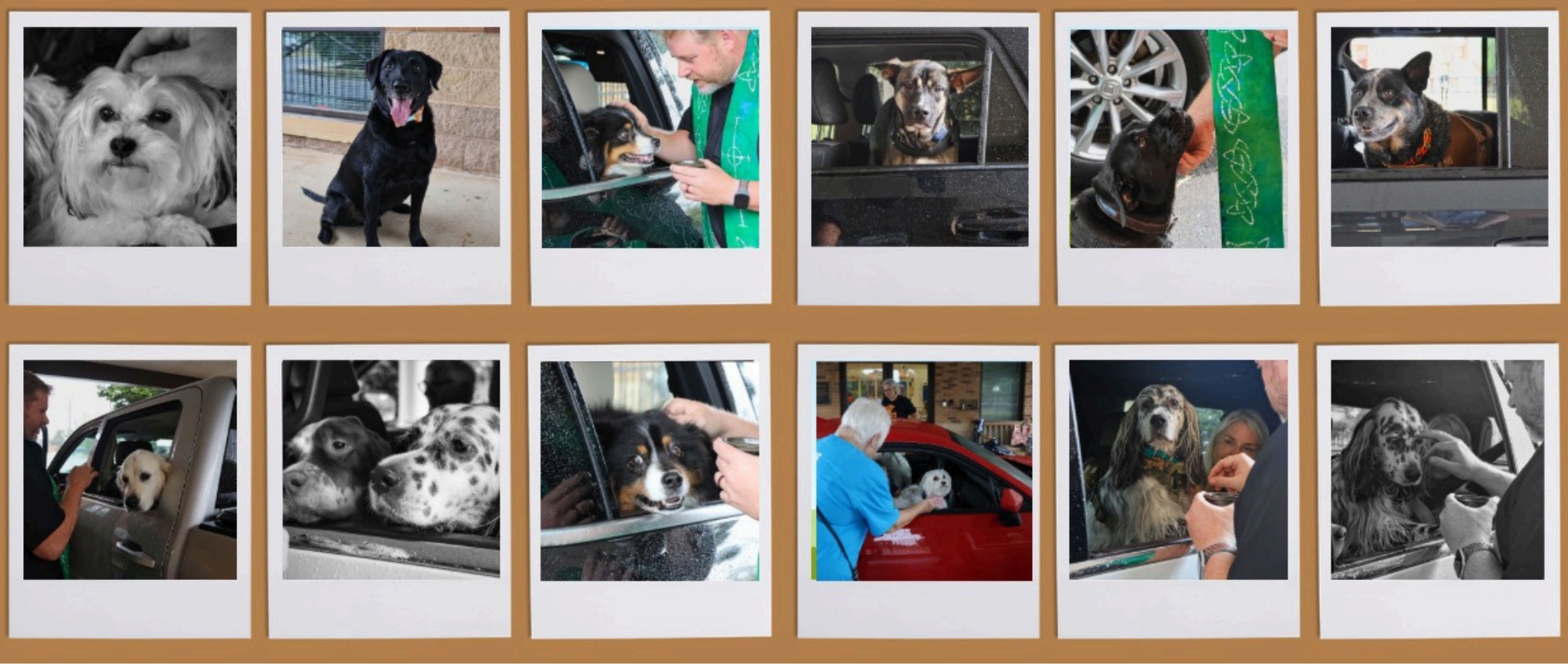
Newnan Presbyterian Chuch

Fall Edition 2026

The Quarterly Journal



Blessing of the Animals

This year's Blessing of the Animals was a bit different, with the wet weather causing a quick pivot to a drive-thru model, but no amount of rain could dampen the spirits of our canine visitors.

