

NATIONAL XPRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Sundays in Lent

Discipleship Essentials: Understanding the Message of Christ

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

February 25

The Three-Person God

March 4

Made in God's Image
Dr. Jean Coyle

March 11

Sin

March 18

Grace

March 25

Redemption

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 1

A Hard Word about Passion

Maunder Thursday, April 5

Communion Service at 7:30 p.m.
A Hard Word about Friendship

Good Friday, April 6

Worship at 7:30 p.m.
A Hard Word of Redemption

Easter, April 8

The Good News and the Bad News of
Discipleship

Vespers in Lent

The Cost of Discipleship: Hard Sayings of Jesus

Dr. Gareth Icenogle
Candlelight Communion Services
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

February 28

The Hard Word about Discipleship
Rev. Douglas Learned

March 7

The Hard Word about Community
Dr. Gareth Icenogle

March 14

The Hard Word about Marriage
Rev. Eunice McGarrahan

March 21

The Hard Word about Money
Dr. Gareth Icenogle

March 28

The Hard Word about Power
Dr. Jean Coyle

A Healing Church and Healthy Leaders

Mary Lou Lyon's CrossCare International

By Keith Patman

As we begin to implement the new Strategic Plan, many of us may be wondering what it will look like to "build a healing and reconciling church" or to "prepare healthy leaders in Christ." We would do well to take as an example the ministry of NPC member missionary Mary Lou Lyon. Mary Lou sees the strategic themes quoted above as being at the very heart of the work to which God has called her.

In 1977 Mary Lou traveled to the mountains of southern Poland to serve at a summer youth camp. Two years later she returned to Poland to take up residence in Warsaw and help establish the ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ in the then-communist nation. She lived in Poland for the next five years, then for nine more years she continued the work of Campus Crusade in other Eastern European countries, working from a base in Western Europe. She says her heart is still in Poland, and she returns there at least once a year. She rejoices that what started there as Campus

Crusade for Christ is now an entirely Polish-run ministry, called Ruch Nowego Lycia (New Life Movement), with more than one hundred staffers.

Mary Lou came to Washington in 1993 to work at Campus Crusade's Christian Embassy.

It was then that she became a part of the NPC family, but her friends in Poland were never far from her thoughts. As she reflected on her work with pastors, missionaries, and other Christian leaders in Eastern Europe, she realized how meager their resources were when facing the challenges Christians everywhere encounter—stress, depression, marital difficulties, and other threats to productive life and service.

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Engaging Discipleship in Your Life

At the All-Church Retreat last fall, our kids sang about the Ship Disciple. They were getting us ready for a new focus in the life of our congregation. What's the focus? "Cultivating and growing disciples of Jesus Christ." Now, we are well into our sermon series on discipleship, based on the scripture texts and themes in Greg Ogden's book, *Discipleship Essentials*. We just finished Part One of the series, which focused on what we need in order to grow up in Christ: we need quiet time, Bible study, prayer, and worship.

As part of this series, we invite you to engage in discipleship in a variety of ways: small triads (known as WOW groups), in Sunday

conversation using the Brunch Bunch Questions (BBQs) in the bulletin, and at Wednesday Night Alive where our pastors teach the scripture text that will be preached the following Sunday. The response to this invitation is growing. Many of you have reported that you are using the BBQs for table conversation at your Sunday meal or on the drive home from church. One mother reported that her child wanted to do the adult questions, rather than the questions designed "For Kids." Several WOW groups have formed and many existing groups are using *Discipleship Essentials* in their study together.

If you're engaged in any of these activities,

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What Have the Milestones in Worship Meant to Me?

By Taylor Soldner, NPC 9th Grader

Milestones in worship are important steps to learn more about what we believe as Christians. We learn about the books of the Bible, the elements of Communion, the order of worship, and the Presbyterian Church.

When I was younger, I learned the Gloria Patri, Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed. It was more fun to stand in front of the congregation and lead them, but as I grew older, I learned more about what I was saying, and why it is important.

I also remember having a great third grade year with Mrs. Lockwood. We had an awesome time learning the song that helped us memorize all the books of the Bible. I still can remember that song to this day.

