

# NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SEPT/OCT 2007 | VOL. 4

## SUNDAY SERMONS

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

### Sunday, September 2

Joy Around the Table  
**WORSHIP** - Join us for the All-Church Picnic at 12:15 p.m.!

### Sermon Series: The Road to Healthy Leadership

### Sunday, September 9

"Give Us a King"  
**GROW** - Join us for the Nurture Fair in Stone Hall between services

### Sunday, September 16

"Your Leadership Is Not Good"  
**SERVE** - Join us in Stone Hall to learn how you may serve and be served

### Sunday, September 23

"God Is a Great Leader"

### Sunday, September 30

"Leaders Are Born and Made"

### Sunday, October 7

"Healthy Leaders Know the Highest Power"

### October 14 at 11 a.m. only

"Every Good Leader Needs a Staff"

### Sunday, October 21

"Leadership Faces Resistance"

### Sunday, October 28

Reformation Sunday & NPC Anniversary Celebration  
"A Celebration of God's Grace"  
Dr. Craig Barnes, Preacher

To see a more complete list of worship services, events, and opportunities for ministry and mission, please visit our web site:

[www.NationalPres.org](http://www.NationalPres.org)

## Worship – Grow – Serve *On the Path to Christian Discipleship*

If you've logged onto NPC's website recently, you've undoubtedly noticed it has a whole new look and feel. Not only does it boast brighter graphics and many interesting new features, but the content has been reorganized into three overarching themes: Worship, Grow, and Serve.

These three themes – which were distilled from NPC's recently completed Strategic Plan – have a significance that goes far beyond the website. In the coming months, many of NPC's administrative and leadership functions will be reorganized along these lines. In fact, these themes are meant to serve as guideposts on the "pathway" of Christian discipleship, in general, and the experience of attending National Presbyterian Church, in particular. At NPC we believe that every

devoted Christian should:

**WORSHIP** regularly. Sunday morning services are our first connection to God's grace in our community for most new participants at NPC and of vital importance to our established members.

**GROW** intentionally. As we connect with God and each other in worship, each of us is invited into intentional growth in discipleship through Scripture study in small groups, Christian education classes, and personal devotions.

**SERVE** generously of our time, talent, and treasure. We give who we are and what we have to ministries within the church and missions outside the church.

To help launch this new understanding of and approach to NPC's mission in

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## Celebration of Cornerstone Anniversary *National's Former Pastors in Service of Thanksgiving*

This fall, NPC celebrates two major anniversaries: the sixtieth anniversary of the Designation Dedication of this congregation as The National Presbyterian Church of the PC(USA), and the fortieth anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of our church on the current campus.

To celebrate these momentous occasions, we're planning a Service of Thanksgiving and Homecoming on Reformation Sunday, October 28, with many of NPC's former pastors and associate pastors. Dr. Craig Barnes will preach, and, in addition to our current pastor, Dr. Gareth Icenogle, and associates, Dr. Douglas Learned and Rev. Eunice McGarrarhan, former ministers

will lead in worship, including: Dr. Tom Erickson, Dr. Peg Cantwell, Dr. Harry Winsheimer, Rev. Clarence Payne, Rev. William Foreman, and Dr. Charles Wright.

In 1947, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) designated

Covenant-First Church on N Street in Washington as The National Presbyterian Church. A commemoration was then held on October 19, 1947, with pastor Dr. Edward Elson and President Harry Truman, in addition to twenty-seven PC(USA) representatives from presbyteries and synods across the country.

President Dwight Eisenhower led the

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# Partnership to the Ninth Power

## *Mission Trip to Moldova Incorporates Mission, Nurture, & Discipleship*

by Howard Tucker-Frost

Partnership<sup>9</sup>? How could a mission trip raise anything to the ninth power? Here's how it worked with NPC's June 2007 ministry to Moldova, whose mission took the form of marriage ministry brought by a group who had met in discipleship for many months.

In 2002, members of our Europe Mission Committee (now the Europe Working Group) traveled to Romania to meet with NPC mission partners from New Hope International. Several of the participants at this gathering went on to meet with New Hope staff in



Lynne and Gregg Gochmour with Moldovans in ministry

Chisinau, Moldova, to discuss initiating the organization's family outreach in that country. When the NPC participants came home, they and other members of the Europe Committee engaged our Baptist mission partners in Moldova to explore with New Hope how they and NPC could cooperate.

Both the Moldovan Baptists and New Hope staff identified marriage enrichment as a key ministry area. Moldovan churches have had essentially no marriage ministry during communist times or afterward. New Hope was also interested in prepare-for-marriage programs as part of their outreach to young adults and families. Because NPC has a strong marriage ministry, our Moldovan friends asked if we would help train church leaders in developing marriage ministries for local churches.

Over the next five years, NPC's Nurture Pillar, Mission Council, and Marriage Ministry worked together to develop a pilot marriage program for our Moldovan friends. We focused on the Alpha Marriage Course, which has been used successfully at NPC and has proven very popular internationally,

especially in former communist countries. A mission team formed at NPC, composed of some Moldova trip veterans, augmented by new volunteers. After six months of preparation, using the Alpha Marriage course and Greg Ogden's *Discipleship Essentials*, the team took these ideas to Moldova in late June for a "train-the-trainers" conference.

So there are the basics—a program focused on the partnership of marriage, offered through the partnership of NPC's Marriage Ministry, Missions, and Nurture: partnership raised to the fourth power. Then, this partnership was extended to two NPC mission partners—New Hope and the Moldovan Baptists—raising partnership to the sixth power. Next, the program was presented in one country—Moldova—but simultaneously to the two main language groups of that country—Russian and Romanian. This raised the partnership to the eighth power. Finally, NPC presented the program jointly with Alpha Ministries' input from England, the U.S., and Romania, raising the partnership effort to the ninth power—a formula for a great start!

