

NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2006 | VOLUME 2

SUNDAY SERMONS

Dr. Gareth W. Icenogle
Worship at 9:15 & 11 a.m.

Jesus' Pathway to Discipleship

May 7, Youth Sunday
Mitch Gore and High School Seniors

May 14
Trained in Groups

May 21
Teamed as Gifted

May 28
Tested with Grief

June 4

Guest Preacher: Dr. Richard Mouw
President, Fuller Seminary
A Reality Check

June 11
Tempered for Guidance

June 18
TBA

June 25
Dr. Harry Winsheimer
Follow Jesus Christ!

SUMMER CLASSES

June 18 – September 3
"Character Adjustments"

Classes for Adults, Youth and
Children at 9:15 a.m.

Adult Combined Class,
Stone Hall

Youth Classes, Youth Center
Children's Classes, School

NATIONAL X PRESS

DEADLINES

July/August June 1

September/October August 1

November/December October 1

March/April February 1

May/June April 1

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or call 202.537.7574

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Harry Winsheimer, Beloved National Presbyterian Pastor, To Retire in June

By Sally Kaplan

In January, Dr. Harry Winsheimer, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, announced that he would retire in June. This emotional announcement brings to a close Harry's 46-year career in ministry.

Born on December 21, 1937, in a small town in western Pennsylvania, Harry is the oldest of three boys—although he'll be the last to finally retire! "It's about time for me to catch up with my brothers," says Harry. "I've been working since I was 13. I started working on the family farm — driving the tractor and helping my father."

Harry was first called to the ministry when he was a teenager, "but as teenagers do, I really pushed those feelings aside. I come from a long line of Presbyterians; my paternal grandmother was Scotch-Irish and a strong Presbyterian." By his junior year at Waynesboro College, where he would receive a degree in geology, Harry realized he needed to follow his true calling to the ministry.

At about the same time, he also realized he had to follow his heart. After dating through college, he and Charlotte were married



in 1960. Harry's reminiscences of his life and events rarely include the pronoun "I," but rather "we." They have enjoyed 46 wonderful years of marriage.

The Winsheimer children, Paul and Janet, were born while Harry was working his way through Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. To add to an already full schedule of seminary, work, and a young family, Harry was

Continued on page 5

A Tough Man for a Tough Job

Interview with Richard Parker, Stewardship Committee Chair

National XPress editor Richard Armstrong sat down to talk with NPC's new Stewardship Chairman, Richard Parker. His impression? "A trial attorney by profession, session member Richard Parker is known to be a hard worker and a straight shooter. But I was pleased to see he also has a terrific sense of humor and a deep faith in God. Our new stewardship chairman is the right man, at the right time, for a difficult job."

RA: Why did you volunteer to be the Chairman of the Stewardship Committee?

RP: I didn't! I got drafted! But I was glad to accept because I wanted to serve in whatever capacity my talents would be most helpful to the church. This is a challenging time for Stewardship and all the other committees involved with budget and finance, but these are also the times you can really make a difference.

RA: It's no secret that the church is under some financial strain now. What caused that situation and what are the possible solutions?

RP: We have been in a transitional phase ever

Continued on page 2

Stewardship *Continued from page 1*

since Dr. Barnes left us unexpectedly. His resignation was followed closely by the resignations of Jeff McCrory and Lynne Faris. Junior McGarrahan didn't want to leave us, but she was compelled to do so by denominational rules. So the upshot is that we lost four popular and talented pastors in a remarkably short time. Dr. Erickson did a great job of holding us together, and Dr. Icenogle is doing a great job of preparing us for the future. But it's almost impossible to go through a period like that without paying some kind of price in attendance, membership, and faith giving.

This coming year will be critical. We have an outstanding pastor in place, but we need to support his efforts with an executive pastor, a nurture pastor, and other changes in the staff and infrastructure of the church. All these changes are budgeted for 2006, and right now we're working hard to keep that budget in balance. I have complete confidence that we'll succeed and take this church to a new level of attendance, membership, and financial security.

