

NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the first edition of the *National XPress*, our new bimonthly about life at NPC. We hope to give you lots of news and information in a timely and engaging fashion, with a glimpse of our church family through feature stories.

We're offering the *XPress* in two versions: print and electronic. We'll send you the *XPress* by mail, but if you'd like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, just let us know. We'll take you off the regular mailing list and you'll be freed from one more piece of mail. Meanwhile, the church will save on printing and postage. The electronic version will have lots of links to our web site for more information.

The *National XPress* is here to serve you: let us know what you'd like to see covered, what you appreciate, and any suggestions you might have. You can contact our editor Richard Armstrong, the desk editor for nurture, outreach, worship or congregational care, or contact Kate Brinkley, our staff editor, XPress@NatPresCh.org or 202.537.7574.

Passion and Sacrifice

Palm Sunday Concert

The beginning of Holy Week at National will feature a concert by the Chancel Choir, soloists and orchestra. At 5 p.m. on Palm Sunday, they will perform Mozart's beloved *Ave Verum Corpus* motet, portions of J.S. Bach's plaintive solo cantata, *Ich habe genug*, and Franz Schubert's stirring *Mass in E Flat Major, D. 950*.

"This wonderful music will help heighten our awareness of our Savior's final week of passion and sacrifice, as he turned his face toward Jerusalem and Calvary," says Michael Denham, Director of NPC's Music Ministries.

The choir and soloists have already begun rehearsals for this effort. Make your plans to join us for this poignant Palm Sunday concert.

Lent and Holy Week at National

Dr. Thomas Erickson

Questioned by Jesus

Vespers Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, February 25

Rev. Eunice McGarrahan

Why Do You Call Me Good?

March 3

Do You Not Yet Understand?

March 10

Why Are You Afraid?

March 17

Are You Able to Drink the Cup I am About to Drink?

March 24

Could You Not Stay Awake with Me One Hour?

March 31

Don't You Know It Must Happen in This Way?

My Heart, Christ's Home

Sunday Sermons

Worship at 8:30, 10 and 11:30 a.m.

February 29

A Foundation Built on Christ

March 7

The Front Door of Grace

March 14

The Entry Hall of Faith

March 21

The Family Room of Prayer

March 28

The Workroom of Love

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 4

Worship at 8:30, 10 and 11:30 a.m.
The Workroom of Love

Maundy Thursday, April 8

Communion Service at 7:30 p.m.
My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?

Good Friday, April 9

Worship from noon to 3 p.m.
The Seven Last Words of Christ
Guest Preachers

Easter Sunday, April 11

Worship at 8:30, 10 and 11:30 a.m.
Life is Beautiful

Richard Hays begins NPC's Theologian-in-Residence Series

By John Halvonick

On Sunday, April 25, NPC begins its new Theologian-in-Residence lecture series.

Each program will comprise a visit from a distinguished religious scholar invited by NPC to preach on Sunday, followed by a lecture/discussion series at NPC.

Dr. Richard B. Hays, George Washington Ivey Professor of New Testament at Duke University Divinity

School, is the first scholar to be invited under the program. Hays is a leader in the field of New Testament studies with much of his work focusing on the letters of Paul and on New Testament ethics. His scholarly work bridges the disciplines of biblical criticism, theology, and literary studies, explor-



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ing the innovative ways in which early Christian writers interpreted Israel's Scripture.

Originally from Oklahoma City, Professor Hays received his undergraduate and divinity degrees from Yale University and his Ph.D. from Emory University.

He spent ten years on the faculty of Yale and has spent the past 13 years at Duke. Hays is the author of six books, including *The Faith of Jesus Christ*, *Echoes of Scripture in the Letters of Paul*, *First Corinthians* (part of the series entitled: "Interpretation Commentaries"), *New Testament Ethics: The Story Retold*, and *The Letter to the Galatians* (New Interpreter's Bible).

Richard's 1996 work: *The Moral Vision of the New Testament: Community, Cross, New Creation* has, perhaps, attracted the most attention. It was selected by *Christianity Today* as one of the 100 most important religious books of the twentieth century. *Moral Vision* describes the ethical content of the New Testament and how it can be applied to the modern day issues that face the Protestant Church.

On his first visit to NPC, Hays' plans to speak on "Practices of the Resurrection" which played a part in the moral life of the church community with an emphasis on the New Testament and its relevance to scripture. However, he is open to various issues that participants may wish to bring to the discussion.

The tentative schedule for the Hays program in April is as follows:

Sunday, April 25: Dr. Hays will preach at all three worship services.

