

NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER JULY/AUGUST 2004 | VOLUME 3

Summer Sundays

Worship at 9:30 & 11 a.m.

July 4

Justice For All

Psalm 33:10-22;

Romans 13:1-7

Dr. Thomas Erickson

July 11

Priscilla and Aquila—

Spiritual Mentors

Romans 16:1-5a;

Acts 18:1-4, 24-28

July 18

How Are You Going?

Matthew 28:16-20;

Psalm 96

Rev. Eunice McGarrahan

July 25

Who Are We?

Luke 3:1-3, 10-17;

Luke 3:18-22

Dr. Harry Winsheimer

Dr. Thomas Erickson Unsung Heroes of the Faith

August 1

Tychicus—Content to Work Behind the Scenes

Ephesians 6:18-24;

Colossians 4:7-18

August 8

Onesimus—

More than a Slave

Philippians 2:5-13;

Philemon

August 15

Epaphras—A Grace- Filled Minister

Colossians 1:1-8;

Colossians 4:12-13

August 22

Tertius—A Ghostwriter for God

Psalm 119:97-106;

Romans 16:17-22

August 29

A Gallery of Unsung Heroes and Heroines of the Faith

Hebrews 11:32-40;

Romans 16:1-16

Good Things Come to Those Who Wait

An Open Letter to the Congregation from the Pastor Nominating Committee

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you all for your many prayers as we continue our search for our new Pastor, Head of Staff. We have met faithfully for the past 20 months and had the opportunity to come in contact with more than 100 talented and exciting leaders in our denomination. We are grateful for the many people you have referred to us out of your love for NPC. Our process has been thorough and deliberate; we have been ever mindful of the responsibility you have entrusted to us and have been in constant prayer. We realize that only through the grace given freely to us by Christ's sacrifice can this task be completed.

As this issue goes to press, we are still discerning God's will. Please continue your prayers for us and our beloved church. We will let you know when our new Pastor, Head of Staff is called to lead us. In the meantime, the following from the Larger Catechism from the Book of Confessions is a way to focus your own hearts and minds for the exciting future of NPC.

Q. 158. By whom is the Word of God to be preached?

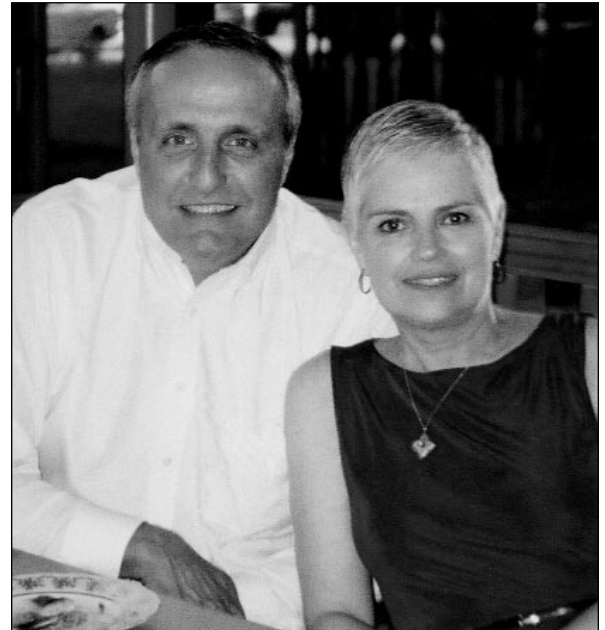
A. The Word of God is to be preached only by such as are sufficiently gifted, and also duly approved and called to that office.

Q. 160. What is required of those that hear the Word preached?

A. It is required of those that hear the Word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; examine what they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God; meditate, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.

Jan Mabumed

Chair, PNC



Focus on Missions: John and Marge Bernbaum

John and Marge Bernbaum have been members of NPC since 1994 and are among NPC's member missionaries. John is founder and president of the Russian-American Christian University. The following is an interview National XPress (NXP) conducted with John (JB).

NXP: What is the focus of your ministry?

JB: My wife Marge and I both feel God's call to work with Russian Christians in the field of education. This call grew out of our backgrounds and passions. The Russian-American Christian University (RACU) in Moscow provides a faith-based liberal arts education for young Russian believers. RACU is bi-national, with board, staff, and faculty made up of Russians and Americans. Marge works part-time in Washington, DC with the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities. She supports CCCU study-abroad programs, including one in Russia.

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NXP: What milestones have you experienced in recent months?

