

# NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008 | VOLUME 6

## 2008 SPRING CONCERT SERIES

**Saturday, March 15**  
**at 3 p.m.**

Calvin College Symphony  
Orchestra Concert  
Free admission

**Sunday, April 13**  
**at 3 p.m.**

The Washington Symphonic Brass

**Sunday, April 20**  
**at 5 p.m.**

Chancel Choir Concert  
Haydn's Te Deum and  
Beethoven's Mass in C, Op. 86

**Sunday, April 27**  
**at 5 p.m.**

The Choral Arts Society of  
Washington

**Thursday, May 1**  
**at 7 p.m.**

Tacoma (Washington) Youth  
Symphony concert  
Free admission

**Sunday, June 1**  
**at 7 p.m.**

Fairfax Choral Arts Society and  
Bucks County Choral Arts Society

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### DEADLINES

**May/June:** April 1

**July/August:** June 1

**September/October:** August 1

**November/December:** October 1

### STAFF

**Editor:** Richard Armstrong

**Staff Editor:** Kate Brinkley

### Desk Editors

Worship: Sally Kaplan

Outreach: Keith Patman

Congregational Care: Sonny Rimback

Nurture: open

## Pastor from Thailand Visits NPC

### *From Another Continent, A Common Understanding*

by Claude Bennett, NPC Member and Missionary

This March we are blessed at NPC to have with us Rev. Boonyawat Manopun of First Church in Chiang Mai, Thailand, a metropolitan congregation similar in size and theology to NPC. He has come to spend a month with us, before stepping into the role of pastor of First Church, for the purpose of observing the way we worship and serve, in order to form new ideas to share with his congregation. We welcome Rev. Boonyawat, and we trust that as fellow members of the worldwide body of Christ, we will learn from him, as well.

Rev. Boonyawat was tutored in English during 2005-2006 by some of our NPC missionaries to McGilvary College of Divinity, Chiang Mai, while he was a



Rev. Boonyawat with his wife Jaratsri and his daughter Boranee

faculty member there. His presence here is a reminder that Christians in different countries are interdependent. The church in America needs the church around the world, as we help one another understand how

to worship and evangelize, how to serve church members, and how to serve our community and world. We can learn cross-culturally to enhance our faith

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## National Receives Final Metanoia Report

### *Leadership Begins to Implement Report's Recommendations*

by Keith Patman, NPC Elder, Communications Chairman, and Wycliffe Bible Translator

Lent is traditionally a time to practice *metanoia*, a Greek term referring to a change of mind, regret for shortcomings, repentance, conversion, turning from old ways. These are things to which God calls us through Scripture and through church tradition, and to which we as a church are being particularly called through our interaction with Metanoia Ministries.

Last fall, NPC's Session engaged Metanoia Ministries to do a church assessment in order to help identify and address issues that have manifested themselves in such symptoms as declining attendance and reduced giving. More than four hundred people in our church family took part in personal or group interviews while Jim and Sharon Van Yperen

and their team of Metanoia Ministries volunteers were with us in January.

At the end of that time the team gave a preliminary report of their findings.

The Van Yperens returned to NPC in February with the Church Assessment Final Report. They held meetings with pastors, elders, trustees, deacons, and staff in order to help church leadership begin to process the findings and recommendations in the report and to prepare the way for implementing change. On Sunday, February 24, at a Town Hall Meeting, Jim Van Yperen gave a presentation of the findings and recommendations to the congregation, ending with a time for questions. After the meeting, copies of the Final Report were

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# The Sanctuary is Alive with the Sound of Music!

## *From Spectacular Brass to Bluegrass Mass, NPC Blossoms Forth*

by Carolann Haley, Assistant, Music Ministries

NPC's beautiful sanctuary will be alive with music throughout March and April, and into May and June as well! We invite you to join us for these special programs.

The Calvin College Orchestra will conclude its Spring 2008 Tour with a 3 p.m. concert on Saturday, March

soloist. Tickets (\$25) can be ordered by calling 866.962.7277 or online at [www.wsbrass.com](http://www.wsbrass.com). For the student/senior rates of \$15, please order by phone.

NPC's Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra are featured on Sunday, April 20 in a program of Haydn and

Beethoven. (See story in next column.)