Monday, April 26. Morning: continental breakfast and informal question and answer period. Mid-day: Lecture and tri-board worship: Brief remarks.

Tuesday, April 27. Morning: continental breakfast and informal question and answer period. Mid-day: lecture. Dinner: closing remarks

Call the Adult Nurture Office for more complete information as it becomes available, **202.537.0800**, or visit **www.NatPresCh.org**.

Jan Woodring Gets New Members Connected

Although it's been quite a while since Jan Woodring was considered a new member at NPC, she seems uniquely qualified to direct New Member Connections. From her service on the boards of the church to her early involvement in visitation and hunger relief, Jan has distinguished herself at National.

When Jan moved to Washington from New York City in 1978, she immediately found her way to NPC on the advice of a New York friend. Soon after, this "pastor's kid," whose father led Hyattsville's Calvary Memorial Church in suburban Washington, decided to become Presbyterian and joined NPC in 1980.

Jan immediately found community in the Wrestler's class. She became active in the Hunger Committee formed by Colleen Evans, which energetically raised thousands of dollars to send food to South Africa and South America, as well as to local missions like the Capitol Area Food Bank and the House of Ruth. "Friendships I formed on that committee," reflects Jan, "continue to be strong to this day."

Service on the Board of Deacons led Jan to ministry in hospital visitation and transportation. As a trustee for six years, Jan focused on the Columbarium and Planned Giving, while continuing to serve in roles of visitation and providing transportation.

"I found the Wednesday night program especially gratifying," Jan explains. On Wednesdays she completed the Bethel Bible Series and "thoroughly enjoyed" studying the epistle to the Hebrews with NPC's former associate pastor Peggy Cantwell.

A Maryland native, Jan attended King's College in New York during the same era as NPC's Chuck and Margie Wright. Throughout her career, Jan has always worked well with people. During her stewardess days with American Airlines, she became the Senior Director of Flight Service. Jan later worked in the corporate world, in the areas of executive search and recruitment.

Since Jan's involvement at National has enriched her life with spiritual growth through friendships, service opportunities and Bible study, she is eager to see this become a reality for every person becoming a member of our church.

Jan invites present NPC members to join the New Member Connections program by serving as a "neighbor" who is available to assist a new member in finding the niche that fits. She is convinced that every existing member's own journey at NPC qualifies him or her to walk alongside our new family members, even as Jan's own story has given her vision for her role on the staff at National.

If you'd like to learn more about New Member Connections, call Jan, **202.537.7505**, send her an e-mail: **JWoodring@NatPresCh.org**, or visit **www.NatPresCh.org/PHP_JoiningNPC.phtml4**



More Staff News

Tricia Mackay has joined Children's Ministries in the part-time staff position of Coordinator for Children's Special Events. La Dawn Naegle has returned to the Sunday School after a year's sabbatical to join the Sunday School Reception Desk team. Watch for both these ladies and introduce yourself if you have the chance.

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Deadlines:

May/June: **April 1**

July/August: **June 1**

September/October: **August 1**

November/December: **October 1**

Milestones Move into the Teen Years

In an expansion of the Milestones in Worship Education, NPC's Youth Ministry has incorporated Milestones into their curriculum. A vital part of the Children's Ministry for more than ten years, the Milestones program has guided our children as a community on their journey of faith and is eagerly embraced by the Youth leadership.

At NPC, our children have studied an element of worship each year, celebrating their studies with a Milestone leadership in worship on Sunday morning. "Now our youth have an opportunity for the same in-depth study of the components of our worship," explains Youth Director Mitch Gore.

The sixth graders are studying the Symbols of Faith for their Milestone. This year, they've chosen the vine of Christian community as their symbol and have created a banner representing their connection to the vine.

The Sacraments of the Faith is the Milestone for our seventh graders. They'll bake the bread for a special communion service on March 28 in the chapel. After the service, each



seventh grader will receive a Daily Prayer book.

At that same service, the eighth graders will sing a hymn they've written for their Milestone on Hymnology and each will receive a hymnal.

The Milestones in Worship Education program has had a wonderful influence on NPC's children. "This will also be true for our youth as they understand for themselves

how learning about our faith supports each person in his or her own unique journey with Christ," says Youth Council member Leslie Saum.

On May 2, middle and high school students will lead worship for Youth Sunday. The ninth graders will be confirmed as adult members of the congregation. "This service promises," says Saum, "to be a truly inspiring experience for the congregation. Youth at NPC are truly being "trained up in the way" of Christ."

