

# NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

NOV/DEC 2007 | VOL. 6

## SUNDAY SERMONS

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

**Sermon Series:**  
**The Road to Healthy Leadership**

**Sunday, November 4**  
"Leaders Speak for God"

**Sunday, November 11**  
"Remember and Envision"  
Dr. Douglas Learned

**Sunday, November 18**  
"Leaders Take the Long Way"

**Thanksgiving, November 22**  
**Worship at 10 a.m.**  
Rev. Eunice McGarrahan

**Sunday, November 25**  
"Leading Under Pressure"

## SUNDAYS IN ADVENT

**Advent Sermon Series:**  
**Meditations on the Magnificat**

**First Sunday of Advent**  
**December 2**  
"My Soul Magnifies the Lord"

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 9**  
"His Mercy is For Those  
Who Fear Him"

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 16**  
"God Levels the Playing Field"

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 23**  
Meditation on the Gloria  
Cantata No. 191 by J.S. Bach

*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)*

## An Interview with Pastor Icenogle *Part One of a Candid Conversation with the Senior Pastor*

**A**s we enter the fall stewardship season, NPC faces serious financial challenges. That's why *XPress* editor Richard Armstrong sat down with senior pastor Gareth Icenogle for a very frank and pointed discussion of issues related to our church's finances, including the recent budget and staff cuts, falling attendance, property concerns, and other important economic matters.

**XPress:** How would you characterize the financial state of National Presbyterian Church at this time?

**Icenogle:** I think we've reached a trough in a valley of change. We're stabilized and we're not moving dramatically either up or down. There have been some indications recently that our income is increasing, which is a positive sign. But since fall is

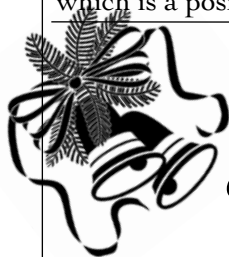
usually the time of greatest giving in the church, we won't know for sure until the end of the year where we stand and if our efforts to balance the budget have worked.

**XPress:** How much money do you think we'll have to withdraw from the endowment (The Maryland Corporation) in order to make ends meet this year? And are you concerned that we may run out of unrestricted endowment funds in the near future?

**Icenogle:** One of the reasons we went through the difficult process of cutting staff is that we wanted to close the gap between our income and our expenses. It was a painful process, and we're still in the midst of dealing with it. But we believed we shouldn't keep dipping into our re-

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LUKE'S GOSPEL SONGS  
OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



## Vespers at National

Candlelight Communion Service  
for all ages at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 5  
"Blessing and Favor"  
Dr. Gareth W. Icenogle

Wednesday, December 12  
"A Savior Who Saves"  
Dr. Gareth W. Icenogle

Wednesday, December 19  
"Dawn Breaks in the Darkness"  
Dr. Doug Learned

## Christmas at National

Christmas Eve, December 24  
Church Family Service at 5 p.m.  
Retelling of the Christmas story  
for all ages

Christmas Eve, December 24  
Meditations on Nunc Dimittis:  
"See the Salvation of God"  
Candlelight Communion  
Services at 8 and 11 p.m.

Sunday, December 30  
Meditations on the Nunc  
Dimittis: "Dismiss Us in Peace"  
Worship at 9:15 and 11 a.m.  
Rev. Eunice McGarrahan

# New Perspectives Class to Begin in January 2008

## *God's Work through Biblical, Historical, Cultural, and Strategic Perspectives*

by Keith Patman

**D**escribed as a course of vision that mobilizes and equips the people of God to live a life of passion and purpose as Jesus did, "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement," will be offered at NPC from January to May of the coming year. The focus is on God's work in the world as seen through biblical, historic, cultural, and strategic perspectives.

The program, sponsored by the U.S. Center for World Mission, grew out of the vision of Dr. Ralph Winter. It is endorsed by numerous Christian organizations and churches and is offered throughout the U.S. and worldwide. The course is hosted each year by local churches. NPC hosted the program in 1998, and now, ten years later, the time seemed right to offer it again.

### ***NPC Task Force***

It takes a dedicated team to host Perspectives. NPC's task force consists of church members who are alumni [of the course]. Several of them shared ways in which they found Perspectives meaningful.

