation.

December Lectionary



2nd Sunday of Advent: December 4

Isa. 40:1-11; Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

3rd Sunday of Advent: December 11

Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

4th Sunday of Advent: December 18

2 Sam. 7:1-11; Ps. 89:1-4, 19-26; Rom. 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve: December 24

Isa. 9:2-7; Ps. 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Nativity of Jesus Christ/Christmas Day: December 25

Dawn: Isa. 62:6-12; Ps. 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20; Day: Isa. 52:7-10;

Ps. 98; Heb. 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14