

NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2009 | VOL. 10

WEDNESDAY TEACHINGS

*Friends of the Family:
Christians Who
Have Marked Our
Lives for Good*

Teaching at 6:30 p.m.

Stone Hall

Dinner, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

May 6

"John Calvin and Martin Luther"
Rev. Eunice McGarrahan

May 13

Miami University of Ohio Choir
Concert

May 20

"Handel's Messiah: An Enduring
Masterpiece"
Michael Denham

May 27

"Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Pastor
with a Dream"
Rev. Earl Palmer

June 3

"Artist Henry Ossawa Tanner"
Dr. Douglas Learned

*To learn more about our
worship, classes, and
opportunities to serve, visit:
www.NationalPres.org*

NATIONAL X PRESS

DEADLINES

July/August: June 1

September/October: August 1

November/December: October 1

January/February: December 1

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Summer Preachers on Double Time *Three Pastors in Six Weeks in July and August at NPC*

This summer our visiting preachers will come for not just one Sunday, but two. We've encouraged top Christian scholars to preach at NPC by offering them a significant opportunity: to reach our congregation spiritually and intellectually through in-depth preaching over a two-week span. Meanwhile, they'll enjoy our beautiful city for an extended stay.

In early July, Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie is our guest preacher. Dr. Ogilvie, in addition to his long tenure at First Presbyterian Church in Hollywood, CA, lived in Washington and



was a great friend to NPC when he served as Chaplain of the U.S. Senate from 1995 to 2003.

Dr. Thomas Gillespie, who preaches at National the third and fourth Sundays in July, is President Emeritus of Princeton Theological Seminary, where he served as President from 1983 to 2004. In March, Dr. Gillespie was at NPC to give a special presentation; over the years, he has preached in our services on several occasions.



Another name familiar to our congregation, Dr. Cleophus LaRue, preaches in early August. Dr. LaRue's strong preach-

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Over there? How about right here? *Urban Missions at NPC*

by Gabe Chikes

Often when speaking of "missions," we picture overseas locations where we travel to offer care to those enduring hunger, ill health, illiteracy, or lack of housing. In so doing, we willingly undertake the rigors of travel and cultural challenges in order to give of ourselves. But the truth is that nearly every ill we may travel great distances to attend to are also found within our own city. How then do we at NPC engage and respond, both individually and collectively?

At the moment, we do so through our Core Urban Mission Partners – Unique Learning Center, Capital Interfaith Hospitality Network, and Third Street Church of God. To learn more, call Sally Metcalfe-Wittig, 202.537.7505

Equally as important is an effort by our Outreach Committee to examine how Urban Missions becomes a part of NPC's "DNA" through collective, coordinated efforts and through member-initiated involvement.

If you feel led to become involved in this effort, there are two opportunities. The first is to join a prayer group that meets to pray specifically for the needs and concerns of our city and for the Lord's leading in how and where next to get involved. The second is to join others at NPC who are meeting to develop a vision for and provide support to a sustainable urban missions ministry. If interested, contact Gabe Chikes, 301.540.8950 or

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In Touch Ministry

Bringing NPC's Caring Ministries into Your Home

by Diane Della-Loggia, Deacon

What are the blessings most members say they value at NPC? High on the list for most would be worship and fellowship—the rehearsal of our faith and the sharing with other Jesus lovers. These are the two things most missed by members who are physically unable to come to church.

As an outreach to these members, in 2004 June Traylor, our then parish nurse, conceived the In Touch ministry, which was headed by Doris Lum from 2005 to 2008. Congregational volunteers visit shut-ins monthly, offering not only their fellowship but also a devotion time, which is prepared for them. As with all caring ministries, the caregiver receives as much joy as the recipient.

Charlie and Ann Lewis, from the first group of volunteers, visited two members in Asbury Village in Gaithersburg for three years. They have now been visiting Mary Smith, who lives in Ingleside Assisted Living, for a year. It is a continuation of the friendship they had with Mary while she was mobile and able to attend church. In fact, Mary was an elder and assistant clerk of session in the 1990s. The Lewises schedule a visit with Mary monthly, using the condensed order of service to worship with her and then enjoying some conversation. Charlie emphasizes that the visiting is delightful, a real pleasure for him and Ann.