Photos by Lacey Lancaster

In This Issue

NPC Life Events

NPC's Quilts of Valor Ceremony

Deacon of the Quarter

Musical Notes

Elder of the Quarter

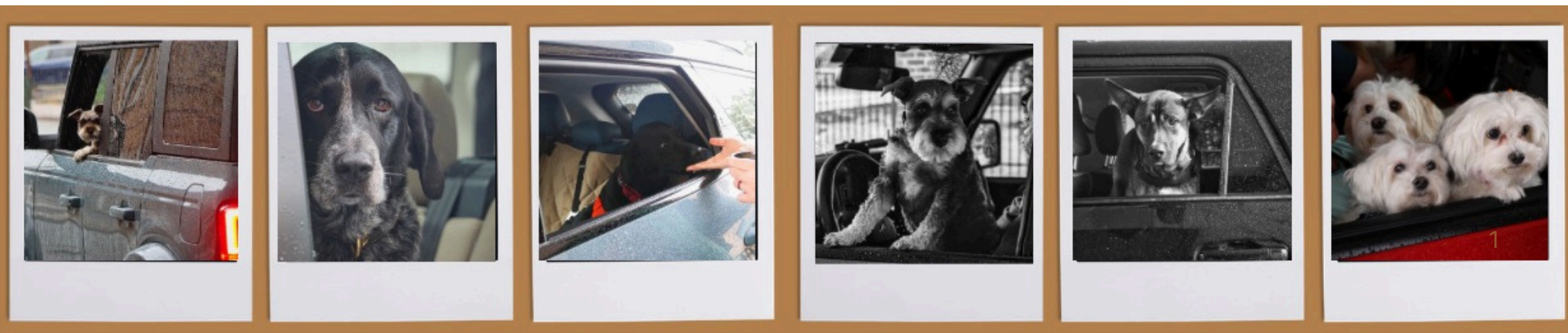
Outreach Ministry at CORRAL

CROSS Youth Mission Trip

NPS News

The Presbyterian Corner

...& more.



Life Events

Births:

- Walker Ehsan McLellan, October 4, 2026 to Roxy & Trace McLellan

Baptisms:

- Jackson Alexander Bray, September 27, 2026
- Geneva Payne, October 23, 2026
- Andrew Kevin Moody, November 3, 2-26
- Robert (Bo) Stephen Liebe, November 8, 2026

Weddings:

- Marianna Spragins & Kurt Gregory Brown II, August 1, 2026
- Hannah Parnell & Samuel Watkins, September 6, 2026

New Members:

- Sue & Tim Tarpley

Deaths:

- Merle Thagard Scholder, August 9, 2026
- JoAn Neil, August 13, 2026
- Richard (Dick) Joseph Kozma, September 10, 2026



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Wrapped in Love

NPC Honors Our Veterans and Active Duty Service Members

Text & photos by Lacey Lancaster

On August 15th, Newnan Presbyterian hosted 2026's largest Quilts of Valor presentation in Coweta County. We were honored to recognize the service of so many members of our church family through the work of this wonderful organization. Founded in 2003 by Catherine Roberts after a dream of her son deployed in Iraq saw him wrapped in a quilt that brought him peace and comfort, Quilts of Valor has presented more than 250,000 quilts to date. We're thankful to Jean Raines, Pat Jones, and the rest of the Coweta County chapter for the love and care they put into the beautiful quilts they made.

Quilts were presented to veterans Ronald Anderson, Sam Avery, Edwin Atkinson, Michael Bailey, John Kookogey, Richard Kozma, Allen Pope, William Rowland, Arthur Sepcie, Barry Singleton, Erik Swindlehurst, William Tokarsky, and Dick Viall. Active duty service members Justin and Tyler Kantorczyk received their quilts in a separate home ceremony. It remains a special joy to know that Dick Kozma was able to receive this honor before his passing, and we know that it meant so much to him.

Special thanks are owed to Cresandra Anderson for all of her hard work in organizing this event, as well as the late Merle Scholder who originally imagined bringing Quilts of Valor to her NPC family. Sadly, she just missed being there, but many people at the event said that she had the best seat in the house that day.

