

# NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JAN/FEB 2006 | VOLUME 1

## WORSHIP AT 9:15 AND 11 AM 9:15 ADULT CLASSES

### Wrestlers

Agencies, Lower Level  
Guided Tour of the Bible

Agencies, Rm. 101

### Women's Beth Moore

Agencies, Rm. 102

### Mustard Seeds

Agencies, Rm. 103

### Disciples

Agencies, Rm. 104

### Young Professionals

Agencies, Rm. 105

### Gospel of Mark

Church, Rm. 105

### Men's Bible Class

Library

### Women's Bible Class

School, Rm. 140

### Faith and Works

School, Rm. 220

### Parenting Teens

School, Rm. 216

### Love and Marriage

School, Rm. 234-6

### GODparents:

#### the Class

School, Rm. 222

### Newlyweds

School, Rm. 134

### NPC and Me

9 - 10:50 a.m. • Parlor

## 11:00 ADULT CLASSES

Prepare for Marriage  
Agencies, Rm. 105

## A Minor Change Brings a Major Improvement *NPC's New Sunday Morning Schedule*

by Richard Armstrong

By now you've probably noticed — or at least we hope you've noticed! — that, on January 8, there will be a small but significant change in the starting time of the first worship service on Sunday mornings: from 9 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

"What's that all about?" you may wonder. After all, starting times for worship service at nine and eleven have worked pretty well for many churches over the course of many, many years.

It's a good question. And it's a question that NPC's leadership has been wrestling with over the past few months as they searched for a way to deal with the increasing number of conflicts in a busy Sunday morning schedule of activities. The result of their earnest discussions, an opinion poll of our membership, and, of course, much prayerful consideration is a very minor change that the leadership hopes will result in a *major* improvement in the life of our church.

Nine and eleven are certainly easy to remember, and those times have traditionally worked well for the worship services; but the problems arose in coordinating worship services with Sunday school and adult education.

Consider the plight of a typical family of four,

each of whom has a variety of commitments and interests to pursue on Sunday morning. Dad thinks it would be nice if the whole family could worship in the sanctuary together. But Mom has a Women's Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., while Dad himself is committed to attend the Men's Bible Study at 10 a.m. Their daughter is in the Children's Choir, which starts at 8:45 a.m. And their son won't get out of his Youth Class until 11 a.m.

Even if they do manage to work it all out (probably with the help of a mainframe computer!) and get to all their meetings on time, they will be rushing from one experience to the next with no time to spare. This leaves little or no opportunity to enjoy the experience of worshipping together as a family or enjoying the fellowship of meeting friends over a cup of coffee in Stone Hall.

It seemed today's hectic pace had crept into our Sunday morning offerings. NPC's leadership realized that the schedule was not enhancing our efforts to create a place for reflection and spiritual growth, with some activities starting at 8:45, some at 9:30, some at 10, and some at 10:30. Throw in worship services at 9 and 11, and you've got a recipe for confusion!

Hence the change.

*Continued on page 3*

## From Washington to Chiang Mai to Johannesburg: NPC Connects

By John Haltiwanger, Claude Bennett, Holly Novak, David Wallace

### *Constructing Houses and Cooking Breakfast*

Early on two Saturday mornings this fall more than 40 volunteers from NPC gathered for prayer before spending the day helping with Habitat for Humanity construction projects. On October 1, our volunteers worked in Northeast D.C. on five homes. On November 5, we traveled to a project in Northern Virginia to work on three homes under

construction. Activities included carpentry, sanding, spackling, painting, landscaping, and working on foundations.

Once a month NPC volunteers gather to reach out to our community as part of the Hands On activities that our Urban Missions Committee promotes. Other activities include cooking and serving breakfast at the Third Street Church of God Urban Prayer Breakfast (UPB). Each year thousands of

*Continued on page 2*

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## NATIONAL X PRESS

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#### DEADLINES

March/April Feb. 1

May/June April 1

E-mail:

XPress@NatPresCh.org

or call 202.537.7574

## Missions *Continued from page 1*

breakfasts are served to the homeless and poor, offering sustenance, spiritual inspiration, and counseling. During Thanksgiving week, 30 NPC volunteers (six per day) made their way to the Shaw neighborhood at 6:30 a.m. to cook breakfast for over 100 each morning. Cracking and scrambling hundreds of eggs, making five pounds of grits, cutting and cooking several pounds of meat, preparing hundreds of pieces of toast and serving breakfast kept volunteer crews busy for 2-3 hours each morning. These and other Hands On activities will continue in the new year.