One of the most recent In Touch recruits, Janet Meyers, who was in the March training class, was motivated by the experience she had as a deacon some years ago. She found several members of her parish to be home-bound, and she developed a practice of visiting them. She continued this after her deacon term was over. Now, she is looking forward to developing similar deep relationships with other members.



NPC member Mary Smith, who lives at Ingleside, with her In Touch visitor Charlie Lewis

In Touch has been coordinated since 2008 by Al Duncker, who not coincidentally was the elder for Congregational Care who introduced the program to Session. Annually he calls the people on the home-bound roster to ask if they would welcome an In Touch visitor. In March there were about twenty people regularly receiving the monthly visits.

Twice a year the training for volunteers is held at NPC, including three hours of orientation, which was most recently offered in March. The

next training is planned for November 2009. The group benefits from a monthly newsletter as well as a “re-union” lunch each January, where the visitors share their stories of ministry.

While the purpose of In Touch is to carry spiritual encouragement to members in their homes, a visitor may refer a member to one of our Care Teams if physical support is needed.

To request an In Touch visitor or to learn about how you might become a part of this ministry, contact Al Duncker, 703.360.9087.

Pastor Nominating Committee Begins

Early Tasks Include Receiving Suggestions

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is hard at work to bring a permanent Senior Pastor to National. The group, composed of committed Christians who have been active at National for some time, will meet weekly throughout the search.

Rev. Larry Hayward, National Capital Presbytery's Liaison from the Committee on Ministry, will meet often with the PNC to provide guidance and support.

Early on, the PNC will choose a chair and a recording secretary. They ask for your suggestions and ideas, and they are most appreciative of your continued prayers. Please keep the committee in your prayers as they begin this important work in the life of our church and continue to pray for them through each step of the process: receiving curricula vitae, interviewing candidates, listening to and reading sermons, etc.

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Sheer Encouragement

St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Rev. Earl Palmer

Sunday Worship at 9:15 and 11 a.m.

May 3 Paul's Prayer for His Friends	May 31 An Event That Changes Everything
May 10 Courage That Just Happens	June 7 Heroes of Our Journey
May 17 The Unforgettable Song	June 14 Telling Our Own Story
May 24 Guest Preacher: RADM Barry C. Black, USN U.S. Senate Chaplain	June 21 The Advice of a Friend

Summer Sundays

Continued from page 1

ing has served him well in two pastorates in Texas, as well as interim position at churches in Harlem and Jamaica Queens in New York. Dr. LaRue is also an associate professor of Homiletics at Princeton Seminary.



Join us this summer for a wonderful season of preaching and teaching.

June 28 Dr. Douglas Learned	August 16 Dr. Douglas Learned
July 5 and 12 Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie	August 23 Rev. Eunice McGarrahan
July 19 and 26 Dr. Tom Gillespie	August 30 Rev. Eunice McGarrahan
August 2 and 9 Dr. Cleophus LaRue	

Mabel Sawhill — A National Legend

NPC Cook Still Going Strong at 95 and Still Wearing her Pink Cowboy Boots

by Joan Anderson, NPC member

We have a walking miracle at our church, or maybe she's just an angel taking the form of a 95-year-old woman. I'm talking about Mabel Sawhill, our caterer. She makes meals for many of our church activities.

She is 95 years old, but she's not frail. She walks through Stone Hall with a bounce in her step, going from table to table at Wednesday dinner to make sure everyone is pleased with the meal. Occasionally, she says grace for our meal and sounds as prayerful as a preacher. She doesn't wear glasses for distance or reading. Maybe she younger than we think!

Did I mention she can cook? It's all good: crab and shrimp salad, lasagna, fried chicken, salmon, spare ribs, salads, vegetables, and desserts. All for ten dollars a meal. Mabel has been making dinners at NPC for decades and is now assisted by her niece.

