

# NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SEPT/OCT 2010 | VOL. 3

## SUNDAY ADULT CLASSES

at 9:15 a.m.

Starting September 12

### Shelf Life

A book discussion group. Join us as we begin with *The Life You've Always Wanted* by John Ortberg. Agencies, Rm. 102

### Young Marrieds

A Bible study for young married couples. Church, Rm. 5

### Guided Tour of the Bible

An overview of the Scriptures. Church, Rm. 110-111

### Faith and Works

A small Bible discussion group. School Library.

### The Equipping Course

An intensive course in Bible theology and ministry taught by Rev. McGarrahan. Church, Rm. 105

### Wrestlers

Applying God's Word to God's World—reflections on the issues of our time from a Christian perspective. Lower Level, Agencies

at 11 a.m.

### Alpha Course

A fifteen-week course for those who want to discover the basics of the Christian faith. Church, Rm. 5

For more information on NPC's Sunday courses and groups, or to learn more about Grow Ministries, please visit our web site: [www.NationalPres.org](http://www.NationalPres.org).



## Where Will You Find Your Place to Grow?

By Elder Glenna Hendricks

Throughout the Bible the people of God are urged to consider and study scripture. Paul, in writing to his protégé, Timothy, writes: "Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

The leadership and pastoral staff of Grow Ministries has responded to that text by providing learning opportunities

for members of the congregation so that they may understand and answer God's instructions as found in scripture. While the Bible is the guide for faithful living as disciples of Christ, many other sources can also prove useful for "instruction in righteousness." Everyone is invited into the learning experiences available at NPC.

### For Children

The new program year begins in September with several exciting developments. Jill Meek begins her second year with us as Director of Children's Ministries. She has been a welcome addition to our Grow team, bringing a love for and understanding of children to her work. She is ever seeking ways to introduce our children to Christ and prepare them for life as followers of Jesus. Parents of young children are invited to talk with Jill or any of our Sunday School teachers

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Participants listening to one of the interesting speakers at an NPC class at 9:15 a.m. on a recent Sunday morning.

## "Discover The Pathway" on September 12

*Learn How You Might Worship, Grow, and Serve at NPC*

After worship at 8, 9:15, or 11 a.m. on September 26, come to Stone Hall to "Discover the Pathway of Discipleship." On the pathway, we are invited to worship, grow, and serve as disciples of Christ.

In addition to coffee and bagels with cream cheese, you'll find friendly faces who will tell you all about ways to grow in your faith through classes and groups for chil-



dren, youth, and adults. They'll be standing near the Worship ♦ Grow ♦ Serve kiosk in the center of the hall.

The Connections Corner will also be staffed with welcoming folks who can help you discover how you might serve at NPC in ministry and mission. You're also invited to join Craig Meek at the stage for a brief lesson on "Unlocking the Logic of the Bible."

# School Welcomes Dr. Dean McDonald as First Chaplain

By Janet Forlines, NPC Member and NPS Trustee

National Presbyterian School (NPS) recently welcomed Dr. Elizabeth “Dean” McDonald to their staff as the school’s first chaplain. As chaplain, Dean leads the weekly chapel for pre-primary through grade 6, coordinates the school-wide service learning program, aids in curriculum development, and has additional teaching and pastoral care duties.

“The school has an impressive faculty and staff who have developed a strong, well-rounded program for the students,” said Dr. McDonald.

“I want to build on that foundation to nurture the children’s spiritual development and their service learning experiences.”

Dr. McDonald comes to NPS with exceptional credentials. A minister member of the National Capital

Presbytery since 1990, she holds a bachelor’s degree with a teaching certification from Monmouth College, a master of divinity from Union Theological Seminary, a doctorate in ministry with a focus on marriage and the family from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a certification in family counseling from the University of Pennsylvania.

With a professional background that includes pastoral work as an associate pastor at Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church among other Presbyterian churches, administrative leadership as the former Director of the Cathedral College of Preachers at the Washington National Cathedral, and teaching experience at National Cathedral School and Wesley Theological Seminary, Dr. McDonald is

abundantly qualified. But it is her kind, Christian spirit that most moved the search committee.

