

NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2007 | VOLUME 2

SUNDAY SERMONS

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

**Discipleship Essentials:
Becoming Like Christ**

Older Adult Sunday, May 6

Filled with the Holy Spirit
Dr. Jean M. Coyle

Sunday, May 13

Fruit of the Holy Spirit
Rev. Eunice T. McGarrahan

Sunday, May 20

Trust (Faith)

Sunday, May 27

Love

Sunday, June 3

Justice

Sunday, June 10

Witness

Sunday, June 17

The Church

Sunday, June 24

Ministry Gifts

SUMMER CLASSES

**Jesus Tells the Story:
A Study of the Parables of
Jesus**

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

**Adult Combined Class
Stone Hall**

**Youth Classes, Youth Center
Children's Classes, School**

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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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Who's That Up On the Roof?

An Update on National Presbyterian's Facilities

If you've been on the NPC campus recently, you may have noticed some new workers on the roof, in the elevator shaft, or deep inside the kitchen! All of this activity began last year when the trustees proposed hiring a property management consulting firm to evaluate our 40-year-old systems—mechanical, structural, and otherwise.

Enter the Stone House Group, who brought in masons and engineers to inspect everything from our limestone exterior and the Willet faceted windows in the sanctuary to the heating and air conditioning systems in the 80-year-old buildings across our campus. There is much to celebrate. Our limestone is in great condition; the faceted windows are also in good shape, as is the slate roof of the church.



Work was recently completed on severely clogged drainpipe in the church kitchen.

Likewise, there is much to be done.

In presenting their comprehensive evaluation (in exhaustive detail!) to the Board of Trustees, the Stone House Group broke

Continued on page 4

Jesus Tells the Story

No one tells a story like Jesus. His parables are unrivaled by any other teacher in their skillful communication of deep truths about ourselves, the world in which we live, and the gracious message of Christ.

This summer, classes for adults, youth, and children will study the Parables in "Jesus Tells the Story." Trusting the continuing power of God's Word, we will creatively seek to recreate the visual and common life tales Jesus told so that they might have as great an impact as if he were telling them today.

Some stories will be very familiar, like the Sower or the Good Samaritan, and others less so, such as the Bind Guide or the Laborers' Wages. Whatever your previous exposure to the Parables of Jesus, this will be a fresh and dynamic look. Classes meet from 9:15 to 10:20 a.m., beginning June 17. See schedule in column one.

Seeking Leaders

By Dave Schottke

Our church needs your help in identifying church leaders to be considered to serve as Elders, Trustees, and Deacons. You can serve NPC by offering for nomination church members who have demonstrated a passionate love of Jesus, support of this church, and qualities of leadership. Think of those special people who have shown a commitment by teaching a Sunday school class, assisting with a mission project, helping to organize an event, or working to establish a new ministry within our church.

You've probably already received NPC's brochure, "Recommending Church Officers," in your mailbox. If you can't find it, download the brochure from our

Continued on page 4

A Letter from Birzeit

NPC's Mission Partner Sends Good News from the West Bank

For nearly fifteen years, National Presbyterian Church has worked to support the dwindling population of Christians in the Holy Land. We have done this through a loving and fruitful partnership with Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Birzeit, the West Bank, which runs a school and other ministries for Christians caught in

the midst of the ongoing conflict there. Most recently, we assisted in the rehabilitation of a kindergarten playground for the school's young children. Here, in the words of the parish priest and NPC friend, Father Aziz Halaweh, is what the new playground has meant to the community.

Lois Hermann, NPC Mission Council

Birzeit 24 March 2007

Dear brothers and sisters in NPC of Washington, DC,

I would like to inform you that we have finally finished the restoration and rehabilitation of the kindergarten playground at our school in Birzeit. This work wouldn't be done without your generous donation and support, so we are so thankful for all that you did to our church and school. May God bless you all.