Deacon of the Quarter

My name is Andrew Moody. I am 28 years old and have been a member of Newnan Presbyterian Church since February 2023. I have had the privilege of serving as a Deacon since the beginning of 2024. My wife, Carly, and I were married in October 2020, and together we are blessed with two beautiful daughters, Wren and Lula.

Carly and I moved from Locust Grove, Georgia, to Coweta County in 2022. As we settled into a new community, we hoped to find a church where we could establish roots, grow in our faith, and raise our family. From the moment we first walked through the doors of Newnan Presbyterian, we were welcomed with open arms.



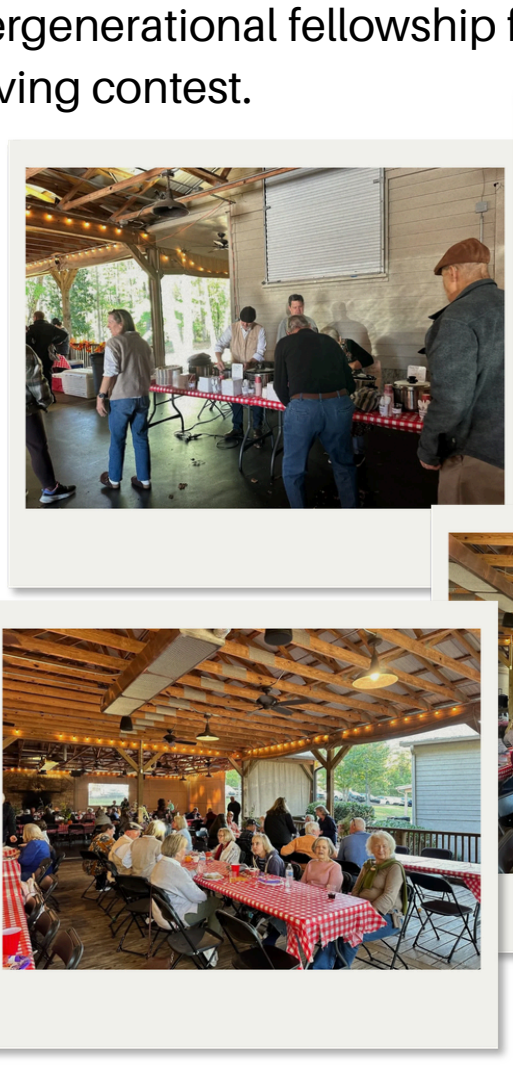
Andrew Moody
Deacon for Zone 7 - Western Coweta, Welcome, Powers Crossroads

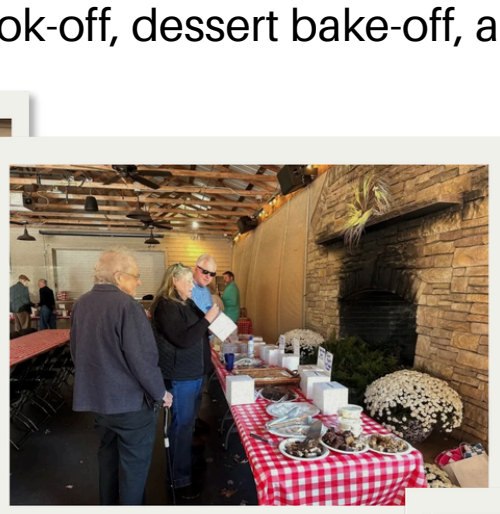
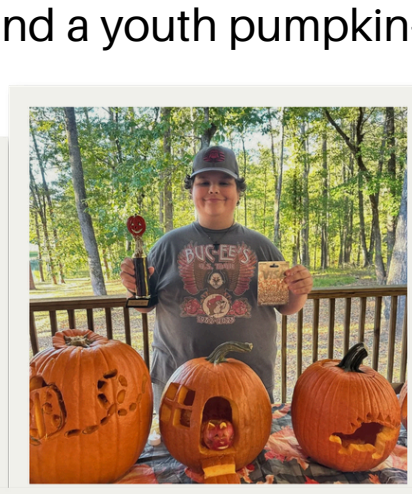
Since then, our church family has been a tremendous source of encouragement, support, and fellowship, particularly as our family has grown. I hope to extend that same compassion, encouragement, and sense of belonging to others that we have been so fortunate to experience ourselves.

