

NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2007 | VOL. 3

SUNDAY SERMONS

Dr. Gareth W. Icenogle
Worship at 9:15 & 11 a.m.

Discipleship Essentials:
Serving Christ

Sunday, July 1
Spiritual Warfare

Sunday, July 8
Walking in Obedience

Sunday, July 15
Sharing the Wealth, Pt. 1

Sunday, July 22
Sharing the Wealth, Pt. 2

Sunday, July 29
Lord, Teach Us to Pray
Rev. Eunice McGarrahan

Sunday, August 5
How Steadfast Is God's Love?
Dr. Douglas Learned

Sunday, August 12
Bath Time: Make Yourselves Clean
Dr. Douglas Learned

Sunday, August 19
Running the Race
Dr. Jean Coyle

Sunday, August 26
Many Kinds of Healing
Dr. Jean Coyle

Sunday, September 2
Searching for Honor
Rev. Eunice McGarrahan

SUMMER CLASSES

Jesus Tells the Story:
The Parables of Jesus

Classes for Adults, Youth and
Children at 9:15 a.m.

Adult Combined Class
Stone Hall

Youth Classes, Youth Center
Children's Classes, School

Summer Fiesta Finale Returns to NPC

Don't Miss NPC's Picnic, Labor Day Weekend

Back by popular demand – Summer Fiesta Finale returns on Labor Day weekend! Our church family gathers annually at our all-church picnic for delicious food, old-fashioned games, and mariachi music outside in the beautiful Fountain Garden on campus. Last year boasted a record attendance of more than 500 men, women, and children of our church family. All generations are fully represented - from happy babies and playing children to relaxing grandparents - all enjoying one of the last days of summer.

The variety offered in the fiesta buffet gives everyone a chance to create their

favorite meal, whether it is a vegetable fajita wrap, salad, or simply chicken and rice. The main course is provided, and all

are invited to bring side dishes, which are assigned alphabetically by last name:

A-E: Fruit Platter
F-J: Veggie Platter
K-L: Tortilla Chips
M-U: Dessert
V-Z: Whole Cake (for cakewalk prizes)



Registration will be held in Stone Hall throughout the month of August. You can also register online at www.nationalpres.org or by contact-

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The Mustard Seeds Class

From a Family's Perspective

by Jessie and Al Brown

The language of love spoken here." This phrase would be appropriate to post on the door of the Mustard Seeds classroom.

All of us in National's congregation are well aware of the extensive and intensive mission outreach of the church, individually and collectively. But how many people are aware of the very special mission that has taken place right here in our church building since 1982?

For the past 24 years, folks who happen to have what others call "special needs" have been provided with spiritual nurture that is so difficult to find – something that most of us take for granted each Sunday. Families can spend their lives trying to

bring God's love to their developmentally disabled (that's the current label) son or daughter. This is just one of the many reasons our family and the many families at NPC who have been beneficiaries of this outreach are so thankful.

In a society that is determined to keep secular activities devoid of anything resembling our Christian faith, it is a continuing battle to enable someone to "teach the statutes." But at National, classes like the Mustard Seeds bring together Bible study with the nurture and fellowship that is so valuable to all of us.

The results of this ministry are often startling. Have you ever heard a person with a speech impairment sing and pray?

Continued on page 5

Across the Decades, Women in Ministry & Mission

Women's Association Enjoys a Long and Faithful History

by Mildred Wheat

Long before women were ordained as deacons, elders, or pastors, Presbyterian women in the early 19th century banded together. They often had only their "butter and egg" money to give, so some called themselves Female Mite Societies. While the purpose was usually to support missions, the groups also provided needed fellowship and spiritual growth for women. In the early 1900s women were not permitted to pray in public, so the pastor always opened the meetings. The NPC Women's Association began in 1885 as The Society of the Covenant, with 31 members. Our current circles, Covenant-McCartney, Elson, and Hayes-Old First reflect the names of a predecessor church, pastor, and missionary.

Spiritual growth is still an important component of the Women's Association. All meetings begin with prayer and devotions, now led by the women themselves. They also maintain a prayer line for their members. The circles meet jointly on the third Wednesday of September and the second Wednesday, October through May, for Bible study, using the guides prepared for Presbyterian Women, our national organization. For many years the Association sponsored an all-day Prayer Retreat on Ash Wednesday.

