

NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SEPT/OCT 2006 | VOLUME 2

FALL AT NATIONAL

Sunday Sermons
Pastor, Dr. Gareth Icenogle

September 3

Blessed To Be Blameless

September 10

Out of Control

September 17

Wrath to Riches

September 24

Guest Preacher,
Dr. Gary Haugen
International Justice Mission

October 1

Walls Come Tumbling Down

October 8

Guest Preacher,
Dr. Ron White
Lincoln Scholar

October 15

Servant of the Mystery of Christ

October 22

Getting at the Root —
Praying To Be Rooted in Love

October 29

Reformation Sunday
Handel's Dettingen Te Deum

The Prodigal Pastor Returns!

5 Questions for Our Newest (Oldest?) Associate Pastor

XPRESS: Tell us about your experience at Vienna Presbyterian. Did you learn anything there that will be useful to your work at NPC?

EM: I had a wonderful time with the Vienna congregation. They are a loving, gracious, and hospitable community with a teachable spirit. VPC is very much like us in that they have a membership of about 2,700 people served by many vibrant ministry programs. But they are a community-based congregation, and most of their members live in close proximity to the church. People can get to the church to participate in activities much more easily than we can at NPC. What I realized is that we need to be more creative not only about how we approach ministry programs, but also about where our programs take place. In the past, we've tried to organize programs using processes that work for community-based churches. Understanding our commuter nature in a much more explicit way will help us shape our ministries more effectively.

Another strength of VPC is the way in which members seek to understand how God is calling them into the ministries of the church. It's more than just a willingness



to help where help is needed. It's an intentional desire to understand how God has given each person talents, spiritual gifts, experiences, and passions that combine to point that person toward a fulfilling ministry in the church. This helps create an atmosphere of energy, joy, and mutual encouragement. In fact, ministries are more likely to take shape around members' gifts rather than around the leadership's deci-

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DEADLINES

November/December October 1

March/April February 1

May/June April 1

July/August June 1

September/October August 1

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How to Grow Christ-Centered Leaders

The National Center for Leadership (NCL or the Center) is experiencing dramatic growth this year. Two new staff members and two new program initiatives have joined the Center's offerings to more fully carry out NCL's mission "to develop and sustain Christ-centered leaders through innovative programs of intellectual inquiry, spiritual discipline and committed service."

On the staff front, Ann Marie Ott began work in June as Associate Executive Director. She brings to NCL a professional background

in individual and organizational leadership development and training, as well as a personal commitment "to the creation of thoughtful Christian leaders for the marketplace."

One of her key areas of expertise is facilitating and encouraging people to "question assumptions and wrestle with the real issues that exist in the marketplace." She added, "This exercise is at least as important as having people in the ministry." Ott is currently on track to complete an Executive Doctorate in Global Leadership from The George Wash-

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Learned *Continued from page 1*

sion to have certain programs.

XPRESS: Now that we finally have a full pastoral staff, what do you think are the major goals for NPC in the months ahead?

EM: We need to understand that a full pastoral staff does not mean that the pastors will do all the ministry of the church. According to Ephesians 4:11, we have a very specific “The gifts that [Christ] gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, evangelists, some pastors and some teachers, to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the Body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” In other words, our job as pastors is to help each person in this congregation to discover, develop, and deploy their gifts so that they can do the ministry of the church.

XPRESS: What is your understanding of this unusual new title we’ve given you — Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Discipleship?

EM: I like the new title because I think it more accurately describes what we’re all about. The apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 12 that our lives are to be shaped in certain ways. We can be molded by the world and its values, or we can be molded by the Word of God. We want our lives to be formed in ways that please God and which allow us to be the people God wants us to be. This is the process of “formation.”

Think about it. How did twelve rag-tag disciples become the catalyst for the church? They were a community in which



Jesus, the Living Word of God, was at the center. His words startled them, confused them, gave them life, gave them hope. They became something far beyond what they could’ve imagined. They were not seekers gathered around a guru, nor were they an audience gathered around a pulpit. They were disciples gathered around Jesus. A disciple is simply a learner. They were people learning to follow Jesus, learning how to be formed by Jesus. So, Christian

Formation and Discipleship is a very appropriate job title. It reminds all of us, not just me, of what our real purpose is.

XPRESS: Does the change in title reflect a more substantive change in the nature or direction of the Nurture Pillar?

EM: Thinking about the Christian life in this way leads us to more focused learning opportunities. It means we’ll move beyond acquiring information about the faith into being spiritually transformed by what we learn. It won’t just affect what we think, it will affect how we think, how we worship, and how we live our lives — not for ourselves, but to the glory of God.

XPRESS: Did you miss us while you were away? We sure missed you!

EM: Both my husband and I missed you greatly. There have been several times since we first came here in 1982 that we’ve been away from National due to military transfer or schooling and work in Louisville. But coming back to NPC has always felt to us like coming home.

Leadership *Continued from page 1*

ington University in May 2007. She and Dianne Rodgers, Administrative Coordinator, provide the day-to-day management for NCL.

On the program front, the National Fellows in Leadership program is running strong. This program is a yearlong exploration of issues for young professionals with 2-plus years in the workforce. The ten fellows comprising the class of 2006 graduated in May. Program Directors Doug Steele and Kathy Gathro are returning to guide the program next year, and recruitment for the 2007 class, which starts September 13, is well underway.