RA: Last year, the congregation was asked several times to give more than usual to help balance the budget. We were also asked to give more for domestic and international disaster relief efforts. How do you answer those who say that the church is asking for too much, or asking too often, or worse yet, that it may be crying wolf?

RP: Well, we're definitely not crying wolf. Every statement made from the pulpit and elsewhere has been based on accurate financial information and a good-faith attempt to portray our situation fairly and honestly. I thank God that our congregation was responsive and generous. But once we get the new pastoral team in place and we start moving forward strategically

with new ideas, our financial problems will solve themselves.

RA: What are some of the specific steps you'll be taking as stewardship chairman to increase our faith giving?

RP: To go along with what I just said, we're going to communicate with the congregation about stewardship on a more regular basis. We're asking Gareth to give somewhere between three to six sermons each year on the theology of stewardship, rather than the traditional one sermon in the fall. We're going to bring our system for accepting gifts into the 21st century by accepting credit cards and automatic funds transfer from checking accounts. We are developing a program that would allow our congregants to target their contributions toward specific mission projects. We're developing some literature on the philosophy of stewardship, tithing, and so forth, that will be available on the web site and the Information Desk. In short, we're going to try to make stewardship more of a year-round presence at NPC, rather than a seasonal campaign. Finally, we're very excited about the new Fund for Charitable Giving, which we believe will provide a significant new source of revenue and endowment for the church in the years ahead.

RA: Do you think it's realistic in this day and age to ask people to "tithe" to their church, giving ten percent of their income?

RP: Well, I'll leave the theology of tithing to the pastors, because they're the experts. What I suggest is that each member give 12-to-15 percent more than last year to meet our important budget goals.

RA: From a personal standpoint, why do you give to the church? What motivates you?

RP: I give out of gratitude for the many ways it's enriched my life. I've had two children go through the Sunday school program, and I'm eternally grateful for the lessons they've learned. I've also taught Sunday School at NPC and I learned more than the students did! In my work on Session, I've come into contact with people whom I like and respect and who have become an important part of my life. So for all those reasons, I give out of a very deep and humbling sense of gratitude.

RA: Any other thoughts on what stewardship means to you and what it should mean to members of our congregation?

RP: When we talk about "stewardship," our thoughts immediately turn to money. But it's about much more than that. It's also about giving generously of your time, because the great services and opportunities that we enjoy at this church don't happen because we "paid" for them. They happen because someone cared enough to give of their most precious commodity – time.

What I've learned over the years from volunteering my own time to the church is that I always wind up being the major beneficiary of that gift. When you give of your time, you learn something about yourself. About other people. About religion. About your spiritual life and your relationship with God. I've come to believe that whether you're giving the church your time or your money – or preferably both – the gift always comes back to you many times over.

Join Us for a Summer of "Character Adjustments"

How does God work with you to change your heart?

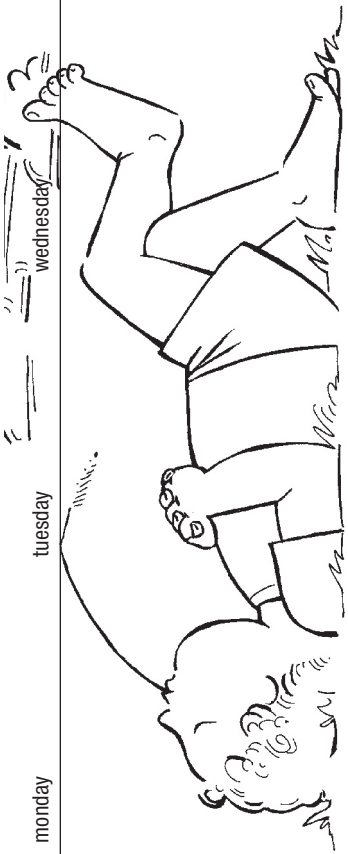
This summer, classes for adults, youth, and children will focus on the work of God to shape and transform the hearts of biblical characters as examples of his work with us. Through the lives of Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Ruth, Isaiah, Hosea, Mary, Peter, and John (and more!), you'll explore ways God may be working with you.