In fifth grade I had a lot of fun, too. On a few selected Sundays, we would play Bible Jeopardy on what we had learned. Whether it was on the Bible stories, important biblical people, or just miscellaneous and random facts about the Bible, that class was so enjoyable.

Then in sixth grade, we made a banner with our individual fish, containing the symbols that represented us. We came up

with the symbols that we thought best signified who we are, and they were put on a fabric fish and that fish went on the banner. I remember thinking it was so cool that my 'symbol fish' would be on that banner forever.

I am currently a part of the last milestone, the confirmation class. It is so great that we have this step before becoming a part of the church — to ask any questions we have about our faith, the Bible, and our Christian beliefs. I really like my class because it is full of the kids I have grown up with. We have all taken part in all the milestones together as we prepare for our member initiation.

Now I can tell you all of these stories and everything I was able to do and everything I remember, but that would not be completely representative of what the milestones are and what they do. Yes, I had a great time, all through my Sunday school classes, but the stories are not all I remember. After going through all the milestones, I am closer with the Lord as I learn more and more about him. I know all those games and songs were part of the learning process. The Lord was the biggest part of my experience because I have grown closer to him as I go through all the milestones.

What are Milestones?

The Milestones in Worship Education is a program that enhances the Christian nurture of our children in the Reformed traditions of worship. This program, unique to NPC, was developed over two decades to include six milestones in Children's Sunday School and four Milestones in Youth Sunday School.

Kindergarten: The Doxology

Praising God with the Doxology is a focus of kindergartners' class time. The children lead The Doxology in worship.

1st Grade: The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is studied in the context of Matthew 6:7-13 and Luke 11:2-4. First graders lead the Lord's Prayer in worship.

2nd Grade: The Apostles' Creed

Children learn the Creed as a statement of what we, as Christians, believe. They recite the Apostles' Creed in worship.

3rd Grade: The Bible

Lessons focus on searching scripture, memorizing the books in order; costumed biblical characters visit the children. They receive Bibles in worship.

4th Grade: Sacrament of Communion

Children learn about Communion in the Presbyterian tradition, and conduct



4th graders meet with Dr. Icenogle before their Milestone in Worship: Communion

their own worship service in the Chapel of Presidents.

5th Grade: The Reformation

This study introduces the Reformers, Church History, and the primary tenets of the Reformation. The children read scripture in worship.

Grade 6: Liturgical Symbols of the Faith

Youth explore the history of sacraments observed by Presbyterians, focusing on Baptism and The Lord's Supper.

Grade 7: Sacraments of the Faith

Youth explore the history of the sacraments observed by Presbyterians: Baptism and The Lord's Supper.

Grade 8: Hymnology: Singing the Faith

The goal of this Milestone is to create a context for appreciating the role of the sung words of our faith.

Grade 9: Confirmation: Confession of Faith

Throughout the year ninth graders discuss following Christ, and each student is invited to confess their faith before the congregation on Youth Sunday.

Gary Haugen, IJM, and Linda Smith, Shared Hope, Receive National Center for Leadership Award

The National Center for Leadership will present its 2007 National Leadership Award to two individuals honoring their ground-breaking work during the past decade as Christian leaders in the global fight against human trafficking, exploitation, and oppression.

The recipients of the NCL Leadership Award are Gary Haugen, founder and president of International Justice Mission, and Linda Smith, former U.S. Congresswoman and founder/director of Shared Hope International. The awards will be presented on April 18 during the Center's Leadership Award dinner at The Renaissance Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC.

Gary Haugen founded International Justice Mission ten years ago. As a lawyer for the U.S. Department of Justice, Gary was put on loan to the United Nations to direct its investigation into the Rwandan genocide. The atrocities he witnessed there prompted him to found IJM as an international human rights agency that rescues victims of violence, sexual exploitation, slavery, and oppression.

The purpose of IJM is four-fold: relieve the victim of the abuse currently being committed; provide access to services that help victims transition into their new lives and encourage long-term success; bring accountability and just consequences under the law to the specific perpetrators of abuse; and prevent the abuse from being committed against others who are also at risk.