Galatians 5:13 (NIV) reminds us, “Serve one another humbly in love.” I believe this is at the heart of what it means to serve as a Deacon. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this congregation and look forward to continuing to grow in faith while helping others experience the love and fellowship that make Newnan Presbyterian feel like home.

NPC Annual Church Picnic

This year’s annual picnic served up some helpings of friendly competition, along with intergenerational fellowship for all! We had a chili cook-off, dessert bake-off, and a youth pumpkin-carving contest.







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Music for the Advent & Christmas Season

by Cliff Brock

Music is such an important aspect of the Holiday season. Christmas carols, in particular, can transport us back to our childhoods, just like the smell of evergreens or cranberry sauce.



Our annual Joy Gift Service, on December 13th, will feature the choir, our bell choir, solos, and an instrumental trio (Ashley, Laney, and Dennis). While many carols will sound familiar, I've rewritten tunes for lyrics like "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" and "In the Bleak Midwinter". Our bell choir is working on a rousing rendition of the "West Indian Carol". Various children will read scripture and poetry.

For our Joy Gift Dinner, which will be later that day, I'll invite everyone to sing carols, like "White Christmas" and "Frosty", and many others...

Our Longest Night service will be held at Central Baptist on December 20th. I'll be playing the organ, and Central will provide the special music.

On Christmas Eve, we have a special trio at the Children's Service featuring Sage, Huff, and Kay. Kristine, Jennifer, and Patti will sing at the later service.



Elder of the Quarter



Tom Moynahan
Worship Ministry

Presently, I am serving as the Elder of the Worship Ministry. If something is happening in our sanctuary (Sunday Services, Communion, Baptism, Weddings, Music, Live-Streaming) it more than likely falls under the purview of this ministry. I served in this capacity from 2021-2023, and then again in 2026 to fill in for Pat Flanigan. The Worship Ministry is a very rewarding place to serve.

One coordinates with both the Pastor and the music programs so you really feel like you have a pulse of the church. We will be turning over the reigns of this Ministry to the very capable, dedicated and talented Jennifer Pike. The full group generally meets 4-6 times per year. If one cares about the worship experience, your input will be helpful. New challenges will be created as we move back to the renovated sanctuary and as our congregation grows.

News from the Young Disciples Program

Shared by the Christian Eduation Ministry

We are so excited to share some changes that are coming to our Young Disciples Program! One of the things we love most about our Church is seeing our children and youth grow not only in their faith but also in the number of families and kids who are becoming part of our Church family. With that growth, we have an exciting opportunity to create Sunday School spaces that are even more intentional and age-appropriate for our kids and youth. Starting November 8th, we will be offering three Sunday School age groups as part of our Young Disciples Program:

2's - Pre-K

Our little ones who have been part of the nursery are growing up! They are ready for a classroom of their own where they can begin learning Bible stories, singing songs, doing age-appropriate activities, and building relationships with each other. Andrea Kantorczyk will be the teacher of this group.

Kindergarten - 4th Grade

Our elementary kids will continue to have their own Sunday School experience with lessons and activities designed specifically for their age group. Darcie Jones will be the teacher of this group.

Middle School

And our youth are not being forgotten or losing their space! In fact, we are excited to make their Sunday School time even more intentional. We are thrilled to welcome Greg Shivers and Lacey Lancaster as our new youth Sunday School teachers. They will be helping create a space where our middle students can ask questions, have meaningful conversations, study Scripture, and grow together in their faith. Our High Schoolers are encouraged to join adults for worship, but are welcome in the class.

As our Church grows, we want to make sure that every age group has a place where they feel known, welcomed, and part of our faith community. We are so thankful for the people who are willing to step into new roles and help make this possible. It is such a blessing to be at a point in our Church where we are able to add another class because we have more children and families to serve. We truly believe this is an exciting sign of what God is doing in our church, and we can't wait to see these new classes grow and develop. Thank you for trusting us with your children and youth and for being part of this growing Church family. We are so excited for what is ahead!

