

NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MARCH/APRIL 2005 | VOLUME 6

Dr. Gareth Icenogle,
Pastor

WEDNESDAYS

Vespers in Lent
at 7 p.m.

*The Cross of Jesus
Christ*

March 2

The Scandal of
the Cross

March 9

The Discipleship of
the Cross

March 16

The Humility of
the Cross

SUNDAYS

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

March 6

Trust

March 13

Hope

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 20

8:30, 10 and 11:30 a.m.
Blessing

Maundy Thursday, March 24

7:30 p.m.
The Communion of
the Cross

Good Friday, March 25

Noon to 3 p.m.
The Agony of the Cross

Easter Sunday, March 27

8:30, 10 and 11:30 a.m.
*Linger in the
Shadow of Easter:
Linger in Darkness*

SUNDAYS

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

April 3

Linger in Doubt

April 10

Linger in Grief

April 17

Linger in Hunger

April 24

Linger in Guilt

Palm Sunday Concert Features Fauré Requiem

On March 20, NPC's Chancel Choir with orchestra, organ and soloists will present "Surpassing Peace," music of Gabriel Fauré, including his beautiful "Requiem," the lush "Cantique de Jean Racine," and the lyrical "Elegie for Cello."

In his "Requiem," Fauré departed from the traditional construction. "While his work uses the standard words of the Requiem Mass," explains music director Michael Denham, "he chooses and arranges them in such a way as to de-emphasize divine wrath and judgment, and emphasize divine peace and the hope of eternal destiny." Fauré adapted the Requiem to his own sensibilities about heaven.

This year's soloists are baritone James Evans, bass Alvy Powell, and soprano, Jane-Anne Tucker, who will sing the radiant "Pie Jesu." "Fauré apparently preferred a smaller, chamber-sized instrumental ensemble, scored mostly for lower strings," says Denham. "There is no violin section, only the

sparing use of a solo violin. Violas, cellos, and string basses carry the day, along with some woodwinds, brass, timpani, and, of course, harp. The overall effect is rich and shimmering."

The Palm Sunday concert is part of the Music at National concert series, which has included the Washington Symphonic Brass, the Washington Bach Consort, The Concordia College Choir, the Raleigh Ringers and the Barham Organ Concerts. "We are grateful that, in a relatively short period of time, we've developed a concert series of considerable variety and weight. Some of the finest soloists and ensembles from Washington and around the country are here, along with wonderful performances by musicians from our own congregation." For more information on the Music at National series, visit our web site: www.NationalPres.org. x

Stephen Ministry — Showing Up and Listening

By Flo Creighton

Had I known about Stephen Ministry in the late 1990's, I certainly would have benefited. I had recently moved with my four children and was church shopping. My new neighbors sang National's praises and an old friend recommended the Counseling Center. But it was my youngest daughter's confirmation in 1999 that prompted me to join her in joining the church.

As a garden enthusiast, I was drawn to working with the Flower Ministry. In between Alpha and Beth Moore Bible classes, I participated in small groups. Hosting parish gatherings parlayed right into a term as a deacon, from November 2001 until last year. Having worked on a Care Team, training for Stephen Ministry was a natural progression.



Involvement in Stephen Ministry training with various local churches has afforded me a new prayer partner. And new friendships are in the making from the seven class members from a new Chinese Bible Church of Montgomery County, and a few class members from other local churches, in addition to the eight members from National.

Stephen was the first disciple to be commissioned by Jesus to go out and help others. But I can

already tell that Stephen Ministers benefit as much as those they serve.

Stephen Ministry is distinctively Christian caregiving to those who are experiencing challenging

Continued on Page 2

Redskin Greats Honored by Center for Leadership

The National Center for Leadership is holding their third National Leadership Award dinner on Tuesday, March 22, at the Mayflower Hotel. The award is given to those who successfully integrate their faith and work.

This year's honorees are Art Monk and Charles Mann, co-founders of the Good Samaritan Foundation in Anacostia. Spurred by a powerful commitment to service, these Redskin superstars launched the Good Samaritan Foundation in 1993. Their intent has been to help our city's youth live up to their potential and become faithful, productive, responsible adults and parents.

The Good Samaritan Foundation takes the long view with an intensive, comprehensive program. Young people ages 15 to 18 receive tutoring, mentoring, training, and work experience as they explore their unique strengths. The program runs 42 weeks a year, after school and over the summer. Great effort is made to engage students for their full four years in high school.

Good Samaritan tracks performance and get results. Over the last two years, 90 percent of their students went on to college, attending institutions, such as, Stanford and North Carolina A&T. As Art Monk says, "Our students are winners who come from behind."

