

# NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SEPT/OCT 2008 | VOLUME 9

## SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER



Series of Sermons and Events Focused on the **Pathway of Christian Discipleship: Worship — Grow — Serve**  
Worship at 9:15 and 11 a.m.  
Events in Stone Hall all morning

### WORSHIP Sunday September 7

“Mutual Alleluia”

Dr. Gareth Icenogle, preacher  
Worship Expo in Stone Hall

### GROW Sunday September 14

“Teach One Another”

Rev. Eunice McGarrahan, preacher  
Grow Expo in Stone Hall

### SERVE Sunday September 21

“Serve in Delight”

Dr. Douglas Learned, preacher  
Serve Expo in Stone Hall

### CONNECT Sunday September 28

“A Spur in Their Saddle”

Dr. Gareth Icenogle, preacher  
Connections Expo in Stone Hall

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#### DEADLINES

**November/December:** October 1

**January/February:** December 1

**March/April:** February 1

**May/June:** April 1

**Editor:** Kate Brinkley

## Interim Pastor Search Continues

### *Committee Develops Position Description, Listens On-line*

By Keith Patman, NPC Elder

The search for NPC’s Interim Pastor continues as five of our elders (Betty Elliott, Jim Link, Kathryn Morgan, George Nethercutt, and Dick Pera, chair) evaluate the church’s needs in order to determine the most qualified person.

The congregation responded to the Interim Search Committee’s (ISC) request for recommendations by suggesting more than 30 potential candidates. Many NPC members are remarkably well-connected to Presbyterian churches and pastors around the country, making “word of mouth” a powerful tool in the committee’s

search. Additionally, our presbytery is working hand-in-hand with the ISC.

The committee is developing a position description which, following Session approval, will be posted on the church and presbytery web sites. While such “advertising” is appropriate, many pastors across the denomination already know NPC is seeking an interim pastor; in fact, two candidates were self-nominated even before the ISC was established. The committee will research candidate qualifications and suitability via all available means. The

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We are two of your Chancel Choir members, one a tall bass and one a shorter soprano. Both of us have sung *Messiah* many times in the NPC Festival Choir. For the soprano it was her introduction to the music program at National, and an experience so joyous that she concluded it had to be a cherished part of the holidays from that time on. For the bass, it is a way to share the beauty of George Frederic Handel’s timeless composition.

The music and liturgy, the prayers, and scripture readings, the excitement of the coming season, and memories of loved traditions – all combine in the marvelous opportunity and privilege of singing *Messiah*.



## Come, Sing with Us

by John Neely and Kathryn Morgan

Many of our singers have sung it before and savor the experience of being part of this chorus. It makes all of us together sound so much better than any one of us alone. But no matter how often you’ve sung it or if this will be the first time, the preparation

and performance somehow lifts you into the grace and grandeur of the true Christmas spirit.

There are no experience or audition requirements to join the Festival Choir. Just call or email Beverly Haller (see contact infor-

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# Youth and Leaders Work (& Play!) in Dominican Republic

**N**PC youth traveled to the Dominican Republic from July 23 to August 1. While there, they worked with the Foundation for Peace in Batey Algodon. Twenty youth and six adults worked on construction projects, worship services, Bible school for children, and a free medical clinic for the families in the Batey.

These are some of the photos taken by long-time youth volunteer and mission team member Eric Cassel.



Above: John Soldner, Diana Saum and Julia Chandler work on one of the eight latrines that we dug and built together with our Dominican friends.



Kelsey Kiser, Michael Wagner and Callie Harman hang out with the Dominican children in one of the few shady spots on the side of the church.

Director of Youth Ministry Mitch Gore drawing lion faces for a couple of the children during Bible school.



One of the young Dominicans showing off his lions face. The Bible school story was of Daniel and his faith and trust in God even though he was going to be thrown to the lions.

## Liturgical Cloths Created for Worship

### *Parameters Labor of Love for Sacraments Committee*

For the first time in our congregation's history, liturgical cloths, or paraments as they are sometimes known, will be used on the communion table. These ornamental cloths serve as a symbol of the liturgical seasons and will often coordinate with the color of the ministers' stolls and the colors in our sanctuary windows. The paraments will be introduced to the congregation in worship on Sunday, September 14.

The liturgical calendar year begins with Advent, represented by the color blue and signifying hope and anticipation. Christmas and Christmastide follow, with the color white for purity. During Lent, the color purple signifies suffering and repentance. Again, at Easter and Eastertide we use the color white to represent the purity of our focus on Christ.

The weeks between Christmastide and Lent, and between Pentecost and Advent are known as Ordinary Time in the church calendar. These are times of spiritual growth, and so we use the color green on those Sun-

days. On Pentecost or in ordination services, the color red is used for the "Fire of the Holy Spirit." And on our Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of each month, the liturgical table will continue to be set with the white communion cloth.

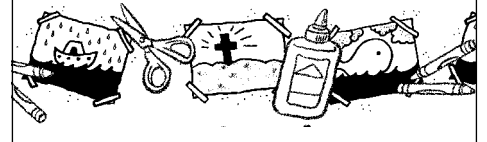
The creation of liturgical cloths was originally proposed by Curtis Spring, a member of our Sacraments Committee, as an effective "conduit to dynamic worship of our Lord and Savior." The project was taken up by a small committee who view the project as "a labor of love." Meeting weekly to do the work, these three developed a covenant relationship.

