

the Quarterly journal



In This Issue

2025 Guatemala Mission
Trip Update

NPC Life Events

Reflecting on Advent
2024:

- Home-Centered Gift Bags
- Writing a Lullaby for Christmas

Welcoming Our New
Members

More Than Just a Deviled Egg: The NPC Hospitality Volunteers

by Chris Rice

Ecclesiastes 3:4 reminds us that there is "a time to mourn," and our dedicated group of hospitality volunteers at NPC helps make those difficult moments just a little bit easier. From menu planning and decorating to cooking and clean-up, these volunteers serve with love and compassion, bringing comfort and support to our members when they need it most.

I just wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to these amazing volunteers. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and our church family is deeply thankful for the way you make these challenging times a little brighter for others. Having such a generous and loving church family is truly a blessing.

If you feel called to be a part of this special group, please reach out to Beth in the church office. There are many ways you can contribute and make a difference!

2025 Guatemala Mission Trip Update

by Melanie Smith

On June 13th, ten members and friends from Newnan Presbyterian Church will depart from Atlanta to Guatemala City for a 10-day mission trip with Pura Vida. The primary focus will be constructing a house for a family near Chichicastenango, Guatemala. Our own NPC member, Janie Williams, is a Student Sponsor Liaison for Pura Vida Ministries and is excited about leading a group from Newnan.

On a work/construction trip with Pura Vida, volunteers work with a family and local team members to construct a 2-room home. The philosophy is similar to Habitat for Humanity in that the family will also provide “sweat equity.” The group will be building a home for Juana and her husband, Oscar, and their two young children: Karen, age 3, and Keila, age 1. They are currently living in a rented adobe house.

The group is excited for this new adventure in mission work after almost 30 years serving the Sitpach community in Merida, Mexico. In addition to Janie, the NPC group consists of David Jones, Laney Jones, Melanie Smith, Kay Crosby, Ana Ivey, Jonathan Yaegar, Owen Davis, Gregory Davis (Owen’s son), and Jessie Davis (Owen’s granddaughter).

Many thanks to the Coggin Christian Education Fund and the NPC Endowment Fund for their support for this mission trip. **For more information about the work of Pura Vida, please visit their website at www.puravida.org.** The group requests your prayers for a safe trip and meaningful experience for all!



Juana, Karen, and Keila

NPC Life Events

Births

- Mary Stewart Thomas was born on February 18, 2025, to Elizabeth and Will Thomas.
- Jackson Alexander Bray was born on March 9, 2025, to Tori and Stephen Bray.

Baptisms

- Brandon Collins, Hartley Collins, and Hensley Collins were baptized on April 20, 2025.
- Campbell Woods Betts, son of Emma and Logan Betts, was baptized on April 20, 2025.

Weddings

- Spencer and Robin Smith were married on January 17, 2025.
- Tori and Stephen Bray were married on March 2, 2025.

Deaths

- Walter Schramm died on February 9, 2025.
- Ruth Mallehan died on February 28, 2025.

Notes to the Congregation

I'm so very thankful for my church family that came to visit Diana in the hospital, sent cards, brought food, and attended her memorial service.

Her world had gotten a lot smaller in the last few years, and we struggled to help her live. The strength of the members, uplifting hugs, and holding hands was, and is, so comforting when life and passing become so difficult. Myself and my small family felt so supported and cared for and held tight as our world was melting. The service could not have been better and was wonderfully healing. Thank you for the love that you all surrounded us with during this time.

Joyce Alverson

Dear David, Beth, Bob, Jacob, Maureen, Melanie, Pam, and wonderful congregation,

Please forgive my delay in conveying my sincerest appreciation for all the love and care you all showed Mom and our family during Dad's passing and beyond. I cannot express how much this church family's love meant during the difficult times before and after Dad's passing. I believe God sends me angels every day to help deal with the difficulties each day may hold. God certainly sent all of ya'll to help us. The love we felt was palpable. Dad was always a believer in God, but never devoted his life to any of the churches during the time I was aware of him. He loved your church with his whole being. He was so proud of everyone and the work that Newnan Presbyterian does in the community and beyond. God brought Mom and Dad to your church community, and us as well. I pray for Christ's love every day, and I see it in the way you continue to take care of Mom.

My gratitude and love to you all,
Donna Schmitter and family

Reflecting on Advent 2024



Home-Centered Gift Bags

by Vicki Hunter

Advent is the beginning of the church calendar year. "The church collectively waits with hope-filled anticipation for the arrival, 'Advent,' of Christ in our world, the one born in the flesh and whose presence is with us both now and eternally." (Katy Shevel, The Presbyterian Outlook)

This past Advent season, the NPC deacons were busy planning and preparing special gift bags to present to our home-centered church members. During a work session, deacons donated, organized, wrapped, and prepared Christmas gift bags containing gifts, treats, and personal items for our 26 home-centered members and friends. These members are unable to worship in person regularly, and the deacons wanted them to know that they are loved, prayed for, and missed.

Deacons delivered these special bags during the Advent season. We hope that our beloved home-centered friends were able to share in the "hope-filled anticipation" as we, as a church family, awaited the arrival of Christ.

Writing a New Lullaby for Christmas

by Cliff Brock

I first remember hearing the Czech carol "Rock-bye, My Dear Little Boy" as a teenager. Our local community cantata sang an arrangement of it for its annual concert. I also found out that the hymn had recently been included in our United Methodist Hymnal.

The text evokes the pure love of a mother toward her newborn. It's as if the author was writing not only about the Christ Child but from their own direct experience as a mother. While I don't have children, I've observed enough moms and grandmas to know of the deep attachment one feels toward one's baby.

I'm curious what people think about the lyrics. For most of my compositions, I usually just set other people's lyrics to new music, but this carol was a little too short for a full choral anthem. So, I added new lyrics.

I wrote the tune about a year ago based on the first line, "Rock-a-bye, my dear little boy." After my initial draft, I just didn't feel it was good enough to perform last Christmas (2023). But I revisited the piece this summer, and after a few extra drafts, much to the frustration of my choir, I finally settled on what we performed this Christmas.

Our choir, with Ashley Vasconcelles on violin, premiered this piece on December 15th, 2024, at our Lessons and Carols service.

Newest Draft
10-30-24

Rock-a Bye, My Dear Little Boy

Lyrics: Czech carol, altered Music: Cliff Brock

like a lullaby

Violin

p

The image shows a handwritten musical score on aged paper. At the top, it is labeled 'Newest Draft' and dated '10-30-24'. The title 'Rock-a Bye, My Dear Little Boy' is written in a large, elegant script. Below the title, it says 'Lyrics: Czech carol, altered' and 'Music: Cliff Brock'. The score is written for Violin and Piano. The violin part is on a single staff with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a melodic line that is marked 'like a lullaby'. The piano accompaniment is on two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp and a 3/4 time signature. It starts with a soft 'p' dynamic. The handwriting is clear and professional.

Welcoming Our New Members



New member Logan Betts, pictured with wife Emma (already a NPC member) and baby Campbell.



New members Tori McCowan, Stephen Bray, and Ellie.