

# NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MARCH/APRIL 2006 | VOLUME 1

## LENT AT NATIONAL

Dr. Gareth W. Icenogle

### VESPERS IN LENT

Communion Service, 7 p.m.

#### The Wilderness Way— God's Transforming Power in Transitions

**March 1, Ash Wednesday**

Transforming Journey

**March 8**

Transforming Moment

**March 15**

Transforming Discipline

**March 22**

Transforming Leadership

**March 29**

Transforming Vision

**April 5**

Transforming Lifestyle

**April 13, Maundy Thursday**

Transforming Ritual

### SUNDAYS IN LENT

Worship, 9:15 and 11 a.m.

#### Good News for the Distressed

**March 5**

Good News for the Stressed

**March 12**

Good News for the Oppressed

**March 19**

Good News for the Repressed

**March 26**

Good News for the Dispossessed

**April 2**

Good News for the Depressed

**April 9**

Good News for the Hard-Pressed

### HOLY WEEK

**Palm Sunday, April 9**

Worship, 9:15 and 11 a.m.

Good News for the Hard-Pressed

**April 13, Maundy Thursday**

Communion Service, 7:30 p.m.

Transforming Ritual: The Meal that  
Remembers Freedom's Cost

**April 14, Good Friday**

Communion Service, noon to 3 p.m.

The Seven Last Words of Christ

**Easter, April 16**

Identical Worship Services

8:30, 10 & 11:30 a.m.

Good News for the Dead

## On the Road to Cameroon with Keith Patman

Recently, *Xpress* editor Richard Armstrong sat down with NPC member Keith Patman to discuss Keith's experience doing mission work overseas. Here is some of that discussion.

**RA:** How did you first become interested in doing mission work, Keith?

**KP:** Actually, it was my wife who heard the call before I did. I was teaching English at a Christian boarding school in North Carolina at the time, and she was doing graduate work in art at the University of North Carolina in Asheville. She happened to take some Classics courses on campus and became fascinated with ancient Greek. One day, she heard one of her professors talk about a former student who was using his expertise in Greek to help translate the Bible into a previously unwritten language in Papua New Guinea. So she came home very excited about doing that. We prayed about it, and before long we applied to Wycliffe Bible Translators for an overseas mission.

**RA:** Where did Wycliffe assign you and what kind of work did you do?

**KP:** We went to the Central African nation of Cameroon and lived in a village north of



Yaounde from 1987 to 1995. We worked with a group of mother-tongue translators there and guided them as they translated the Bible into their tribal language of Nugunu. There are nearly 290 different tribal languages in Cameroon, but the major official language is French. So the Bible they were working from was in French, as were most of the supporting literature they were using. I had to learn to speak Nugunu and French, too! But after a few years of learning their language and their culture, I was able to help them by anticipating the passages where they might have difficulty and helping them understand their choices — usually by referring back to the ancient

*Continued on page 5*

## World Premiere of NPC Youth Choir Anthem *Young Jesus In The Temple*

*By Beverly Morrone Haller*

What do you get when you combine an internationally acclaimed opera singer, a world famous composer, a beloved elder who writes hymn texts and a vibrant youth choir? You get a commissioned anthem, written especially for the NPC Youth Choir, "Young Jesus in the Temple", which will have its world premiere at NPC on Sunday, April 30.

It all started on Youth Sunday in May 2003. As "interim" youth choir director, I was

thanking the Youth Choir for a great job, when I ran into Delores Ziegler, an opera singer, who is a member of our Chancel Choir. She had a colleague with her, named John Greer. I apologized to him because he was visiting during our once-a-year Youth Sunday and told him he would not be able to hear our Senior Pastor preach or our Chancel Choir sing, since the youth performed everything in this unique service. He replied, "Please don't apologize.

*Continued on page 2*

## Youth Choir *Continued from page 1*

I found this service very moving, particularly when the youth choir sang 'Here I Am, Lord' as the benediction."

Later, I found out John is a renowned Canadian composer who began writing songs at the age of eight, and he's also a



lifelong Presbyterian. Delores and I decided to ask him to write a Youth Choir anthem for our own youth choir. He agreed immediately: "Since I was a youngster, I've sung in the First Presbyterian Church choir and it was an experi-

ence largely responsible for my love of music today."

Naturally, when we turned our thoughts to the words of the anthem, we thought of our own beloved elder, Mary Jackson Cathey, another lifelong Presbyterian, who has written hymns for more than 40 years, many of which are in our hymnal. If we could have this great Canadian composer collaborate with Mary Cathey, we believed we would have a wonderful, meaningful experience for our whole church family. (Now some may regard all this as a wonderful coincidence, but we Presbyterians know better!)