Deacon Margaret Johnson created the designs. The machine work, including embroidery, was done by Elder Roma Samuel. Three of the cloth designs were sent to Pakistan, the homeland of the Samuels, for machine embroidery by professionals there. Coordinator, consultant, and fellow laborer Barbara Freeman who was Sacraments Committee co-chair and is currently an NPC deacon.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

All children's programming for the new school year begins at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, September 7. Children from two years old through 5th grade will gather in classrooms in the school this year.

And all three choirs (Angel, National Choristers, and Youth Choirs) will also start on September 7 in the school. For more information, check our web site, [www.NationalPres.org](http://www.NationalPres.org), click on "Grow" and click on Children's. Contact: Mary Ellen Cain, [MCain@NationalPres.org](mailto:MCain@NationalPres.org) or 202.537.7527.



## Fall Organ Concerts Celebrate Our Magnificent Instrument

### *Concerts Present a Great Opportunity for the Whole Family*

Organ lovers will have two opportunities to hear the John J. Hopkins Memorial Organ in concert at National in the coming weeks. This beautiful instrument, built specifically for our sanctuary by the Aeolian Skinner company, will be featured in concerts performed by William Neil, NPC's organist.

On Sunday, September 14 at 1 p.m., Michael Hart, long-time curator of the Hopkins Organ, will join Bill



Neil in giving a behind the scenes view of the Hopkins Organ, including a demonstration of the unique sounds produced by different voices of the organ.

For this concert the organ console will be brought down near the audience at the front of the chancel and illumination will be used to make the pipes and sound baffles visible to the audience. Michael will describe the construction of reed and other pipes, and Bill will play short excerpts that fea-

ture the variety of sounds which are possible from the organ.

The program, including the well-known Widor 5th Symphony's *Toccata* that you've heard as our Easter postlude, is designed to hold the interest of our young people.

On Sunday, October 5, at 3 p.m., Bill will play another in the series of Barham Organ Concerts with members of the National Symphony Orchestra, performing works by Telemann, Copland, and Mozart.

To learn more about *Music at National*, NPC's concert schedule, and other concerts in our sanctuary, visit [www.NationalPres.org](http://www.NationalPres.org), click on Worship, then Music Ministries.

## Messiah Choir

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mation in the final paragraph) and come prepared to sing. This year's *Messiah* will be presented on Sunday, December 7. We work hard, but the rehearsals are informal and fun and you meet more wonderful people in our NPC family.

You'll see everybody's favorite Christmas sweaters and ties come out as one rehearsal follows another and members bring samples of their Christmas baking to share at the rehearsal breaks.

Our director, Michael Denham, walks us through the score, going over the more challenging spots, and then its time to sing the music. What fun! Your mind is simultaneously reading the music, recalling all the times before that you've heard and sung these pieces, and reveling in their depth and power. The pleasure of singing, the joy of meeting new friends, the laughter of the camaraderie, and the beauty of the music will have you walking out of rehearsal with a smile on your face.

But there's a special pleasure to come. The day before the concert,

we'll have a rehearsal in the sanctuary. The risers and chairs will be in place and name cards for each of us will be pinned on our appointed chairs. That day we rehearse with orchestra.

If you've never sung with the superb musicians who play at National, you're in for a real treat. At that rehearsal the chorus hears the soloists' selections. What voices! Then as you drive home, you'll be humming those glorious melodies, even the ones Handel gave to the soloists. You can't get them out of your head. And you'll be thinking, "Thank you, Lord, for Handel, for this marvelous work, and the chance to enjoy it this way."

You'll find yourself energized for that holiday "to-do" list with the feeling that somehow the experience of singing music-that-is-scripture-that-is-prayer has reinforced the real priorities of Christmas.

Come join us. We'd love to have you. To sign up or find out more about our Festival Choir, contact Beverly Haller, bevhalter@verizon.net or 301.718.2844.

## Search Continues

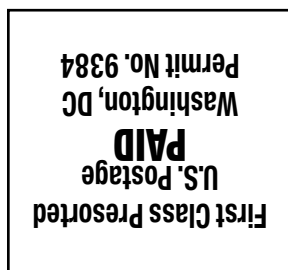
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internet is a great research tool for the search. For example, committee members have already listened to sermons preached by potential candidates.

Ideally, the search will be narrowed to a small number of candidates for the ISC to interview and evaluate. Ultimately, selection of an interim pastor rests with the Session. It is not possible to project when the ISC will complete its work. While October 21, 2008, would be the earliest date for an interim pastor to arrive at National, early 2009 is more likely. Members of the congregation are welcome to communicate with the ISC by emailing Dick Pera at [pera@mindspring.com](mailto:pera@mindspring.com).

Finally and foremost, please pray for our committee as we try our best to discern and follow God's will.

Plans are underway to celebrate the ministry of Dr. Gareth Icenogle, our departing Senior Pastor. On the morning of Sunday, October 19, there will be a reception for Gareth and his wife Vida in Stone Hall. Details to follow in our weekly worship bulletin.



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