We welcome the Choral Arts Society of Washington on Sunday, April 27, at 5 p.m. for *Pure A Cappella*, a program for lovers of voice

without instrumental accompaniment. Settings of the Mass will be featured as expressed by composers from the Renaissance through the late 20th Century, including the world premiere of *Missa pro Pace* (Mass for Peace) by Kentaro Sato, winner of the 2005 American Choral Directors' Association Raymond Brock Award. For tickets and information: 202.244.3669 or [www.choralarts.org](http://www.choralarts.org).

From the West Coast, the Tacoma (Washington) Youth Symphony performs at NPC on Thursday, May 1, at 7 p.m. Under the baton of Paul-Elliott Cobbs this 100-member

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## Chancel Choir Concert Features Haydn, Beethoven

by Michael Denham,

Director of Music Ministries

On Sunday, April 20, at 5 p.m., our Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra will present in concert two works from what is regarded by many as the most fruitful period in musical history: Haydn's *Te Deum* for the Empress Marie Therese and Beethoven's *Mass in C, Op. 86*.

A *Te Deum* is a general work of praise sung, as its title demonstrates, "To God." Its words are a hymn to the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – concluded with several petitions or prayers from the book of Psalms. Taken as a whole, the *Te Deum* is an acknowledgement of God's sovereign power, authority, and grace, and an affirmation that both our earthly and eternal security are found only through trust in him.

*Mass* refers to five regular portions of Christian worship as they developed and were adopted in the western church: Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei. If these terms and worship patterns sound unfamiliar, these words represent ingrained parts of worship in different churches around the world. "Lord, have mercy upon us..." "Glory to God in the highest..." "I believe in one God..." "Holy! Holy! Holy!..." and "Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world..."

Many different composers have set the *Te Deum* and the *Mass* to music. Our April 20 concert will present these time-honored texts in opulent "classical" settings of Haydn and Beethoven. Though he labored most of his adult life as a servant, a "house composer" to an influential Hungarian nobleman, Haydn was famous the world over for his symphonies, string quartets, and a

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Calvin College Orchestra

15. Conductor Robert Nordling will lead the 75-piece ensemble in a program featuring works by Beethoven, Strauss, and Wagner. Admission is free and a reception will follow in Stone Hall.

On Sunday, April 13, at 3 p.m., we welcome back the outstanding brass and percussion ensemble, Washington Symphonic Brass (WSB). Even if this is your first WSB concert, you've probably heard many of these gifted musicians in the music of our Sunday worship. Their spring concert features Celtic and Scottish favorites with our own Charlie Glendinning as bagpipe



Tacoma Youth Symphony

## Music at National

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ensemble of auditioned high school students will present a program of American music that includes works of Howard Hanson, Samuel Barber, and Morton Gould. Admission is free.

Another spring musical offering is a unique performance by the Master Chorale of Washington on Sunday, May 18 at 3 p.m. Join them for an "American Traditions" concert to hear the East Coast premiere of a mass like none you've ever heard before, *A Bluegrass Mass*, featuring the Monroe Crossing bluegrass band. Explore traditional music of our homeland with music in the Sacred Harp tradition and American folksong. For tickets: 202.337.7464 or [www.masterchorale.org](http://www.masterchorale.org).

On Sunday, June 1, at 7 p.m. we'll fill our hall to overflowing with the combined choirs of the Fairfax Choral Society and the Bucks County Choral Society from Pennsylvania. In a program entitled, "You're Surrounded!" they will present antiphonal music for four choirs. True surround-sound! Call 703.647.3277 or [www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org](http://www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org) for tickets and information.

It's not too soon to mark you calendars for Christmas music at National. On Sunday, December 7, at 5 pm, a Festival Choir performance of Handel's *Messiah* will usher in the holy season. NPC's Festival Choir is open to all from our congregation or community who love to sing. Check our web site for the rehearsal schedule: [www.NationalPres.org](http://www.NationalPres.org).

The very next week, on Sunday, December 14 at 5 pm, Chancel Choir will sing its 67th Candlelight Christmas Concert, a beloved tradition of lessons, carols and anthems calling us to praise and wonder as we celebrate the coming of the Savior.