Beginning June 18, through September 3, classes meet from 9:15 to 10:20 a.m., Adults meet in a combined class in Stone Hall for a time of study and discussion around tables while enjoying refreshments. NPC's youth meet in the Youth Center, and children meet in Jones Hall, with "visits" from some of these biblical characters.



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
<p>1 SKIFF Luncheon and Program at noon.</p> <p>7 Youth Sunday Worship at 9:15 and 11 a.m. Mitch Gore, Youth Director, and Youth Seniors lead worship. Deacons Luncheon for New Members at 12:15 p.m. Sunday Evening Club at 6 p.m.</p> <p>14 Worship at 9:15 and 11 a.m. "Trained in Groups" Dr. Gareth Icenogle</p> <p>21 Worship at 9:15 and 11 a.m. "Teamed as Gifted" Dr. Gareth Icenogle New Member Recognition at 11 a.m. Middle School Beach Weekend</p>	<p>2 Drivers' Education for Seniors, sponsored by Prime Time at 10 a.m. Tuesdays Together, Women's Gathering at 7 p.m.</p> <p>8 Women's Ministry Council at 7 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting at 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>15 Children's Council Meeting at 7 p.m. Sunday Evening Club's Bridge Party at Ingleside at 7 p.m.</p> <p>22 Communications Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m. Worship in Chapel at 7 p.m. Session Meeting at 7:15 p.m. Deacon Board Meeting at 7:15 p.m.</p> <p>29 Session Meeting at 7 p.m. Deacon Board Meeting at 7 p.m.</p>	<p>3 Wednesday Night Alive Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Classes at 7 p.m.</p> <p>10 Wednesday Night Alive Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Classes at 7 p.m.</p> <p>17 Wednesday Night Alive Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Classes at 7 p.m.</p> <p>24 Wednesday Night Alive Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Classes at 7 p.m.</p> <p>31 Wednesday Night Alive Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Classes at 7 p.m. Vacation Bible School Orientation at 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>4 Drivers' Education for Seniors, sponsored by Prime Time at 10 a.m. Prime Time Bridge at 10 a.m.</p> <p>11</p> <p>18 Sunday Evening Club's Bingo Night at St. Elizabeth's Hospital at 7 p.m.</p> <p>25</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12</p> <p>19 Middle School Beach Weekend to Ocean City begins at 6 p.m.</p> <p>26</p>	<p>6 Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. NPC & Me Class at 8:30 a.m. Business & Professional Women's Guild at 11:45 a.m. Youth Sunday Rehearsal at 5 p.m. Parent Gathering: "Spiritual Desires of Your Teen" at 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>13 Sunday Evening Club's Big Band Orchestra Dance at 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>20 Officers' Retreat at 8:30 a.m. Middle School Beach Weekend</p> <p>27</p>	