During 2003, Mary and John communicated often, finally agreeing to write the anthem based on the story in Luke of Jesus at the age of 12, in the temple. After Mary finished the text that fall, John spent six weeks writing the music. It was finally

completed in spring 2004. After a brief delay, the anthem's premiere has been scheduled for Sunday, April 30, 2006, with our new Director of Children's and Youth Music, Heather Roberts conducting the NPC Youth Choir.

It is a beautiful piece, describing Jesus' parents leaving Jerusalem after Passover and realizing they have lost their son. As the anthem declares, "Two worried parents looked in vain, their son nowhere in sight." Upon returning to the temple, Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the temple, and discover, "their son, who was a boy, seemed suddenly a man."

The Youth Choir is working very diligently on this challenging, moving work, so that it can be sung at both services on April 30. Heather says they're doing "great," and as one choir member said, "It is kind of difficult, but it's cool that it was written just for us." In addition, there will be a reception for the Youth Choir, John Greer, and Mary Cathey in Stone Hall after the 11 a.m. service that day.

"Young Jesus in the Temple" is truly inspiring and the words tell a great story. Yet even more importantly, it will be a wonderful message to all who join our Youth Choir that morning, when they sing:

"Thanks be to God who made me, and for the teachings of the Son, the guidance of the Spirit, the blessed Three in One." Amen.



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## Growing Leaders to Shape a "More Godly" Future

*By Ed Satterfield, Interim Director of Nurture*

**N**ews abounds of the failure of leadership. Unethical practices, reactionary stances, and a tendency to criticize without providing positive solutions plague our leadership culture today. In a new course this spring, the National Center for Leadership seeks to address not only key leader competencies, but what is often lacking today — becoming a person of character prepared to serve in the "crucible of power."

The course will be taught by leaders who have wrestled with the difficult issues of living out a Christian worldview in the marketplace. Our desire is to help shape leaders who will have an impact on developing a stronger and more godly leadership culture.

Based upon principles drawn from the best contemporary research, the ancient wisdom of scripture and classical thinking, and the examples of great leaders who have lived out their beliefs in tough times, participants will be learning as a team at a similar place in their careers. The learning is focused on key areas, such as, growing leaders, building a healthy organization, transforming and engaging culture, and building an organization team.

Convinced that leadership is developed in relationship to others, we have built these learning contexts into the course design. The course will foster personal assessment and opportunities to more deeply understand vocational

choices, keeping a balance, and self-awareness. Participants should expect significant experiential and collaborative opportunities in the team and in applying principles to specific work issues.

Time will be spent in one-on-one mentoring sessions with the course teachers and mentors who will share their life experiences. In order to accomplish this kind of learning community, enrollment will be limited to fifteen, and participants must have a minimum of ten years' work experience.

Applications are due to the National Center for Leadership by March 15 and include a nomination letter from someone other than the applicant. Information is available at [www.leadershipcenter.org](http://www.leadershipcenter.org).

# Calling all Fours, Fives and Ks for Club 130

**C**lub 130 is an all-new Sunday program for children, four years old, five years old, or in kindergarten (as of September 30, 2005). It takes place from 11:20 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in School Room 130 (hence the name!).

Children come to Club 130 from worship in the sanctuary (a dismissal is announced at 11:15 a.m.) and from Angel Choir (right after rehearsal) for a time of welcome, shared conversation, relaxed play, and more. Each week a Bible story is read from a series specifically planned for Club 130 by Nancy White. This is followed by a coordinated activity or craft designed by Amy Thompson. A



snack, fresh and nutritious, is served and there is time for play (outdoors when it's nice, indoors when it isn't). Room 130 is located just off the playground.

We meet from 11:20 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. every Sunday. "It is a joy to work

with these little ones as they enrich their Christian educational experiences at NPC," says Elizabeth Messner, chair for Club 130. Diana Saum, student teacher, with a parent-of-the-day, plus staff caregivers complete the leadership team. "I really had fun," explained Vanessa Abbott, Allyn's mom. She was parent-of-the-day on January 29 when a group of Club 130 children came near completing a 100-piece puzzle.

To find out more, contact Kathy Daniels, Children's Ministries, by phone, 202.537.7535, or by e-mail, kdaniels@NatPresCh.org, for more information.

## Cameroon *Continued from page 1*

Greek text.

**RA:** How in the world does one learn to speak Nugunu?

**KP:** By immersion mostly. There are no books on it, no English-Nugunu dictionaries. We spent most of our first two years in Cameroon concentrating on learning the language. We hired a man full-time to teach us, and my wife and I took turns everyday taking lessons. But mostly, you learn by doing, and, of course, by making mistakes. One day a woman in the village wanted to speak to my wife, but she was taking a nap. I tried to say, "I'd rather not disturb my wife right now, because she's very tired." But the way you say "tired" in Nugunu is to say, "with tiredness," which also sounds a lot like the word for sheep. So I wound up telling this woman, "You can't speak to my wife right now because she's with a sheep."