Angela Bednarczyk is Perspectives coordinator at NPC and a member of the Washington-Baltimore area board for the program. She recalls having this response to a lesson from the biblical portion of the course: "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace because they refused to worship the idol fashioned by Nebuchadnezzar. God chose to save them from destruction. What was the eternal reason for their deliverance? God used this situation to show that he was the one true God—a truth that even Nebuchadnezzar accepted and promoted. God was reaching a pagan population in Babylonia with his message. This perspective helped me learn about God's ultimate purpose for each event in the Bible and provided a firm foundation in understanding God's plan for all peoples, tongues, tribes and nations."

A vital element for the success of the class is prayer.

Randy Edwards mobilizes NPC volunteers to pray for the leadership, teachers, and students. He found the class to be "informative, but more importantly, transformative." He says, "Perspectives greatly helped to enlarge my view

of God and how God works through history, culture, individuals, families, people groups, and nations."

Gene and Nancy Thompson spoke of insights they gained into God's purposes. Gene says, "Before I took the class I was unaware of God's overall purpose in history. The weekly speakers supplied me with numerous tools to enable me to participate in the great adventure God offers his people. [The rewards include a more meaningful life.]"

Nancy adds, "I used to think God's plan stopped at everyone in the world hearing

about Jesus dying for our sins. Through Perspectives, now I see God's greater plan — everyone, everywhere bringing God glory, praising him. This means turning hearts and wills to God and seeing the world through his eyes[—very action oriented]. What a difference!"

The course caused Agus Wong to ask himself some questions: "Is God's mission only for the less prosperous and less privileged people? If not, are my next door neighbors among the people who need the good news about Jesus? What about my co-workers and my boss? What do I need to do to help them know Jesus? Through this challenge, I am thinking critically about my faith and what's the best way to reach people around me, to let them know the good news of the Gospel."

Dick Tingley was impressed with the quality of the different speakers who addressed the class each week. He describes them as "well-educated in their particular field of scholarship and firmly committed to the cause of spreading the Gospel. They each bring their own unique style and personal approach to their ministry, and make an enormous impact upon their listeners." [Dick stated



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## Icenogle Interview *Continued from page 1*

serves in order to help pay annual operating costs. I don't know how much we'll have to take from the endowment this year, but my personal hope is that it will be a lot less than the \$400,000 we took last year. Keep in mind that the effect of our staff cuts won't begin to show up until November 15, when we'll be finished with our commitments to paying severance packages. I believe we'll start seeing a reduction in the gap by the end of December.

**XPress:** Do you feel we are doing enough to get the full market value of revenue from the various rental and leasing arrangements we have on campus, such as NPS, the parking lot, the Center for Leadership, and so on? Some people have even suggested selling the chapel organ. What are your thoughts?

**Icenogle:** I don't believe we're doing nearly enough to maximize the revenue from those arrangements. But we'll need to have some careful and thoughtful conversations

with our leasing partners in order to do that. It may also be necessary for us to do some renovation in order to maximize the value from the space we rent.

We've already started some conversations with National Presbyterian School about rethinking our relationship with them on the use of space and rental value. We need to do the same thing with the Center for Leadership. I think we're on the verge of some significant and much-needed changes in this area.

But on the question of selling the chapel organ, I think that would be very premature, and I'm strongly opposed to it. There are still many other things we can do to tighten our belts. We need to develop an energy plan, for example, designed to maximize our conservation efforts – like turning out the lights in rooms that are not in use or minimizing waste in the heating and air conditioning system. With energy costs going up, basic conservation steps like these will save us plenty of money in the years ahead.

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## Perspectives *Continued from page 2*

that he appreciated not only the teaching but the fellowship with other believers in the class.]

As a speaker for one of the Perspectives lessons, Keith Patman heard in classes for years how worthwhile the course was, and finally took it himself [in 2005]. He was struck by the emphasis on God's glory [as one of the main themes]. "That emphasis has affected my prayer life, the lens through which I study Scripture, my dealings with others—even (sometimes!) my response when life doesn't go according to my plans."