MAY



sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

JUNE

<p>4 Worship at 9:15 and 11 a.m. "A Reality Check" Guest Preacher, Dr. Richard Mouw</p>	<p>11 Worship at 9:15 and 11 a.m. "Tempered for Guidance" Dr. Gareth Icenogle Last Day of Regular Sunday School Classes</p>	<p>18 Worship at 9:15 and 11 a.m. Dr. Gareth Icenogle Summer Sunday School begins. Adult Combined Class at 9:15 a.m.</p>	<p>25 Worship at 9:15 and 11 a.m. "Follow Jesus Christ" Preacher: Dr. Harry Winsheimer Farewell reception for Dr. Winsheimer following the 11 a.m. service</p>	<p>5 SKIFF Luncheon and Program at noon</p>	<p>12 Board of Trustees Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Childrens Council Meeting at 7:45 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>26 Passport to Missions for Youth, Day Camp Service in D.C. at 8:30 a.m. Communications Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m. Session Meeting at 7 p.m. Deacon Board Meeting at 7 p.m.</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>27 Passport to Missions for Youth, Day Camp Service in D.C. at 8:30 a.m.</p>	<p>7 Wednesday Night Alive Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Classes at 7 p.m.</p>	<p>14 Wednesday Night Alive Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Classes at 7 p.m.</p>	<p>21 Wednesday Night Alive Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Classes at 7 p.m.</p>	<p>28 Wednesday Night Alive Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Classes at 7 p.m. Passport to Missions for Youth, Day Camp Service in D.C. at 8:30 a.m.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>29 Passport to Missions for Youth, Day Camp Service in D.C. at 8:30 a.m.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>30 Passport to Missions for Youth, Day Camp Service in D.C. at 8:30 a.m.</p>	<p>10 Middle School Pool Party at 2 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>3 Vacation Bible School Teacher Orientation at 9:30 a.m. Business & Professional Women's Guild at 11:45 a.m. Baccalaureate Service and Dinner at 8 p.m.</p>
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Help NPC Choose Our Future Leaders

By Richard Armstrong

By now, chances are you've already seen it in your mailbox or on the Information Desk in the narthex. It's the Nominating Committee's 2006 brochure asking for your assistance in finding and recruiting the next class of leaders at NPC. And it's your opportunity to play a vital role in the future of your church.

One of the most important things about governance in the Presbyterian denomination is that we have democratically elected officials at every level of leadership, and we have a very thorough procedure for identifying those people who are able and willing to serve.

This year, the Nominating Committee will be seeking candidates

for approximately ten Elders, twenty Deacons, ten Trustees, and one member of the Board of Directors of the newly-created Fund for Charitable Giving. In addition, the committee will be looking for five congregational members to serve on next year's Nominating Committee.

"It's an exciting and challenging time to consider serving this church in a leadership position," said David Zweifel in a recent interview. "In this period of transition, as we work toward developing a new strategic plan, this is an opportunity to help shape the direction of the church for many years to come."

What kind of people is the committee looking for?

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Books on Broadway Come Alive!

This spring at the National Presbyterian School song is definitely in the air. The voices of NPS kids can be heard in rehearsal, wafting up stairwells from Stone Hall as they rehearse for their spring production of *Books on Broadway*.

This wonderful group of popular songs includes *Ease on Down the Road* from the *Wiz*, *Getting to Know You* from the *King and I*, *Do you Hear the People Sing?* from *Les Miserables*, *Hold On* from the *Secret Garden*, *Seasons of Love* from *Rent* and lots more.

Join us on Friday, May 5, at 2 p.m., and Saturday, May 6, at 6 p.m. in Stone Hall. For ticket information, call NPS, 202/537-7500, or visit www.nps-dc.org.



Winsheimer Retires *Continued from page 1*

appointed Student Pastor for two small churches, four miles apart. During those years, he handled all ministerial duties at the churches, other than weddings and the sacraments.

Harry received his Master of Divinity in 1963 and, upon graduation, was called to serve two small churches in Western Pennsylvania. In 1965 he was called to Calvary United Presbyterian Church in McDonald, PA, where he served as Pastor until 1970. It was then that Harry became Pastor of Hamilton Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh where he served until 1989. During his tenure at Hamilton, he was awarded his Doctor of Ministry.

In 1989, Orchard Park Presbyterian, outside Buffalo, NY, home of the NFL's Buffalo Bills, called Harry to be their Senior Pastor. It was there that Harry learned to handle the legendary Buffalo weather.

Called to NPC as Associate Pastor for Congregational Care in 1998, Harry found this move a natural one. He had always felt the most important part of his ministry was "walking with people, one-on-one, in the sorrow of their darkest moments and in the times of exuberant joy." Harry has touched countless lives at NPC through visitation, chapel prayer, a kind word or phone call, or a well-constructed, biblically-based sermon. Harry conservatively estimates he has preached over 1,800 sermons. His ministry has anchored NPC, providing stability during times of tremendous change.