**RA:** Were there ever any times when you felt in physical danger there?

**KP:** Well, it's a tropical country with all the usual hazards. Poisonous snakes. Exotic diseases. We all had malaria from time to time, but there are drugs to control it and minimize it. You simply have to take the proper precautions. Actually the scariest thing that happened to us, for which we were not prepared, was driving from the capital to the village. You never knew when someone was going to come barreling around a curve passing another car at 70 miles per hour!

**RA:** Did your children have a difficult time adjusting to Africa?

**KP:** No, they had a difficult time adjusting to the United States when we came home! One was four months and one was four years old when we went to Cameroon. When we came back, they were eight and twelve. They loved growing up in Africa, and we thought it was good for them. No television, no video games, it was the way kids used to grow up in this country. They played with their African friends and entertained themselves. And as young adults, they've looked back on it as a formative experience in their lives.

**RA:** Do you have any plans to return to Africa or to go on another mission overseas?

**KP:** I'm open to it. But at the moment, I feel the work I'm doing for Wycliffe here in the United States is more valuable. I'm preparing guides for mother-tongue translators to help them translate the Bible into their own languages. It's really a matter of equipping the local people to do their job, because they are the experts in their own language. And they can do it better than anyone once they understand what the original text is saying.

**RA:** What would you say to other people at NPC who are thinking about doing mission work, but they have reservations about their own skills, or their safety, or their strength to survive the challenges?

**KP:** I certainly wouldn't recommend going without a clear sense of calling from the Lord. Even if it's not for you, however, you can still help spread the good news overseas through your prayers and your support of the people who do go. But I think every Christian needs to remain open to the possibility of doing mission work. From time to time, there is a "Perspectives" course offered in the area that helps people learn about what's involved. And I think these short-term mission trips are a great way to experience another country and to see what the missionaries are doing there. That could be the quiet way God calls you to do mission work. And I keep praying that the Lord will continue to put it into people's hearts to hear that call.

**RA:** Finally, what has this experience meant to you personally?

**KP:** I never stop marveling at what a privilege it is to be involved in something like this. I'm so grateful that my life's work, my career, can also be something that's advancing God's kingdom on earth. I don't take that lightly. I see that as a great privilege that I'm very thankful for.

To learn more about Missions, abroad and at home, contact Hunter Weimer, 202.537.7483 or HWeimer@NatPresCh.org.

## A Day of Renewal and Reflection: Uniquely You—God at Work in Your Life

This year, NPC's women are celebrating how God uses the events of our lives to weave a unique story of grace, forgiveness, love and purpose. Join other NPC Women on Saturday, April 29, to hear inspirational speaker Peggy Miller lead us in recognizing God at work in our lives. There'll be a time for sharing with one another personally, as well as time to hear stories of how God is at work in the lives of NPC women at different seasons in their journeys. Peggy will perform her portrayal of Corrie Ten Boom, in the story of an amazing journey of faith and survival. There will also be plenty of time to renew our spirits by stepping back from our hectic lives and reflect on our own walk with Christ.

This year's retreat will be held at NPC from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch is included. Registration begins March 26. For more information or to volunteer for the event, contact Dianne Rodgers, 571.344.5149 or diannerodgers29@aol.com.



## Youth Production of "Bow Down" – the Story of Esther from Set Design to Song

By Cherie Nichols

Singing, dancing, praying, eating, sewing, designing, filming — it's all happening on Sunday afternoons with about 30 of our youth and a cadre of parents, youth leaders, and staff. Under the direction of energetic youth leader Kory Chikes, our teens will perform the musical *Bow Down*, about an incident that took place more than two thousand years ago. It's the story of a woman who risked her life to save her people; it's also a lesson on stepping out in faith; and ultimately, it's a promise of God's faithfulness.

Beginning on the first Sunday in January, our youth have gathered weekly for fellowship, rehearsals and, of course, eating in preparation for this dinner theatre production on March 11 and 12. If you're on campus on a Sunday afternoon, you're likely to spot Director of Youth Ministry, Mitch Gore, or Dawn Magan, Youth Assistant, advising youth as they sketch out set designs or programs for the performance, or you'll find Heather Roberts, Director of Youth Music, guiding our young men and women in song. And if you see that group of guys throwing a football around on the lawn, it's only the tech crew taking a short break.

Costumes have been designed, lines memorized, and the beat goes on. And all the while, our youth move closer to forming a community of believers. They'll learn to trust and rely on one another, and with both struggles and success, to ultimately put their efforts in the hands of God.

Spread the word. Tell your friends and family and mark your calendars. Give our youth the opportunity to serve, entertain, and, with God's hand, maybe bring you a little bit further in your bow to the one true Lord.

### NATIONAL X PRESS

#### DEADLINES

**March/April** February 1

**May/June** April 1

**July/August** June 1

**September/October** August 1

**November/December** October 1

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