“Dean is a warm, caring, and thoughtful person with a loving way with children whose presence will be a blessing to students, faculty, staff, and parents alike,” said Headmaster Jim Neill. “Her gentle manner and genuine kindness will serve as an excellent model for all on how to live out Jesus’ call to love one another. We look forward to the service she will bring to the campus and thank God for his guidance and grace in bringing us such a wonderful new addition to the NPS staff.”



## Wednesday Evening Lecture Series

September 15 – November 17

5:30 p.m. Dinner and 7 p.m. Lecture Series

Christ, Church and Culture

Part I: Who Do They Say That I Am?

A look at how the culture “sees” Jesus by viewing the Jesus film genre, beginning with the 1927 *King of Kings*, and using material from Jaroslav Pelikan’s *Jesus through the Centuries* non-canonical literature and comparing it with scripture. The content will be historical, biblical and theological, encouraging students to answer Jesus’ question, “Who do you say that I am?”

Christ, Church and Culture

Part II: Where Church and Culture Meet

This part of the series draws on Niebuhr’s *Christ and Culture*, D.A. Carson’s *Christ and Culture Revisited*, and Andy Crouch’s *Culture-Making*. The second part of the series’ content is sociological, biblical, and theological, encouraging students to consider their calling in the church’s mission in the world.



## A Salute to the New Pipes of Our Aeolian-Skinner Organ



In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the installation and dedication of NPC’s John Jay Hopkins Memorial Organ and to inaugurate the organ’s new solo division, William Neil will present a concert on

October 10 at 5 p.m. Joining him are soprano Jane-Anne Tucker and members of the National Symphony Orchestra and Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, performing music of Charles-Marie Widor, Francis Poulenc, Lili Boulanger, and others.

With 550 new voices added to over 6,000 pipes already in place, our Aeolian-Skinner organ presents an endless variety of color, range, and timbre.

The concert, free to the public, will be followed by a reception in Stone Hall. More information on *Music at National* is available at [www.NationalPres.org](http://www.NationalPres.org).

## NATIONAL XPRESS

a bimonthly publication by and about the people of NPC in ministry

### DEADLINES

**November/December:** October 1

**January/February:** December 1

**March/April:** February 1

**May/June:** April 1

**July/August:** June 1

**September/October:** August 1

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# God's Troubled Promised Land

## *New Insights on a Centuries old Conflict*

By Jim Ransom

**D**uring the past few millennia, many great armies have descended upon and occupied the Middle East. It seems hard to believe this harsh, troubled, often occupied area can be the "promised land." In this land of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, it is difficult for Jesus' teachings of love and forgiveness to be heard over the noise of conflict and hatred. Is there something about hardship and suffering that brings us closer to God?



Tom and Karen Getman with Jimmy Carter

Join the NPC Middle East Team on Tuesday, September 21, at 7 p.m. as we hear from and discuss with Tom and Karen Getman how the Holy Land Christians are living with hope in critical times, encouraged by history. From 1997 to 2001, Tom was director of World

Vision's programs in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza. He then went to work as World Vision's executive director for international relations working with the Unit-



Children celebrating Easter in Bir Zeit

ed Nations and the World Council of Churches. Since 2009, Tom has been a consultant on U.N. reform and humanitarian interagency partnership building. He holds a bachelor's degree from Wheaton College and a master's in theology from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Tom recently revisited the Holy Land and has renewed insight into the current issues. Let us not turn our back on this land that is home to Christianity, Judaism, and Islam — a land where the teachings of Jesus still echo among the few remaining Christians there that are descendants of his earliest followers. Join us in the Agencies Bldg., Rm. 105, at 7 p.m. on September 21.

## A Place to Grow in Christian Discipleship

*Continued from page 1*

about the on-going and new programs for our children, from weekly Sunday school to participation in the Advent and Lenten activities.