## *Dancing Parables, Teaching Theology*

NPC's mission partners in Chiang Mai, Thailand, include the Christian Communication Institute (CCI), which spreads the Gospel through performances of Thai dance and folk opera. On October 12 at NPC, CCI performed the "Good Samaritan" parable as a folk opera. The evening included a traditional Thai dinner.

NPC helps to support a sister institution of CCI, McGilvary Seminary in Chiang Mai, contributing to the salary of the dean, PC(USA) missionary William Yoder. Our Mission Council, Business and Professional Woman's Guild, Women's Association, and Alternative Gifts at Christmas Market subsidize food and tuition for students in need at McGilvary.

Since 2004, eight tutors from NPC have helped fourteen McGilvary seminarians improve their English, a prerequisite to the advanced graduate study in theology required of McGilvary faculty. NPC-supported English immersion in 2005 for a Thai faculty member led to his current Masters of Theology studies at Hong Kong's Lutheran Seminary. We hope to provide additional tutoring in 2006 and immersion assistance in 2007.

NPC recently made donations to translate the New Testament into Kayah (Red Karen language) in Thailand and to



Phyllis Wolfe works with a family in South Africa.

train Burmese pastors to serve refugees in Burma. Most important in these mission partnerships are international Christian friendships developed through participants' continuing relationships.

## *Building Bridges, Gaining Vision*

In October, a team of ten volunteers from NPC took part in a "vision trip" in South Africa, hosted by our partner, Pro-Vision International (PVI). The main purpose of this trip was to build bridges of understanding and gain a broad vision of what God is doing in the communities served by PVI. The team observed seventeen active ministries focusing on orphans and vulnerable children, home care for HIV-AIDS patients, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, prison ministry, preschool and after-school enrichment, and care for impoverished adults. A major goal of PVI is to stimulate projects to help local ministries generate their own income. The key strategy is to equip Christian leaders, or "Unsung Heroes," through management, mentoring, and money.

The NPC team visited Johannesburg and traveled along the south coast of the country, spending time in Smutsville, where they worked alongside PVI Unsung Heroes Pastor Henry McCombi and his mother Lydia. They participated in outreach to adults and children in homes, a rehabilitation center, a prison, and a school. Team members also shared their testimonies and provided workshops in a leadership conference led by Pastor McCombi. The highlight of the visit to Smutsville was the dedication of a community center purchased with funds from NPC's mission program.

For more information on these partnerships and how to become involved, contact the Outreach Office, 202.537.7483 or [HWeimer@NatPresCh.org](mailto:HWeimer@NatPresCh.org).

## Who Are the Angels?

*By Heather Roberts*

What is an angel and where at NPC do we find them? Our angels are the exuberant children, from age 4 through kindergarten. Our church family at NPC heard a little glimpse of heaven when some of these angels sang at the Advent Workshop. It truly was heavenly! If your angel was not able to participate in that evening, there will be an opportunity to shine again with other

angels in the Angel Choir, beginning January 8.


The Angel Choir provides a fun environment for children to sing together, learn beginning music reading skills, learn about the Bible and worship, memorize scripture, and last, but not least, learn about who God is and why he matters in our lives.

How does a potential angel join the Angel Choir? There will be pink registration forms located by the Sunday School classrooms and in Jones Hall during the Sunday School hour. If you fill out a form, please return it with heavenly speed



to Heather Roberts, Director of Youth and Children's Music Ministries, at NPC. Ms. Heather may be found in Jones Hall on Sundays from 8:45-10:30 a.m. Ms. Heather also has a mailbox in the Administration Building.