Among his ministerial accomplishments Harry lists his leadership in the Presbytery of Pittsburgh, where he chaired their personnel committee and led five executive searches. Harry also served as a trustee of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

And let's not forget Charlotte! In addition to her roles as

wife, mother, and partner in Harry's ministry, her work with Presbyterian Women has been significant. Charlotte has served in a variety of capacities on the synod and denominational levels. At NPC, she serves as President of the Business & Professional Women's Guild.

Charlotte has been a Stephen Minister since Harry served at Orchard Park. She's not certain if there is a Stephen's Ministry in Gettysburg, but if there isn't one, there surely will be one in the future! Charlotte has also been active in NPC's Chancel Choir and in a choir since she was eight years old.

And what of retirement? Harry and Charlotte's love of camping is well known — that's definitely on the agenda. Less well known is Harry's love of woodworking. Their new home, being built in Gettysburg, PA, will have a basement shop so Harry can resume a hobby he has had little time for lately. Harry acknowledges retirement will be a huge change for Charlotte, also. She's not used to seeing him much, with evening meetings almost every night of the week. But beginning July 1, he'll have weekends to visit his grandchildren!

When asked if there were anything special Harry would like us to know, he smiled and said, "For all the many funerals I've performed and cemeteries I've visited, I've always liked the monuments and stones which told a bit of the person's life. Mine would read, "A Man of God." That statement surely epitomizes Dr. Winsheimer's life and ministry. We have been extraordinarily blessed to know him. We consider Charlotte and Harry our dear friends.

Harry will preach his last sermon as active clergy on June 25, followed by a reception in Stone Hall, honoring the Winsheimer family.

Join a Youth Summer Mission

Middle School Passport to Missions
Washington D.C. June 26-30

Middle School Trip
Dungannon, Virginia, July 17-22

High School Trip
Dominican Republic, July 19-28

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU INVESTING IN?



YouthInc

Investing in the future!
Investing in discipleship!
Investing in missions!

\$50 a share! This invests in the youth of our church, builds them up in discipleship and helps to send youth on mission trips here and abroad.

Nominating Committee *Continued from page 5*

According to Zweifel, "We are particularly interested in recruiting people who are sincerely committed Christians with a deep faith journey. Obviously, they need to be members of NPC (but only for a year or more). They should be regular attenders and, just as important, regular givers of their time, talents, and financial resources."

The committee makes an effort to match a person's interests and skills to each of the four leadership positions. Elders are responsible for the overall policy and governance of the church. Deacons act as the conduit between the church and individual members when it comes to caring and nurturing our congregation. Trustees are responsible for the financial, managerial, and property interests of the church. And the Fund for Charitable Giving is a new organization involved with developing planned giving opportunities for NPC members and others.

"Leaders at all levels should be good listeners," says Zweifel. "They should be gracious in handling differences and disputes. They need to be careful in their judgments. But mostly importantly, they must be committed Christians."

"We're also making a special effort this year to strike

a balance between experienced leaders and fresh faces. We want to reflect, as much as possible, the changing demography of the church and identify a new generation of younger leaders."

Do you know someone who fills the bill?

If so, the Nominating Committee needs your help. If you did not keep the brochure you received in the mail, be sure to pick up another one at the Information Desk or in the literature racks around the church.

To nominate someone you know to serve as an Elder, Trustee, Deacon, or on next year's Nominating Committee, simply fill out the form and drop it in the designated box on the Information Desk. (You can also do it on the NPC website by clicking the "Officer Nominating Committee" link.)

Yes, you can nominate yourself! But only if you're a member and if you feel called to serve in one of these capacities. The Nominating Committee respectfully requests that you fill out and return the form no later than May 22nd, so they will have time to carefully review the nominations prior to the actual election, which occurs at the annual meeting of the church in October.

Please give this duty your most careful and prayerful consideration, as it could be one of the most important things you do for the future of your church.

The National Presbyterian Church
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