Note: To hear the 2001 third grade class singing the Doxology in Worship, visit www.natpresch.org/Doxology.shtml

Have you heard about Alpha?

Looking for a way to reinvigorate your faith for Lent? Interested in introducing a friend to Christianity for Easter? The Alpha course examines core Christian beliefs and asks whether Jesus Christ has any real relevance for our lives today. There are a wide variety of reasons why people attend an Alpha course: some want to investigate whether God exists and if there is any point to life; others are concerned about what happens after death. Still others may have attended church on and off all their lives but feel they have never really understood the basics of the Christian faith.

Each evening begins with a presentation and includes an opportunity to meet in groups to discuss the Bible. Join us on this exciting journey into the roots of Christian faith and belief. The next Alpha course begins Tuesday, March 9, at 7 p.m., and meets in Room 105 of the Agencies Building. Preregistration is recommended; cost is \$10. For further information, call **Linda Lang, 301.384.6630**, or **David Bollinger, 703.578.1120**.

Youth inc. Summer 2004 Expeditions

Take stock in the future by purchasing shares of YouthInc at \$50 each. Your investment will support the Youth Ministry through these and other summer events.

- Middle School mission to Charlotte, NC — June 20-26
- High School mission to Dominican Republic — June 20-27
- Middle School to Ligonier — June 27-July 10
- High School and Middle School work with VBS and drama — July 12-16
- High School trip to the Rock in Colorado — July 21-30

The Princess and the Pea Dinner Theater

March 6 and 7 at 5 p.m.
Stone Hall

Join the Youth Ministry for dinner and a show with a spiritual twist!
For more information, e-mail DMagan@NatPresCh.org or call 202.537.7538.



Great Dads Seminar

Practical Training for the Lifelong Job of Being a Dad

Sat., March 20, 2004 • 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Stone Hall • \$25 per person

Speaker: Bob Hamrin, founder and president of Great Dads
For information, call 202.537.0800 or visit www.NatPresCh.org

NPC to Host Mary Welchel at Women's Retreat



As part of her daily commute, Angela Bednarczyk found herself on the road when Mary Welchel's radio show, *Christian Working Woman* came on the air. One day Angela heard "A Tandem Bike Journey," which describes the process of traveling with Jesus and our desire to take the front seat on the bike. When problem after problem is encountered on the road, Jesus asks, "Are you ready for me to take the driver's seat?" Mary ends the broadcast saying, it's a wonderful journey you have to look forward to, if you'll just trust Jesus all the way. "The image of Jesus on that bicycle," Angela says, "has stayed with me since that broadcast."

Now NPC's women have the opportunity to receive some of Mary Welchel's insight at "Looking with Forever Eyes," the Women's Spring Retreat at Stone Ridge School in Bethesda on Saturday, March 27. Women of all ages will gather for a day of fellowship, spiritual music, conversation, in addition to speaker Mary Welchel.

For twenty years, Welchel has had a radio broadcast on more than 500 stations, in the United States and abroad. She is founder of Working Women Ministries and is the Director of Women's Ministries at The Moody Church in Chicago, Illinois.

"I've been amazed at the retreat that so many women receive comfort and insight into parts of their lives where they were seeking their Savior," NPC member Alison Taylor reflects. "Often, these insights have been the result of meeting just the right sister in Christ, who has shared a similar experience. God truly unites women of all ages, backgrounds, and life experiences to form a wonderful sisterhood in Christ." Many long-lasting friendships are formed at the retreat.

Register on Sunday morning in Stone Hall, or you can download a registration form from the NPC web site and mail it in. NPC's bookstore has a supply of Mary's books, including *Looking with Forever Eyes*. For further information, contact **Amy Wynkoop, 301.767.0009**.

Learn more about Mary Welchel on her website: www.christianworkingwomen.org. Listen to her broadcasts Monday—Friday on WGTS, 91.9 at 2:40 p.m., or on WFSI, 107.9, at 8:25 p.m.

The National Presbyterian Church
4101 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
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www.NatPresCh.org

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

Save the date!

October 8-10, 2004

Sandy Cove Retreat Center
by the Chesapeake Bay
Great fun, great speaker,
great fellowship!

Watch for more information.

Vacation Bible School



Mark July 12-16, 2004 on your calendar. Susan Holt is in the preliminary planning phase for this year's VBS. Remember this is a cooperative endeavor among parents, staff, and pastors as we reach out to the children of NPC and those of the surrounding community. To volunteer, contact Susan at s.susancholt@verizon.net or **202.966.9196**. Watch the web site this spring for children's registration forms: www.NatPresCh.org

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