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A "Magic"-al Visit

The Outreach Ministry Spends Time at C.O.R.R.A.L.



Melanie, Ed, Owen, Marie, Brown, Carol Lee, & Cresandra



Magic eating a snack before class

The NPC Outreach Ministry visited the Coweta Organization for Riding, Rehabilitation, and Learning (CORRAL) in October. Established by Mr. Brown & Marie Powell in 1987, CORRAL serves children with physical and intellectual disabilities. NPC sponsors one of the horses there.

The blue horse, pictured at right, was part of a 2012 fundraiser for the children's museum, "A Horsey Affair." This horse, completed by artist Jack Jones, was provided by Pete & Gail Furniss and Friends of CORRAL. The other side of the horse includes artwork depicting children & a toy horse.



Melanie's smile says it all - we had a great time!



The Silence of Touch
Artist: Jack Jones

C.A.R.E. Group Recap

Connecting with each other, Affirming our faith, Restoring our soul, and Engaging with the world



October 2026 Garden C.A.R.E. Group



At the home of Ginny & Dale Lyles

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CROSS Mission Trip 2026

Notes from our NPC Youth



Watching peoples faces light up with joy and thankfulness after winning basic necessities such a laundry detergent, shampoo, and dish soap gave me a whole new perspective. It made me realize that even the smallest gesture of kindness and support can make all the difference when someone is going through a difficult time. -**Savannah Dodd**

My favorite part of the mission trip was getting to help others and seeing how happy it made them. We helped organize donations and spent time playing bingo with people in need. I learned that even doing small things can make a big difference in someone's day. It was nice to see how something as simple as playing a game could bring so much joy to others. This trip helped me realize that showing God's love doesn't have to be something big, but can be as simple as giving your time and being kind to others. - **Kate Morrison**



My favorite part of our cross missions trip was getting to help all kinds of people while being around my friends. We played bingo with the elderly and sorted out clothes for the homeless and needy. This trip helped me reflect on God's love by seeing that we ARE God's love, we are the thing that god sends when someone prays to Him. It helped me learn that everyone even if they seem okay need help in their own little ways and you could be the person that God sends to help them. - **Laney Jones**

My favorite moment from the mission trip besides Georgia beating Alabama, was getting to hang out with wonderful people while serving the community. We had great weather and everyone we met was so welcoming and kind. I had a lot of fun helping others and getting to know the people from there. I am very thankful to everyone who made this trip possible. - **Bennett Rice**

My favorite pasrt of the CROSS Mission Trip was playing bingo with the elderly, we had a very fun time being with people and making connections. Seeing them so excited to play with us was so enlightening and it showed me how God came come through fun things like games. - **Trey Jones**

On our trip, we played this game with Smarties. There was a list of rules about housing, insurance, and where to wash your clothes. The lady would read out a sentence, and we'd have to adjust our board and our Smarties to match what she said when we lost our job, we lost our insurance, and no money meant no groceries. The game taught us to appreciate what we have because we never know how quickly things can change. We give thanks to God that we had this opportunity to help others and lear about loving our neighbors and bless them in every way we can. - **Pippa Greene**



My favorite part of the CROSS Mission Trip was when we got to play bingo and it was an opening experience to see how overjoyed this people were to receive basic necessities like laundry detergent and soap, and it really made me realized how blessed I am. I don't have to wonder where my next meal is coming from and if I'll have clothes provided for me and it was really nice to bring a smile to someone's face. It helped me realized that showing God's love can be just playing bingo with people. -**Anna Hirsch**

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Christmas Tour of Homes 2026

by Barbara Kookogey

The Christmas Tour of Homes is a much-loved community tradition that brings people together to celebrate the beauty, history, and spirit of Christmas while supporting meaningful causes throughout our area. Hosted by Newnan Presbyterian School (NPS), the 2026 Tour marks the 11th year NPS has organized this special community event. Each year, homeowners graciously open their doors and share their beautifully decorated homes with visitors, offering a glimpse into the history and character of our community and plenty of inspiration for the Christmas season.

