

NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2008 | VOLUME 7

2008 SUMMER CLASSES BEGIN

Summer Series on
The Ten Commandments
Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

June 22
Introduction and Overview

June 29
You Shall Have No Other Gods

July 6
You Shall Not Make Idols

July 13
You Shall Not Misuse the Name
of the Lord your God

July 20
Remember the Sabbath Day
By Keeping It Holy

July 27
Honor Your Father and Mother

August 3
You Shall Not Commit Murder

August 10
You Shall Not Commit Adultery

August 17
You Shall Not Steal

August 24
You Shall Not Bear False Witness

August 31
You Shall Not Covet

*Join us in Stone Hall
on Sunday mornings
for adult combined
classes throughout the
summer. This 11-week
series focuses on the Ten
Commandments: How
does this great gift from
God protect us and guide
us today?*

Summer Mission Trips

NPC Teams Leave for Trips to Africa, Central America...

By Lewrene Glaser, NPC Elder

After a glorious Easter, it seems appropriate to follow Jesus' injunction to his disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations." From May through August, NPC mission trips and events are scheduled, and NPC disciples are encouraged to take part, when possible, and keep our teams in your prayers. Teams will travel to Latin America and South Africa, and work locally with youth, here in Washington, DC, and in Dungannon, VA.

From May 16 to 24, an NPC team led by Executive Pastor Doug Learned will travel to South Africa to experience the work of our mission partner Unsung Heroes (UH), a Christian organization serving some of the most impoverished



Family fun at 2007 Potluck

communities there. Unsung Heroes' staff, who work in stressful circumstances, are looking forward to fellowship, Bible study, and prayer at a joint retreat. The NPC team is hoping to transport six newly purchased laptop computers that will multiply the effectiveness of UH staff and project leaders. The

NPC team and UH staff will also share their professional expertise and ministry insights regarding servant leadership, which each will take back to their ministries. Even the presence of visitors from the U.S. may encourage and validate local leaders connected with Unsung Heroes, enhancing their ability to serve those most in need in their communities, including people affected by HIV/AIDS.

Continued on page 5

Vacation Bible School, A Double Blessing

At Bible School, Fun and Blessings Abound

by Sherry Waldrep, VBS 2008

*It's fun!
You get to learn Bible verses!
You hear fun stories!
You get to sing along to songs!
They put on skits!*

That's how Vacation Bible School has been described by my daughters, Anslie, Cassidy, and Karli, who are experts by now, having attended at NPC each year since they were three years old. This year will be their fifth year and every year they look forward to it—so do I! *VBS is fun.*

It was fun when I was a kid and VBS was held for a week on warm summer nights. I remember singing, making crafts, and hearing Bible stories. I remember answering the call to invite Jesus into my heart. Now, it's fun as an adult to be surrounded by kids, youth, and adults, all coming together to learn about Jesus through scripture, songs that teach Bible truths, and fellowship with each other.

The most lasting impact that I see (rather *hear*) in my house is the music. National's VBS curriculum comes from GospelLight, who creates lively and "cool"

Continued on page 2

Summer Sunday School for All

From Our Youngest to Our Oldest — Summer Bears Fruit

Adult classes will be combined this summer and will meet in Stone Hall at 9:15 a.m. We will be studying the **Ten Commandments** and teachers include, among others, Rev. Eunice McGarrahan, Dr. Ann B. White, Angela Bouma, Sam Kyzar and Rev. Donna Marsh. The Ten Commandments are a gracious gift of God. They protect us, demonstrate our need for God and guide our lives in ways that are pleasing to God. They mark us as belonging to a Redeemer God. Join us for good teaching, coffee and a light continental breakfast.

Youth Ministry continues with 9:15 a.m. classes on Sunday for high school and middle school youth. In addition, youth contribute their awesome gifts for a week of Vacation Bible School in July. Stay tuned for more information on summer plans for youth by checking www.NationalPres.org.

Plans are well underway for our **Children's Summer Sunday School**, which runs from June 22 to August 31. Children, kindergarten through fifth grade, meet in Jones Hall for a fun time of singing, scripture reading, dramatic biblical lessons, prayer, and activity.

