

# NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

NOV/DEC 2010 | VOL. 3

## SUNDAY ADULT CLASSES

at 9:15 a.m.

### Shelf Life

A book discussion group. Join us for a lively discussion about interesting books. Agencies, Rm. 102

### Young Couples

A Bible study for young 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

## Hallelujah! Welcome the Prince of Peace

### *Our Coming Savior Celebrated in Handel's Messiah*

Usher in the Christmas season this year with the glorious sounds of National's Festival Choir and Orchestra. On Sunday, December 5, at 5 p.m., our sanctuary will reverberate with Handel's masterwork *Messiah*.

Singers from church and community alike will come together for this beloved tradition celebrating the birth of Christ.

"The enduring impact of this great oratorio," notes Director of Music Ministries Michael Denham, "rests in its magnificent musical presentation of God's unfolding dawn of redemption. Handel never intended it to be a dramatic work like his operas. The real drama plays

out before us on the historical stage of God's provision for our deepest need."

Few musical events draw a wider and more enthusiastic audience than a performance of *Messiah*, nor a more varied mix of

choristers. Some have sung part or all of it every year for as long as they can remember.

Others may venture to add their voices after years as loyal members of the audience. Still others may have never heard or

sung this musical monument.

Whatever the case, Handel's *Messiah* is for you. Come lift your voice in the Festival choir. Join them in lifting our Hallelujah! to God. On December 5, be in NPC's

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## Through the Bible in a Year - 2011

### *Read Start to Finish, Learn Who God Is and How to Live*

*By Rev. Eunice McGarrahan, Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Christian Formation*

In a recent sermon, Dr. John Huffman encouraged us to read through the Bible in a year. For many, that seems like a daunting task. How can one possibly go from Genesis through Revelation in twelve months? An even more important question, however, might be, "Why?"

Many of us may read the Bible occasionally; others may read it regularly and bewilderment may keep some away from the scriptures entirely. Often, when we do read it, we focus only on certain portions.

We may study the Bible in sections – a psalm here, an epistle there. We may mine the scriptures trying to determine what it says about a topic – vocation, marriage, suffering, or comfort. Those are all good and necessary approaches to reading the Bible.

However, reading the Bible straight through, in sequence, gives us something that is not readily available in those other methods. When we read the Bible from

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NATIONAL X PRESS

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

### DEADLINES

**January/February:** December 1

**March/April:** February 1

**May/June:** April 1

**July/August:** June 1

**September/October:** August 1

**November/December:** October 1

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or KBrinkley@NationalPres.org

# Advent & Christmas

## God's Glory Fills the Earth

### WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

at 8 a.m. in the Chapel  
at 9:15 and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

**NOV 28** First Sunday in Advent  
Ezekiel 37:1-14; 2 Cor. 5:16-20  
Rev. William Carl

**DEC 5** Second Sunday in Advent  
I Will Seek Your Good  
Dr. Douglas Learned

**DEC 12** Third Sunday in Advent  
On All God's Holy Mountain  
Rev. Eunice McGarrahan

**DEC 19** Candlelight Christmas Worship  
Everlasting Joy  
Dr. Douglas Learned

**DEC 24** Christmas Eve  
Family Nativity Service  
at 5 p.m.  
Candlelight Communion Services  
at 8 and 11 p.m.  
A Sign for You  
Dr. Douglas Learned

**DEC 26** First Sunday in Christmas, 11 a.m.  
He Became their Savior  
Rev. Eunice McGarrahan

**JAN 2** Second Christmas in Christmas, 11 a.m.  
His Good Pleasure  
Rev. Eunice McGarrahan

## Mission Gift Market

Open Hearts, Open Hands

December 5, 12, and 19 throughout the morning  
Stone Hall

online [www.NationalPres.org](http://www.NationalPres.org) beginning November 28



## Our Savior Face to Face

### COMMUNION VESPERS ON WEDNESDAYS

at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
Children's Program, K-5th Grades, Rm. 110-111  
Buffet Dinner in Stone Hall, 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.

**DEC 1** First Vespers in Advent  
Face to Face with the Word  
Rev. Evangeline Taylor

**DEC 8** Second Vespers in Advent  
Face to Face with the Servant  
Rev. Eunice McGarrahan

**DEC 15** Third Vespers in Advent  
Face to Face with God  
Rev. Donna Marsh

## Receptions for Funerals

### *Team's New Effort at Care & Food*

One of the needs of our congregation has been a group of volunteers who will assume the responsibilities for funeral/memorial service receptions. While this used to be a caring service NPC provided, its program had lapsed. It is with new care and commitment that we announce the formation of a Funeral/Memorial-Service Reception Committee. It will be under the direction of Ginny Jarratt, chair and team members Marilyn Crenshaw, Carole Knubel and Dolores Slaugh. Sharon Dougherty will be the administration contact.

Each reception will be done with care and love. Food will be served with comfort, respect and graciousness. The team leaders have volunteers who will come with them to the event to set up, serve and clean up. We look to the congregation members to volunteer food items needed. Sign-up sheets will be available in the months to come.

It is a blessing to us to be able to serve our Lord by serving our NPC family in this way.

In Christ,

Ginny Jarratt, Marilyn Crenshaw,  
Carole Knubel, and Dolores Slaugh

## Messiah Concert

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sanctuary as a member of the choir or audience to welcome the Prince of Peace, our coming Savior.