The Women's Association has always been a strong supporter of the congregation's needs and projects. Peck Chapel, an early outreach post, received time, talent and treasure. To enhance our life together in this building, many gifts have been given including the pulpit, reredos, tester, and Celtic cross for the chapel, parlor furnishings and redecoration, handicapped restroom, hymnals, communion cloths, stage curtains, and the large sign on Nebraska Avenue. The Library/Archives, National Presbyterian School, and Ingleside at RockCreek are recipients of continuing donations. For many years the Women's Association hosted the Sunday morning Coffee Hour.

From 1949 to 2004 the Association sponsored a Ba-

zaar, donating the proceeds to a variety of mission projects. Now all of our gifts come from the pledges of our members, or from income on the investment of funds bequeathed by former members. Since 2000 giving has totaled about \$415,000 for needs at home and abroad. Nearby recipients include hospitals, Christian college scholarship funds, Hospice, Meals on Wheels, Prince-George's Symphony Kids, and many programs for the hungry and homeless. An early project abroad was the Hamlin Memorial Hospital in Lebanon given in memory of Teunis Hamlin, first pastor of Covenant Church. Since then gifts have been given to Wycliffe Bible Translators, and to work in Cameroon, Kenya, Moldova, Thailand, and Latin America.

Several special projects involve the whole congregation. Funds for blankets provided by Church World Service are secured during February. This year more than \$4,300 was donated, including \$671 from the Sunday School children. In April an opportunity was offered to support the Networkers Malaria Prevention Program of the PC(USA) — \$3,000 was given for that work. During Advent congregants and passers-by are treated to the sight of the lighted Chrismon tree in the Court of Flags. The gold and white hand-crafted symbols represent the life and work of our Savior.

In support of the congregation's concern for hurricane victims the Women's Association gave \$5,000 to First Presbyterian Church in Punta Gorda, FL, in 2004; \$4,000 to First Presbyterian in Ocean Spring, MS; and \$1,000 to Piney Woods School also in Mississippi in 2006.

Soon to begin its 123rd year, the NPC Women's Association continues to provide spiritual growth, fellowship, and mission support. For more information about circle and general meetings, contact Alice Trudgeon, 202.232.4029.

Pray for Our Youth!

*and their spiritual growth as disciples
of Christ on their summer trips:*

Passport to Missions, DC	June 24-29
Vacation Bible School, NPC	July 8-13
Kenya, Africa	July 13-29
Dungannon, VA	July 16-21
Dominican Republic	July 18-27
Camp Ligonier, PA	July 29-Aug. 11
Saranac, NY	August 5-11



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Raleigh Ringers Handbell Concert Rings in the Autumn at National

by Vicky Claborn

What would this cry be without the accompaniment of a handbell to draw attention to the news? Did you just hear it?

Now imagine numerous handbells, all announcing the news that once again, National Presbyterian Church is hosting "The Raleigh Ringers" in concert on September 8 at 3 p.m.

This internationally acclaimed ensemble is dedicated to bringing handbell music, both sacred and secular to the general public, and promoting the art of handbell ringing through radio, television, and educational workshops. Their repertoire includes traditional sacred classics, Christmas holiday favorites, music from the classical repertoire, patriotic crowd-pleasers, and even rock/pop tunes.

By the way, did you know that in medieval times, bells were blessed by the Church and hung in the doorways of homes to protect the guests and the hosts from evil spirits who tried to sneak in when the front door was opened? A visitor would ring the bell before entering, and thus the first doorbell!

So join us as we ward off the evil spirit of boredom, and welcome our distinguished guests into the Lord's House for a truly uplifting and entertaining experience.

This performance is on Saturday, September 8, 2007 at 3 p.m., here in the beautiful sanctuary of National Pres-

byterian Church. Ticket prices are \$18 for adults and \$12 for children ages 12 and younger. You may order your tickets on-line at <http://www.National-Pres.org> and follow the links to the Raleigh Ringers performance on September 8, 2007. You may also purchase tickets at the display table in Stone Hall before and after Sunday services. Stop by to watch the video!

Or you may send a check, payable to NPC (with RRConcert on the memo line) and a self-ad-



dressed stamped envelope to:

The Raleigh Ringers Concert
The National Presbyterian Church
4101 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016

We look forward to seeing you there!

NATIONAL X PRESS

DEADLINES

September/October August 1

November/December October 1

March/April February 1

May/June April 1

July/August June 1

E-mail: XPress@NationalPres.org
or call 202.537.7574

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Mustard Seeds Class *Continued from page 1*

Or heard a person with mental retardation ask for prayers for a friend? Or give a reminder for a blessing before a meal?