Miley Tucker-Frost found the class life-changing. She says it opened "a whole new appreciation for a wide range of opportunities to serve Christ, whether as a pray-er, welcomer, mobilizer, sender, or goer, depending on one's personal calling and spiritual gifts."

Clearly, Perspectives has affected lives at NPC. The task force trusts that the 2008 course will have an impact on many more.

For information, including enrollment costs, or to register online, go to [www.perspectives.org](http://www.perspectives.org). You may also contact Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Discipleship Eunice McGarrahan ([emcgarrahan@nationalpres.org](mailto:emcgarrahan@nationalpres.org) / 202.537.7527) or Perspectives coordinator Angela Bednarczyk ([ambednarczyk@juno.com](mailto:ambednarczyk@juno.com) / 301.942.3125). To help support the class in prayer, contact Randy Edwards ([red82wi@verizon.net](mailto:red82wi@verizon.net)).

## NPC Ministry & Mission



Alice Trudgeon, an active NPC member and an active octogenarian, has been a part of the ministry of the Women's Association, the Business & Professional Women's Guild, Skiff, and the Sunday Evening Club. She also delivers Meals on Wheels.

Four years ago, Alice decided she'd like to make use of all those eyeglasses that were no longer being used. She contacted Lens Crafters and

found that they did indeed collect eyeglasses, and in cooperation with the Lions Club, they periodically send staff members to Third World Countries where the glasses are adjusted to meet the needs of people with vision problems.

Alice spread the word at NPC, put a basket on the Information Desk and has taken 3400 glasses to Lens Crafters in Washington.

Alice lives in downtown Washington, DC, and travels everywhere by public transportation.

## NATIONAL X PRESS

**DEADLINES**  
**January/February:** December 1  
**March/April:** February 1  
**May/June:** April 1  
**July/August:** June 1  
**September/October:** August 1  
E-mail: [XPress@NationalPres.org](mailto:XPress@NationalPres.org)  
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## Icenogle Interview *Continued from page 5*

**XPress:** When the elevator broke and remained out of service for much of the summer, it became clear that our need for property maintenance and renovation is critical. How much money do you think we need to spend on our property over the next ten years, and where is that money going to come from?

**Icenogle:** I think we're going to need to spend a million dollars a year, on average, maintaining and renovating these buildings and grounds in the next ten years. I believe the money will come mostly from special gifts and planned giving. One of the main reasons that we launched the Fund for Charitable Giving, after all, was because we believed we needed to develop significant planned gifts in order to take care of this beautiful, but aging, facility.

We may also need to consider the possibility of a capital campaign in conjunction with the National Presbyterian School. We need to cooperate with the School — and, in fact, with all of our partners on this campus — to use our existing space effectively and to create new spaces that will not only meet our growing needs but potentially expand our ministry and increase our revenue in the years ahead.

**XPress:** The recent layoffs were very painful for all concerned. Can you assure the congregation there will be no more staff cuts in the coming year, and do you feel the current staff is doing a good job managing the increased workload?

**Icenogle:** You're right, the cuts were very painful — not only for the people who lost their jobs but also for the congregation who loved and depended upon those people. That pain is still being felt, particularly by the remaining staff who have seen their responsibilities increased and, in the case of some part-time people, their hours decreased. We're going through a period of adjustment right now. We're learning what we can do, and what we can't do; and we're trying to make the best choices around that. Can I guarantee that there will be no more cuts? No, obviously, I can't guarantee anything about the future. Do I believe we are close to having a balanced budget and that we will be able to maintain our current staff? I certainly do.

Keep in mind, too, that many of our members thought our staff was too big, given the size of our church. Others, of course, thought we cut the wrong people. But the Session made that decision, after long and prayerful deliberation, and they knew ahead of time that there wouldn't be complete agreement in the congregation about the cuts.



*Part Two of this interview will be published in the January/February issue of the XPress. But if you'd like to read it now, the full interview is available on the NPC website: [www.NationalPres.org/Icenogle\\_Interview.pdf](http://www.NationalPres.org/Icenogle_Interview.pdf)*

## *Advent Workshop*

December 2, 2007 at 5 p.m.

*Fun for the whole church family as we prepare for the coming of our Savior!*

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