The first National Leadership Award was presented in 2002 to Senator Bill Frist, who has donated his time to provide medical care for those in the Washington area who lack medical insurance. He also travels to the Sudan under the auspices of Samaritan's Purse to perform surgery for victims of famine and civil war.

The second Award was presented to former Senator Harris Wofford, a life-long advocate for citizen service, who served on the first U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and as an advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King. He helped organize the Peace Corps, and until recently was Co-Chair of America's Promise.

The National Leadership Award was established by the National Center for Leadership to honor persons in influential positions of leadership who exemplify the integration of Christian faith with their leadership responsibilities. Among the selection criteria, honorees have been active in the mentoring of emerging leaders, and empowering the next generation of Christian leaders.

The Leadership Award dinner also serves as the key fund-raising event of the Center. Dinner tickets are \$250/person (\$160 tax deductible); Patron tickets \$500 (\$410 tax deductible). Attire is black tie optional. To honor these Christ-centered leaders, Art Monk and Charles Mann, support the Center, and/or sponsor a Fellows dinner ticket, call the Center, 202/244-6424, or e-mail Teresa Larson, larson_teresa@msn.com. ✕

Learn Chinese Cooking!

Rebekah Liu can truthfully say that she has sampled every single recipe from three cookbooks — a total of 250 dishes. But that's because Rebekah's mother, Christine Liu, needed taste-testers before she included the recipes in her Chinese cookbooks. "It was a tough job," says Rebekah, a longtime NPC member, "but someone had to do it."

Now, the NPC family is being invited to learn how to prepare several of these authentic Chinese dishes. On Saturday, March 19, from 10 a.m. to noon, Christine Liu, trained nutritionist and author of *Nutrition and Diet with Chinese Cooking*, *More Nutritional Cooking with Christine Liu*, and *Cooking with Tofu*, will demonstrate how to prepare dishes from various regional Chinese cuisines, and share her knowledge of the nutritional benefits of Chinese cooking and healthy cooking techniques.

Christine has taught Chinese cooking for more than 25 years. Her recipes combine the art of classic Chinese cuisine with the necessities of a healthy diet to create dishes that are easy to prepare, nutritious, and delicious. She has also spent her life sharing the gospel and ministering to Chinese Christians in Brazil, Taiwan, China, and the United States. Share the morning with Christine as she teaches you how to prepare dishes that your whole family will enjoy. ✕



Continued From Page 1

circumstances. It is process, rather than result-oriented. Showing up, having patience, and listening are key components. The focus of Stephen Ministry is relationship. People may not remember exactly what you do or say, but they will always remember how you made them feel.

I am learning how to (be still and) listen — the bedrock of Stephen Ministry. I am so grateful for this knowledge, because I know how it makes me feel when I feel heard. I am attempting to incorporate the philosophy behind carrying my own load and each other's burdens, but I continue to struggle with control as I want so desperately to make life right.

To a care receiver, I may be the caregiver, but I have learned that God is the cure giver. I do the praying. Prayer is integral, before, during, and after all sessions. But God does the work. That's a good thing, too, for I am always at a loss as to how to really help a person in crisis. As much as I want to learn helping skills, I also want to deepen my own relationship with Christ, becoming a light to all, not just care receivers. ✕

Al Duncker has led training for the recent Stephen Ministry class, which included Marcia Bini, Flo Creighton, Margaret Custis, Rachel Mibm, Jack Naughton, Elizabeth Ross, May Yamate, and Melissa Zobel.

NPC Youth Present Snow White—with a Twist!

By Kory Chikes

On March 12 and 13, the Youth will dazzle us yet again with *Snow White*, musical theater with a spiritual twist. This version of the story has many familiar elements, but a few fun additions, including a family of nine orphaned children in place of the seven dwarfs and two entertaining sidekicks for the queen. What is delightful about this production is its interwoven biblical truth about the Fruits of the Spirit. Every Sunday since early January, the cast has met for lunch, fellowship, and practicing their parts. They've put in a lot of work but have had a ton of fun while doing so.

This musical has many roles and character opportunities, as well as a need for many backstage helpers. When the curtain goes up, there will be more than fifty youth and adults involved in the production process and each one brings their own uniqueness and spark to their role.

Tickets will go on sale in Stone Hall beginning in mid-February and we encourage everyone to sign up early as we have limited seating available each night. This musical promises to be one that will not soon be forgotten, and we would love for you to be a part of it! ✕



Scenes from last spring's Youth Dinner Theater production of *Sleeping Beauty*.