JB: Early one morning last November, I received a phone call with great news. RACU's academic dean said the Russian Ministry of Education had granted full accreditation to RACU, concluding a seven-year application process, hundreds of pages of paperwork, countless meetings with education officials and testing of graduates from RACU's first three years. The dean reported that staff, students and faculty erupted with cheers in the halls and gratitude to God for this great blessing.

NXP: What challenges have you faced?

JB: I spend one-quarter to one-third of my time in Moscow, traveling there four to six times a year to be on-site as RACU's president. I also spend significant time traveling within the United States to meet with potential faculty and donors. When not "hitting the road" I work out of my home office in Silver Spring.

There's a story from several years ago that my wife and I still laugh about as an example of the crazy lives we lead. Marge hosted a small group of American faculty on a visit to the Russian CCCU program, as well as other sites and related institutions—one being RACU. I had already been in Moscow several weeks when she and I met in RACU's halls for a quick hug while Marge's group attended a briefing. Then, off we went on our separate ways with a laugh and a wave. We didn't catch up with each other until a week or so later in Silver Spring!

NXP: What challenges do you anticipate?

JB: The next challenge for the university is to complete a capital campaign to fund its own 46,000 square foot campus facility. The construction cost is \$4.5 million. Two-thirds has been committed to date, leaving \$1.5 million to be raised. As the current leased facility limits the student population to 130, RACU is eager for the new campus, to begin a graduate school of business and evening courses for adult learners.

John adds: One of the highlights of my time at home is Sundays at NPC. I relish the warmth of the fellowship and the quality of the worship in Word and music. Marge and I are deeply grateful for NPC's partnership in ministry through prayer and financial support.

You may learn more about the ministry of RACU at their web site: www.racu.org. Be sure to take a look at the photos! For more about the Bernbaums' ministry, see the NPC website: www.NationalPres.org/PHP_MissionCouncil.phtml4 or call the Outreach Office, 202/537-7483.

NPS Ends the School Year with a Buzz and a Bee

The final weeks at National Presbyterian School were filled with activity and celebration:



The Geography Bee's winning team

The sixth graders presented their oral history booklets to NPC residents of the Ingleside home. Just before the Christmas break, students went to Ingleside to interview NPC members about their experiences in the 1940s and 1950s. The students then compiled these interviews into booklets with photographs from the two days of interviews.

First graders "made sense of the buzz" with a cicada workbook created by their teacher, Laura Primrose. Activities included conducting a census of cicada exoskeletons, drawing a cicada hut, and recording a personal cicada story on a

video or cassette tape.

Upper school students competed in a Geography Bee, organized and hosted by teacher Jim Sumner. The winning team was comprised of Kyle Winkler, James Craig, and Sarah Hansen. Sixth Grader Sarah went on to the regional National Geographic Geography Bee and placed fourth out of ten semi-finalists.

NPS parent and NPC member Lora Tredway has taken on the mantle of President of the school's Board of Trustees for the coming year. Lora was the Treasurer of the church and school until January 2004.

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Are You Ready For “Prime Time?”

There’s a new group of seniors in the church, and unlike the young actors on NBC’s “Saturday Night Live,” these folks really are ready for prime time. That’s because they’re at least 55 years old and they’re eager to start making the most of everything that NPC and Washington, DC have to offer.

Bob Kugel, who, along with Doris Main, helped launch the new group, said it is “designed to provide the kind of recreational and entertainment opportunities not currently offered by other senior organizations in the church.” In other words, Prime Time is not intended to replace groups like SKIFF, the Sunday Evening Club, or Ingleside, but to *supplement* them by offering new and different kinds of activities for seniors.

For example, members of Prime Time recently took field trips to the National Gallery and the National Cathedral. The group plans to offer drawing classes, bridge groups, and Bible study classes focused on the special interests and concerns of people 55 years and older. Lectures on such subjects as health-care, retirement planning, and leisure travel are in the works. Prime Time is even planning to sponsor an AARP-certified driver safety course for seniors. Recently, Dr. Tom Erickson made a well-

received presentation to the group on the topic of books that have been especially meaningful to him as a pastor and as a person.

In fact, Dr. Erickson’s guidance was instrumental in launching Prime Time: his previous church in Arizona sponsored a group of a similar nature that was enormously popular with its members. Arizona is well-known as a haven for retirees, so it’s not surprising that the Valley Presbyterian Church proved adept at meeting this need. Now, seniors here in Washington can benefit from Dr. Erickson’s know-how.

Do you have to be over 55 to join Prime Time?