Gary Haugen, IJM founder

of women and children in crisis.

Through Linda's guidance, SHI has grown into a vibrant organization, active in 14 countries. SHI's strategy is three-fold: to prevent exploitation through research, investigation, and public awareness; to help women and children out of exploitation; and offer holistic, long-term restoration to victims.

For more information or to receive an invitation to the National Leadership Award dinner, contact Dianne Rodgers, 202.244.6424 or DRodgers@LeadershipCenter.org.

Linda Smith founded Shared Hope International nearly a decade ago after her experience traveling in India as a member of the U.S. Congress. In Bombay, she saw the hopeless faces of desperate women and children forced into prostitution. On her return, she founded Shared Hope International (SHI), a non-profit organization with the mission to fight sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation and to serve the long-term restoration needs

Healing Church *Continued from page 1*

Feeling God's call to begin a ministry that integrates psychology and theology to address emotional and spiritual growth, she pursued a graduate degree in counseling and, with a fellow former Campus Crusade staffer, opened Cross-Care International. Through this ministry she makes regular trips to Eastern Europe to encourage and shepherd those serving the Lord, offering seminars on such topics as self-acceptance and personal boundaries, and giving individual counseling.

She was joined on a recent trip to Poland at Thanksgiving by NPC elders David Wallace and Phyllis Wolfe. They were hosted by Poland's first (perhaps only!) Presbyterian congregation, the Church of the Good Shepherd. The pastor, Syrian-born Pole Moner Shaded, studied theology at Reformed Seminary in Jackson, MS. He and his Polish wife Stenia are former Campus Crusade col-

leagues of Mary Lou, and as an out-growth of their ministry at Good Shepherd they have established a branch of Covenant Seminary (based in St. Louis, MO) in Warsaw. Mary Lou, David, and Phyllis had many opportunities to address gatherings, such as professional women's forums and church leadership meetings. Their topics were as diverse as the meaning of American Thanksgiving and what it means to live out the Christian faith in one's profession. David was even able to share NPC's strategic plan with an enthusiastic group of church leaders.

Mary Lou sees endless possibilities for involving interested NPC members in outreach to our brothers and sisters in Poland: lecturing in the seminary, offering counseling, working with the youth of Good Shepherd, and in many other ways using the gifts God has given us to serve his church worldwide. Meanwhile,

here in our own church home, we can benefit from the picture we see in Cross-Care International of a ministry that promotes healing and prepares healthy leaders.

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DEADLINES

May/June April 1

July/August June 1

September/October August 1

November/December Oct 1

January/February December 1

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2007 Youth Summer Mission – Wants You!

We want you to experience Jesus Christ! You (rising 6th graders through graduating seniors) will make lifelong faith friendships. You'll do something that really matters. You won't regret these decisions.

You will have opportunity to help others in need with home repairs, water and sewage improvements both near and far. You will grow in your faith while having a blast at incredible camps. (*Adults with a young heart also needed!*)

Middle School

Son Servants in Dungannon, VA

July 16-21

Camp Ligonier in Ligonier, PA

July 29-August 11

High School

Foundation4Peace in Kenya, Africa

July 13-30

Foundation4Peace in Dominican Republic

July 18-27

Young Life Camp in Saranac, NY

August 5-11

Middle School/High School

Passport to Missions at NPC

June 24-29

Vacation Bible School at NPC

July 8-13

Camp Ligonier in Ligonier, PA

July 29 - August 11 (other sessions also available)

Call the Youth Office for information, 202.537.7538.

Our desire is to give youth opportunities to grow in their faith each summer, through missions and camps. Please consider being involved in a life-changing experience this summer!



NPC high school youth on the 2006 mission trip to the Dominican Republic where they did construction work, led a vacation Bible school, and helped at a medical center.



Discipleship *Continued from page 1*

we would love to hear about it. If you haven't already, please let us know what you are doing, even if it's simply using the discipleship materials in your personal quiet time. Contact Betty Elliott: eelliott@cox.net. The buzz around church is wonderful...the conversation about what it means to be a follower of Jesus will move us forward in our ministry of grace. We encourage you to be a part of it.

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