The work has taken a long period more than we expected, but we did it in a good way in order to retain the place for a long time in a good condition and to be suitable for a good number of children to play together at the same time. The rehabilitation cost us more than we expected (\$12,403.00 U.S.), but thanks to your generosity and to the generosity of other friends from Italy we finished the work as it was planned.

The work done was the following:

- Build and fence a cement wall all around the north area of the playground (see photos attached) (Total cost of work and materials: \$1666)
- Surround all the area with iron gates and fencing (Total cost of work and materials: \$2690)
- Purchase 15 different safety games for children from a factory in Ramallah (see photos) which can include more than 50 children to play together (Total cost: \$5880)
- Cover the ground with sea sand (Total work and materials: \$1786)
- Paint the gates (Total cost of work and materials: \$381).

Now we have a good playground for the kindergarten of our school, children are so happy and teachers are satisfied. All of them send their greetings and gratitude.

May God bless you and happy Easter time with our Lord, conqueror of death and sadness.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Aziz Halaweh
Pastor

Miss Rawand Musallam
Headmaster of the school



UM Calls Students into Personal Discipleship

By Tom Sellevaag

To the uninitiated, the phrase “university ministry” might be a cause for concern, or at least uncertainty: Exactly how do you reach out to college students? Should you hold social events that run well past midnight? Must you be able to debate philosophical ideas about the meaning of life? Do you need to be a master of cutting-edge technology? And what about your wardrobe — doesn’t that need a makeover first? It’s enough to make college ministry qualify as a foreign mission field.

But talk to Kate Hawkins, Director of University Ministries at NPC, and you get the impression that reaching out to college students includes activities that are perfectly ordinary: leading a campus Bible study; meeting students for coffee at Starbucks; assembling care packages before final exams; organizing service projects. And almost a year into Hawkins’ tenure, her approach is starting to pay off, as University Ministries is well on its way to becoming a vibrant part of the community.

A New Direction

Hawkins’ arrival last August signaled a major step forward in NPC’s efforts to engage an underserved and underrepresented group in the congregation, one that comprises an important segment of the “younger generation” alluded to in Theme #3 of our Strategic Plan.

Hawkins’ position, which is structured differently from the positions of other NPC staff, is uniquely suited to fit the college audience. Hawkins has an office at NPC and reports to Executive Pastor Doug Learned and Outreach Elder David Wallace, but her position is funded in part by NPC and in part by the Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO), an up-and-coming regional organization focused on college ministry. She spends significant time on the campus of American University, where she is recognized as an assistant chaplain. This hybrid position, a key feature of CCO, aims to foster mutually beneficial links between churches, university groups, and students, giving students a welcoming church home and keeping the church in tune with life on campus.

As she began building a ministry at NPC and AU, Hawkins chose a relational approach over a programmatic one. In other words, she focused her energy on identifying interested students and building relationships with them, individually and in small groups. Bible studies, worship, service projects, and other programmatic components emerge, but those elements are byproducts of the relationships formed, not precursors to the relationships. Hawkins believes her strategy fits well with NPC’s Strategic Plan by giving students a chance to be “personally engaged in discipleship” (Theme #1) at a crucial point in their lives. It’s also reminiscent of the approach of

Jesus, who first called disciples into personal relationship, then worked through them to help accomplish his ministry.

A Busy Year

First-year ministries always proceed in fits and starts, but Hawkins is encouraged by several successful programs that have grown out of her relationships with students and colleagues. The AU Presbyterian Student Fellowship, which became an official student organization on the AU campus in January, meets for Bible study



Students at Coalition for Christian Outreach’s recent Jubilee conference in Pittsburgh

several times each month. A group of students traveled to Pittsburgh in February for Jubilee, the CCO’s annual conference. During Thanksgiving week, students par-

ticipated in the Urban Prayer Breakfast at Third Street Church of God. Perhaps the most innovative success, however, is DiverCity, a forum created by Hawkins and her local CCO colleagues. Hawkins calls it “a safe place for college students in the DC area to have multicultural conversations concerning racial reconciliation from a biblical perspective.” Initial DiverCity events have included a discussion at Howard University and a tour and discussion at the National Museum of the American Indian, and more events are in the works.