We are so excited for the new Angel Choir at NPC. When our new schedule begins on January 8, the Angel Choir will meet in Jones Hall at 11 a.m. every Sunday. Any questions? Call Ms. Heather, 301.990.0887 or email [HRoberts@NatPresCh.org](mailto:HRoberts@NatPresCh.org). We can't wait to see you and your angels!

day	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Worship</b> at 11 a.m. <b>only</b> Dr. Gareth Icenogle Sunday Classes for Adults, Children, and Youth at 10 a.m. Prepare for Marriage at 10:30 a.m.	<b>2</b> Tuesdays Together at 7 p.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Prime Time Bible Class at 10 a.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> B&P Women's Guild Lunch and Program at 11:45 a.m.	
<b>8</b> <b>Communion Worship</b> at 9:15 and 11 a.m. Dr. Gareth Icenogle Installation of New Officers Sunday Classes for Adults, Children, and Youth at 9:15 a.m.	<b>9</b> Library & Archives Council Meeting at 6 p.m. Children's Ministries Sunday School Leadership Team Meeting at 6 p.m. Coordinating Committee at 6 p.m. Trustee Board Meeting at 8 p.m. Children's Council Meeting at 8 p.m.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> NPS Chapel at 8:40 a.m. <b>Wednesday Night Alive</b> Dinner, 5:30 — 6:45 p.m. Classes — 7 p.m. Leadership Training at 7 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Worship</b> at 9:15 and 11 a.m. Rev. John Wagner Fifth Graders' Milestone in Worship: Reformation Sunday Classes for Adults, Children, and Youth at 9:15 a.m. NPC & Me Membership Class at 9:15 a.m.	<b>16</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Church Offices Closed.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Wednesday Night Alive</b> Dinner, 5:30 — 6:45 p.m. Classes — 7 p.m. Leadership Training at 7 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Library & Archives Annual Luncheon at noon
<b>22</b> <b>Worship</b> at 9:15 and 11 a.m. Dr. Gareth Icenogle Sunday Classes for Adults, Children, and Youth at 9:15 a.m. NPC & Me Membership Class at 9:15 a.m.	<b>23</b> Session Meeting at 7 p.m. Deacons Board Meeting at 7 p.m.	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Wednesday Night Alive</b> Dinner, 5:30 — 6:45 p.m. Classes — 7 p.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> NPC & Me One-Day Membership Class from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<b>29</b> <b>Worship</b> at 9:15 and 11 a.m. Dr. Gareth Icenogle Sunday Classes for Adults, Children, and Youth at 9:15 a.m. NPC & Me Membership Class at 9:15 a.m.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
<h1>JANUARY</h1>						

sunday

monday

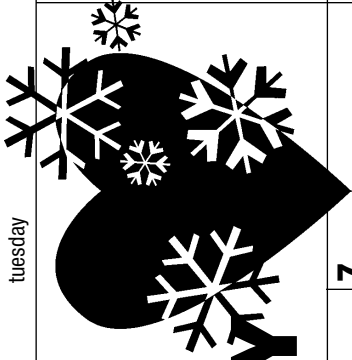
tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday



# FEBRUARY

<b>5</b> <b>Communion Worship</b> at 9:15 and 11 a.m. Dr. Gareth Icenogle Sunday Classes for Adults, Children, and Youth at 9:15 a.m. NPC & Me Membership Class at 9:15 a.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Tuesdays Together at 7 p.m.	<b>8</b> <b>Wednesday Night Alive</b> Dinner, 5:30 — 6:45 p.m. Classes — 7 p.m.	<b>9</b> Prime Time Bible Class at 10:30 a.m.	<b>10</b> Romantic Dinner at 7 p.m.	<b>11</b> Care Team Orientation at 8:30 a.m..
<b>12</b> <b>Worship</b> at 9:15 and 11 a.m. Dr. Ronald White First Grade Milestone: Lord's Prayer Sunday Classes for Adults, Children, and Youth at 9:15 a.m. NPC & Me Class at 9:15 a.m. In Touch Orientation at 12:30 p.m. Music at National: Duo Piano Concert at 7:30 p.m.	<b>13</b> Children's Ministries Sunday School Leadership Team Meeting at 6 p.m. Coordinating Committee at 6 p.m. Trustee Board Meeting at 8 p.m. Children's Council Meeting at 8 p.m.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> NPS Chapel at 8:40 a.m. <b>Wednesday Night Alive</b> Dinner, 5:30 — 6:45 p.m. Classes — 7 p.m.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Beth Moore Bible Study at 11 a.m.	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>Worship</b> at 9:15 and 11 a.m. Dr. Gareth Icenogle Sunday Classes for Adults, Children, and Youth at 9:15 a.m. NPC & Me Membership Class at 9:15 a.m.	<b>20</b> Presidents' Day Church Offices Closed.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Wednesday Night Alive</b> Dinner, 5:30 — 6:45 p.m. Classes — 7 p.m.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Mother-Daughter and Friends Brunch at 9:30 a.m.
<b>26</b> <b>Worship</b> at 9:15 and 11 a.m. Dr. Gareth Icenogle Fourth Graders' Milestone in Wor- ship: Communion Sunday Classes for Adults, Children, and Youth at 9:15 a.m. Washington Symphonic Brass Concert at 7:30 p.m.	<b>27</b> Session Meeting at 7 p.m. Deacon Board Meeting at 7 p.m.	<b>28</b>				