In addition, NCL has added two major initiatives to provide challenging leadership training for people of varied

ages, experience levels, and interests.

Each of these has a different format, time commitment, and outcome.

The Leadership Institute’s first “Godly Leadership in a Changing World” course was presented in partnership with NPC as part of the church’s Institute for Christian Studies. The course is taught by senior leaders from the business, government, non-profit, and military communities and is aimed at mid-career believers wrestling with issues of faith/work/life integration. A fall class is scheduled to begin September 27.

Under the umbrella of the Center’s Partners in Leadership initiative, NCL has partnered with Eastern University (EU), St. Davids, Pennsylvania, to offer masters degree programs on the NPC campus. Currently, seven students are pursuing a Masters in Non-Profit

Management and second cohort of this program begin this fall. An additional degree program — a Masters in International Organizational Leadership — is slated to begin in Spring 2007.

EU and NCL share a common commitment to provide dynamic, rigorous opportunities to develop leadership excellence among Christians of all ages and walk of life.

The National Center for Leadership has entered a new phase in its undertaking to foster a Christian worldview in the marketplace. If you would like more information about the work of the Center and its programs, visit www.leadershipcenter.org. Feel free to nominate someone as a candidate for one of our programs.

Welcome National's New Faces



DOUG LEARNED came to National over the summer from Southminster Presbyterian Church, just outside Chicago, where he has served as Senior Pastor for the last eight years.

As NPC's Executive Pastor, Doug looks forward to using his gifts and talents in the developing programs, establishing goals, managing staff, and the sort of work that allows ministries in a church like NPC to thrive. Having spent the summer as a commuting dad, Doug is happy to settling down with his family in their new home this fall.



JEAN COYLE was a twice-tenured professor of gerontology before she veered course and enrolled at Wesley Theological Seminary in 199x. In her pastoral work, Jean served as Chap-

lain with Capital Hospice and Parish Associate Pastor at Heritage Presbyterian Church in Alexandria. National is now blessed to have Jean serving as our Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, where she has quickly become a bright presence in the National family.



JUNIOR MCGARRAHAN returned to NPC on August 1, after nearly a year at Vienna Presbyterian Church. She now serves as Associate Pastor for Christian Formation

and Discipleship where her gifts helping people discover that they can meet Jesus in the pages of scripture will once again be a gift to National. This lengthy acquaintance began when she and her husband Dick joined the church in 1982. Junior recently remarked, "As your newest staff member, this is my first Sunday

with you and it begins my tenth year of ministry at NPC."



PEGGY MILLER came to National as Director of Church Operations in early summer after practicing law and running her own business. She received her law degree from Catholic

University and a Master of Divinity from Howard University. She received the Henry G. Maynard Award for Preaching Proficiency. Peggy has served at Michigan Park Christian Church in several capacities, including Chair of the General Board for the past four years.

KATE HAWKINS arrives at NPC this fall to help us reach out to college students at nearby American University. As University Ministry Coordinator, Kate will help us extend the grace of Jesus Christ in a special partnership with the Coalition for Christian Outreach, an interdenominational campus ministry organization that works with local churches. Kate is a recent graduate of West Virginia University where she majored in Visual and Performing Arts, with an emphasis on vocal music.



JIM NEILL began serving as Headmaster at the National Presbyterian School in July. He comes to NPS with a strong background in Christian education, having taught at St. Albans

School and Georgetown Visitation. He has recently completed a Master of Business Administration at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Jim and his wife Amy have two daughters who have begun school at NPS this month, and a son who plans to join them as a member of the class of 2018.

NPC Fund Created for Service

According to recent newspaper reports of a study by the Boston College Center on Wealth and Philanthropy, Washington area residents are expected to make inter-generational asset transfers of \$2.4 trillion over the next 50 years. The study concludes that almost 20 percent of these bequests will go to charities and other non-profit organizations, with the balance going to heirs and estate taxes.

A similar study in 2000 was a factor in forming the NPC Fund for Charitable Giving. From its beginnings in August 2005 through June 2006, the fund had assets of approximately \$1.5 million under management and had helped members make arrangements for another \$1.5 million in testamentary bequests.

"We know that our members," said Fund President Chuck Petty, "like other families in our area, will be dealing with the need for financial planning and charitable giving." The concept from the beginning has been to assist members and friends of NPC to structure their charitable giving most effectively, in many cases by arranging transactions that facilitate an increase in the portion going to family and charitable interests and reducing the portion needed for estate taxes.

Caroline Van Mason took advantage of the capabilities of the Fund early by creating a series of Charitable Remainder Trusts. Van Mason, a retired Army colonel and a member of NPC for 39 years, was one of the first women to rise to high rank in the U.S. Army, served in the Army Medical Specialist Corps. "I am so pleased we've developed this capability at NPC and that I can deal with my church and the people I trust at the Fund to carry out my charitable giving plans."

This fall the Fund will undertake several initiatives to advise NPC members on the ways the Fund can be of assistance. To learn more, contact Sonny Rimback, SRimback@NatPresCh.org or 202.537.7485, or by calling Chuck Petty, 410.745.5143 or CPetty@NatPresCh.org.

Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

IN CONCERT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, AT 7:30 PM

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