Get Involved

NPC aims to become a “multigenerational church”, which means people of all ages can and should support University Ministries. Here are some quick and easy ideas:

- Pray for the ministry’s growth and for the students who attend its programs.
- Make a special effort to greet college students after worship. Ask them what they are studying or where they are from, give them recommendations for cheap and fun DC entertainment...anything. The personal touch will keep them coming back!
- Join the University Ministries Committee. It meets monthly to monitor the ministry and plan events.
- Volunteer to host students for dinner or transport them to church, the airport, or the train station.

For more information, contact Kate Hawkins at 202.537.7531 or khawkins@nationalpres.org.

Nominating Church Officers

web site, www.NationalPres.org. In it you'll find a form to use for submitting your recommendations.

Your completed form can be mailed to the church office or placed in the nominating committee boxes located at each church entrance, where you'll also find extra forms. Your simple act will assist the nominating committee in presenting a complete list of nominees for the roles of Elders, Trustees, and Deacons for service beginning in 2008.

Our Presbyterian governance depends on the following: your recommendations, the evaluation and

Continued from page 1

selection of nominees by NPC's nominating committee, and election of officers by members of the congregation. Now is the time you can assist the nominating committee with this vital task.

NPC's Nominating Committee, a mix of church officers and representatives from our congregation, will submit a list of nominees to the congregation at the fall meeting of the congregation on October 28. If you have any further questions about nominating church officers, please contact Dave Schottke, chair of the nominating committee, schottke@earthlink.net.

Facilities Update

Continued from page 1

down their recommendations into three categories, the first being deferred maintenance items that require immediate attention, the second, those that should be completed in two to five years, and the third, those that might be addressed in the more distant future.

Work has already been completed on one of our most pressing needs: a humidifier for the sanctuary was installed this past winter, insuring that our beautiful Aeolian-Skinner organ will be preserved and protected. But the humidifier was only the first stage in a larger heating and air conditioning renovation project that will replace the chiller and all the air handlers in the church.

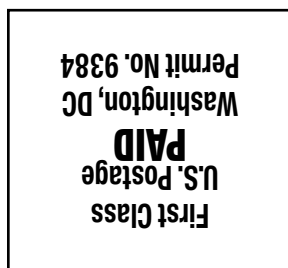
Construction on the chiller and handlers should begin in June and continue into the fall, taking place during business hours on weekdays. Church leadership and staff are working with contractors to schedule construction around important events in order to minimize any disturbances. None of our meeting spaces should be affected, except by their proximity to work areas. These upgrades will make it much easier (and more cost-efficient!) to heat and cool the church.

Although the roof of the church is in good shape, the copper gutters didn't pass muster. Some sections of gut-

ter will be replaced, and others can be repaired. Another area of concern is our 40-year-old elevator, which should be replaced sometime soon (the parts were discontinued in the mid-1980s!). In addition to the work done on our church, the exteriors and systems of other buildings on our campus (administration, multi-purpose, and agencies), which are nearly one hundred years old, need significant repairs and improvements.

NPC's Property Committee, chaired by Ray Paseur, has been at prayer and at work studying the recommendations from Stone House Group, in order to discern the best course of action. "To the trustees, professional property management is like professional financial management," explains Paseur. "It's essential to effective stewardship of our assets. Our leaders' willingness to accept and follow the guidance of the professionals at Stone House Group is evidence of a mature and responsible approach to our valuable, but aging facilities."

Going forward, we might be well served to ask ourselves: How should our campus change, in order to best fulfill our strategic plan? How can we increase the value of our campus in the local and national community? How can we best let Christ work through our church?



The National Presbyterian Church
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