An event of this size would not be possible without the generosity of the homeowners, the many workers who give their time, the businesses and individuals who provide support, and the guests who make the tour a success. From coordinating the homes and preparing the brochure to decorating, greeting visitors, and providing transportation, it takes many helping hands to bring the event together.

NPS proudly shares 10% of the tour proceeds with a local nonprofit each year.

The remaining proceeds have helped NPS purchase curriculum, classroom furniture, toys, equipment, and other resources, as well as fund significant improvements to church and school property.

Since 2009, NPS has contributed more than $154,646 toward documented improvements and purchases. These projects have included playgrounds and safety surfacing, fencing and security improvements, classroom renovations, bathroom updates, parking lot improvements, landscaping, and technology. This total does not include the many additional classroom furnishings, toys, and equipment purchased over the years for which costs are unavailable. It also does not include the countless hours of labor provided by school staff and their families for painting and other work around the property and grounds. These contributions represent a lasting investment in our children, families, and church community.



Parrot-Camp-Soucy House

Over the years, the Tour of Homes has shared its proceeds with many deserving local organizations. Recipients have included Can't Never Could (2016), Coweta Samaritan Clinic (2017), Newnan-Coweta Humane Society (2018), The Angel's House (2019), Bridging the Gap (2020), Backstreet Arts (2021), Children Connect Museum (2022), ELEVATE Coweta Students (2023), McRitchie-Hollis Newnan-Coweta History Museum (2024), Coweta F.O.R.C.E. (2025), and Newnan-Coweta Habitat for Humanity (2026). Each organization represents an important part of the work being done to serve and strengthen our community.

We are grateful to everyone who has helped make the Christmas Tour of Homes such a meaningful tradition. It is more than a holiday event; it is an opportunity to celebrate our community, preserve local history, spread Christmas cheer, and make a difference beyond our school walls.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of making this tradition possible at NPC!

The Presbyterian Corner

Question: What is the Incarnation?

IThe incarnation is a theological term to affirm that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, became a human being in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. This is a central element of Christian belief and is captured in John's Gospel: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14). This is "eternity" entering "time," but more importantly, it is the ultimate expression of God's love for the humanity created by God and reconciled back to God by the sending of God's Son into the world to bring salvation (John 3:16–17).

Presbyterians affirm that the incarnation took place in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, a Palestinian Jew who was a truly human person as well as being truly and fully divine. This is sometimes called the "paradox" of the incarnation—that Jesus is both fully divine and fully human. Yet this has been the crucial affirmation of the church about Christology, or the study of Christ: Jesus is the "divine-human." Both aspects are critical in our saying who Jesus is.

How Jesus could be truly human and truly divine at the same time is a mystery. It defies rational explanation or confirmation. We affirm it by faith, believing that Jesus took upon himself the sin of humanity, representing us and dying for us. His death has the power to bring salvation because Jesus Christ is fully God. Only one who is fully God and fully human could provide salvation by dying for our sin and being raised in his resurrection.

The church has long affirmed that the two natures of Christ—divine and human—are united in the one person of Jesus Christ. Some groups have emphasized one dimension over the other—the divine over the human, or vice versa. All these attempts have been rejected by the church as being less than a full incarnation—a full affirmation that in Jesus Christ, God has become a human and has assumed human "flesh." Through the experience of redemption and salvation, we come to recognize who Jesus is and to realize the importance of what Jesus has done.

In Jesus Christ, God's "power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9), and salvation is given to those who believe (1 Pet. 1:9). In him, the power of God's love is able to transform the world and to transform human lives. This is our joy in believing in the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

From Donald McKim, Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers, pp.29-30, Question 23

NPC's Bicentennial

Be on the lookout for a letter in December with updates about our sanctuary preservation.

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