This summer, the children will focus on the **fruit of the Spirit** in a series of lessons entitled, "Walking in the Spirit." Three- and four-year-olds will enjoy a program especially designed to enlarge their



round teachers are encouraged to have a refreshing break from responsibility. Adult members of the NPC church family are invited to join others in a rewarding team experience for one or more summer Sundays. Consider one or more of the possibilities for service:

Host: Welcomes children, previews the day, reads scripture related to the fruit of the Spirit as it is being acted, collects prayer requests and leads prayer time, generally facilitates the flow of the morning.

Child sign-in: Ensures that each child is signed in and signed out.

Music: Selects music for each week, leads singing, coordinates musicians.

Dramatic presenters: Takes the weekly fruit of the Spirit and presents it in a dramatic and fun way that is age-appropriate and fosters biblical understanding.

Activity stations: Identifies fun, Bible-based, age-appropriate activities that children can engage with prior to the start of Sunday School and



during activity time, arrives early to set-up activities, leads activity time.

"Based on our experience last year," Steven Greisdorf shares, "the children really enjoyed the combined class and benefited from a strong adult presence." This is a wonderful opportunity for our youngest to interact with NPC members who may not meet them otherwise.

Please express your interest to Mary Ellen Cain, Children's Ministries, MCain@NationalPres.org or 202.537.7527.

VBS Adventure

Continued from page 1

(as described by my 7-year-old) music that has a lasting and profound effect. In our house, the CDs played most often are those from VBS. Simple scripture, such as "Be strong and courageous for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go," set to music is something young and old can carry with them anytime, anywhere.

This year, VBS will be held July 7-11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The theme for this year's weeklong camp is "SonWorld Adventure Park." Children, three-year-olds through 5th graders, will hear stories, centering on people's encounters with Jesus throughout the New Testament and how these meetings changed lives, how people reacted to Jesus.

During the morning, children will also sing songs, watch a skit, have play time, create crafts, and, most

importantly, be taught by someone who wants young children to learn about Jesus. If you'd like to join this great team, contact Sherry Waldrep, 301.927.7966 or sherry_waldrep@hotmail.com.

You'll find registration forms at www.NationalPres.org/children.php. Register before June 13!

NATIONAL PRESS

DEADLINES

July/August: June 1

September/October: August 1

November/December: October 1

January/February: December 1

STAFF

Editor: Richard Armstrong

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understanding of the love Jesus has for each of us.

The summer program's success depends on a large pool of volunteers, since year-

Summer Missions

Continued from page 1

In late July, Youth Ministry's Mitch Gore will take a group of high school youth for a week of service in the Dominican Republic, under the auspices of the Foundation for Peace. Like last summer's trip, activities include worship and work in Batey Algodon, a community of Haitian sugar cane workers, with mornings devoted to constructing latrines and playing with local children. In the afternoons, our youth will assist volunteer Dominican doctors at a medical clinic. They'll also run Vacation Bible School for children and a baseball clinic for the local baseball team.

In early August, Parish Associate Tom Jones and Pastor Doug Learned will lead a team of about twenty people, adults and youth alike, on a mission trip to Guatemala in partnership with Habitat for Humanity (HFH). The team will travel to Solola to build a house with a local family. In Guatemala, HFH constructs simple homes that are safe and resistant to earthquakes. The houses

have concrete floors, block walls reinforced with rebar and zinc roofs.

Closer to home, from June 22 to 27, NPC offers Passport to Missions. Rising 6th-12th graders will partner with ministries in our own city for work projects. Parents can also help by driving and/or serving. Last year, students led Vacation Bible School for the children at D.C. Village Shelter and participated in service projects that fed and housed the homeless. Teens also cared for the elderly residents at the shelter.

In mid-July, middle school students will travel to Dungannon, VA, to partner with other middle school youth groups on SonServants work projects. Last year, students painted a house, finished a porch, did repair work on the Town Hall and the second hand clothing store in town, while making friends with youth from other Presbyterian churches and the people of Dungannon, who opened their homes and hearts.

If you're unable to join us on one of these exciting trips, keep our team members in your prayers, and join us for the Church-as-a-Mission Potluck.