Fixing meals at churches is her calling, Mabel says. When she shops for large quantities of food, other



customers often ask her what the food is for, and she tells them it's for churches. This is her way of witnessing to others.

Mabel was recently asked to speak at the monthly luncheon of NPC's Business and Professional Women's Guild. Of course, before speaking she made the meal. It was an inspiring, positive story about her life and

her faith. Then to top it off, she left our church to make a dinner for some other organization. A participant commented at the time, "I could have never done all that in one day at any age."

A trademark of Mabel's appearance are her shoes. She has some flowered high heel boots. Imagine walking in high heels at her age. She has pink cowboy boots. For her presentation to the B&P she wore a leopard skin jacket and skirt with matching leopard skin shoes.

When Mabel turned 94, a couple at the church surprised her at the Wednesday night dinner with a big cake and balloons. It was just the celebration Mabel deserves.

Mabel doesn't need much sleep; she works late into the night preparing food for the next day. When Handel's *Messiah* was performed at NPC in December, she catered the reception afterward with hors d'oeuvres for 400 people.

Now you can see why we call Mabel a "Legend"!

Summers Past

by Eleanor Elson Heginbotham

As we look ahead toward "a future filled with hope," it is good to look from whence we've come:

August 23, 1888

The Washington Post:

By this time, Gardiner Green Hubbard and his son-in-law, Alexander Graham Bell, had raised the money for the Church of the Covenant at 18th and N Streets. Here is one of many articles on an unfortunate, but temporary event:

"The fall of the tower of the Church of the Covenant is greatly to be regretted. The building was intended to be one of the handsomest church structures in the city, and this serious accident will delay its completion some time." The article explores the fault and workmanship and concludes: "It is a welcome announcement that the work of rebuilding will be vigorously prosecuted."

July 12, 1930

The Washington Post:

Almost 40 years before our church on Nebraska Ave. was completed, *The Post* ran a story entitled, "New City Churches Beautify Capital:

"Sometime this autumn, ground will be broken for the National Presbyterian Church on a site yet to be chosen, but which probably will be on Massachusetts Avenue. This church has plans drawn by the famous Boston architect Ralph Cram, who specializes in gothic church architecture; and if they are followed, this new Presbyterian cathedral will attract no end of attention."

June 9, 1987

The Washington Post:

"Airborne Ministry Carries Uplifting Hopes: Volunteers Fly Critically Ill Patients to Distant Medical Aid" is the headline for a story about an eight-seat mercy plane. The story explains the "Christian service" that began in 1977 and included NPC's leader: "'As soon as people hear about it, they come running,' said the Rev. Louis Evans Jr., senior pastor of National Presbyterian Church and one of the organization's founders."

These snippets have been gathered from voluminous articles gathered for a future book by Elder Eleanor Heginbotham. Look for other squibs in future issues of the *XPress*.

Urban Missions

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gabe.chikes@verizon.net.

Finally, the Outreach Committee is coordinating an NPC construction team to work at the Habitat for Humanity DC site in northeast Washington at least once over the summer. Those interested in participating are asked to attend a Habitat "Nuts and Bolts" volunteer orientation program next offered Thursday, May 14, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

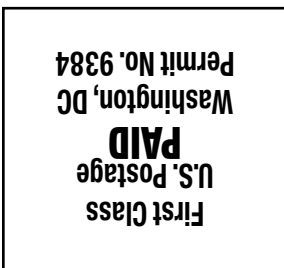
Those NPC members interested in coordinating this initial event and/or interested in exploring longer term NPC mission involvement with Habitat for Humanity DC are invited to contact Gabe Chikes or Sally Metcalfe-Wittig (see page 1).

PNC Progress

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The PNC members are Margery S. Bernbaum, John Gordon, Carrie Ivey-Grossmann, Alease Johnson, Tom Morgan, George Nethercutt, Jr., Keith Patman, Ann Reid, Matthew Teems.

If you have a suggestion for the committee, please contact Holly Novak, HNovak@NationalPres.org or 202.537.7515.



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