NPC Celebrates Missions Milestone: Agutaynen New Testament Translation

For more than twenty years, NPC has been involved in a special project halfway around the world. In December 1983, we commissioned NPC member Dr. Stephen Quakenbush and his wife Janice to go to the Philippines to bring God's Word to the Agutaynen people in their own language. Last fall marked the completion of the project—the publication of the New Testament in Agutaynen. And that called for a celebration, several celebrations, in fact.

"Steve's work is an amazing accomplishment," notes Hunter Weimer, NPC Director of Outreach. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime achievement. Now the Agutaynen people can read the Bible in their heart language. Steve and NPC have continued the great tradition of the Reformation, bringing God's Word to God's people.

Steve works with Wycliffe Bible Translators, an international Bible translation organization. Wycliffe last year cel-

ebrated 50 years of work in the Philippines, with more than 50 completed translations to show for it. Grateful for Wycliffe's help in preserving indigenous languages and culture, the Philippine government observed the occasion through special events, including the release of a commemorative series of postage stamps.

The Agutaynen people commemorated this great work with three celebrations in three of their significant communities last fall. The Agutaynen are an indigenous ethnic group of the Philippines, consisting of approximately 15,000 people. The first event was on Agutaya, their native island. The other celebrations were on the larger island of Palawan, in the rice farming settlement of New Agutaya, and in the provincial capital of Puerto Princesa. NPC held its own celebration the first weekend in February.

Hunter Weimer and Chad Weinberg traveled to New Agutaya to represent

NPC at the celebration last December. The Agutaynen planned a day's worth of events and activities. About 3,000 people joined in the celebration.

Perhaps the most significant moment of the day for Hunter and Chad occurred in the Catholic Mass just after the parade. Fr. Roderick ("Dick") Caabay, the only Agutaynen clergyman present, preached to this community in his own language for the very first time. An attentive hush settled over the crowd as he spoke. The gift of God's Word in Agutaynen spoke directly to people's hearts.

NPC hosted Steve and Fr. Caabay for a celebration in Washington, D.C., the first weekend in February. On Saturday night, they were the guests of honor for a special translation celebration dinner. Nearly 100 NPCers came out to share this joyful moment with Steve and show support for his work. On Sunday morning, Hunter introduced and interviewed Steve and Fr. Caabay in each of the worship services. Steve's daughter Amanda was also able to join the festivi-

Continued on Page 4

A Day of Reflection and Fellowship

Women's Spring Retreat

In biblical times, the local well was a place where women would meet not only to draw water but also to visit with one another, nurturing a sense of community. NPC's Women's Spring Retreat offers living water and community. You don't need to bring a water pitcher, only a Bible and an open heart.

"Women are motivated by relationships," explains Dr. Leslie Parrott. This maxim is illustrated by retreat co-chair

Ellen Lawler, "A friend and I were relative newcomers to NPC when we attended last year's retreat. Aside from the fun and spiritual refreshment of the day, we agreed that NPC felt more cozy after we had a chance to meet and visit with so many women at the retreat."

"For the past several years I've attended the Women's Spring Retreat," explains NPC member Sally Thornberry, "and I always look forward to it as a day to slow down, step away from the normal routine, and really focus on what it means to walk with Christ in daily life.

At each retreat I am always reminded of how many really special women there are at NPC. It is a wonderful day — and a great way to spiritually refuel."



This year's April 23 retreat will again be held at the Stone Ridge School in Bethesda, MD. We are delighted to have Camilla Seabolt of Community Bible Study speak on "Running the Race," based on Hebrews 12.

Camilla's sound biblical

knowledge, life experience, and lively presentation will be an encouragement to personal faith as she leads us through such topics as discerning and following God's will in your life, resources to help run the race of faith, dealing with obstacles, and finishing strong. There will also be group discussion on how to apply Camilla's teaching, which will enable us to get to know one another better, make new friends, and enrich existing friendships.

Mark April 23 on your calendar now for this special event and register in early April. For more information or to volunteer with this event, contact Shana Folk, 703/379-4019, or by email at sfolk@comcast.net. x

Continued From Page 3

ties at NPC from college in California.

Steve's new role with Wycliffe will be to serve as their Summer Institute of Linguistics' (SIL) Asia Area Academic Coordinator. Bible translation was largely done by Americans and Europeans, but native speakers are increasingly taking lead roles in translation work. Steve will coordinate the work of language specialists who will come alongside these indigenous translators to provide them with critical linguistic assistance.

Steve joined NPC in 1980 while studying for his Ph.D. in Linguistics at Georgetown University. Steve and his wife Janice have four children, Amanda, Peter, Betsy, and Daniel. For more information about Steve and the family or to receive his e-mail prayer updates, call or e-mail Meri Giordan: 202/537-7483, mgiordan@natpresch.org. x

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