## Schedule *Continued from page 1*

Under the new schedule, the first worship service on Sunday morning will start at 9:15 a.m. and so will all of the activities and classes for youth and children, plus many of our adult classes. (There will also be additional adult classes starting at 11 a.m.) The 9:15 classes and activities will end promptly at 10:20, allowing time for families to reconvene and head to the 11 a.m. worship service together. Or enjoy a relaxed period of fellowship in Stone Hall. Or both.

This new schedule provides *full* worship time and *full* class time, with no rushing from one to the other. It's easier to remember because the first worship

service and most of the Nurture activities will begin at a uniform time. It works better for parents who want to worship with their children. But it *also* works better for parents who would rather worship in the sanctuary while their toddlers or youngsters are in childcare or Sunday school.

Yes, it is a change, and change is always challenging. But as Leslie Saum, the new Director of Congregational Care, recently wrote in announcing the new schedule, "God is inviting us to stretch, the kind of stretching that an earthly father encourages in his children as they grow up. God wants us to stretch beyond ourselves and our expectations ... and to stretch our staying power on Sunday mornings!"

## New Ministry Keeps Us All "In Touch"

By Doris Lum

Last April, NPC's In Touch ministry was born out of the need to reach our members who are unable to come to church regularly. A group of 16 volunteers called "visitors," began to make monthly home visits. Eight months later the program has grown to include 24 members, each with an assigned visitor. When volunteers head out for a visit, they bring a prepared devotional to share, based on a recent worship service. Relationships have sprouted out of this new ministry, and by all counts the results have been heartening.

The following quotes were gathered from our volunteers, who seem to have gained as much from In Touch as those being ministered to:

"They both seemed grateful for a connection with NPC."

"After devotions, I asked her if it is too long. She responded, 'It can be longer!'"

"They love hearing about the church and people from the past."

"This month her daughter brought her to my house for lunch. We had a lovely time."

"He is a lovely gentleman and very appreciative of my visit and our prayer time together."

"He has become very frail during these few months. After I prayed, he said, 'Thank you,' so sincerely that it melted my heart."

The need for this ministry seems clear: we now have a waiting list of members waiting to be assigned a visitor. The next orientation for In Touch, a ministry of the Board of Deacons, is on Sunday, January 19. If you would like to participate, or learn more about the ministry, contact Doris Lum, 301.657.1117.

## New Sunday Schedule Begins Jan. 8

9:00	9:15	9:30	9:45	10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45	11:00	11:15	11:30	11:45	12:00	12:15	12:30
	Worship 9:15 – 10:20			Fellowship in Stone Hall			Worship 11:00 – 12:05			Fellowship in Stone Hall				
	Adult Nurture 9:15 – 10:20			Fellowship in Stone Hall			Adult Nurture 11:00 – 12:05			Fellowship in Stone Hall				
	Youth Nurture 9:15 – 10:20			Youth Choir or Fellowship			Youth in Worship 11:00 – 12:05			Fellowship in Stone Hall				
	Children's Sunday School 1st - 5th Grades		Pick-up	Fellowship in Stone Hall with parents			Worship with Parents	Children's Choir 1st - 5th Grades		Pick-up				
	Children's Sunday School Ages 4, 5 & Kindergarten		Pick-up	Fellowship in Stone Hall with parents			Angel Choir	"Club 130" Ages 4, 5 & Kindergarten		Pick-up				
	Children's Sunday School Ages 2 and 3			Childcare			Childcare with Bible Stories, Music & Play		Pick-up					
Childcare all morning (from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.) for children six weeks through four years														



