

NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER MAY/JUNE 2004 | VOLUME 1

Summer Sermons

May 2
Youth Sunday

May 9
Mary Magdalene—
First to See the Risen
Christ

May 16
Joseph and
Nicodemus—
Faith Under Fire

May 23
Philip—He Got Up
and Went

May 30
Lydia—She Opened
Her Heart and Her
Home

June 6
Guest Preacher—
Urban Ministry Focus

June 13
Timothy—
Too Young to Make a
Difference?

**Worship at 9:30
and 11 a.m.**

June 20
Rev. Eunice
McGarrahan preaching

June 27
Epaphroditus—A
Friend in Need

NATIONAL X PRESS

A bimonthly publication
of The National
Presbyterian Church

Deadlines:

July/August:

June 1

September/October:

August 1

November/December:

October 1

Relax and Be Challenged

Summer Schedule begins on June 20

We often hear sermons about the major figures in the Bible—Abraham, Moses, King David, the Apostle Paul—people whose stories and accomplishments were extraordinary. Frankly, it can be difficult for us, as average folks, to relate to these huge biblical characters. Moreover, we may lionize contemporary Christian icons in comparison to our own rather ordinary lives.

This summer, Dr. Erickson continues an intriguing series about individuals mentioned only briefly in scripture. While they merit just a sentence or two in the Bible, their impact is significant. These glimpses of everyday people teach us important lessons about living authentically before God. It's encouraging to discover how ordinary folks contributed to the lives of others, for God's glory, by living faithfully where the Lord placed them. There is a lot to look forward to this summer! NPC's web site lists more details about the sermons for May and June: www.NationalPres.org.

Christian Horizon Summer Adult Classes Seeing Jesus

Christian Horizons is back this summer with a combined adult class each Sunday in Stone Hall at 9:30 a.m. Beginning June 20, the first six classes feature invited speakers who will describe their experience with the extraordinary person of Jesus Christ. Our speakers will discuss how they have encountered Jesus in their lives, particularly through encounters with others.

In August, the theme continues with a focus on our personal encounters with Jesus by studying scripture. The course will emphasize interactions Jesus had with individuals in the Bible. Staff will lead an investigation of these biblical accounts so that we might see Jesus in a fresh way and be

affected by that encounter.

As the Greek said to Philip in the gospel of John, "Sir, we would see Jesus." Likewise, this summer's program will allow participants to "see" Jesus Christ in a real way through personal accounts and biblical study.

Access for All at NPC

by Carol and Michael Wiseman

Stop and think for a moment about what coming to National would be like if you were blind, or deaf, or had trouble walking. Would you be able to worship? Would you feel welcome? Could you become a regular part of the NPC church family?

Thinking and praying about such things is what the Accessibility Committee is all about. Established by the Session four years ago under the leadership of Ann James, this committee is part of the church's Congregational Care pillar. Our calling is to help members of the congregation understand the importance of ensuring easy access to worship and church life for everyone. This is also an important part of Christ's calling to his church.

Thanks to the ongoing support of the Session and church staff, the Accessibility Committee can now point to a number of significant accomplishments:

- We have added power assists to all major church entrances.
- The church now has an accessible rest room on the first floor.
- We have acquired a new "Juliette Embosser" to print each Sunday's bulletin in Braille. (The bulletin is available in large print as well.)
- And we have published an informative brochure on the accessibility ministry entitled, "Welcoming People with Disabilities to The National Presbyterian Church: A Guide to Improving Awareness, Sensitivity, and Inclusion". Every church leader—including

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SUMMER SCHEDULE

Beginning June 20, 2004 • Worship at 9:30 and 11 a.m. • Nurture for adults, youth and children at 9:30 a.m.

Continued from page 1

deacons, elders, trustees, ushers, greeters, and staff members—has been provided with a copy of this brochure, and a copy has been set aside for you at the Information Desk.

As stated in our new brochure, the NPC Strategic Plan commits the church to building “a community of committed servants, in which everyone receives care when in need and offers care when able.” The plan also encourages us to “build and strengthen communities of support around individuals so that each person has many opportunities to belong.”

Because of this commitment, the National Organization on Disability has officially designated NPC as an “Accessible Congregation.” Which means that in our congregation, people with disabilities are valued as individuals who have been created in the image of God. It means that we are dedicated to removing barriers of architecture, communication, and attitude that exclude people with disabilities from full and active participation in the life of the church. And it means that the people of our church, both with and without disabilities, are encouraged to practice their faith and use their gifts in worship, service, and leadership.