Well, according to Bob Kugel, nobody’s going to be checking ID’s at the door. Programs will be geared to seniors, but if a particular topic or activity is of interest to you, everyone is welcome to participate. The group meets monthly, usually at the church. Information about future meetings will appear in the weekly bulletin, or announcements will be made at the meetings of SKIFF, Sunday Evening Club, the Women’s Association, and at Ingleside. For more information about Prime Time, contact the Congregational Care Office, 202/537-7525.

The Usual Suspects

By Alix Farr, Youth Intern

We commute to church every morning. We listen to praise music as we work. We photocopy our faces when we think no one is watching. We are the College Interns.

“I’m an introvert... I like my time alone,” says Mitch Gore, youth director. But, nonetheless, every summer Mitch’s office gets stormed by college students who are ready and willing to serve the kids in middle and high school.

This year’s team is made up of Gena Romano, Kory Chikes, James Riviere, Peter Mitchell, and me. I have been sent on a mission to let the church body know a bit more about the interns and what, exactly, we do.

I begin with Gena Romano who is sitting at a table in Mitch’s office drawing a sketch of a t-shirt that all the students going on the mission trips will wear, assuming it meets the approval of the rest of the interns. She is covered in white paint after a morning of creating the backdrop for the Vacation Bible School skits. After being asked what the internship has done for her, she replies, “Well, I don’t get as much sleep. Wait—no! Don’t



write that! My mother has to read this!” I give her a few more minutes to think. “It’s been a good experience to get to know what it takes to make youth ministry work. You never really realize how much goes into it until you actually do it—especially prayer. I have really learned a lot about the importance of prayer.”

Next, I move outside to a shady spot near the fountain where James is sitting and reading. I ask him about what his hopes are for the summer as he works with the middle school. “I am hoping to address relevant cultural issues with the kids,” he says. “Society is their essential source of knowledge, and I would like to

teach them that God can be a part of that as well; that he is universal and can transcend cultural boundaries.”

I return to Mitch’s office where Kory has the Vacation Bible School music CD blaring and is practicing the hand motions to one of the songs she will be leading in the assemblies during VBS week. After I manage to break her away for a moment, she says, “I enjoy working with youth because they need positive influences in their lives as they grow. We are older and we can help them learn to deal with things to come.”

There you have it: the youth interns (minus Peter who will start work in early July). We are here to organize activities, lead Bible studies, spend time with kids, enjoy fellowship, and serve Christ in the directions he is leading us. Our plans include Bible studies on Wednesday nights, Sunday school, a high school mission trip to the Dominican Republic, a middle school mission trip to North Carolina, helping to run VBS, and a high school hiking trip called “The Rock” in Colorado.

No one thinks that they can be perfect role models because, after all, we are merely people, too. Instead, we want to show others how Christ is working in our lives and how they can enjoy that grace in their lives, as well.

Do You Want to See Jesus?

Some Greeks came to Philip and said, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." John 12:21

Christian Horizons

Summer Sunday Adult Combined Class
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Stone Hall

The theme for Christian Horizons 2004 is "Seeing Jesus." Our adult classes will combine for the summer and learn from our speakers about their personal encounters with Jesus Christ. Our speakers will tell us how they have encountered Jesus in the lives of other people who have introduced them to the Savior.

In August, the combined adult classes will meet in the chapel and continue to focus on the theme of encountering Jesus personally as we meet him in the scriptures.



Steve Garber will be our speaker on June 27.

"Seeing Jesus"

Stone Hall

June 20
Tom Jones
Vice President,
Habitat For
Humanity
International



June 27
Steve Garber
Fellow and Lilly Faculty Scholar at
Calvin College, and Senior Fellow with
the C.S. Lewis Institute

July 4
Eunice McGarrahan
NPC Associate Pastor for Nurture and
Discipling

July 11
Bobby Polito
Director, HHS Center for Faith Based
and Community Initiatives

July 18
COL Donna Weddle
Chaplain to the Joint Chiefs

July 26
**Alix Farr, James Riviere,
and Kory Chikes**
NPC Youth Ministry Interns

"Encountering Jesus"

Chapel

August 1
Megan Johnson
"Jesus and the Syrophenician Woman"
Matthew 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30

August 8
Ed Satterfield
"Jesus and the Woman at the Well"
John 4:3-30

August 15
Eunice McGarrahan
"Jesus and the Father of the
Possessed Boy"
Mark 9:14-29

August 22
Hunter Weimer
"Jesus and Paul"
Acts 9:1-31

August 29
**Mitch Gore
and Peter Mitchell**
"Jesus and Blind Bartimaeus"
Mark 10: 46-52

September 5
NPC Staff
TBA

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