## It's Time for Romance!

Join your friends at the annual  
NPC Romantic Dinner  
Friday, February 10 • Stone Hall

Enjoy a candlelit gourmet dinner, listen to wonderful songs performed by Michael Denham and friends, and dance the evening away.

Tickets will be on sale Sundays, January 22 and 29, and February 5!

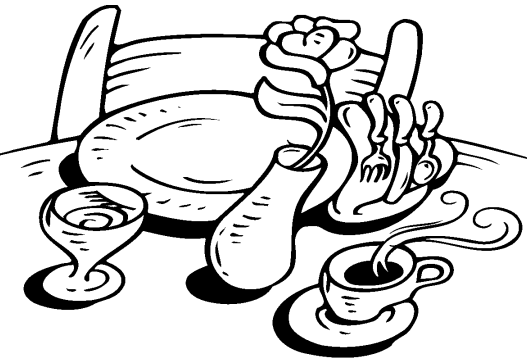
Purchase tickets early to ensure your place at this popular event!

Need more information? Contact Mary Jo and Dick Pera, [pera@mindspring.com](mailto:pera@mindspring.com).

## American Girl Author to Speak at Mother Daughter and Friends Brunch

In late February, NPC women will gather for what has become a wonderful tradition. Generations of female family and friends gather for fellowship and fun, good food and new insights at the Mother-Daughter and Friends Brunch on Saturday, February 25.

This year our speaker is Valerie Tripp, author of 27 books in The American Girls Collection. Ms. Tripp wrote all six books about each of these American Girl dolls: Felicity, Josephina, Kit, and Molly; as well as three books in the Samantha series. She will speak to us about the universality of challenges young girls face, and how they overcome adversarial situations, in the past and in the present. Most



remarkable, perhaps, is how little some things have changed over the centuries.

Valerie Tripp has a master's of education degree from Harvard University and lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with her husband Michael, daughter Katherine, and golden retriever, Sunday.

The Mother-Daughter Brunch, also known as the Ladies of All Ages Winter Brunch, is from 9:30 a.m. to noon, February 25, in Stone Hall at NPC. You'll be able to sign up later in January. A small fee is charged for the event.

For more information, contact Betsy Ross, 202.363.0125 or [elizabeth@betsyrosstours.com](mailto:elizabeth@betsyrosstours.com).

## Progress Continues on the Associate Pastor Searches

Since the Church Information Forms were posted on denomination, presbytery and church web sites on October 3, more than 1,000 hits have registered interest in NPC's open positions, which in un-wired terms means that the page has been looked at a thousand times. Your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) is busy evaluating more than 65 applications for the following positions:

### *Executive Pastor* (a new position)

This person will serve as the operational "hub" for NPC's other Associate Pastors, department heads, and lay leaders to ensure that all ministry areas work effectively together with a common focus. The Executive Pastor will also share in other pastoral duties and work with the Directors of Finance and Administration on budget formulation.

### *Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Discipleship*

The new title for the position of Associate Pastor for Nurture will more fully indicate the role of this associate in facilitating the growth of our knowledge of the Christian faith and its incorporation into our daily lives as Christians. In classroom and small group settings, this person will focus on making disciples and mentoring leaders who in turn will lead others to discipleship.

The Search Committee has placed ads in publications and on internet sites and is seeking recommendations from pastors, other individuals, and seminary contacts. We welcome your suggestions. If you know someone who might be interested, please refer them to the job descriptions on our web site ([www.NationalPres.org](http://www.NationalPres.org)) or contact Janice Feather, 703.425.0381 or [NPCAPNC.2005@cox.net](mailto:NPCAPNC.2005@cox.net).

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