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## Chancel Choir Concert

*Continued from page 2*

vast array of instrumental compositions. It was near the end of his life when he turned to sacred music, producing his oratorios, *The Creation* and *The Seasons*, six great masses, and the *Te Deum* for the Empress Marie Theresa.

After Haydn's retirement, Beethoven was commissioned to provide the elder composer's previous Hungarian patrons with a new setting of the *Mass*. Progress was slow, rehearsals went poorly, and the first performance of the new work was unimpressive. There were reports that the singers chafed under direction by a deaf composer, and the whole affair was characterized by the Hungarian prince as just "another German pigsty." Beethoven dropped plans for more performances, and quickly returned to Vienna. Since its questionable premiere, the *Mass in C* has come to be regarded as a masterpiece.

## Thai Pastor Visits NPC

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Rev. Boonyawat at his first pastorate in Lamphun

within our respective societies.

The Church in many societies in the world constitutes a minority of the population. Christians in Thailand, including Roman Catholics, represent about two percent of the total population. Perhaps Christians in the U.S. will continue to become an increasingly small sector in our pluralistic and secular culture. If so, we may learn from Christians in other countries how best to be an influential minority in our own society. The church in the Kingdom of Thailand is a case in point.

How has the church in Thailand survived in and had significant influence on the Kingdom of Thailand? During the 1930's, the Presbyterian Church in Thailand approached the other leading Protestant denominations to suggest merging. The Baptists, the Church of Christ, and the Disciples of Christ were among the denominations that responded to jointly form the Church of Christ in Thailand, known as the CCT. Individual congregations and districts within the CCT partially retain their original distinctiveness. For example, some practice baptism by immersion, while others baptize by sprinkling. But in terms of its image, political influence, and ministry to the largely Buddhist society of Thailand, the merger is unified. A unified CCT is better able to support large Christian schools and hospitals than churches of different denominations. This raises the question of whether or not Christians in the U.S. may someday find it necessary to forego the luxury of continuing their splintered denominations in order to unify their witness and service.

We encourage members of NPC to learn more about what God is doing worldwide by talking with Rev. Boonyawat during his time among us and to help him better understand how God is at work in our midst. Rev. Boonyawat's residence and participation with us are supported by the Missions and Outreach Office of NPC. To learn more about NPC's Thailand partnership, contact Sally Metcalfe-Wittig, 202.537.7483.

## Metanoia Report *Continued from page 1*

distributed for reading and reflection in preparation for a follow-up Town Hall Meeting on March 9.

Where do we go from here? The Final Report (FR) recommends four stages to direct the process of healing and reconciliation among us. Each of these stages includes specific recommendations.

From the moment of receiving the report through Holy Week, our focus is on Stage 1, *Examining Current Reality: Spiritual Discernment and Confession* (see FR, pp. 39-41). Stage 2, on which we will focus from Easter through Pentecost and beyond, involves *Discovering and Enacting the Call* (see FR, pp. 41-43). Stage 3 is *Restructuring and Equipping Leadership* (see FR, pp. 43-46). Like Stage 1, it has already begun. It will be an emphasis over the next two months, continuing as long as necessary afterward. Finally, Stage 4 is *Forming Community* (see FR, pp. 46-49). It will begin to be implemented later in the spring.

Each of us has a role to play in this process. For all it begins with the personal disciplines that are part of normal Christian living—daily reflection on the Word of God and prayer, including self-examination and

confession. It continues with study of the report and discerning what God is calling each of us to take to heart and act upon. The report stresses urgency, and these things are a fundamental part of the urgent business.

Much of the Metanoia report specifically addresses issues regarding church leadership. Dr. Icenogle shared his personal responses to the report with the Session on February 25 in order to give the elders information they need as they began their immediate focus on Stage 3, *Restructuring and Equipping Leadership*. Session has launched its part in implementing recommendations by meeting every Monday evening in March to work on the implementation process. In order to keep the congregation up-to-date on progress and to provide opportunities to raise questions and give input, Town Hall Meetings will be scheduled regularly. Our leadership asks for concerted prayer during this time of seeking change under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God in our church.



*Next Issue: Summer at NPG*

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