The church faces many challenges in making sure we live up to this commitment. Among the most pressing is our goal of expanding our ministry to the deaf. Traditionally we have provided a sign-language interpreter at the 11:30 am worship service. But doing so is expensive. Although we currently only



have one longtime member who requires this service, we have the capacity to serve many more people. So we must find ways to reach out to other deaf people in our area.

We also face the continuing challenge of improving the accessibility of our entire campus. There are many important parts of the campus that are still not fully accessible—most notably the library and the Agencies Building. The capacity of our elevator is also inadequate

for our needs.

Most importantly, we need to find more volunteers who are willing to work with our committee—and with people who have disabilities—to continue improving the accessibility of National Presbyterian Church. Along those lines the committee has published a special flier to tell people what services are available and also to solicit their input on two important questions: 1) What additional services need to be provided or changes need to be made to improve access at NPC; and 2) What interests, skills, and talents can you bring to this ongoing effort?

We urge you to pick up a copy of this flier at the Information Desk and give prayerful consideration to the possibility of volunteering your time and energy to NPC’s Accessibility Committee. We are especially interested in finding skilled sign-language interpreters. If you have any questions about accessibility at NPC, or wish to volunteer, please call **Susan Osann** at **202/537-7525** or send her an email at **SOsann@NationalPres.org**.



WOMEN’S SPRING LUNCHEON

The Women’s Association annual spring luncheon will be held on May 19 in Stone Hall. Invite a friend for this special occasion with pianist Elizabeth Schneider performing. For information call **Rosalind Manoranjan**, **301/947-4085**.

Study the Psalms

Wednesdays at NPC

Combined classes meet to study the psalms each Wednesday, beginning on May 26. The series, led by Rev. Eunice McGarrahan, will include speakers Michael Denham and Ed Satterfield. A different type of psalm will

be examined each evening and psalms will be sung together as a way of experiencing and expressing the message of each kind of Psalm. The series will conclude June 30.



Parish Fairs in June

Want to find out which parish you’re in, meet other members of your parish, and meet your deacons? The Board of Deacons will sponsor a series of Parish Fairs in Stone Hall on June 6, 13, and 20. D.C., Maryland, and Virginia will be assigned a Sunday in June to host a Parish Fair. Watch the bulletin for further details.

Organist Bradley Welch

Recital on May 9

NPC’s organ recital series concludes its season on Sunday, May 9, at 3 p.m. with a recital by Bradley Welch, winner of the 2003 Dallas International Organ Competition. His performances last year electrified audiences and sent music reviewers into a mini-contest of

their own for superlatives: “visceral excitement...unmatched assurance and élan...a powerhouse organist...”

His recital includes music of J.S. Bach, Claude Debussy, George Thalben-Ball, William Albright and Alexandre Guilmant. Don’t miss one of the nation’s most exciting young performers!

Ask and You Shall Find

by Sally Kaplan

Located just outside the sanctuary and adjacent to the Court of Flags, NPC's Information Desk is the first place visitors and members stop when they've got a question. Formerly called "The Ask-Me Desk," this long table groaning under the weight of brochures and fliers has been an important part of NPC's ministry of grace for many years.

To navigate your way through the Information Desk, start your trip at the table closest to the elevator. Here you'll find items that will help enhance your worship experience, including large-print bulletins, Braille bulletins, large-print hymnals and Bibles, plus assistive listening devices for the hard of hearing. The next most frequently-requested items are located nearby—reprints of last week's sermon and care sheets.



General information on the church, memorials, and stewardship follows. And the remaining three tables are packed with pillar and program information. Each program area has a designated location on the desk and offers the most current information on classes, groups, ministries, and special events. Plus the volunteers who stand behind the desk are always willing and able to answer questions.

What kind of questions? Well, not surprisingly, the most common question is, "Where are the bathrooms?" followed by "Where's Stone Hall?" And here are some other popular items on the

Information Desk's "Hit Parade":

"The stained glass is beautiful, do you have any information on it?" Of course! We have a little pamphlet about the stained glass right next to last-week's sermon reprints.

"I've been attending NPC for many years and now I'm thinking about joining. When's the next class? This is one question we're always happy to answer, and we have a complete schedule of new member classes.

"I'd like to speak to one of the pastors. How can I arrange that?" Just call his or her office on Monday. We'll give you a business card with the church's phone number at the desk.