### For Youth

For NPC's youth, there are programs to increase their understanding of the Bible as a guide, not only for grasping the Christian faith, but as a guide on the road to a fulfilling life in Christ during the high school and college years. There are many opportunities for young people to get to know one another in mission and rec-

reational settings in our own city and abroad. Youth are working on projects that benefit NPC and the greater community.

### For Adults

For adults, there are courses that give an overview of the Bible, a course on church history, and Bible studies. Some of the classes, such as Wrestlers, provide opportunities to discuss the relationship between our faith in Christ and current world issues. Some classes are structured for regular attendance; some, as "drop-in" classes. This year one of the "drop-in" sessions is a book discussion group, "Shelf Life," that meets weekly. The format and subject matter differ from one session to the next. The first book to be discussed is John Ortberg's *The Life You've Always Wanted*. Subsequent books explore topics of Christian living and inspir-

ing Christian biographies. A Bible study for young married couples is available, as well as a new Alpha Course.

One of the gems in NPC's Grow Ministries is the well-stocked library where you can find books that will supplement whatever class you may be taking or help you understand the Christian faith. Whether you want history, biography, current affairs, theology, or devotional books, the library has rich resources. The satellite library is outside Stone Hall and the Culbertson Library is on the second floor of the Administration Building.

For more detailed information, pick up a Grow Ministries catalog from the Information Desk or the literature racks in the narthex. This will help you find your place of learning, connecting you with others as you grow in your life of faith.



# First Faith and Art Event Coming on October 17

*The Art of NPC's Children Explores the Parables of the Lost and Found*



Flight into Egypt, George Hitchcock, 1892

**F**aith and Art on the Pathway of Discipleship is a three-part series celebrating God's grace and mercy expressed through the visual arts. The first event in the series, on October 17, features the art of NPC's children in response to that Sunday's scripture and sermon, "The Beauty of Grace, Parables on the Lost and Found." Exploring the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son in the weeks preced-

ing the October event, the children will create individual art or participate in group projects that become part of a larger work.

The second Faith and Art Sunday is February 6, "The Beauty of Compassion: The Story of the Good Samaritan." In addition to a display by NPC's own artists in Stone Hall, Dr. Douglas Learned will make a presentation, "Christian Art: Icon, Idol, or Other?" His reflections on the use of art in church, based on our Reformed tradition, may leave you with a new appreciation of church art through the ages.

On May 22, artists from the Washington area and beyond will display and create Christian art during the Faith and Art Festival in the fountain courtyard. More information will be forthcoming closer to the event.

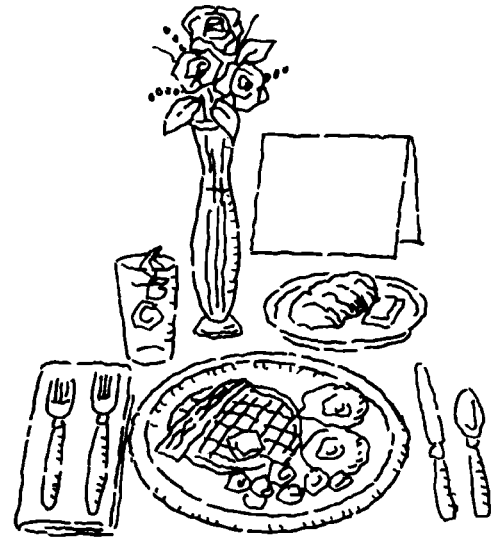
## Breaking Bread Together on the Pathway of Discipleship

*Brunch at National Returns, Sept. 26*

**O**n Sunday, September 26, join us for Brunch at National in Stone Hall. After or before worship and classes, between 8:45 a.m. and 1 p.m., you'll find a delicious brunch in Stone Hall on the lower level of the church. We'll have a full gourmet buffet and, for the children, there will be plenty of pancakes. There will also be fun activities for the kids, and throughout the morning, we'll enjoy live piano music.

The cost is \$5 per person, with a \$20 maximum per immediate family, payable at the door. Take this opportunity to begin the new program year by breaking bread with your church family.

See you on September 26!



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