It has always been a fact of life that precious few people are willing, able or even aware of a call to this kind of ministry, but each one who is, is precious.

Over the years, National's staff and leadership have been able to identify and seek out individuals who have wanted to be involved in this mission. For this unique and caring service, we are grateful.

Those precious few who deserve so much of our gratitude are: Beverly Newell, the current Mustard Seeds teacher; and Jessie Stewart, Bev's predecessor. Joy Kreeft Peyton was the first teacher followed by Keenie Ricci and Shirley Moore. Following them were Mary

Lindell, John Aragona, Cynthia Powell, Barbara Wells, Dan Hammerman, and Anne Barnes. During an extended period when it was very difficult to find a teacher, Ann Denison gave so much of herself and kept this very special work going.

Not unexpectedly, participation in the Mustard Seeds has varied. It is our continued prayer that family and friends of those who need a little extra, will enable them to grow and mature in the grace of God by joining friends in Mustard Seeds.

As a family we know this is a difficult ministry; we know also that it is an embodiment of God's direction to take the Word and his love to the whole world — including those who are sometimes "outsiders," and to bring them into the church community.

National Center for Leadership Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The National Center for Leadership celebrated its 10th anniversary on June 3 with a luncheon honoring the three individuals who have served as Board chairs during the decade, as well as those who have served as members of the Board of Directors. The three chairs—Bruce MacLaury, David Low, and Nancy Low—also are members of NPC and have served in several NPC leadership positions, as well as guiding the Center over the years.

The anniversary celebration capped a season of special events, including graduation of the Fellows in Leadership and the Leadership Award Dinner. Each of these events highlighted an aspect of the Center's mission to develop and sustain Christ-centered leaders through innovative programs of intellectual inquiry, spiritual discipline, and committed service.

At the heart of the Center's mission is the goal of playing a key role in transforming leaders, who in turn will transform organizations and societies. But generating that kind of transformational power is based in the Holy Spirit and following Jesus Christ, not in secular models.

The Fellows in Leadership program is the Center's oldest program. Co-Directors Kathy Gathro and Doug Steele guide 12-15 young professionals through a nine-month course of study and reflection on faith and leadership. The Fellows learn in community, examining Scripture, exploring models of leadership, and engaging in a practical community-based leadership project.

The Fellows are partnered with Mentors who offer vocational and spiritual guidance. They also design and complete a community service project. This year, they produced a documentary film, "Uncommon People, Common Ground: A Celebration of Leaders in Southeast DC," featuring community development efforts.

The Center honors nationally recognized Christ-centered leaders with the NCL Leadership Award. The

purpose of the award is to honor a leader who exemplifies the integration of Christian faith with leadership responsibilities. At its *Evening of Amazing Grace* on April 18, the Center honored Gary Haugen, founder and CEO of International Justice Mission, and Linda Smith, founder and President of Shared Hope International, for their work in developing organizations with a mission to end human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

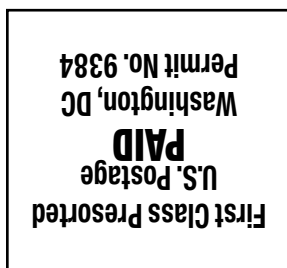
The Center's Leadership Institute course is designed for individuals called into leadership in their late 30's and beyond. With an experienced faculty of senior leaders, LI interactive adult learning focuses on fundamental areas, such as building a healthy organization, building organizational teams, developing other leaders, and engaging and transforming culture.

For Fellows and Mentor programs, contact Kathy Gathro, 703.525.5450 or kathgath@gmail.com, or Doug Steele, 202.543.6445 or douglas_steele@fanniema.com. For other inquiries, contact Lora Tredway, 301.229.4439 or 202-244-6424, ltredway@comcast.net.

Picnic Plans! *Continued from page 1*

ing Barbara Browne brownebe@comcast.net. This event provides happy work for many helping hands, so please call or email Kemet Rakiatu, 202.537.7494 or KRakiatu@NationalPres.org if you'd like to take part in the planning.

The picnic provides an opportunity for us to gather for food, fun, and fellowship. It is also a time for our church family to regroup after summer vacations, ready to start another exciting year of worship, growth, and service together. Mark your calendar and plan to attend the picnic on Sunday, September 2, from noon to 3 p.m.



The National Presbyterian Church
4101 Nebraska Ave., N.W.
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www.NationalPres.org