How did it go? The team of six NPC couples worked with a group of twelve Moldovan couples—young couples from all over the country who are active in their Baptist churches. They were selected for their leadership potential by long-time NPC friend Valeriu Ghiletschi, the Bishop of the Moldovan Baptist Church. For three intense days, the American and Moldovan couples explored

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Andrey and Naly Shtengauer from the Transdnester region enjoy a time-honored tradition at the conference.

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NPC missionaries to Moldova this summer were Dave Wallace and Phyllis Wolfe, Gregg and Lynne Gochmour, Gene and Nancy Thompson, and Howard and Miley Tucker-Frost, included in the group above.

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## Anniversary Celebration *Continued from page 1*



President Harry Truman with Dr. Elson

Smathers. No service was held that day since the sanctuary had not yet been built. The cornerstone is part of the wall of the Court of Flags opposite the sanctuary.

A historical exhibit will open in

ceremony laying the cornerstone of our current church in 1967 with Dr. Elson and moderator of General Assembly, Dr. Eugene Smathers. The exhibit will also include former and present clergy, and many of the faithful congregants who have given so much in service to our church.

A multi-media presentation, entitled "The Elson Years – 1947 to 1973" will feature the pastorate of Dr. Edward L.R. Elson, who was Senior Pastor of NPC for twenty-six years, including the designation of this congregation as the national church of our denomination.

Watch the Sunday worship bulletin for further details of NPC's anniversary celebrations.



Dr. Eugene Smathers, moderator of General Assembly of the PC(USA), Dr. Edward Elson, senior pastor, National Presbyterian Church; and President Dwight Eisenhower, U.S. President, laying the cornerstone

## Moldova Mission *Continued from page 2*

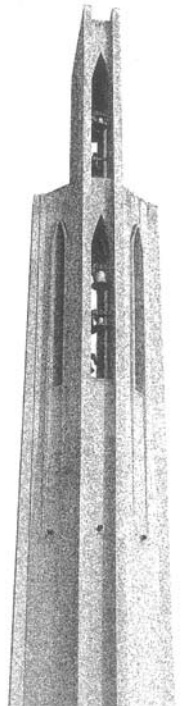
the Marriage Course and talked from their experience with Greg Ogden's work and the "Brunch Bunch Questions" about how being a good marriage partner was similar to being a follower of Jesus—faithful, loving, compassionate, encouraging, focused on the Bible and prayer, encouraging to one another, etc. The Moldovans were excited by the material and anxious to take the course back to their churches to share with their communities. Some of the comments from the Moldovan couples follow:

- "It was a great blessing to look at our marriage once again with new ideas and thoughts and to grow stronger in it."
- "I have rediscovered myself as a husband in many ways."
- "I really liked the Marriage Course, and it was a great motivation for me to help others."
- "The course itself was a real blessing. I appreciate your sincerity and your love and care for us."

The NPC team met recently to process the feedback we received and to determine how to help the church leaders from Moldova continue with the Marriage Course activities. The team is looking for ways to involve even more NPC members, so if the initiative is something you find appealing, please contact David Wallace, 301.231.5684, or Howard Tucker-Frost, 703.241.8519. Please pray with us that our continuing efforts will honor God so that His power, not ours, will be a growing presence in marriages (to the 9th degree and much greater!) in Moldova and in the U.S.

## *We'd Like to Hear from You*

In July, a congregational meeting and a town hall meeting were held where many challenges, comments, and questions were discussed. Whether or not you were able to attend the meetings or had an opportunity to speak, please take this opportunity to email your concerns, questions, or thoughts about NPC...our church, your church...and send them to the Clerk of Session, Janice Feather, either by e-mail, NPCClerk@verizon.net or by letter delivered to her mailbox in the Administration Building. Your views and ideas are important to us all.



## NATIONAL X PRESS

### DEADLINES

**September/October** August 1  
**November/December** October 1  
**March/April** February 1  
**May/June** April 1  
**July/August** June 1  
 E-mail: XPress@NationalPres.org  
 or call 202.537.7574

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Make This the Year You Come to the  
***All-Church Retreat!***  
October 12-14, 2007

Join your NPC Church Family for a relaxing, refreshing weekend of retreat  
by the beautiful Chesapeake Bay at Sandy Cove Retreat Center.  
with speaker Rich Kannwischer, First Presbyterian Church in San Antonio, Texas.  
**Finding Joy: Themes from the Book of Philippians**



## Worship ♦ Grow ♦ Serve

*Continued from page 1*

the world, the first three Sundays of September will be devoted, in turn, to each of these three themes.

On September 2nd, Dr. Icenogle will emphasize the importance of WORSHIP with a sermon entitled “Joy Around the Table,” to be followed after the 11:00 o’clock service by the annual church-wide picnic.

On September 9th, the annual NPC “Nurture Fair” will be held in Stone Hall, with booths and exhibits designed to display the wide range of educational choices at NPC and other opportunities to GROW in your faith.

Finally, on September 16th, you’ll learn how you can SERVE the Lord by attending an event that highlights

all our serve ministries — Congregational Care, Outreach, and Connections in Ministry and Mission — in Stone Hall. This program, designed to match members’ skills and interests with volunteer opportunities, is not just for new members anymore. New members and old, non-members and regular attenders, are invited to participate.

In the coming months, as we put our long-awaited Strategic Plan into effect, look for announcements about new ways you can deepen your faith by WORSHIPING, GROWING, and SERVING the Lord through your participation in The National Presbyterian Church.

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