"Where is such-and-such class located?" The times and locations of the classes are listed on the back of the bulletin, and we'll make sure you get there by

providing you with maps and directions to the various classrooms.

There are three shifts on the Information Desk, and new volunteers are always needed. Please don't think that you have to be an expert on the church, or even a longtime member of NPC, in order to

serve capably at the Information Desk. You'll be given a brief orientation and a fact sheet that answers 99% of the questions people are likely to ask. And for that other one percent, there's always a simple reply:

"Great question! I really don't know the answer. Would you mind giving the church a call on Monday? Here's a business card."

If you know where the bathrooms are located, you'll do fine! So if the spirit of the Lord moves you to volunteer for service on the Information Desk, please e-mail **Sally Kaplan**, SallyWKaplan@aol.com.

VBS Hosts Olympics!



Vacation Bible School will commence again this summer at NPC, July 12-16. This year's program is called, SonGames, which refers to the ancient Olympics as well as God's son. Physical activities will include modern sports with an emphasis on teamwork. Spiritually, the program will study the scriptures of Paul and the lesson that we are all part of God's team.

The Greek Olympics co-existed with Paul the apostle, and students this year will learn from Paul's example. Through the story of Paul's conversion, they'll learn that Jesus makes it possible for everyone to "join in" and be a member of God's team.

"Adult volunteers for this program are encouraged and very much welcomed," says co-chair Susan Holt. Beth Walling is the other co-chair. Enrollment forms are currently available in the Church Office, at the Information Desk in the narthex, and may be downloaded on line at www.NationalPres.org, under the link for "Children".

For further information regarding enrollment and adult volunteers; please contact **Susan Holt** at s.susancholt@verizon.net.



NPC Family Picnic

Come one, come all for a fun-filled afternoon! Mark your calendars now for the annual NPC Family Picnic! There will be great food, a live jamboree band and games for the kids! Come on Sunday, June 27, to the front lawn of the church, following the 11:30 service. We look forward to seeing you there!

Focus on Missions: Glenn and Jewell Machlan

Glenn and Jewell Machlan are members of Wycliffe Bible Translators and work under Wycliffe's sister organization, SIL International, in the Philippines. They have been on a year's furlough in the Washington area since last summer. Glenn is the son of NPC members Larry and Jobanna Machlan. The following is an interview National XPress (NXP) conducted with the Machlans (G&J).

NXP: Briefly describe your ministry.

G&J: We are translating scripture among the Tanudan Kalinga language group. We've been in the Philippines since late 1995, and a year later first moved into Mangali, a remote mountain village about 250 miles north of Manila, to do translation.

NXP: What does a typical day look like for you?

G&J: Normally our translation team shows up by 9 o'clock, and we'll work together with them or give them assignments. We eat lunch together, enjoy coffee together (with lots of brown sugar—it's great!), and have siesta after lunch. Otherwise we're doing exegesis of a scripture passage, drafting or editing the translation, looking at each other's work, or checking the translation with others in the community to see if it's communicating what it needs to.



NXP: Who are some of the people who work with you?

G&J: Nelson is Glenn's co-translator. He worked with the previous SIL translator and is quite gifted with his language. He has served as barangay captain (like a neighborhood mayor) and continues to serve as pastor. He is a precious man of God. Twenty years ago during a tribal war he was shot through both thighs, giving him four great scars.

Mary is Jewell's co-translator. Before becoming a Christian, she had power over a certain kind of sickness caused by spirits. She would blow tobacco smoke on the sick person, which would "blow" the sickness/spirit away. Now she teaches children's Sunday school and has a beautiful witness.

NXP: What are some recent highlights for you?

G&J: Shortly before Christmas 2002 we distributed a poster with the translation of Luke 2:1-20 to every home in Mangali and were thrilled to hear that the high school used it in their Christmas program. Even strong Christians remarked that they hadn't heard the whole story before.

Last April we distributed the translation of Jonah to every home in Mangali. In February 2004 a reading fluency competition was held at the high school using sections of Jonah as the reading material. A colleague reported, "The students and teachers got more visibly excited as the morning went on. The principal said he wants more contests like this in the future."

Also last April our translation team led a worldview seminar with church and civic leaders in Mangali. One of the attendees told Glenn that it was very good, especially because it was done in the local language, "so it could go directly to my heart." That is exactly why we are there.

For more about the Machlans' ministry and other ways you can pray for them, please read the rest of this interview on our website: www.NationalPres.org/PHP_MissionCouncil.phtml4 or call the **Outreach Office** at **202/537-7483**.

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