CHURCH-AS-A-MISSION

POTLUCK DINNER

FOR AFRICAN MISSIONS

SUNDAY, MAY 4, AT 5 PM

IN STONE HALL

ENJOY SINGING, A MEAL,
AND A MISSION PROJECT
FOR EVERY AGE

BRING
GREAT POTLUCK
DISHES

DONATE
SCHOOL SUPPLIES

REGISTER/DONATE ONLINE:
WWW.NATIONALPRES.ORG

Strengthening Early-Career Christian Leaders

By Yvonne Hutchison

Most of you may know the little yellow house located on NPC's campus as the "Old Farm House." Many, however, refer to this place as "Leadership House." This welcoming, inviting space is the home of The National Center for Leadership and The National Fellows in Leadership Program.

If you are curious about Leadership House and "what goes on in there," I can report that my life has been positively affected by a program that beckoned me to that Old Farm House every Wednesday night as a National Fellow in Leadership, Class of 2004.

Washington had been my home for five years prior to participating in the Fellows Program. I worked in a small organization as an Occu-

pational Therapist, and I was working as many hours as I could to earn more money, achieve my professional goals, and obtain positions in leadership. As far as my spiritual life, I grew up in a Christian home, believed in Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, and attended church every Sunday. Everything was going as I had planned (which, as you can probably guess, is why I needed a serious intervention from God!).

I am thankful that by his grace, a co-worker of mine (an NPC member and the only other Christian in my large department) suggested that I "look into this leadership program" that she had read about in the church bulletin. It sounded like a good idea because I was interested in improving my leadership skills and being

involved in a Christian community. Little did I know that this program was not only going to develop my leadership skills, but also greatly influence my spiritual life, and give me a solid biblical foundation from which to continue strengthening the gifts in leadership that God had given me.

The program consisted of individual mentoring, regular guest lecturers, weekly meetings, readings and Bible study, and sincere fellowship. All of these components consistently communicated the message that Christ was at the center of my faith, life, and work.

All I've learned from the Fellows Program has been relevant to my daily life. By studying the concepts

Continued on back page

One Christ-Centered Leader at a Time *Continued from page 5*

of servant leadership and listening to the lecturers' personal experiences, I have developed more of a servant's attitude in relating to and leading others. I have a better understanding of how to integrate faith and work. I am more assured about being Christ's presence to those with whom I have contact.

This nine-month long program helped me know myself better and understand God's call in my life. I realized that my job as a therapist was not just "who I am" or "what I do;" it is where God placed me to best use the strengths he has given me.

The teaching in the program encouraged me to trust the Lord in all that I do, including taking risks. One example of this came after reading Matthew 14:25-32 on one of our retreats. My company was making changes that I didn't feel were best for the families we were serving, and I was being offered a position in India to start a new therapy clinic. I could not "let go" of my "secure" position as a Clinical Director. God spoke to me with this scripture and, as if that wasn't enough, he provided that retreat environment in which I had caring people to support me, helpful advice from the leaders, and an inspiring talk from one of the guest lecturers. I needed to trust the Lord and step out of the boat. After this confirmation I was able to let go of my "power trip" and realize that what God has in store is always bet-

ter than what I have planned. I returned to work and began entertaining the India offer. Through this experience I now realize that God was preparing my heart to leave my current job. I didn't end up going to India, but I did accept a job that has provided me flexibility in my schedule and time to pursue interests outside of work.

The Fellows Program instilled in me key concepts that I needed to permanently implement in order to be a more effective leader -- more importantly, a Christ-centered servant leader. If you are going to take a stand on an issue, make sure it is in line with the Lord's teachings, maintain the highest level of integrity in all you do (even the small stuff like returning phone calls promptly), and always seek wise counsel when making an important decision (talk to God and those that you trust and who know your heart).

There is one last important principle I have learned to highly value and use: make time for reflection. I have always been a fast-paced person, making careful, but quick, decisions. I now appreciate time, in addition to prayer, to reflect and listen for what the Lord is telling me.

I am grateful to The National Center for Leadership for offering, and The National Presbyterian Church for supporting, a program that brings together like-minded people with Christ-centered principles. Thank you to all who have supported the center. I have been blessed greatly by it.



Yvonne Hutchison, NCL Fellows Class 2004

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