The rehearsal schedule is, as follows:

### **Saturdays**

10 am - 1 pm

Church

Choir Room

November 6

November 13

November 20

### **Final rehearsals**

Church

Sanctuary

Friday, December 3

7 to 10 p.m.

Saturday, December 4

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



To sign up for this year's *Messiah* festival choir, please contact Director of Music Ministries, Michael Denham, MDenham@NationalPres.org or 202.537.7553.

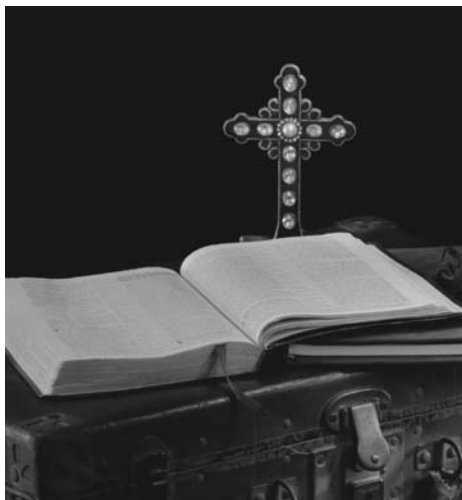
## Through the Bible 2011

*Continued from page 1*

cover to cover, like we would a novel, we see the story of how God relates to us. From beginning to end, we learn the story of how and for what purposes God created us. We learn that something dreadful happened — we rebelled and 'broke' God's good workmanship. Hanging on the edge of our seats, we wonder as we read — What will happen? Will God abandon us? Will God punish us? What will God do? And the story unfolds.

Many who read the Bible straight through say that they get such a good overall picture of who God is and who we are, that it gives them greater understanding when they focus on smaller portions of scripture. They understand that each portion, each of the sixty-six books of the Bible, helps move the one story of the Bible forward.

This is more than a literary adventure though. It is a spiritual adventure, for as you read this story that spans thousands of years, you discover the grace and faithfulness of God who rescues us from our rebellion and who perseveres in his relationship with us, even when we insist on running away from him. As we discover Jesus Christ



on every page of the scriptures, we learn who God is. As well, we learn who we are and why we behave as we do. Reading the Bible in this way is not only an exercise in God-discovery, it is also an exercise in self-discovery.

In the coming year, we have the opportunity to read through the Bible in community. Doing it together — encouraging one another — will increase the likelihood that we will finish what we start. And, just as important, reading together will draw us closer to one another in a fellowship of the Word.

Now, I can hear what you're saying: "I've tried this before but when I got to Leviticus I hit a brick wall." Indeed, you should have reacted that way. One of the things we will do as we read is

give you some guidance as you read each book. Then when Leviticus bothers you, you will understand why and discover how that points us to a need for our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We will begin sign-ups for Through the Bible 2011 on Sunday, November 21, in Stone Fellowship Hall. Watch the weekly worship bulletin in the coming weeks for more details.

# e-Pray for Our Missionaries at Home and far from Home

By Charlie Glendinning

In the beginning, when God was busy inventing everything from quails to quarks to quasars, he knew that one day someone would invent the internet. Already, this amazing tool has taken such virulent root in our lives that we can't imagine life without it. How wonderful it is to be able to connect with our missionary partners around the world—to lift joys and concerns spontaneously to the Lord in prayer. Through the use of the internet we, in effect, enter into a room together in one of the many mansions our Lord has already provided for us...and he is there with us.

At National, we have set up an online Missionary Prayer Group where members of our congregation, as well as our missionary partners around the world, can metaphysically gather and pray for each other. For those so far from home, it is a great comfort to be able to read the prayers of those who love them. In some sense, it is like Joshua on the battlefield being able to look up and see the upraised arms of Moses and those on the hill calling out to God on their behalf. I suppose Moses could have said, "Okay, Josh, you go out and fight the Amalekites, and I'll be here at home in my comfy chair praying for you," but he did not. Maybe he knew that there was added power in the sight of his presence.

That is what this group is about—letting our missionary partners hear us as we pray for them. Regardless of whether we are in a living room in Arlington, a bedroom in Burkina Faso, or a kitchen in Kenya, for this precious time of "e-praying," we are enjoying the presence of God and each other in a whole new way.

Last winter, during the devastating floods in Burkina Faso, one of our missionary partners in Kenya called out

to the Lord in prayer on behalf of our partners suffering in the midst of the flood. What a blessing it was to see the true body of Christ caring for its members and be able to add my "amen" to his wonderful prayer.

If you would like to join our missionary prayer group, email [npc-mission-prayers+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:npc-mission-prayers+subscribe@googlegroups.com). You will receive a confirmation email back. Then just click on the link and you're in!

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## Welcome our Newest Staff

During recent weeks, you may have noticed several new faces at NPC on Sunday morning. We are happy to announce the arrival of **Lewis Saylor**, Interim Church Administrative Officer, whose responsibilities include oversight of financial, communications, technology, facilities, and operations management, in addition to providing personnel administration.

Seen almost anywhere on our campus at any given time, **Jim Walker** is our new Facilities Manager. He's the one you'll be looking for when a leak suddenly appears in your Sunday school classroom.

**Bryan Jones**, a recent graduate of Eastern University with a bachelor's in Youth Ministry, has already made a hit as our Interim Director of Youth Ministry.

**Helen Westerfield**, whose resume is resplendent with her experience directing children's choirs, is our newly arrived First Service Coordinator. During the week, Helen serves as the choral director at Episcopal High School

Please help us welcome our newest staff members when you see them at NPC on Sunday mornings or throughout the week.

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